

BENTHALL HALL

Benthall, Broseley
Shropshire

Historic Building Assessment



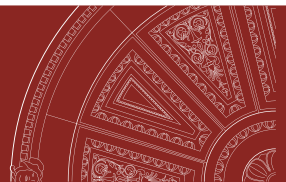
FINAL REPORT

April 2013

Report prepared by:

RIC TYLER
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist. (Oxf.)

4 Friars Walk, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1NT
t: 07929 023963 e: rictyler@btinternet.com
www.rictyler.com



Project Data

Project Number: 2011-014
Project Name: Benthall Hall, Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

NGR: NGR SJ 65800 02600
Planning Reference: N/A

Document Title: Historic Building Survey and Assessment
Issue No.: v.02 **FINAL**

Client Name: The National Trust

Prepared by: Ric Tyler MIfA
Date: 24/04/2013

Document Location: C:/RIC WORK/2. Projects /2012/2012-014 – Benthall Hall,
Broseley/4_Report/4.5_PDF/4.5.2_Final Report/2012-014 FinRep.v02_24.04.13.pdf

RIC TYLER
MIfA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

4 Friars Walk, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1NT
t: (++44) 01584 879990 m: (++44) 07929 023963
e: rictyler@btinternet.com www.rictyler.com

BENTHALL HALL

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Survey and Assessment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Summary</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Background to the Project	2
1.2 Designations	2
1.3 Scope of the Report	3
1.4 Statement of Limitations	3
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
3 METHODOLOGY	3
3.1 Documentary Research	3
3.2 Historic Building Record	4
4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
4.1 General Historical Context	4
4.2 Benthall Hall	5
4.3 The Village of Benthall	7
5 MAP REGRESSION	8
5.1 Early Maps	8
5.2 The Tithe Map	8
5.3 Ordnance Survey Maps	9
6 OTHER SOURCES	10
6.1 Census Returns	10
6.2 Historical Paintings, Drawings and Photographs	11
6.3 Historical Plans, Architects Drawings, Correspondence etc	12

7	BUILDING DESCRIPTION.....	13
7.1	A Note on Nomenclature.....	13
7.2	The Main Range	15
7.3	The North-West Range	24
8	DEVELOPMENT	28
8.1	Overview	28
8.2	PHASE I: early-mid 16 th century (?).....	28
8.3	PHASE II: mid-16 th century.....	29
8.4	PHASE III: late-16 th century (c.1580).....	29
8.5	PHASE IV: early-17 th century	29
8.6	PHASE V: 18 th century.....	30
8.7	PHASE VI: early-mid 19 th century	30
8.8	PHASE VII: late-19 th century	31
8.9	PHASE VIII: 20 th century.....	31
9	ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	33
10	CONCLUSION	34
11	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	35
12	SOURCES	36

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Site location.
- Figure 2: Detailed site location; aerial photograph.
- Figure 3: Survey of ?DMV and associated earthwork features.
- Figure 4: Early county maps (a) Saxton, 1577 and (b) Baugh, 1808.
- Figure 5: Benthall parish tithe plan, published 1845.
- Figure 6: Historical Ordnance Survey mapping; (a) 1882, (b) 1902, (c) 1927 and (d) 1963.
- Figure 7: Early 19th-century views: (a) early C19th naive school and (b) South elevation, sketch of c.1840.
- Figure 8: Mid-late 19th-century views: (a) Sketch of rear elevation, dated 1841; (b) South elevation, sketch of c.1900.
- Figure 9: Painting by John Hornby Maw (father of George Maw), 1870.
- Figure 10: John Hornby Maw watercolours; (a) South front; (b) Hall [G.02]; (c) Sitting Room [G.05]; (d) Bedroom [F.01].
- Figure 11: Historical photographs, south elevation; (a) c.1860 and (b) c.1890.
- Figure 12: Historical photographs, north-west range; (a) early 20th-century and (b) 1935.
- Figure 13: Historical views, interior; Parlour [G.05]; (a) C19th 'historical' engraving and (b) C19th photograph.
- Figure 14: Undated late-19th-century plan of unknown provenance.
- Figure 15: 1960s 'as-existing' and proposal drawings; south elevation.
- Figure 16: 1960s proposals, ground floor plan.

- Figure 17: Record drawing of Maw's floor to [G.02] by Wendy Faulkner, 1988.
 Figure 18: Front (south) elevation.
 Figure 19: Rear (north) elevation.
 Figure 20: West elevation.
 Figure 21: East elevation.
 Figure 22: North-east range, west elevation
 Figure 23: Basement Plan.
 Figure 24: Ground floor plan (1 of 2).
 Figure 25: Ground floor plan (2 of 2).
 Figure 26: First floor plan.
 Figure 27: Second floor plan.
 Figure 28: Details of PHASE I/II framing to north-east range; J Milln survey drawing, 1998.
 Figure 29: Transverse cross-section of north-east range (1); J Milln survey drawing, 1998.
 Figure 30: Transverse cross-section of north-east range (2); J Milln survey drawing, 1998
 Figure 31: Phasing.
 Figure 32: Principal phases of development.

List of Plates

THE MAIN RANGE

- Plate 1: South elevation oblique view looking north-west.
 Plate 2: Central three attic gables.
 Plate 3: South elevation, western parlour wing.
 Plate 4: Blocked window in east return parlour wing.
 Plate 5: Canted, 2-storey bay to high end of hall.
 Plate 6: Canted 2-storey bay to east end of elevation.
 Plate 7: Square porch tower (?secondary).
 Plate 8: Main doorway in west wall of porch tower.
 Plate 9: Detail of south wall between parlour wing and eastern canted bay showing paired straight joints beneath window [w3] evidencing former doorway (See Figure 7a). Note also the three fixing points beneath central mullion.
 Plate 10: Moulded stones including rosettes and central initialled plaque 'BLK', arranged in form of 'quincunx', **NB:** top left stone missing.
 Plate 11: 'Quincunx' formation to western return of tower over main door (**NB:** central date plaque).
 Plate 12: Detail of central date plaque; '1535'.
 Plate 13: Moulded decorative frieze to top of stair tower; renewed in 1974 by S.T. Walker and Partners of Edgbaston.
 Plate 14: Star-form brick stack (east gable end).
 Plate 15: Rebuilt/ raised eaves at SE angle; drip mould related to former Music Room extension.
 Plate 16: West elevation from Rose Garden.
 Plate 17: Canted, 2-storey bay to west elevation.
 Plate 18: Dovecote and associated garden wall; introduced by Robert Bateman between OS editions of 1882 and 1902.
 Plate 19: East elevation.
 Plate 20: East elevation; **NB:** brick gable and upper part of north wall.
 Plate 21: Quarry-tile and brick floor of former north- west range.
 Plate 22: North elevation, west end (parlour range).
 Plate 23: North elevation, projecting former stair turret.
 Plate 24: Former stair turret, blocked window to GF and doorway to cellars.
 Plate 25: North elevation, hall section.
 Plate 26: Stair descending to basement [**B.03**].

- Plate 27: Basement room [B.02] looking south.
 Plate 28: Basement [B.02]; blocked window to south.
 Plate 29: Basement [B.02]; drainage channel to base of east wall (extends under hall).
 Plate 30: Cellar [B.01]; inserted brick piers (1960s) support re-used timber beams.
 Plate 31: Deeply chamfered floor beam with ogee-stopped common joist (secondary).
 Plate 32: Redundant post-mortices to soffit of deeply chamfered floor beam (?part of screen).
 Plate 33: Cut off ogee-stop at end of principal floor beam.
 Plate 34: Entrance Hall [G.02] looking north-west.
 Plate 35: Entrance Hall [G.02] looking south-east.
 Plate 36: Window [w1].
 Plate 37: Canted bay [w2].
 Plate 38: Standard primary turnbuckle catch.
 Plate 39: Exterior quadrant stay.
 Plate 40: Entrance Hall [G.02]; detail of Jacobean overmantle to fireplace in north wall with arms of Benthall and Cassy and upper 'jewel' frieze matching [G.07] and [F.01].
 Plate 41: Section of George Maw's polychrome tiled floor of 1857 (covered over in 1935).
 Plate 42: [d5] to south end of west wall; NB: step up to stair hall [G.03] beyond.
 Plate 43: Principal stair looking north-west.
 Plate 44: Principal stair looking north-east.
 Plate 45: Principal stair; detail of newel finial (top, paler section is secondary, probably C19th).
 Plate 46: Principal stair; detail of pendant.
 Plate 47: Evidence of alteration to lower part of principal stair.
 Plate 48: Balustrade panel; Benthall leopard.
 Plate 49: Balustrade panel; lion rampant.
 Plate 50: String panel; wyvern.
 Plate 51: Plasterwork cornice moulding to [G.03].
 Plate 52: Doorway [d7] serving sitting room [G.05].
 Plate 53: Doorway [d7]; detail of foliated boss to doorcase.
 Plate 54: [G.04] looking north-west.
 Plate 55: [G.04]; panelled door [d6].
 Plate 56: [G.04] wall cupboard to east wall (blocked window
 Plate 57: Sitting Room [G.05] looking south-west.
 Plate 58: Sitting Room [G.05] looking south-east.
 Plate 59: Detail of decorated ceiling panel incorporating strapwork and central boss.
 Plate 60: Ill-fitting panelling at north-east corner
 Plate 61: Ill fitting plasterwork frieze to north wall.
 Plate 62: [G.05]; detail of angled butt-joints in floor.
 Plate 63: [G.05]; former doorway in north wall. NB: scuff marks to floor and breaks in skirting.
 Plate 64: [G.05]; detail of TF Pritchard fireplace, 1857.
 Plate 65: [G.06] looking west.
 Plate 66: [G.06]; strapwork ceiling panel matching [G.05]. NB. transverse beams (?rel. C19th inserted stair).
 Plate 67: [G.07] looking south-east.
 Plate 68: [G.07] looking north-west.
 Plate 69: [G.07], door [d11].
 Plate 70: [G.07], detail of panelling. NB: 'jewel' frieze.
 Plate 71: [G.07]; detail of TF Pritchard fireplace, 1857.
 Plate 72: [G.07]; detail of overmantle. Upper panel of Benthall/Cassy (?) inserted c.1630.
 Plate 73: Upper flights of main stair.
 Plate 74: [F.01] looking east.
 Plate 75: [F.01] looking west.
 Plate 76: [F.01]; fireplace and overmantle.
 Plate 77: [F.01]; door [d26] to porch room.
 Plate 78: Study [F.04] looking north.

- Plate 79: Bedroom [F.05] looking south.
 Plate 80: Bathroom [F.06] looking west.
 Plate 81: [F.07] looking north-east.
 Plate 82: [F.07] looking south-east to canted bay [w43].
 Plate 83: [F.07]; fireplace and panelled overmantle.
 Plate 84: [F.07]; door to secondary stair.
 Plate 85: [F.07]; stair descending to [F.09]
 Plate 86: Blocked window to west wall of stair.
 Plate 87: Rebuilt head (after 1818 fire) of principal stair at [S.02].
 Plate 88: Stack within [S.02], west wall.
 Plate 89: Iron truss within [S.02].
 Plate 90: Parlour wing [S.03] looking south, truss T15 to foreground.
 Plate 91: Fire-damaged principals and iron strapping to roof-truss T16 in [S.03].
 Plate 92: Attic room [S.01] looking west, trusses T7-T9.
 Plate 93: Fire damage to truss T8 [S.01].
 Plate 94: Truncated principal at T9 (S), [S.01].
 Plate 95: Inserted braces at T9, [S.01]
 Plate 96: Hob-grate within [S.01].
 Plate 97: Room [S.05] looking west. NB: small plank and baton door to right leads to roof-space of north-east range.
 Plate 98: Room [S.05] looking south-east.

THE NORTH-WEST RANGE

- Plate 99: North-east range, west elevation (S).
 Plate 100: North-east range, west elevation (N); 19th-century additions.
 Plate 101: North-east range, east elevation, oblique looking south-west. NB: truncated stack to north elevation of projecting gable. Single-storey ranges date to 19th century.
 Plate 102: Basement level of former 'music room' extension, demolished early 1960s.
 Plate 103: Phase II projection, encased in C18th-brickwork.
 Plate 104: Detail of rusticated quoins and blocked opening to 1F level.
 Plate 105: Stair descending to [B.04/5].
 Plate 106: Relic PHASE I framing exposed in east wall of stair (cill beam and down bracing)
 Plate 107: PHASE I framing exposed within [B.04] (west wall); cill beam, down braces and base of close-studwork.
 Plate 108: Fragmentary remains of PHASE I cross frame, [B.05].
 Plate 109: Vaulted basement room [B.06] looking west.
 Plate 110: Blocked doorway and window openings in east wall of basement room [B.06].
 Plate 111: [G.08] looking north-east (G Maw tiled floor).
 Plate 112: [G.08] looking north-west. NB: north edge of tiled floor respects line of former partition.
 Plate 113: [G.09] looking north-west.
 Plate 114: [G.10] looking north.
 Plate 115: [G.10]; inserted stair (GF→1F).
 Plate 116: Inserted stair (GF→1F), looking north.
 Plate 117: Landing [F.10]; inserted stair (1F→2F).
 Plate 118: [F.10] primary beam truncated for insertion of stair.
 Plate 119: Room [F.09] looking south-east.
 Plate 120: Detail of ogee-stopped ceiling beam to [F.09].
 Plate 121: [F.11] looking south.
 Plate 122: [F.11]; fireplace in north wall.
 Plate 123: [F.11]; ogee-stopped ceiling beam.
 Plate 124: [F.14] looking north-east.
 Plate 125: [F.14]; fireplace to NE corner.
 Plate 126: Doorway off stair to roof space [S.10].

Plate 127:	Cut-off joist tenons in PHASE I transverse beam at head of inserted stair.
Plate 128:	[S.06]; truss T1 looking south.
Plate 129:	[S.06]; truss T1 , queen-strut and princess-post with mid-rail.
Plate 130:	[S.06]; wind-bracing at Bay 2 (NE).
Plate 131:	[S.06]; framing of western dormer.
Plate 132:	[S.10]; east gable T3 with close studwork and renewed collar
Plate 133:	[S.10]; western truss T4 with v-strutting and wattle and daub infill panels
Plate 134:	[S.10] (SW); butt-purlin and wind-brace.

List of Tables

Table 1:	Relevant extracts from schedules accompanying 1844 tithe map
Table 2:	Summary of Census data, 1841-1901

List of Appendices

APPENDIX A: Project Brief

APPENDIX B: Register of Project Photographs.

APPENDIX C: Gazetteer of Features.

APPENDIX D: Comparanda: Wilderhope Manor and Shipton Hall; Comparative staircases at Aston Hall, Birmingham and Crewe Hall, Cheshire.

BENTHALL HALL

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Survey and Assessment

Summary

A programme of historic building survey, analysis and assessment was undertaken in December 2012 and January 2013 in respect of Benthall Hall, Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire on behalf of the National Trust. The project was commissioned by the Trust to research the origins and development of the house, to bring together the findings of previous archaeological and historical work into an accessible narrative report and to provide a sound evidence base for the future interpretation, presentation and understanding of the property.

Benthall Hall, a Grade I listed house in the ownership of the National Trust, is located c.2km north-west of Broseley and 4.75km north-east of Much Wenlock in central, eastern Shropshire (NGR SJ 65800 02600). The house is known primarily as a late-Elizabethan, stone-built mansion of the transitional period, built in c.1580 most probably by Lawrence Benthall, and has historically been interpreted, together with the broadly contemporary Wilderhope Manor and Shipton Hall, as representing part of a 'specifically local group' of south Shropshire houses. The house exhibits a fairly complex development and retains elements of an early, timber-framed range to the north-east which may accord with a tradition that a house was erected on the site in 1535. Later phases of development and enlargement have reflected changing contemporary trends, the most significant phase of alteration being undertaken in the early 17th century, when a series of fine interiors and an early open-well stair were introduced. The house remained in the ownership of the Benthalls down to the mid-18th century when it passed out of the family, being owned in the later 19th and early 20th centuries by the Lords Forester of the neighbouring Willey estate, only to return to the Benthalls in 1934 when it was bought by James Floyer and Clementina Benthall; the house was gifted to the National Trust in 1958.

A total of eight principal phases of development have been identified during the current project, summarised as follows:

- **PHASE I:** early-16th century timber-framed range.
- **PHASE II:** mid-16th century; small, 1 bay extension to east of Phase I range.
- **PHASE III:** late-16th century (c.1580); principal stone-built, 'main range' by Lawrence Benthall (I).
- **PHASE IV:** early-17th century; significant internal modifications by Lawrence Benthall (II) including early 17th-century interiors and fine open-well stair.
- **PHASE V:** 18th century; northern extension and encasing in brick of north-east range.
- **PHASE VI:** early-19th century; erection of eastern 'music room' extension and north-west range.
- **PHASE VII:** later-19th century; internal modifications.
- **PHASE VIII:** 20th century; modifications associated with (a) sale of property in 1934 and (b) transfer to Trust in 1958; including demolition of Phase VI extensions.

The current study has allowed for a detailed assessment of the buildings of Benthall Hall to be made, and a general understanding of the development of the complex to be formed in accordance with the project brief. Certain phases of development, however, in particular the early timber-framed elements remain loosely dated on stylistic grounds alone and it is highlighted that a targeted programme of dendrochronological sampling and analysis has the potential to more precisely date these early phases and resolve long-held questions regarding the origins and early history of the house.

BENTHALL HALL

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Survey and Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

The current report outlines the results of a programme of historic building survey, recording and assessment undertaken at Benthall Hall, Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire on behalf of the National Trust.

1.1 Background to the Project

1.1.1 Benthall Hall is located c.2km north-west of Broseley and 4.75km north-east of Much Wenlock in central, eastern Shropshire, centred on NGR SJ 65800 02600 (Figure 1). It is sited high above the River Severn, which flows to the north, at an elevation of c.187m AOD, the land dropping off precipitously to the north at Benthall Edge and to the east to the deeply sided Severn Gorge at Ironbridge. The hall is accessed via a long, tree-lined driveway ('The Avenue') opening off the western side of the modern B4375 Much Wenlock - Broseley road.¹

1.1.2 The current report has been commissioned by the Trust to research the origins and development of the house, to bring together the findings of previous archaeological and historical work into an accessible narrative report and to provide a sound, evidence base for the future interpretation, presentation and understanding of the property.

1.2 Designations

1.2.1 Benthall Hall is included on the National Trust Sites and Monuments Record (NT SMR), and is also included on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest as a Grade I listed building, first included on 24th October 1950.

1954

BARROW

Benthall Hall
BENTHALLSJ 60 SE
9/11
24.10.50.

I

Late C16. Ashlar; 2 storeys plus attics; 2 angular (five-sided) bays over two storeys, with continuous mullioned and transomed windows above and below; 5 gables, each with six-light mullioned and transomed windows; square 2 storey porch containing plain entrance arch; 5 stacks with diagonal brick shafts. Interior: contains an excellent enriched staircase and panelled room with moulded plaster ceiling the latter C17. A National Trust property.

¹ The hall was formerly approached from the south-east via an avenue of horse chestnuts (still extant; see figure 2), the current driveway dating to the 18th century.

1.3 Scope of the Report

- 1.3.1 The recording, research and report preparation have been undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines as published in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (EH, 2006), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (IfA, 2008), the National Trust's *Guidance Note on the Recording and Analysis of Historic Buildings* (NT, 1998) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings* (ALGAO, 1997).
- 1.3.2 Site survey was undertaken in December 2012 and January 2013; the current report has been prepared based upon information current and available as of January 2013

1.4 Statement of Limitations

- 1.4.1 Access was possible to most areas of the hall buildings including cellars and roofspaces. The ground floor of the north-east range, however, is tenanted and was not accessed as part of the current study; assessment of this part of the building, a relatively late phase addition to the complex, has been based upon an exterior inspection only, though it is not felt that this has had a significant impact upon interpretation of the property as a whole.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aims of the project, as defined at section §.3 of the project brief, were as follows:
- to research the origin, history, construction and development of Benthall Hall and to fully assess the character, date and phasing of the building.
 - to define any particular significances of the building either as a discrete individual structure or in its wider context.
 - to bring together the findings of present and previous archaeological and historical work into an accessible narrative and analytical report explaining the building's history and uses.
 - to provide a sound, evidenced and accessible basis for future interpretation, presentation and understanding, eg. for a guidebook or for future repairs or conservation measures that might be needed to safeguard the historic fabric
- 2.2 A further aim of the project was to seek to identify possible future avenues of research or investigation with the potential to build upon or expand current understanding of the origins and development of the house.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Documentary Research

- 3.1.1 A search was made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs and drawings, written descriptions, and primary and secondary sources related to the site at the Shropshire Archives in Shrewsbury and at the archives of the National Trust at Attingham Park. Standard on-line sources including Access to Archives (www.a2a.org.uk) and the National Monuments Record (Swindon) were also consulted. No Benthall family archives have been accessed as part of the current project. A full list of sources is included below at section §.12.

3.2 Historic Building Record

- 3.2.1 The Historic Building Record comprised a detailed visual examination of the exterior and interior of the structures under consideration and the compilation of drawn, photographic and written records of the same to a level commensurate with a 'Level 3/4' record as defined by English Heritage (2006, 14), as follows:

The Drawn Record

- 3.2.2 No new survey work was required or undertaken as part of the current project. Digital plans and elevations of the property were supplied by the Trust for the purposes of recording and these have been used as the base for the illustrations included at the end of this report. It should be noted that a number of discrepancies were noted in the base survey drawings during the course of work and the illustrations included within this report are thus for illustrative purposes only. Detailed survey drawings of the north-east range prepared by Mr Jeremy Milln (former NT archaeologist for W Midlands region) during re-roofing work in 1998 have been referenced and are, in part, reproduced below.

The Photographic Record

- 3.2.3 A general photographic record was maintained, comprising high resolution digital photography using a Nikon D3000 digital single lens reflex camera (10MP), extending to include both general and detail shots, contextual views and accessible exterior elevations, visible structural and decorative details (interior and exterior), and general interior views of principal rooms and circulation areas. A register of project photographs, detailing subject, orientation, photographer and date, is included below as **Appendix B**; a selection is reproduced below as plates.

The Written Record

- 3.2.4 To accompany the drawn and photographic records, a systematic written account of the building was made as free text; this forms the basis of the following description and gazetteer (**Appendix C**).

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 General Historical Context

- 4.1.1 The former parish of Benthall² lies on the south bank of the River Severn overlooking the town of Ironbridge; it is largely rural in aspect though formerly the extensive reserves of coal, limestone, ironstone and clay were exploited for industrial purposes. Much of the centre of the former parish lies on the undulating plateau of boulder clay; workable Lower Coal Measures outcrop frequently while Benthall Edge, a south-west to north-east aligned escarpment forming the north-west parish boundary represents an outcrop of Silurian limestone, the north-eastern end of Wenlock Edge (Clark and Alfrey 1987, 38).
- 4.1.2 With the exception of a bronze age axe found in the River Severn, there is no evidence for pre-historic settlement within the parish of Benthall (*ibid.*, 16). Early settlement activity is suggested by the early and unusual dedication of Benthall church to the fifth-century St. Brice of Tours, one of only two such dedications in England,³ and by its early font, although this is unsubstantiated by archaeological evidence. Benthall (2005, 24) highlights the suggestion that the hall of the current house is built upon the site of a Saxon precursor, though this is purely conjecture.⁴

² The parish was abolished in 1966 and incorporated into Barrow CP together with Linley, Posenhall and Willey CPs (VCH 1998, 221-233).

³ The church was rededicated to St Bartholomew when it was rebuilt in 1667 following damage incurred during the Civil War.

⁴ An associated suggestion that timbers from the cellar [B.01] originate from a Saxon building is fanciful; these timbers, deeply chamfered with cut-off ogree stops are most probably broadly contemporary with the timber-framed elements of the north-east range

- 4.1.3 Benthall probably formed part of the Domesday Manor of Much Wenlock, and the prior of Wenlock remained overlord until the priory's surrender in 1540 (VCH 1998).⁵ The place name 'Benthall' derives from the Anglo-Saxon '*beonet*' and '*halh*' meaning a 'nook or corner where bent grass grows' (Bowcock 1923, 40; Gelling 1990, 37). The name has been rendered variously as '*Benetala*' (1120), '*Benithal*' (1204), '*Benedhal*' (1255) and '*Benethal*' in 1421, the tri-syllabic form remaining common until the middle of the fifteenth century (Gelling, *op. cit.*); the spelling 'Bentall' on Joseph Saxton's map *Salopiæ Comitatus* of 1577 (see §.5.1 below; Figure 4a) is the earliest representation of the modern, bi-syllabic pronunciation.
- 4.1.4 The earliest recorded settlement is arguably the 'vill' held in 1125AD from the monks of Wenlock by one Anfred de Bentala, who was most probably Lord of the Manor (VCH, 1998; Benthall 2005, 24); Benthall was at that time under Forest Law. After the succession of Anfred's grandson Hamon, the lands were enfeoffed by Syward the Champiun after whose death it reverted to Wenlock Priory. Robert de Benethall (d.1249) reclaimed the land in exchange for lands in Much Wenlock, thereafter passing to his son Phillip de Benthall who gave free rights to Buildwas Abbey in c.1250 for carriage of coal, stone and timber across his lands (VCH, 1998). Phillip died in c.1281 without male issue and in 1283 the estate was acquired by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells and Lord Chancellor of England (Benthall 2005, 25); in the same year Margery, eldest daughter of Phillip de Benthall, was married to one John Burnell, a relative of Robert, and they together took possession of the Benthall estate. The estate passed to John's eldest son Phillip (referred to as 'Phillip Burnell de Benethale' in a deed on 1322) and subsequently through his male line, the name Burnell being dropped by subsequent generations. The history of the manor is given in detail in the Victoria County History (VCH, 1998) and will not be repeated at length here, while the descent of the Benthall family is well recorded and is summarised in the current National Trust guidebook (Benthall 2005, 24-30; family tree to back inside cover).

4.2 Benthall Hall

Early History

- 4.2.1 As noted above, it is probable that a house existed at Benthall as early as the middle of the 13th century,⁶ possibly earlier, though no trace of any early structure survives today and its form and location have been the subject of much speculation. The earliest parts of the extant buildings at Benthall, *viz.* the partially surviving timber-framed buildings of the north-west range (see §.8.2.1 below), date stylistically to the first half of the 16th century and this ties in broadly with the traditional construction date of 1535 for the original building (commemorated in the date plaque mounted on the porch tower; Plate 12) which would thus have been undertaken by Robert (active 1521) or William Benthall (d.1572). The principal stone-built range is stylistically late 16th-century in date and is commonly held to date from c.1580,⁷ built by Lawrence Benthall (I) and retaining part of the earlier building as a rear, service wing. The house and estate passed via Lawrence's brother John to his nephew, also named Lawrence (here, II), who continued to develop the exploitation of mineral resources on the estate lands (his coal mines were producing over 30,000 tons of coal; Clark and Alfrey 1987, 19) and promoted brick-making at Benthall Marsh. Lawrence (II) undertook significant modifications to the house in the early 17th century together with his wife Katherine (née Cassey), who were resident between 1623 and 1652. Their combined heraldic devices are present in a number of the inserted features, for example the Jacobean overmantles of the ground floor fireplaces.
- 4.2.2 During the Civil War, Lawrence Benthall (II) fortified his house for the King and a Royalist Garrison held the manor until July 1645 when Parliamentary forces, who had taken the stronghold of Shrewsbury in February

(see §.7.3.5) and reasonably formed part of a now lost part of that building. A further suggestion that masonry of the east end of the house formed part of a medieval range (Benthall 2005, 25) is again, not supported by the evidence of the building fabric which indicates that the earliest parts of the complex were of timber-framed construction.

⁵ Accessed digitally via 'British History Online' at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22875>.

⁶ A house is first recorded in 1274, while 13th-century floor tiles have been found at the western end of the house (Benthall 2005, 25).

⁷ Historically, the date 1583 is often quoted (see Newman and Pevsner 2006, 141; citing the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 16, 1860; this reference appears incorrect, however a date of 1573 is given in the Vol. 17 of the same Journal, 1861, p.49).

of that year, occupied the house which was valued as a strategic base to control trade on the River Severn. Lawrence did not regain his property until the cessation of hostilities and was subsequently heavily fined for his loyalty to the king (Benthall 2005, 27). During the Civil War, the chapel was effectively destroyed, being rebuilt in 1667, while tradition holds that the village of Benthall was raised to the ground (though see §.4.3.1 below).

- 4.2.3 The house was assessed for Hearth Tax in 1672 when Phillip Benthall, Lawrence and Katherine's son, was recorded as having 18 hearths.⁸ When Phillip's son Richard died without issue in 1720, the estate passed by way of marriage of his cousin Katherine, to the Browne family of Caughley Hall near Broseley. In 1746, the house passed to one Ralph Browne, the last descendant of the Benthall family to own it till the early years of the 20th century.

19th century

- 4.2.4 From Ralph Browne, the house and estate again changed hands, passing to the Harries family, in whose hands it remained at the time of the tithe survey of 1844 (see below). In the year of the tithe survey, however, the house (described in contemporary announcements as a '*capital mansion house, suitable for the residence of a family of distinction*')⁹ together with the whole of the parish was sold by auction to John George Weld-Forester, 2nd Lord Forester of the neighbouring Willey estate and was subsequently let out to a series of tenants.¹⁰ The most notable tenants were George Maw and his elder brother Arthur who, having established an encaustic tile business in the Severn gorge,¹¹ together took out a lease on the house, separating it into two dwellings.¹² George resided there from 1853 to 1886, though Arthur later moved out to a nearby property (now the Valley Hotel, Ironbridge) to accommodate their growing families (see Plumtre 1990; Benthall 1979). George Maw is recorded at Benthall in the 1881 census, then aged 48, together with his wife, seven children, a governess and four household staff.¹³ Robert Bateman, an architect and artist and son of the horticulturist James Bateman of Biddulph Grange, leased the house from 1890 to 1906, and is recorded at the house in the 1901 census, then aged 59 and 'living on his own means', with a domestic staff of four;¹⁴ Bateman designed the rockeries and the Rose Garden (originally the 'Pixy Garden') to the west end of house, including the dovecote and connecting garden wall (Plate 18).

20th century

- 4.2.5 In 1918, the Benthall family re-established their connection with the house when the Reverend Charles Benthall obtained a lease, living there for a number of years down to 1932 (Benthall 2005, 29). Following his departure, in July 1934, the owner Cecil George Wilfred Weld-Forester (7th Baron Forester) again offered Benthall for sale by auction; a letter of 14th July 1934 from Perry and Phillips of Bridgnorth, acting as Forester's agents, records an upset price of £3,000 with the instruction that, if no suitable buyer be found,

⁸ Shropshire Archaeological and Parish Register Society, quoted in Clark and Alfrey 1987, 104.

⁹ 'Documents relating to the Parish of Benthall' (S). Shropshire Archives.

¹⁰ The auction took place at The Lion Inn, Shrewsbury on the afternoon of Friday, 20th September 1844. Edward Benthall of the Devon branch of the family, then a judge in Bengal, failed in a bid to purchase the house and estate at this time (Benthall 2005, 29), though it was to be his grand-daughter, Clementina, with her husband James Floyer Dale who would go on to save Benthall some 90 years later (see §.4.2.5).

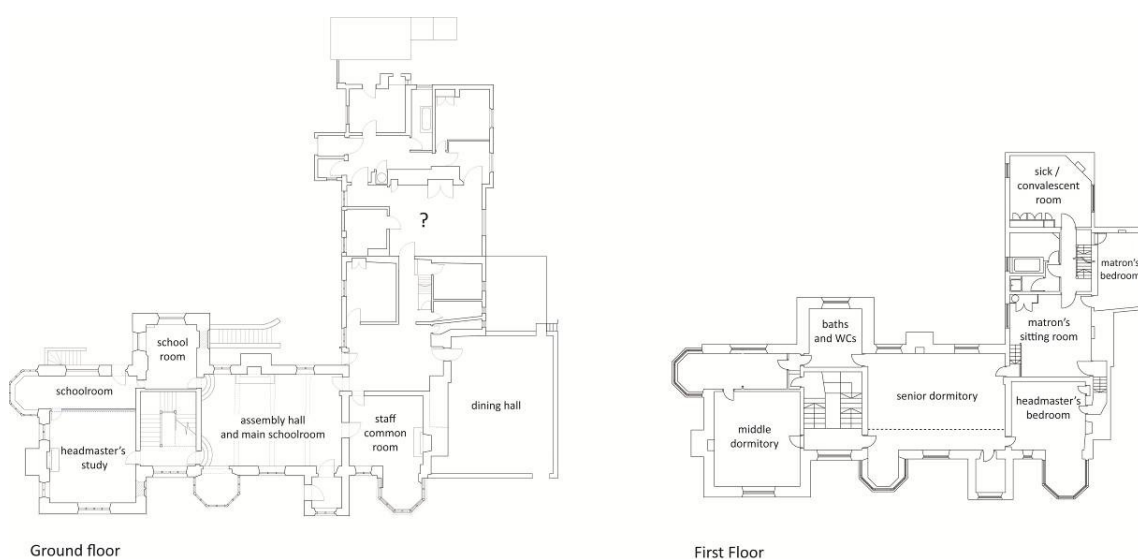
¹¹ The Maw brothers relocated to the Benthall Works at Broseley from a site in Worcester in 1852, making use of the local clays and coal and soon opening their own mines. At first the company barely covered its expenses and full commercial production did not begin until 1857. A few years later, however, encaustic tiles became the height of fashion with mosaic tiles also forming a large part of the Maws' business and by the 1880's Maw & Co had become one of the most influential and important tile manufacturers in the country. In 1883 they moved to new premises at a more appropriate site covering some five acres at Jackfield. The company grew to be the world's largest producer of ornamental tiles and, at the height of the tile boom the company produced over 20 million tiles a year (info: <http://www.mawandco.com>)

¹² Physical evidence for this partition has not been forthcoming though, given the short time-frame and 'family' nature of the multiple occupation, any division may have been of an ephemeral in nature, no more than a permanently locked door such as the current arrangement between the main house and the leased rooms at the north end of the north-east range.

¹³ The 1861 census records only one servant at the hall, one Joseph Buck, while in 1871 the household staff and 3 Maw children are recorded, Maw himself being absent.

¹⁴ The 1891 census records the hall as uninhabited.

then the house would be 'immediately demolished'.¹⁵ A series of letters preserved in correspondence files at Shropshire Archives record the attempts by Gilbert Benthall among various members of the extended Benthall family and conservation bodies (including the National Trust and SPAB) to raise funds to purchase the house and effectively save it from destruction. Thankfully the house, together with the adjoining 134 acre farm, was eventually secured by James Floyer Dale and his wife and cousin Mary Clementina, née Benthall (grand-daughter of Edward Benthall, see fn. 10), the couple changing their name to Benthall in 1935. Various improvements were made at the house, including the dismantling of the north-west range in 1935 (Figure 12b). For a period during the Second World War (1941-46), the house was used as a school for evacuee children from the south of England, viz. Langley Place School of Battle in Sussex, who were removed temporarily to Yarlet School near Stafford and thence to Benthall.¹⁶



Arrangement of house during use as school 1941-6 (based upon former pupil recollections)

4.2.6 James Floyer Benthall died in 1942 and in 1958 his widow initially proposed leaving the house to her cousin, Sir Paul Benthall, though Clementina Benthall and her cousin Sir Edward Benthall ultimately gifted the house and adjacent home farm to the care of the National Trust, together with some of its more important contents and an endowment to maintain the house.¹⁷ The Trust undertook an extensive programme of refurbishment works at the house in the early 1960s, under the direction of J Brian Cooper, architect, of Highfield Road Birmingham, detailed below at §.8.9. The house has subsequently been tenanted by various members of the Benthall family and remains a residence of Mr and Mrs Edward and Sally Benthall.

4.3 The Village of Benthall¹⁸

4.3.1 A complex of earthworks lying to the north of the hall and some 500m south of the Benthall Edge escarpment (centred on NGR SJ 6575 0270; Figure 3), represent relic agricultural activity while a number of associated features have been postulated as representing part of the deserted settlement of Benthall village. A local tradition holds that the settlement was razed during the Civil War after a Royalist attack in

¹⁵ Shropshire Archives ref. 6001/4676-4677. Benthall (2005, 29) records that the intention was for the house to be dismantled and exported to the USA, though no corroborative documentation for this has been located as part of the current study.

¹⁶ See folder of former pupil reminiscences at Benthall Hall.

¹⁷ 'Benthall Hall given to National Trust', Wellington Journal, 8.11.1958.

¹⁸ Description based upon anonymous type-written notes within Benthall files at Attingham (?possibly by Paul Everson, 1990; info: J Milln) and accompanying plot (RCHME, 1990).

1645, when the hall was garrisoned by Parliamentary forces (see §.4.2.2), though it is also possible that it was simply gradually abandoned in favour of the new industrial settlements of Bower Yard and Broseley Wood, both of which had begun to grow in the late 16th century (VCH 1998, 247-257). The earliest features appear to be a headland and fragmentary traces of open-field, broad-ridge arable furlongs; these were subsequently superseded by a pattern of hedged hollow-ways (a-b, b-c; Figure 3) enclosing fields with ridge and furrow cultivation. Associated settlement activity is represented by a number of building platforms (f and g; Figure 3), though these may represent no more than a single farmstead with associated yards, paddocks and closes. It is unclear whether the earthworks relate to a building contemporary with the early phases of Benthall Hall, or perhaps a 'home farm' later replaced by Benthall Hall Farm. It has been noted that the series of hollow-ways appear to have been laid out, or adapted, to respect the present site of Benthall Hall and its setting. The landscape around the hall was again modified by the early 19th century through the abandonment of the hollow-ways and re-enclosure of the fields in a pasture regime, possibly associated with the creation of a more open, less formal setting for the hall.

- 4.3.2 Other earthworks around the hall include a number of garden features; a bowling green to the east of the hall and the site of a former tennis court to the south (h and j respectively; Figure 3).

5 MAP REGRESSION

5.1 Early Maps

- 5.1.1 Early maps are of limited use in tracing the development of Benthall (see Clark and Alfrey 1987, 91-4). It is clearly labelled (as 'Bentall') though depicted only in stylistic form, on Saxton's *'Salpiæ Comitatus'* of 1577 (Figure 4a). Baugh's Map of Shropshire of 1808 (Figure 4b) shows clusters of buildings along the Wenlock Road and at Bower Yard, though the hall and chapel are again shown only in stylised form.

5.2 The Tithe Map

- 5.2.1 The first map to show the Benthall lands and the buildings of the hall in any detail is the parish tithe map of 1844 (Figure 5).¹⁹ The depiction of the hall itself is, however, not accurately rendered and it is difficult, for example, to differentiate the series of projections to the south front, although a number of broad assertions can be drawn. Firstly, it is clear that the western 'music room' extension to the principal stone-built range existed at this date (see also Figure 7b of 1840),²⁰ while a north-west range is also shown, though on what would appear to be a slightly different, reduced plan compared to that illustrated on later Ordnance Survey maps (see below). At the north end of the north-east range, it would appear that the extant series of single-storey additions had still to be erected.
- 5.2.2 The apportionment accompanying the 1844 tithe lists the entire parish of Benthall in the ownership of Thomas Harries Esq., mostly in the occupation of Frances Harries as follows (plot 315 corresponds to Benthall Hall):

No.	Owner	Occupier	Description	Area			State of Cultivation
				A	R	P	
179	Thomas Harries Esq.	Francis Harries Esq.	House and Garden	-	-	25	---
186			ditto	-	-	32	---
231			ditto	-	-	36	---
313			Plantation	-	-	14	---
314			Road	-	3	4	---
315			BENTHALL HALL, Offices, Pleasure Ground, Garden, Buildings, Fold, Plant etc.	5	-	13	---

¹⁹ Shropshire Archives Fiche P27/1.

