

THINK: Read the question:
what is it asking you to do?
Annotate clue words



How typical was your site at
different times in it's history?

Explain why your site had local
and national significance at
different times in it's history

Choose a specific period in your
site's history. Explain what a
reconstruction artist working on a
picture of that time could and
couldn't learn from site evidence.

INK: write down the **three
main points** you would
want to make here – these
will be your **paragraphs**.



LINK: as much **site
evidence** as you can to
each point



INTERLINK: check it all over
and plan your **conclusion** that
combines all the elements to
answer the question



Significant spot 1: The South Transept



As soon as you sit down:

Cistercians
Benedictines
St Mary's
Fountains

Wooden
chapel
1136
Stone
church

Warming
room
Arab
connected

Economic
local
Monuments
room
significance

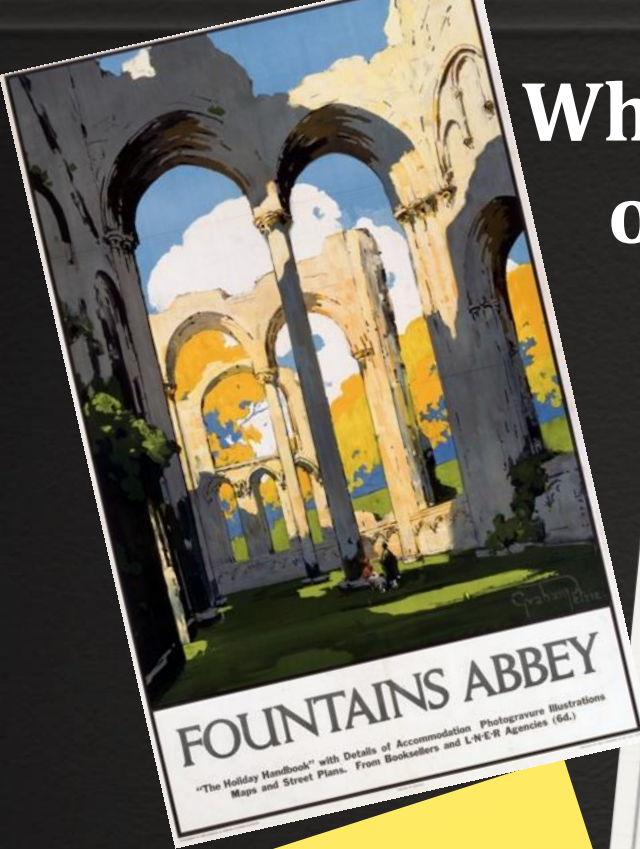
Abbot's
house
Power
Earl
'Mitred'

columns
nave
austere
values

○ Write **true**
sentences
using these
word
bundles

○ Include at
least one
meaty
adjective for
bonus
points...

**What is the most revealing element
of the site evidence at Fountains?**



AIMS

Explore the most significant
areas of the site at Fountains

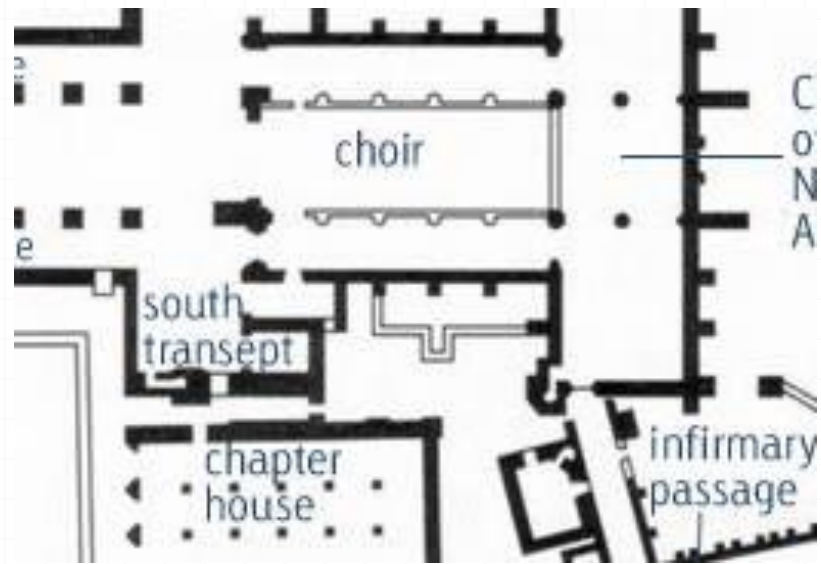
Keep working on our essay
planning and writing skills

Key Information

- o There are some areas of the site that are particularly fascinating and significant in terms of what they can reveal about the site's history
- o We will look at one 'Significant spot' now and then look at others later in the course.
- o As we talk through it, ask questions and write as much as you can down!

