

Thank you for your visit!

Even with the generous support of the Ministry of Culture, the Calvados, private and corporate sponsors, we struggle to cope with the considerable financial resources required for the restoration of the Abbey. Although restoration work began in the early 20th century, since our family has taken over, we continued and expadeled the projects, making it a never-ending adventure. We're delighted to have introduced you to a monument like no other, a part of France's heritage for which we are only temporary custodians, and our family home since the 1960s.

The d'Anglejan family

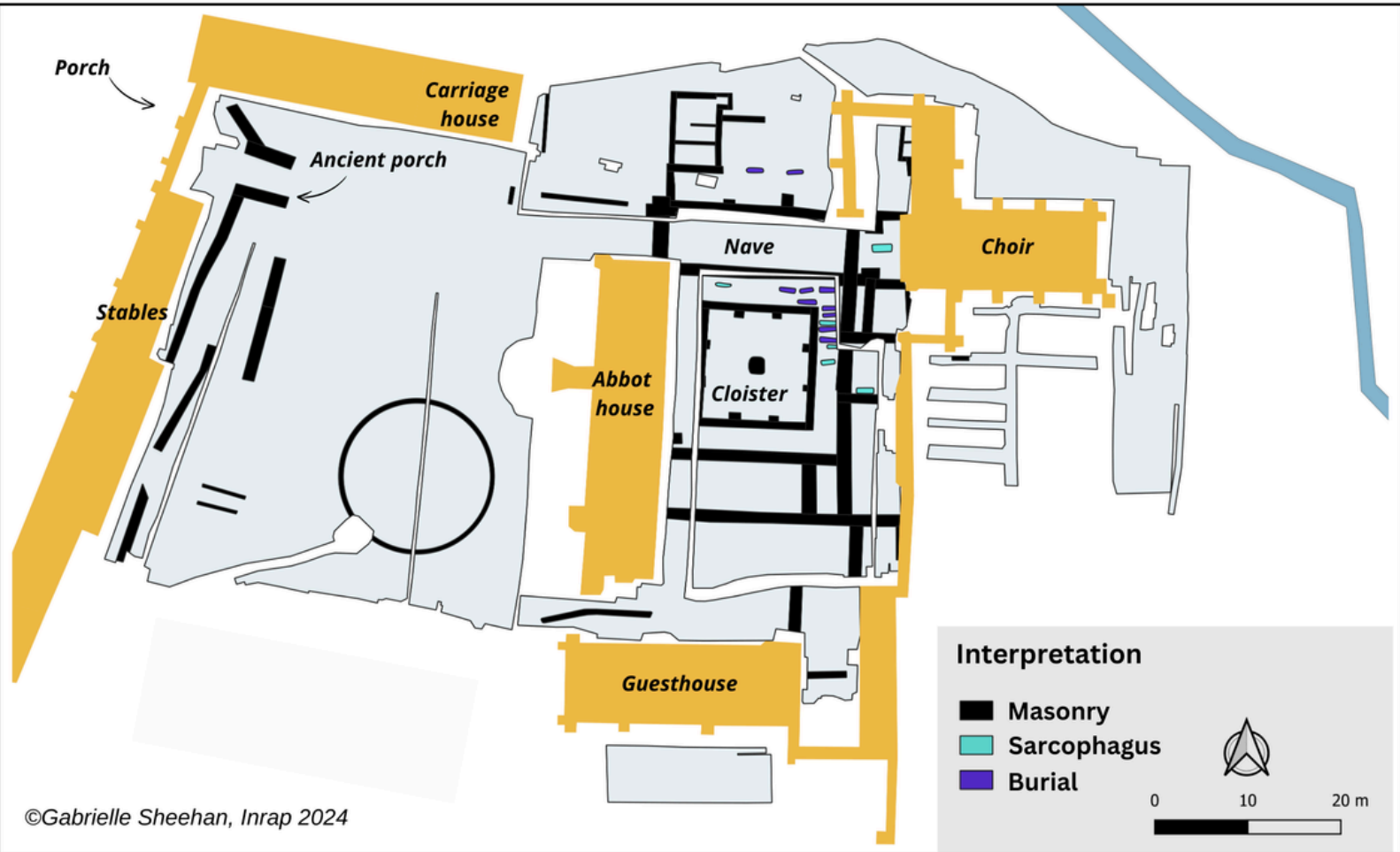
The "Friends of the Abbey" was created in 2018 to mark the 850th anniversary of the Abbey's founding. Its purpose is to defend the environment and heritage linked to the Abbey, promote its influence, contribute to its preservation and the enhancement of its gardens. Some of its achievements include: our website, informational posters and the buildings digitalization. You are welcome to join this cultural adventure. Thank you in advance!

