



COURTYARD

The central courtyard organises the interior space of the complex, with all of the built structures arranged around it. This is the area where some of the oldest —prehistoric— ceramic fragments have been found, but we cannot affirm that there was any occupation that far back. This space does not coincide with the idea we have of the ordered, porticoed cloister typical of monasteries, and it appears the paving was always very irregular.

Near the constructions north of the main courtyard four silos have been located, filled in with waste, dating back to the 15th century. These holes in the rock were used as stores. The largest one could contain around 18m³ of grain (12,600 kg).

CONJUNT DE

Bellpuig



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The steps at the end of the main courtyard (NE area) led to an upper floor of the building, dating back to the foundational era. Modern improvements altered the original configuration.

The walls that close off the room beside the stairs are from after the 15th century, when the monks had already left Bellpuig.

The ensemble was surrounded by a wall, which enclosed the priory buildings. The western part of this wall affects a burial zone, a funerary area covered by a layer of material from the 13th and 14th centuries, and therefore predating the priory.

If we head north, to the end of the courtyard, and approach the access between the staircase and the east building, on the left-hand jamb we find an anthropomorphic relief, of some human heads. Next to one of the faces, there is a column of three engraved numbers: 13, 3, 4.

The typography appears recent. The way in which the numbers are arranged leads us to think that it may be a biblical quotation (book, chapter and verse). Research on this numerical combination tells us it could correspond to Leviticus 13: 3-41, which compares leprosy with the purification of sins. According to the documentation available, Bellpuig was used as a lazaretto during that epidemic episode, and perhaps somebody wished to record it in this way.