²⁰ Sir Paul Benthall gives a date of 1820; type written notes on 'Water at Benthall' (Attingham Archives).

316		Upper Crifton Meadow	5	2	38	Pasture
317		Upper Hill Head	2	1	34	Pasture
318		Upper Hill Head	7	3	9	Pasture
320		House and Garden	-	-	35	---
321		Ox Leasow	8	2	3	Pasture
326		Little Meadow	1	3	21	Pasture
327		Simpsons Crifftin	8	3	18	Pasture
328		Near White Leasow	9	1	34	Arable
329		Further White Leasow	8	2	30	Arable
330		Plantation	-	1	6	---
331		Crifftin Meadow	7	3	10	Pasture
332		Canal Meadow	6	-	10	Meadow
333		Lawn and Pool	12	3	12	Meadow
334		Lawn	5	2	26	Pasture
335		Cover	-	2	18	---
336		Gardeners Meadow	6	1	23	Arable
337		Three Square Piece	5	3	24	Arable
338		Lower Silver Hill	4	1	35	Arable
339		Middle Silver Hill	6	2	22	Arable
340		Upper Silver Hill (and Lower Moor Meadow)	11	-	18	Arable
341		Pool	-	3	14	---
342		Road	1	2	20	---
343		Lower Marsh Meadow	12	1	5	Pasture
344		Pool	-	2	-	---
345		Furlong	8	3	10	Arable
346		Upper Furlong	12	-	25	Arable
355		House and Garden	-	1	2	---
TOTAL			164	2	26	

Table 1:

Relevant extracts from schedules accompanying 1844 tithe map.

5.3 Ordnance Survey Maps

- 5.3.1 The Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st edition map of 1882 (Figure 6a) shows the hall buildings in clearer detail. The music room extension to the east end of the main range is clearly visible, shown here with its canted bay window to the south elevation (see also Figure 9), while a further small block is indicated occupying the north-eastern angle between the music room and north-east range. This latter building is indicated on certain, though not all, of a series of 1960s proposal drawings (see below) where it is shown to incorporate a lobby and toilet facilities; it is assumed to have formed a part of the music room extension, being originally accessed via [G.13] (Figure 20),²¹ and was demolished as part of the 1960s reordering (it is shown on all OS editions down to 1963; Figure 6d). The series of extant single-storey extensions and western porch had by this date been appended to the north end of the north-east range while, at the western end of the main range, the north-west range had been enlarged. A series of agricultural outbuildings formerly occupied the area to the north of the hall and south of the surviving cottage, a number of which backed onto the eastern garden boundary wall (the eastern garden itself is shown with a formal layout of lawns and paths). These buildings had been for the most part removed by the time of the second edition map of 1902 (Figure 6b), when a new, east-west aligned garage block had been added to the north end of the north-east range. The 1902 edition illustrates significant changes to the surrounding gardens including the laying out of the Rose Garden to the west of the house, with dovecote and connecting boundary wall (Plate 18), undertaken by Robert Bateman (tenant from 1890-1906). Little change is shown in the 1927 edition (Figure 6c) save the shortening (to the west) of the garage block at the north end of the north-east range. The National Grid Series edition of 1963 (Figure 6d) shows the revised building plan after the demolition in 1935 of the north-west range, though the music room extension to the east end of the main range is still shown.

²¹

See §.7.1.2 below for note on room numbering.

6 OTHER SOURCES

6.1 Census Returns²²

- 6.1.1 Early census returns are somewhat puzzling with the 1841 return recording just two individuals at Benthall Hall, viz. Margaret Smout and Richard Oakley though with no further details listed. Equally unusual is the entry for 1851, which lists one Thomas Roberts, an agricultural labourer with his wife Anne, son George and father Edward; the same return lists Aaron Longford, another agricultural labourer, together with his wife Jane and two children, John and Sarah at 'Hall Buildings'. The implication would appear to be that the hall, or at least its associated outbuildings had, in the early years of the 19th century under the ownership of Harries and Forrester, become subdivided and of a much reduced status. The return for 1861, by which time the lease had been taken by the Maws, lists only a single servant at the hall, one Joseph Buck aged 34, labourer and it is only really from 1871 on that returns correlate with the known occupation of the hall, summarised in tabulated form below:

Year	Address	Name	Age	Status	Occupation
1841		Margaret Smout	35		
		Richard Oakley	30		
1851	Benthall Hall	Thomas Roberts	45	Head	Agricultural labourer
		Anne Roberts	27	Wife	
		George Roberts	2	Son	
		Edward Roberts	76	Father	
	'Hall Buildings'	Aaron Langford	34	Head	Agricultural labourer
		Jane Langford	34	Wife	
		John Langford	5	Son	
		Sarah Langford	2	Daughter	
1861	Benthall Hall	Joseph Buck	34		Servant
1871	Benthall Hall	'Head of family absent'			
		Harriet Lloyd	31	Domestic Servant	Cook
		Letitia Richard	26	Domestic Servant	Housemaid
		Anne Bagley	18	Domestic Servant	Nurse
		Charles Parsons	20	Domestic Servant	Groom
		Caroline Maw	6		
		Helen Maw	4		
		Charles P Maw	2		
1881	Benthall Hall	George Maw	48	Head	
		Pederiea Mary Maw	50	Wife	
		George Hornby Maw	18	Son	
		Caroline Mary Maw	16	Daughter	
		Helen Alice Maw	14	Daughter	
		Louisa Jane Maw	13	Daughter	
		Margaret Lucy Maw	10	Daughter	
		Frederick Davy Maw	8	Son	
		Francis Reginald Maw	5	Son	
		Henry Robert Davy Maw	36	Visitor	
		Matilda Lühn	32	Governess	Teacher of language
		Emma Garbett	33	Domestic Servant	
		Elizabeth Stone	24	Domestic Servant	
		Kate More	21	Domestic Servant	
		Harriet Davies	18	Domestic Servant	
1891		Uninhabited			
1901	Benthall Hall	Robert Bateman	59	Head	Living on own means
		Mary W Hewitt	52	Domestic Servant	Cook
		Hannah Rhoden	19	Domestic Servant	Parlour Maid
		Elizabeth Anslow	18	Domestic Servant	House Maid
		Emma Anslow	14	Domestic Servant	Kitchen Maid

Table 2:
Summary of Census data, 1841-1901.

²²

Accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk.

6.2 Historical Paintings, Drawings and Photographs

- 6.2.1 A series of 19th- and early 20th-century paintings, sketches and photographs survive and are useful in illustrating a number of details in the development of the hall buildings. The earliest view, a painting of the naive school of the late 18th/early 19th century (Figure 7a),²³ though stylised in its rendering of the hall, is of interest particularly in respect of the eastern end of the range which appears to show some form of raised, first floor terrace with timber balustrading on the site of the future 'music room' extension, the latter erected after 1818 (Benthall 2005, 28). No other evidence, either documentary or physical, has been recorded for this feature. Also of special significance is the rendering of the ground floor window ([w3]; Figure 24) in the recessed section of facade between the projecting parlour wing and the western of the canted bays which is clearly shown to have incorporated a doorway (Figure 7a; inset). This feature is not shown on any other known depiction of the house and must therefore have been removed by c.1840 (see below), though its former presence is evidenced by the fabric of the building itself (see §.7.2.3 below).
- 6.2.2 A sketch of c.1840 of the south elevation (Figure 7b) again shows certain discrepancies, for example in the rendering of the western parlour wing which is shown as flush with the main facade, though it is again of interest in a number of respects. Firstly, with reference to the early painting described above, the doorway onto the main stair had by this date been converted to a standard window of four lights [w3]; beneath the window, a flight of steps is indicated with what appears to be a sundial occupying the wall area below the central two lights (again, see §.7.2.3 below). At the eastern end of the range, the 'music room' extension is shown for the first time. All glazing of the elevation would appear to comprise leaded lights of diamond quarries, this being the only depiction to show such an arrangement, though it may be relevant that a description by (?)T Benthall of 1849 records that '*all of the windows have stone compartments and lozenge panes*';²⁴ these sources together clearly have implications for the extent of survival of historic glass at Benthall, supported by a cursory examination which would appear to show little early material.
- 6.2.3 A further, broadly contemporary sketch of the rear elevation, dated 1841 (Figure 8a), records that the north-west extension had not yet been erected at this date. The north-east range is depicted much as survives today including the entrance porch in the angle with the main range, though it lacks the northernmost first floor window (lighting [F.14]), while two chimneys are indicated (one to the gable, one to the ridge) which have since become redundant.²⁵ A further, double-stack is seen rising behind the range to the east, presumably corresponding to that formerly serving the fireplaces within the Phase II extension [G.11]/[F.11] (see Plate 101, also visible on Figure 8b). The single-storey extensions had been added at the north end of the range, though the extant Broseley-brick porch had yet to be added to the west elevation of the same.
- 6.2.4 A painting by John Hornby Maw (father of George Maw) of 1870 (Figure 9) continues to show the main door within the west wall of the porch tower while it also affords the first glimpse of the north-west range. The ground floor windows of the west gable appear blocked in this view; this will be discussed below (§.7.2.17). A sketch of c.1900 published in Leighton's '*Shropshire Houses Past and Present*' (Figure 8b) shows the main door relocated to the south wall of the porch tower and is the first to show the dovecote introduced to the west of the main house by Robert Bateman.
- 6.2.5 A series of watercolours by George Maw (Figure 10) constitute a useful historical document, in particular as a record of the Victorian interiors and will be referred to in the following description where relevant to an understanding of the development of the house.
- 6.2.6 Two photographs of the mid- and late-19th century (Figure 11) illustrate works undertaken to the house and gardens under the tenancy of George Maw; the views again bracket the relocation of the main door from

²³ Photograph at Benthall, location of original painting unknown. The painting is listed as c.1820 in an auction catalogue of 2002 (Brightwells Fine Art Showroom, Leominster, 26th September 2002; Lot 969).

²⁴ Shropshire Archives ref. 6001/4676-4677.

²⁵ The mid-range ridge stack formerly served the fireplace within [G.09], now blocked.

the west to the south of the porch tower. A further two photographs of the early 20th century (Figure 12) depict the now lost north-west range, the latter image (Figure 12b) of c.1935 showing the site immediately after the dismantling of the building.²⁶

- 6.2.7 An engraving and internal photograph (both undated) of the western parlour [**G.05**] (Figure 13) are of interest, particularly in their depiction of the windows of the western gable (see also John Hornby Maw's 1870 view, Figure 9), and will be discussed in the following section (see §.7.2.17).

6.3 Historical Plans, Architects Drawings, Correspondence etc

- 6.3.1 A single historical plan of the ground floor (Figure 14),²⁷ undated though demonstrably of late 19th-century date (note the location of the main door within the south wall of the entrance porch) is of particular use in a number of respects. Firstly, it is the only documentary evidence for the arrangements of the north-west range which is labelled as a 'laundry' and is seen to have comprised two rooms separated by a back-to-back stack (corresponding to an area of extant brick paving; see Figure 23; Plate 21), and with a stair rising to the east side of the stack, opening off the northern room. Within the main range, the secondary stair introduced by the Maws 'behind the main staircase' (Benthall 2005, 28) is shown to have been located within room [**G.06**] in the western parlour wing. The rear stair turret (labelled 'Gun-room') is shown as having been heated by a fireplace within the west wall (removed in 1960), while the windows of the east and west walls are absent. Likewise, the windows of the north wall of the hall are not shown (see also Figure 12b) while in [**G.05**] (labelled 'library or oak drawing room') the window to the north of the fireplace is missing (see also Figures 9 and 13b). The ground floor arrangements of north-east range are also indicated in detail, including a lobby, kitchen and servants hall.
- 6.3.2 Correspondence files at Shropshire Archives (ref. 6001/4676-4677) have proved illuminating as regards the purchase of the house in 1934 (see §.4.2.3 above) while letters, documents and drawings²⁸ within the Trust's property files at Attingham contain informative material regarding the work carried out after the transfer of the property to the Trust's care in 1958, including a detailed 'Schedule of Works' (see §.8.9.3 below).

²⁶ Window [**w12**] (at least) of the main entrance hall would appear to be blocked in this image (see also Figure 14).

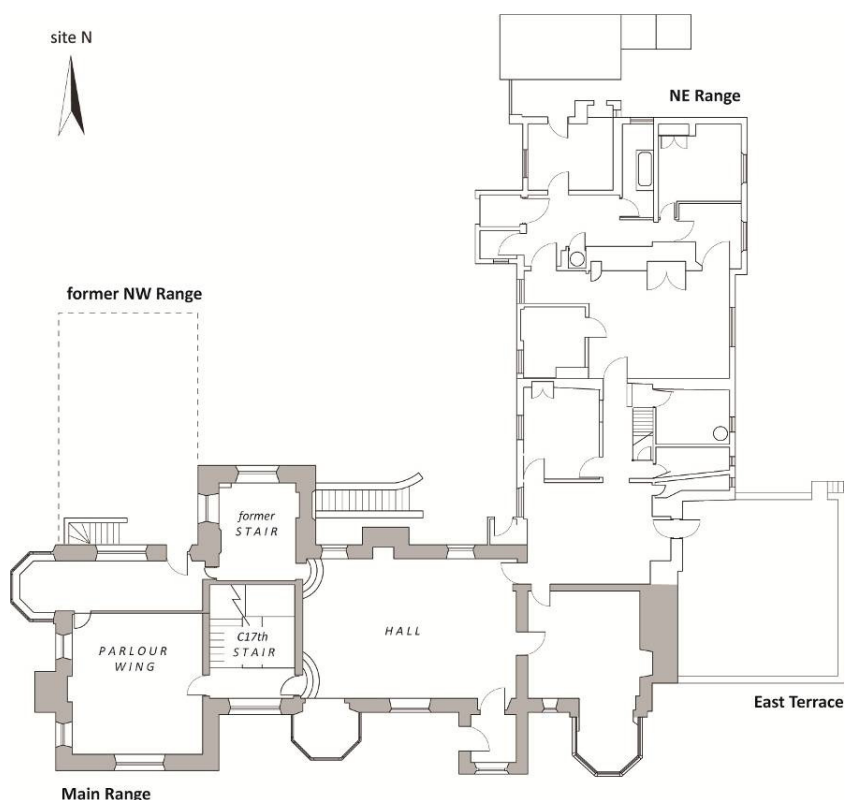
²⁷ Copy at Benthall Hall, provenance unknown.

²⁸ By J Brian Cooper FRIBA (architect) of Highfield Road, Birmingham.

7 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

7.1 A Note on Nomenclature

- 7.1.1 Benthall Hall as recorded comprises two principal elements; the main, late 16th-century, stone-built range to the south, hereafter the 'main range', and a multi-phase 'north-east range' extending northwards from the east end of the former. The north-east range includes elements of early timber-framing, encased in brick in the mid 18th-century and was extended in several stages in the later 18th and 19th centuries. An eastern terrace over basement rooms marks the location of a former 19th-century extension (the 'Music Room'), mostly demolished in the early 1960s, while a former 'north-west range' to the rear of the main range, dismantled in c.1935, is evidenced by a surviving area of flooring.



BENTHALL HALL: Sketch plan of principal ranges referred to in text

Room and Feature Numbering

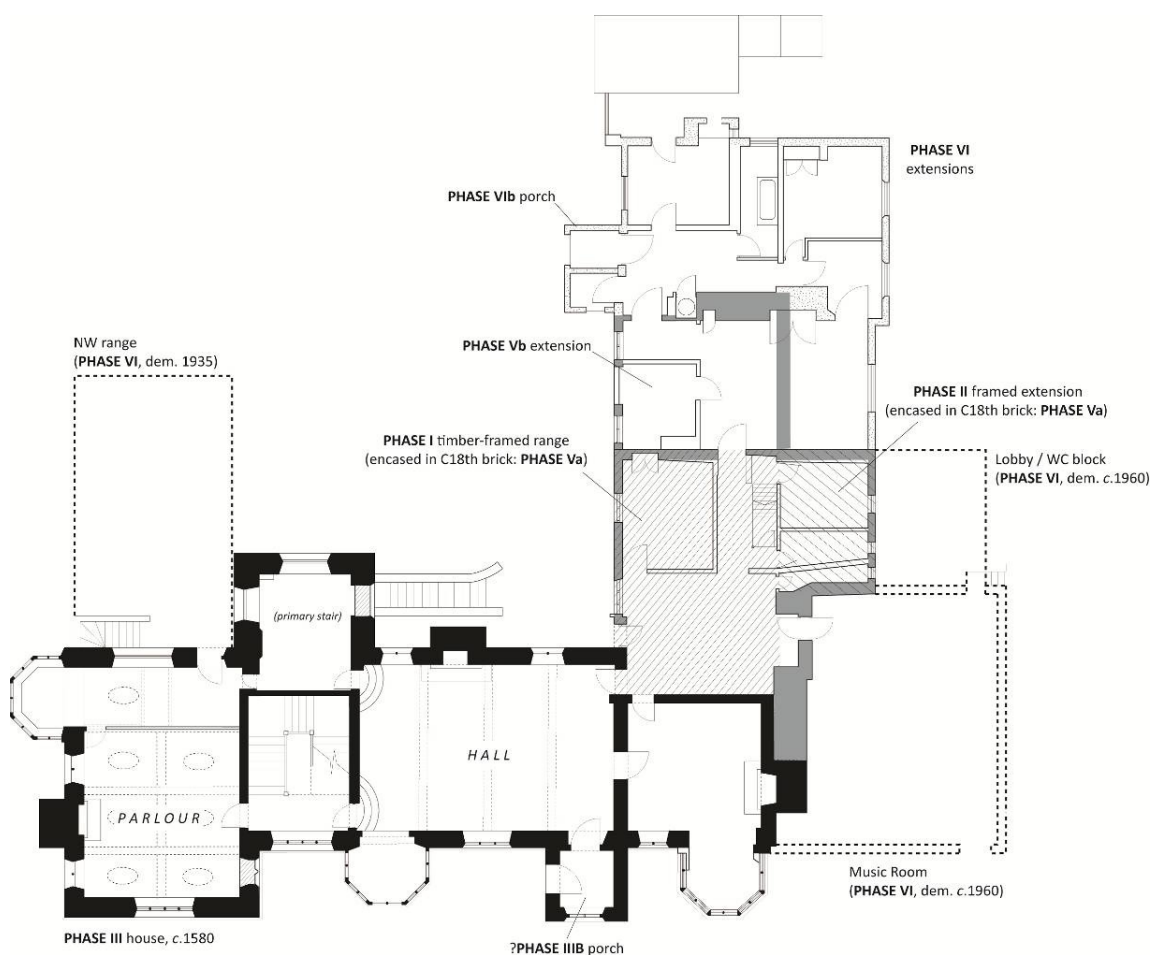
- 7.1.2 The room numbering system employed in the following sections has been established for the purposes of the current project and does not reflect any pre-existing system used by the Trust. Each room has been assigned a unique alpha-numeric reference comprising a number from a continuous sequence (separate for each level) preceded by a single-letter prefix denoting its floor level (**B**, basement; **G**, ground floor; **F**, first floor; **S**, second floor). Room names employed follow, for the most part, current usage. Individual doorways and windows are likewise referred to by a number from a continuous sequence preceded by a single letter prefix, [**d**] for doorway and [**w**] for window, no distinction being made for floor levels in the

case of these features. A detailed gazetteer of rooms and major features/ fixtures is given below as **Appendix C**.

Summary of Phasing

7.1.3 The current study has identified a total of eight principal phases of development at Benthall which will be referred to in the following description. The phasing and development of the hall will be discussed in more detail at section §.8 below but a summary is included here for reference:

- **PHASE I:** early-16th century; 3 bays of timber-framed range at south end of north-east range.
- **PHASE II:** mid-16th century; small, 1 bay extension to east of Phase I range.
- **PHASE III:** late-16th century (c.1580); principal stone-built, 'main range'.
- **PHASE IV:** early-17th century; significant internal modifications.
- **PHASE V:** 18th century; northern extension and encasing in brick of north-east range (2 sub-phases).
- **PHASE VI:** early-19th century; erection of eastern 'music room' extension (pre-1840) and north-west range (post-1840).
- **PHASE VII:** later-19th century; internal modifications.
- **PHASE VIII:** 20th century; modifications associated with (a) sale in 1934 and (b) transfer to Trust in 1958; including demolition of Phase VI extensions.



BENTHALL HALL: Summary of Phasing (see also Figures 31/2)

7.2 The Main Range

The Exterior

- 7.2.1 The main range at Benthall is stone-built of regular coursed ashlar in a pale grey-green, locally quarried sandstone,²⁹ arranged on a rectangular, single-pile plan with a projecting, gabled cross-wing to the western end; overall dimensions are c.28m/92ft long (E/W) x c.7.5m/24½ft wide (maximum 14m/46ft including projection of western parlour wing and rear stair turret). It is of two full storeys with attics, standing c.10m/33ft to eaves and 12.5m/41ft to ridge. The principal **south elevation** (Figure 18; Plate 1) is asymmetrical in aspect and, though the eaves line incorporates three narrow central gables, lighting the attic storey (Plate 2), flanked by matching wider gables to east and west (the latter over a projecting parlour wing; Plate 3), the recessed main facade is interrupted by two five-sided, two-storey canted bay windows (Plates 5 and 6) and a square entrance porch tower (Plate 7), none of which appear to make any attempt to align with the gables over. An element of balance is afforded by decorative, multi-flue moulded brick chimneys on a 'star' plan rise atop projecting stone stacks (Plate 14) which flank the elevation to east and west. Fenestration is of stone mullioned windows throughout, variously of 4-, 3- and 2-lights with single transoms; attic level is lit by further 3-light mullioned and transomed windows set within the five gables. Ground floor windows are surmounted by a continuous, ogee-moulded string, those to upper levels have simple lead flashings over with no evidence for former drip mouldings. A small 2-light, stone mullioned window (no transom) within the eastern return of the projecting western cross-wing, now blocked (Plate 4), formerly lit room [G.05] internally. Freestone window surrounds present a 'chequerboard' of differing stonework, having been subject to periodic phases of repair and replacement, and today range from weathered original work to unsympathetic mid-20th-century work undertaken in inappropriate 'plastic stone'.³⁰
- 7.2.2 The principal entrance to the house is via a semi-circular headed doorway (Plate 8) set within the western return wall of the projecting porch tower (Plate 7), which opens onto the 'low' end of the hall internally. The door was moved temporarily to the south wall of the porch tower in the late-19th century (see Figures 8b and 11b) only to be returned to its original location in the early 1960s (see Figures 15/16).³¹ Above the door, at first floor level, five moulded panels (four rosettes and a central date plaque inscribed '1535'; see Plates 11/12) are arranged in the form of a 'quincunx';³² a similar arrangement is found on the south elevation of the tower (Plate 10) where the central panel bears the initials 'B L K' denoting Lawrence Benthall (II) and his wife Katherine, who occupied the house from 1623 to 1652.³³ A further frieze to the top of the porch tower comprises a number of carved stones (Plate 13), the idiosyncratic symbology of which remains obscure.³⁴ A low, ogee-moulded plinth extends to the full length of the elevation, being

²⁹ Sandstone was a readily available local material, the local limestone appearing not to have been suitable for fine building work (Clark and Alfrey 1987, 96).

³⁰ See Millin (1997) 'Benthall Hall; Archaeological Assessment of Window Repairs' (unpublished internal NT document) and various correspondence in property files at Attingham Park.

³¹ J Brian Cooper (architect), 38 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, drawing no. 553/7. Attingham Archives file R/3/8: Benthall Hall, Architectural plans (repairs).

³² A geometric pattern of five points arranged in a cross (square or rectangle) with a further point to the centre, corresponding to the pattern found on a die, playing card or domino.

³³ The quincunx tablets have been the subject of much speculation and, given the Benthall family's Catholic tendencies, the suggestion has been made that the symbology may allude to the five wounds of Christ (Benthall 2005, 7) and that they were incorporated within the fabric of the building to indicate Catholic sympathies (it is understood that similar patterns appear at Boscobel House near Brewood, Shropshire, home of the prominent Catholic Giffard family and at nearby Madeley Court). Correspondence between Sir Paul Benthall and the Catholic Record Society from the early 1960s, preserved within the National Trust property files at Attingham, appears to countermand this interpretation however, with a letter of 26th November 1961 from the CRS stating '*the Council, as a whole, were of the opinion that the quincunx is unlikely to have any particular Catholic significance, even as an allusion to the five wounds of Christ. They felt reasonably certain that no recusant family of the period would have used, openly, any sign that showed them to be Catholics...*'

³⁴ The frieze was renewed in the mid 1970s by S.T. Walker and Partners of 9-10 Frederick Street, Edgbaston, Birmingham: Project Code 864.9, Drgs. 01a - 06a; 'Replacement of 12 stones to west, south and east of entrance porch', January 1974 (Attingham Archives). Also, a series of pre-work photographs survive within the photographic archive files.

carried around the two canted bays though, notably, not to the square entrance tower, which may thus represent a secondary addition.³⁵

- 7.2.3 A further doorway formerly opened between the western canted bay and the projecting parlour wing, being evidenced by paired straight joints beneath window [w3] (Figure 18; Plate 9); this opening is visible on an early view of the house (Figure 7a; inset) though it would not have formed an original feature, being introduced possibly during the 18th century and had reverted to a window by the mid-19th century at the latest (see c.1840 sketch; Figure 7b).³⁶ Three iron fixing points evident within the blocking material of the former door, immediately beneath the central window mullion (see Plate 9) may be related to the sun-dial shown in this location on the c.1840 sketch (§.6.2.2).
- 7.2.4 The **west elevation** (Figure 19; Plate 16) presents the stone-built gable end of the main range and the transverse western wall of the parlour range which projects to left and right, terminating in gables to north and south. Offset to the south side of the main gable is a projecting stone stack capped by grouped, moulded-brick flues on a 'star' plan; at ground floor level the stack is flanked by two-light stone mullion and transomed windows lighting [G.05] internally.³⁷ To the north end of the elevation is a further two-storey, canted bay (Plate 17), matching those of the front elevation. Fenestration is again of stone mullion and transom lights, all here of two-light, 'cross' form. The plinth and ground floor string of the main facade extend onto the western gable, the former stepping up just to the north of the south-west angle (where the chamfer detail also changes from ogee to plain). Extending westwards from the north-west angle of the range is a brick-built bounding wall, terminating to the west in an octagonal dovecote (Plate 18), both of which date to the late-19th century when they were introduced by Robert Bateman.
- 7.2.5 The **east elevation** (Figure 20; Plates 19/20) presents the gable end of the main range with, extending to the north, the multi-phase composite facade of the north-east range (see §.7.3 below). The main range is narrower here, reflecting the reduced ground plan at the lower end of the hall, and lacks the transverse cross-wing of the upper end. The elevation is in stone only to eaves level, above which the gable itself rises in brick (Plate 20); the upper south-eastern angle would appear to have been rebuilt/raised (Plate 15), arguably after the removal of the eastern music room extension (see early photographs, Figure 11, which seem to show the wider, easternmost gable of the south front extending lower to the east than the present arrangement). The projecting, stone-built stack is again set off-centre towards the southern side of the range, and here lacks the flanking windows at ground floor level. Indeed, the line of the stack projection has here been extended northwards with a sloping roof over indicating the presence of a secondary 'back' stair, inserted to the north side of the chimney to link the disparate first floor levels of the main range and north-east extension and lit by a small, single-light window [w43] at first floor level. The original exterior wall of the main range survives internally, where it forms the west side of the stairwell [F.08], and includes a primary two-light window, now blocked (see §.7.2.25 below; Plates 85/6). A late 19th-century plan (Figure 14) shows the former 'music room' extension, which abutted the gable end of the main range, to have been furnished with a fireplace to the west wall, north of the primary stack, though details of this feature have been lost and the elevation rendered over (Plates 19/20).³⁸
- 7.2.6 The rear, **north elevation** (Figure 21; Plates 21-25) again presents an asymmetrical aspect, stone-built in coursed stone, here more roughly dressed than in the principal facade, though with an area of primary brickwork to the far east end above the junction with the north-east range (Plate 20). To the west is the asymmetric gable end of the transverse parlour wing (Plate 22) with four-light windows at ground and first floor levels (both offset slightly to the west of centre), and an axial three-light window lighting the attic

³⁵ Also suggested by discontinuous coursing.

³⁶ It remains unclear as to how this door would have originally functioned and it may be that it was related to some form of internal subdivision of the property, though it is clearly not associated with the recorded subdivision undertaken for the Maws who were not in occupation until the early 1850s.

³⁷ These windows have been variously blocked throughout the history and evolution of the house (see §.7.2.17 below) and it is unclear whether either represents a primary feature.

³⁸ A flue was exposed during building work in the late 1990s (Milln, *pers.comm.*) though the details of this feature are not known and no record appears to survive within the Trust archives.

storey. To the east of the parlour range, the primary stair tower projects on an approximately square plan (Plates 23/4), rising through the full height of the range to an attic gable supported on ogee kneelers, lit at each level by three-light mullion and transom windows. A small two-light, stone-mullioned window [w9] pierces the western flank of the stair tower at ground floor level (Plate 23), mirrored by a blocked window to the east (Plates 24/6).³⁹ A stone stack (refaced) rises above the west wall of the stair turret (Plate 23), shallowly corbelled out at attic level; the paired chimneys are of 'star'-plan moulded-brick construction reflecting the main stacks to the east and west elevations, though this stack arguably represents a secondary (if early) addition, logically introduced when the main stair was moved to the front of the house in the early 17th century. The first floor string of the west elevation formerly extended onto the rear elevation of the main range, but was removed at the time of the construction of the north-west range (see §.7.2.9); it survives to the south and east walls of the projecting stair tower (Plate 24).

- 7.2.7 To the left of the projecting tower, the main facade of the hall/upper chamber extends eastwards up to and behind the north-east range, which is enveloped by the stone-built range at this point (see §.7.3). The far eastern section of the main range facade is recessed, reflecting the narrowing of the ground plan at the lower end of the hall, with the visible section of upper wall being in brick (Plate 20). The ground floor hall and first floor chamber are furnished with two- and three-light windows respectively (the upper windows being transomed),⁴⁰ disposed to east and west of a projecting stack, offset towards the west, capped by a grouped, three-flue, star-plan brick chimney. Hard in the angle of the main range and north-east range, a ground floor porch, 18/9th-century in origin though glazed-in the 1960s (see proposals plan at Figure 16), affords access to the north-east range.
- 7.2.8 A straight flight stair descends from east to west across the hall section of the elevation (Plate 26) serving the boiler room [B.03] beneath the stair tower which in turn leads through to basement rooms beneath the stair and parlour wing (see below).
- 7.2.9 A new wing (the north-west range) was erected in the mid-19th century, probably around 1850,⁴¹ extending northwards from the west end of the rear elevation; this is evidenced today by the surviving brick and quarry tile floor (Figure 24; Plate 21) and by the scar of its former roof line, traceable on the north gable of the parlour range (Figure 21; Plate 22). In 1920 this wing contained a bathroom/WC, housemaids room, laundry and coke-fired boiler;⁴² it is just visible on John Hornby Maw's painting of 1870 (Figure 8a) and on an early 20th-century photograph (Figure 10a) which shows a two-storey range with a tall, plain brick stack. The range was demolished in 1935, soon after the purchase of the property by James Floyer Dale and Mary Clementina Benthall (see §.4.2.3; Figure 12b).

The Interior

Basement (Figure 23)

- 7.2.10 The basements of the main range (Figure 18) comprise three interlinked rooms [B.01-03] located beneath the western parlour wing, the present stair and the original rear stair tower respectively; they are accessed via a straight-flight stair descending from east to west against the north, exterior wall of the hall (Plate 26) and via a further, winder stair from within the former north-west range. The basement rooms are stone walled, faced in places in brick, and are floored variously in flagstones, brick paviours and quarry tiles; flat ceilings are formed predominantly of re-used timbers, supported by a series of inserted brick piers introduced during the 1960s refurbishments (see §.8.9.3). Room [B.02] includes a blocked window with

³⁹ As with the GF windows of the west elevation, these openings are indicated as blocked/not existing on certain historical depictions and it remains unclear as to what extent they represent original features or secondary insertions. The early fenestration pattern of the tower would naturally have been dependent upon the primary stair arrangement which itself remains unresolved.

⁴⁰ Eastern window [w12] at least is shown as being blocked on a photograph of 1935 (Figure 12b) while neither is shown on a late 19th-century plan (Figure 14). In the sketch of the rear elevation dated 1841 (Figure 8a), neither ground floor window is visible due to vegetation growth over the lower walls.

⁴¹ It would appear to post-date a sketch of 1841 (Figure 8a).

⁴² 'Water at Benthall' type-written notes by Sir Paul Benthall (1976), Attingham Archives.

splayed jambs, located centrally to its southern wall (Plate 28), partly obscured by a series of brick-built racks (Plate 27) while the ceiling over re-uses a chamfered beam with regularly spaced post-mortices and soffit groove, presumably a re-used section of wall framing. A floor level drainage tunnel opens off the eastern side of the room (Plate 29), running beneath the northern side of the entrance hall before bending in a southerly direction.⁴³

- 7.2.11 Basement room **[B.01]** (Plate 30) is of particular interest with a ceiling comprising four substantial (14 x 14in.), east-west aligned beams, all deeply chamfered (Plate 31) and clearly re-used. The southernmost beam is ogee-stopped to east and west (cut off; Plate 33) and includes redundant, single-pegged post-mortices (8½in. wide at 18in. centres; Plate 32) to either end of its soffit, with a 4½ft. wide gap to the centre, suggestive of an original function as part of a 'screens passage'. Common joists are aligned north-south (5in. wide at 18in. centres), plain-chamfered and ogee-stopped, though the presence of three wide, blocked mortices (9½in. wide at 5ft centres; Plate 31) within the principal beams indicates that this is a secondary arrangement, and that the implied original floor structure was of 'three-part' construction, viz. comprising girders, binders and common joists. The broad similarity of detailing here to timbers employed within the timber-framed, Phase I and Phase II elements of the north-east range (see §.7.3.5 below) may suggest that the timbers of **[B.01]** were reused from an earlier structure.

Ground Floor (Figure 24)

- 7.2.12 The principal entrance to the house is via the porch tower, set off-centre towards the eastern end of the south elevation, accessed via the doorway in the western flank (Plate 8); this opens onto a small vestibule **[G.01]** with flagged floor and coved ceiling which leads via a wide door in the north wall to the 'low' end of the main entrance hall **[G.02]** (Plates 34/5). Benthall (2005, 7) notes evidence for an opposing doorway in the north wall, which would suggest the original existence of a 'screens passage' (see **Appendix D** for parallels), though nothing is visible today save a couple of inconclusive straight joints within the joinery of the dado panelling and skirting.⁴⁴ The room occupies the full depth of the single-pile plan, the ceiling being spanned by three massive transverse beams, chamfered and stopped, boxed-in and rendered over. The room is lit by a three-light, stone mullioned and single-transomed window set centrally within the south wall (**[w1]**; Plate 36) and by paired two-light, stone-mullioned windows, **[w11/12]**, in the north wall, one to either side of the main fireplace (one or both of which were blocked during the 19th century; see Figures 12b and 14). A projecting canted bay of five facets opens off the western end of the south wall (**[w2]**; Plate 37), lighting the 'upper' end of the hall. Opening lights of windows are furnished with turnbuckle catches of a standard model (Plate 38) and exterior quadrant stays (Plate 39). The fireplace, off-centre to the western end of the north wall, is of 18th-century date with a stone surround comprising bold 'wave' moulded jambs and plain head; it is surmounted by a Jacobean timber overmantle (Plate 40) incorporating the arms of Benthall, Cassy and Giffard,⁴⁵ sharing decorative elements and presumably contemporary with the panelling of **[G.07]** and the overmantle of **[F.01]**. It is understood that the hall was badly damaged by fire in the 18th century (Benthall 2005, 7) and that the overmantle is the only part of an original scheme of panelling to survive; walls are otherwise plain rendered with a simple panelled dado and moulded rail.
- 7.2.13 The hall is floored throughout in narrow oak boards, aligned east-west, known to date to the early part of the 20th century⁴⁶ when they were introduced over the top of a polychromatic, encaustic tiled floor,

⁴³ Benthall P 'Water at Benthall'; 'The sides are made of rough stones but the roof is ashlar. The tunnel is almost certainly older than the house because it is too small to have been conveniently driven by miners after the building above was constructed.'

⁴⁴ Sounding of the exterior wall within the porch sounds 'hollow' though this is not repeated when investigated internally. More unambiguous evidence for a door may possibly have been exposed during refurbishment works in the early 1960s when the walls of the hall were stripped and re-rendered (see Schedule of Works at §.8.9), though no documentary record of this work has been located in the NT archives.

⁴⁵ BENTHALL: Crowned lion, rampant; CASSY: three wyverns heads and chevron; GIFFORD:* three stirrups. See also overmantles in **[G.05/07]**. (*: Katherine Cassy, wife of Lawrence Benthall (II), was related through her mother to the Catholic Giffard family of Staffordshire, builders of Boscobel House).

⁴⁶ The tiled floor was covered over in 1918, by which time encaustic tile production had all but ceased and such floors would have been seen as somewhat old-fashioned; the oak floor was supplied by William Brown and Sons of London and laid by one Jim Garbett of Church Street, Broseley, recorded on a printed label attached to the underside of one of the boards (Herbert 1987, 3).

impressive if somewhat incongruous, laid by George Maw in 1859-60 (Herbert 1987, 2). It is assumed that the original floor would have been of flagstones. Maw's tiled floor was 're-discovered' during wiring work in late 1986⁴⁷ and a section remains accessible beneath two removable panels at the east end of the room (Plate 41). Herbert (*ibid.*) describes the tiled floor as follows:

'a symmetrical tile pavement fills the full length of the room but its width is about 2ft short of the north wall...probably to allow for the hearth area without intruding into the main pattern. The large bay window on the south side is also tiled to a much more conventional design. The pavement has only a relatively small number of patterned tiles and these are all designs which were commercially available from Maws printed catalogues.... The success of the pavement as a design relies on the effective use of geometric shapes, both as individual tiles as well as groups of tiles... Few floors of this type survive which makes the Benthall example of particular significance... It is certainly an early example of a large tiled pavement depending for most of its decorative effect on geometric elements for which Maws achieved a sizeable reputation.'

