

Archaeological  
Building  
Recording  
Services

**Archaeological Standing Building Inspection  
& Recording,  
The Stable Block,  
Boughton House, Geddington  
Northamptonshire.  
(NGR SP 90077 81559)**

**On Behalf of Boughton Estates Ltd**



**Archaeological Standing Building Inspection**

**& Recording,**

**The Stable Block, Boughton House**

**Geddington**

**Northamptonshire.**

**(NGR SP 90077 81559)**

**On Behalf of Boughton Estates Ltd**

**December 2013-May 2014**

**Planning Permission No  
KET/2013/0537**

**ABRS Project No 2013-SBHN**

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS)

40 Winfield Street  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV21 3SJ

Tel 07423813638

email: [gerwyn.richards@archbuildservices.co.uk](mailto:gerwyn.richards@archbuildservices.co.uk)

**Archaeological Standing Building Inspection & Recording, The Stable Block, Boughton House, Geddington, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 90077 81559).**

Summary

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Aims and Methodology	5
3.	Building Recording	6
4.	Conclusion	9
5.	Archive and Publication	9
6.	Bibliography	10
7.	Colour Plates	11

**Figures**

Figure 1	Site Location.	2
Figure 2	Plan of Boughton House (Ground Floor) 1746.	4
Figure 3	Plan of Boughton House (Stable Block, 1st Floor Detail) 1746.	4
Figure 4	Boughton House, Southernmost Stable Block in Red.	5
Figure 5	Principal Elevation (Looking South East).	11
Figure 6	Rear Elevation (Looking West - South West).	11
Figure 7	Trusses 1 & 2 (Looking North).	12
Figure 8	Truss 3 (Looking North).	12
Figure 9	Truss 4 (Looking North).	13
Figure 10	Truss 5 (Looking South).	13
Figure 11	Assembly Marks on Truss 3 (South Face).	14
Figure 12	Bridled Rafters (South Face).	14
Figure 13	Re-used Moulded Timber (South Face).	15
Figure 14	Unusual Tally Marks(?) on Valley Beam (North Face).	15

Figure 15	May 1791 Graffiti on East Wall.	16
Figure 16	List of Oats & Beans on East Wall.	16
Figure 17	Letter B and Barley on East Wall.	17
Figure 18	Extensive List of Names on East Wall.	17
Figure 19	Detailed Location Plan Stable Block. Area of Archaeological Building Inspection & Recording Highlighted in Red	18
Figure 20	First Floor Plan.	19
Figure 21	Truss 3.	20
Figure 22	Truss 4.	21
Figure 23	Truss 5.	22
Figure 24	Photo Locations of Graffiti on East Wall.	23
Figure 25	Photo Locations of Roof Structure.	24

## **Archaeological Standing Building Inspection & Recording, The Stable Block, Boughton House, Geddington, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 90077 81559).**

Gerwyn Richards

### **Summary**

*This report documents the archaeological standing building inspection and recording of elements of the Stable Block, Boughton House, Geddington, Northamptonshire (SP 90077 81559), commissioned from Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) by The Boughton Estate Ltd in advance of the proposed works to refurbish the first floor of the building as a function room.*

*The Boughton House Stable Block is an exceptional example of 18th century French inspired grand architecture and is justifiably Grade I listed in its own right. The work carried out by Boughton Estate Ltd allowed a rare opportunity to record those elements of the stables affected by the works. Recording work was limited to the roof structure and graffiti on the east wall*

*As expected of a single phase roof, there is little of historical interest to be seen within the roof structure; the roof is simple trusses carrying butt purlins and bridled common rafters. Some of the rafters are modern replacements added in the 1980s. The graffiti, consisting of lists of names are more historically significant and provide an interesting insight into the casual, local labourers employed by the estate as and when such labour was required.*

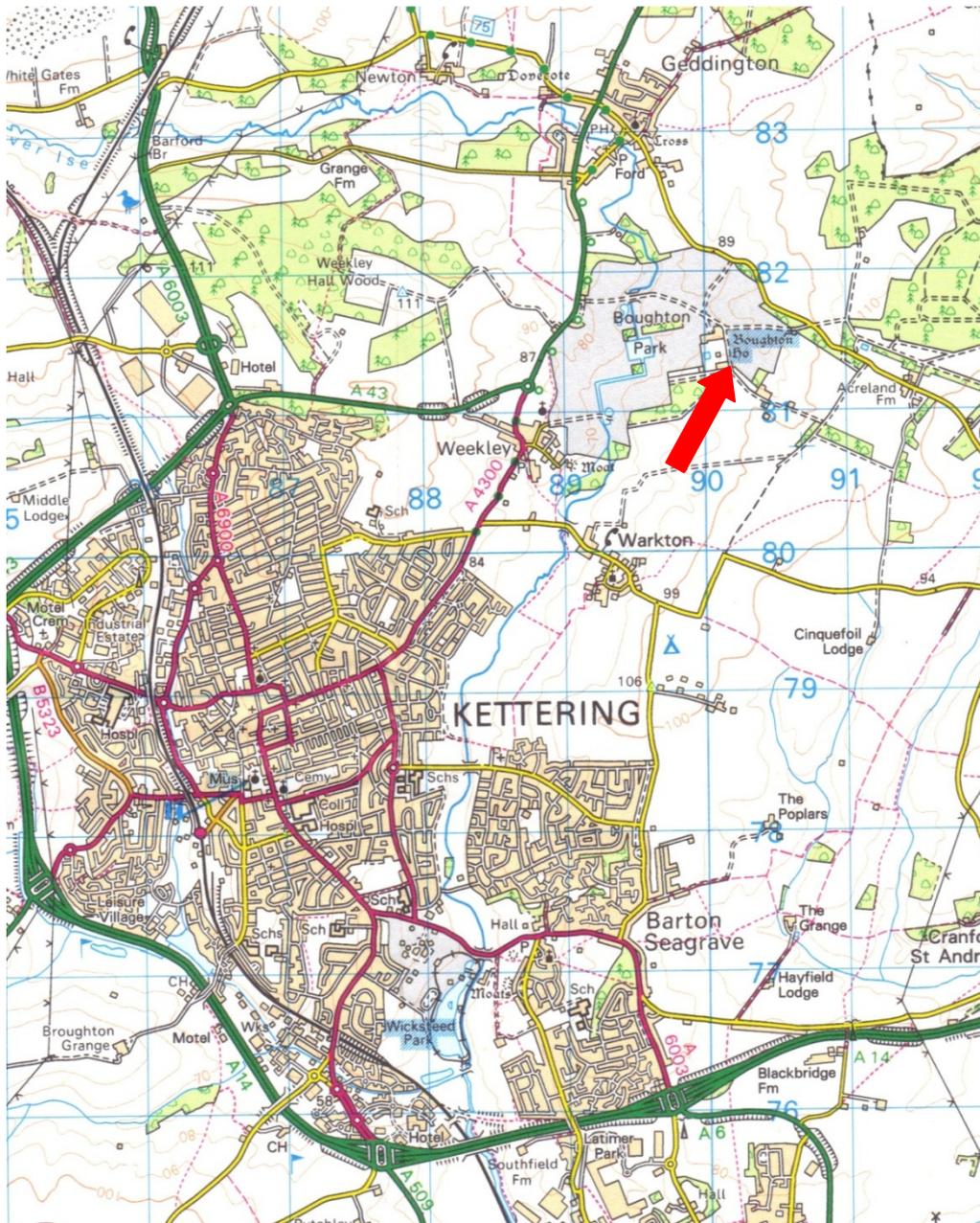
*The archive will be retained by ABRS under the temporary site code 2013-SBHN until deposition with Northamptonshire County Council can be arranged.*

