The Carthusian Monastery at Hinton Charterhouse

Erratum: the vertical air photograph reference on pages 9 and 11 should read "RAF/3G/TUD/UK/25 frame 5166".

Hinton Charterhouse

Summary

The Carthusian charterhouse at Hinton was founded by Ela, Countess of Salisbury in 1227, forty-nine years after the foundation of the first Carthusian house in England, at Witham. Following the dissolution of the priory in 1539 most of the buildings, apart from the chapter house and refectory, were destroyed. A manor house was built in the late 16th century on the site and incorporates part of the monastic guest-house. Since the Dissolution the estate operated as a farm until the early 19th century when this was moved to a new location; an attempt was then made to construct a rather modest pleasure garden.

The remains of relatively well-preserved earthworks of the monastic cloister and monks' cells lie to the south of the chapter house and refectory, within an area that has been an orchard since at least the late 18th century. Other earthworks within the surveyed area include fish ponds, which were possibly monastic in origin but were later adapted as ornamental ponds; pillow mounds; landscape park features such as tree mounds; and a Second World War anti-tank ditch.

Introduction

The site of the Carthusian charterhouse at Hinton (ST75NE2), centred at ST777591, was surveyed by Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) in May 1995. The survey forms one element of a collaborative project with English Heritage and the University of Bristol on the Carthusian Monasteries in England and Ireland. A geophysical survey was also undertaken at this time by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford within the presumed area of the monastic precinct.

Historical Background

The Carthusians followed a hermit-like existence and their monasteries reflected their desire for an ascetic life of contemplation and solitude. The monasteries were designed for a small congregation and as a consequence their communal buildings were small. The early monasteries were in isolated rural locations, although some of the later English charterhouses, such as those at Hull, Coventry and London, were in urban areas. As well as having granges for their support they also had "lower" houses, or correries, for the lay brethren. In England there were only two houses where it can be shown that the priory and correrie were in separate locations: Witham and Hinton, although there may have been others (Aston 1993, 147); at all the other monasteries the lower and upper house were together. In order to maintain solitude each monk lived in his own small house with an enclosed garden at the rear. These small houses, or cells, were arranged around three sides of a rectangular cloister, with the communal buildings such as the refectory, chapter house and church, positioned on the fourth side.

The second English charterhouse was established at Hatherop (Glos.) in 1222 by William Longespee, a son of Henry II and the husband of Ela, Countess of Salisbury. This foundation, however, did not succeed, and on the death of Longespee in 1226 the monks appealed to Ela since they felt that the site and endowments were insufficient for their needs. The charterhouse was consequently moved to Hinton in 1227 and the endowments increased by conferring to the monks the manors of Hinton and Norton. The site chosen for the priory was within a deer park, thus the monks were able to maintain their life of relative isolation and solitude. Henry III confirmed the grant of Norton and Hinton to the Carthusians in 1228 and in 1232 the monastery was completed and dedicated to St. John the Baptist and All Saints (Dugdale 1830, 4). A correrie for the lay brothers was probably established at this time about a mile away on the west bank of the river Frome at the hamlet of Friary (ST75NE41).

Throughout the 13th and 14th centuries there were further gifts and endowments, principally in the surrounding area, together with the advowsons of the churches at Norton and Hinton. The Carthusian desire for solitude and a life of prayer seems, however, at variance with some of the grants, for example, in 1254 Henry 111 granted the monks the right to hold a fair at Norton; controversy surrounded this decision since it affected the neighbouring fairs at Bath and Bristol, nevertheless the fair continued until 1345 (Hogg 1975, 22). A grant of free warren was also conferred on the monks in their manors of Hinton and Norton by Henry V.

Following the final seizure of the remaining alien cells and priories in 1414 their revenues were given to the new colleges, such as Eton and the new religious houses, such as the Carthusians (Knowles 1971, 43). In 1529 the monks at Hinton were the beneficiaries of one of these grants when the alien Augustinian priory of St Radegund at Langelete (Longleat, Wilts) was confiscated and given to the monks.

The dissolution of the monasteries was initiated by the Act of Succession and the Act of Supremacy in 1533-34. No sooner had the Act of Suppression of the Smaller monasteries been passed than a number of requests were made to Cromwell from the local gentry, and others, for their estates. Since the endowments of Hinton were greater than £200 a year, the priory escaped the first confiscations in 1536. Sir Walter Hungerford, however, become steward of all their lands, and an application was also received in 1537 from Sir Henry Longe, the Sheriff of Wiltshire and the king's commissioner for Wiltshire, for the chance of taking the estates on a fee-farm rent (Scott Holmes 1969, 121).

In January 1539 the commissioners for the West Country, Dr. John Tregonwell and Dr. William Petre, arrived at Hinton to confiscate the monk's property; however, the monks refused to surrender and it was not until 31 March that the prior, Edmund Hord, together with sixteen monks and five lay- brothers, signed the Act of Surrender and the monastery was finally dissolved. At this time the annual value of the priory amounted to £262 13*s*. The pensions granted to the monks shows that whilst the prior received the most, two of the 16 monks received nearly £2 more than the others. A further individual received just over half the pension of the lay-brothers (Hogg 1975, LXIV).

Following the surrender, the priory estates were allocated to several purchasers between

1539-1546. The site of the charterhouse was first sold to Sir Walter Hungerford of nearby Farleigh Hungerford for 21 years (Collinson 1791). However, Sir Thomas Arundel, an Augmentations Receiver, caused considerable damage to the church and other monastic buildings during Hungerford's brief absence (Scott Holmes, 1969, 122) and thereafter the buildings appear to have rapidly decayed.

