

Comments on Video made by E G Filby showing excavations of area west of Reigate Priory in preparation for redesigning the park - April 2007.

1) Interpreting the archaeological finds below the tennis court area.

a) N.B. There could be different levels - it is vital to have professional archaeologists involved. We know from the map c.1770 that this area had been used for coach houses, stables and horse pond, but we don't know exactly when they were built. (See *Discovering Reigate Priory*, p. 38.) We do know that the Parsons regularly used six horses to take their coaches up Reigate Hill on their way to London. It is possible that stables were sometimes used for their racehorses too - for the Parsons family were highly successful horse breeders.

b) There is an earlier map by Rocque, dated 1762 (*DRP* p.42) showing the Priory's gatehouse in that area. We know from the Bishops' Registers that a gatehouse did exist in the monastic era. We do not know when it was demolished. This date could be well before 1762. Rocque might have been using out-dated maps and information as a guide! This did sometimes happen.

Archaeologists should be able to provide answers, by looking at levels and building materials.

2) The Lake.

It would be interesting to look carefully at the south side of the lake and see whether there is any sign of the buildings indicated on the sketch map from the time of John Parsons (*DRP* p.35). See 'water house', then, further East 'stable' (for the horse that worked the water engine in the water house). Also the Icehouse.

N.B. The Lake was sometimes partly drained and the field flooded in order to make a bigger area to provide ice (for stocking up the icehouse).

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