### **1. Introduction**

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) were commissioned by The Boughton Estate Ltd to undertake archaeological standing building inspection and recording of the first floor of the Stable Block (Room 112), Boughton House, Geddington, Northamptonshire (SP 90077 81559 (*Figures 1 & 4*)). Listed Building Consent has been granted for the refurbishment of parts of the stable block for use as a function room (Planning Application No KET/2013/0537). The building is the Boughton House stables and believed to date from the early 18th century, and is located adjacent to Boughton House. The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council, as advisor to Kettering Borough Council, following English Heritage guidance has recommended that an archaeological standing building survey to English Heritage Level 2, as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006), be carried out prior to any proposed works being carried out. The stable block is Grade I Listed.

A Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Building Recording has not been issued, the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council has been consulted and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI (*ABRS 2013-SBHN\_WSI*)) submitted and approved. The project was completed in accordance with and following the Institute for Archaeologists

(IfA) Code of Conduct, and adhered to their Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2008).



**Figure 1**  
Site Location

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.  
©Crown Copyright 1990. All rights reserved. Licence number 100053136.

Boughton House is early 16th century in origin, with extensive late 17th century alterations and additions carried out by Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu. The house is largely limestone ashlar with some squared stone and coursed rubble and occasional red brick in remote, rear and internal courtyard faces. The roof is Collyweston stone slates with numerous moulded stone chimney stacks. The house was planned around several courtyards, with a half “H” plan north range in the French style, inspired by Versailles, where the 1st Duke spent time as ambassador to the court of Louis XIV between 1666 and 1678. Following the death of the 1st Duke the house passed to his son John, 2nd Duke of Montagu, John carried out very little

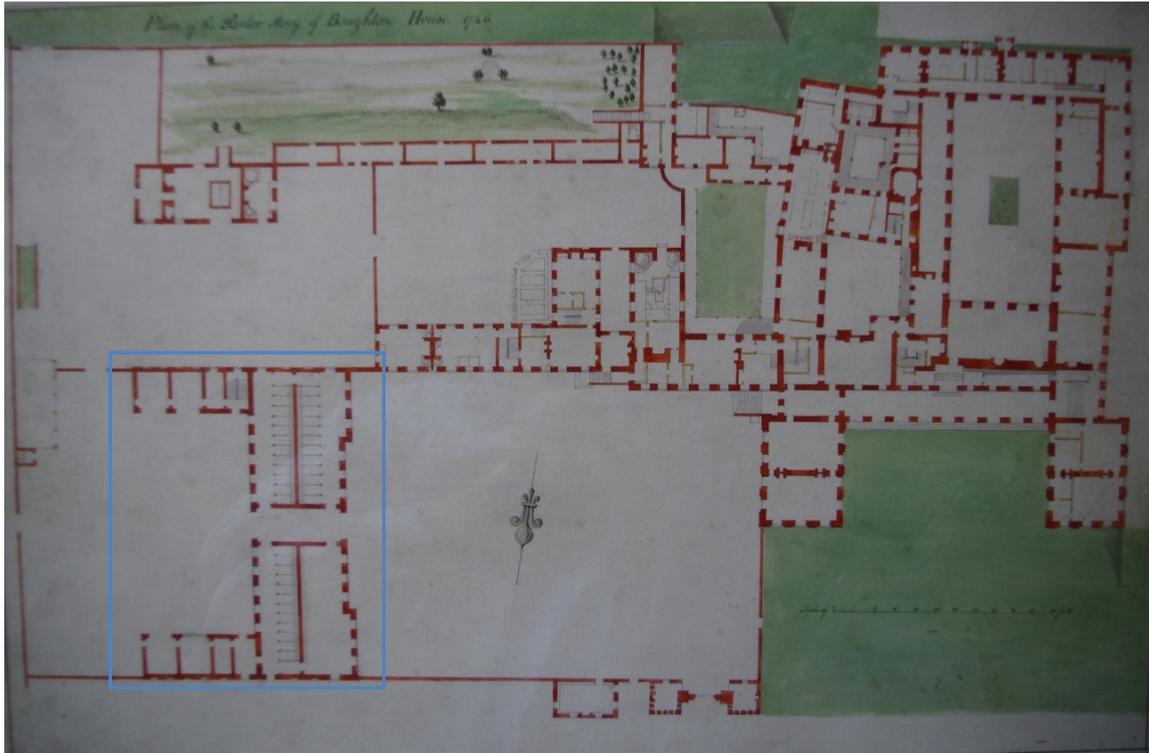
work to the house but made sweeping changes to the landscape and gardens. Following the death of the 3rd Duke of Montagu in 1790 the house passed by the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Henry Scott, 3rd Duke of Buccleuch, 5th Duke of Queensberry. After which Boughton House was used infrequently and remained largely 18th century in style, as a result the house is said to contain some of the best preserved baroque state rooms in Britain. The house was Grade I listed in 1951 (Listed Building ID No 231207, for full listing description see appendix).