Significant spot 1: The South Transept: Why is it so revealing?

o What did we
learn on the
trip about this
spot?



Transept – what does this
word mean?

Tran +sept??

(intercept?)

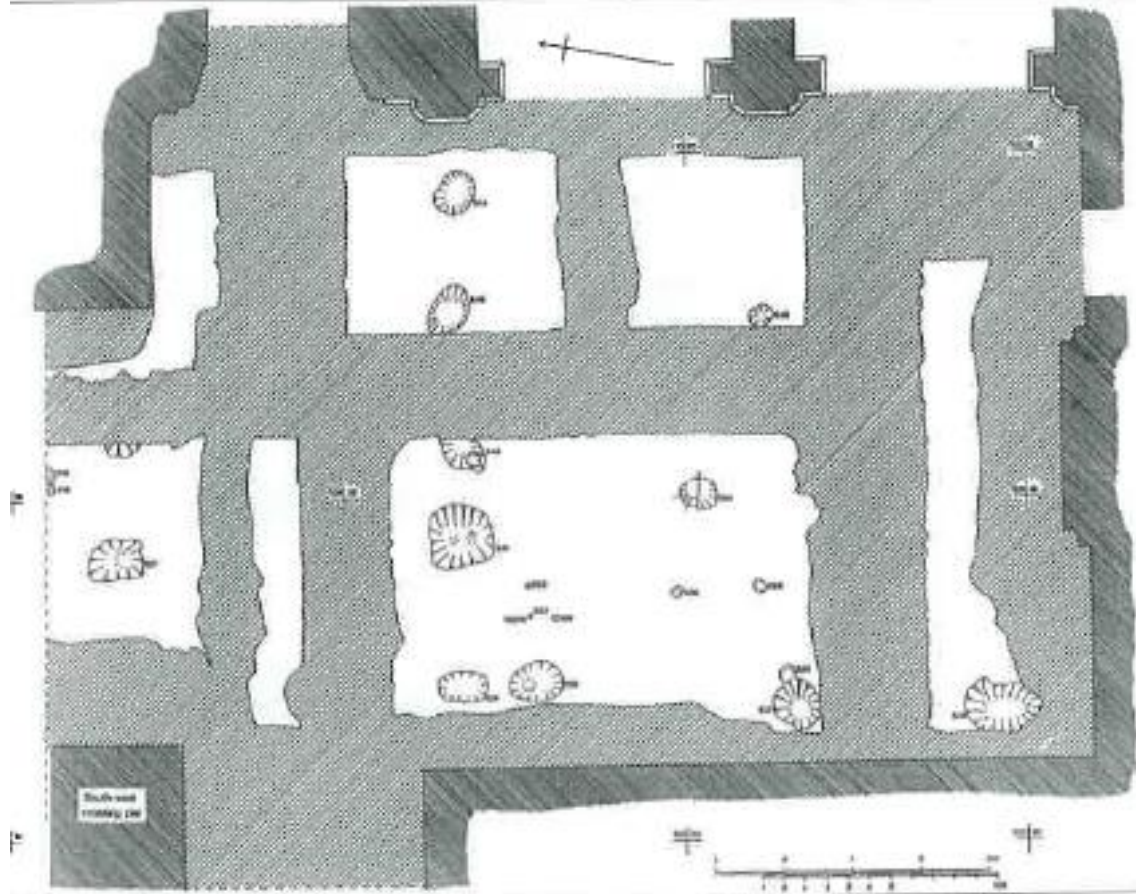
Evidence of the earliest church

THE NEW SOLDIERS OF CHRIST



Right: 4 Excavation has revealed traces of the first timber buildings at Fountains built in 1133 and visible only as the settings of timber post beneath the foundations of the first stone church. The structure was built in the northern tradition with ground cills running between the vertical posts