- 7.2.14 A detailed record drawing of the full extent of exposed floor was made by Ms Wendy Faulkener in 1988, a copy of which is displayed at the hall and is reproduced below as Figure 17.
- 7.2.15 Opening off the west side of the entrance hall are two rooms, [G.03] and [G.04], each of which are approached by short, flights of curved stone steps (Plate 42), the floor level of each room being some 0.3m (1ft) above that of [G.02] reflecting their original location at the 'upper' end of the hall. [G.04] forms a projecting tower and represents the primary stair turret. However, in the early part of the 17th century, the stair was moved to the front of the house and the current stair installed within [G.03]. The stair (Plates 43-50) rises through two full storeys and is acknowledged as the most notable, historically and architecturally significant feature of the house. It is believed to have been introduced in c.1620 (Benthall 2005, 13) replacing an earlier stair within the rear turret, and bears many similarities with near contemporary stairs at Aston Hall in Birmingham,⁴⁸ and Crewe Hall in Cheshire (see **Appendix D**). It is of cantilevered form on an open-well plan with elaborately carved, massive square newel posts, closed string, moulded finials and pendants (Plates 45/6),⁴⁹ perforated strapwork balustrade panels and a heavy moulded handrail.⁵⁰ Decoration includes the leopard and lion rampant of the Benthall crest (Plates 48/9), while the lower string panels include fantastical winged beasts with bird's head and two, hoofed legs (Plate 50). The latter elements are traditionally taken to represent the wyverns of the Cassy arms though, given the presence of an identical scheme of decoration on the Aston stair, it may simply reflect a contemporary, fashionable decorative device. Indeed, the remarkable parallels between the Benthall staircase and those at Aston and Crewe Hall have led to the suggestion that teams of local, specialist craftsmen were in operation (Cooper 1999, 315-6). The lower section of the stair shows clear evidence of having been dropped by some 5 or 6 inches, for example at the junction of the lower handrail and newel (Plate 47), though the exact nature and context of these alterations has not been established.⁵¹ The ceiling of [G.03] is plain with a central rose and cornice detail of interlinked ropework circles (Plate 51) of mid-19th-century date, which extends onto the soffit of the stair rising to the east.

⁴⁷ 'Old Tiled Floor Revealed at Hall': Shropshire Star, 20.02.1987; 'Benthall Hall – George Maw floor rediscovered': National Trust Mercia Newsletter, February 1987.

⁴⁸ The Aston stair is also of around 1620, grander in scale and more elaborate in execution, though showing remarkable similarities with the Benthall stair, in particular in the treatment of the newel posts, finials and pendants. Fairclough (1984, 67), describes the Aston stair as follows: 'It is cantilevered out from the walls and has an open well in the centre, a spectacular arrangement found in great houses from about 1605. Instead of bannisters, the stairs have a balustrade pierced with a flowing strapwork design and twenty-two highly carved newel posts. The string below is decorated with winged horses and wyverns. All this closely resembles the staircase at Crewe Hall, Cheshire (built 1615-36 and burnt in 1866), and there is also a smaller and cruder staircase of this type at Benthall Hall, Shropshire'. See also Foster 2005, 277-8.

⁴⁹ The upper caps of the finials, clearly differentiated by lighter stained wood, are secondary, most probably of 19th-century date. It is possible that the finials were originally enhanced with carved beasts as at Crewe Hall, Cheshire.

⁵⁰ Handrail and balustrade details become simpler at upper levels (1F→2F) reflecting the hierarchy of the rooms served.

⁵¹ An alternative explanation would be an error in the original setting out of the geometry of the stair though this would appear unlikely in such a prestige piece of work; a more thorough survey and analysis of the Benthall stair and comparative analysis with Aston Hall may prove useful in this respect.

- 7.2.16 Room [G.04] (Plate 54) is located to the north of stair hall [G.03]. It forms an approximately square, projecting tower and, though not evidenced directly, can be reasonably assumed to have originally housed the primary stair (Mercer 2003, 144-4; Newman and Pevsner 2006, 142).⁵² This was moved at an early date, however, to a more prominent location at the front of the house ([G.03]) reflecting contemporary fashion, at which point [G.04] would have been remodelled to form a small parlour between hall and parlour proper, represented by [G.05/6]. A fireplace was introduced within the west wall, mirrored at first floor level, where it survived until refurbishments in the 1960s (see Figure 16).⁵³ The room is currently lit by a three-light mullioned and transomed window within the north wall and by a two-light window within the west wall (Plate 54); a further two-light window to the east wall has been blocked externally and forms a wall cupboard (Plate 56). The late 19th-century plan described above (see §.6.3.1; Figure 14) shows both east and west windows⁵⁴ as having been blocked at that time, an arrangement which appears to have survived as late as the 1960s reordering (Figure 16). It is not possible to define the form of the original stair with any degree of certainty, though it would probably have been on a 'winder' plan (see Cooper 1999, 313; Wilderhope at **Appendix D**) and would certainly have been less elaborate than its 17th-century successor, or how it would have related to the pattern of fenestration within the room, which has clearly undergone later phases of modification.
- 7.2.17 Opening off the western side of the stair hall is sitting room/parlour [G.05] (Plates 57-64) which occupies the southern part of the transverse parlour wing, accessed via a doorway with 19th-century doorcase (Plates 52/3).⁵⁵ The room is lit by a large, four-light window to the south [w4] and by two smaller, two-light cross windows to either side of a fireplace set centrally to the western wall [w5/6]. The northern of these windows at least was blocked during the 19th century (see Figures 9, 13b and 14) while an engraving included in Samuel Carter Hall's *'Baronial Halls and Picturesque Edifices of England'* of 1847 (Figure 13a) shows both western windows to be covered over by panelling. The historical veracity of the latter image cannot be verified, however, being at least partly an 'historical reconstruction', though Maw's painting of 1870 (Figure 9) would also appear to show both windows blocked at that date. It remains unclear whether either of the western windows reflects an original opening.⁵⁶
- 7.2.18 Room [G.05] is sumptuously finished throughout (Plates 57/8) with Jacobean timber panelling of enriched fields defined by tapering pilasters, surmounted by a deep, elaborate plaster frieze of drapery and roundels with animal motifs,⁵⁷ and a ceiling of strapwork panels with oval bosses (Plate 59). A full-height overmantle above the western fireplace combines strapwork with fantastical beasts above a jewelled band and incorporates paired bosses with the combined arms of Benthall and Cassy (see fn.45 above); the fireplace itself, of crinoid 'marble'⁵⁸ with timber eared surround (Plate 64), is of 18th-century date, being introduced in 1756 to the designs of TF Pritchard (see Ionides 1999, 171-3).⁵⁹ The decoration of the room is not primary, having been introduced in the early 17th century (see arms of Benthall/Cassy in overmantle), while

⁵² See **Appendix D** for comparative floor plans at Wilderhope Manor and Shipton Hall, both of which had similar primary arrangements.

⁵³ The implication being that the two-flue stack rising above the west wall of the stair turret, although early, is secondary.

⁵⁴ The west window would have been blocked, at the latest, at the time of the construction of the north-west range which abutted the tower to the west.

⁵⁵ Benthall (2005, 15) records that the doorcases and plasterwork within the lower stairwell closely resemble mid 19th-century work at the Valley Hotel, Ironbridge, the residence of Arthur Maw after he left Benthall.

⁵⁶ Observations by J Brian Cooper (architect) during refurbishment works undertaken around 1960 (see §.8.9) lead him to conclude that the windows were later insertions (correspondence files, Attingham Archives).

⁵⁷ Mercer (2003, 166) identifies identical plasterwork at the late 16th/early 17th-century Reaside Manor near Cleobury Mortimer and asserts that the same moulds were used at both properties, while Newman and Pevsner draw a link between the latter property and Abcott Manor, Clungunford (2006, 485; plate 65). As with the main stair (see §.7.2.15; **Appendix D**), it would appear that local schools and teams of specialist craftsmen were in operation.

⁵⁸ Historically, the only true marbles produced in Britain were quarried in north-west Scotland and the scarcity of indigenous material was traditionally overcome by importing European stone. Presumably as a response to the high cost this trade, alternative sources of decorative stone were sought and local, hard sedimentary limestones were quickly exploited for high quality decorative and ornamental work (see <http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/shining/shining.htm> for a discussion of English 'marbles'.) The stone used here is 'almost certainly' from Derbyshire quarries according to Julia Ionides, quoted in hand written addendum to letter dated 11.01.01 in the Attingham Archives.

⁵⁹ See also Dining Room [G.07].

both panelling and plaster frieze show obvious signs of having been modified to fit the current room layout. In particular at the north wall, both the panelling and frieze have been awkwardly cut to fit resulting in untidy abutments (eg. Plate 60) and discontinuity in the decorative scheme, while the plasterwork frieze clearly cuts across the soffit strapwork decoration of the northern ceiling beam (Plate 61). Even to the south side of the room, the panelling does not fit comfortably, and it seems reasonable to suggest that it was originally made for another room or house entirely and that it was inserted here in the early 17th century (after 1623), when a new overmantle was made to compliment it.⁶⁰ As will be seen below, the plasterwork ceiling extends partly into room [G.06] to the north, indicating that it pre-dates the insertion of the current north wall and that the parlour originally extended to the full depth of the wing, including the western bay window [w7]; the date of insertion of the north wall has not been established though it may be early. The north wall includes a doorway [d8] to the west, opening onto [G.06], while a further, former doorway, off-centre to the east end of the wall (Plate 63), is evidenced by the form of the panelling, the 'ghost' of H/L hinges to the western stile and by scuff marks on the adjacent area of flooring.⁶¹ An unusual feature of [G.05] is a number of angled butt-joints within the wide floorboards (Plate 62); seemingly randomly distributed, these joints would appear to follow no structural rationale and their precise purpose is not clear; given the presence of the cellar [B.01], it may be that the butt-joints include a hidden 'splice' to give additional strength where they would appear to be cantilevered out beyond adjacent joists,⁶² or it may simply be an attempt to 'soften' the visual impact of the butted joints.

7.2.19 Room [G.06] occupies the southern part of the parlour wing, including the western projecting bay (Plate 65), being accessed from both [G.05] and [G.04] and with a further door, [d9], within the north wall opening to the exterior. Since the 1960s refurbishment, the room has been furnished as a small kitchen and office. The room is lit by a four-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window [w8] in the north wall and by the western bay [w7].⁶³ As noted above, a surviving section of panelled ceiling (Plate 66) indicates that [G.06] originally formed part of a larger main parlour together with [G.05] and that the partition wall between the two rooms represents a secondary insertion. Two transverse timber beams at ceiling level (Plate 67) are related to a secondary stair, inserted in the 19th century (see Figure 14), though subsequently removed; this stair rose from east to west against the south side of the room and was furnished with a quarter-turn to the foot, a detail presumably repeated at first floor level where the stair would have risen from south to north between the two beams. The introduction of this stair would have required the decommissioning of the eastern door in the partition wall with [G.05], described above, if this had not been effected previously.

7.2.20 At the eastern, 'low' end of the hall, doorway [d3] opens onto a small parlour or dining room [G.07], the traditional arrangement of service rooms being here alternatively housed within the retained section of the early north-east range (see below). The room is lit by a two-light mullion and transomed window [w25] and by a further projecting bay [w24] to the west and east of the south wall respectively. As with [G.05] at the west end of the range, the room is lavishly finished with early 17th-century oak panelling throughout (Plates 67/8; here unpainted),⁶⁴ comprising five irregular bands of raised and fielded panels (½-panel offset at each band) defined by fluted pilasters atop strapwork-enriched pedestals, beneath an upper jewelled frieze (Plate 70).⁶⁵ It is understood that the room was formerly furnished with a decorative plaster ceiling, removed in the mid-19th century (Benthall 2005, 10). The room is heated by a fireplace off-set towards the southern end of the east wall (Plate 67), again by Pritchard and dating to 1756, of crinoid marble within an eared, timber surround (Plate 71) inserted beneath an elaborate overmantle of three bays defined by colonnades of superimposed, detached balusters. The central bay of the overmantle (Plate 72) encloses armorial plaques of Benthall (lower) and Benthall impaled with Cassy (upper); the upper panel sits

⁶⁰ The panelling of [G.05] would certainly warrant more detailed study to attempt to establish the original scheme.

⁶¹ This doorway would have gone out of use with the insertion of a secondary stair within [G.06] in the 19th century (see §.7.2.19), if not before.

⁶² The underside of the floorboards is not accessible within [B.01] due to insulation panels.

⁶³ Much of the fabric of [w8] appears new and it should be noted that the 19th century plan (Figure 14) indicates no opening here.

⁶⁴ The panelling shows signs of overly vigorous paint removal and patching in inferior timber, dating from when the room was stripped in 1935.

⁶⁵ The jewelled frieze matches the overmantles within [G.02] and [F.01].

awkwardly within the surrounding framework and most probably represents a secondary insertion. It is assumed that [G.07] would have originated as a little or 'low' parlour, an innovation gaining in popularity from the middle years of the 16th century and which would have served for everyday family use and informal entertainment (Cooper 1999, 291; 2006, 13). The term 'winter parlour' occurs on a number of plans by the architect John Thorpe⁶⁶ around the turn of the 17th century to denote a small family sitting room located off the low end of the hall, close to the kitchen for warmth and convenience (*ibid.*), and the two terms are essentially equivalent.

First Floor (Figure 26)

- 7.2.21 First floor level is reached by means of the principal stair (Plate 73), described above, rising to a small landing [F.03] which reflects the arrangements of [G.03] at ground floor level. Doorways open to east and west onto the library [F.01] (principal chamber) and bedroom [F.05] respectively, the floor level of each room being set some 9-10in. above that of the landing. Opening to the east is the library (original principal chamber) [F.01] (Plates 74/5), extending to the full ground plan the entrance hall below and likewise being spanned by three massive transverse beams. Reflecting the arrangements at ground floor level, the room is lit by a three-light window to the centre of the south wall, [w28], by a canted bay [w29] to the south-west and by two windows in the north wall, [w35/6], here of three lights, mullion and transomed, set to either side of an off-centre fireplace (Plate 77). The fireplace itself is of late 18th-/early 19th-century date with plain stone surround, reeded cheeks and fireback and Regency, brass dog-grate; the overmantle, however, is Jacobean, panelled with an upper jewelled frieze matching the panelling of [G.05] and the overmantle within [G.02]. The walls to east, west and north are clad with full-height, small-square panelling of 17th century form, while the south wall is plain rendered. Interruptions in the panelling to the north of doors [d19] and [d27] to west and east, and to the east of the fireplace in the north wall (Plate 76) attest to the room having been sub-divided for a considerable period to form two bedrooms with a passage or corridor along the south side of the range (Figure 10d shows the western of the two bedrooms). By the time the house was used as a school during the early 1940s, the transverse partition had been removed and the combined rooms functioned as a dormitory (see sketch plan at §.4.2.3) though the corridor survived to the south, only being finally removed during refurbishment works undertaken for the Trust in the early 1960s (see 'Schedule of Works' at §.8.9.3 below).
- 7.2.22 To the east end of the south wall, a heavily studded, double thickness door with incised lozenge decoration (Plate 77) opens onto a small room [F.02] over the entrance vestibule, this room is understood to include a small hidden chamber in the floor, large enough for the secretion of vestments and sacred vessels during times of Catholic persecution, which has lead to the room being referred to as the 'priest's room', though there is no evidence for it ever having been used as a chapel.
- 7.2.23 Opening off the north-west side of [F.01], room [F.04] (study; Plate 78) occupies the first floor level of the original projecting stair tower, though it would have been reordered early in the 17th century when the current stair was installed to the south. The room is lit by a three-light stone mullioned and single-transom window to the north wall with integral window seat, and it is assumed it was previously heated by a fireplace (Phase IV) in the west wall (served by the surviving two-flue, moulded-brick stack). A bathroom was installed here in 1935 when the adjacent north-west range was demolished,⁶⁷ being removed in 1958 and converted to a bedroom. New floor and ceiling were introduced during the 1960s refurbishment, when the walls were stripped and re-rendered such that little of interest remains visible today.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Possibly responsible for Conover Hall, south of Shrewsbury, the grandest Elizabethan house in Shropshire.

⁶⁷ Benthall P 1976 'Notes on Water at Benthall'.

⁶⁸ The underlying fabric of the walls and floor of [G.04] clearly have potential to retain structural evidence for the former arrangements of any putative primary stair and it is a matter of some regret that no record of the 1960s refurbishment work appears to have been made, or at least retained within the National Trust archives. An internet search for J Brian Cooper of Edgbaston, Birmingham, the architect responsible for refurbishments (see §.8.9), has proved unfruitful though an announcement in the London Gazette of 15.10.1973 records the dissolution of J Brian Cooper and Partners on the retirement of a partner, James Alexander Farquhar (<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/46102/pages/12230/page.pdf>).

- 7.2.24 To the west end of the house, the parlour wing is occupied by bedroom [F.05] (Plate 79) to the south and bathroom [F.06] (Plate 80) to the north; both were extensively refurbished in the 1960s,⁶⁹ and have been decorated for contemporary, family use and thus retain little of significance. A 19th-century stair formerly rose within [F.06] (see §.7.2.19; Figure 14) though no trace survives today; window [w33] in the north wall has two of its four lights blocked internally, presumably related to the subdivision of the room in the 1960s to form bathroom and dressing room. At the east end of [F.06], a small lobby [F.06a] leads through to study [F.04] and, via a short flight of steps, to the quarter-landing of the principal stair.
- 7.2.25 To the east end of the range, bedroom [F.07] (Plates 81-4) occupies the space above the 'low' parlour [G.07] and is similarly arranged with two-light window [w45] and canted bay [w44] (approached through an elliptical arch; Plate 82) to the south wall and a fireplace to the east (Plate 83). The room is plainly panelled to dado level with sunk panels and simple chamfered rails/stiles; three bays of raised and fielded panel extend to cornice level above the fireplace with a wide, central arched panel flanked by narrow panels (Plate 83). To the north of the fireplace are two 2-panel doors; the northern door opens onto a small cupboard while the southern door, [d28], opens onto a narrow 'back' stair [F.08] (Plate 85), descending from south to north and communicating with room [F.09] at first floor level within the north-east range, the floor level of which is set some 1.5m (5ft) below that of the main range. Of particular interest here is a blocked, two-light stone-mullioned window preserved within the west wall of the stairwell (Plate 86), clearly indicating that this represents the original exterior wall and that the stair is a secondary feature.

Second Floor (Figure 27)

- 7.2.26 Second floor is again accessed by means of the principal stair, substantially rebuilt at this level following a fire in 1818 (Plate 87), which rises to [S.02] occupying the western end of the hall range and extending over the rear stair tower projection; stair detailing including handrail and balustrade panel become much simpler in the upper levels, reflecting the reduced status of the room served. The roof is formed essentially of two principal elements; a longitudinal roof of 6 uneven bays over the main range with a transverse structure of 4 short bays over the western parlour wing. The carpentry of the roof is not of the highest quality and both sections display evidence of significant fire damage and associated repair (see Plates 89, 91 and 93). The upper principals of T16 have been lost and a wrought iron strap introduced (Plate 91) while in [S.02], 'truss' T12 comprises two bespoke, though roughly sand-cast, iron principals, bolted at the apex, with integral 'cleats' supporting the side purlins over the projecting stair tower (Plate 89).
- 7.2.27 The roof of the main range, extending over [S.01/02/05], is of 6 uneven bays defined by 6 simple, collar trusses (Plate 92) with two tiers of trenched purlins to north and south; to the east end of the range, purlins are embedded in the brickwork of the gable elevation. The roof structure has been significantly modified, principally to the south so as to allow access to the windows of the dormer gables; the lower purlin has been removed west of T7, though the empty trench survives at T8 (see Plate 92) while at T9, the southern principal has been truncated (Plate 94) and two long curved braces inserted (Plate 95), bolted through to the upper principal above (inserted) ceiling level. Likewise, within room [S.05] to the east end of the range, it is apparent that a primary, two-purlin arrangement has been modified to a single, high purlin arrangement thus enabling access to the southern gable (Plate 97). This would appear to indicate that either the gabled dormers of the south elevation are secondary additions or that external, aesthetic considerations took priority over internal practicality in their original design; in the absence of supporting evidence for the former, it is concluded that the latter explanation is more likely with the southern windows being for lighting only in their primary form.
- 7.2.28 Current partitioning of the roofspace appears to be wholly of stud and plasterboard construction and it is clear that major reordering was undertaken in the 1960s (see §.8.9.3 below) which, together with the 19th-century post-fire repair work mean that little of historic significance is exposed and it is difficult to ascertain the primary arrangements with any degree of certainty. Attics at both Wilderhope Manor and Shipton Hall

⁶⁹

As part of this work, the floor and joists were lifted and the southern floor beam renewed in steel, a process requiring the propping up of the decorated plaster ceiling of [G.05] below (see correspondence file at Attingham).

(see **Appendix D**) include robust, framed-partitions though no evidence is exposed to suggest a similar primary arrangement here. Rooms **[S.05]** and **[S.03]** were originally heated by fireplaces within the east and west gables respectively, while **[S.01]** has a fireplace in the north wall, sharing a stack with the hall and library below.⁷⁰ A stair opens off the north side of **[S.05]**, accessed via doorway **[d41]** (Plate 97), descending to second floor (attic) level of the north-east range, which is some 2.4m/ 7ft 10in. below that of the main range.

7.3 The North-West Range

The Exterior

- 7.3.1 The north-west range extends northwards from the eastern end of the main range, predominantly of two full storeys with attics though with a small, single-storey block to the far north end; it is a multi-phase structure reflecting an accretive development over an extended period of time. The southern section of the range is of two full storeys (Plate 99), of brick construction (shown internally to be partly a secondary cladding of an early timber-framed range; see §.8.2) with a pitched, tile-clad roof, abutting the north elevation of the main range to the south and terminating in a blind gable to the north. A tall, grouped flue on a 'star' pattern, mirroring the Phase III stacks of the main range, rises off-centre to the east of the north-gable (Plate 101) while a small, central stack has been truncated below ridge level.
- 7.3.2 The brickwork of the **west elevation** (Figure 22) is laid to Flemish bond throughout though it is clearly of two phases, defined by a straight joint (to left of RWP and vent pipe in Plate 99); the southern section is in a distinctly darker brick with a two course projecting plat-band at first floor level. Ground floor fenestration comprises two windows of two and three lights to north and south respectively, with pegged timber frames and upper transom beneath segmental arches of a single header-course; doorway **[d14]** to the far south within an enclosed porch gives access to the interior of the range. First floor windows are likewise of two and three lights, here flat-headed and set hard beneath the eaves, the southern window being offset to the south relative to the corresponding ground floor opening. An oval stone plaque set between the two upper window openings appears to bear the date (?)1780 (picked out in paint; not verified). The western roofslope includes a projecting dormer, much rebuilt but noted internally to be an integral part of the early timber-framed range.
- 7.3.3 The northern part of the two-storey block is clearly distinct, built in a lighter orange/red brick though maintaining the Flemish bond of the southern section. At ground floor level, timber 'cross' windows with pegged frames flank a central, blocked doorway, all below segmental heads of one stretcher-course depth. First floor has a single window opening to the north, a two-light timber casement of variant form with twin opening lights, mirrored by a recessed, blocked opening to the south, both hard beneath the eaves; a sketch of 1840 (Figure 8b) shows the first floor as blind implying that both windows were blocked at that time. The northern end of the range comprises an early 19th-century (pre-1840), single-storey brick-built extension with a later, post-1840 porch, the latter in Broseley brick.⁷¹
- 7.3.4 The **east elevation** (Figure 20; Plates 101-4) includes a projecting gable (Plate 103), faced in Flemish-bond brickwork with rusticated quoins (Plate 104), though again shown internally to represent an early timber-framed range, a single-bay extension to the Phase I range alluded to above (see §.8.3). The lower east wall has been rebuilt/refaced in the 1960s, when an abutting single-storey structure was dismantled (see Figure 14). Ground and first floor levels are each furnished with paired windows beneath segmental brick arches of a single header course, while the upper gable includes a central, blocked window opening at attic level (Figure 20). The brickwork of the elevation, save the upper gable, was renewed in c.1960 when a 19th-century lobby was removed (see Figure 14); the rusticated quoins also date to this phase of work though early brick within the uppermost south-east quoin suggests they replicate an early detail. The southern

⁷⁰ Victorian arch-plate register grate to east **[S.05]** (Plate 98), **FP** blocked and inaccessible to west **[S.03]**; **[S.01]** has inserted, 19th-century 'Pantheon' pattern hob-grate (Plate 96).

⁷¹ A distinctive, mottled buff-brown brick, occasionally purple-grey.

return, in brick above a low stone base, includes a small opening, blocked in early brick (Plate 104), hard beneath the eaves, the location of which has implications for the internal arrangements of the range (see §.7.3.12). The northern part of the range comprises a series of later 19th-century (Phase VIb) single-storey additions in Broseley brick, presumably contemporary with the western porch, which mask the earlier ranges; to the south-east, the retained basement level of the early 19th-century 'music room' extension (Plate 102) forms the 'eastern terrace'.

The Interior

Basement (Figure 23)

- 7.3.5 The basement area of the north-east range is accessed via a straight-flight stair descending from south to north from hallway [G.10] (Plate 105) and contains some of the earliest elements of the house. The eastern flanking wall of the stairwell (Plate 106) comprises remnants of a timber-framed wall, aligned north-south, of close studwork with cill beam, mid-rails and long, straight down-braces together with the remains of a single window opening with a single, diamond-set timber mullion (one of three originals). The original, exterior face of the framed wall are also partially visible within [B.04] to the east (Figure 28a; Plate 107). Taken together with evidence recorded at higher level, it is apparent that these form part of an early timber-framed range of which three bays survive, though the original extent has not been ascertained. A small section of primary, transverse cross-frame (Plate 108) is located above the doorway to [B.06], the latter room comprising a brick-vaulted cellar extending beneath the 18th-century (Phase Vb) section of the range (Plates 109/110).

Ground Floor (Figure 25)

- 7.3.6 The accessible part of the ground floor comprises a dining hall [G.08], kitchen [G.09], hallway [G.10], toilet [G.11] and utility rooms [G.12/13].⁷² The south end of the range is occupied by dining hall [G.08] (Plates 111/2), accessed both from the exterior via doorway [d14] in the west wall and from rooms [G.02] and [G.07] within the main range via doorways at the south-west corner; a further door [d13] formerly lead into the 19th-century 'music room' extension though, since the demolition of this feature in the early 1960s, it opens onto the external eastern terrace. The room is lit by a single, 3-light timber casement, [w13], in the west wall (Plate 112), adjacent to the exterior door. The southern half of the room is furnished with another fine, polychrome encaustic-tile floor introduced by George Maw in 1859-60 (Plate 111), sharing some of the decorative motifs of the hall floor and laid out to respect the northern jamb of [d14] (Plate 112), the line of a former transverse partition that survived, at least in part, until the modifications of the 1960s (see Figures 14/16).⁷³ The northern half of the room is floored in simple oak boards (C20th); the tiled area is annotated as 'lobby' on the undated, late-19th-century plan (Figure 14), a circulation space between the main house and the service rooms of the north-east range. The ceiling of [G.08] is formed of two intersecting beams, boxed in and plastered over; the north-south, axial beam is exposed within [G.09] to the north where it was noted to be deeply chamfered and ogee-stopped, presumably forming part of the framed range evidenced in the basement area.
- 7.3.7 Kitchen [G.09] (Plate 113) opens off the north side of [G.08], and, though having been recently modernised, retains the proportions (if little detail) of a room present since at least the time of the undated late-19th-century plan (Figure 14). It is lit by a two-light timber 'cross' window in the west wall and was formerly heated by a fireplace within the north wall, now blocked, the related former ridge-stack being that illustrated on the 1841 sketch noted above (Figure 8a). The principal feature of interest within the room is the northern continuation of the axial (?primary) ceiling beam, present within [G.08] but here exposed; it is deeply chamfered and ogee-stopped to the southern end, just short of the current wall line, though interestingly only on the eastern side; the beam is papered over and painted and soffit details not clearly visible.

⁷² The northern part of the ground floor (corresponding to Phase Vb and Phase VI extensions; see Figure 31) is let out as private, residential accommodation and was not accessed as part of the current project.

⁷³ See also photo BEN/156B in photo files at Attingham Archives (undated though clearly taken after demolition of the music room).

- 7.3.8 Also opening off the north side of [G.08], to the east of [G.09], is a narrow hallway [G.10] (Plate 114), partly floored in black/white chequerboard tiles (south) and partly in 9in. red quarry tiles (north). A former doorway in the east wall (see Figures 14/16) formerly communicated with [G.09] and respects the quarry-tiled section of flooring, though no trace of a partition between the two areas survives physically.⁷⁴ The western side of the hallway [G.10] serves simply as a through passage leading to the 18th-century extensions at the north end of the range while, to the east, a straight-flight stair with upper and lower quarter turns has been inserted (Plates 115/6), rising from north to south to first floor level. The stair displays a distinctive 'trellis' balustrade, stylistically early-mid 20th-century, though the balustrading is clearly secondary and the stair is demonstrably earlier (see for example Figure 14); the handrail could well be of 18th-century date and this may present a reasonable date for the insertion of the stair, perhaps contemporary with the external brick facing of the timber range (Phase Va). Beneath the stair, a further flight descends to the basement rooms (see §.7.3.5).
- 7.3.9 Opening off the east side of [G.10], toilet [G.12] and utility room [G.11] occupy the footprint of the Phase II extension though, in their present form, they retain little of historic significance; Storeroom [G.13] formerly functioned as a narrow passage to an eastern lobby, now lost, located to the north of the 'Music Room' extension (see Figure 14).⁷⁵

First Floor (Figure 26)

- 7.3.10 The stair rises to landing [F.10] (Plate 117) where a primary transverse beam (plain chamfered and ogee-stopped to the west in [F.12]; 11in. wide with 3in. chamfer) can clearly be seen to have been truncated (Plate 118) to allow for the insertion of the upper flight. Landing [F.10] again functions as a circulation space opening to the south onto sitting room [F.09], to the west onto shower and bathrooms [F.12/13] and to the north onto bedroom [F.14]. Bedroom [F.11] within the Phase II extension is accessed from [F.09] and via a doorway [d35] opening off the lower quarter turn of the upper stair.
- 7.3.11 Sitting room [F.09] (Plate 119) is located to the south, occupying the full width of the range and representing, spatially, part of the early Phase I, timber-framed structure, brick-faced externally in the 18th century. The ceiling is spanned by a substantial transverse beam, plain chamfered and ogee-stopped to both east and west (again 11in. wide with 3in. chamfer; Plate 120), which also acts as a tie for primary truss T1 at second floor level. The room is lit by a three-light, transomed timber casement window in the west wall and heated by a fireplace set centrally to the east wall, with simple, eared surround and blue/white tiled insert (Plate 119). Walls are clad throughout in small-square panelling of 17th-century style, arranged in five rows with no upper frieze (though the upper panels include, in places, a series of painted heraldic shields). The panelling is not uniform, however, combining a number of different styles,⁷⁶ and most probably represents an amalgamation from more than one source (see also room [F.11]). A doorway at the south end of the east wall [d36] opens onto the small back stair rising to bedroom [F.07] of the main range while to the west wall, a short straight-flight of stairs (with trellis balustrade matching [G/F.10]) rises to access library [F.01]; the latter stair is clearly inserted over the small-square panelling which can be observed in a small, under-stair cupboard to extend fully to the south-west corner of the room.
- 7.3.12 Bedroom [F.11] (Plate 121) occupies the area of the Phase II extension. It is lit by paired windows within the east wall and is spanned by an axial ceiling beam 9in. wide with 2in. plain chamfer, ogee-stopped to east and west. Walls are clad throughout is small-square panelling of 17th-century style though this has here, even more clearly than in [F.09], been amalgamated from more than one source and the date of its introduction here is unclear. The small blocked window of the south wall (see §.7.3.4; Plate 104) is of interest in this respect and is not reflected in the arrangements of the interior panelling.

⁷⁴ The change in flooring does, however, correspond to the 'ghost' of a transverse ceiling beam over, which in turn corresponds to a primary bay division at higher levels and thus reflects an alignment of some antiquity.

⁷⁵ The lower brickwork of the Phase II extension was refaced after the demolition of the single storey lobby in 1960.

⁷⁶ Stiles/rails are variously scratch stopped, moulded and/or plain chamfered.

- 7.3.13 Shower/bathrooms [F.12/13] retain little of interest, though a primary, transverse ceiling beam is exposed within [F.12] (corresponding to the beam exposed at the head of the stair in [F.10]), plain chamfered and ogee-stopped adjacent to the west wall. At the north end of the range, bedroom [F.14] (Plate 124) opens off landing [F.10] and occupies the upper floor of the 18th-century (Phase Vb) brick extension. It is lit by a two-light window at the north end of the west wall,⁷⁷ and by a wide, four-light window in the east wall, both timber casements, and is heated by a cast-iron, angle fireplace to the north-east corner (Plate 125). The ceiling is spanned by two substantial, north-south aligned beams, boxed in and plastered. Otherwise, the room retains little exposed of historic interest.

Second Floor / Attic (Figure 27)

- 7.3.14 The attic space of the north-west range, reached via a continuation of the inserted stair with trellis balustrade (see Plate 117),⁷⁸ comprises three distinct structural elements related to three phases of development. The main north-south range comprises three bays of the Phase I roof to the south (within [S.06-8]) with a single-bay, in-line prolongation of 18th-century date to the north, [S.09], while projecting from the eastern side of the Phase I block is the single-bay roof of the Phase II extension, [S.10].
- 7.3.15 The Phase I roof is of three bays (of 3.65m/12ft) defined by three trusses (bays here numbered 1 to 3, trusses **T1-T3** from south to north; Figure 22); each is of queen-strut form (Plate 128),⁷⁹ with high collars, supporting two tiers of through purlins. Trusses align with the ogee-stopped transverse ceiling beams recorded at first floor level (see above) which act as ties. Secondary rails set below the high collars form the head of axial doorways allowing through access at this level; jambs and doorheads are all plain chamfered and finished with mason's mitre joints. Additional princess posts rise from the tie to support principal rafters at mid span, with rails extending between princess posts and queen-struts (Plate 129), while longitudinal wind-bracing to the upper purlin is exposed at Bay 2 (NE; Plate 130) and Bay 3 (NW). A dormer to the western roof slope (Plate 131) has been much rebuilt; elements of the framing appear primary though the truncated lower purlin to the north suggests it may be secondary (though early). The Phase I roof has been extended to the north in the 18th century and has been subsumed into the Phase III stone-built house to the south, effectively negating any conclusion as to its original extent.
- 7.3.16 The roof of the Phase II extension is housed within attic space [S10], opening off the eastern side of the inserted stair rising from [F.10] (Plate 126); it comprises a single bay with trusses surviving to west and east (**T4** and **T5**; Figure 23a and b respectively), with a single tier of heavy butt-purlins supported by straight wind-bracing (Plate 134). The eastern gable truss (**T5**; Plate 132) retains elements of close-studding above and below collar level; the collar itself, with central '*trait de jupiter*' scarf, is a modern replacement though Milln's survey drawing of 1989 (Figure 23b) indicates evidence that the area below the collar was originally similarly infilled with close studwork. This studwork had been historically removed, however, and a segmental headed window inserted (presumably Phase Va), itself subsequently blocked though remaining visible externally (Figure 22; Plate 103). The western truss (**T4**; Plate 133) is of a variant form, with queen-struts and upper v-strutting, and retains panels of wattle and daub infill. The joinery of the truss is distinct from **T5**, in the treatment of the apex for example,⁸⁰ and the form of the truss would suggest an original exterior context. It is thus assumed that **T4** originally formed an exterior gable of the Phase I roof as opposed to part of the Phase II extension. Taper burns are present on a number of the timbers.
- 7.3.17 The roof over the Phase V extension [S.07-S.09] is supported on a single tier of through purlins, carried by truss **T3** to the south and simply lodged into the brickwork of the northern gable. Rooms [S.08] and [S.09]

⁷⁷ A corresponding window to the south has been blocked, visible externally (see Plate 99).

⁷⁸ The cut off tenons of the former floor level being visible in the primary tie beam exposed at the upper, winder section of the stair (Plate 127).

⁷⁹ i.e. the vertical timbers support transverse members (collar and principal rafter) as opposed to the longitudinal purlins directly (queen-post).

⁸⁰ The apex carries the eastern end of a square-section ridge purlin, absent within the Phase II extension east of **T4**.

share an eastern dormer window [w53] which includes a glazed cill forming a 'borrow-light' for the inserted stair below.

8 DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Overview

8.1.1 The development of the extant hall buildings has been broken down into a total of eight phases, spanning a period from the early 16th century through to the later 20th century. The early phases of this development remain to a large extent based upon stylistic factors.

- **PHASE I:** early-16th century; 3 bays of timber-framed range at south end of north-east range.
- **PHASE II:** mid-16th century; small, 1 bay extension to east of Phase I range.
- **PHASE III:** late-16th century (c.1580); principal stone-built, 'main range'.
- **PHASE IV:** early-17th century; significant internal modifications.
- **PHASE V:** 18th century; northern extension and encasing in brick of north-east range (2 sub-phases).
- **PHASE VI:** early-19th century; erection of eastern 'music room' extension (pre-1840) and north-west range (post-1840).
- **PHASE VII:** later-19th century; internal modifications.
- **PHASE VIII:** 20th century; modifications associated with (a) sale in 1934 and (b) transfer to Trust in 1958; including demolition of Phase VI extensions.

8.2 PHASE I: early-mid 16th century (?)

8.2.1 The earliest part of the extant hall buildings is included within the body of the north-east range, ostensibly 18th-century from an external inspection, but found to encase a relic, timber-framed building corresponding to three bays of a primary, north-south aligned range. The framing of the early range was recorded in detail by Jeremy Milln in 1998 (see Figures 28-30). At second floor (attic) level, the surviving frame comprises three 12ft bays defined by three roof trusses with two visible transverse ceiling beams (ties) at first floor level, a single longitudinal spine beam at ground floor (all deeply chamfered and ogee-stopped) and a section of wall framing to the east, visible within the stair descending to basement level. The wall framing is of close-studwork with mid-rails and long, straight down-braces and includes vestiges of a former window opening, blocked by the Phase II extension (see §.8.3 below). The roof trusses are of queen-strut form with high collars and axial doorways allowing through access at attic level; a dormer to the western roofslope appears primary. The roof is supported on two tiers of through purlins with straight wind bracing exposed in places. A queen-strut truss with upper v-strutting would appear to represent a contemporary gable at the north end of the east wall of the surviving range.

8.2.2 The Phase I range has been extended to the north and subsumed into the stone-built, Phase III house to the south and it is thus not possible to establish with any certainty its original extent. The series of deeply chamfered, ogee stopped beams apparently re-used within the ground floor structure of the parlour wing of the Phase III house, forming the ceiling over basement room [B.01] may possibly have been salvaged from another part of a contemporary house. The pattern of redundant mortices within the soffit of one of these beams is suggestive of an original location in a 'screens passage' with a wide central opening, suggesting a substantial hall range.

8.2.3 The dating of Phase I building is also somewhat problematical, due to the limited extent and exposure of the surviving fabric. The use of close-studding with long, straight down-bracing is stylistically early 16th century and indicates a building of some status, though the presence of mid-rails is usually indicative of later work, its hey-day being after the mid-1600s (Moran 2003, 83). However, an early 16th-century date

would accord well with the traditional date of 1535 for the construction of the house, commemorated in the date stone of the west wall of the entrance porch (Plate 12).

8.3 PHASE II: mid-16th century

- 8.3.1 The first phase of development of the house entailed the addition of a projecting bay to the east elevation. This single-bay projection, later encased in brick, is again of timber-framed construction, of two storeys with attics and uses distinctive close-studding to its eastern gable. The use of close studding again suggests a 16th-century date and the similarity of construction may well indicate that the extension was added soon after the Phase I building was erected. The fact that the projecting bay blocks the window of the Phase I range clearly indicates, however, that it represents a secondary feature.