Sir Walter Hungerford's tenure of Hinton Charterhouse was short-lived since he was beheaded the following year and the property reverted to the crown. Henry Longe then acquired a lease on the priory site in 1540 (BL. Add MSS 15,561 f.15). The priory estate was granted to John Bartlett in 1546, however, he appears to have been a mere speculator, since it was soon sold to the Matthew Colthurst, (Hogg 1975, LXIX) one of the Auditors during the Dissolution. An insight into the landscape around Hinton at this time can be gained from Leland's laconic description in his *Itinerary*, the area was clearly well wooded and he describes Hinton Grange, 900 metres south of the priory, as "*great and welle buildid, that longid to Hinton-priorie of Chartusians. This priory stondith not far of from the graunge*" (Toulmin Smith 1964, fo.34), the lack of any description of the priory perhaps implies that it was far less impressive. The estate remained in the Colthurst family until 1578 when Edmund Colthurst sold it to Sir Edward Hungerford (Hogg 1975, pLXIX). Hogg ascribes the building of the manor house at the priory to Lord Hungerford (ibid). This view is also supported by a rent roll dated 26 April 1582 when Henry Story held from Lord Hungerford *"the mansion house with backside, pidgeon house, garden and orchard thereto adjoining in all estimated 4 acres which is a fair house for a gentleman to dwell in all covered with slate with court, gardens and orchard very orderly and is enclosed with a stone wall .....with fish ponds and fishes with free access"* (WRO 442/1). In 1616 the manor was granted to Prince Charles, the future King Charles 1. It came into the Hungerford possession again in 1660.

The Hungerford's retained the estate until 1684 when Mr Henry Baynton of Spye Park (Wilts) bought a number of their estates including Norton, Hinton and Hinton Abbey (SRO. DD/ML 2). An indenture of 1686 granted to Henry Baynton " *all the capital messuage and farm normally called or known by the name of the priory or abbey of Hinton"* (ibid). At the beginning of the 18th century the estate was sold to Walter Robinson whose family retained it for nearly 230 years. In 1743 there was a lease between Stocker Robinson and William Smith for *"the house called the Dairy House, with garden and orchard thereto adjoining and another garden called the Potato Garden the Mow barton the ox stall the stable the wainhouse adjoining two pigsties the upper part of thye chappel ....."* (SRO DD/FL 4). Thirty eight years later, on the death of Stocker Robinson, the property descended through the female line. Captain Symonds, the husband of one of the heirs, carried out considerable alterations to the house and estate, probably between 1820 and 1830 (SLL). In 1933 Major P Fletcher, who was responsible for the archaeological excavations in the 1950s, bought the whole estate.

Archaeological and Architectural Background

(The letters and numbers in brackets refer to letters on the survey plan).

The only archaeological excavations of the priory were undertaken by Major P Fletcher and his sons between 1950-1959 (Fletcher 1951 & 1959). The method of excavation involved digging a trench along the line of walling; very little area excavation appears to have been undertaken apart from within a few cells and the area of the Little Cloister. Further work was carried out in the 1960's, although the results of these investigations have yet to be published. Excavation notes, plans and photographs are held at the Somerset Local History Library (SLL) in Taunton.

The excavations revealed the layout of most of the priory and sections of a precinct boundary wall. The church, located on the north side of the chapter-house, was 96ft. (29.3m) long and 26ft. (7.9m) wide internally. It was probably a five-bay structure with five long narrow windows, each with a single lancet. The walls of the church were 4ft. (1.4m) thick resting on foundations 6ft. (1.8m) thick.

The Little Cloister, and what is thought to be the kitchen, were located to the west of the chapter house. The cloister had a tiled pentice walk 8ft (2.4m) wide. Between the Little Cloister and the refectory was also a passage to the Great Cloister. The kitchen lay to the east of the refectory and contained a hearth.

Surrounding the Great Cloister were fourteen cells. On the northern side a roofed cloister alley 20ft. (6.1m) wide was revealed. Each cell measured c31½ ft. (9.6 m) and consisted of a large room c20 ft. (6.1m) with a hearth and an L-shaped area around two sides, possibly with a pentice roof. A doorway led to the monk's garden. The cell entrances leading to the cloister alley were all found, except on the south side where the area had been disturbed during the erection of the modern garden wall. At the north-east corner of the Great Cloister was a passage which was thought possibly to have been used by the lay brothers. A fifteenth cell was also excavated to the west of the refectory.

Although there were clear indications of post-Dissolution activity within the monk's cells, the excavation plan ignores this evidence and very little regard is given to this period in the excavation notes and report; instead Fletcher is content to record only the monastic features. This view is supported by a letter in 1956 when he says that *"I do not propose to put in all the detail, as it is all very vague and I am convinced is post monastic ....."* (SLL. 1). Nevertheless, from the limited information available, it is clear that some of the cells on the west side had been converted to sheep pens or cattle sheds by blocking up doorways on the cloister alley side and removing the opposite ends of the cells; in cell 11 a probable cattle trough was also found.

Sections of a precinct boundary wall were found in places on all four sides of the monastery, although the location is not recorded. The boundary lay between 50-60 ft (16.8-18.4m) from the back of the monk's garden wall and was c2½ ft. thick (although in his first report Fletcher records the boundary wall at 105ft from the garden wall (1951, 162)). The best preserved portion appeared to be on the west side.

Further excavations, for which only the notes survive, were carried out to the north of the church. At (a) an area 6x10ft (1.8x3m) revealed a wall composed of large, roughly shaped

stones varying in size but with clear traces of mortar. The wall turned at right angles along a NS/EW axis. A drain was also found below the wall. This detail accords with the earthwork and geophysical surveys.

