

Photographs of Valle Crucis Abbey

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Pictures of the Ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey

We start at the West Front with its elaborate carving around the doorway and the rose window high above, shown in the large photograph on page 3.

Going South and turning back towards the ruin, the West Front and the South Aisle wall lead into the South Transept, and turning, the Sacristy and Chapter House come into full view.

A little closer and the Sacristy and Chapter House are across the ruins of the Cloister. Just the foundations of the Monks Dining Hall remain now.

The foundations of the Day Room for the Lay Brothers can be seen leading back to the West Front on page 6.

Moving further east the Chapter House looks quite well preserved in the photographs on page 7.

The East Wall with its majestic windows to allow the sunrise onto the High Alter reflect the past glory of the Abbey and the roof over the Sacristy seems rather incongruous beside the roofless chapels.

The Abbey ruins are located near to Llangollen in North Wales.

The Abbey was founded for the monks of the Cistercian order in 1201 by Madog ap Gruffydd Maelor, ruler of this part of northern Powys. It was the last of 14 Cistercian foundations to be built in Wales.

The Cistercians, or White Monks, were the most popular of the monastic orders in medieval Wales. Their monasteries were built in remote locations where the monks and lay-brothers combined an austere religious life with farming on the outlying estates.

The abbey buildings conform to the normal Cistercian layout of a large cruciform church, with residential accommodation arranged around a rectangular cloister adjoining it on the south side. The 13th-century church is the most prominent survival, together with the east range of the cloister, built around 1400, containing the chapter-house and monks' dormitory.

Valle Crucis Abbey was closed in 1537 during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, but parts were converted afterwards into a house.

(Taken from the notice in the grounds.)





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