8.4 PHASE III: late-16th century (c.1580)

- 8.4.1 The next identifiable development of the hall is represented by the main, stone-built house, erected in c.1580 and retaining parts of the earlier building as a rear service wing with cellars on the northern side of the new build house. The ogee-stopped beams of the cellars beneath the parlour wing are possibly re-used elements of the extended primary range (see above). The surviving structure seems to be principally of one phase though, as noted above, there has been a certain amount of modification at the east gable end and there is a possibility that the porch tower was added after the construction of the main range; these features are here assigned to a putative Phase IIIb.
- 8.4.2 Benthall displays a number of interesting features which place it within the 'transitional' period of country house architecture. Principal amongst these features is the retention of an asymmetrical layout to the floor plan of the principal rooms, reflected in the exterior elevation, with the hall maintaining a 'low' end entry,⁸¹ off-centre to the principal facade, and an 'upper' end lit by a substantial bay. This plan form reflects a continuation of late medieval principles, though tempered by the vertical subdivision of the range to form a single-storey hall with upper principal chamber, a characteristic arrangement that was to become standard by the end of the 16th century. The principal private rooms of the house would have been located at the 'high' end of the hall and it is of note that floor level of this end is set some 0.3m/1ft above the level of the hall floor. It is assumed that, as was the rule with houses of this type (see **Appendix D** for local comparanda), that the principal stair would have originally been housed within the projecting turret to the rear (north side) of the house, and was moved to the front only in the early-17th century when the current open-well stair was inserted (Phase IV, below). Room [G.03] would presumably have originally formed a small parlour or ante-room between hall and the main parlour represented by [G.05/06] (see similar arrangement at Wilderhope Manor, **Appendix D**) while, at the lower end of the hall, [G.07] formed a subsidiary 'low' or 'winter' parlour for everyday use, with kitchen and service accommodation being housed in the retained Phase I/II range to the north-east.
- 8.4.3 The Phase III range at Benthall has traditionally been grouped together with near contemporary structures at Shipton Hall of c.1590 and Wilderhope Manor of the 1580s (see Newman and Pevsner 2006, 508 and 702 respectively; **Appendix D**), both located c.15km south-west of Benthall on Wenlock Edge. Together, they have been remarked on as forming a group of peculiarly 'Shropshire' transitional houses, a 'specifically local group in the south of the county'.⁸²

8.5 PHASE IV: early-17th century

- 8.5.1 Much of the elaborate interior decoration that survives today, in particular at ground floor level within the main range, dates to phases of modification undertaken in the early-17th century, most probably by Lawrence Benthall (II) who inherited the house in 1623. The most radical change is represented by the

⁸¹ No clear evidence for a 'lower' end door within the north wall survives to indicate an original 'cross-passage', though see §.7.1.12 above and fn.44

⁸² Mercer E, Type written notes on Benthall at Attingham Archives.

relocation of the principal stair from the projecting rear turret to the front of the house and the introduction of the finely detailed open-well stair which today occupies [G.03]. The stair rises through the full height of the house, serving first floor and attic levels (the latter extensively rebuilt following a fire of 1818) and, as noted above, bears a striking similarity to a more elaborate contemporary stair at Aston Hall in Birmingham, also of c.1620 (see **Appendix D**) and may be the work of the same, specialist craftsmen. The exact nature and context of the identified phase of subsequent alteration of the stair, viz. the dropping of the two lower flights by c.6in. has not been defined.

- 8.5.2 Also of the early-17th century are the elaborate schemes of panelling to ground floor parlours [G.05] and [G.07] and reportedly originally to entrance hall [G.02], though the latter has subsequently been lost, save the overmantle. Panelling to [G.07] and overmantles to [F.01] and [G.02] share a common 'jewelled' frieze, and are arguably form part of a single, consistent phase of improvement; the panelling within [G.05] is, however, distinct and, as noted above, has been significantly modified to fit a remodelled room arrangement, evidently adapted from another room or imported from a different building altogether, with a new overmantle built to compliment it. It is tempting to assign these improvements to the period of Lawrence Benthall (II) and Katherine Cassy (1623-52), the overmantles of [G.02], [G.05] and [G.07] displaying heraldic designs of both Benthall and Cassy.
- 8.5.3 Re-used 17th-century panelling also survives within two first floor rooms of the north-east range ([F.09/11]), though in both these cases, the decorative schemes appear to have been composed from more than one source and the date of introduction to their current locations cannot be established.

8.6 PHASE V: 18th century

- 8.6.1 Principal developments of the 18th century were focussed on the north-east range. Firstly, the early, Phase I and II timber-framed ranges were faced externally in Flemish-bond brickwork (Phase Va), the range being subsequently enlarged to the north (Phase Vb); a clear straight-joint within the surviving fabric evidences the two discrete phases of work. Elsewhere, internal remodelling included the introduction of the back stair within the north-east range, the panelling of the ground floor hall and the introduction of new fireplaces to the eastern and western parlours (both by Pritchard) are broadly contemporary, though they cannot be defined as being part of a single programme of work.
- 8.6.2 A further modification, possibly of the 18th century, was the insertion of a door within the south wall of the stair hall [G.03], occupying the central two lights of the four-light window. This feature is recorded in a late 18th-/early 19th-century painting and is evidenced by straight joints within the fabric of the building itself, though it had clearly been removed by c.1840 and is not seen in any other view of the house. The historical context for the introduction and subsequent removal of this feature has not been fully defined.

8.7 PHASE VI: early-mid 19th century

- 8.7.1 In the early to mid-19th century, the 'music room' extension was appended at the eastern end of the main range, apparently replacing an earlier precursor (Figure 7a); Benthall gives a date of c.1818 (2005, 28) and the structure was definitely in place by 1840 when it is seen on a dated sketch of the south front (Figure 7b). A new wing (the 'north-west range') was added at the back of the west end of the hall after 1841 (see Figure 8a) though it would appear to be in place by the time of the tithe plan in 1845; this would tie in approximately with Benthall's date of 'around 1850' for its introduction.⁸³ Thus, both of these major extensions would appear to have been added by Thomas Harries Esq. in the years leading up to sale of the property to Lord Forester of Willey in 1844.

⁸³ Benthall (1976) 'Notes on Water at Benthall'.

8.8 PHASE VII: late-19th century

- 8.8.1 A number of modifications, both internal and external, can be assigned to the period of occupation of the Maws in the second half of the 19th century (first George and Arthur jointly, latterly George and family), principally the introduction of the elaborate encaustic tiled floors of 1859/60 within the main entrance hall [G.02] and rear lobby (now dining hall) [G.08]. The main door was transferred to the south elevation of the entrance porch in the later years of the century, after 1870 but before a photograph of 1890 (Figure 11b) which shows it relocated. An additional stair, inserted within room [G.06] at the west end of the house (see Figure 14) was probably related to the 'splitting' of the house for the dual occupancy of George and Arthur Maw. A number of windows are illustrated as being variously blocked or open in a series of views and plans (see §.6 and building descriptions above) though, in the absence of supporting documentary sources, these changes are difficult to tie down to any specific phase of works.

8.9 PHASE VIII: 20th century

- 8.9.1 The 20th century has been characterised by a number of large scale demolitions which have, in effect, returned the main block of the house, at least externally, essentially to the original state as built in the late 16th century. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a series of piecemeal changes seem to have occurred, many of which are difficult to date precisely, though it is known, for example, that the encaustic tile floor of the entrance hall was covered over in 1918, recorded on a suppliers label. The first major development came soon after the purchase of the house by James Floyer Dale and Clementina Benthall in 1934, when the north-west range was demolished, the event being recorded in a single photograph of c.1935 (Figure 10b).
- 8.9.2 Upon the transfer of Benthall Hall to the National Trust in 1958, a major programme of refurbishment works was put in place, undertaken under the direction of the architect J Brian Cooper FRIBA of Highfield Road, Birmingham. Major interventions included the demolition of the eastern 'music room' extension (saving the basements) and the reinstatement of the original arrangements to the ground floor of the entrance porch, the door being relocated to the western side of the tower and a two-light window re-introduced to the south wall. Internally, extensive works were carried out within the hall and library while in sitting room [G.05], the plasterwork ceiling was shored up while one of the principal ceiling beams was renewed due to beetle damage.⁸⁴
- 8.9.3 Cooper's 'Schedule of Works required in restoration of Benthall Hall', dated January 1960,⁸⁵ provides an overview of the extent of works undertaken at this time and can be summarised as follows:

ENTRANCE VESTIBULE ([G.01]): take down decayed vaulted ceiling and renew; repair existing door and adjust hanging; repair door to hall and fix new linings with architraves.

HALL ([G.02]): Treat surfaces of timber studding; repair stonework of fireplace; renew ceiling with 'Celotex' boarding, floated and skimmed, rerun mouldings etc, replaster walls; repair sand and polish oak floor; fit new linings to door to gun room and rehang door; Rehang door to staircase; replace panelled window linings; cleaning / repointing of stonework (windows)

DRAWING ROOM ([F.01]): 'This room was spoilt by a partition which connected the two bedroom wings. It is proposed not to replace the partition but to retain this fine room unspoilt.'; repair existing wall panelling; lay new floor; replace ceiling with 'Celotex' boarding, floated and skimmed; repair timber linings to windows; repair structure of flat roof over proposed bathroom and renew that above oriel window; repair stonework of bay window.

ATTIC BEDROOMS ([S.01-00]): 'Note D: although the roof is not a particularly good example of carpentry it is interesting and part of the original structure and I consider that every endeavour should be made to retain

⁸⁴ Letter from J Brian Cooper to Kenworthy Brown, dated 16th May 1960. Attingham Archives.

⁸⁵ Property files at Attingham Archives.

the principal trusses and purlins by splicing in new pieces and fixing iron shoes and straps to provide new bearings where ends of beams etc are decayed'; take of tiling, battens and common rafters, repair oak trusses, fix new common rafters as required, felt batten and tile; renew all leadwork; take off coping as necessary and make good stonework.

LIBRARY (ie.[G.05]): Cut out timber lintel over one window and replace with concrete lintel (the smaller windows, one each side of fireplace, appear newer than the large window and are not to be investigated further); allow for protective covering to panelling and floor and for repairs and reinstatement; take down ornamental plaster ceiling, store and later refix.

LOBBY (ADJOINING LIBRARY) [G.06]: fix Celotex boarding and render and skim plaster on walls and stud partition; piece up and patch decorated ceiling panel already refixed; allow for repair to windows and for repainting of mullions

GUN ROOM (ie.[G.04]): Fix Celotex boarding and render and skim ceiling and stud partitions; replaster brick walls; refix doors and repaint all woodwork.

BEDROOM OVER LIBRARY (ie.[F.05]): Take out floor joists, replace defective beams and replace with steel (one of the main beams is not so badly decayed and it may be possible to fit an iron shoe and retain the beam; take out timber bressumer behind fireplace overmantle and replace with concrete; reinstate panelling; cover ceiling with Celotex and float and skim.

BEDROOM OVER GUNROOM (ie. [F.04]): Treat timbers in partitions; fix new flooring; fix Celotex to ceiling, float and skim; repair and repaint stonework to window

DRESSING ROOM AND NEW BATHROOM (ie.[F.06]): reinstate floor joists, pugging and flooring; fix Celtex to ceiling, float and skim; refix existing door; repair window, repaint stonework; provide and fix new bathroom suite with all plumbing and drainage.

STAIRCASE: Cut out timber bressumers over windows and replace with concrete; fix Celotex to ceiling, float and skim; replaster brick walls.

BASEMENT: form foundations for and erect isolated brick pillars to support existing beams; take out bressumers from window and door openings and replace with concrete lintels.

Total estimated expenditure: £20,739. 0s. 0d

- 8.9.4 A letter dated 14th January 1961 from J Brian Cooper to Colin Jones of the National Trust provides the following information:

a) *it is proposed to **demolish the existing Music Room** and form a flat roof over the basement underneath in order to provide a terrace. This enables some additional light to be obtained into the hall now proposed to be converted into a dining room. **Adjoining the new Dining Room, the kitchen is to be modernised and a service pantry formed.***

b) *the part of the house beyond this point is to be converted into a caretakers quarters which will comprise a living room, two bedrooms a bathroom and a kitchen.*

d) *In the roof space the ceiling is to be lined with fibreboard to make it possible to use part of this space as a study and part as a children's play room.*

- 8.9.5 Thus it can be seen that a major programme of refurbishment was undertaken in the early 1960s and it is unfortunate that no record beyond a number of architect's proposal drawings appears to have been made, or at least to have survived, of this work.

9 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 9.1 Benthall Hall is clearly a building of major intrinsic significance, primarily as a fine example of a modestly sized late-Elizabethan mansion house. At a national level, this significance has been officially recognised since 1950 when it was included on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest as a Grade I listed building, defined by English Heritage as a building of 'exceptional interest', and among the top 2.5% of listed buildings in the country.⁸⁶
- 9.2 While clearly not on a par with the more nationally prestigious 'showpiece' houses of the Elizabethan era or indeed, at a more local level, with Condover Hall south of Shrewsbury of c.1598, the most ambitious house of the period in Shropshire, Benthall, conceived at a more modest scale nonetheless displays a range of features which mark it out as being of especial significance at both a local and a regional scale. It has traditionally been interpreted, together with Shipton Hall and Wilderhope Manor (both c.15km south-west of Benthall; see **Appendix D**), as forming part of what Mercer has referred to as a 'specifically local group' of south Shropshire 'transitional' houses. All are of the late-16th century, built between 1580 and 1600, and are characterised by asymmetrical principal facades, reflecting an essentially medieval plan form with central hall built on a single-pile plan, with transverse parlour and service wings (save Benthall where services were accommodated in a retained, earlier range to the rear). At each house, entrances (housed within prominent porch towers) open onto the 'low' end of the hall,⁸⁷ with inherent implications for external asymmetry, which were heated by mural fireplaces in the opposite lateral wall and lit to the 'upper' end by projecting oriels, the latter feature having subsequently been lost at Shipton. Halls are, however, all of a single-storey, ceiled over with principal chamber above, a development that had become standard by the late 16th century. Ground floor parlours are located to the upper end of the hall, while Wilderhope in particular reflects Benthall's plan with an original small parlour or 'ante-room' to the front of the house between ground floor hall and parlour (at Benthall subsequently occupied by the inserted stair). At each house, the principal stair was originally housed in a rear projection at the upper end of the hall, lost at Shipton to 18th-century extensions and modified at Benthall, though surviving intact at Wilderhope, where a circular tower with conical roof houses a timber winder stair (see **Appendix D**).
- 9.3 The secondary, early seventeenth-century interiors at Benthall, the panelling and plasterwork of the ground floor parlours and in particular the inserted open-well stair, are of superior quality and special note, both intrinsically as good local examples of Jacobean decoration, but also in their demonstrable relationship with contemporary houses (Aston Hall and Crewe in respect of the stair, Reaside and Abcott Manor in respect of the plasterwork of the parlour wing) with the implication for the establishment of local/regional groups of specialist craftsmen at this period.
- 9.4 The survival of early elements of timber-framing within the subsidiary ranges is of considerable historical interest, inherent to an understanding of the early phases of development of the property, though it is of no particular aesthetic or wider architectural significance.
- 9.5 The significance of the house is not confined to its early phases, however, and a feature of special interest is the encaustic tiled floors within the hall and dining hall, introduced by George Maw in the mid-19th century. Though somewhat incongruous within a house of Benthall's date and style, the floors nonetheless represent features of considerable significance, heightened by their close association with a prominent figure in the once locally important tile manufacturing industry, celebrated at the nearby Jackfield Tile Museum.

⁸⁶ See <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings/>

⁸⁷ Shipton and Wilderhope retain an opposing door within the rear elevation, Wilderhope with an intact screens passage.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The current project has allowed for a detailed record and assessment of the buildings at Benthall Hall to be made within the parameters of the project brief and has allowed for a general understanding of the origins and development of the complex.

Suggestions for future archaeological work

- 10.2 The early development of Benthall Hall is somewhat obscure and, though dates of 1535 and 1583 have been traditionally proposed for phases of rebuilding/extension, dating of the physical fabric remains based principally upon stylistic factors. In this respect, it is clear that a targeted programme of dendrochronological sampling and analysis has the potential to more accurately define this early history; specific areas of interest would include the Phase I and Phase II timber-framed ranges, the re-used timbers within the main range cellar [B.01] and the roof of the main Phase III range. As a preliminary step, an on-site assessment by a suitably qualified dendrochronological specialist would allow for the suitability of structural timbers to be established.

Objective (a): to more clearly identify the date of the early phase buildings (**Phases I-II**) and principal Elizabethan house (**Phase III**).

Actions: commission dendrochronological assessment followed up, if feasible, by a programme of targeted sampling and analysis.

- 10.3 Secondly, it should be noted that a non-intrusive survey of the type carried out for the current project will inevitably leave a number of general and specific questions unanswered, for example the form and location of the original Phase III stair or the original existence of a cross passage within the Phase III hall. Evidence for such features may survive within the underlying structural fabric of the building, currently obscured by surface renders and cladding, floors and ceilings. It is unfortunate in this respect that no record survives of the extensive works carried out in the early 1960s, when it would appear that significant areas were stripped back to underlying fabric. Any future work involving the lifting of floor surfaces and/or removal of wall renders/ cladding clearly has the potential to expose underlying fabric and to elucidate the later phases of development of the house and such works should be, wherever possible, be monitored archaeologically, a detailed record made and results lodged with a central property archive.

Objective (b): to more fully understand the arrangements of the Elizabethan house and its subsequent phases of development and change.

Actions: set in place provisions to ensure archaeological monitoring of any future intrusive works and establish central property archive.

- 10.4 Finally, certain specific elements of the house would clearly benefit from more detailed study, above and beyond what has been feasible within the parameters of the current project, in particular the Jacobean interiors, the open-well stair, panelling and plasterwork of the ground floor parlours. Closer inspection and recording of the open-well stair, for example, may be able to ascertain the nature of what would appear to be a phase of alteration, while a comparative study of contemporary stairs at Aston and Crewe Halls may help identify teams of specialist workmen in operation in the early 17th century. Likewise, the original form of the panelling within the west parlour may become clearer further to more detailed study and measured survey.

Objective (c): to more fully understand certain details of the arrangements and decorative schemes of the late 16th / early 17th-century house, and to investigate the possibility of specialist groups of craftsmen working in the area at this time.

Actions: undertake detailed survey, recording and interpretation of specific elements (panelling / open-well stair etc.) with longer term aim of assessment in relation to identified comparable properties.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 11.1 The project was commissioned by Ms Janine Young, archaeological consultant of the National Trust, to whom thanks are extended for help and cooperation throughout the course of the project; thanks also to Mr Keith Challis for comments on the draft text of the current report. Special thanks to Mr Nick Swankie, Gardener in Charge at Benthall, to Mr Jeremy Milln, former Trust archaeologist for the West Midlands region, to staff at the National Trust Regional Office at Attingham and at the Shropshire County Archives, Shrewsbury.
- 11.2 Grateful thanks are also extended to Ms Abbie Freeman, YHA manager at the Trust's Wilderhope Manor and especially to Mr and Mrs Bishop of Shipton Hall for allowing visits to the respective properties.
- 11.3 Documentary research, site recording and assessment were undertaken by Mr Ric Tyler MIfA who also wrote, collated and illustrated the current report.

12 SOURCES

a) Cartographic Sources (in chronological order)

- 1577 Saxton's map of Shropshire '*Salopiæ Comitatus*'
- 1752 John Rocque's '*Actual Survey of the County of Salop*'.
- 1845 Tithe survey of Benthall Parish Shropshire Archives ref. PF27/1.
- 1882 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition County Series 1:2500 map, Salop sheets XLI.4.
- 1902 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition County Series 1:2500 map, Salop sheet XLI.4.
- 1927 Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition County Series 1:2500 map, Salop sheet XLI.4.
- 1963 Ordnance Survey National Grid Series edition.

b) Primary Sources

Attingham Archives

Various buildings and correspondence files, including following specifics:

Benthall P, 1961.	Correspondence with Catholic Record Society re. significance of 'quincunx' tablets on porch tower.
Benthall P, 1976.	Type-written notes on 'Water at Benthall'.
Brian Cooper J, 1960.	'Schedule of Works required in restoration of Benthall Hall'
Brian Cooper J, 1960s.	Various correspondence re. refurbishment works.
Brightwells Fine, 2002. Art Showroom	Sales catalogue, 26 th September 2002.
Kay S, 2001.	Letter to Julian Ionides (dated 11.01.2001) re. Pritchard fireplaces.
Mercer E, 1987a.	Letter re. open well stair and rear projecting tower
Mercer E, 1987b.	Type written notes on Benthall.

Various architects' proposal drawings related refurbishment works for National Trust. Various dates, October 1960 - October 1963. J Brian Cooper FRIBA, Project No. 553.

Design drawings for replacement of frieze to porch tower, January 1974. ST Walker and Partners, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Project code 864.9.

Photographic Archive folders; Volumes 1 and 2

Shropshire County Record Office

Ref. 6001/4676-4677:	Correspondence file re. Benthall and family 1930-61.
Ref. 6001/47/4675:	Benthall Hall: Album of photographs deposited by Albert Benthall (1899)

c) Secondary Sources

ALGAO, 1997. *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings*.

Benthall P, 1979. 'George Maw: A Versatile Victorian'. *National Trust Studies*, 1980, pp.11-13. London, Philip Wilson.

Benthall R, 2005. *Benthall Hall; Official Guidebook*. London, The National Trust. (Text updated and corrected from original by Sir Paul Benthall, 2001).

Bowcock EW, 1923. *Shropshire Place Names*. Shrewsbury, Wilding and Son.

Clark C and Alfrey J, 1987. 'Benthall and Broseley Wood: Third Interim Report of the Nuffield Archaeological Survey'. Ironbridge Institute Research Paper No. 15.

Cooper N, 1999. *Houses of the Gentry 1480-1680*. Yale University Press

Cooper N, 2006. *The Jacobean Country House from the archives of Country Life*. London, Aurum Press .

English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*.

English Heritage, 2008. *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*.

Fairclough O, 1984. *The Grand Old Mansion*. Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery.

Foster A, 2005. *Birmingham: Pevsner Architectural Guides*. Yale University Press.

Gelling M, 1990. *The Place Names of Shropshire Pt. 1*. English Place Names Society.

Hall L, 2005. *Period House Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900*. Newbury, Countryside Books.

Herbert AT, 1987. 'Report on the tiled floor of the hall at Benthall Hall, Shropshire'. Unpubl. archive report, Attingham archives.

IfA, 2008a. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. University of Reading, IFA.

IfA, 2008b. *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. University of Reading, IFA.

IfA 2010. *Code of Conduct*. University of Reading, IFA.

Leighton S, 1901. *Shropshire Houses Past and Present*. London, Chiswick Press

Mercer E, 2003. *English Architecture to 1900: The Shropshire Experience*. Logaston Press.

Milln J, 1997. 'Benthall Hall, Broseley, Shropshire: Archaeological Assessment of Window Repairs, July 1997'. Unpublished internal National Trust document.

Moran M, 2003. *Vernacular Buildings of Shropshire*. Logaston Press.

National Trust, 1998. 'Guidance Note on the Recording and Analysis of Historic Buildings'.

Plumtre G, 1990. 'Continuing Cornucopia' *Country Life* March 22nd 1990, pp.178-80.

VCH 1998 (C J C Currie, ed.). *A History of the County of Shropshire Volume 10: Munslow Hundred (part): The Liberty and Borough of Wenlock*.

d) On-line Sources

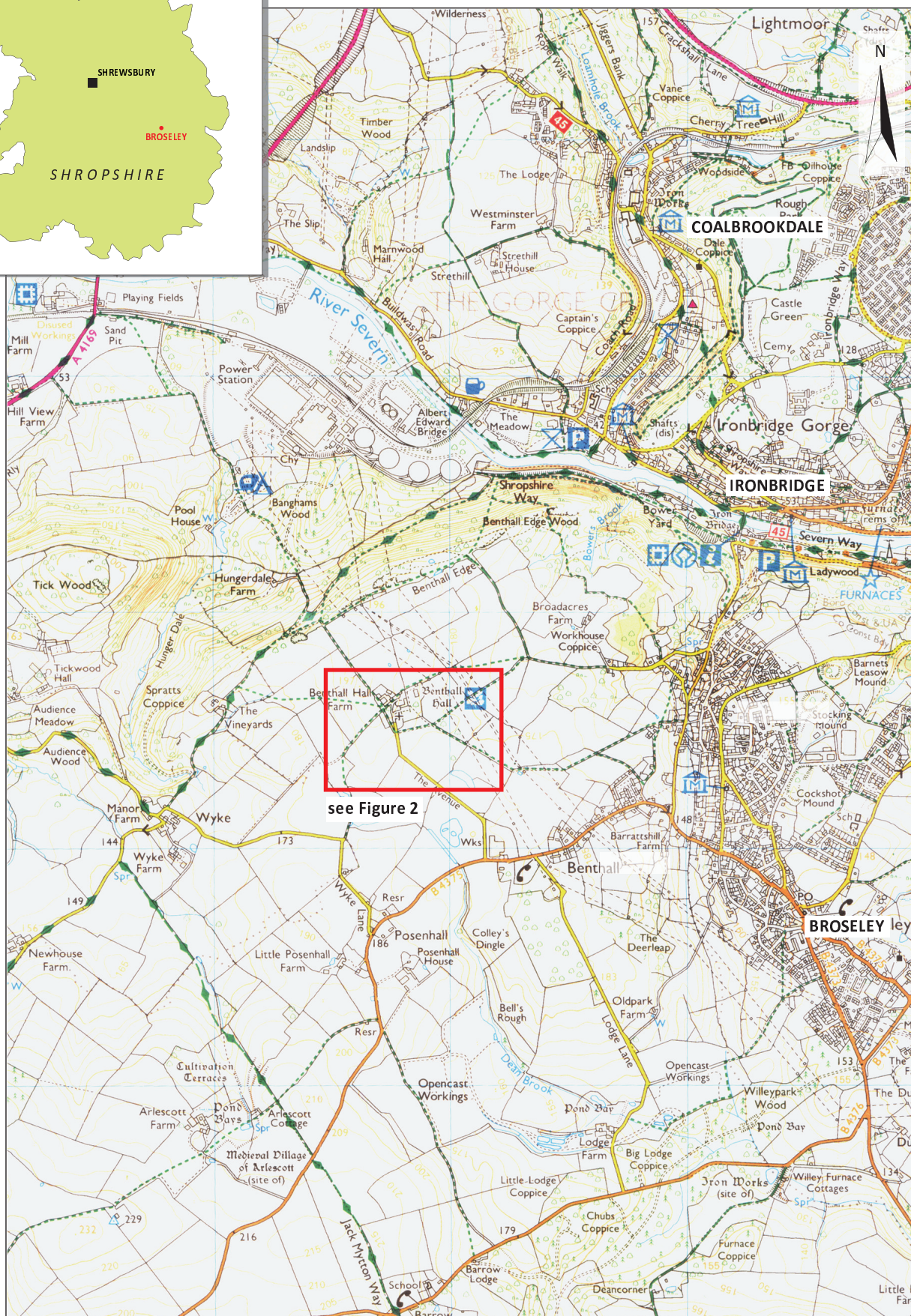
<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22875>

<http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/shining/shining.htm>

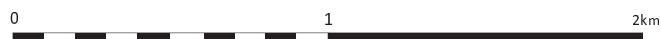
www.imagesofengland.org.uk

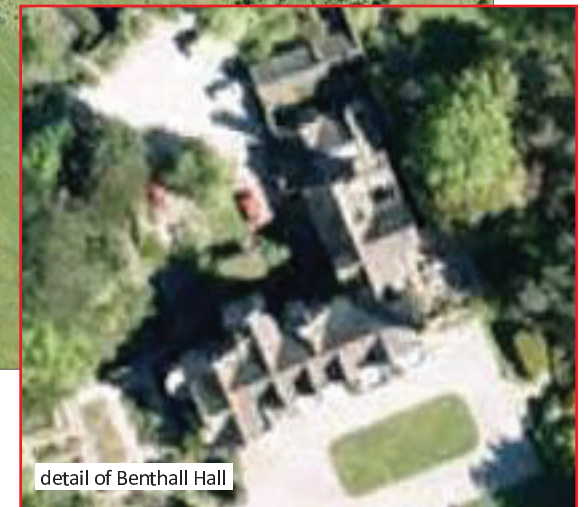
<http://www.mawandco.com>

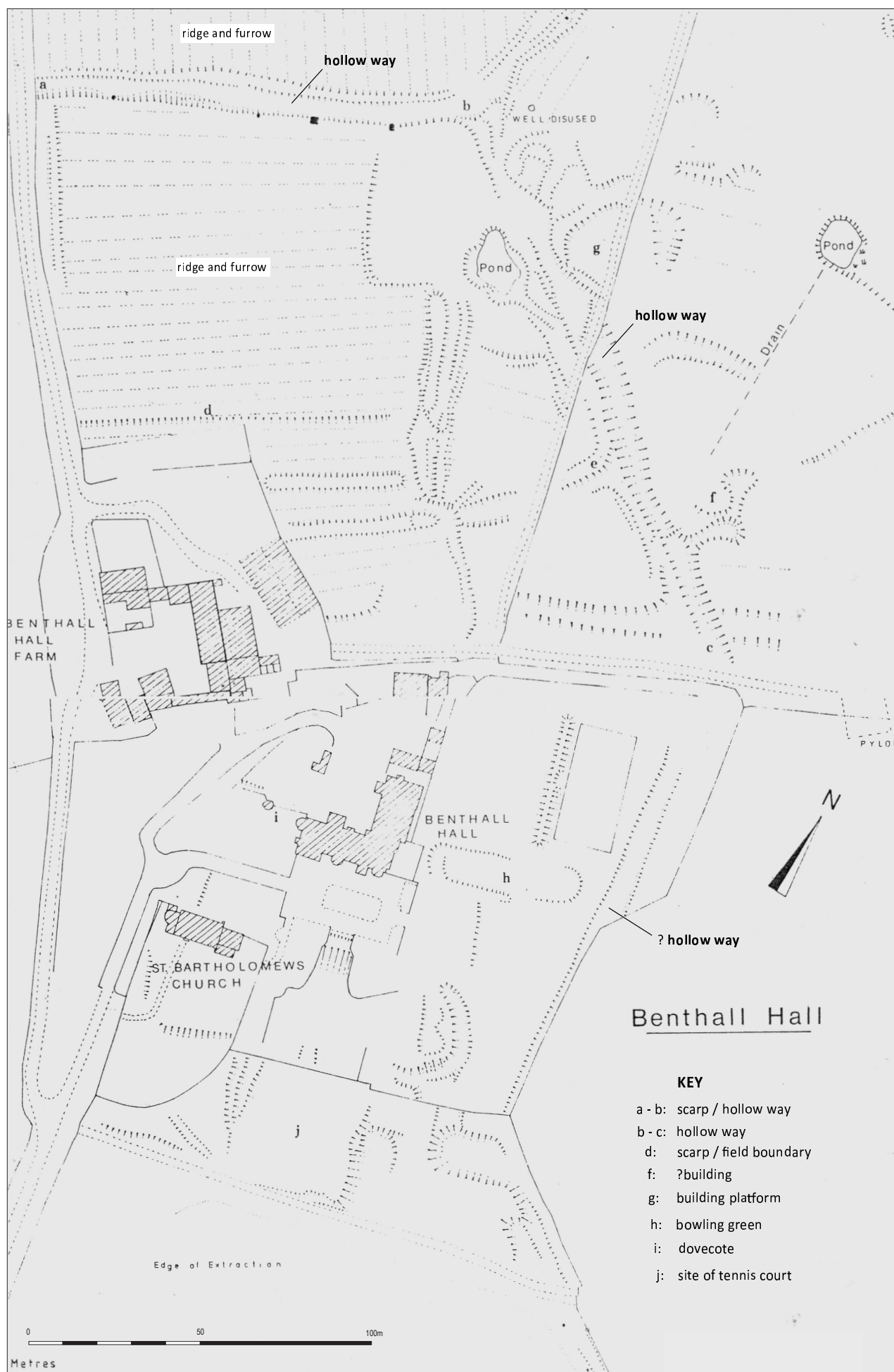
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>



Based upon Explorer 1:25,000 map (Sheet 242)
Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2005.
All rights reserved. Licence No. 100050391.





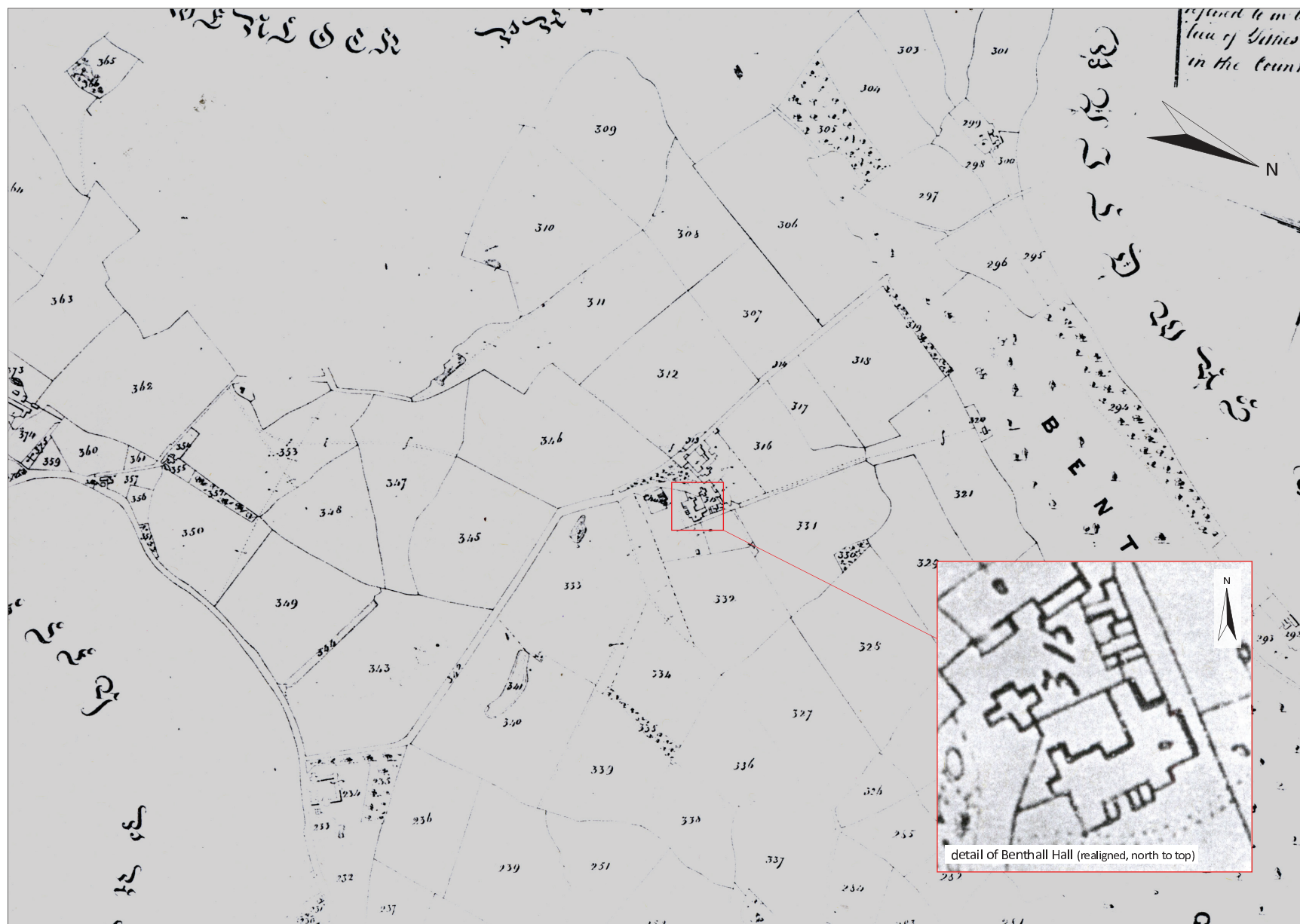




(a) Extract from Joseph Saxton's '*Salopiae Comitatus*' of 1577.

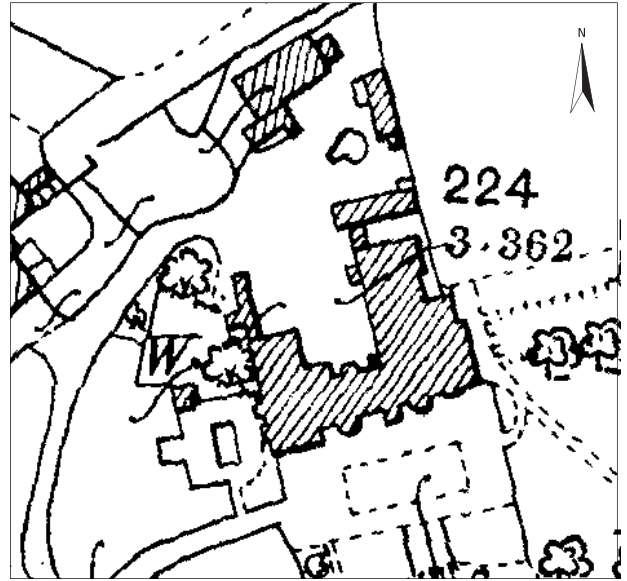


(b) Extract from Robert Baugh's *'Map of Shropshire'* of 1808.

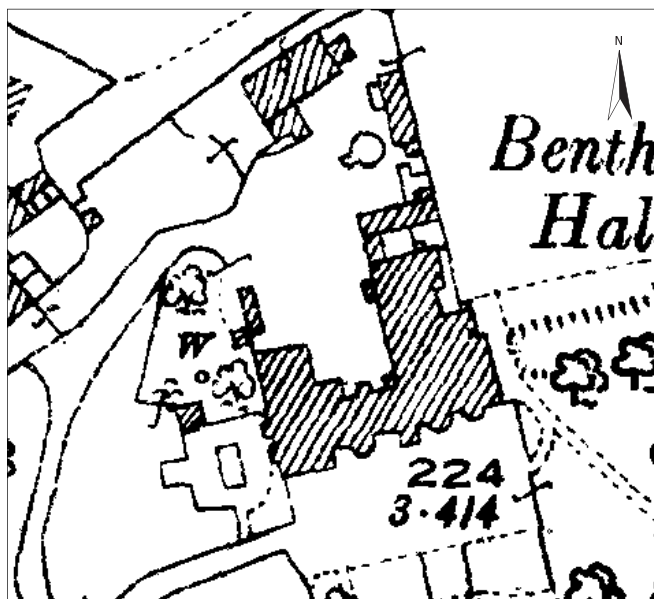




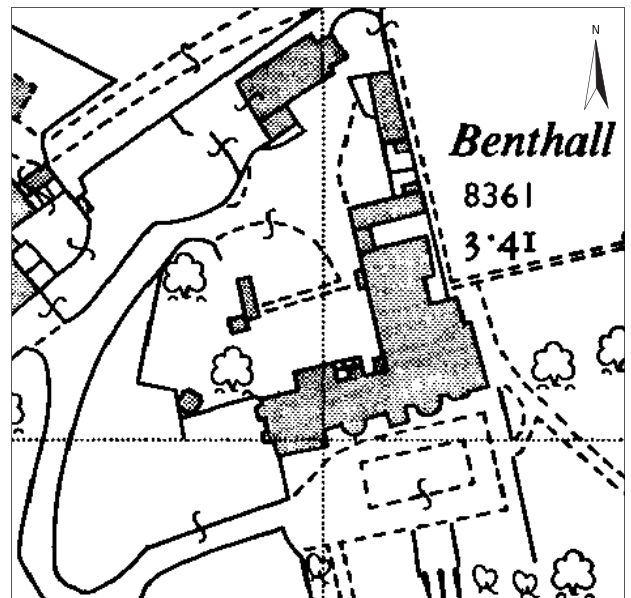
(a) First Edition County Series 1:2500 map of 1882.