As well as excavation, parchmarks were also recorded (SLL. 2). Although the plan is dated 1906, this is probably an error. The parchmark plan is of the area to the north of the chapter house; here a number of walls were recorded which appear to confirm some of the evidence from the two surveys in this area.

Two monastic buildings are up-standing at Hinton: the chapter house and the refectory. The present manor house also incorporates a small part of the former monastic guest house whilst sections of the masonry of the stables, located to the north of the refectory, are possibly post-medieval. The monastic buildings have been discussed at length (Hogg 1975), and only a brief summary is included here. Measured drawings of the chapter house are held at the Collections Management Unit at the National Monuments Record Centre (63/00564 - 63/00569).

The chapter house, located on the north-east side of the Great Cloister, is a three-bay structure probably dating from the foundation of the monastery, although there have been later modifications. On the ground floor there are traces of a stone altar under the east window and a moulded piscina and aumbry. The library is thought to have occupied the two west bays on the upper floor, whilst the third bay and the roof were post-Dissolution dovecots. Foxcroft ascribes these dovecots as being monastic (1895, 95) but this has been dismissed (Hogg 1975, 78). Externally, on the south and west sides, is a pentice for the roof of the cloister alley; on the north side there is a sidile and the splay of a window of the church, whilst on the east side is the likely location of the sacristy. After the Dissolution it appears that the chapter house was used as an agricultural building and the floor level raised. Fletcher dug a trial trench in the chapter house but found no trace of the original floor (SLL excavation notes).

The building on the north-west side of the Great Cloister is generally regarded as the refectory. It comprises two stories: a vaulted undercroft with a hall above. Externally there are later stone steps on the north side. The upper floor has been altered and adapted, possibly as a winehouse (SRO DD/FL4, and p3 above); it is thought that this floor was more likely to have been the refectory (although Foxcroft interpreted it as the guests' dormitory (1895, 95), with the ground floor being used for service rooms and stores. This arrangement of refectory above service rooms has been noted at another charterhouse, at Gaming in Austria (Hogg 1975, 83). The west chamber on the ground floor contains a large hearth and serving hatch and, although Foxcroft interpreted this as the kitchen (1895, 95), Fletcher excavated what he interpreted as the kitchen to the east of the refectory block (see above) and he suggests that the west chamber was in fact either the prior's, or perhaps another monastic official's cell (Fletcher 1959, 78). Hogg doubts this interpretation and suggests that it may have been used by the lay brethren (Hogg 1975, 85).

The manor house, dating to the late 16th century, is located 65m north of the refectory, and incorporates elements of a monastic building, probably the guest-house. The building is

orientated east-west with two wings on the south side. At the east end there is a low single storey extension to the main block. Initial investigation suggests that only a small part of the monastic building survives, this is located on the north side close to the present door. The whole of the south side appears to be Elizabethan, with later alterations.

Apart from the surviving monastic buildings and manor house there is also a stable block measuring 10 x 9m with external stone steps on the northern side to an attic. The dating of this building is at present problematic, but is probably post-Dissolution. To the south of the refectory there are two pigsties dating from at least the mid 18th century (SRO DD/FL4).

Earthwork Survey and Interpretation

The numbering of the cells adopted in the report reflect those given by Fletcher during his excavations (Fletcher 1958-59, and annex D).

The Communications

The priory earthworks lie within a trapezoidal shaped field on relatively flat ground at 130m above OD and c1km north of the village of Hinton. The field forms part of a larger terrace above a north/south spur overlooking the river Frome. The spur at this point is heavily wooded and is known as Friary Wood. To the west, the ground continues to rise towards Abbey Farm before descending to Wellow Brook, a minor tributary of the river Frome. The geology of the surveyed area is Forest Marble of the Jurassic Age, i.e. mainly clay with shelly limestone and sandstone (Geological Survey, 1965).

The priory is approached from the east along a drive from the A36 road. Prior to the turnpiking of the road in the 18th century this track continued east towards the river Frome at Freshford to meet the main road from Bath; it also continued west from the priory around the eastern side towards the grange and village of Hinton (Day & Masters map, 1782). Another track led east from the priory, through Friary Wood, towards the hamlet of Friary, the probable site of the correrie.

A track also leads from the manor house in a northerly direction, through a tree-lined avenue and Hogg Wood, to the Bath to Hinton road. This track was probably constructed in the early 19th century (Greenwood map, 1822), and by 1849 was known as the "carriage drive" (annex A). The pillars of the entrance gate at the junction with the Bath to Hinton road, and those on the gate at the junction with the A36 road, are of the same design and were probably erected in the early 19th century during Symonds' "improvements" to the estate (SLL. 3).

The Charterhouse

The Great Cloister lies to the south of the communal buildings and is now largely contained within a walled garden. The north side is defined by the southern wall of the chapter house and refectory, whilst to the south by the garden wall; the east and west sides can be seen as a low bank c0.2m high; overall the cloister measures c65x70m. Internally no earthwork details were evident, nevertheless, the geophysical survey shows several narrow linear bands

of high resistance within the walled garden; these were interpreted as either gravel paths, or possibly stone/brick drains, but they were thought not to be monastic (Geophysical Survey, 1). The linear bands are, however, on a slightly different alignment to the garden wall and it is therefore also conceivable that they are not contemporary with the existing wall.

