Part of the water that fed the fish pond was used to flush the latrines in the necessarium (the privies) and was eventually carried into the town ditch.

The natural wells in the centre cloister and near the fonts – they were used when the main system failed.

The reservoirs – the octafoil basin in the centre with its pair of stand pipes, the smaller one in the cloisters to the right – where part of the water coming from the pipes was stored.

The infirmary buildings – all the monks had to visit here for regular blood-letting, after which they convalesced for a few days.

The drainage system is represented by simple double lines, the rain water was conducted to this system; gutters can be seen around the cloisters on the right and protruding from the main church building.

The necessarium was a large latrine block. It was attached to the monks' communal dormitory.

The water source is about three-quarters of a mile from the bottom of the plan. This water is conveyed through a conduit-house, and by lead pipes, through five settling tanks, through the city wall into the cathedral.

The black lines represent the course of the feeding-pipes.

The water was used to supply the kitchen, the wash rooms, brew houses, bakery and the fish pond.
Why were monasteries important?
We are back to the Church! There is no getting away from it in the Middle Ages. There were three reasons why monasteries were important to medicine in the Middle Ages:

- they **preserved** the writings of Hippocrates and Galen
- they built hospitals
- they developed public health systems.

Preserving Greek and Roman writings
During the Dark Ages after the fall of the Roman Empire monasteries preserved, copied and studied the medical writings of the Greeks and the Romans. Until universities like Salerno began to be built after 1100 the monasteries were the only centres of learning. They kept some Greek and Roman medical ideas alive, and more importantly they kept the books so that centuries later they could be studied again.

Monasteries became medical centres
Many monasteries encouraged the care of the sick. The rule of the Benedictine monks stated that 'the care of the sick is to be placed above and before every other duty'. Monasteries became key medical centres. Most had an infirmary for sick monks and, as we have seen, a separate hospital for the public. At least one of the monks would specialise in caring for the sick monks. He would keep a herb garden and many developed an expert knowledge of all the different types of herbs.

Monasteries and public health
To study the state of public health in the Middle Ages we are going to compare conditions in a monastery with those in a typical town. Many monasteries were wealthy and had the money to make sure they stayed healthy. They could build water pipes, drains and wash houses. Sources B and C are plans of two monasteries, one was built by the side of a river; the other had its water piped to it.

You can see the reredorter (privies) are built over the river. The laver was a stone trough where the monks washed.

Using all the information and sources A, B and C (over page) write a paragraph explaining how the features of monasteries kept monks healthy. Try to use examples from the sources.

You should include:
- Care of the sick
- Expert knowledge
- Clean water systems