(b) Second Edition County Series 1:2500 map of 1902.



(c) Third Edition County Series 1:2500 map of 1927.



(d) National Grid Series 1:2500 map of 1963.



(a) Photograph of painting held at Benthall Hall; location of original unknown. late 18th/early 19th century. Note pre-music room eastern extension and doorway to stair hall (inset).



(b) South elevation, sketch of c.1840. **NB:** location of front door.

(Source: Benthall Hall picture store)



(a) Sketch of rear elevation and north-east range, dated 1841.

(Source: copy at Benthall Hall, images folder)



(b) South elevation, sketch on c.1900; reproduced from Leighton 1901, *'Shropshire Houses Past and Present'*.



Original at Benthall Hall



(a) South front



(b) Hall [G.02] looking south-west



(c) Sitting Room [G.05] looking south



(d) Bedroom [F.01](?subdivided)



(a) South c.1860; **NB:** east extension and original two-light window to south wall of porch west wall of porch tower.
(Source: Benthall Hall picture store)



(b) South elevation c.1890; **NB:** door relocated to south side of porch.

(Source: Shropshire Archives ref. 6001/4675 16)



(a) South and west elevations **NB:** rear west range extension with tall stack

(Source: Benthall Hall picture store)



(a) North elevation during demolition of west range, c.1935
NB: Window [w12] appears blocked

(Source: Benthall Hall picture store)



(a) Sitting Room [G.05]; engraving by JC Bayliss from Samuel Carter Hall's *'The Baronial Halls and Picturesque Edifices of England'* of 1847. **NB:** both windows of west wall shown covered (though see below).



(b) Sitting Room [G.05]; C19th photograph - **NB:** window to right of fireplace covered over by panelling.
(Source: Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, ref. IGMT: 1980.307; used by permission)



WEST

EAST



(Source: Attingham Archives)

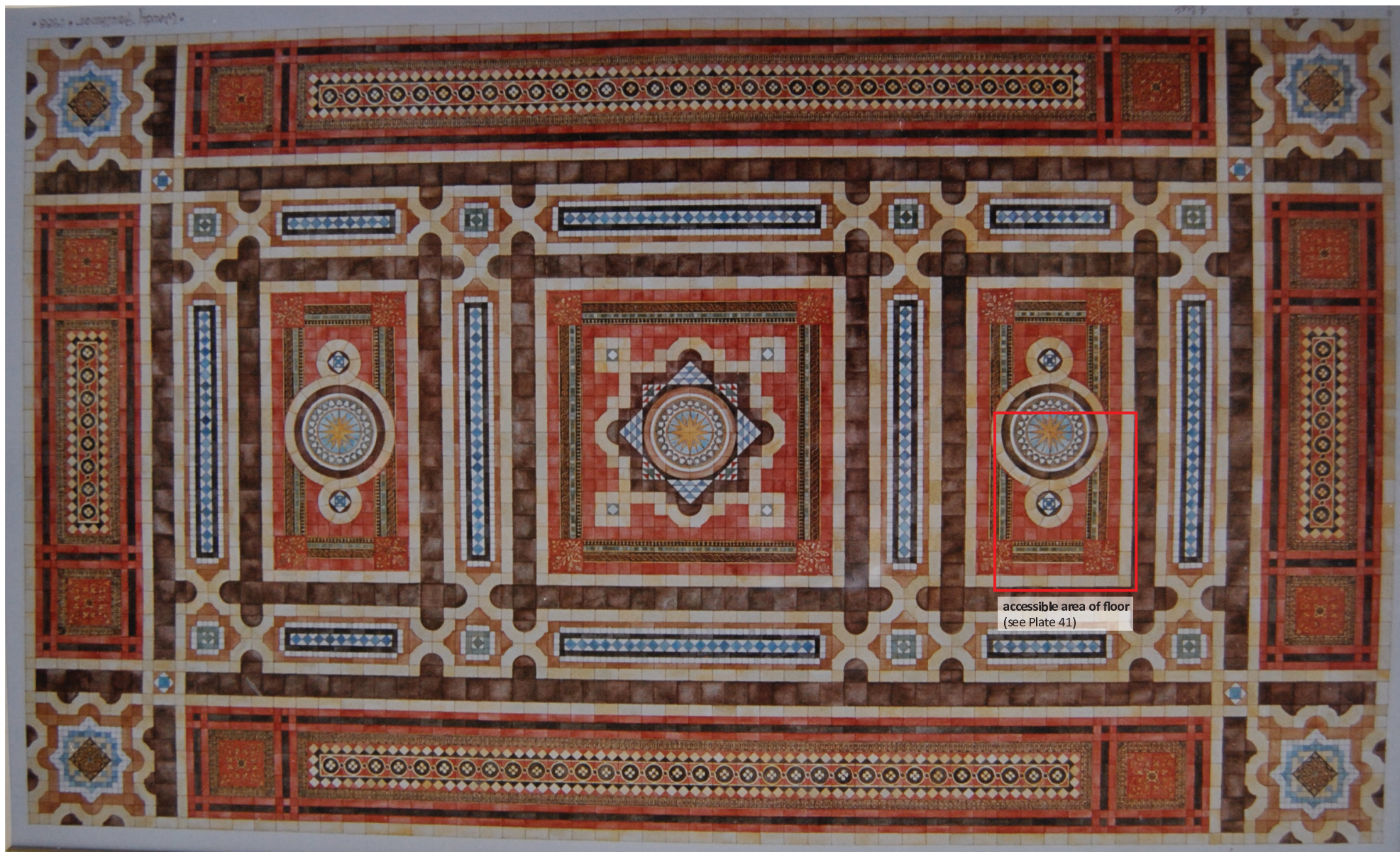


(Source: Attingham Archives)

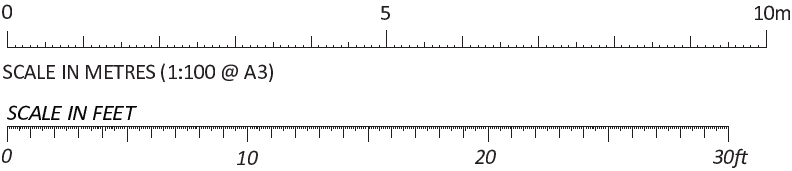
(b) South elevation proposals drawing, NB: demolition of music room and relocation of main door

J Brian Cooper (architect), Drg No. 553/6a, October 1960

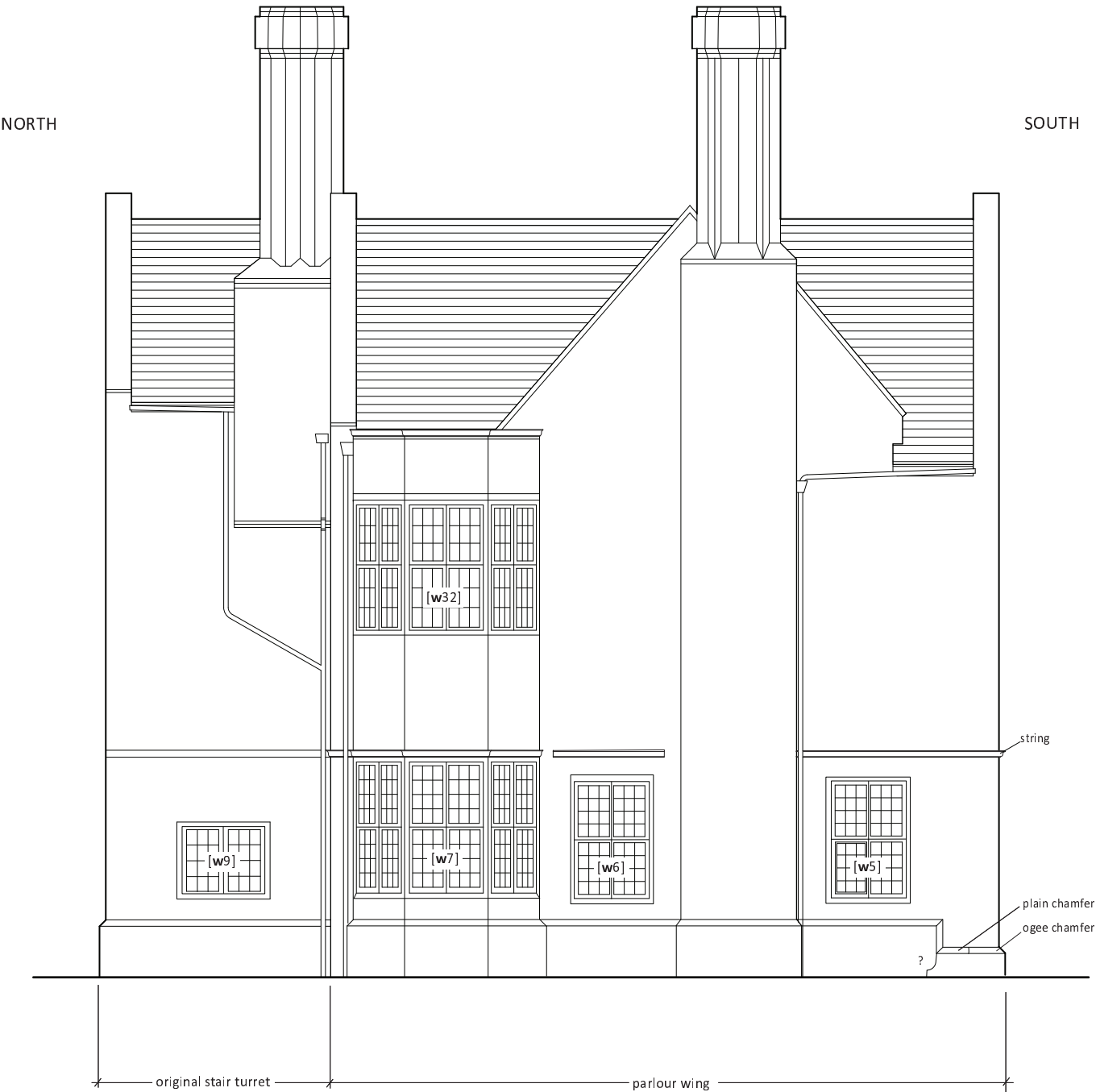




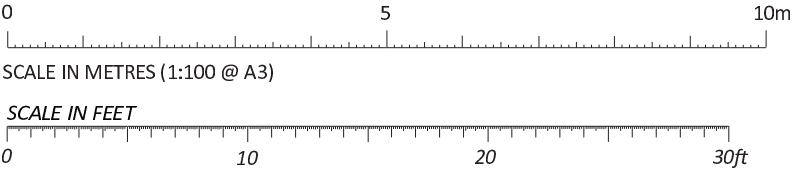
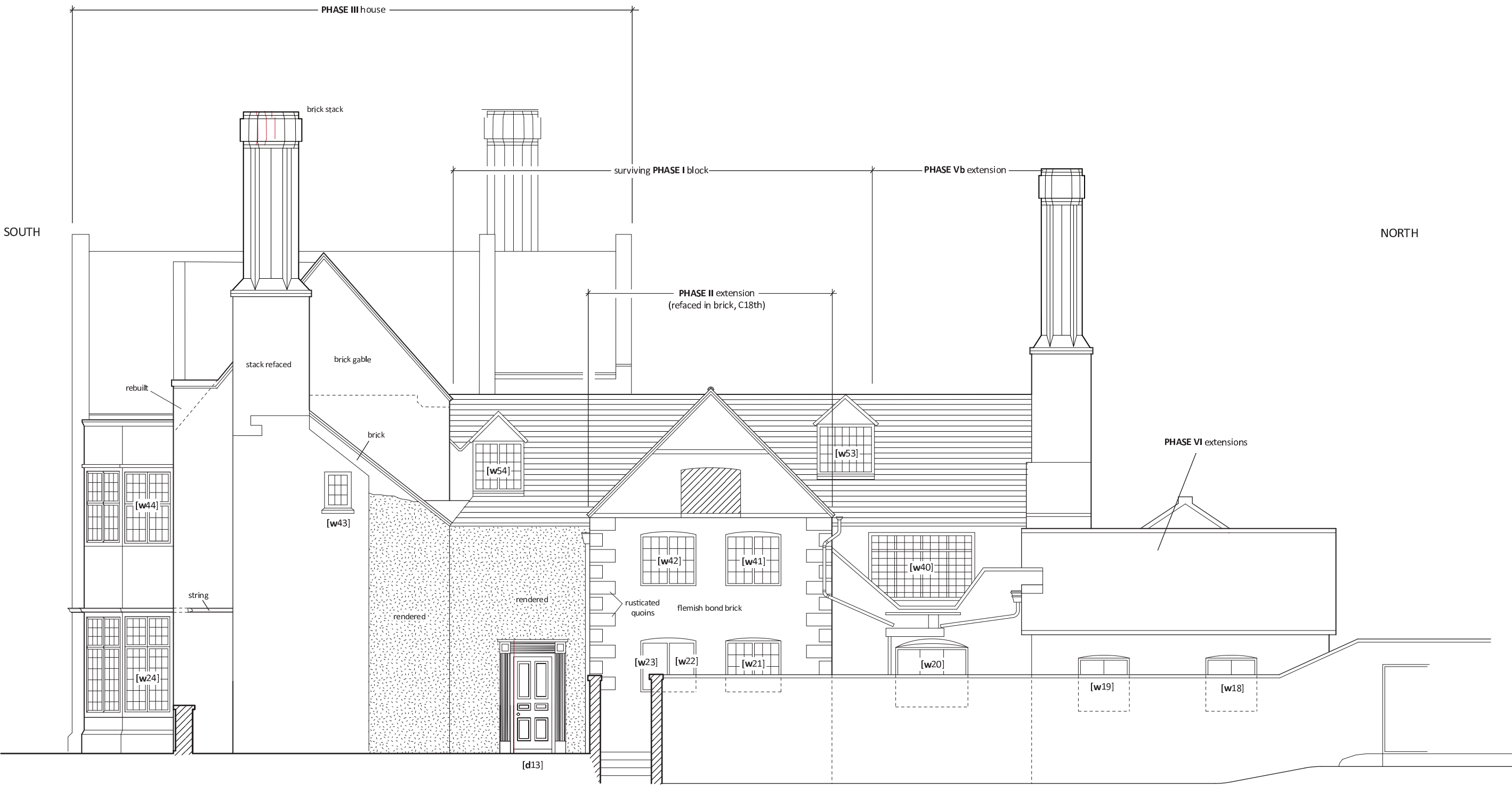
NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing



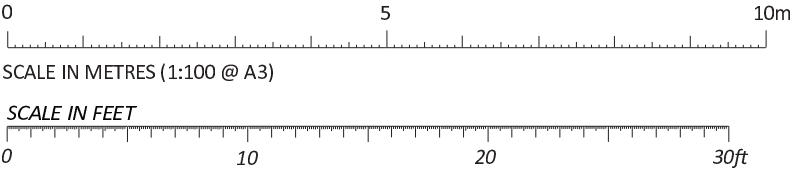
NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing

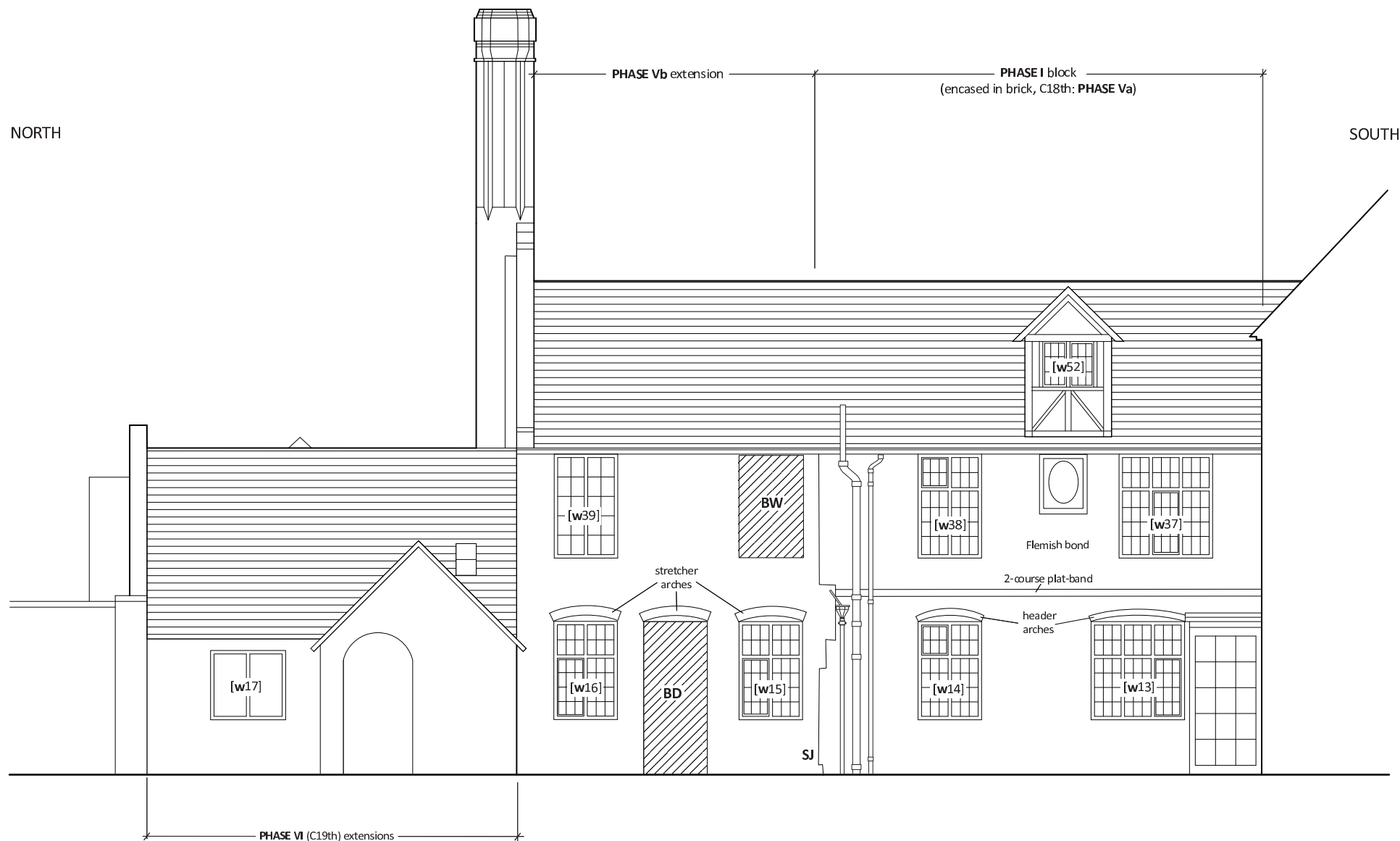


NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing



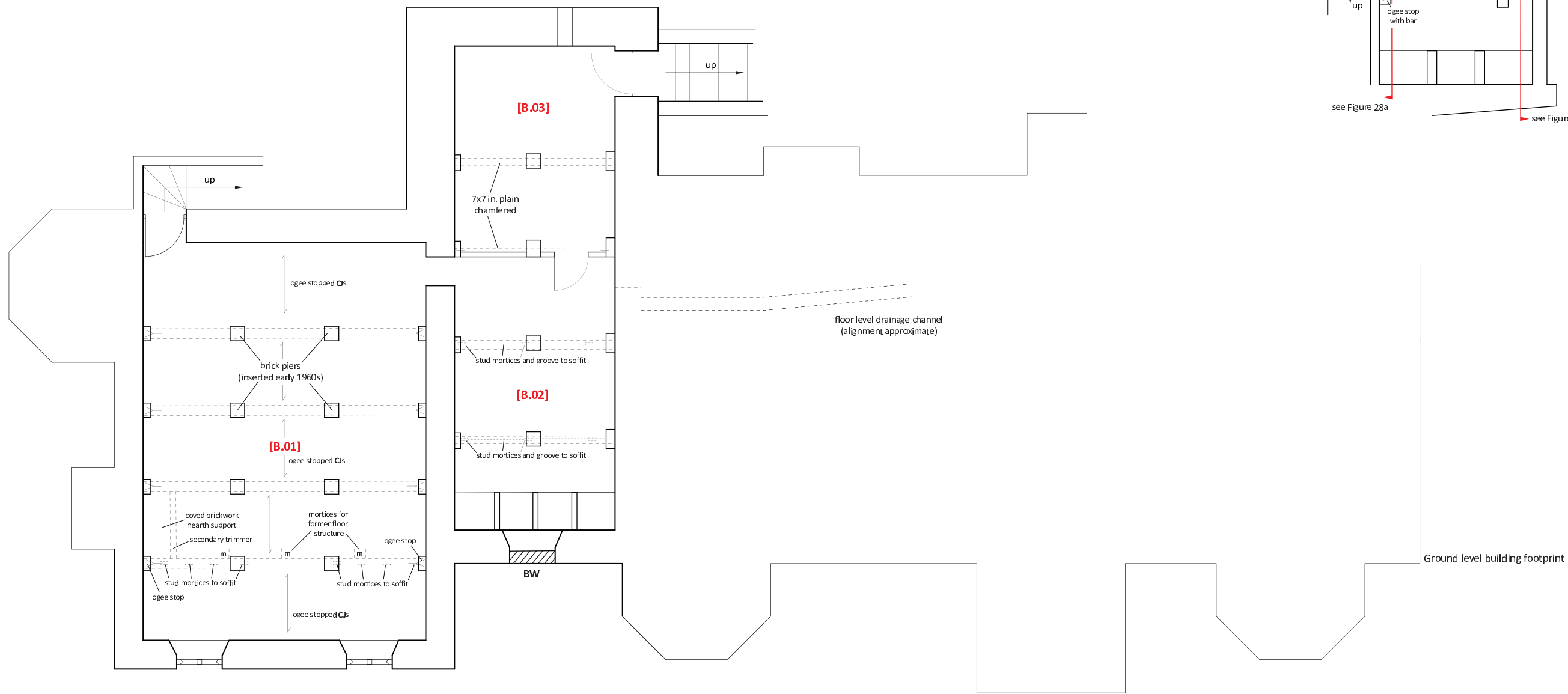
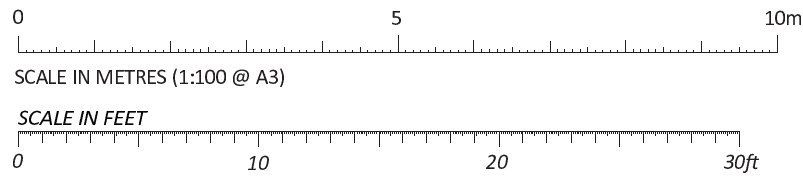
NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing





NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing

site N

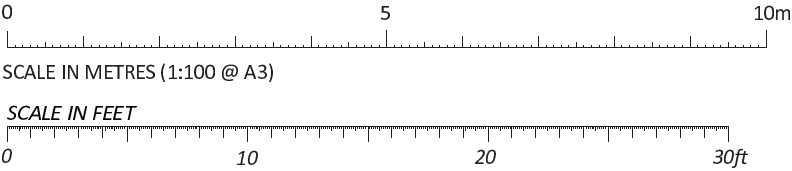
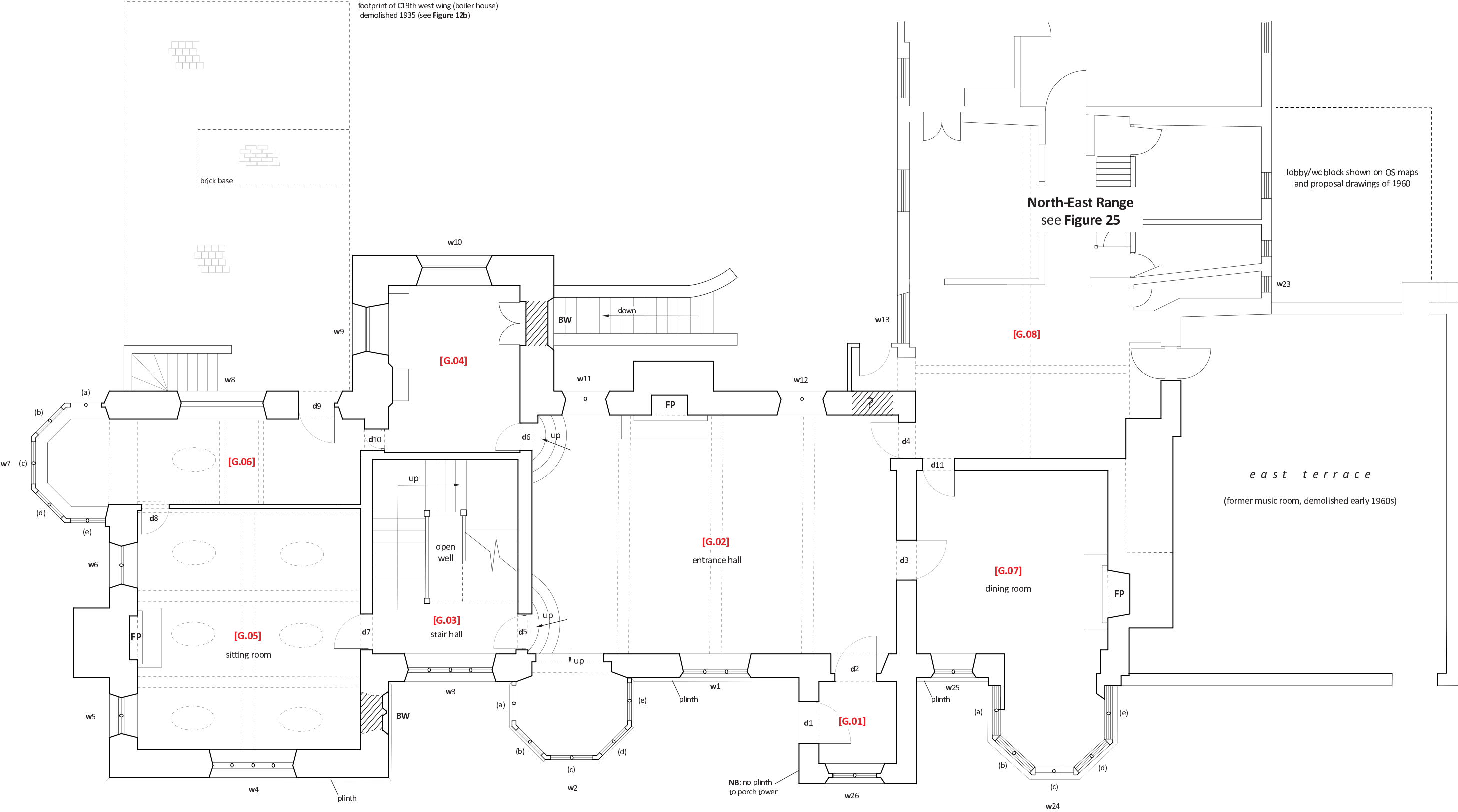


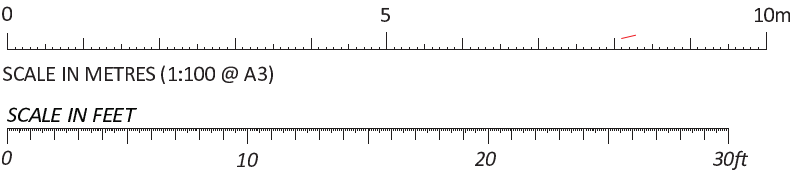
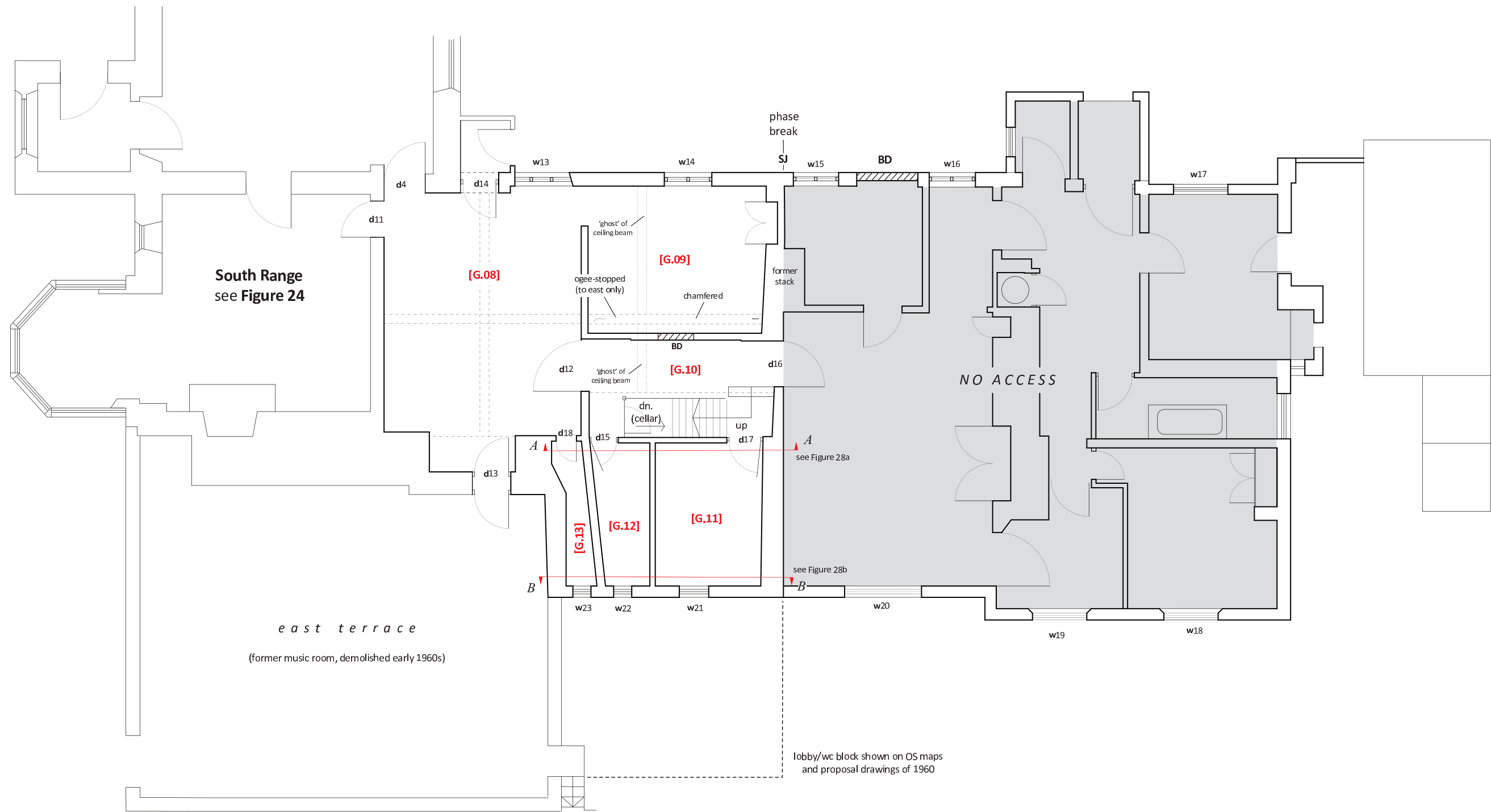
KEY

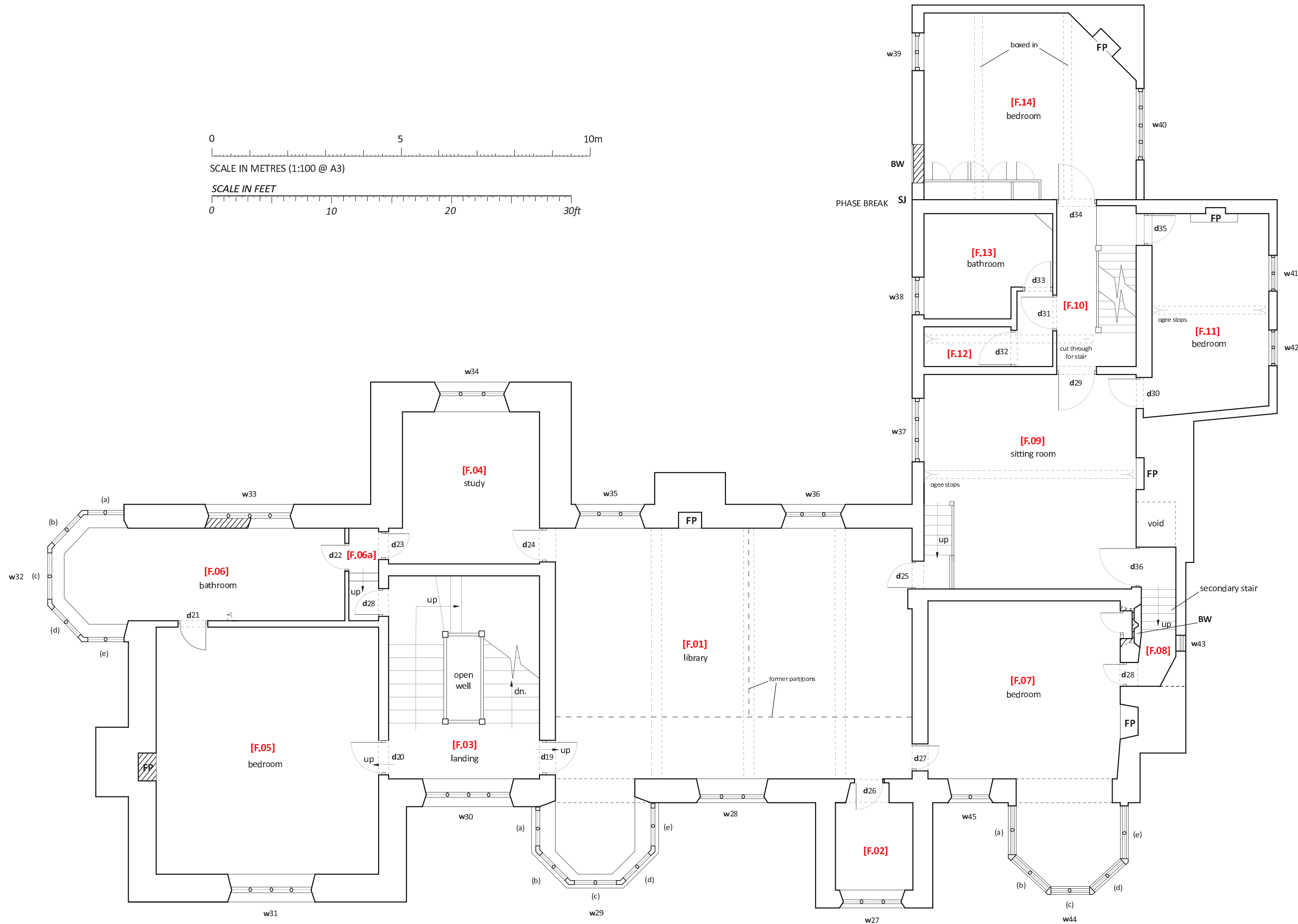
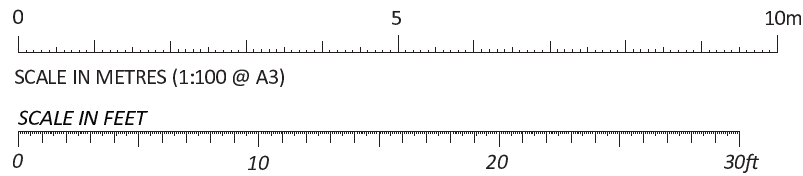
- BW blocked window
- SJ straight joint
- m redundant mortice

NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing

site N

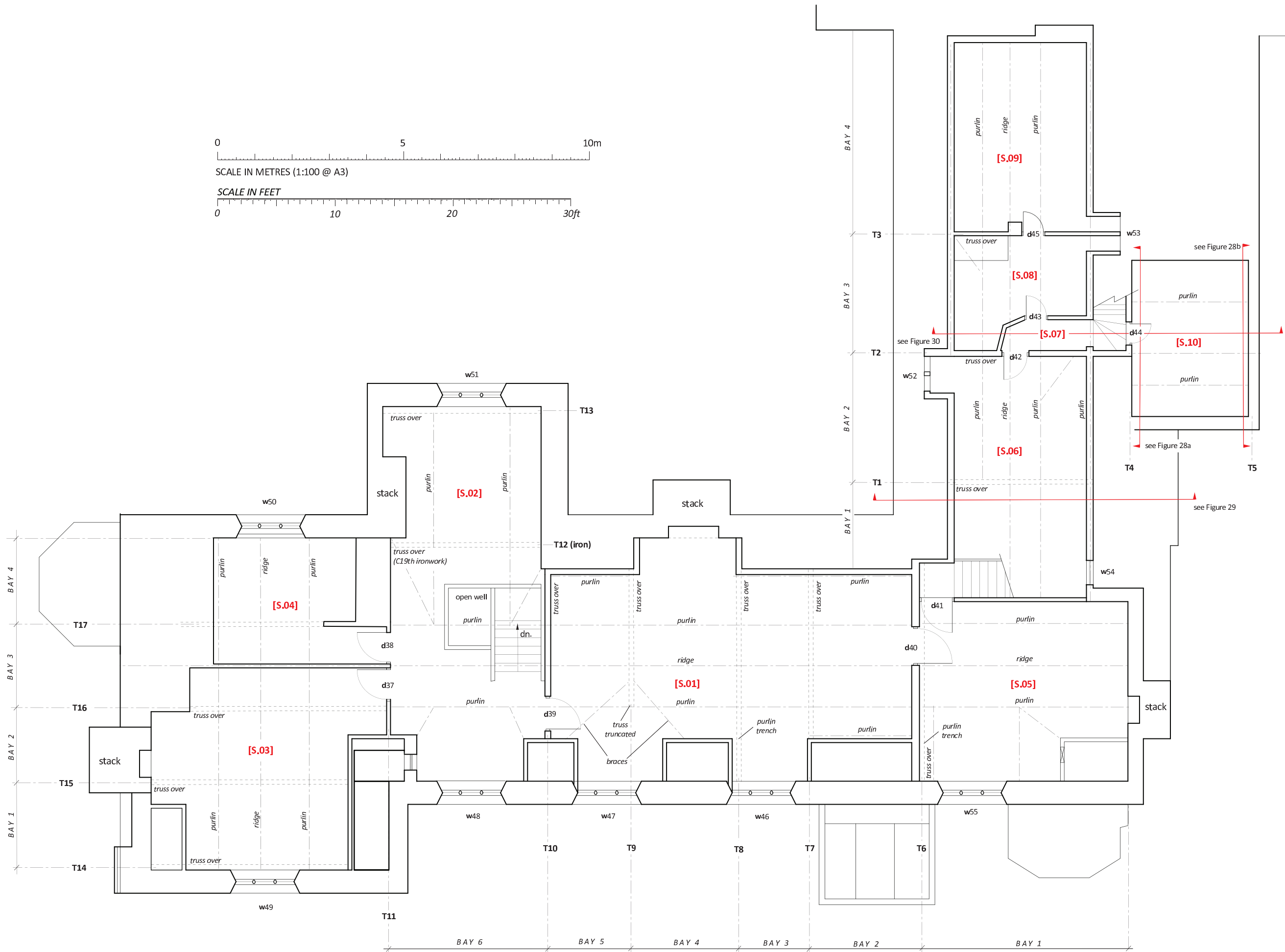
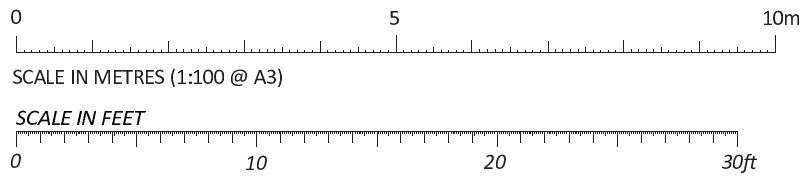