The monk's cells lie on the east, south and west sides of the Great Cloister, thus forming a rectangle. Each cell consists of two elements: a living area and a garden. On the eastern side four cells were recorded, each measuring c20x20m. The northern side of cell 1 extends east, beyond its garden wall. Exposed walling can also be seen at this point. Cells 2, 3, and 4, are arguably the best preserved at Hinton and each comprise a sub-rectangular terraced enclosure c10x10m with a scarp, c0.2m high defining the outer garden wall. The outer garden wall continues onto the southern side. The earthworks here are less well preserved, but elements of four possible cells are evident including an exposed section of the walling of cell 5. On the western side the garden wall continues as a low, broad bank, c5m wide. On this side there are five possible cells. At (b) part of a cell has been left exposed following Fletcher's excavations.

On the north side of the Great Cloister lay the communal buildings, with the refectory to the west and the chapter house the east. The area between the refectory and chapter-house has been adapted as a yard and gravel path with grass verges. No earthworks were evident on this side, but excavation indicated that it was the kitchen area and Little Cloister (see above). On the north side of the chapter house, at (c), is the site of the church; this area has also been landscaped although part of the walling of the north side of the church is exposed. Between the communal buildings and the manor house the ground has been levelled and landscaped to form a lawn and consequently little earthwork evidence survives. However, at (d), a sub-rectangular raised platform 10x10m suggests the possible location of a structure; this has been confirmed by the geophysical survey.

To the south of the manor house is a linear hollow c10m wide with a broad bank 8m wide and c0.3m high on the south side. This feature is on a different alignment to the charterhouse. To the west of the hollow is a sub-circular mound 8m diameter x c1m high.

The monastic buildings appear to be contained within a boundary bank, a possible precinct boundary, which, at its full extent, also incorporates the present manor house. Overall the boundary measures c185x145m. The manor house, which is thought to have been the monastic guest-house (see above), lies close to the north-western corner of the boundary; to the east a bank 55m long x 0.2m high extends east towards a slight hollow-way. On the western side, the boundary is defined as a broad bank c0.2m high, which is partly masked by a sunken fence, or ha ha. A large sub-circular mound, c1.5m high, is possibly the north-west corner which has been later adapted as a tree mound. To the south the boundary is initially marked by the ha ha, but becoming a more substantial bank c0.2m high to the east. It can be traced to the north as a bank with a slight external ditch towards the hollow-way. Incorporated into the eastern side of the boundary is a sub-rectangular depression 15x5m in area and c0.2m deep, this feature may have been a former pond associated with the priory's water supply.

To the south of the precinct boundary is a hollow-way c8m wide and c0.5m deep that also skirts the eastern side of the priory. A number of irregular depressions lie on the east side of the hollow-way with another on the north which cuts into the precinct boundary. These depressions are probably stone quarries, one is shown on an estate map of 1849 (annex C). To the east of the priory the track appears much narrower and is terraced into the slope; further north the track branches to the north-east towards Freshford and to the north-west.

To the east of the track the ground is deeply incised as it descends towards the river Frome. On higher ground, are a number of irregular shaped platforms, c10x5m, these are enclosed and have a scarp c1m high on the north and by a scarp edge on the south side. Overall this enclosure measures c50x30m, with a possible entrance, 10m wide, on the western side.

Miscellaneous Earthworks

The rectangular field to the west of the monastery, known as Pond Clefe in the late 18th century (annex A) is enclosed on three sides by a bank and external ditch surmounted by a quick-set hedge. On the eastern side the field boundary is marked by a stone-lined ha ha, c1m high with a ditch c1.5m wide. In places, however, the stone revetting has tumbled into the ditch, caused in part by tree roots encroaching through the stone-work. To the west of the ha ha are three sub-rectangular ponds, now heavily overgrown with trees and scrub. The eastern pond, the lowest, measures 60x30m with two sub-circular islands, c2m high, slightly west of the centre. The eastern side of this pond is revetted with a stone wall c1m high and is the same construction as the ha ha wall. A shallow overflow channel on the south-eastern side leads to an oval soakway. This pond is the largest in the group and is separated from the central pond by a bank c2.5m high. Water flowed into the eastern pond through a sluice on the north-west side; to the south is a narrow leat 2m wide which connects these two ponds. The central pond appears regular, almost dam-like, and measures 45x8m; a sluice in the centre on its western side connects this pond to the third pond. The third pond, which is also the highest, is stone revetted on its eastern side in a similar manner to the eastern pond and ha ha, and is c1m deep. On the north-eastern side is a sub-circular mound 1.5m high which affords a good view of the manor house to the north-east. Water for the two westerly ponds was provided from the channel to the west.

On the southern side of the eastern pond (e) is a partially embanked sub-rectangular depression c10x8m. Whilst on the eastern side there is a slight bank extending towards the ha ha and 2 sub-rectangular enclosures, c0.1m deep.

On the northern side of the ponds there are two linear banks with drainage channels on the western side. The two banks are c0.2m high. Further ditches to the northwest are modern shallow drainage ditches, draining into the eastern pond. The field boundary bank on the northern side formerly extended east but has been modified with the construction of the ha ha.

30m beyond the western pond is a ditched enclosure c18m diameter with a tree mound c0.3m high in the centre. A slight ditch extends from this enclosure for c15m. On the south side are two elongated mounds c0.5m high, the easterly one measures c13x8m, whilst the one to

the west measures 22x8m.

To the north of Pond Clefe is a field known as The Great Mead in the 18th century (annex A). Only three features are of note here, the first is a ditched tree enclosure c20m diameter; close to the western field boundary is an amorphous depression which is a probable spring; the third feature is slight traces of ridge and furrow, c8m wide, that extends in an east/west direction over much of the field.

