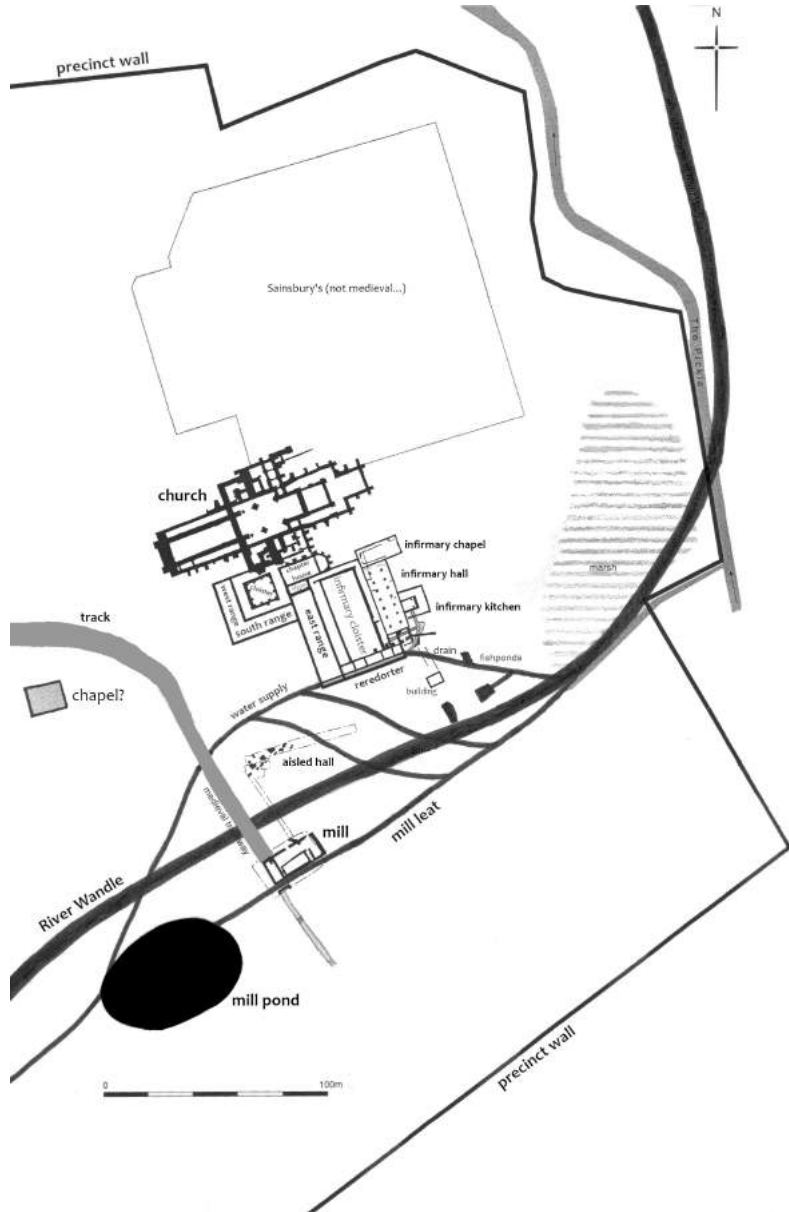




# Merton Priory

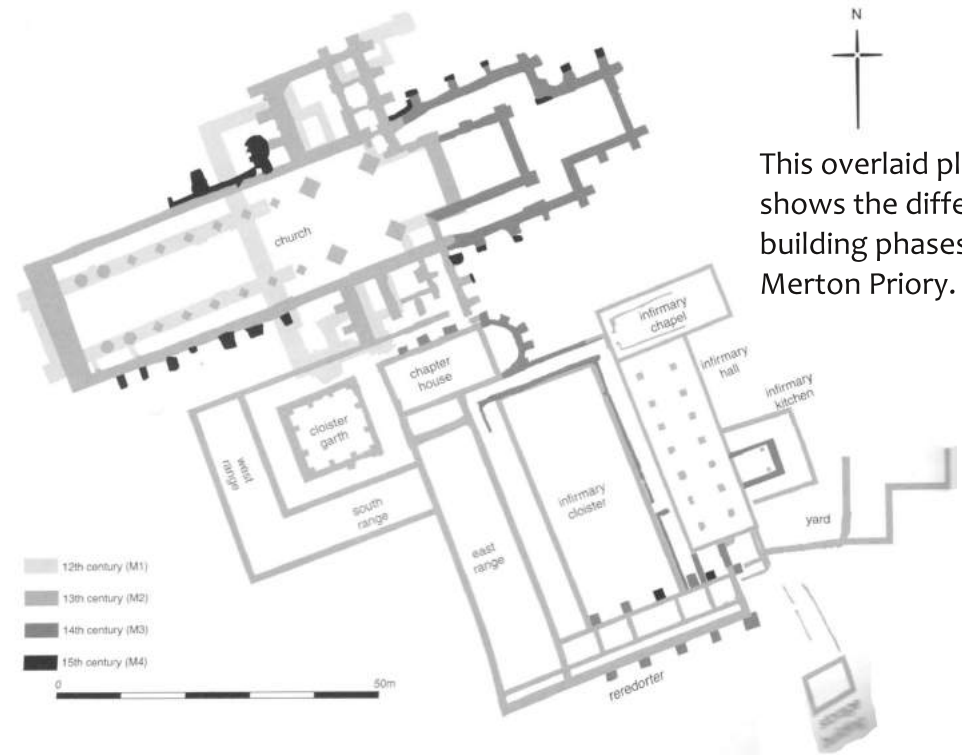
## THE LAYOUT OF MERTON PRIORY



These plans have been made by archaeologists, and show the different periods of Merton Priory. The diagram to your left shows most of the site (the precinct). The diagrams below show the main part of the priory - the church and cloisters.

Geography was really important - the canons needed water, but they also needed firm ground to build on. They moved from an earlier