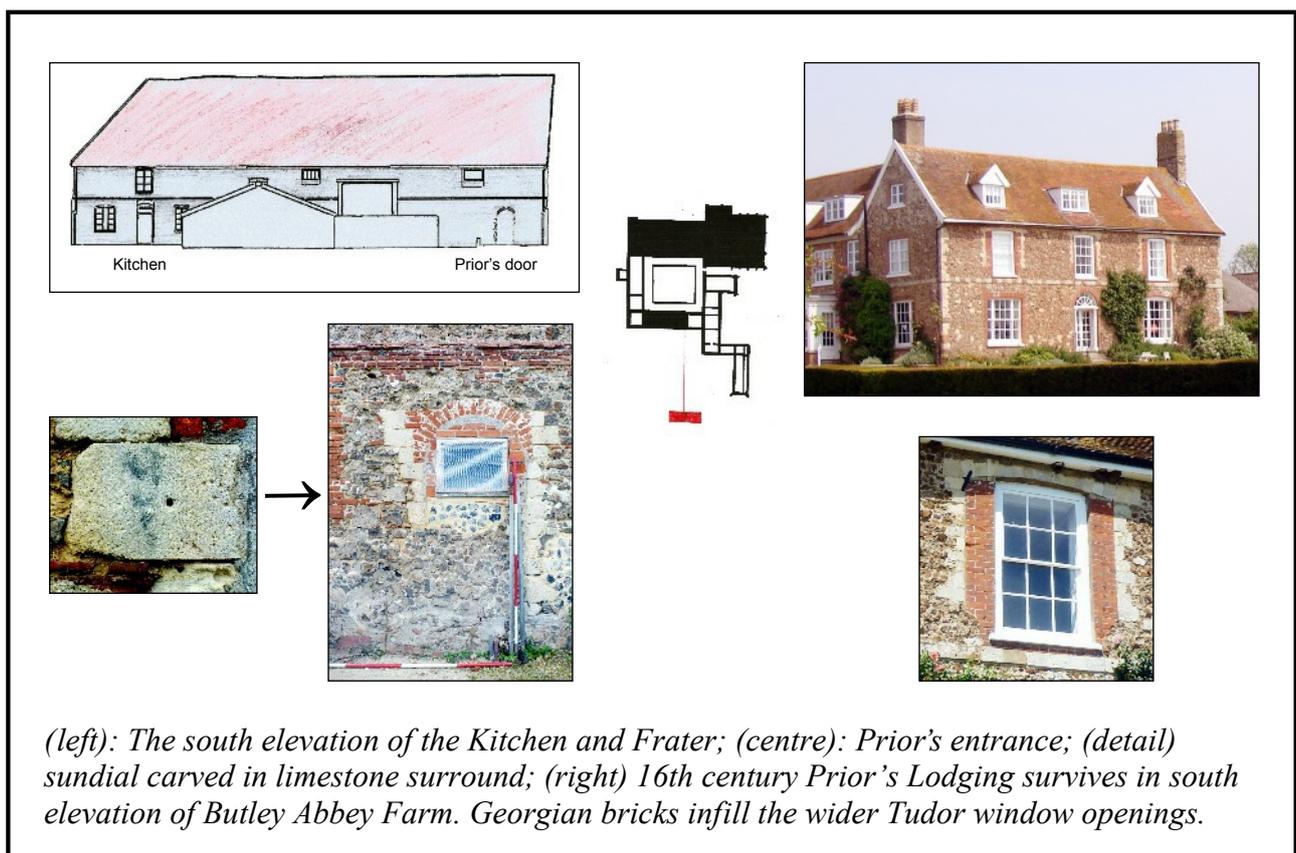


Modern concrete has replaced a floor of clay tiles. Many patterns of plain and decorated tiles with green and yellow glazes predominating were found in Dr Myres' excavations. They will have been made locally and can be seen in Orford Museum.

There were three entrances to the building. At regulated meal times the canons walked along the south side of the cloister to wash their hands at a trough set in the wall next to a cupboard containing towels. After drying them, they entered the Refectory through a still-existing doorway in its north-west corner. Immediately opposite, access for kitchen staff was through double service doors, the iron hinge-pins for which survive, as does a reveal for one of the doors. The space between the two entrances formed a screen passage through which the dining area was entered. Screens were originally free-standing, but later came to resemble church rood screens. An ornate example dated 1498 survives at Milton Abbey, Dorset.³ The dividing wall between Refectory and Kitchen may have contained serveries, but as meals were eaten in silence, or listening to a religious reading, kitchen noises would have been an unwanted intrusion.

The third entrance is preserved in the south-east corner. A little door was used by the Prior. He walked the 40 yards from the door of his lodging which lay due south.⁴ After checking the sundial carved on the ashlar doorway, he entered to take his place at the east end of the dining hall.



The canons in their black habits, pensioners, novices, and wealthy lay residents sat on one side of refectory tables placed along the sides of the hall. They ate well without the austerity practised by monks under the Rule of St Benedict. Canons and novices used silver spoons. Other silver on the table included a silver salt with its cover and a mazer. The gift of four 'best cushions' to the