To the west of Pond Clefe is another hedged enclosed rectangular field. In the west, on higher ground, is a sub-circular tree mound c20m dia. Beyond, is an elongated mound 0.5m high and 20x7m enclosed by a ditch, c0.1m deep. Another tree mound is evident to the south. There are also slight traces of drainage channels, probably modern, in the north-east of the field.

In the field to the north of the manor house is a shallow linear hollow leading from the southern side of Hogg Wood towards the gate lodge beside the A36 road. The hollow is c5m. wide and c0.1m deep. This feature formed part of a Second World War anti-tank ditch system (NLAP: 3G/TUD/UK/15/25 No. 5106 dated 14 Jan 46; ST75NE42).

Interpretation

The earthwork survey, coupled with the geophysical survey and excavated evidence, enables a more comprehensive interpretation of the charterhouse at Hinton to be made. Significantly, the remains of the Great Cloister and the monk's cells appear to have only been partially affected by the post-Dissolution developments that tend to mask or destroy so many other monastic institutions. As a consequence the earthworks of the Great Cloister and cells are remarkably well preserved.

The charterhouse covers an area of c4ha. The earthwork and geophysical surveys accord well with the documentary and excavated evidence. At the Dissolution sixteen monks and five lay brothers surrendered to the king's commissioners. Whether the lay brothers had moved from the correrie to the priory by this time is unclear. Thirteen monk's cells and gardens have been identified from the earthwork and geophysical surveys and a further two were located during excavation. This disparity would suggest that another cell at least lay to the north of the Great Cloister; by analogy with other Carthusian charterhouses this area was probably the site of the inner court that would have contained buildings, possibly including additional cells for the monks and lay brothers. Only minor scarps were evident from the earthwork survey since the area has been landscaped for the lawn, however, geophysical survey and parchmark evidence would suggest a number of possible structures in this area. Whether they are of monastic or of post Dissolution origin remains problematic. The line of high resistance projecting north from the north-east side of the chapter house near (c),is probably a post-Dissolution wall which is shown on an engraving (annex C).

The monastery was enclosed within a precinct boundary, which is some 20-30m beyond the back wall of the monk's garden, and also incorporates the manor-house. Within this boundary there appears to be a dividing wall between the inner court and the remainder of

the monastery to the south. This dividing wall is defined by a bank, at (f), and the north side of the stable block, and enclosing an area of 140x140m. Although excavation demonstrated that the boundary was constructed of stone, this is only apparent on the geophysical survey on the west and part of the south sides.

An understanding of the water management on the monastic site remains incomplete. Excavation revealed the water ring conduit north of the refectory and in cells 4, 8, and 14; sluices were also uncovered. The geophysical survey also identified a linear band of high resistance close to the monk's garden wall which was interpreted as either a wall or possible drain: this may form part of the course of the water supply around the cells. The source of the water supply, and its route around the priory is open to speculation. Conceivably fresh water could have been come either from the area of the three ponds to the west, or more likely, from a spring in Great Mead field. Evidence for the supply of water from a spring in this field is provided from two accounts in an 18th century survey. In 1784, £6 *16s. 6d.* was paid for "*conveying the water from the Great Mead to the House and for claying the trenches*". Two years later further work was carried out at a cost of £10 16*s* 6*d*. when 355 yards (326m) of pipe was laid to bring the water from the spring in the Great Mead to the Abbey House (DD/ML 34). At this distance from the manor house there is an amorphous depression which was probably the location of the spring. Within the Great Cloister it is unlikely that there was a conduit house as at the London charterhouse, although the geophysical survey showed linear bands of low resistance (see above). A conduit house may have been located on the north-west side, possibly near the ornamental pond. Waste water from the monastery was probaby collected at the pond (g) and then directed east down the valley towards the river Frome.

To the east of the monastery at (h), is an enclosure with a number of possible building platforms set above the track leading towards the correrie. This enclosure possibly formed part of the outer court of the monastery or may represent a later development.

Following the Dissolution of the monastery in 1539 it appears that an enclosed manor-house was built on the site of the former guest-house while the remainder of the estate was adapted as a farm with the Great Cloister being used as a possible yard. By the mid 18th century another building had been constructed to the east of the manor house, slightly to the north of the precinct boundary. At this time the manor garden lay to the north of the house, away from the "business" end of the estate.

During the early 19th century a number of changes to the house and estate were carried out by the owner, Captain Symonds, in order to make it a "gentleman's residence". Not least amongst the changes was the relocation of the farm to the top of the hill to the site of Abbey Farm, initially called Pengethley Farm (SLL. 4), and the creation of a landscape garden. The garden appears to have been a relatively modest affair and included a broad embanked "walk" from the house to the west of the refectory, a yew hedge appears to have been planted on the west side of the house and mounts with an ornamental garden pond. The ha ha was probably constructed at this time since it seems inconceivable that it was in existence when the farm was so close to the house. To the west, trees were planted at strategic places to afford a good view from the house, and the three ponds in Pond Clefe were refurbished; this included

the construction of a re-inforced wall on the eastern side of two of the ponds. These ponds were possibly former monastic fish ponds constructed on the line of a spring which may have been one of the sources of water to the monastery. The mound on the northern side of the pond may have been a mount, particularly since the line of the ponds from this point gives a direct view of the house. The sub-rectangular enclosure to the south of the ponds may represent the location of a possible summer house. By at least 1849 the area of the Great Cloister had become a new enclosed garden with an orchard to the south and west. (annex C).