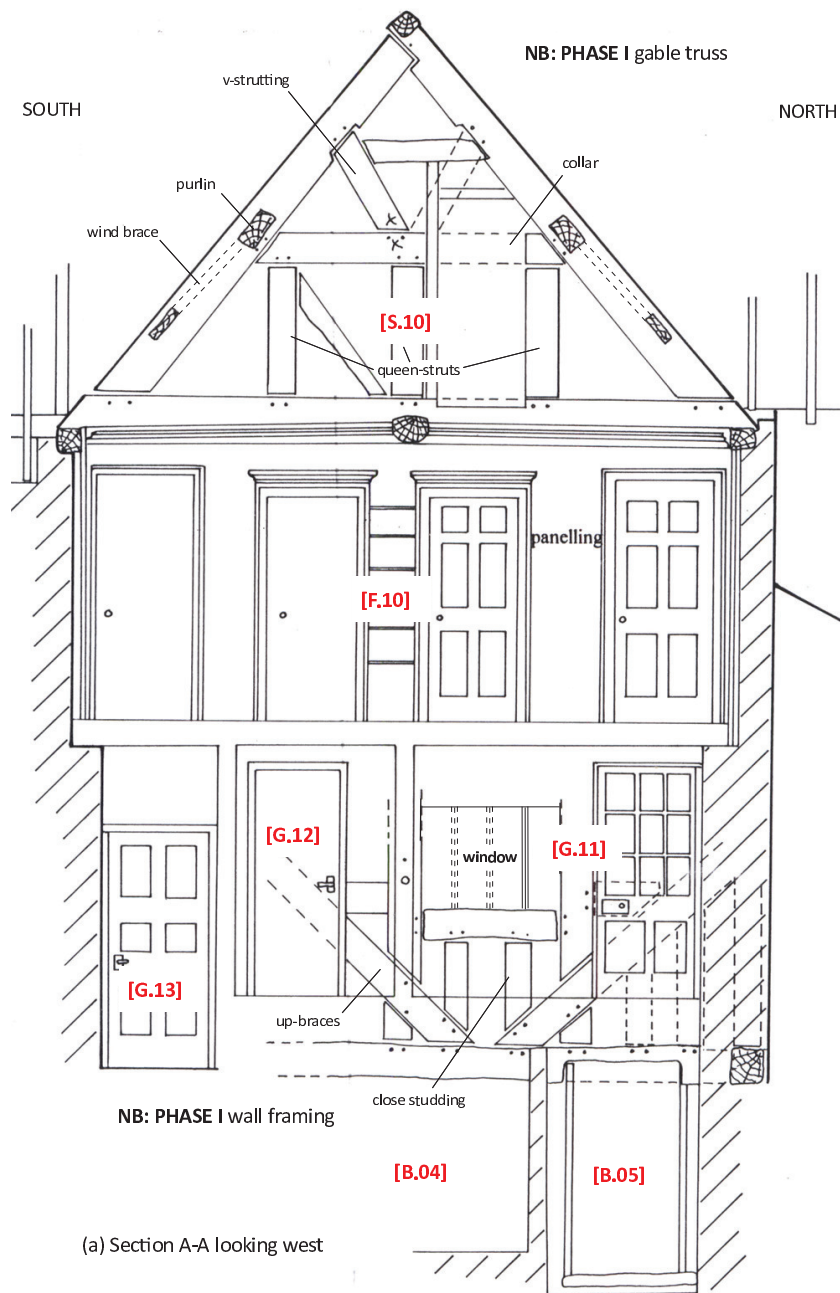




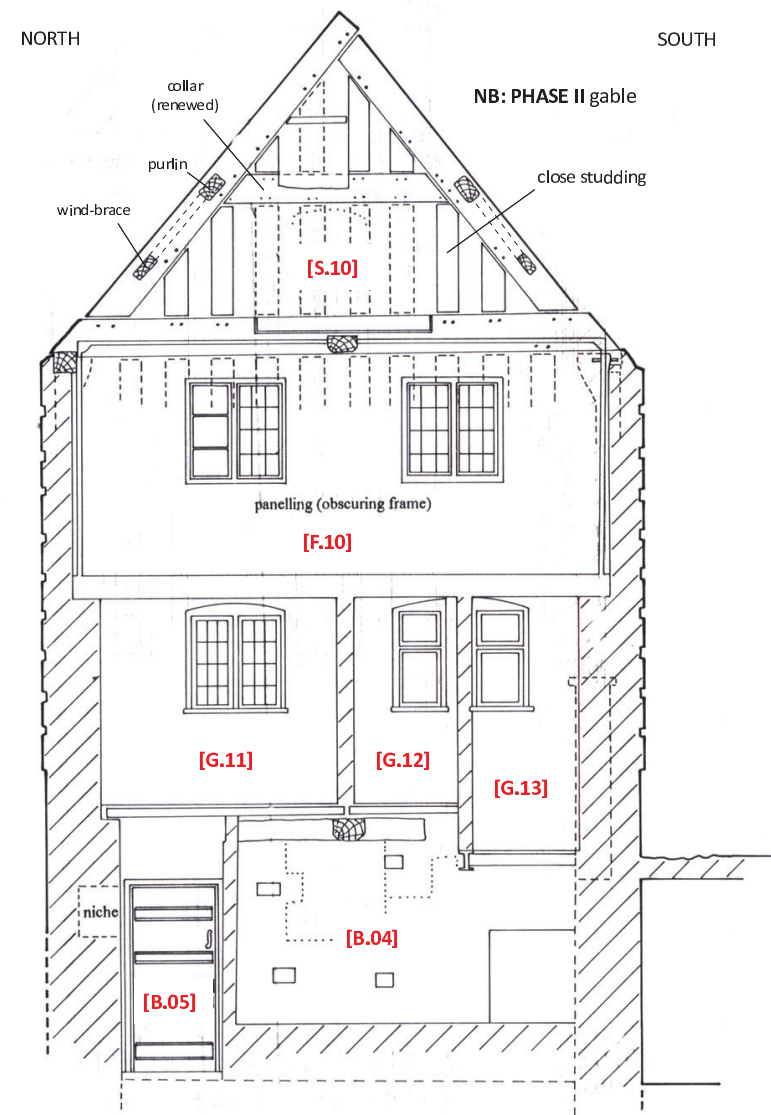
NB: For illustrative purposes; do not scale from this drawing

site N

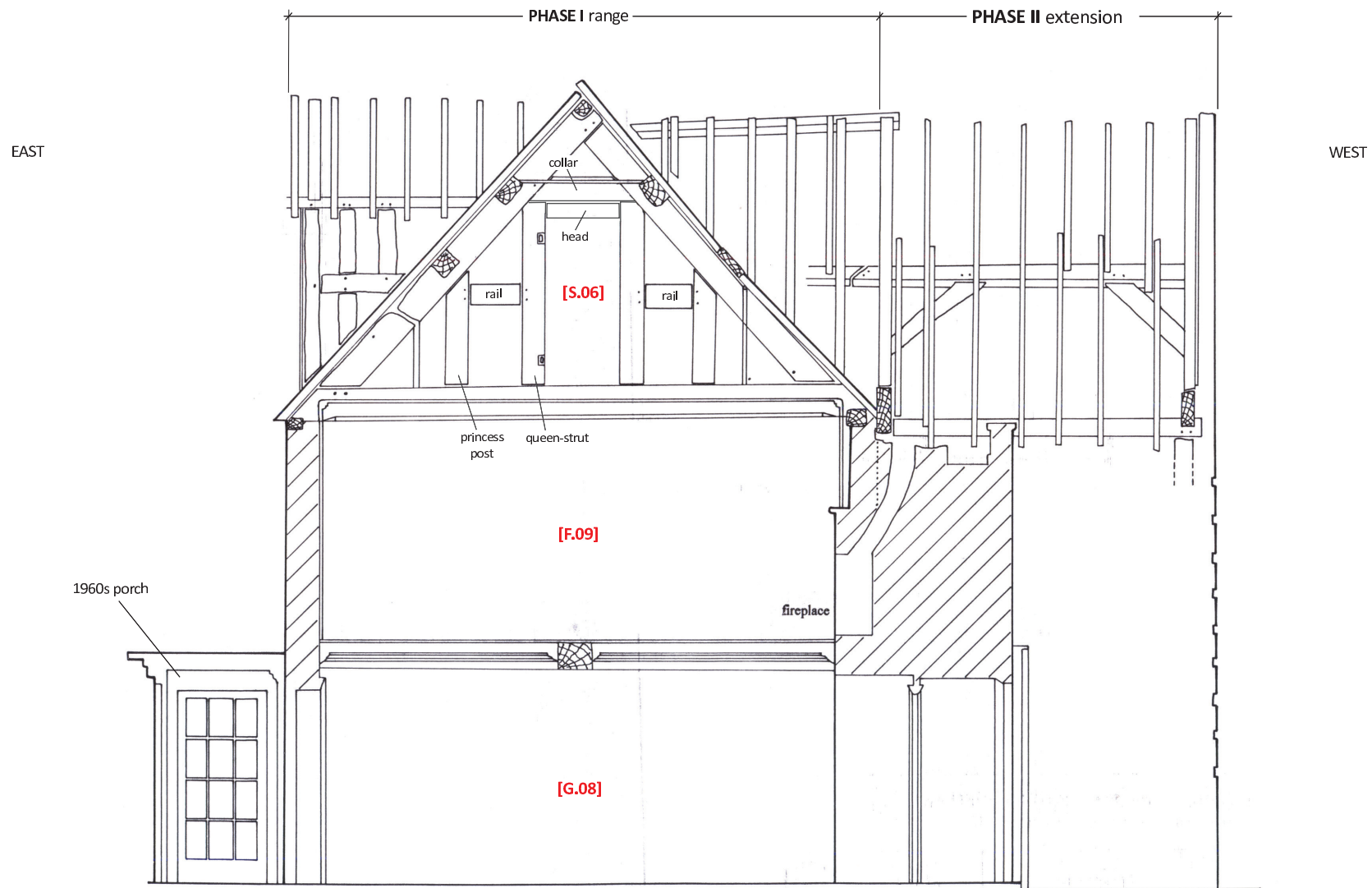


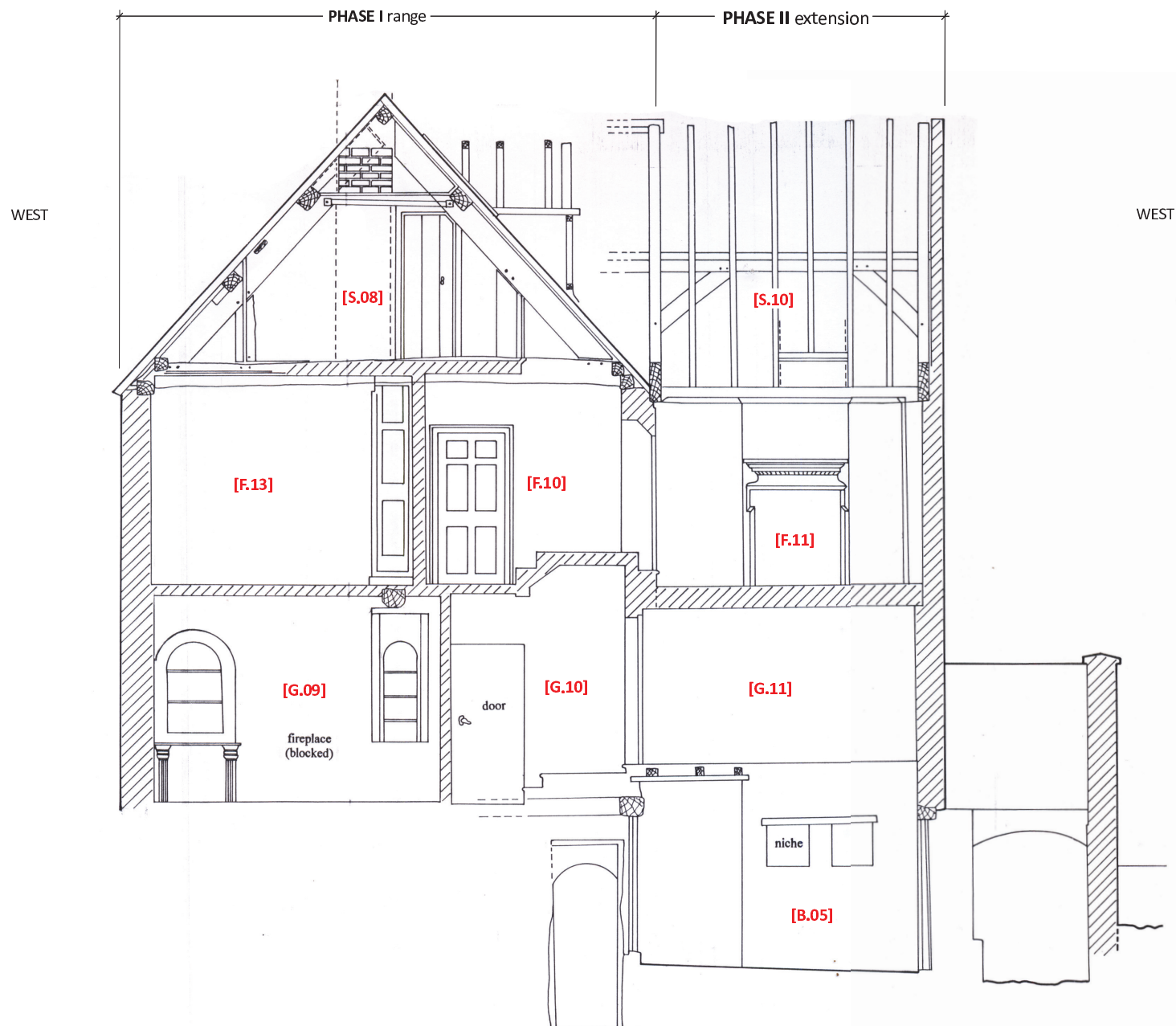


(a) Section A-A looking west

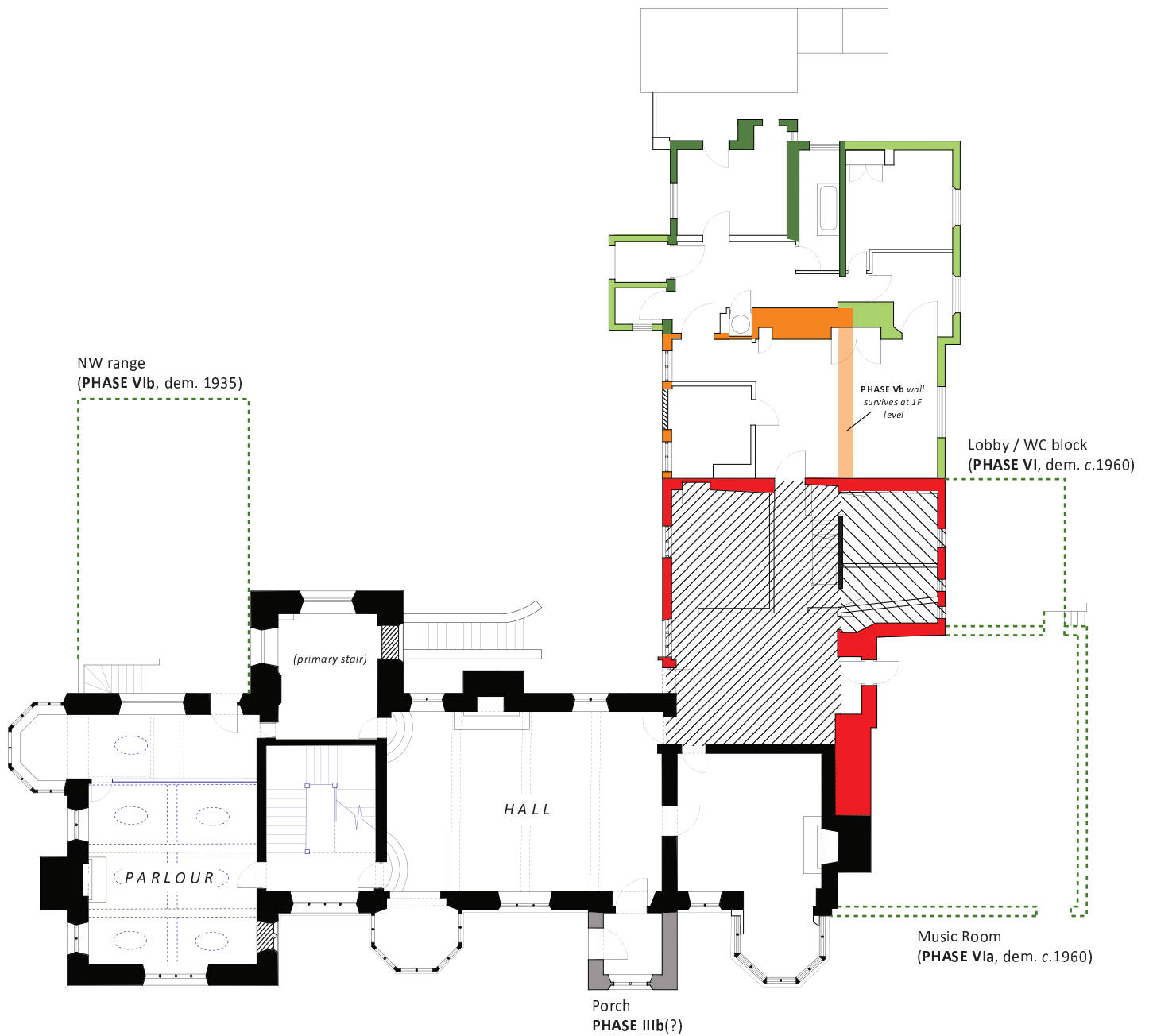


(b) Section B-B looking east





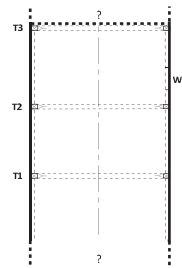
Benthall Hall, Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire
Figure 30: Transverse cross section through north-east range (2)
(Survey by Jeremy Milln, September 1998; Drg No. BE/S16,
original scale 1:50 here scaled to fit)



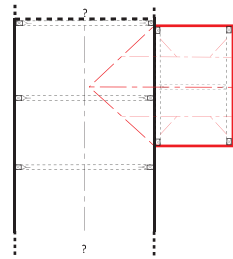
KEY TO PHASING

	PHASE I: early-16th century (footprint)		PHASE Va: 18th century
	PHASE II: mid-16th century (footprint)		PHASE Vb: 18th century
	PHASE III: late-16th century (c.1583)		PHASE VIa: 19th century (pre-1840)
	PHASE IV: early-17th century		PHASE Vlb: 19th century (post 1840)

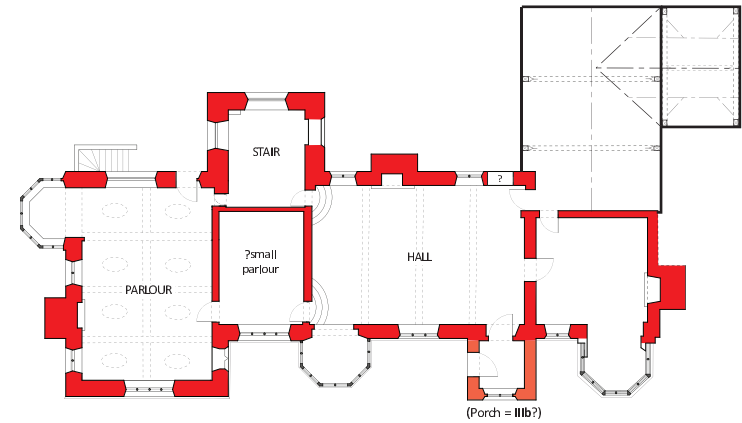
NB: Phases VII and VIII not illustrated (mainly demolitions)



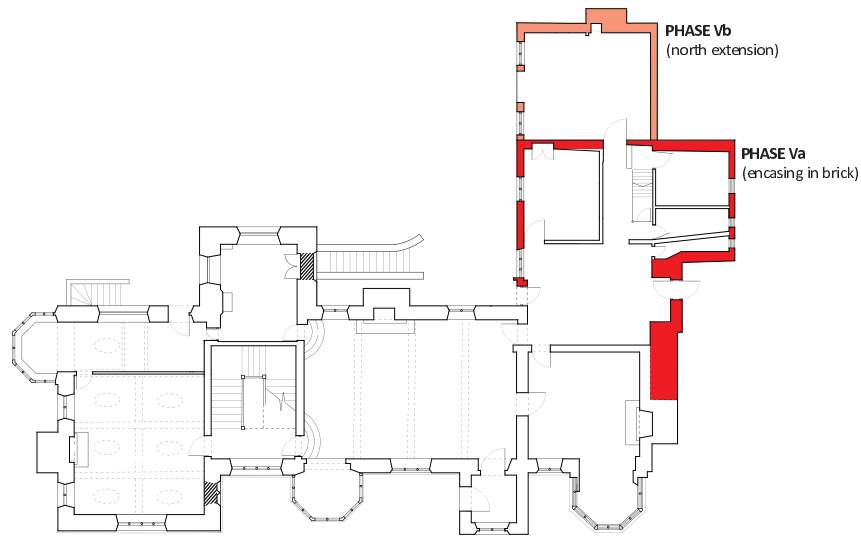
(a) **PHASE I:** early 16th century
(3 bays survive)



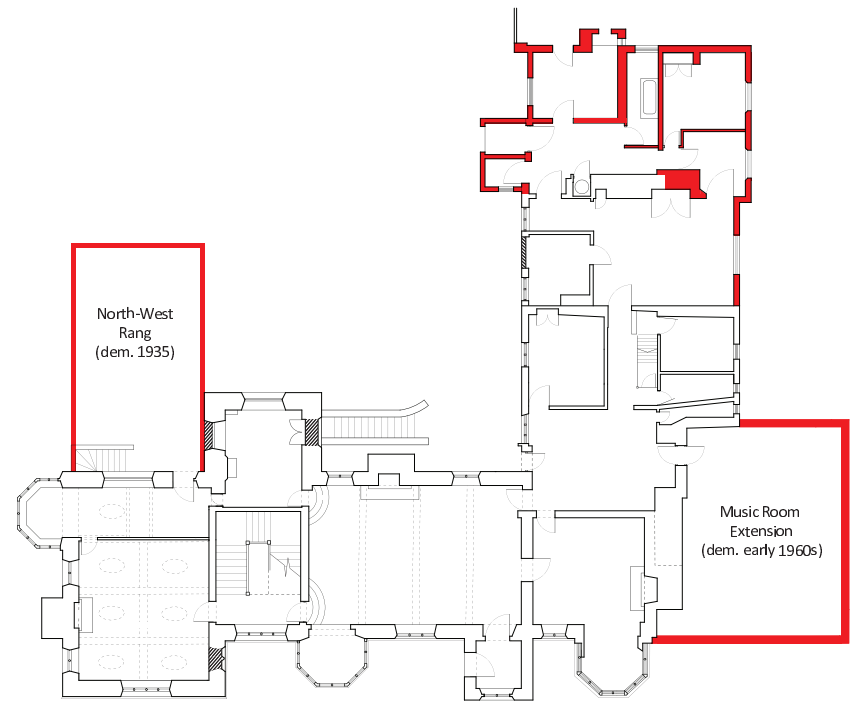
(b) **PHASE II:** early-mid 16th century
(3 bays survive)



(c) **PHASE III:** late-16th century c.1580



(d) **PHASE V:** 18th century



(e) **PHASE VI-VII:** early 19th century

NB: New work at each phase shown in red

(a) THE MAIN RANGE



Plate 1: South elevation oblique view looking north-west.



Plate 2: Central three attic gables.



Plate 3: South elevation, western parlour wing.



Plate 4: Blocked window in east return parlour wing.



Plate 5: Cantled, 2-storey bay to high end of hall.



Plate 6: Cantled 2-storey bay to east end of elevation.



Plate 7: Square porch tower (?secondary).



Plate 8: Main doorway in west wall of porch tower.



Plate 9: Detail of south wall between parlour wing and eastern canted bay showing paired straight joints (arrows) beneath window [w3] evidencing former doorway (See Figure 7a). Note also the three fixing points beneath central mullion possibly related to sundial shown in view of 1840 (Figure 7b).



Plate 10: Moulded stones including rosettes and central initialled plaque 'BLK', arranged in form of 'quincunx', **NB:** top left stone missing.

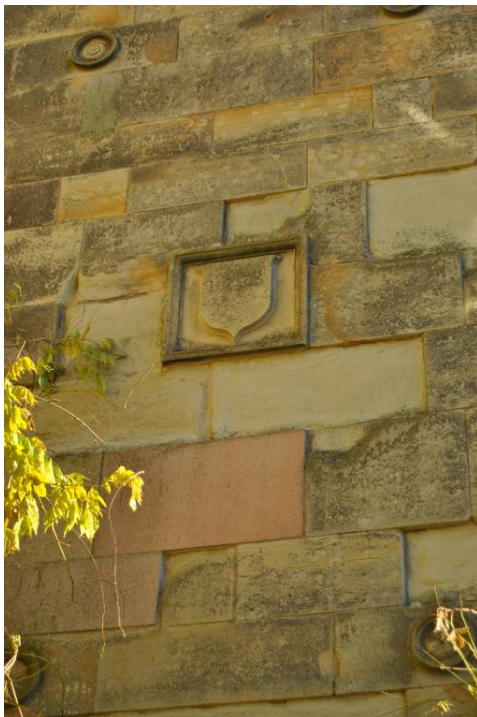


Plate 11: 'Quincunx' formation to western return of tower over main door (**NB:** central date plaque).



Plate 12: Detail of central date plaque; '1535'.



Plate 13: Moulded decorative frieze to top of stair tower; renewed in 1974 by S.T. Walker and Partners of Edgbaston.



Plate 14: Star-form brick stack (east gable end)



Plate 15: Rebuilt/raised eaves at SE angle; drip mould related to former Music Room extension.



Plate 16: West elevation from Rose Garden.



Plate 17: Canted, 2-storey bay to west elevation.



Plate 18: Dovecote and associated garden wall; introduced by Robert Bateman between OS editions of 1882 and 1902 (see Figure 6).



Plate 19: East elevation; note small window lighting secondary stair.



Plate 20: East elevation; **NB:** brick gable and upper part of north wall.



Plate 21: Quarry-tile and brick floor of former north-west range



Plate 22: North elevation, west end (parlour range).



Plate 23: North elevation, projecting former stair turret.



Plate 24: Former stair turret, blocked window to [G.04] and doorway to cellars.



Plate 25: North elevation, hall section.



Plate 26: Stair descending to basement [B.03].



Plate 27: Basement room [B.02] looking south.



Plate 28: Basement [B.02]; blocked window to south.



Plate 29: Basement [B.02]; drainage channel to base of east wall (extends under hall).



Plate 30: Cellar [B.01]; inserted brick piers (1960s) support re-used timber beams.



Plate 31: Deeply chamfered floor beam with ogee-stopped common joist (secondary).



Plate 32: Redundant post-mortices to soffit of deeply chamfered floor beam (?part of screen).



Plate 33: Cut off ogee-stop at end of principal floor beam.



Plate 34: Entrance Hall [G.02] looking north-west.



Plate 35: Entrance Hall [G.02] looking south-east.



Plate 36: Window [w1].



Plate 37: Canted bay [w2].



Plate 38: Standard primary turnbuckle catch.



Plate 39: Exterior quadrant stay.



Plate 40: Entrance Hall [G.02]; detail of Jacobean overmantle to fireplace in north wall with arms of Benthall and Cassy and upper 'jewel' frieze matching [G.07] and [F.01].

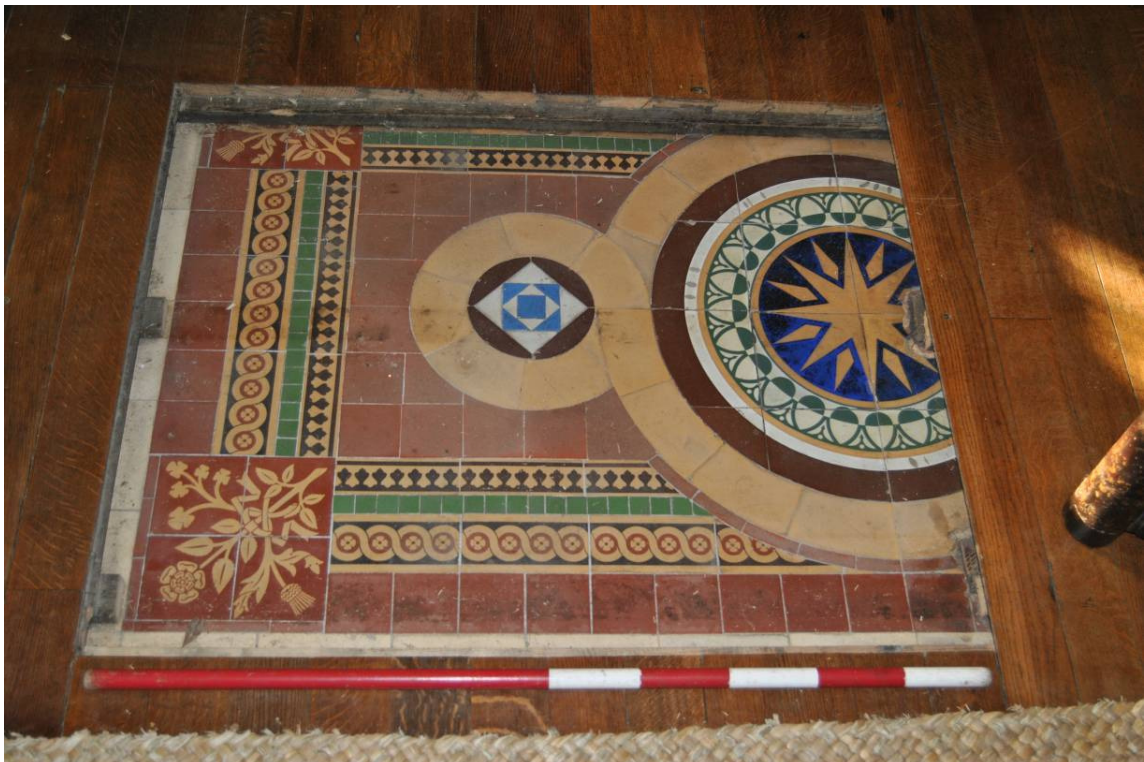


Plate 41: Section of George Maw's polychrome tiled floor of 1859 (covered over in 1918); see Figure 17.



Plate 42: [d5] to south end of west wall; NB: step up to stair hall [G.03] beyond.



Plate 43: Principal stair looking north-west.



Plate 44: Principal stair looking north-east.

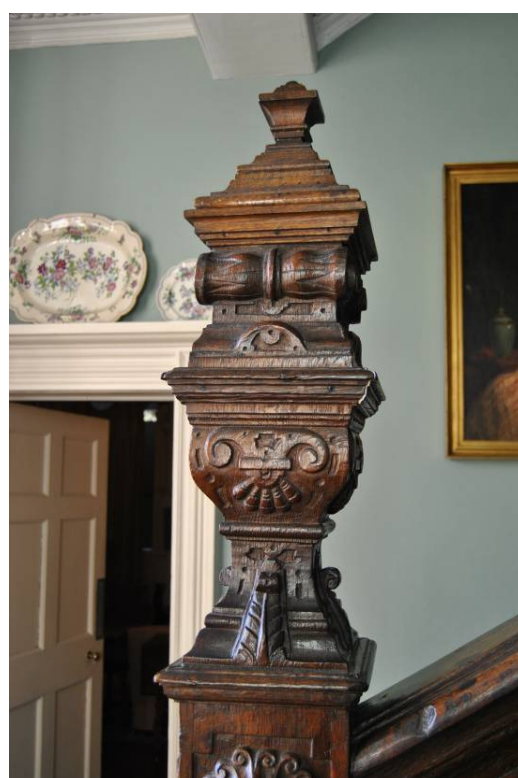


Plate 45: Principal stair; detail of newel finial (top, paler section is secondary, probably C19th).



Plate 46: Principal stair; detail of pendant.

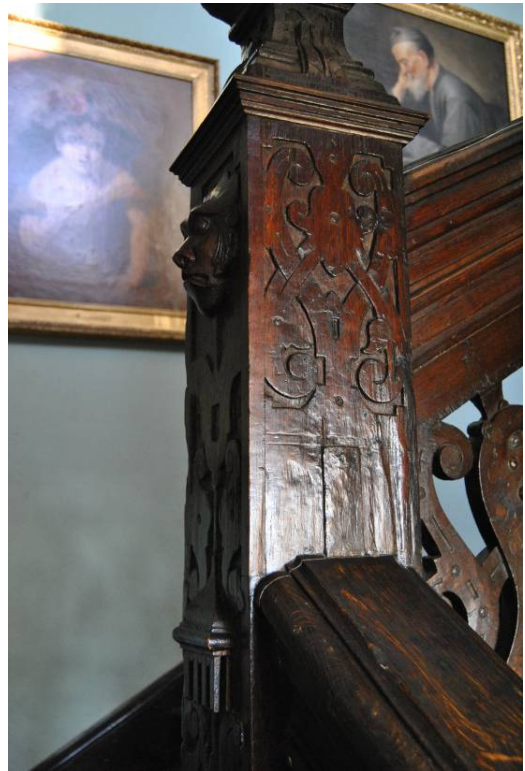


Plate 47: Evidence of alteration to lower part of principal stair.



Plate 48: Balustrade panel; Benthall leopard.

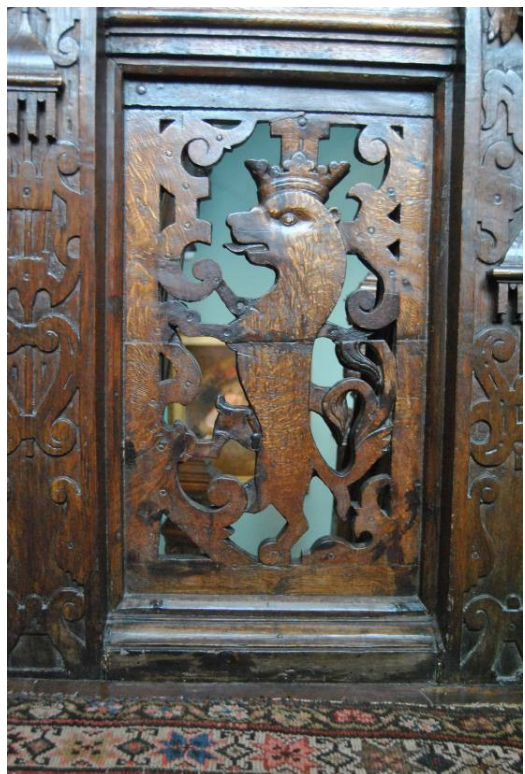


Plate 49: Balustrade panel; lion rampant.

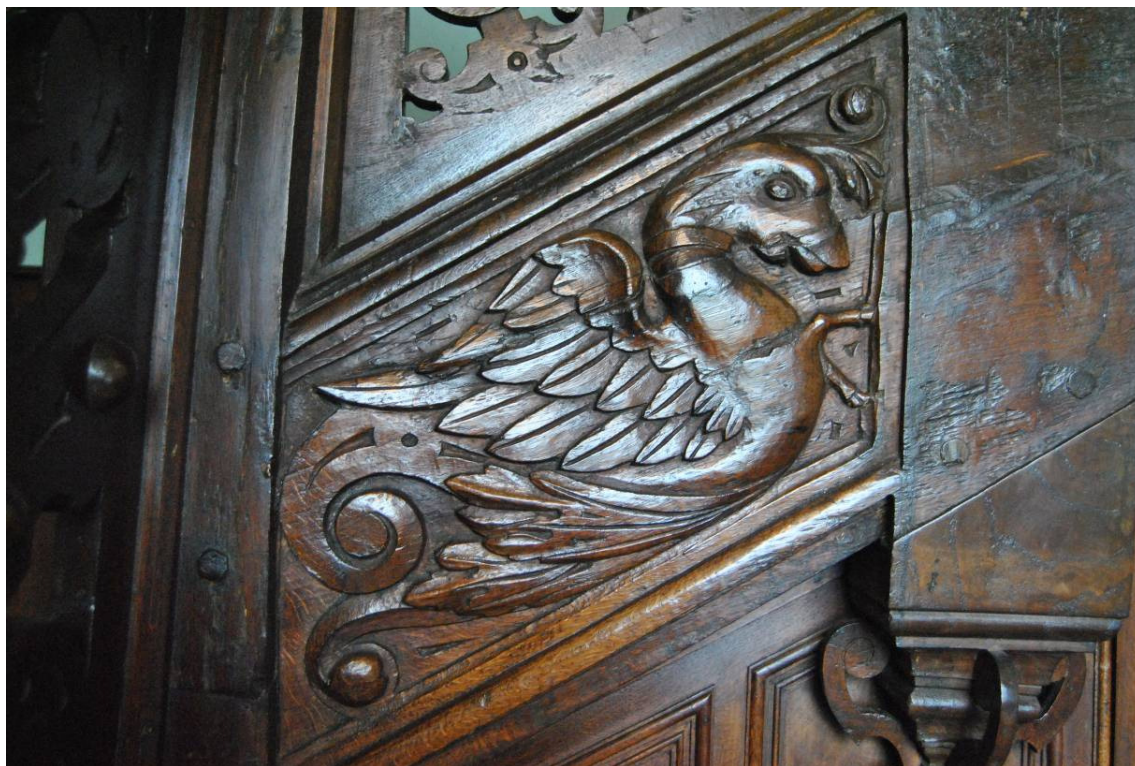


Plate 50: String panel; wyvern(?)



Plate 51: Plasterwork cornice moulding to [G.03].



Plate 52: Door [d7] serving sitting room [G.05].



Plate 53: Detail of foliated boss to doorcase.



Plate 54: [G.04] looking north-west.



Plate 55: [G.04]; panellled door [d6].



Plate 56: [G.04] wall cupboard to east wall (blocked window).



Plate 57: Sitting Room [G.05] looking south-west.



Plate 58: Sitting Room [G.05] looking south-east.



Plate 59: Detail of decorated ceiling panel incorporating strapwork and central boss.