site because it didn't have water near enough! You can see that here there is some marshy ground - but the priory is built a bit higher up. This shows the old course of the River Wandle - it was re-routed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The canons made their own watercourses to power their mill, give them water for drinking, cooking and washing, and to flush their loos!

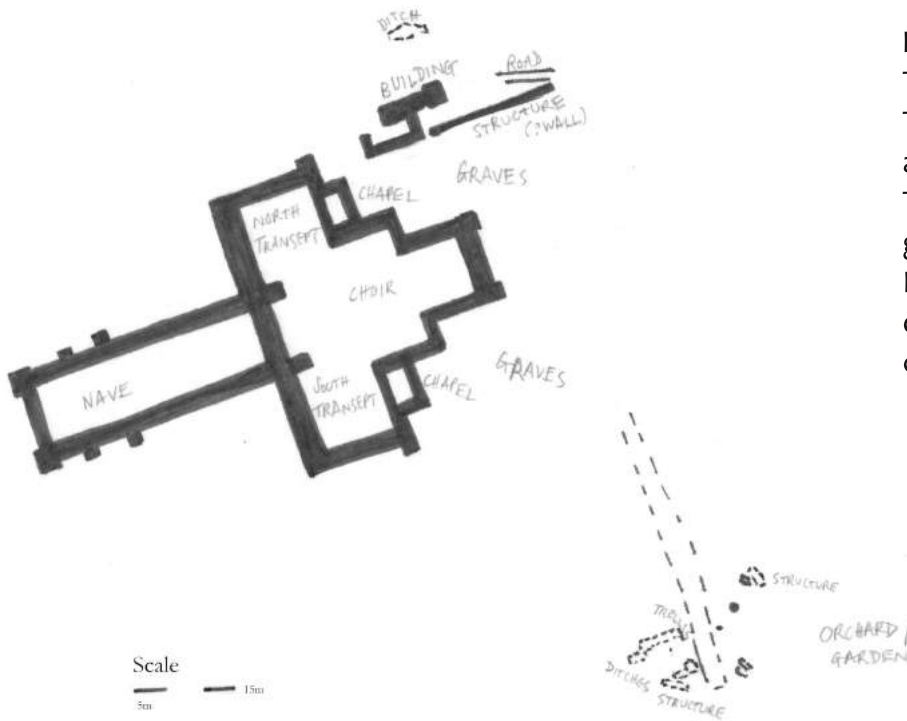


This overlaid plan shows the different building phases of Merton Priory.