The stable block subject to this building recording dates to the early 18th century, with a principal elevation in limestone ashlar and red brick rear and side walls. The roof is hipped and under Collyweston stone slates. The stable is Grade I listed in its own right (Listed Building ID No 231210, listed in 1951). The listed building description describes it thus:

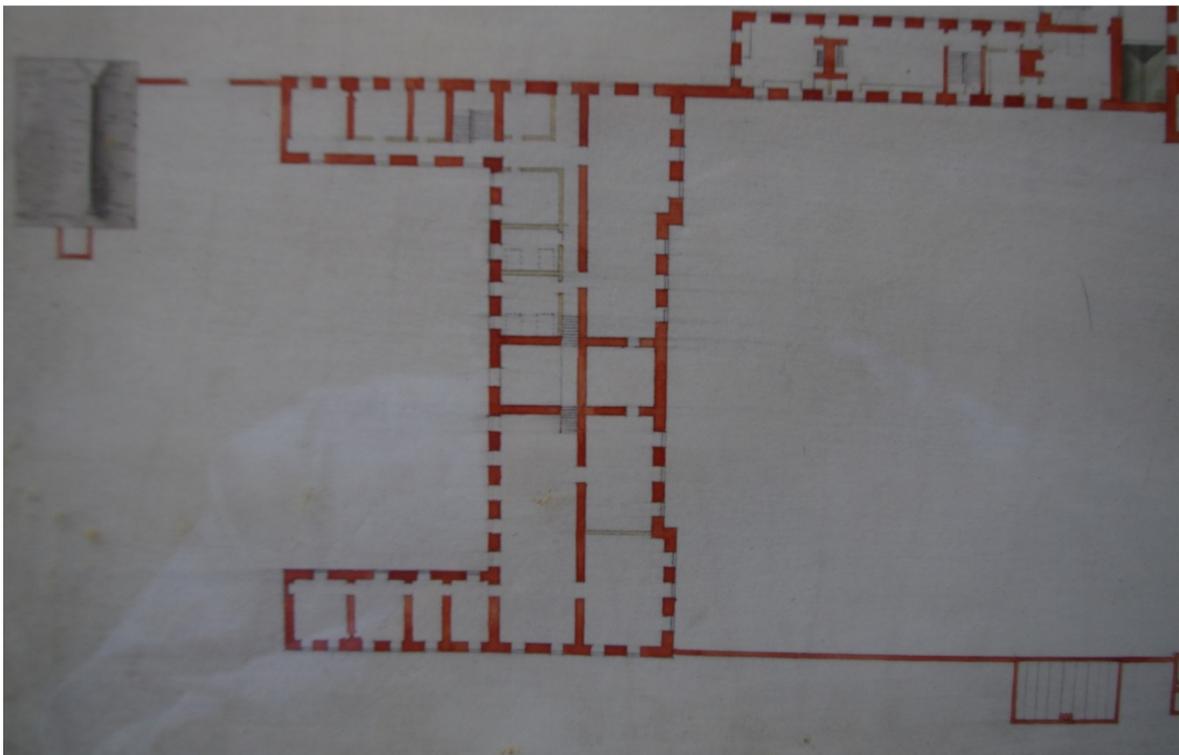
*Stable block. Circa 1700-04, restored 1976-81. Limestone ashlar front, red brick sides and rear, hipped Collyweston stone slate roofs. Main block with cross-wings projecting only slightly to front. 2 storeys, raised band between. Eaves cornice. Central rusticated entrance with tall round-headed opening (Britannia firemark over) and pediment with heraldic carving by Gideon Duchesne. Top hamper with rusticated angle pilasters and 3 square panels. Leaded dome with ball finial and weathervane. 3 bays to either side of centrepiece, leaded cross casement windows, taller to ground than to first floor. Projecting ends of wings, 3 windows wide, have similar detail and rusticated angle pilasters. Some interior fittings remain, including a staircase with turned balusters in the south wing.*

The earliest elements of Boughton House date to at least the early 16th century, the Montagu family having acquired the estate in 1528. The bulk of the development including the north range of the house was carried on behalf of Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu. The Stables were also built by the 1st Duke in the early 18th century, probably circa 1700-1704 to complement the House. The French theme continued within the stable block with the commission of Gideon Duchesne (also known as Gideon Du Chaime) to carve the heraldic carving over the pediment. Duchesne along with Nadauld carved the interiors of Castle Howard in 1706 and was known to submit his bills in French. Below the heraldic carving is a Britannia firemark, to prove the stables were at the time insured by the Britannia Fire Insurance Company (London). The company was registered between 1844 and 1856, and re-registered by 1860. So it is likely that the firemark was for a late 19th century policy.

One of the earliest estate plans to record the house and stable in detail is that drawn in 1746 (*Figures 2 & 3*). There is stabling for 36 horses within the stables as well as room for at least four carriages in the east – west bays. Elizabeth Montagu married the 3rd Duke of Buccleuch, 5th Duke of Queensberry in 1767. The Duke, being one to the principal landowners in Scotland had established seats in Scotland, as a result Boughton was seldom used throughout the 19th century, so it was likely that the stables were rarely at full capacity. It is likely, however that some horses would have been stabled continuously at Boughton. Documentary evidence held by the Boughton House archives indicates that the household, when visiting the Estate, which could be as infrequently as only two weeks in the year travelled with grooms from Scotland, so it is likely that there was only a limited staff of full time grooms, if any.



**Figure 2**  
Plan of Boughton House (Ground Floor) 1746.  
(Boughton Estate Archives)



**Figure 3**  
Plan of Boughton House (Stable Block, 1st Floor Detail) 1746.  
(Boughton Estate Archives)

A plan showing the first floor of the stables (*Figure 3*) does not record any specific evidence that the upper floor was in any way domestic; there are a number of smaller rooms which in all likelihood served as grooms' accommodation during the family's stay at the house. A plan of the roofs shows only one chimney within the stable, located on the south facing wall of the southern range. So, at least this part of the stables was heated and was likely to have had a domestic use.

