Glastonbury Abbey
archaeological investigations 1904–79
By Cheryl Green and Roberta Gilchrist

Key Features:
· A comprehensive account of the archaeology of Glastonbury Abbey
· Presents new evidence and challenges existing interpretations, especially for the Saxon glassworking furnaces (c AD 700)
· Describes and illustrates the rich assemblage of material culture from the abbey

Glastonbury Abbey was renowned in the Middle Ages as the reputed burial place of the legendary King Arthur and the site of the earliest Christian church in Britain, believed to have been founded by Joseph of Arimathea in the first century AD. New insights into the abbey's origins and historical development have been revealed by thirty-six seasons of archaeological excavation that took place at the site during the twentieth century, directed by such iconic figures as Sir William St John Hope, Sir Charles Peers, Sir Alfred Clapham and Dr Courtenay Arthur Ralegh Radford. The results of these antiquarian excavations, only published in the past in the form of brief interim statements, can now be examined critically for the first time, thanks to a joint project by the University of Reading and Glastonbury Abbey, funded principally by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This volume reports on the comprehensive study of the archaeological archives and artefact collections and a new geophysical survey. Previous interpretations are challenged and new evidence is presented for the Saxon and later medieval phases of the abbey, including an important complex of early glassworking furnaces, dated c 700. For the first time, archaeological evidence is revealed for the Norman and later medieval monastic ranges and the luxurious abbot's hall and court. The rich assemblage of material culture includes devotional objects, fine imported vessels, locally produced ceramic floor tiles and stained glass and sculpture of the highest quality. Many retrospective elements are evident in the architecture of Glastonbury Abbey, perhaps suggesting a deliberate strategy to cultivate memory and to promote the antiquity of its Christian heritage.
Stepney Green
Moated manor house to city farm
By David Sankey

Remains of a late medieval and Tudor moated mansion, known from the 17th century as Worcester House, were located on Crossrail's Stepney Green shafts worksite in London's East End. Its rich merchant and aristocratic owners had a fine country residence with easy access to the city and to the River Thames and so to overseas trade. In the early 17th century it was among properties owned by the 1st Marquis of Worcester, a supporter of Charles II, which were confiscated by Cromwell's Parliament. By the late 17th century the estate had passed into the hands of radical Nonconformists associated with the Stepney Meeting and a meeting house was built there. Worcester House was converted to a Baptist college in the early 19th century and a Congregationalist church constructed in 1841 replaced the earlier meeting house. Other parts of the estate were developed as small factories and new housing for 19th-century dock workers in an area which later suffered severe bomb damage in World War II. Vivid accounts by local people of life before, during and after the war, up to the founding of what is now Stepney City Farm, bring this vibrant piece of East End history up to date.
Practices of Wealth Depositing in the 1st–9th Century AD Eastern Baltic

By Ester Oras

This PhD thesis discusses the practices of wealth depositing in the 1st–9th century AD eastern Baltic (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). Wealth deposits are one or more valued object/s that is/are hidden deliberately as an intended separate deposition in a selected place in a specific, distinguishable manner. Wealth depositing is regarded as an important cultural practice which relates to and derives from various past social phenomena and changes respectively in spatial and temporal terms. It is emphasised that wealth deposits should be analysed as a cohesive corpus of material, regardless of specific artefact types, functional groups, production material, environment of concealment, and most importantly without any predetermined interpretation categorisations.

The dissertation presents different patterned practices of concealing valuables in the 1st–9th century AD eastern Baltic through a detailed contextual analysis of their main material characteristics: artefacts, their assemblages and appearance, environment of concealment, chronology and location in the cultural landscape. The study demonstrates how depositional practices change in time and space, and analyses relations between specific depositional practices and developments on a wider social scale. A comparative analysis of wealth deposits and important social changes in contemporary society based on overall archaeological material is presented. The key regional and cross-regional practices of wealth depositing in the 1st–9th century AD eastern Baltic are identified. Additionally, further comparisons are drawn between depositional practices in the eastern Baltic and other parts of the Baltic Sea region, especially Scandinavia.

This thesis contributes to the discussions of concepts of value and depositional practices in a long-term and cross-regional perspective. A further aim is to look beyond the problematic 'why?'-questions posed in the studies of wealth deposits, and move instead to more comprehensible questions of 'how?': how do depositional practices change in time and space, and how are these processes related to developments in a broader social context?

The book contains a catalogue of all the 1st-9th century AD Eastern Baltic deposits analysed in the dissertation with descriptions of objects, environments of concealment, find circumstances, illustrations/photos and further references.