In 1820 the Rev. J Skinner investigated the mounds in Pond Clefe and suggested that the round mounds were barrows. Apart from traces of charcoal from two of them there appears to be no other evidence for this suggestion and they are probably tree mounds or pillow mounds. The sub-rectangular mounds at (j), (k) and (l) are possibly pillow mounds. The east facing slope would be ideally suited for rabbits since they would be sheltered from the prevailing wind.

The anti-tank ditch cutting through the field to the north of the manor house probably formed part of the GHQ defence line during the Second World War (Wills 1985, 11). This section extended from Wellow Brook to the A36 and included a linear anti-tank ditch part of which can be seen on the plan; crennalated trenches at ST770595, and zigzag trenches at ST779595, near the present gate-house; and six pill boxes (NLAP: 3G/TUD/UK/15/25 No. 5106 dated 14 Jan 46).

The monastic earthworks and standing buildings at Hinton are arguably the earliest surviving example of a Carthusian charterhouse in England and as such the site is particularly important in understanding the development of the Carthusian order. The survival of the Carthusian plan owes much to its later-use as a farm with substantial orchards, and also the lack of other building developments or landscaping on the same scale as many other charterhouses. The Great Cloister appears to have been fossilised within an enclosed garden, whilst the monk's cells were initially used as farm buildings before going out of use. It was only in the 19th century that any major work on the estate was carried out and a pleasure garden created following the removal of the farm.

Method

The survey was carried out using a TC2000 Total Station to establish a control framework and modern geographical detail such as field boundaries and buildings. The earthworks were surveyed using taped offsets from the control framework.

Annexes

A. Hinton Charterhouse 1785. (Copy of Crocker map).

B. Copy of a 18th century engraving of the chapter-house at Hinton Charterhouse.

C. Copy of sketch map of Hinton Charterhouse - 1849.

D. Fletcher's excavation plan (1959).

(annexes (B) and (C), with a large-scale excavation plan are held with Fletcher's excavation notes in Somerset Local History Library).

References

Unpublished Sources

a. British Library (BL).

Add MSS 15,561 f.15. Priory Hinton, lease of site to H Longe 1540.
Add Ch. 40135. Assignment of mortgage etc. 1700.

b. Somerset Record Office (SRO)

DD/FL4. Indenture between Stocker Robinson and William Smith, 20 Feb. 1743.
DD/ML 2. No 16. 1686. Indenture of lands belonging to Edward Hungerford to Henry Baynton of Spye Park, Wilts.
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c. Wiltshire Record Office (WRO).

WRO 442/1. Hungerford Rent Roll for Hinton Charterhouse 26 April 1582 (p155-157).
WRO 442/2. Hungerford rent Roll for Hinton Charterhouse 1599 (p247).

d. Duchy of Cornwall Office (DCO).

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e. Somerset Local History Library (SLL).

Major Fletcher's excavation notes, plans and documentation on Hinton Charterhouse.
1. MSS 16 Aug. 1956.
2. Parchmark plan dated 10 & 12 Sep 1906.
3. Letter dated 3 Oct. 1955.

Maps

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Greenwood, 1822. Map of the County of Somerset from Actual Survey made in 1820 & 1821.
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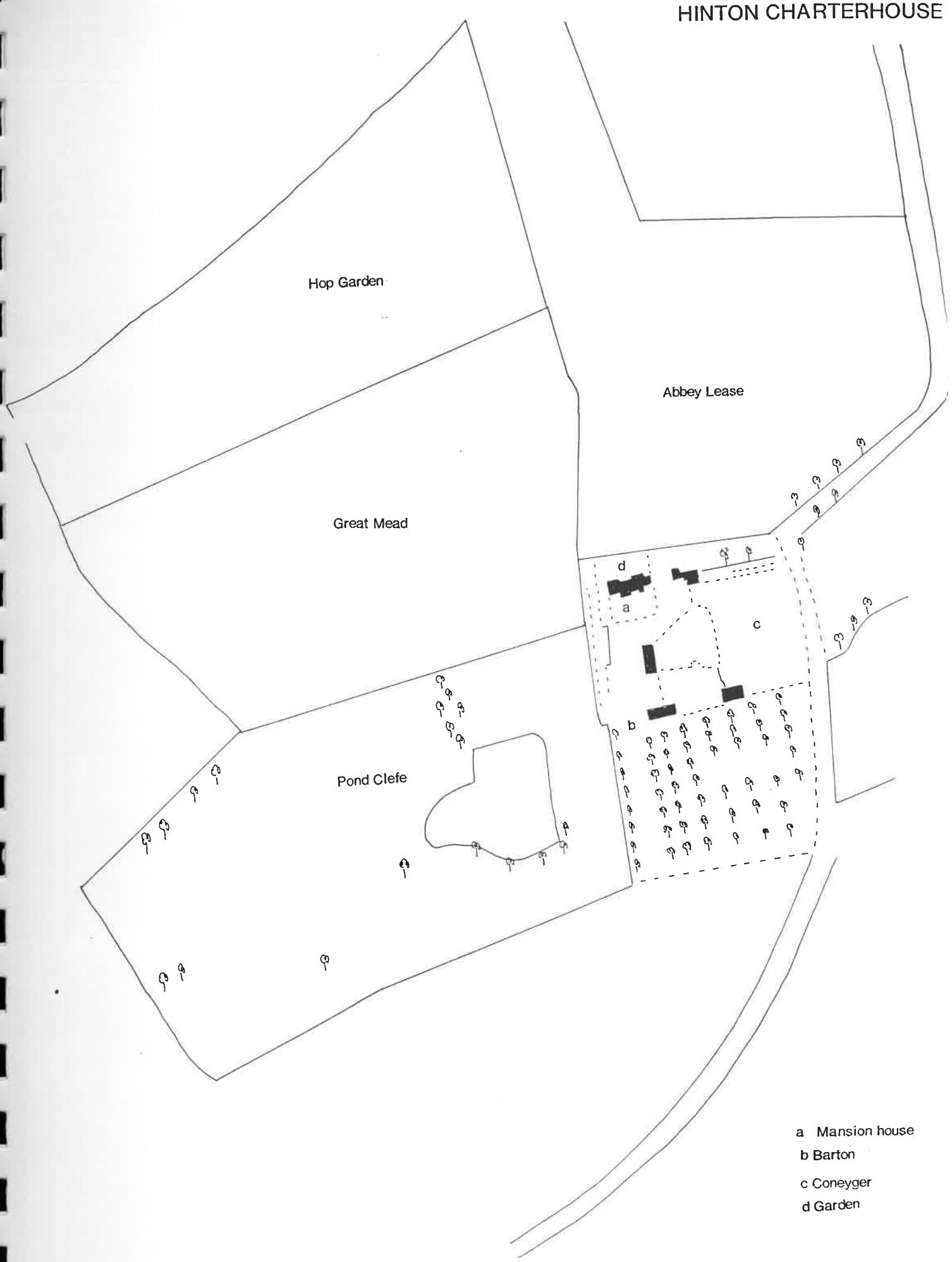
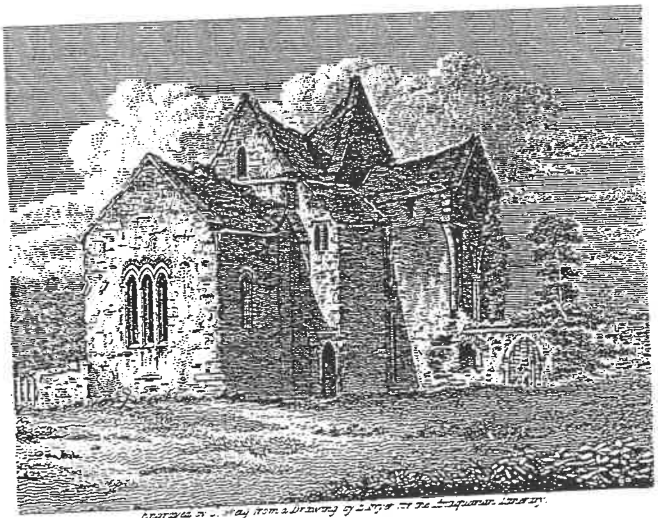
ANNEX A