# Merton Priory

## THE LAYOUT OF MERTON PRIORY



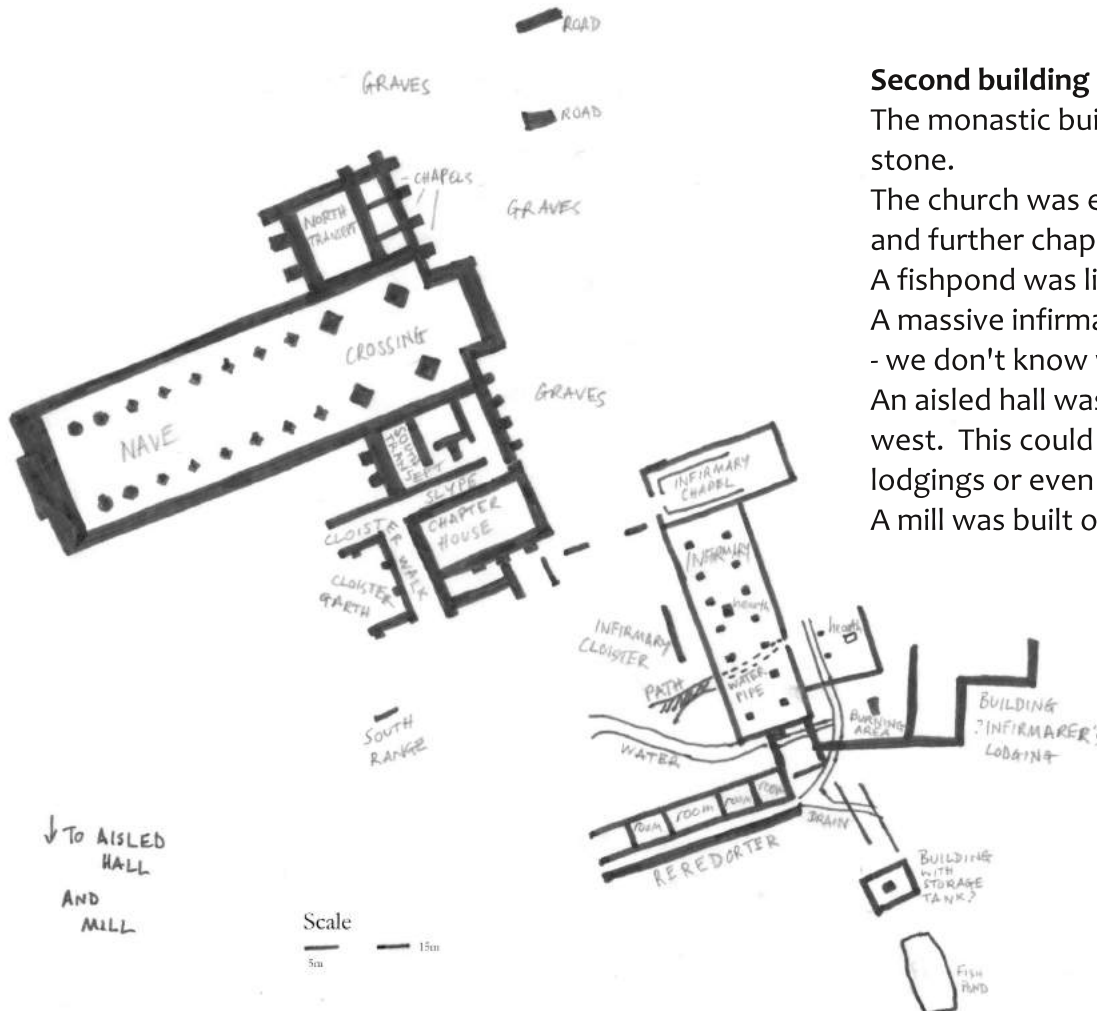
### First building phase: c.1117-c.1222:

The church had no aisles.