Plate 60: Ill-fitting panelling at north-west corner

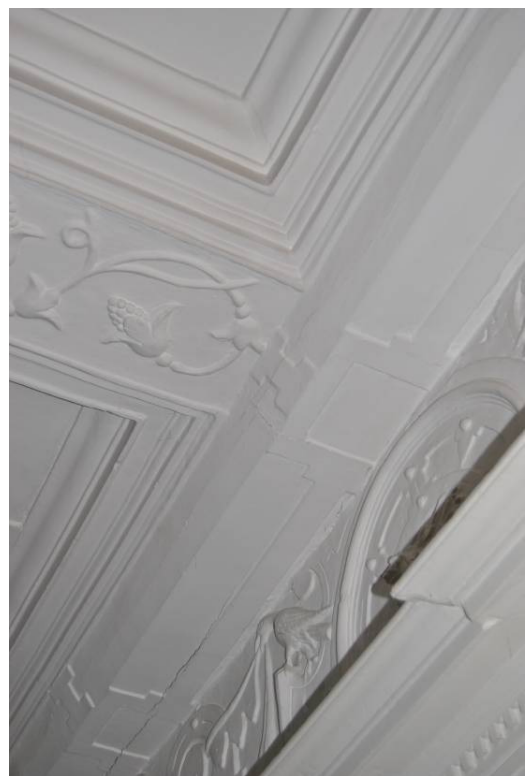


Plate 61: Ill fitting plasterwork frieze to north wall.



Plate 62: [G.05]; detail of angled butt-joints in floor.



Plate 63: [G.05]; former doorway in north wall. NB: scuff marks to floor and breaks in skirting.



Plate 64: [G.05]; detail of TF Pritchard fireplace, 1756.



Plate 65: [G.06] looking west.



Plate 66: [G.06]; strapwork ceiling panel matching [G.05]. NB. transverse beams (?rel. C19th inserted stair).



Plate 67: [G.07] looking south-east.



Plate 68: [G.07] looking north-west.



Plate 69: [G.07], door [d11].

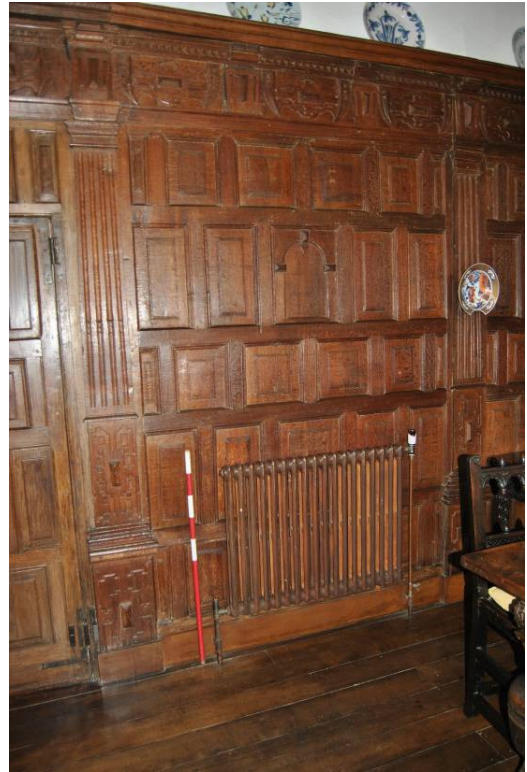


Plate 70: [G.07], detail of panelling. NB: 'jewel' frieze.



Plate 71: [G.07]; detail of TF Pritchard fireplace, 1857.



Plate 72: [G.07]; detail of overmantle. Upper panel of Benthall/Cassy (?) inserted c.1630.



Plate 73: Upper flights of main stair.



Plate 74: [F.01] looking east.



Plate 75: [F.01] looking west.

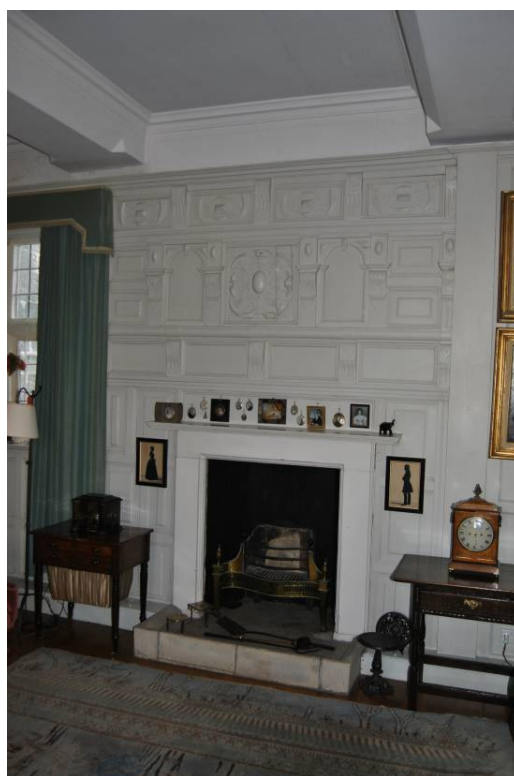


Plate 76: [F.01]; fireplace and overmantle. NB: break in panelling to right denoting former partition.



Plate 77: [F.01]; door [d26] to porch room.



Plate 78: Study [F.04] looking north.



Plate 79: Bedroom [F.05] looking south.



Plate 80: Bathroom [F.06] looking west.



Plate 81: [F.07] looking north-east.



Plate 82: [F.07] looking south-east to canted bay [w43].



Plate 83: [F.07]; fireplace and panelled overmantle.



Plate 84: [F.07]; door to secondary stair.



Plate 85: [F.07]; stair descending to [F.09]



Plate 86: Blocked window to west wall of stair.



Plate 87: Rebuilt head (after 1818 fire) of principal stair at [S.02].



Plate 88: Stack within [S.02], west wall.



Plate 89: Iron truss within [S.02].



Plate 90: Parlour wing [S.03] looking south, truss T15 to foreground.



Plate 91: Fire-damaged principals and iron strapping to roof-truss T16 in [S.03].



Plate 92: Attic room [S.01] looking west, trusses T7-T9.



Plate 93: Fire damage to truss T8 [S.01].



Plate 94: Truncated principal at T9 (S), [S.01].



Plate 95: Inserted braces at T9, [S.01]



Plate 96: Hob-grate within [S.01].



Plate 97: Room [S.05] looking west. NB: small plank and baton door to right leads to roof-space of north-east range.



Plate 98: Room [S.05] looking south-east.

(b) THE NORTH-EAST RANGE



Plate 99: North-east range, west elevation (S). NB. porch to far right.



Plate 100: North-east range, west elevation (N); 19th-century additions.



Plate 101: North-east range, east elevation, oblique looking south-west. **NB:** truncated stack to north elevation of projecting gable. Single-storey, Broseley-brick ranges date to later C19th (Phase VIb).



Plate 102: Basement level of former 'music room' extension, demolished early 1960s.



Plate 103: Phase II projection, encased in C18th - brickwork.



Plate 104: Detail of rusticated quoins and blocked opening to 1F level.



Plate 105: Stair descending to [B.04/5].



Plate 106: Relic PHASE I framing exposed in east wall of stair (cill beam and down bracing)



Plate 107: PHASE I framing exposed within [B.04] (west wall); cill beam, down braces and base of close-studwork.



Plate 108: Fragmentary remains of PHASE I cross frame, [B.05].



Plate 109: Vaulted basement room [B.06] looking west.



Plate 110: Blocked doorway and window openings in east wall of basement room [B.06].



Plate 111: [G.08] looking north-east (G Maw tiled floor).



Plate 112: [G.08] looking north-west. NB: north edge of tiled floor respects line of former partition (Figure 14).



Plate 113: [G.09] looking north-west.



Plate 114: [G.10] looking north.

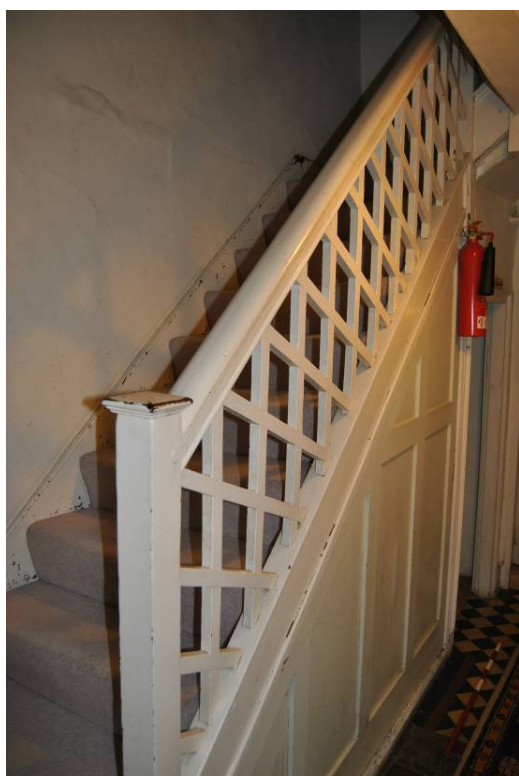


Plate 115: [G.10]; inserted stair (GF→1F).



Plate 116: Inserted stair (GF→1F) looking north.



Plate 117: Landing [F.10]; inserted stair (1F→2F).



Plate 118: [F.10] primary beam truncated for insertion of stair.



Plate 119: Room [F.09] looking south-east.



Plate 120: Detail of ogee-stopped ceiling beam to [F.09].



Plate 121: [F.11] looking south.



Plate 122: [F.11]; fireplace in north wall.



Plate 123: [F.11]; ogee-stopped ceiling beam.



Plate 124: [F.14] looking north-east.



Plate 125: [F.14]; fireplace to NE corner.



Plate 126: Doorway off stair to roof space [S.10].



Plate 127: Cut-off joist tenons in PHASE I transverse beam at head of inserted stair.



Plate 128: [S.06]; truss T1 looking south.



Plate 129: [S.06]; truss T1, queen-strut and princess-post with mid-rail.



Plate 130: [S.06]; wind-bracing at Bay 2 (NE).



Plate 131: [S.06]; framing of western dormer.



Plate 132: [S.10]; east gable with close studwork and renewed collar.



Plate 133: [S.10]; western truss T4 with v-strutting and wattle and daub infill panels



Plate 134: [S.10] (SW); butt-purlin and wind-brace.

APPENDIX A: Project Brief**Benthall Hall,
Shropshire**

Project Brief for Historic Building Assessment

1. INTRODUCTION**1.1. Background**

- 1.1.1. This document has been prepared by Janine Young of the National Trust. It forms a brief for an Historic Building Assessment of Benthall Hall in Shropshire.
- 1.1.2. This brief should be used to inform costs and timescales for contractors information, it should not be used in the place of a specification for works.

2. SITE BACKGROUND**2.1. Site location**

- 2.1.1. Benthall Hall is located 1 mile north-west of Broseley, 4 miles northeast of Much Wenlock, 1 mile south-west of Ironbridge and sits less than a mile to the south west of the Severn Gorge.

2.2. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1. The Hall is a good example of domestic architecture of the late 16th century. Family tradition suggests it was built around 1535 and was substantially improved in 1580-85. However it is thought that the general style of the architecture suggests a date of 1580.
- 2.2.2. Various changes have been made to the house over time, but these have mostly been removed and the exterior is now as it probably appeared in the 16th century.
- 2.2.3. Some limited research in the history of the building has been undertaken primarily for the production of the guidebook and various drawing and elevations have been carried out for the building by the National Trust Regional Archaeologist.

2.3. Proposals

- 2.3.1. This piece of work is being considered to supplement the existing information regarding the building and possibly to improve the information and interpretation concerning the building and the way it is presented to the public.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**3.1. Aims**

- Research the origin, history, construction and development of Benthall Hall and to fully assess the character, date and phasing of the building.
- Define any particular significances of the building either as a discrete individual structure or in its wider context.

- Bring together the findings of present and previous archaeological and historical work into an accessible narrative and analytical report explaining the buildings history and uses.
- To provide a sound, evidenced and accessible basis for future interpretation, presentation and understanding, eg for a guidebook or for future repairs or conservation measures that might be needed to safeguard the historic fabric

4. SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. Historic Building Assessment

- 4.1.1. An analysis of the building should be carried out to the equivalent of an English Heritage Level 4 survey.
- 4.1.2. The process should include detailed documentary research and analysis of the character, date and significance of the building.
- 4.1.3. A range of archaeological drawings already exist for the building (see attached list), additional elevation or detail drawings may be considered necessary these should be agreed in advance with the NT archaeologist.
- 4.1.4. The survey drawings should be used to record structures; to include general elevations annotated to note the presence of blockings, openings, whitewash, wall ties and other diagnostic features, noting brick and stone bond/s and sizes.
- 4.1.5. The survey drawings should be used to produce phased plans of the building.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1.1. As part of the National Trust's key strategy we are keen to promote and explain the work of the trust and as such the contractor should be prepared to explain to members of the public the work they are undertaking and reasons behind the work if necessary.

6. POST EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

6.1. Report

- 6.1.1. A formal report on the results of the historic building recording and assessment will be prepared within four weeks of completion of the fieldwork.
- 6.1.2. A draft copy of the report will be submitted to the National Trust West Midlands Archaeologist (Janine Young) for comment prior to issue.
- 6.1.3. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Historic Building Appraisal and recording (IFA 2001B) and will include:
 - A non-technical summary (abstract)
 - Introductory statements and site background
 - The aims and methods adopted.
 - Structural description.
 - Documentary research
 - Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.

- A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance and recommendations.
- An index of the contents and location of the archive.

7. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- 7.1.1. Three bound copies of the completed illustrated report should be sent to the National Trust, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, SY4 4TP.
- 7.1.2. A full digital pdf copy should be emailed and provided on cd to the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young)
- 7.1.3. A copy of any relevant spatial data, including trench locations, feature distribution and phase plans here appropriate and registered to the National Grid, should also be sent to the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young) in ESRI Shapefile format.
- 7.1.4. If considered necessary, and with the agreement of the National Trust the archaeological contractor could publish the findings of the watching brief at an appropriate level in the journal *West Midlands Archaeology*.

8. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 8.1.1. The United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) should be followed. With consent of the National Trust, arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate local museum.

9. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1.1. The archaeological contractor will produce a detailed WSI (written scheme of investigation) which should be submitted and approved by the National Trust Archaeologist at least one week prior to commencement of any works.
- 9.1.2. The contractor will be fully responsible for developing and operating a safe system of working. A full site specific Risk Assessment must be in place and approved by the National Trust prior to commencement of any work.
- 9.1.3. The contractor will observe National Trust bye-laws at all times when on site. A full copy of this document will be sent to the appointed Contractor, and should be signed and returned by them prior to the commencement of work on site.
- 9.1.4. The contractor will liaise fully with the Property Staff regarding access and agreed times of work on time.
- 9.1.5. The contractor will note that the National Trust will retain copyright over all products from this investigation, while fully acknowledging the originators rights of recognition.
- 9.1.6. The project will be monitored by the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young) who may be contacted for guidance during the course of site works. Any problems or unexpected discoveries should be reported immediately

10. INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1.1. The contractor will carry public liability insurance to the value of not less than £2 million. Proof of this is required prior to the commencement of any works on site.

10.1.2. The contractor will note that the National Trust will retain copyright over all products from this investigation, while fully acknowledging the originators rights of recognition.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andrews, G. (&EH), 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*. EnglishHeritage.

English Heritage 2002. *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*. English Heritage.

Institute For Archaeologists 2001A. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Institute For Archaeologists 2002. *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001. *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures, revised edn*, IFA

Leigh D, Watkinson D (Ed.) And Neal V (Ed.) 1993. *First Aid for Finds*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section

Museums And Galleries Commission 1992. *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*. Museums and Galleries Commission.

Society Of Museum Archaeologists 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* Society of Museum Archaeologists.

Walker K 1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of of excavation archives for long term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

United Kingdom Institute For Conservation 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artifacts from Archaeological Sites*. Conservation Guidelines No. 2.

APPENDIX B: Register of Project Photographs

NB: All photographs taken with Nikon D3000 digital SLR camera, 10 mega-pixels. Photo locations are illustrated on the plans below while files are included in .jpg format on the CD appended at the back of this report. Photos marked with an asterisk (*) are reproduced as plates within the current document.

Photo No.	Plate No.	Subject	Orientation	Date	Photographer
DSC_0001		South front	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0002		South front	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0003*	1	South front	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0004*	3	South front, western parlour wing	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0005		South front, east end	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0006*	2	South front, central gables	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0007		South front, western parlour wing	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0008*	4	Parlour wing; blocked window to east return	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0009*	6	South front, canted bay to hall	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0010*	5	South front, canted bay to hall	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0011*	7	South front, porch tower	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0012		South front, porch tower	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0013		South front, porch tower	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0014*	10	Porch tower, south wall 'quincunx' tablets	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0015		Porch tower L-K-B tablet	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0016		Porch tower quincunx tablets – detail of rosette	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0017		Porch tower quincunx tablets – detail of rosette	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0018*	13	Porch tower, south wall frieze	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0019*	8	Porch tower, west wall doorway	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0020		Porch tower, west wall quincunx tablets	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0021*	11	Dated stone; '1535'	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0022		South front, canted bay to east parlour	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0023		South front, canted bay to east parlour	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0024*	14	Detail of brick chimney	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0025*	15	Main range; east gable end	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0026		Main range; east gable end	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0027*	103	Phase II projection encased in brick	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0028		Door [d13] detail	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0029*	20	Main range; east gable end	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0030		Main range; east gable end	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0031		South elevation of Phase II projection	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0032*	104	Detail of rusticated brick quoins	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0033*	19	Main range; east gable end	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0034		Main range; west gable end	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0035*	17	Western canted bay	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0036*	16	Main range; west gable end	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0037*	18	Early C20 th boundary wall and dovecote	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0038		North elevation, parlour wing	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0039*	22	North elevation, parlour wing	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0040*	21	Floor of former north-west range	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0041		Roof scar of former north-west range	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0042*	23	Projecting stair tower	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0043		North elevation	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0044		Projecting stair tower	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0045*	24	Projecting stair tower, east elevation incl. blocked window	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0046		Detail of blocked window and entrance to basement	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0047*	25	North elevation, hall section	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0048		North elevation, hall section and north-east range	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0049*	99	North-east range; west elevation	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0050*	100	North-east range, north end	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0051		North-east range, south end	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0052		North-east range, 1F plaque, west elevation	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0053		North-east range, [w13]	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler

DSC_0054		North-east range, Phase Vb extension	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0055		Blocked door in Phase Vb extension	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0056		North-east range, Phase Vb extension; [w15] with blocked window over	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0057		North-east range, Phase VIa single-storey extension and Vlb porch	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0058*	34	[G.02] looking NW	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0059		[G.02] looking NW	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0060*	35	[G.02] looking SE	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0061		[G.02]: FP and overmantle, N wall	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0062*	40	[G.02]: detail of overmantle	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0064		[G.02]: detail of heraldic panel to overmantle	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0065		[G.02]: detail of fireplace	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0066		[G.02]: detail of door [d2] to entrance vestibule	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0067		[G.02]: detail of [w12], north wall, east	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0068		[G.02]: detail of wall to NE corner (?former screens passage door))	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0069		Detail of straight joints in dado panelling re. above	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0070*	36	[G.02]: detail of window [w1]	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0071*	38	[G.02]: standard turnbuckle to [w1]	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0073*	37	[G.02]: canted bay [w2]	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0074*	42	[G.02]: door [d5]	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0075		[G.02]: door [d6]	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0076		[G.02] looking NW	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0077*	41	[G.02]: exposed section of George Maw tiled floor	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0078		[G.02]: ceiling beams	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0079		[G.02]: stop chamfered ceiling beam	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0080		[G.03]; stair	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0081*	43	[G.03]; stair	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0082*	45	[G.03]; stair - detail of lower newel and finial	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0083		[G.03]; stair newel – detail of grotesque	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0084		[G.03]; stair - detail of panel balustrade	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0085		[G.03]; panelling beneath stair	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0086*	46	[G.03]; stair - detail of pendant	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0087		[G.03]; stair - detail of pendant	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0088		[G.03]; stair - detail of string panel	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0090		[G.03] detail of Benthall leopard decorative balustrade	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0091*	44	[G.03]; stair	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0092*	47	[G.03]; stair – detail of dropped handrail	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0093		[G.03] detail of Benthall leopard decorative balustrade	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0094		[G.03]; stair detail of newel with evidence for dropped hand rail	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0095		[G.03]; stair	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0096		[G.03]; stair	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0097		[G.03]; stair	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0098		[G.03]; stair - detail of string panel (?wyvern)	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0099		[G.03]; stair - detail of string panel (?wyvern)	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0100		[G.03]; stair	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0101		[G.03]; stair	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0102		[G.03]; stair – detail of handrail	---	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0103		[G.03]; stair – detail of upper balustrade	---	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0104		[G.03]; stair – detail of upper newel	---	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0105		[G.03]; plaster ceiling with central rose	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0106*	51	[G.03]; plaster ceiling cornice	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0108		[G.05]; looking NW	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0109*	57	[G.05]; looking SW	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0110*	58	[G.05]; looking SE	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0111		[G.05]; FP and overmantle	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0112		[G.05]; detail of overmantle	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0113		[G.05]; detail of overmantle	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0114		[G.05]; detail of overmantle	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0115		[G.05]; FP and overmantle	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0116*	64	[G.05]; detail of TF Pritchard FP (1857)	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0117		[G.05]; detail of TF Pritchard FP (1757)	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0118		[G.05]; detail of TF Pritchard FP (1757)	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler

DSC_0119		[G.05]; NE corner	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0120		[G.05]; detail of panelling	---	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0121		[G.05]; detail of panelling	---	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0122		[G.05]; detail of [d8]	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0123*	60	[G.05]; detail of ill-fitting panelling at NW corner	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0124		[G.05]; detail of ill-fitting panelling at NE corner	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0125		[G.05]; detail of ill-fitting panelling at SE corner	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0126*	59	[G.05]; detail of plaster ceiling panel	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0127		[G.05]; detail of former door within inserted north wall	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0128		[G.05]; scuff marks from former door in north wall	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0129		[G.05]; scuff marks from former door in north wall	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0130		[G.05]; detail of former door within inserted north wall	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0131*	63	[G.05]; detail of former door within inserted north wall	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0132		[G.05]; detail of plasterwork frieze at north wall	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0133*	61	[G.05]; detail of plasterwork frieze at north wall	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0134		[G.05]; detail of [w4] – shutters open	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0135		[G.05]; detail of [w4] – shutters partly closed	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0136		[G.05]; detail of [w4] turnbuckle cathes	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0137		[G.05]; detail of [w4] – shutters closed	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0138		[G.05]; detail of [w4] plasterwork to soffit	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0139		[G.05]; detail of [w6]	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0140		[G.05]; detail of [w5]	→ SW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0141		[G.05]; detail of floorboards with angle butt joints	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0142*	62	[G.05]; detail of floorboards with angle butt joints	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0143		[G.05]; detail of [d8]	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0144*	65	[G.06]; looking west	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0145*	66	[G.06]; ceiling beams rel. C19 th stair	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0146		[G.06]; decorative ceiling panel	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0148*	67	[G.07]; looking SE	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0149		[G.07]; looking south into canted bay [w24]	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0150		[G.07]; looking SW ([w25])	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0151*	68	[G.07]; looking NW [d11]	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0152*	69	[G.07]; door [d11]	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0153		[G.07]; H/L hinge, [d11]	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0154*	70	[G.07]; panelling, north wall	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0155		[G.07]; detail of panelling, north wall	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0156		[G.07]; FP and overmantle	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0157		[G.07]; FP and overmantle	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0158		[G.07]; overmantle	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0159*	72	[G.07]; overmantle heraldic panels	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0160		[G.07]; overmantle panel (lower)	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0161		[G.07]; overmantle panel (upper)	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0162		[G.07]; Pritchard FP (1757)	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0163*	71	[G.07]; detail of Pritchard fireplace	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0164		[G.07]; detail of Pritchard fireplace	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0165		[G.07]; detail of cornice moulding	↑	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0167*	111	[G.08]; looking north-east	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0168		[G.08]; detail of George Maw tiled floor	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0169		[G.08]; looking north-west (George Maw floor)	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0170*	112	[G.08]; looking west, [w13]	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0171		[G.08]; detail of turnbuckle double-spiral back-plate [w13]	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0172		[G.09]; looking north-east	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0173*	113	[G.09]; looking north-west	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0174		[G.09] cupboard	↓	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0175		[G.10]; looking north	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0176		[G.10]; stair	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0177*	54	[G.04]; looking north-west	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0178		[G.04]; looking north-east	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0179*	56	[G.04]; cupboard to east wall	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0180*	55	[G.04]; detail of door [d6]	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0187*	74	[F.01]; looking north-east	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler

DSC_0188		[F.01]; looking south-east	→ SE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0189*	75	[F.01]; looking north-west	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0190*	77	[F.01]; door [d26] to porch room	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0191		[F.01]; fireplace and overmantle	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0192		[F.01]; fireplace and overmantle	→ NE	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0193*	76	[F.01]; fireplace	→ NW	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0194		[F.01]; detail of overmantle	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0195		[F.01]; window [w36]	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0196		[F.01]; window [w36], detail of turnbuckle catch	→ S	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0197		[F.01]; window [w28]	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0198		[F.01]; window [w28]; detail of turnbuckle catch	→ N	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0199		[F.01]; detail of break in panelling indicating former partition	→ W	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0200		[F.01]; door [d27]	→ E	10.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0201		[G.02]; door [d2]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0202		[G.01]; coved ceiling	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0203		[G.05]; plasterwork frieze (SE corner)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0204		[G.05]; plasterwork frieze	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0205		[G.05]; plasterwork frieze (NW corner)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0206		[G.05]; plasterwork frieze (N wall)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0207		[G.05]; plasterwork frieze (NE corner)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0208*	52	[G.03]; door [d7]	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0209*	53	[G.03]; door [d7], foliate boss to architrave	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0210		[G.05]; ghost of L hinge to former door in N wall	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0211		[F.01]; south-east corner	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0212		[F.01]; door [d26] to porch room	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0213		[F.01]; door [d26] latch detail	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0214		[F.01]; door [d27]	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0215*	81	[F.07]; looking NE	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0216*	82	[F.07]; looking south-east, bay window [w44]	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0217*	83	[F.07]; FP to east wall	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0218		[F.07]; paired doors to east wall	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0219		[F.07]; [d28]	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0220		[F.07]; [d28], H/L hinge	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0221*	84	[F.07]; [d28] (open to stair)	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0222*	85	[F.08]; secondary stairwell descending to [F.09] (NW range)	↓	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0223*	86	[F.08]; blocked window to west wall	→ NW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0224		[F.08]; blocked window to west wall	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0249		Window [w43] exterior (lighting stair [F.08])	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0250*	39	Typical exterior quadrant stay	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0251*	117	[F.09]; looking north-east	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0252		[F.09]; looking north-west	→ NW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0253		[F.09]; door [d36] to back stair	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0254		[F.09]; FP to east wall	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0255*	118	[F.09]; ogee-stopped ceiling beam	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0256		[F.09]; turnbuckle catch	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0257		[F.09]; spiral handle	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0258		[F.09]; stair to SW corner with trellis balustrade	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0259*	114	[G.10]; looking north	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0260*	115	[G.10]; stair	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0261		[G.10]; former door in west wall	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0262*	116	[G.10]; stair	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0263		Landing [F.10] looking north	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0264*	120	[F.10]; chamfered ceiling beam (Phase I), truncated for stair	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0265*	119	[F.10]; stair	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0266*	121	[F.11]; looking south-east	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0267		[F.11]; looking north-east	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0268		[F.11]; looking south-west (cupboards)	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0269*	123	[F.11]; ogee-stopped ceiling beam	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0270*	122	[F.11]; fireplace, north wall	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0271		[F.11]; fireplace, detail of eared surround	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0272		[F.11]; detail of panelling	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0273		[F.11]; detail of panelling	---	12.12.12	R Tyler

DSC_0274		[F.11]; detail of [w41]	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0275		[F.11]; detail of [w42]	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0276		[F.14]; looking north-west	→ NW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0277*	124	[F.14]; looking east	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0278		[F.14]; angle FP at NE corner	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0279		[F.14]; angle FP at NE corner	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0280*	125	[F.14]; angle FP at NE corner	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0281		[F.14]; boxed in ceiling beams	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0282*	126	[d44] to Phase II roofspace [S.10]	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0283*	127	Upper stair with cut off joist tenons	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0287		Door [d43]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0288*	128	Roofspace [S.06], truss T1	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0289		Roofspace [S.06], truss T1(W)	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0290*	129	Roofspace [S.06], truss T1(W)	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0291		Roofspace [S.06], truss T1(W)	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0292		Roofspace [S.06], truss T1 collar/Q-strut	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0293		Roofspace [S.06], truss T2(W) and dormer [w52]	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0294*	130	Roofspace [S.06], truss T2(E) with wind-brace to upper purlin	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0295		Roofspace [S.06], mitred doorhead to truss T2(E)	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0296		Roofspace [S.06], mitred doorhead to truss T2(W)	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0297*	131	Roofspace [S.06], dormer [w52]	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0298		Roofspace [S.10], looking east - gable truss T5	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0299*	133	Roofspace [S.10], looking east - truss T4	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0300		Roofspace [S.10], truss T4 - wattle and daub infill above collar	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0303*	132	Roofspace [S.10], looking east - gable truss T5	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0304		Roofspace [S.10], looking east - gable truss T5	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0305*	134	Roofspace [S.10], wind-bracing to purlin SW	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0306		[S.05] looking north-east	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0307*	98	[S.05] looking south-east	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0308		[S.05]; fireplace to east wall	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0309*	97	[S.05]; truss T6 to west wall	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0310		[S.05]; truss T6 to west wall, south principal	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0311*	92	[S.01] looking west	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0312		[S.01] looking west (T8 to foreground)	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0313		[S.01] looking west (T8 to foreground)	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0314		[S.01] looking east (T8 to foreground)	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0315*	93	[S.01]; truss T8 fire-damaged collar	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0316*	96	[S.01]; FP to north wall, Bay 4	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0317		[S.01] looking east	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0318*	94	[S.01]; truss T9 truncated principal (S)	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0319*	59	[S.01]; inserted bracing to T9 (S)	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0320		[S.01]; inserted bracing to T9 (S)	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0321		[S.01]; inserted bracing to T9 (S)	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0322*	88	[S.02]; stack to west wall	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0323		[S.02]; stack to west wall	→ NW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0324		[S.03] looking south-east	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0325		[S.03] looking south-west	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0326*	90	[S.03] looking south	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0327		[S.03] looking south-west (wind-bracing, Bay 1)	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0328		[S.03]; truss T16	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0329*	91	[S.03]; truss T16 with iron strapping	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0330		[S.02]; rebuilt head of principal stair	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0331*	87	[S.02]; rebuilt head of principal stair	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0332		[S.08]; [d45]	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0333		[S.09]; [d45]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0334		[d45] latch	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0335		North-east range, Phase I section refaced in brick Phase Va	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0336		North-east range; Phase VI single-storey extensions	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0337		North-east range; Phase VIb porch (post-1840)	→ SE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0338*	26	Stair descending to basement below stair tower	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0339		Stack to west wall of stair tower	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler

DSC_0340		[B.02] looking south	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0341*	27	[B.02] looking south	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0342		[B.02] looking south	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0343*	28	[B.02] looking south – blocked window	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0344		[B.02] looking south	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0345*	29	[B.02] looking east; ground level drain	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0346		[B.02] looking east; ground level drain	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0347		[B.01] looking south-west	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0349*	30	[B.01] looking south-west	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0350		[B.01] looking south-west	→ SW	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0351		[B.01]; coved brick support for GF level FP within [G.05]	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0352		[B.01]; ceiling beams (re-used)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0353*	31	[B.01]; ceiling beams (re-used)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0354		[B.01]; ceiling beams (re-used)	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0355*	33	[B.01]; ceiling beam (ogee-stop)	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0356		[B.01]; ceiling beam (ogee-stop)	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0357*	32	[B.01]; ceiling beam with post mortices	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0358		[B.01]; ceiling beam with post mortices	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0359		[B.01]; ceiling beam carpenters mark	---	12.12.12	
DSC_0360		[G.10] looking north-east; door to basements	→ NE	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0361*	105	Stair to north-east range cellars	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0362		Phase I timber framing in east wall of stair	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0363*	106	Phase I timber framing in east wall of stair	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0364		Phase I timber framing in east wall of stair	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0365		Phase I timber framing in east wall of stair	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0366		Phase I timber framing in south wall [B.04]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0367*	107	Phase I timber framing in south wall [B.04]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0368		Phase I timber framing in south wall [B.04]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0369		Phase 2 ogee-stopped beam in [B.04]	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0370		Phase I timber framing in south wall [B.04]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0371		Phase I timber framing in south wall [B.04]	→ S	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0372		Phase 2 ogee-stopped beam in [B.04]	↑	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0373		[B.04] looking north	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0374		[B.04] looking north	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0375*	109	[B.06] looking west	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0376		[B.06] looking west	→ W	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0377		[B.06] looking east	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0378*	110	[B.06] looking east	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0379		[B.06] looking east (blocked door)	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0380		Doorway to [B.06]; Phase I cross frame over	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0381*	108	Phase I cross frame above door to [B.06]	→ N	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0382		Phase I timber framing in east wall of stair	---	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0383		Toilet [G.12] looking east	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0384		Utility Room [G.13] looking east	→ E	12.12.12	R Tyler
DSC_0385		Brick-faced Phase II extension; external gable	→ NW	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0386		Brick-faced Phase II extension; external gable	→ NW	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0387*	102	Basement under former music room extension	→ NW	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0388*	101	North-west range from north-east	→ SW	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0389		North-west range from north-east	→ SW	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0390		Main range, west gable end	→ E	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0391		Main range, west gable end; [w6]	→ E	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0392		Main range, west gable end; [w5]	→ E	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0393		Main range, change in plinth	→ E	25.01.13	R Tyler
DSC_0396*	73	Principal stair, 1F landing	→ NW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0397*	49	Principal stair, Benthall Lion rampant panel	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0398*	48	Principal stair, Benthall Leopard panel	→ S	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0399*	50	Principal stair, (?)wyvern panel	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0400		Door [d20] to bedroom [F.05]	→ W	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0401		[F.05] looking north	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0402*	79	[F.05] looking south	→ S	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0403*	80	[F.06] looking west	→ W	01.02.13	R Tyler

DSC_0404		[F.06] looking east	→ E	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0405		[F.04] looking north-west	→ NW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0406*	78	[F.04] looking north-east	→ NE	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0425*	89	[S.02]; inserted iron truss (1818)	→ SW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0426		[S.02]; inserted iron truss (1818)	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0427		[S.02]; inserted iron truss (1818)	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0428		[F.10]; cut of primary beam	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0429		[F.12]; ogee-stopped ceiling beam	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0430		[F.12]; ogee-stopped ceiling beam	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0431		Truncated stack to north wall of [F.11] (from [F.14])	→ SE	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0432		Truncated stack to north wall of [F.11] (from [F.14])	→ SE	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0433		Truncated stack to north wall of [F.11] (from [F.14])	→ SE	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0434		Trellis balustrade at top of back stair	→ NW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0435		Trellis balustrade at top of back stair	→ NW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0436		[S.01]; inserted bracing to T9 (S)	→ SW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0437		[S.01]; truncated principal at T9 (S)	→ SW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0438		[S.01]; redundant purlin trench at T8 (S)	→ SW	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0439		[S.01]; purlin scarf	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0440		[S.01]; collar joint	↑	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0445		Grounds: original approach	→ SE	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0446		Grounds: original approach	→ SE	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0448		Blocked door at [w3]	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0449*	9	Blocked door at [w3]	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0450		Blocked door at [w3]	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0451		Detail of dressed stone to main facade	→ N	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0452		Detail of roughly dressed stone to east gable end	→ W	01.02.13	R Tyler
DSC_0453		Detail of roughly dressed stone to rear elevation	→ S	01.02.13	R Tyler

APPENDIX C: Gazetteer of features

Room	Name	Ref.	Type	Location	Description
Basement Level (Figure 23)					
[B.01]	Main Cellar, beneath western parlour wing, main range 6.25m E/W x 8.75m N/S	---	Floor	throughout	Variously brick paviments and quarry tiles
		---	Ceiling	throughout	U/S of f/boards to [G.05] obscured by insulation; x4 major east-west beams, deeply chamfered, southernmost is ogee-stopped with soffit stud-mortices. Beams supported by inserted brick piers (1960s). N/S aligned common joists, 5in. wide, plain chamfered and ogee-stopped.
		---	Walls	throughout	Coursed stone
[B.02]	Cellar beneath stair hall [G.03], main range 3.55m E/W x 6.00m N/S	---	Floor	throughout	Variously flagged, brick paviments and quarry tile
		---	Ceiling	throughout	U/S of f/boards to [G.05]. x 2 principal E/W aligned beams (both re-used), 4x5in. common joists, unchamfered. X 2 inserted brick piers (1960s).
		---	Walls	throughout	Coursed stone save to north, inserted single-skin brick wall (1960s) ie. formerly single space with [B.03]. Ground level drainage channel to east wall.
[B.03]	Cellar beneath [G.04], main range (boiler room) 3.55m E/W x 4.55m N/S	---	Floor	throughout	Quarry tile
		---	Ceiling	throughout	U/S floor to [G.04]. x 2 principal E/W aligned ceiling beams (7x7in., plain chamfered) supported on x 2 inserted brick piers (1960s)
		---	Walls	throughout	Coursed stone, save to south, inserted single-skin brick wall (1960s) ie. formerly single space with [B.02].
		Accessed via straight-flight stair d at north end of east wall			
[B.04]	Cellar beneath Phase II extension, north-east range 3.55m E/W x 6.00m N/S	---	Floor	throughout	flagged
		---	Ceiling	throughout	U/S floor to [G.11-13]. Single E/W aligned ceiling beam, deeply chamfered with barred ogee-stop
		---	Walls	throughout	Inserted brickwork and relic timber-framing
[B.05]	Passage serving [B.04] and to exterior, x3 niches in north wall				
[B.06]	Cellar beneath 18 th century extension, north-east range 5.95m E/W x 5.00m N/S	---	Floor	throughout	Blue brick pavement
		---	Ceiling	throughout	Segmental arch brick vault, axis aligned east west.
		---	Walls	throughout	Brick. Blocked door and window in east wall.
Grand Floor Level (Figures 24 and 25)					
[G.01]	VESTIBULE (Porch tower) 2.95m E/W x 2.15m N/S	---	Floor	throughout	Flagstones.
		---	Ceiling	throughout	Plaster, coved vault with central pendant light fitting.
		---	Walls	throughout	Plain plaster.
		[d1]	Door	west wall	New exterior door, reintroduced in 1960s to original location. Round headed, hung to south on strap hinges.
		[d2]	Door	north wall	Serves entrance hall [G.02]. Wide 6-panel timber door hung to east on simple barrel hinges, set within flattened-arch opening, ovolo moulded. 1960s.
		[w26]	Window	south wall	2-light, stone mullion window, re-introduced in 1960s into original location.
[G.02]	ENTRANCE HALL 9.52m E/W x 2.15m N/S	---	floor	throughout	3½in. oak F/Bs (C20 th), aligned E/W, over C19 th polychrome tiles, introduced by George Maw, 1859.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster with moulded cornice. x3 heavy transverse beams, chamfer stopped and plastered.
		---	walls	throughout	Panelled to dado level, plaster over. Moulded dado rail. 8in. bold 'torus' moulded skirting.
		[d2]	door	south wall	Serves entrance vestibule; see [G.01].
		[d3]	door	west wall	Serves Dining Room [G.07]. 2in., 6-panel door, sunk panels with ovolo beading, brass beehive knob and fingerplate. Wide architrave with ogee strip, panelled reveals and soffit.
		[d4]	door	west wall	Serves Dining Hall [G.08]; as [d3].
		[d5]	door	east wall	Serves Stair Hall [G.03]; as [d3]. Approached by x3 curved steps.