Below: 5 The post-pits of the first timber church at Fountains (on the left of the plan) show the precise location of the timber wall-posts and double posts (541, 531 and 521) that mark shallow porches. Cross-hatching shows area where later buildings have destroyed the evidence for the earliest buildings



Earliest surviving parts of the church

- Best examples of Cistercian architecture (what others can you name?)
- Norman arches
- Austere stonework – no carving
- Trinity windows



Change over time

- Religious significance – use of site, monastic day routines
- Notice the double change – limitation of site evidence – we don't know what this means!
- White arcading in south transept – white plaster and white painted brick work on western wall of transept – religious significance



Change over time



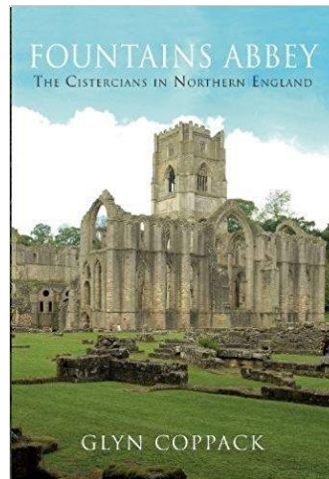
- SACRISTY extended
- More ornate gothic windows
- Symbolically, if not deliberately, the Trinity windows are obscured.

Change over time



Revealing site evidence?

- o Read the photocopy of page 41 of Glyn Coppack's book on Fountains Abbey.
- o What site evidence does he use?
- o What does site evidence reveal for him?
- o What are the limitations of his site evidence?

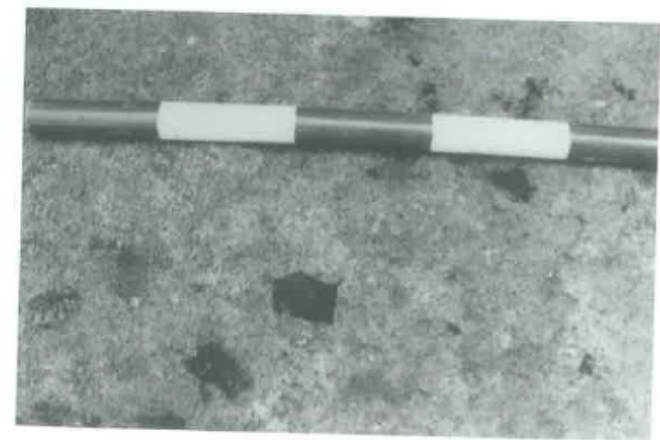


THE DESTRUCTION OF FOUNTAINS IN 1146

Abbot Richard II had involved his abbey in the disputed election of William FitzHerbert to the archbishopric of York in 1140. King Stephen had nominated William to the see against the united opposition of the Augustinians and Cistercians

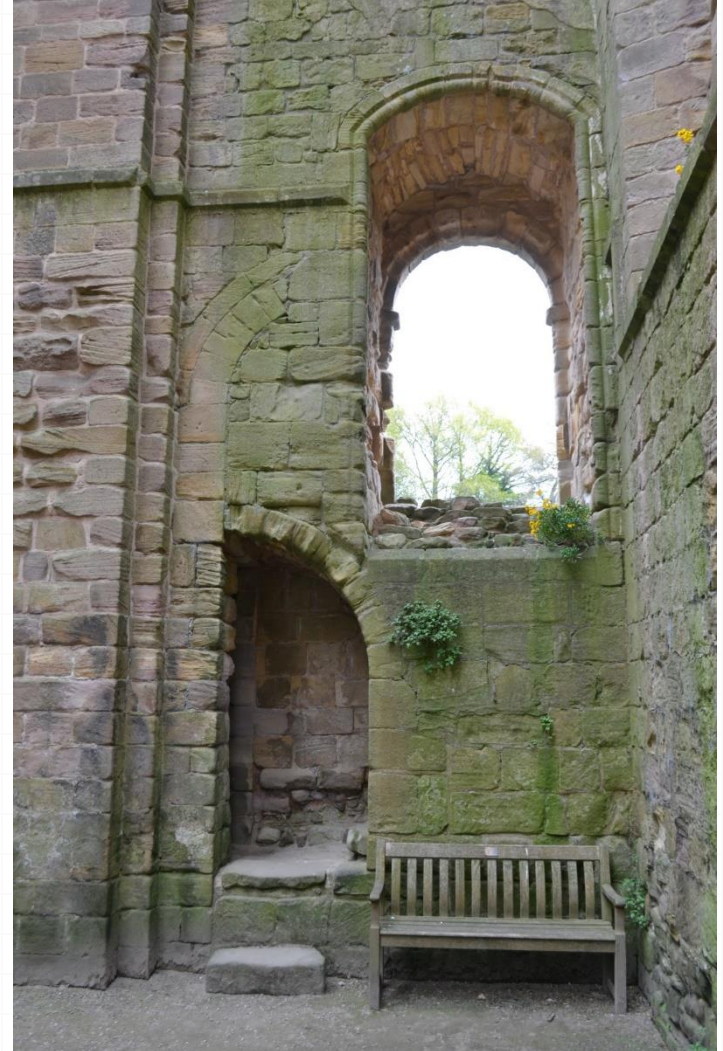
who did not consider him to be a suitable candidate. With the support of Bernard of Clairvaux, Richard took the case to Rome and persuaded Pope Eugenius III, himself a Cistercian monk, to withhold recognition of the election. Richard died at Clairvaux on his return journey and his successor, Abbot Henry, no doubt instructed by St Bernard, took up the fight with his customary zeal. Henry himself soon became the favoured candidate of the opposition party, bringing accusations of simony (the purchase of church office) against the archbishop at the Council of Rheims that were to lead to his deposition early in 1147.