Comparison of both these plans with modern plans shows that the stables have undergone very little in the way of alteration since they were originally constructed. Evidence of subsidence and dry rot found in the later 1970s however necessitated a programme of works carried out in the 1980s. Works to the stables included new piled foundations, new timber first floors, floor strengthening, replacement windows and glazing, concrete padstones and edge beams. The roof structure was also strengthened including new rafters and relaying roof coverings.



**Figure 4**  
Boughton House, Southernmost Stable Block in Red.  
(Provided by client. Not to Scale)

## 2. Aims and Methodology

The specific objectives of the standing building survey were as follows:

- To provide a written, drawn and photographic record of those elements within the building affected by the proposed works prior to its permitted programme of works.

- To ensure the long term preservation of the information through deposition of the record and a summary written report with an appropriate depository.
- The site based element of the Historic Building Recording programme involved the production of measured survey drawings of the roof structure, a photographic record of the graffiti on the eastern wall and the completion of general photographic and written records.
- Desk-based research included the analysis of readily available documentary and cartographic sources including Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) & Northamptonshire Records Office (NRO). Specific use will be made of the Boughton House Archives (BHA) in order to provide a historic background to the graffiti.

*Orientation:* The stables consist of a “C” shaped building, the long axis of the building is orientated approximately north-north west to south-south east (*Figures 4 & 19*), for ease of description this is taken hereafter to be north to south with the principal elevation facing Boughton House to the west. Where the terms ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘front’ and ‘back’ etc are used in the report, this is in relation to this principal elevation as viewed from Boughton House.

All historic maps are reproduced with north to top of page, following Ordnance Survey standard unless indicated otherwise with appropriate north arrow and key.

As far as is known, no previous historic building recording has been undertaken of the building.

The site visits were carried out by Gerwyn Richards on December 11th 2013, January 9th 2014 and May 8th 2014. Recording work was limited to only those areas of the stables impacted upon by the permitted works, thus limited to the roof structure and original plaster in the southernmost room on the first floor (Function Room 112 (*Figures 19 & 20*)). Other approved works carried out were not monitored by ABRS.

### **3. Building Recording**

#### **3.1 Roof Structure**

The recorded roof structure consists of bridled common rafters carried on five trusses with paired butt purlins and a ridge beam. The trusses are numbered 1 to 5 in Roman numerals (*Figure 11*), I being to the north and V being the southernmost. The trusses are of three different designs. The three northernmost trusses are simple collared trusses all identical in design (*Figures 7, 8 & 21*), the two southernmost trusses are of a different design and do not match each other. Truss IIII is a modified version of trusses I – III with a collar yoke and a plated yoke rather than a bridled apex (*Figures 9 & 24*). This allows the roof to step forward and follow projecting ends of wings within the roof. Truss V forms the hipped roof with the collar beam forming the ridge beam of the east – west wing (*Figure 10 & 25*).

The trusses, the common rafters as well as the purlins are all sawn oak. Some of the common rafters are also numbered with Roman numerals as is the lower west purlin. However, these numbers are not complete or in sequence and do not consistently match those numbers on the adjacent purlin. This is likely to be as a result of the remedial works carried out on the roof in the 1980s. Although it is unclear is possible that the un-marked common rafters date to

this period and are not original. This is again apparent at the apex of the common rafters with a number of different coupling styles (*Figure 12*).

As a single phase roof which has been repaired in the modern era, there is little of historical significance. The only two significant features are the re-used moulded beam roughly nailed between the two purlins between trusses II and III (*Figure 13*). The beam has the appearance of a collar beam, but apparently serves no structural purpose, it is possible it was added to support two weak rafters only to become redundant following the works carried out in the 1980s but not removed. Truss III has an empty mortice, the size and location of which suggests it may have originally held a wind brace.

The second unusual feature is a series of score marks on the northern valley beam (*Figure 14*). The score marks consist of a series of vertical pencil strokes over which appear to be the letters N and O. The exact purpose or date of these marks is unclear, their inaccessible location means they are unlikely to be idle graffiti and being pencil, the marks may have been drawn during the 1980s work. The beam also has a number of more traditional incised Roman numerals, which are likely to be original to the construction of the roof in the 18th century.

### 3.2 Graffiti

There are a number of areas of original lime plaster adhering to the east wall of room 112 (*Figure 24*), there are clear traces of animal hair within the plaster. Given the extent of the surviving plaster on the east wall, it is likely that the whole of room 112 was originally plastered; all of the walls, with the exception of the east wall are now bare brick. The bricks themselves are 9inch x 2 ½ inch x 4 inch handmade bricks laid in an English Cross Bond (alternate courses of headers and stretchers).

The graffiti consists, by and large of pencil drawn lists of names, dates and other figures, most likely money owed/paid. The clearest group of names are located adjacent to the northernmost door (*Figure 18*). Names, dates and years are clearly identifiable. The years 1857, 1858 and 1859 are obvious as are the months March, June, July, September and October. Some of the names are illegible, but the names Bovis, Corby, Davies and Patrick appear regularly throughout the lists and throughout the years. Other less frequent names include Archer, Potter, Smith and Southorpe. In all likelihood the lists are casual labourers employed in the stables or throughout the estate. The “*Accounts – Rents of Estates within Boughton Collection Due Lady Day*” (1857 & 1858) held by NRO lists the “*Labours Account – Paid Samuel Sculthorpe what he advanced to sundry labourers employed about the Boughton House, Park & Premises as by particulars in the Day Book*”. It is likely, that by design or by accident the list for these months in 1857, 1858 and 1859 were recorded on the wall of the stable, it is possible that the list was then transferred to the Day Book.

Unfortunately the “*Journal & Pay List of Labourers And Other Employed On The Boughton Estate*” held by the Boughton House Archives is missing these crucial years (the years 1842 to 1875 are currently unidentified). However, the journals covering 1840 to 1842 are available and a number of the names on the wall are also listed in the 1840-42 journals. A Richard and a Thomas Patrick worked at the estate throughout the two years, as did John Corby. John Corby is specifically mentioned in the Journal for December 1840 as being “*employed in the stables and various other work throughout the month*”.

Later entries include greater detail for both the Patricks; in May 1841 Thomas Patrick was employed carting brick while Richard Patrick was employed to look after the coach horses. Also in May 1841 a John and Joseph Potter were employed for unspecified work, while Benjamin Archer was employed “*felling poles in the Wilderness*”.