					Hung to south on plain barrel hinges; redundant rim-lock keep to south jamb indicates former door opening to [G.02] (or a former double door arrangement).
		[d6]	door	east wall	Serves former Gun Room [G.04]. 1in., 8-panel door (?C17 th) plain chamfered rails and stiles with incised moulding. Top and bottom rails crudely cut to fit door opening. Hung on H/L hinges to south, opening to [G.04]. Approached by x3 curved steps. Redundant rim-lock keep to south jamb indicates former door opening to [G.02] (or a former double door arrangement). Plain brass circular knob.
		[w1]	window	south wall	3-light stone mullion and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x6 leaded lights, single opening-light with paired turnbuckle catches and exterior quadrant stay. Integral window seat with sunk panelled cheeks and back.
		[w2]	window	south wall	Canted bay of 5 facets; each including 2-light 'cross' window with plain chamfered stone mullion and transom, 3x3 over 3x6 leaded lights, double opening lights to southern facet each with paired turnbuckle catches and external quadrant stays.
		[w11]	window	north wall	2-light stone mullioned window, plain chamfered. Fixed lights, x 2 vertical stanchions per light. 3 x 3 leaded lights. Splayed reveals.
		[w12]	window	north wall	2-light stone mullioned window, plain chamfered. Fixed lights, x 2 vertical stanchions per light. 3 x 3 leaded lights. Splayed reveals.
		FP	fireplace	north wall	Stone surround with bold 'wave' moulded jambs. Plain firebox with reeded backplate. Jacobean timber overmantel.
[G.03]	STAIR HALL 3.82m E/W x 4.97m N/S	---	floor	throughout	6½in. oak boards aligned E/W.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plaster with elaborate, interlinked 'rope' pattern cornice band – extends onto soffit of stair. Central rose with pendant light fitting.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain rendered.
		[d5]	door	east wall	Serves entrance hall [G.02]. 2in., 6-panel door, sunk panels with ovolo beading, brass lock casing and plain circular knob. Hung to south on plain barrel hinges. Set within C19 th -moulded doorcase with foliate bosses.
		[d7]	door	west wall	Serves Sitting Room [G.05]; as [d5]. 2½in., C17 th panelled to [G.05] (see below). Doorcase matches [d5].
		[w3]	window	south wall	4-light stone mullion and single transomed window, plain chamfered, 3x3 over 3x6 leaded lights, all fixed. Panelled reveals and soffit, recess extends to floor level.
		---	stair	---	Finely detailed Jacobean open-well stair of c.1618 with elaborately carved newels, finials, pendants, string, pierced balustrade and heavy moulded handrail (see main text, §.7.2.15).
					2-column iron radiator beneath window [w3].
[G.04]	former GUN ROOM 3.45m E/W x 4.47m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered with narrow moulded cornice, x2 pendant light fittings.
		---	walls	throughout	Plastered. Projecting chimney breast to west wall adj. [d10] (NB: 1960 proposals drg. annotated 'remove existing fireplace').
		[d6]	door	east wall	Serves entrance hall; see [G.02].
		[d10]	door	west wall	Serves kitchen [G.06]. Simple narrow 3-panel door with ovolo bead to sunk panels.
		[w9]	window	west wall	2-light stone mullioned window, plain chamfered, x2 stanchions per light. 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, both fixed. NB: window shown as blocked externally on plan of 1960.
		[w10]	window	north wall	3-light stone mullion and single-transom window, plain chamfered, x 2 stanchions per light. 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, one opening light with turnbuckle catch/ wrought-iron double-spiral backplate and secondary, brass drop-handle. Integral window seat.
		---	cupboard	east wall	Wall cupboard with double, panelled doors (raised and fielded panels) mounted on plain H-hinges; inserted into former 2-light window, visible externally.
[G.05]	SITTING ROOM (Parlour) 5.86m E/W x 6.63m N/S	---	floor	throughout	10in. oak boards aligned E/W with numerous diagonal (c.45°) butt joints.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Elaborate plasterwork ceiling of six panels each with central boss and strapwork decoration. x 2 principal beams aligned E/W, plus third above north wall (see main text, §.7.2.18).

		---	walls	throughout	Elaborate Jacobean timber panelling with tapered pilasters, raised and fielded panels etc. Former doorway to north wall. Does not fit comfortably within room, principally to north, indicating significant reorganisation or importation from elsewhere. Plasterwork frieze over, also showing evidence for significant adaptation to north.
		[d7]	door	east wall	Serves stair hall [G.03]. 2½in., panelled to this side, extension of C17 th -scheme to walls. Hung on H/L hinges to south. Brass lock case and plain handle, perforated fingerplate.
		[d8]	door	north wall	Serves kitchen [G.06]. As per [d7], hung on H hinges to west. Brass lock case and plain round knob.
		[w4]	window	south wall	4-light mullion and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x6 leaded lights, single opening-light with paired turnbuckle catches and external quadrant stay. x2 4-leaf folding panelled shutters, with locking bar.
		[w5]	window	west wall	2-light mullion and single-transomed 'cross' window, plain chamfered. 3x4 over 3x4 leaded lights, one opening-light with turnbuckle catch/ wrought-iron double-spiral backplate, plain stay rod. 2-leaf folding panelled shutters, with locking bar.
		[w6]	window	west wall	2-light mullion and single-transomed 'cross' window, plain chamfered. 3x4 over 3x4 leaded lights, all fixed. [w6] was formerly blocked (see main text, §.7.2.17).
		FP	fireplace	west wall	C19 th -stone surround of 1756 by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard with Jacobean panelling over.
[G.06]	BOOT ROOM 8.44m E/W x 2.06m N/S	---	floor	throughout	lino tiles
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster save for part of one strapwork panel matching [G.05]. Two north-south aligned, chamfered beams.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plastered, panelled to dado. Blocked doorway in south wall formerly communicated with [G.05].
		[d8]	door	south wall	Serves sitting room [G.05]; 2½in. 8-panelled door, plain chamfered stiles and rails. Guilloche band to mid rail, rosettes to upper panels.
		[d10]	door	east wall	Serves [G.04]; narrow, 3-panel door.
		[d11]	door	north wall	Wide, 6-panel door to exterior with ovolo beading, hung to east on plain steel strap-hinges, wooden lock box, plain catch. Externally of 3 vertical planks, heavily studded with upright handle, leaf-shaped ends
		[w7]	window	west wall	Canted bay of 5 facets each including 2-light 'cross' window with plain chamfered stone mullion and single transom, 3x4 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening light to western facet with paired turnbuckle catches and external quadrant stays.
		[w8]	window	north wall	4-light, stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. Stanchions to lower lights (2 per light), horizontal saddle bars. 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening-light with turnbuckle catches on spearhead backplate (modern). Exterior quadrant stay.
[G.07]	DINING ROOM ('low' parlour) 8.85m E/W x 4.60m N/S	---	floor	throughout	6in. oak boards aligned east-west
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster with elaborate cornice moulding, central pendant light fitting. (A decorative plaster ceiling survived until 19 th century).
		---	walls	throughout	C17 th -timber panelling with fluted pilasters, raised and fielded panels, jewelled frieze matching overmantle of [G.01] (see main description)
		[d3]	door	west wall	Serves entrance hall [G.02]. 2in., 6-panel door, ovolo beading to sunk panels, hung to north on plain barrel hinges. Wide architrave with ogee strip.
		[d11]	door	north wall	Serves dining hall [G.08]. 2in. double-width door, panelled to this side matching wainscoting; raised and fielded panels in four horiz. Bands. Hung to east on H-L hinges (applied directly to stile of wall panelling). Brass handle with elaborate, elongated backplate (E-shaped).
		[w24]	window	south wall	Canted bay of 5 facets each including 2-light 'cross' window with plain chamfered stone mullion and single transom (part blocked adjacent to main south wall to accommodate shutter boxes). 3x3 over 3x6 leaded lights, two opening-lights to southern facet with

					paired turnbuckle catches and external quadrant stays. Half-height folding shutters (6 –leaf) with locking bar, housed in wide boxes.
		[w25]	window	south wall	2-light mullioned and single-transomed 'cross window', 3x3 over 3x6 leaded lights, all fixed; horiz. saddle bars. Single leaf shutters, raised and fielded with locking bar. Plain soffit.
		FP	fireplace	east wall	Ornate 'eared' timber surround with crinoid marble inset by TF Pritchard (1756); curved brick back. C17 th -overmantle with superimposed balusters flanking arms of Benthall and Cassy.
[G.08]	DINING HALL 5.55m E/W x 4.60m N/S	---	floor	throughout	To south, mid C19 th -polychrome, encaustic tile floor (G Maw). To north, pale 8in. boards aligned east-west (modern).
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster with moulded cornice. Cross beams, plastered.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain.
		[d4]	door	west wall	Serves entrance hall [G.02]. 6-panel door, ovolo beaded to sunk panels, plain brass knob.
		[d11]	door	south wall	Served dining room [G.07]. 6-panel door, ovolo beaded to sunk panels, plain handle (modern). Wide architrave with ogee strip.
		[d12]	door	north wall	Serves hallway [G.10]. 6-panel door, ovolo beaded to sunk panels, semi-circular head, hung on plain barrel hinges to east.
		[d13]	door	east wall	Serves exterior terrace (former music room). Double door, glazed inner and 6-panel outer doors, panelled reveals and soffit extend through depth of wall. Set within wide, elliptical headed recess slightly off-centre to south of room.
		[d14]	door	west wall	¾-glazed door to exterior, 9 panes over two sunk panels, chamfered glazing bars. Panelled shutters (1-leaf and 2-leaf) with locking bar to upper, glazed section
[G.09]	KITCHEN 3.45m E/W x 4.15m N/S	---	floor	throughout	As per [G.08] (north).
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered. Single north-south aligned timber beam offset to east of room (axial to range), plain chamfered with ogee stop to south end (NB: east side only).
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plastered. Former FP to north wall (blocked and covered over) with flanking cupboards. Blocked door in east wall.
		[w14]	window	west wall	2-light timber 'cross' window, ovolo detail to arrises of mullion and single transom. 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, stanchions and saddle bars. Single opening light to upper N with turnbuckle and exterior quadrant stay.
		[d12]	door	north wall	
		[d13]	door	east wall	
[G.10]	HALLWAY 2.10m E/W x 4.18m N/S	---	floor	throughout	B&W diagonally set chequerboard tiles with red/black border to south, 9in red quarry tiles to north.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster. 'Ghost' of E/W beam. N/S aligned beam inserted to east for stair.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plastered. (NB: East wall of [G.10] represents exterior wall of PHASE I timber-framed range).
		[d16]	door	north wall	Plain, vertical beaded T&G door.
		---	stair	East side of hallway	Straight flight, closed-string stair with upper and lower ¼-turns ascends north-south to first floor level. C20 th 'trellis' balustrade (secondary), moulded handrail, plain sq section newel. Plain panelling below encloses stair descending to basement level.
[G.11]	UTILITY ROOM 3.33m E/W x 2.27m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Lino tiles
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered
		---	walls	throughout	½ tiled, rendered above.
		[d16]	door	west wall	¾-glazed, 9-panes over 2 panels, ovolo glazing bars. C19 th -rim lock, plain brass handle.
[G.12]	TOILET	[w21]	window	east wall	2-light timber window, ovolo detail to mullion. 3x4 leaded lights, single opening casement with plain drop handle catch and internal stay (C20 th).
		---	floor	throughout	As [G.11]
		---	ceiling	throughout	As [G.11]

	3.33m E/W x 2.27m N/S	---	walls	throughout	As [G.11]
		[d15]	door	west wall	Plain, modern door hung to south on barrel hinges
		[w22]	window	east wall	2-light timber window with upper btm-hinged opening light. Split opening with [w23].
[G.13]	STORE	---	floor	throughout	As [G.11]
	3.33m E/W x 2.27m N/S	---	ceiling	throughout	As [G.11]
		[w22]	window	east wall	2-light timber window with upper btm-hinged opening light. Split opening with [w22].
Formerly passage leading to eastern lobby north of Music room extension, transformed 1960.					
First Floor Level (Figure 26)					
[F.01]	LIBRARY (principal chamber)	---	floor	throughout	Mixed 4 - 6in. oak boards aligned north-south. Light stain.
	9.54m E/W x 6.27m N/S	---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered with three heavy transverse beams (plastered), chamfered and stopped. Simple ogee cornice moulding.
		---	walls	throughout	Full-height small-square panelling (C17 th) in 6 rows to all but south wall. Sunken panels with moulded beading and plain dust ledges. Double pegged-stiles. Breaks in panelling to north wall (east of FP) and south end of east/west walls (north of doors) evidence former partitions.
		[d19]	door	west wall	Serves stair [G.03]. 1½in., 6-panel, raised and fielded with ovolo beading. Narrow central panel above handle rail. Hung to north on plain barrel hinges. Brass beehive knob. Wide architrave with ogee moulding.
		[d24]	door	west wall	Serves study [G.04]. 1¼ in. 6-panel door, sunk panels plain rail/stiles hung to north on plain barrel hinges. Matched [d23].
		[d25]	door	east wall	Serves sitting room [G.09]. Narrow, 1½in. 2-panel door. C19 th – lock with plain brass knob, hung to south on plain barrel hinges.
		[d26]	door	south wall	Serves porch room [G.02]. 1½ in. double-thickness door; 3 vertical planks to [G.01], heavily studded with incised 'lozenge' decoration; 7 horiz. planks to [G.02]. Hung to west on 'Fleur-de-Lys' strap hinges, opening into porch room heavy lock plate to [G.01] with hinged lock cover bar.
		[d27]	door	east wall	Serves bedroom [G.07]. 1½ in. 6-panel door, raised and fielded panels, ogee beading. Narrow central panel below handle rail. Hung on H/L hinges to north. Reveals and soffit also boldly raised and fielded.
		[w29]	window	south wall	3-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, single opening-light with turnbuckle catches and exterior quadrant stay. Panelled reveals (splayed) and soffit.
		[w29]	window	south wall	Canted bay of 5 facets each including 2-light 'cross' window with plain chamfered stone mullions and single transoms. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, horiz. saddle bars. Single opening-light to southern facet with turnbuckle catch and external quadrant stay.
		[w35]	window	north wall	3-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, single opening-light with turnbuckle catches and exterior quadrant stay. Panelled reveals and soffit, shutters not used.
		[w36]	window	north wall	As per [w35]. Integral window seat, raised and fielded panels.
		FP	fireplace	north wall	Plain stone surround, reeded fireback, polished brass dog grate. Jacobean overmantle with jewel frieze matching panelling of dining room [G.07].
[F.02]	PORCH ROOM	---	floor	throughout	Light stained 6 in. boards aligned east-west.
	2.01m E/W x 2.30m N/S	---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered
		---	walls	throughout	ditto
		[d26]	door	north wall	see [G.01]
		[w27]	window	south wall	3-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, single opening-light with turnbuckle catch and exterior quadrant stay. Plain reveals and soffit.
2 column radiator beneath [w27].					
[F.03]	STAIR	---	floor	throughout	3in. oak boards aligned east-west
	3.75m E/W x 5.02m N/S	---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster, 'ropework' scroll edging as per GF. Central rose with pendant light fitting.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plastered.
		[d19]	door	east wall	Serves Library [G.01] (via 8in. step up). 6-panel door with narrow

					central panel above handle rail. Raised and fielded panels with ovolo beading to rails and stiles. Brass beehive knob. Elaborate C19 th -doorcase as per GF, though here lacking foliate bosses.
		[d20]	door	west wall	To bedroom [G.05]; as per [d19]. Plain oval brass knob and fingerplate.
		[d28]	door	off ¼-landing	6-panel door, panels flush with rails/stiles (as per doors to [G.04])
		[w30]	window	south wall	4-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, single opening-light with turnbuckle catch and exterior quadrant stay.
		2 column radiator beneath [w30].			
[F.04]	STUDY 3.56m E/W x 4.32m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpet over 5in. softwood boards aligned north-south.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered with cornice moulding, central pendant light fitting.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plaster
		[d23]	door	west wall	6-panel door with beaded panels flush to rails/stiles. Brass lock case and plain knob. Hung to north on plain barrel hinges.
		[d24]	door	east wall	To [G.06a]; as per [d23]
		[w34]	window	north wall	3-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, single opening-light with plain drop handle catch on double-spiral backplate and interior brass, lockable stay. Window seat with panelled back.
[F.05]	BEDROOM 5.76m E/W x 6.3m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster with moulded cornice, central pendant light fitting
		---	walls	throughout	papered
		[d20]	door	east wall	To stair; see [G.03]
		[d21]	door	north wall	6-panel door, ovolo beading, brass rim lock with plain knob; hung to east on plain barrel hinges. Doorcase as per [d20].
		[w31]	window	south wall	4-light stone mullioned and single-transomed window, plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, two opening-lights with turnbuckle catches (one orig, one spearhead backplate) and exterior quadrant stay. 3-leaf panelled shutters with locking bar. Frame matching doorcases extends to floor.
		FP	fireplace	west wall	Blocked
[F.06]	BATHROOM 7.29m E/W x 2.30 N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted (stair formerly rose from GF level here, no evidence vis.)
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster, simple moulded cornice
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plaster. 7in. ovolo skirting.
		[d21]	door	south wall	1½in. 6-panel door, ovolo bead to sunk panels. Plain doorcase
		[d22]	door	east wall	Plain 1½in. 6-panel door, hung to N on plain barrel hinges.
		[w32]	window	west wall	Canted bay of 5 facets, 2-light mullion and transomed 'cross' window to each facet, 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, x1 opening light to w facet, btm (S). Standard turnbuckle/backplate detail, exterior quadrant stay. Horizontal saddle bars.
		[w33]	window	north wall	2 lights open internally of 4-light window (western two lights blocked)
[F.06a]	LOBBY 0.80m E/W x 2.30m N/S	Small lobby area at east end of bathroom [F.06] affording through access to [F.04] ([d24]; see [F.04]) and, via short flight of steps, to ¼ landing of principal stair.			
[F.07]	BEDROOM 4.87m E/W x 4.77m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster, moulded plaster cornice, central pendant light fitting
		---	walls	throughout	Plain rendered over simple panelled dado, pegged stiles/rails, sunk flat panels, 5in. skirting.
		[d27]	door	west wall	Serves library [F.01]. 6-panel door (see [F.01], panels flush to this side. Brass-cased rim-lock and plain knob. Hung to north on H/L hinges.
		[d28]	door	east wall	Narrow, 2-panel door, raised and fielded, brass-cased rim-lock and handle, as per [d27]. Hung to north on H/L hinges. Opens onto narrow 'back' stair [F.08].
		[w44]	window	south wall	Canted bay of 5-facets, each with 2-light mullion and transom 'cross' window. x 2 opening lights to E and S facets with brass, lockable stay rods, brass handle on double-spiral back-plate.
		[w45]	window	south wall	2-light stone mullion and transom window, 3x3 over 3x3 leaded lights, all fixed. Horiz. saddle bars. Splayed reveals and soffit, panelled.
		FP	fireplace	east wall	Plain stone surround with timber mantle shelf. Panelling over, raised and fielded with arched central panel flanked by narrow

					panels.
[F.08]	STAIR 0.80m wide E/W (descends to 1F of NE range)	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted treads
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plastered, sloping
		---	walls	throughout	Rendered and plastered. Plain plank section skirting. West wall includes two-light mullion window (blocked) indicating original exterior wall
		[w43]	window	east wall	Single light 3/3 fixed light with round section saddle bars.
[F.09]	SITTING ROOM 5.60m E/W x 5.40m N/S	---	floor	throughout	9in. oak boards aligned N/S
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster, ogee cornice. Single transverse beam (E/W) 11in. wide with 3in. chamfer, ogee stopped to E and W.
		---	walls	throughout	Small-square panelling in 5 bands, of 17 th -century form though apparently combined from a number of different sources. Heraldic shields to upper band.
		[d25]	door	west wall	See [F.01]
		[d29]	door	north wall	Serves landing [F.10]; 6-panel, sunk with ovolo bead, hung to west on plain barrel hinges (formerly H/L hinges survive). Plain brass-cased rim lock and knob.
		[d30]	door	east wall	Serves bedroom [F.11]; 6-panel door with high bottom rail, hung to north on H/L hinges. Sunk panel with ovolo bead, brass-cased rim lock with Bakelite knob.
		[d36]	door	east wall	Serves back stair [F.08]; 6-panel door, hung to north on H/L hinges; sunk panels with ovolo bead, plain brass knob.
		[w37]	window	west wall	3-light timber window with upper transom, pegged frame with ovolo detailing to arises. 2x3 over 4x3 leaded lights, vertical diamond stanchions. Single opening light, central lower with turnbuckle and spiral catch, exterior twisted stay bar
		---	stair	SW corner	Inserted stair with C20 th trellis balustrade, rises at SW corner of room to serve [F.01] within main range (floor level of latter + 5ft rel. NE range). Panelling vis. in under-stair cupboard
		FP	fireplace	east wall	Simple eared surround, tiled insert (blue and white)
[F.10]	LANDING 2.28m E/W x 4.09m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plaster. Includes 1 substantial E/W beam (Phase I), deeply chamfered and ogee stopped to W (within [G.12]); beam has been truncated to east for insertion of (?)C18 th staircase, retains single mortice to soffit (E).
		---	walls	throughout	Plain rendered and skimmed, no skirting
		[d29]	door	south wall	See [F.09]
		[d34]	door	north wall	See [F.14]
		[d35]	door	east wall	Opens of ¼-turn of stair serving bedroom [F.11]
		---	stair	East side of landing	Vertical continuation of inserted stair rising from [G.10]. (?)18 th with C20 th modifications. Glazed 'borrow-light' over from [w53] at 2F level.
[F.11]	BEDROOM 2.92m E/W x 4.87m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded and painted. Includes single E/W aligned beam (Phase II), 9in. wide, plain chamfered (2in.), ogee stopped to E and W.
		---	walls	throughout	Full-height, small-square panelling in four bands, assembled for a number of sources, secondary. Date of insertion not known though potentially early.
		[d30]	door	west wall	Serves sitting room [F.09]; 6-panel door with high bottom rail, raised and fielded panels, hung to north on H/L hinges.
		[d35]	door	west wall	Opens onto ¼-turn of inserted stair; 6-panel door with high bottom rail, sunk panels with ovolo bead, hung to north on H/L hinges.
		[w41]	window	east wall	2-light timber casement, ovolo detail to mullion. Both lights hinged. Southern light 3x4 leaded panes with turnbuckle and 'tulip' catch. Northern light is 3 horiz. pane, C19 th replacement though with matching turnbuckle and tulip catch. Splayed reveals and soffit, panelled.
		[w42]	window	east wall	As per [w41] but both lights as per S light of former. Splayed reveals and soffit, panelled.
		FP	fireplace	north wall	Plain stone, eared timber surround with projecting moulded shelf over dentillation. FP boarded over, stack truncated externally (Plate 101).
[F.12]	SHOWER ROOM	---	floor	throughout	Lino
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded and skimmed. Includes single Phase I ceiling beam/tie,

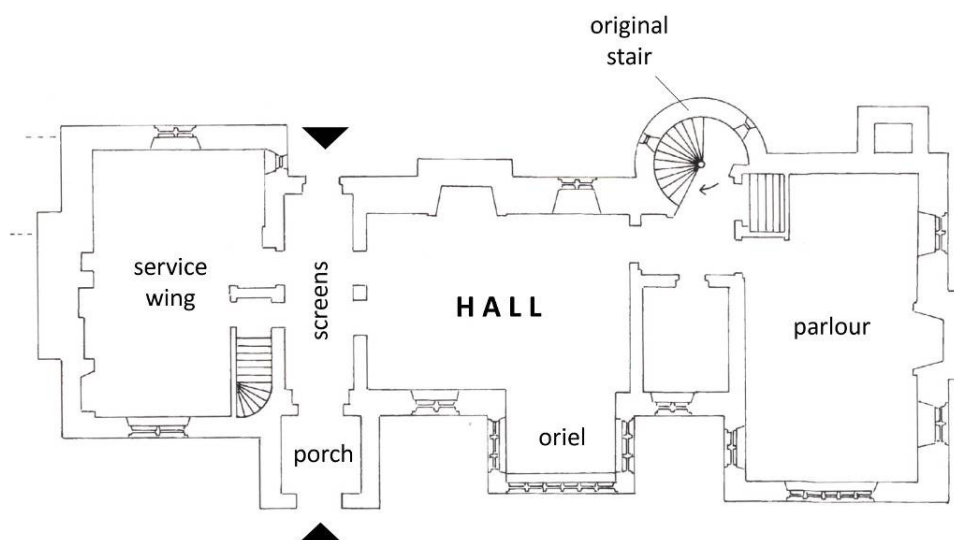
	2.32m E/W x 1.23m N/S	---	walls	throughout	plain chamfered and ogee-stopped to west wall
		---	door	east wall	½-tiled, upper walls plastered
		[d32]	door	east wall	Modern 6-panel door
[F.13]	BATHROOM 3.15m E/W x 2.67m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded and skimmed.
		---	walls	throughout	½-tiled, upper walls plastered as per [F.12]
		[d33]	door	south wall	½-glazed over 2 panels, raised and fielded.
		[w38]	window	west wall	Timber 'cross' window, pegged frame, ovolo detail to mullion and transom; 3x2 over 3x4 leaded lights; upper N opening light with turnbuckle and external quadrant stay. Splayed reveals.
[F.14]	BEDROOM 5.57m E/W x 4.85m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Plain plastered, no cornice. Includes x 2 N/S aligned beams, 11in. wide @ 6½ ft centres, boxed in.
		---	walls	throughout	Plain plastered
		[d34]	door	south wall	6-panel (flush this side with bead); hung to W on H/L hinges, plain Fe rim lock with round brass knob.
		[w39]	window	West wall	2-light timber casement with double opening lights, 2x5, timber glazing bars. Secondary.
		[w40]	window	East wall	4-light timber casement, ovolo detailing. 3x2 over 3x5 leaded lights. x 2 opening lights to lower N and S, both with paired turnbuckles, round section stanchions + 1 opening light to upper (N)
		FP	fireplace	NE corner	Angle fireplace, timber surround, C19 th cast-iron grate with tiled inserts.
Second Floor Level (Figure 27)					
[S.01]	BEDROOM/DORMITORY 9.79m E/W x 4.72m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded.
		---	walls	throughout	Boarded.
		[d39]	door	West wall	6-panel door, flush with bead, hung to south on barrel hinges, plain modern handle.
		[d40]	door	East wall	As [d39]
		[w46]	window	South wall	Gable. 3-light stone mullion and transom window, 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening light with turnbuckle and external quadrant stay.
		[w47]	Window	South wall	Gable. 3-light stone mullion and transom window, 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening light with turnbuckle and external quadrant stay. Much renewed.
		FP	Fireplace	North wall	'Pantheon' style hob-grate inserted into stone stack.
		---	roof	throughout	4 uneven bays (Bays 2-5) of main roof structure, T6-T10, originally two tiers purlins to each slope, modified to south to access dormers. See main text, §.7.2.27.
[S.02]	PLAYROOM 9.92m E/W x 4.06m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded
		---	walls	throughout	Boarded
		[d37]	door	West wall	Serves bedroom [S.03]; Modern 6-panel door, hung to S on barrel hinges
		[d38]	door	West wall	Serves bathroom [S.04]; modern, boarded, hung to N on barrel hinges
		[d39]	door	East wall	As [d37].
		[w48]	window	South wall	3-light stone mullion and transom window, all plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening light to centre/bottom with turnbuckle and external quadrant stay. Small 4x4 casement in western flank (?C19 th).
		[w51]	window	North wall	As per [w48].
		---	roof	throughout	See main text §.7.2.26-7. Includes secondary ironwork (c.1818)
[S.03]	BEDROOM 4.75m E/W x 5.59m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded
		---	walls	throughout	Boarded
		[d37]	door	East wall	See [S.02]
		[w49]	window	South wall	See [w48]
		FP	fireplace	West wall	Not accessible, blocked up.
		---	roof	throughout	2½ bays of parlour wing roof; 2 tiers through purlins, wind-bracing surviving to S bay (W); much fire damage with secondary Fe strapping (c.1818).

[S.04]	BATHROOM 3.92m E/W x 3.25m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded and plastered
		---	walls	throughout	Plastered
		[d38]	door	east wall	See [S.02]
		[w50]	window	North wall	3-light stone mullion and transom window, all plain chamfered. 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening light to centre/bottom with turnbuckle, no quadrant stay.
		---	roof	throughout	2½ bays of parlour wing roof; obscured.
[S.05]	BEDROOM 5.2m E/W x 4.66m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded and plastered
		---	walls	throughout	Plastered
		[d40]	door	west wall	See [S.01]
		[d41]	door	north wall	Plain plank and baton door opening onto stair descending to roofspace of NE range
		[w55]	window	south wall	Gable. 3-light stone mullion and transom window, 3x3 over 3x4 leaded lights, single opening light with turnbuckle and external quadrant stay.
		FP	fireplace	east wall	C19 th Fe grate
[S.06]	ARCHIVE STORE 3.37m E/W x 6.42m N/S	---	Roof	throughout	Eastern, Bay 1 of main roof (see [S.01] and main text, §.7.2.27).
		---	floor	throughout	5½in. s/w boards aligned E/W. NB. floor of NE range is 7ft 10in below attic floor of main range)
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded out and skimmed
		---	walls	throughout	Boarded out at lower purlin level.
		[d41]	door	south wall	Plain plank and baton door at head of stair serving 2F of main range
		[d42]	door	north wall	Plank and baton door, steel rim lock and Bakelite handles, hung to W on barrel hinges
		[w52]	window	west wall	Framed dormer window to W side of Bay 2, possibly primary or early secondary insertion. Much rebuilt with modern 2-light casement
		[w54]	window	west wall	2-light timber dormer. 3x5 leaded lights, single opening light with turnbuckle catch and spiral handle (incl. integral keep for stay rod)
		---	Roof	throughout	x 2 bays primary roof (Bays 1 and 2). Two Q-strut trusses with axial doorways, 2 tiers of through purlins to east and west. Primary of early dormer to W ([w52]).
[S.07]	LANDING	---	stair	risers against south wall	Straight-flight timber stair rises east-west across south wall affording access to 2F of main range.
		<i>Small landing at head of 18th century stair, affording access to [S.06] (south) and [S.08/9] (north)</i>			
[S.08]	STORE 3.60m E/W x 3.15m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Carpeted
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded out
		---	walls	throughout	Boarded
		[d43]	door	south wall	Decorative panelled door of 10 panels (5 rows of 2) with dec. rails and stiles and upper panels, foliage patterns and bosses to handle rail and upper rosettes. Hung to W on plain barrel hinges, steel rim-lock and Bakelite handles.
		[d45]	door	North wall	Plank and baton door to [S.09], hung to west on barrel hinges.
		[w53]	window	east wall	Dormer split between [S.08] and [S.09], here with integral 'borrow-light' to inserted stair below. 6 x 5 leaded, fixed-light, pegged frame.
		---	roof	throughout	x 1 bay (Bay 3) of Phase I roof; structure not exposed though one wind-brace visible to west slope (N)
[S.09]	PICTURE STORE 3.60m E/W x 5.15m N/S	---	floor	throughout	4½in. s/w boards aligned N/S.
		---	ceiling	throughout	Boarded and skimmed. Single purlin exposed to E and W, embedded in brick wall to N.
		---	walls	throughout	Boarded and plastered, no skirting. Stack to south wall, adj. Door [d45] (truncated below ridge).
		[d45]	door	South wall	See [S.08]
		[w53]	window	east wall	Dormer split between [S.08] and [S.09], pegged frame. 5x5 leaded, opening-light, paired turnbuckles, spiral handle and stay bar..
[S.10]	ATTIC (OVER [G.11]) 3.15m E/W x 4.30m N/S	---	floor	throughout	Rough boards
		---	ceiling	throughout	Open to underside of roof (see below)
		---	roof		Two trusses survive; to the east, the Phase II exterior gable T5

					formerly of close-studwork above and below collar, the latter renewed (recorded by Milln 1998; see Figure 28b). To west, Phase I collar truss T4 with queen struts (x3) and v-strutting (Figure 28a). Roof carried on two tiers of large scantling butt-purlins and ridge piece.
--	--	--	--	--	---

APPENDIX D: Comparanda

Benthall has traditionally been interpreted, together with Shipton Hall and Wilderhope Manor, Rushbury, as forming part of what Mercer has referred to as a 'specifically local group' of south Shropshire transitional houses. All are of the late-16th century, built between 1580 and 1600, and are characterised by asymmetrical principal facades with prominent entrance porches and oriels lighting the hall, the latter feature having subsequently been lost at Shipton. All are built on a single-pile plan, with transverse parlour and service wings (save Benthall where services were accommodated in a retained, earlier range to the rear) and include a central, ground floor halls with chamber over. All houses are entered at the low end of the hall (both Shipton and Wilderhope retain an opposing door within the rear elevation, Wilderhope with an intact screens passage) which is heated by a fireplace located centrally to the far wall. Parlours are located to the upper end of the hall while Wilderhope in particular reflects Benthall's plan with an original small parlour or 'ante-room' to the front of the house between ground floor hall and parlour (at Benthall subsequently occupied by the inserted stair). At each house, the principal stair was originally housed in a rear projection at the upper end of the hall, lost at Shipton to 18th-century extensions and modified at Benthall, though surviving intact at Wilderhope as a circular tower with conical roof housing a timber winder stair.

Wilderhope Manor

Wilderhope Manor, GF plan (from Mercer 2003, 138)

Description (from *A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 10: Munslow Hundred (part), The Liberty and Borough of Wenlock* (1998), pp. 52-72).

Wilderhope Manor was built by Francis Smalman between 1584 (when his brother Thomas granted him a 40-year lease of land bought in 1583 from Richard Parramore) or 1591 (when Thomas's will required all his Wilderhope lands to be leased to Francis) and perhaps 1593 when Francis's wife died.

The house, of six bays and 2½ storeys, faces south-east (assumed south in the following description) across a shallow valley. It is of limestone rubble with quoins, mullions, and pediments of Hoar Edge grit. The upper parts of the chimneys and the shafts are of brick, the former diapered. The roof is of Harnage stone slates. It was taxed on seven hearths in 1672. The hall, presumably with great chamber over, has a screens passage at its west end entered through a projecting porch bay. The hall has a lateral north fireplace and a south-facing oriel at its west end. Like the porch, the oriel rises the full height of the house and is gabled. The south front is generously provided with mullioned and transomed windows. On the north is a projecting semicircular staircase turret, and the great chamber did not therefore have to

function also as a first-floor passage room. A secondary newel stair rises in the angle between porch, screens, and service bay. The parlour range at the east end of the house has an east chimney stack and a projecting north garderobe chute. The service range at the west end of the house extends back north of the hall, and its large west chimney stack suggests that originally its ground floor was mainly taken up with kitchen rather than pantries. The parlour and hall are among several rooms retaining their original moulded plaster ceilings; devices include Francis and Ellen Smalman's initials and formerly included the family's arms and motto. Some original fireplaces survive. Perhaps in the 17th century the parlour and great chamber were subdivided; otherwise alterations have been few.



Wilderhope Manor: Principal facade with projecting entrance porch to left, oriel to centre (lighting 'upper' end of hall) and projecting parlour wing to right.



Wilderhope Manor: rear stair turret.

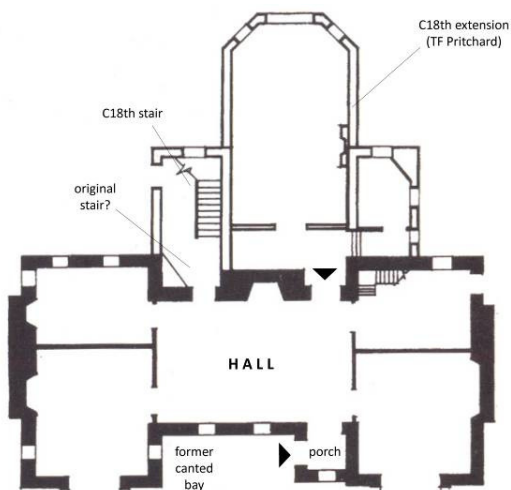


Wilderhope Manor: Principal winder stair.



Wilderhope Manor: Detail of timber-framed partition of parlour/buttery; similar framing survives at Shipton.

Shipton Hall



Shipton Hall, GF plan (from Ionides 1999, 120)



Shipton Hall, historic sketch (VCH, 1998)

Description (from *A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 10: Munslow Hundred (part), The Liberty and Borough of Wenlock* (1998), pp. 368-380).

Shipton Hall was built c. 1598. The architect may have been Walter Hancox (d. 1599) of Much Wenlock, the owner, John Lutwyche who had been responsible for some building work at Lincoln's Inn. The house is built of stone on an **H** plan, facing southeast. The hall block has two and a half storeys and a lateral rear chimney stack. The hall has opposing doorways at the lower end, the front doorway covered by a west-facing, four-storeyed porch tower in the angle between hall and east wing; the tower had crenellation and a cupola c.1730 (see sketch). A two-storeyed canted bay window lit the upper end of the hall block. Access to the first floor was apparently a stair case turret projecting at the rear, perhaps in the angle between hall block and west wing.

About 1700, perhaps in 1670, a two storeyed rear addition was built, apparently parallel to the hall block and abutting the stair turret. the mid 18th century it was partly replaced by a projecting two storeyed rear wing, which included a first-floor library reached by a new staircase on the site of the stair turret; the wing's parapet and cornice resemble those of the detached stable block of 1756-7. The house was extended east by a stone service block 1757-9. Work on the library was in progress between 1760 and 1767. Its rococo overmantel, designed in the later 1760s by T. F. Pritchard of Shrewsbury, is similar in style to work in the hall. The iron grate in the hall was also designed by Pritchard, and rococo plaster work there has been attributed to Francesco or John Vassalli, of whom John seems to have worked with Pritchard at Hatton Grange (in Shifnal) 1767- 8. It was probably at the same period that the timbers of the original hall ceiling were taken down to form the roof of the cellar below, and the original panelling was removed to bedrooms above. A rainwater head of 1769 in the angle formerly occupied by the bay window seems to show that the bay window was removed then or a little earlier; the walling in its place resembles that of the stable block. An undated drawing shows a central front doorway to the hall, perhaps opened when the hall was redecorated. The gothick plaster work over the main staircase and gothick windows at the rear of the house are presumably later 18th-century. By the 1830s the hall had no central doorway.



Shipton Hall: Principal facade with projecting parlour and service wings to left and right of recessed hall, tall porch tower is set in angle of service wing and hall, formerly matched by oriel window to left.



Shipton Hall: Rear elevation (oblique) Pritchard extensions of the 1760s mask earlier arrangements.

Comparative Staircases

The secondary, open well stair at Benthall bears a striking resemblance to near contemporary features at Aston Hall, Birmingham (below left) and Crewe Hall, Cheshire (below, right) and may indicate that teams of specialist craftsmen were operating in the early years of the 17th century.