The "Friends of the Abbey" (email us at : abbayedelongues14@gmail.com)



@abbayedelongues

Identified traces by INRAP (French national institute for preventive archeological research) using georadar



Welcome !

The Benedictine abbey of Sainte Marie de Longues is an exceptional testimony to Norman religious life in the Middle Ages. It was founded in 1168, by Hugues Wac, a descendant of one of William the Conqueror's companions. The monks came from Hambye abbey, itself founded by twelve monks from **Tiron**.

In 1516, the Abbey fell under the "**commende**" and the decline began, with successive abbots often finding opportunities to enrich themselves at the expense of the community.

In 1640, with the nave of the church in danger of ruin, Jean V de Tules, bishop of the city of Orange and abbot of Longues, decided to have a wall built between the nave and the choir. His coat of arms is incorporated into this wall.

In 1782, the bishop of Bayeux, "dissolved" the Abbey and in 1793 the land was sold as national property.

In 1915, the church was listed as a historical monument. In 2006, all the buildings and grounds were added to that listing.

Tiron Order

This community of "grey monks", named after the color of their habit, was founded by Bernard de Tiron in 1115. He reformed the Benedictine rule ("ora et labora", prayer and work), giving pride to manual labor, especially farming. The Hambye abbey and then Longues abbey followed this reform.

The "commende"

Abbots under the "commende" were temporary administrators, lay or secular, of Church property (in this case, the Abbey). They were not required to live at the abbey in order to benefit from its revenues, nevertheless they still had no authority over the monks. From 1516 onwards, the commende system led to the decline of abbeys, this was hastened by lack of control and maintenance.

### 1 The carriage house

From the carriage house, behind the trees that stand in front of you, a dovecote and a tithe barn were also once part of the Abbey but they now belong to the neighboring farm.

### 2 The church

Follow the arrow marked 1 on your left, to reach the choir which was restored in 2022, and the northern transept. Because the inside of the Longues abbey's choir looks very similar to that of Bayeux Cathedral, it is likely that both buildings were built in the early 13th century. The marked trail will guide you through the cloister. On your left you will see two windows, which are all that remain of the chapter house. To your right sits the eastern side of the abbot's house against which the cloister gallery leaned.

### 3 The garden

Pass through the iron gate located between the yew trees and enter the garden. This is the more formal of the abbey's gardens. Notice the box trees which frame the pastel-colored flowers. Do you see the first sundial on one of the buttresses of the southern façade of the choir?

### 4 The vegetable garden

In the vegetable garden bordered by old cordon apple trees, a rosemary hedge leads to the fishpond. On the right is the medicinal herb garden. The fishpond, stocked with over 30 carp, is fed by a spring that passes through the orchard behind the choir.

### 5 The guesthouse

Continue past the pond to the last garden. It is framed by box trees and roses. Before going into the building which was restored in 2023, did you notice the second sundial on one of the buttresses? This large 14th century building has the oldest Armorican-type framework in Normandy. Notice the wall painting at the top of the eastern wall. The right side shows the Annunciation, and the left shows Saint Michael fighting the dragon.

### 6 The reception courtyard

Now you come to the large entrance courtyard. On the lawn is a pond fed by the overflow of the spring that runs through the house to the neighboring farm. Before leaving the Abbey, take a look at the 14th-century gatehouse with a statue of Saint James above the pedestrian gate. As at Hambye and La Lucerne, it included a janitor's quarters and a reception room for pilgrims on their way to Compostela.