HINTON CHARTERHOUSE



a Mansion house
b Barton
c Coneyger
d Garden



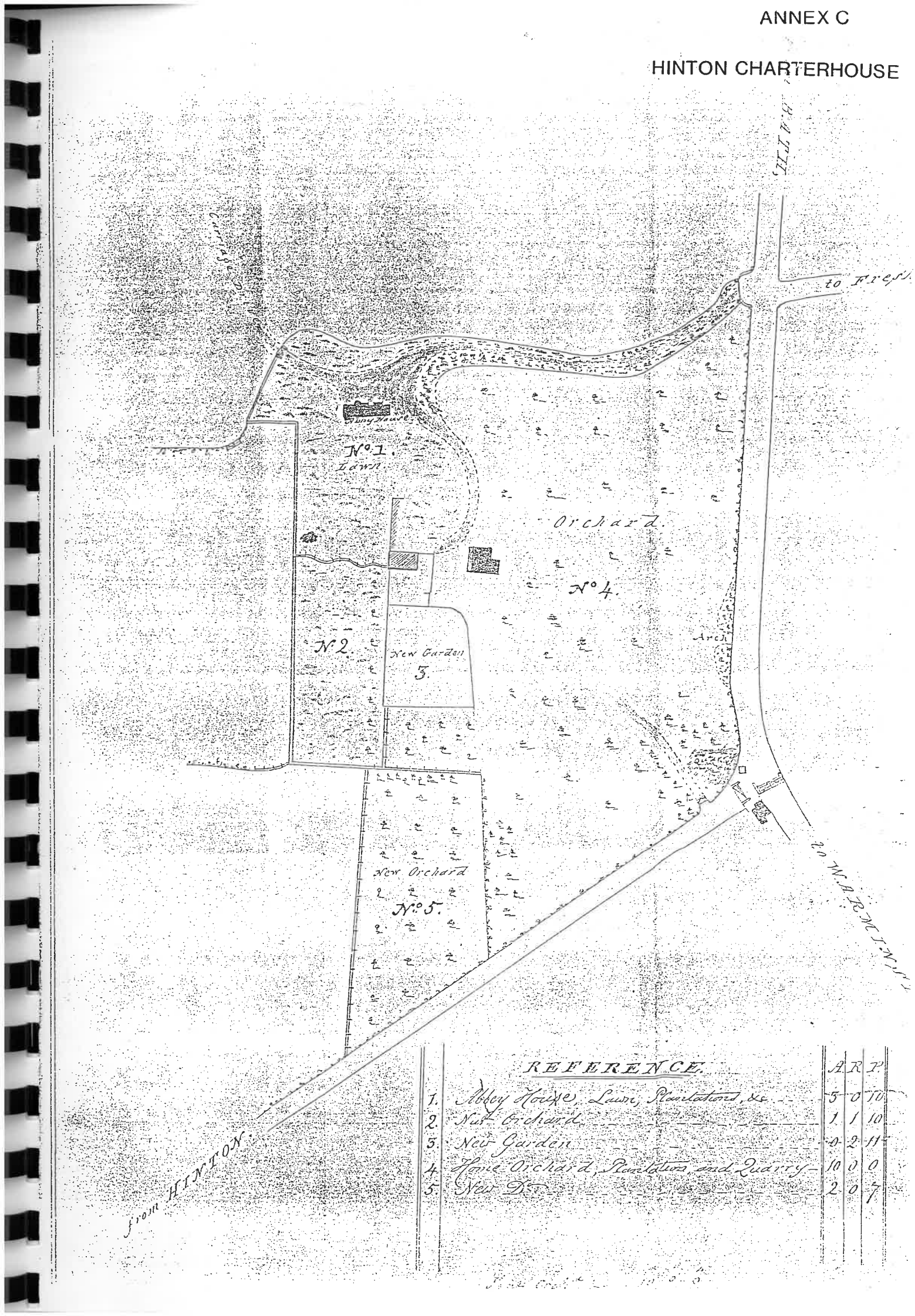
Engraved by [illegible] from a Drawing by [illegible] in the Antiquarian Library.