The tasks carried out by these men were largely unskilled labour, such as cutting wood, breaking rocks and clearing windfall; however, there appears to have been an order of seniority. The Patricks were always employed for carting and never employed in “dirty” work, John Potter was also employed to cart but occasionally undertook lesser tasks including sawing firewood, suggesting he was junior to the Patricks. William Davies, on the other hand who also appears on the later lists was employed to clear weeds from the river in September 1842 and was, likely, therefore to be junior to both the Patricks and John Potter.

The “*Accounts – Rents of Estates within Boughton Collection Due Lady Day*” (1857 & 1858) contain some additional information which may also relate to the names on the list. Both accounts record a George Archer as paying a rent of £15 per annum for a public house and small close in Weekley he had been a tenant of the estate since 1839. There is also a Richard Archer paying £3 per annum for a cottage, a bakehouse and garden, he had been a tenant since 1850. Again in Weekley is a Sarah Potter, a widow who paid £18 per annum for a small farm, she was however in arrears. There was a William Potter recorded paying £6. 10s. for a cottage, a bakehouse and part of Green Orchard in Warkton. William had been a tenant since 1831.

There are also number of names matching those in the stable recorded renting properties in Geddington; these include John Potter (Wheelwright) paying £10 per annum for a close, he had been a tenant since 1842. There is also a Robert Potter and an Elizabeth Potter, Elizabeth was paying 10s. for a garden by the roadside, she had been a tenant since 1855. It is likely that all three are from the same family. In July 1858 John Potter was paid £4 2s. 2d for painting the Avenue Gates and *whitewashing & painting at various cottages*. It appears, therefore, that although a wheelwright by trade Potter also undertook other tasks within the estate. There is also a Joseph Potter, who was employed as a *Park & Gamekeeper* by the estate.

Also within Geddington is a Thomas Corby paying £4 10s. for a cottage and garden, a tenant since 1836. A John Corby is also listed *ditto*. Richard Patrick paid £2 per annum for a cottage and garden again in Geddington.

The accounts also list works carried out by a James Patrick and a George Patrick, both of whom are listed as Masons. Being skilled craftsmen it is unlikely that these are the Patricks recorded on the stable wall.

Grooms employed by the estate are listed by name in the *Home Servants* book. The book covering 1835 to 1884 is also held by the Boughton House Archives. The family only visited Boughton for two weeks a year, grooms from Scotland travelled with the family and were not resident at Boughton. None of the grooms listed in the Home Servants book appear on the walls of room 112.

Other graffiti and lists on the east wall include lists of feedstuffs, including oats and beans (*Figure 16*). These are listed by the bushel, including 5 bushels of best oats to John Potter in June 18\*\*, the year is obscured. There are also isolated inscriptions dating to the 18th

century, the earliest being 1784 carved into the plaster. Other earlier graffiti includes a tally of bushels of wheat recorded on the 7th of August 1787 as well as a tally of wheat in on May 5th 1791 (*Figure 15*). There is also an extravagant series of 'B's, possibly written by an individual practicing writing, the Bs apparently overlap the word Barley (*Figure 17*).

As well as the historically significant graffiti there are a few examples of more modern graffiti of lesser or no historical significance.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Boughton House Stable Block is an exceptional example of 18th century grand architecture and is justifiably Grade I listed in its own right. The work carried out by Boughton Estates Ltd allowed the opportunity to record the roof structure and the graffiti on the interior wall.

The roof, as expected of a single phase stable roof is of little architectural or historical significance, it consists of simple trusses carrying butt purlins. The roof was repaired in the 1980s, evidence of which is difficult to discern due to the quality of the finish and close match of new timber to old. Evidence of historical alteration is limited to a few open mortices which may have originally housed wind braces.

The graffiti is likely to be of greater historical significance than the roof structure; the graffiti provides a list of casual labourers employed by the house in the mid 19th century. Unfortunately the house lists covering this period are missing, however the same names appear on earlier lists. The lists give an indication of the sheer number of people employed by such houses in general day to day activities in the 19th century.

#### **5. Archive & Publication**

The site archive consists of

- 2 290mm x 320mm perma graph sheets containing annotated profiles & notes
- 2 A4 paper sheets containing annotated plans & site notes
- 1 A4 paper sheets containing elevation drawing of east wall showing photo locations
- DVD containing 90 digital images
- 3 A4 contact sheets
- 90 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- 3 A4 photo record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report

The archive will be held by ABRS under the temporary site 2013-SBHN until deposition with Northamptonshire County Council can be arranged.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

## 6. Bibliography & Sources

Alycock, N.W & Hall, L. 2007 *Fixtures and Fittings in Dated Houses 1567-1763*. Ripponden.

'Boughton', An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 3: Archaeological sites in North-West Northamptonshire (1981), pp. 14-16. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

Boughton House Archives Visited 2nd June 2014.

Brunskill, R.W. 1993 *Traditional Buildings of Britain An Introduction to Vernacular Architecture*. Over Wallop.

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. London: English Heritage.

English Heritage, 2006 *The Conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings: A guide to good practice*. London: English Heritage

Hall, L. 2004 *Period House, Fixtures & Fittings 1300-1900*. Newbury

M<sup>c</sup>Kay, W.B 1945 *Building Craft Series, Brickwork*. Longmans, Green & Co.

Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record Nov 2013

Northamptonshire Records Office Visited June 27th 2014.

Peters, J.E.C., 2003 *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings*. Shire Books.