There were burial areas to the north and south of the church.

There was evidence of an orchard or garden to the south.

No evidence for cloister, chapter house, dormitory, infirmary, refectory - they could have been wooden.



### Second building phase: c.1222-c.1300

The monastic buildings were built in stone.

The church was expanded, with aisles and further chapels in the transepts.

A fishpond was lined with stone.

A massive infirmary complex was built - we don't know why it was so big.

An aisled hall was built to the south west. This could have been guest lodgings or even royal lodgings.

A mill was built or rebuilt.

↓ TO AISLED HALL AND MILL



# Merton Priory

## THE LAYOUT OF MERTON PRIORY

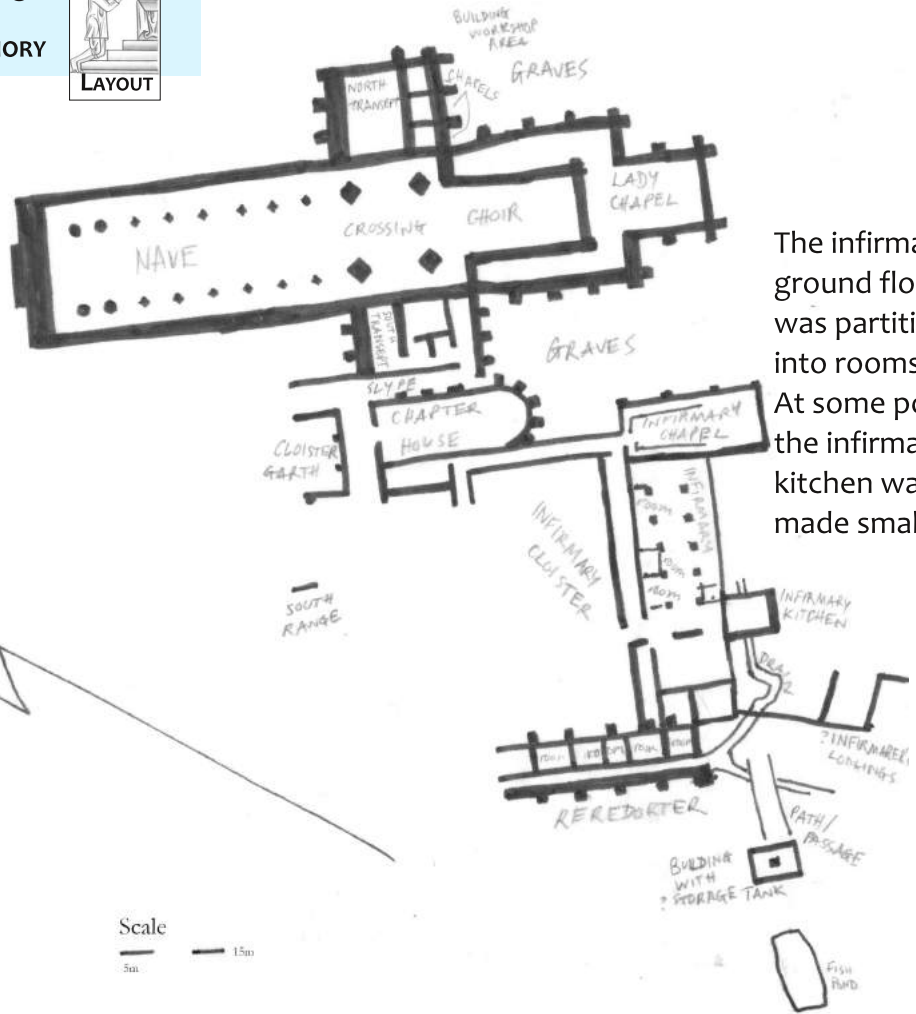


### Third building phase: c.1300-c.1390

A lady chapel was added to the church and the existing east end remodelled.

New windows were put in.