Antient Chapel, Hinton, near Bath, Somersetshire.

Published for the Proprietors [illegible] by W. Clarke New Bond Street.

ANNEX C

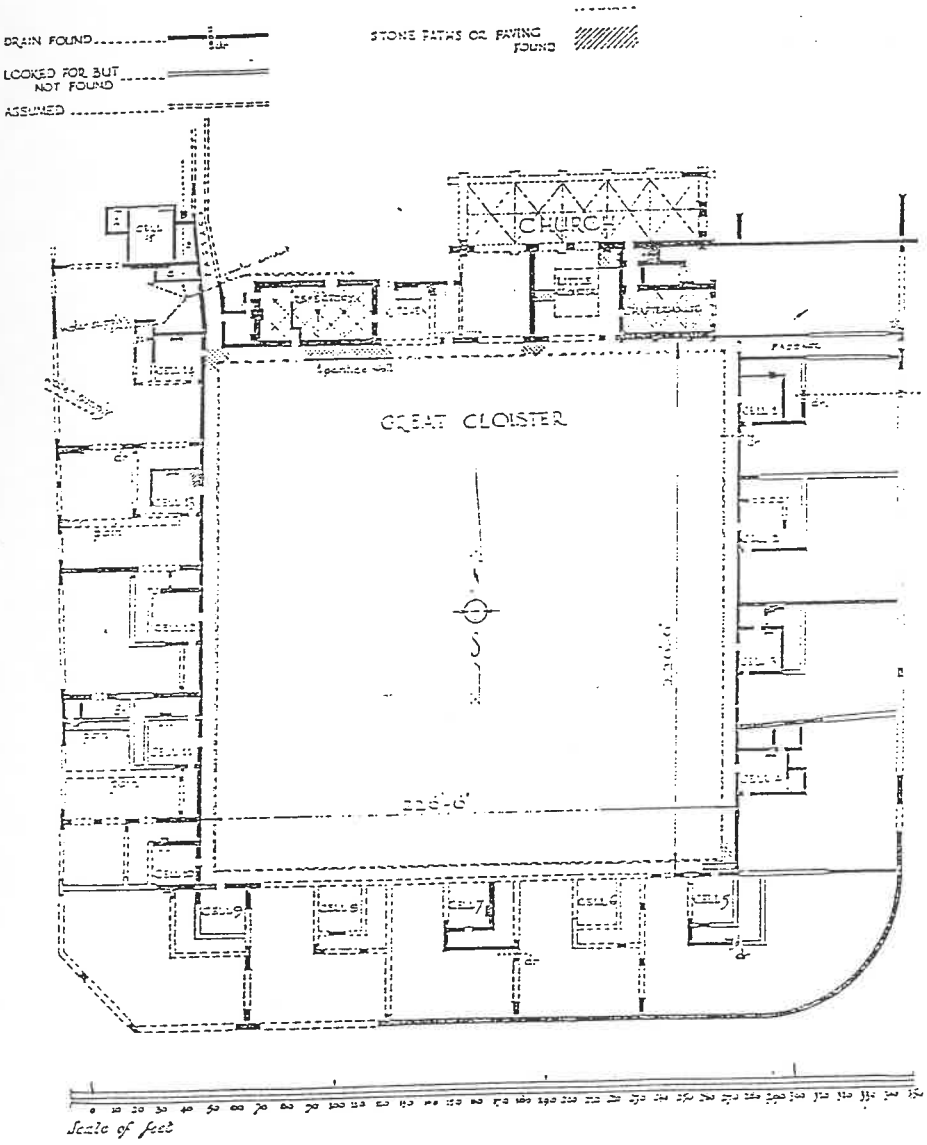
HINTON CHARTERHOUSE



	REFERENCE.	A.	R.	P.
1.	Abbey House, Lawn, Plantations, &c.	5	0	10
2.	Nut Orchard	1	1	10
3.	New Garden	0	2	11
4.	Home Orchard, Plantation and Quarry	10	0	0
5.	New Do.	2	0	7

ANNEX D

HINTON CHARTERHOUSE



RCHM	ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND			
OFFICE OR REGION: Swindon	COUNTY: Avon	SCALE OF SURVEY: 1:1000	METHOD	OS MAP NO.
PROJECT NAME	DISTRICT: Wansdyke	DATE OF SURVEY: May 1995	ASSOCIATED PLANS	MAP NO.: ST75NE 2
SITE NAME: Hinton Charterhouse	PARISH: Hinton	SURVEYOR'S: GB/RWN/HC		SAM NO.: Avon 107
	NGR: ST777591	© Crown Copyright	SHEET	NATIONAL NO.