Roscoe, I., Hardy, E. & Sullivan, M.G *A Biographical Dictionary of Sculptors in Britain 1660 - 1851*

## 7. Colour Plates



**Figure 5**  
Principal Elevation (Looking South East).



**Figure 6**  
Rear Elevation (Looking West - South West).



**Figure 7**  
Trusses 1 & 2 (Looking North).



**Figure 8**  
Truss 3 (Looking North).



**Figure 9**  
Truss 4 (Looking North).



**Figure 10**  
Truss 5 (Looking South).



**Figure 11**  
Assembly Marks on Truss 3 (South Face).



**Figure 12**  
Bridled Rafters (South Face).



**Figure 13**  
Re-used Moulded Timber (South Face).

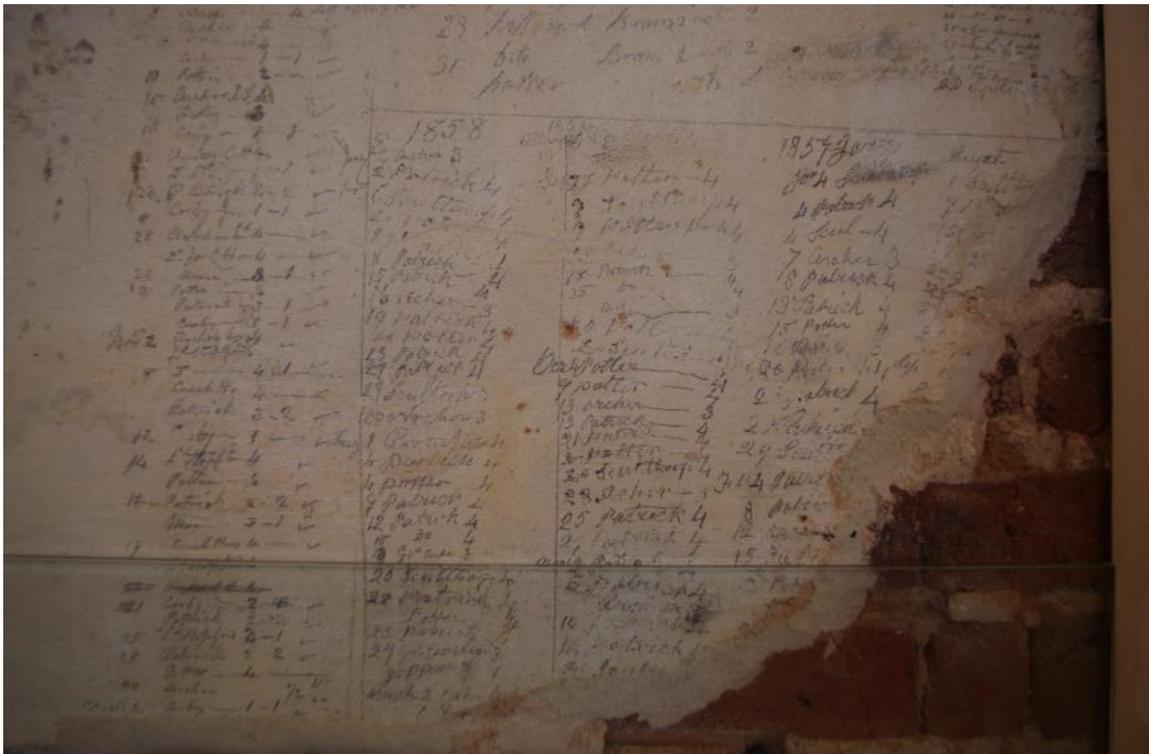


**Figure 14**  
Unusual Tally Marks(?) on Valley Beam (North Face).



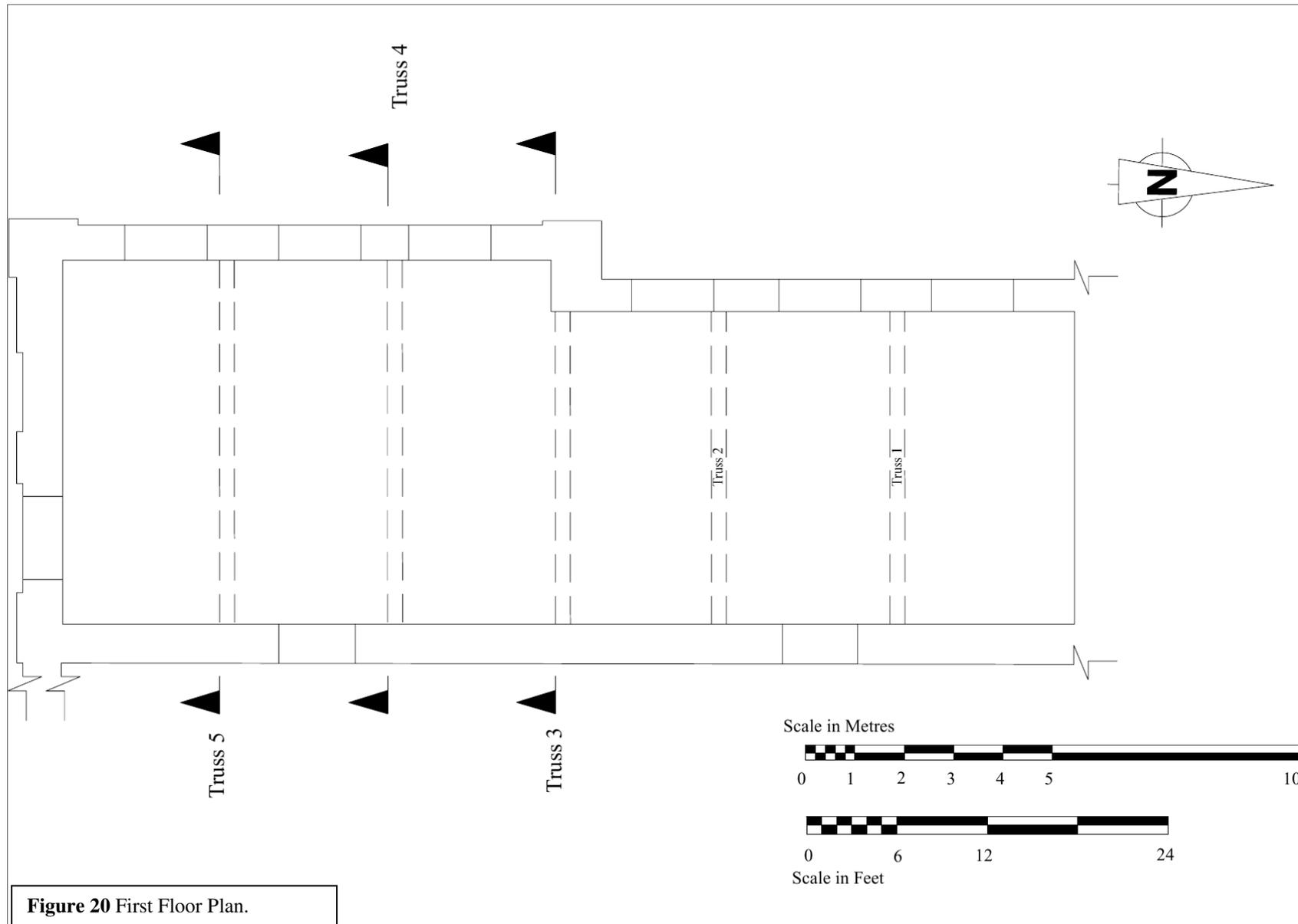


**Figure 17**  
Letter B and Barley on East Wall.



**Figure 18**  
Extensive List of Names on East Wall.





**Figure 20** First Floor Plan.

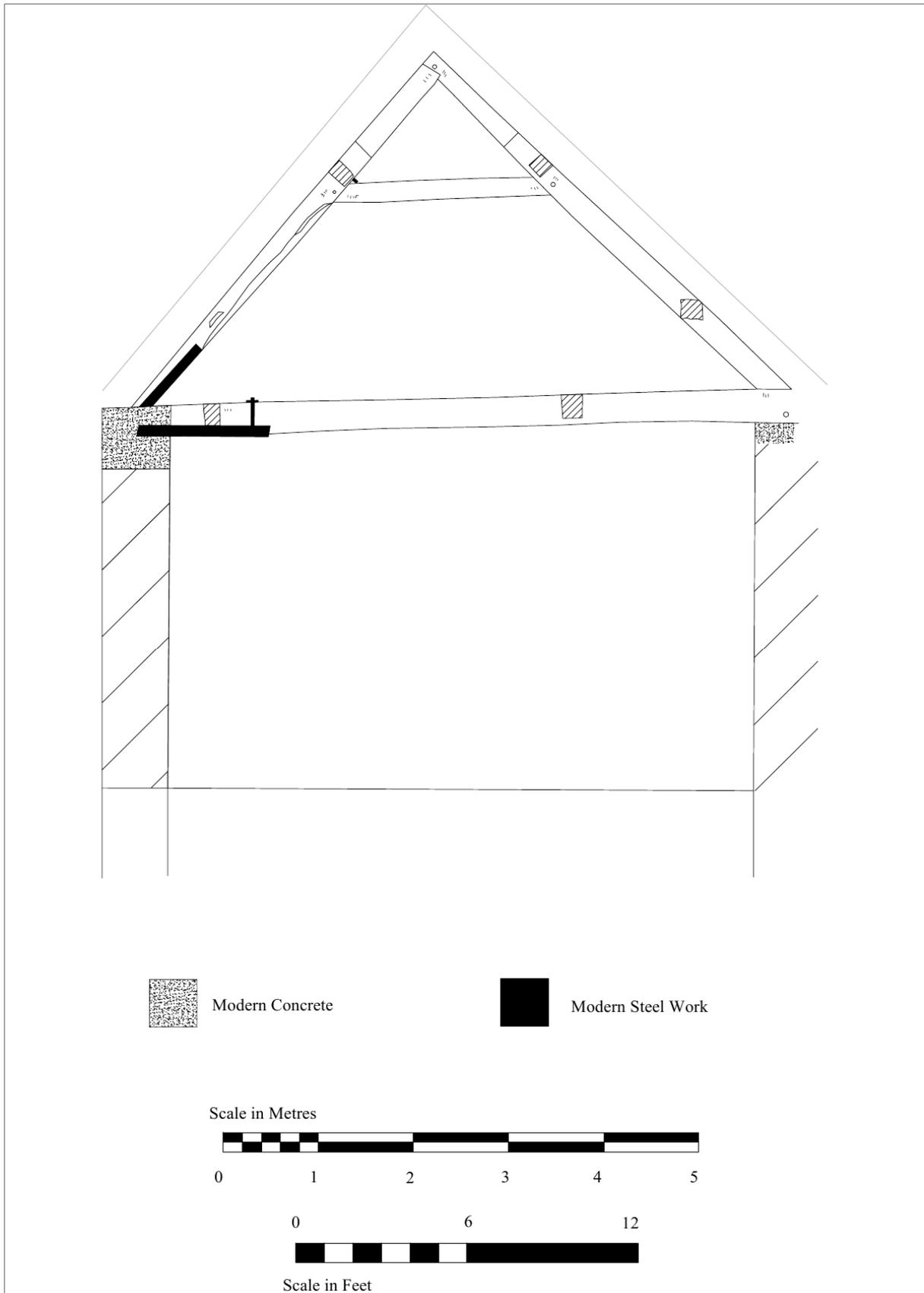


Figure 21 Truss 3.