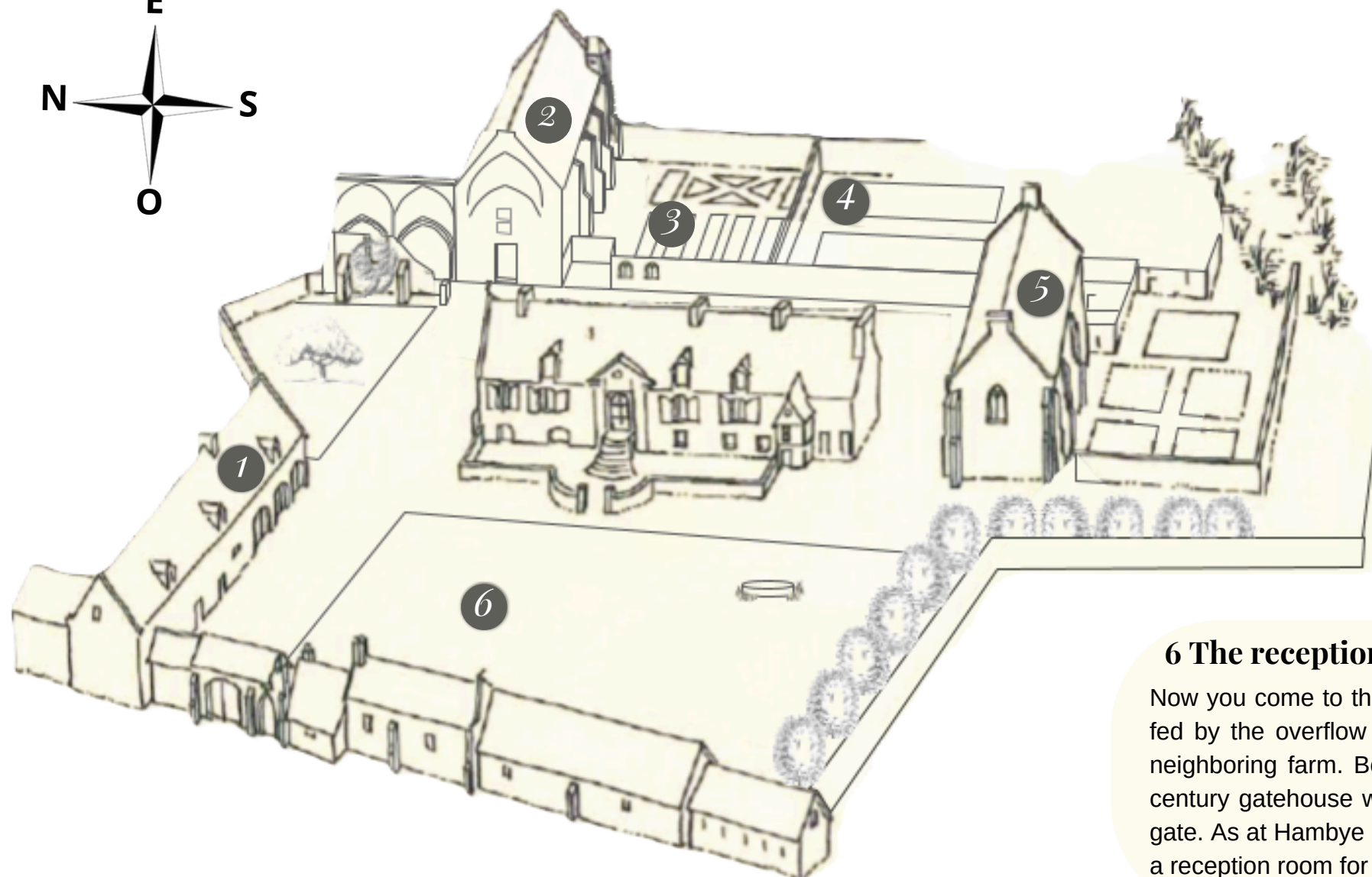
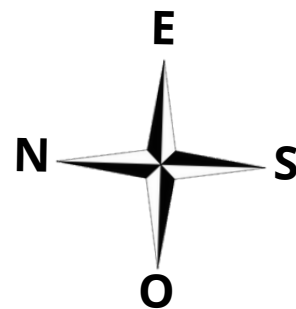
**Warning! Unfenced pond and well. No children allowed without adult supervision.**



The abbey's  
history  
(1 of 2)



The abbey's  
history  
(2 of 2)



Digitalised  
model