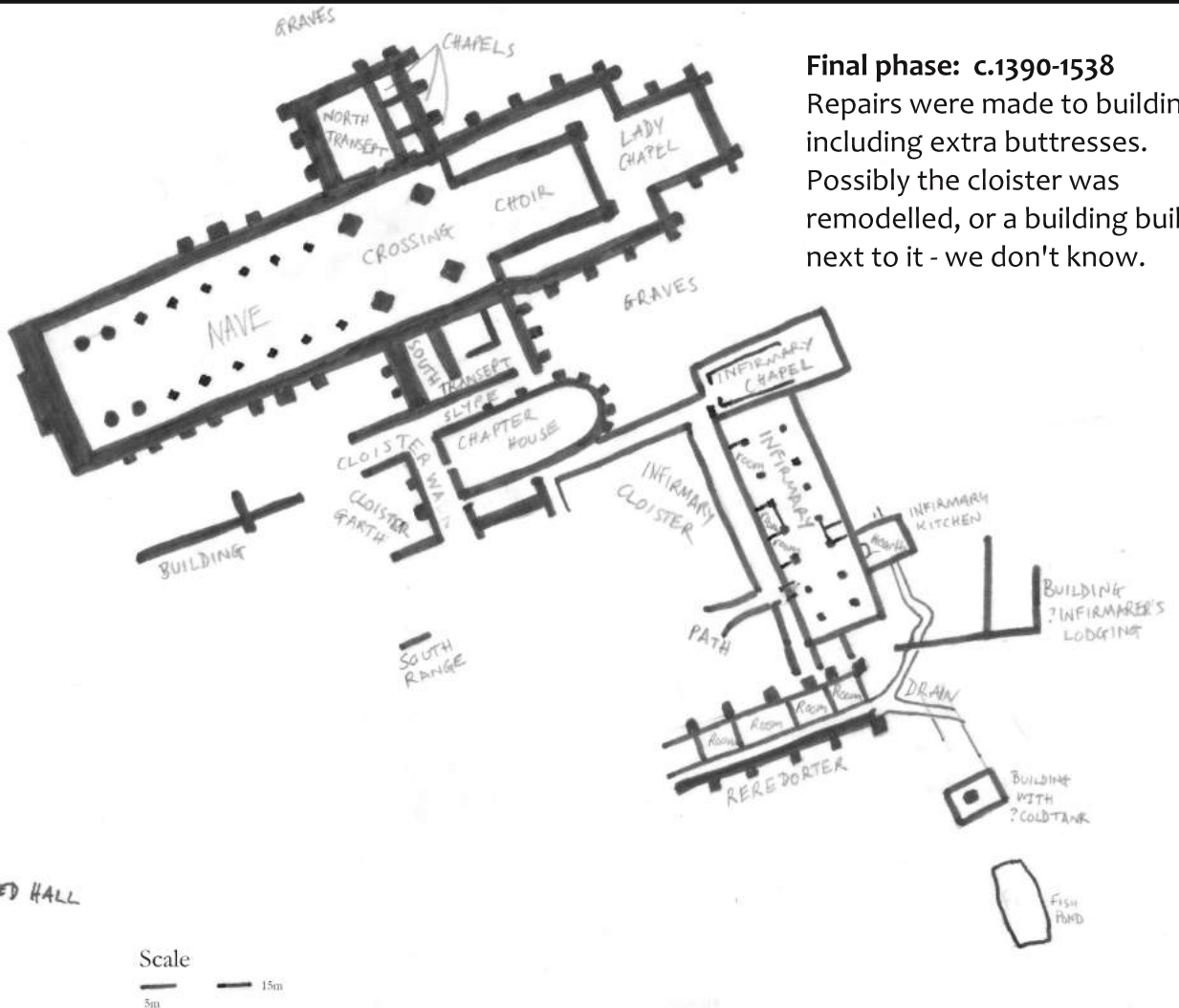
The chapter house was extended with an arch at the east end.



The infirmary ground floor was partitioned into rooms. At some point the infirmary kitchen was made smaller.

### Final phase: c.1390-1538

Repairs were made to buildings, including extra buttresses. Possibly the cloister was remodelled, or a building built next to it - we don't know.



↓ TO AISLED HALL AND MILL