So intense was the antagonism in 1146 that supporters of Archbishop William marched on Fountains seeking to murder Abbot Henry. Unable to find him, they sacked the abbey, finding little of value in the process, and fired its buildings. Serlo, who was present during the attack, tells how 'the convent stood by and saw the buildings erected by the sweat of their brows enveloped in flames and soon to be ashes, and that only the oratory and offices adjoining it reserved for prayer remained half-consumed, like a brand plucked from the burning', a slight exaggeration to judge from what survives. Excavation has proved, however, that his overall description of the events was reasonably accurate. Traces of a serious fire have been found in both the east and west cloister ranges and in the south transept of the church itself, where the burning was sufficiently severe to melt the window glass (19) and bring down the wall-plaster. Henry Murdac himself had been in the church during the assault, prostrated before the high altar, and it is significant that no trace of burning was found in the choir and presbytery, where the rushes on the floor were not even charred. The wall that separated the transept from the crossing had evidently contained the fire, and miraculously the abbey church survived in a usable state.



19 Intense burning in the south chapel of the south transept left melted window glass and fallen wall plaster fused to the mortar floor

Limitations of site evidence



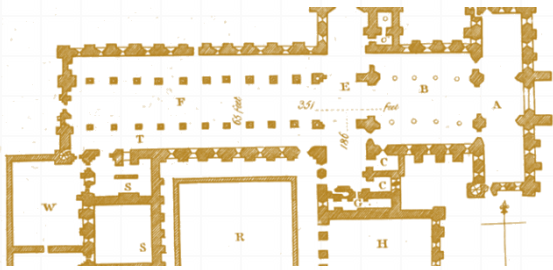
The 5-Minute Drill



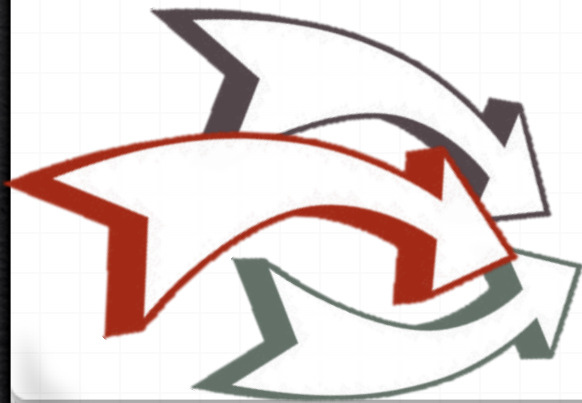
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○ **LINK:** as much **site evidence** as you can to each point



○ **INTERLINK:** check it all over and plan your **conclusion** that combines all the elements to **answer** the question

Use the 5 minute drill to plan each of these essays

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Extended learning

- o Write one of these essays for extended learning.
- o Your choice!
- o Ensure you include some significant site evidence!