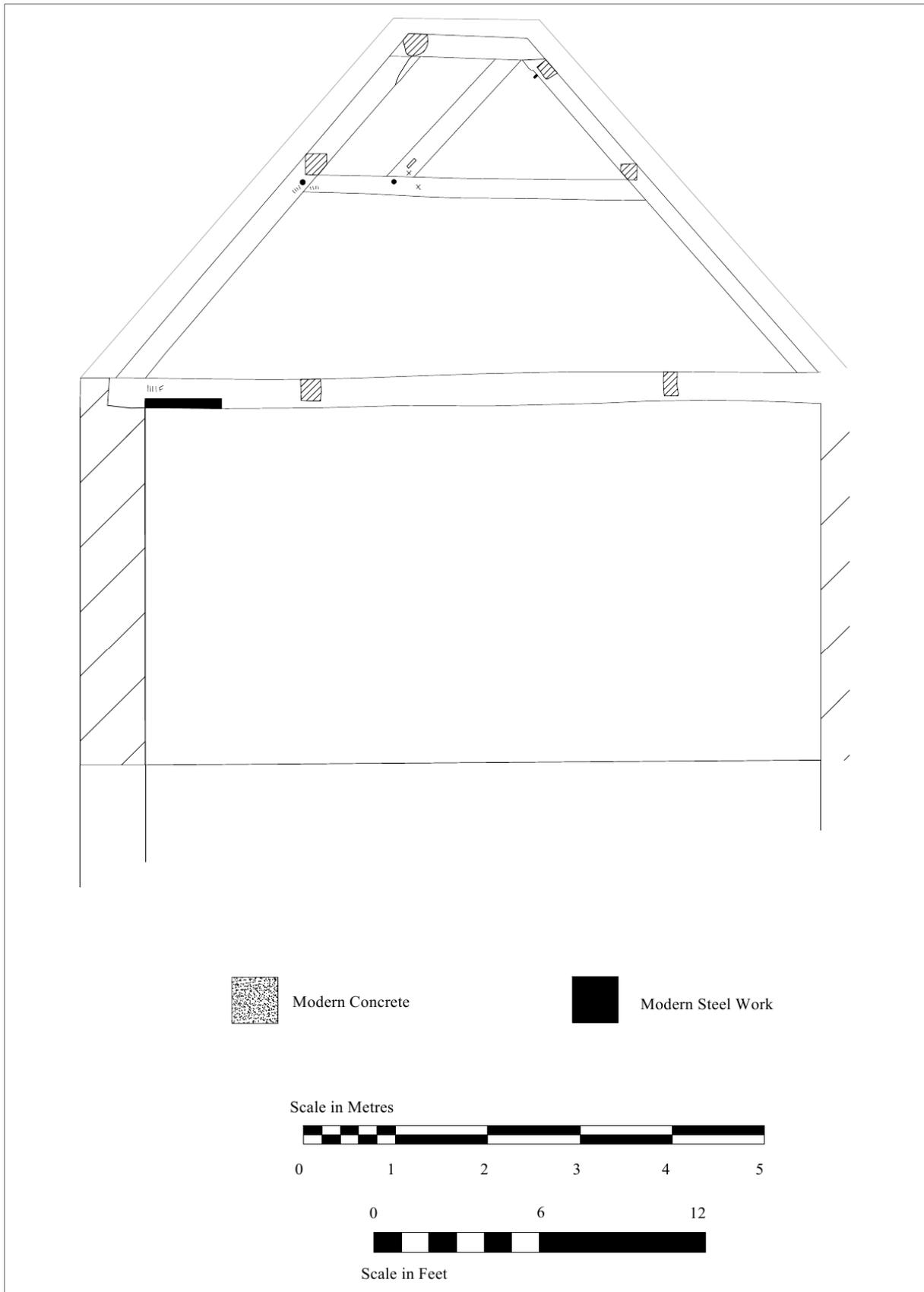


Figure 22 Truss 4.

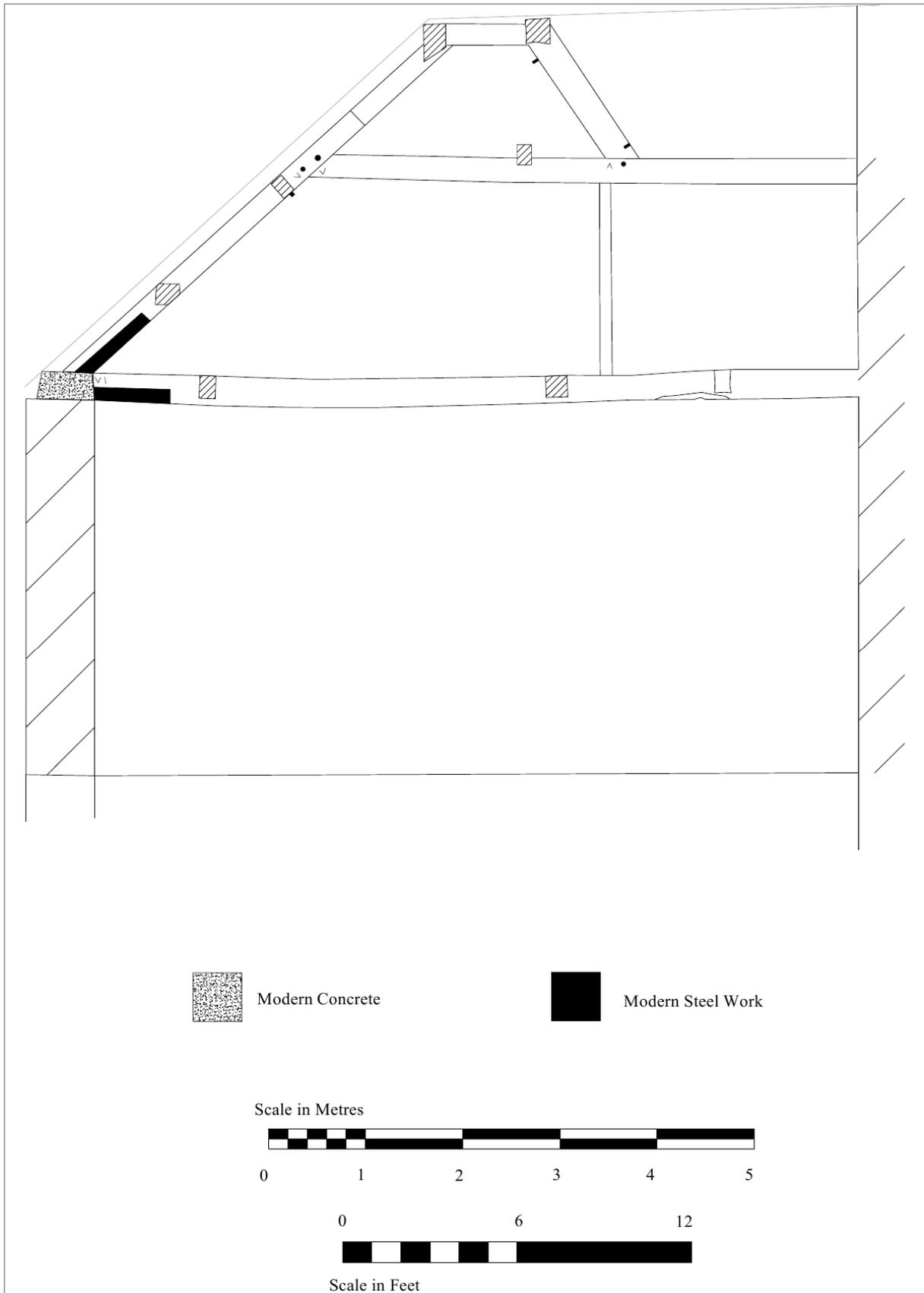
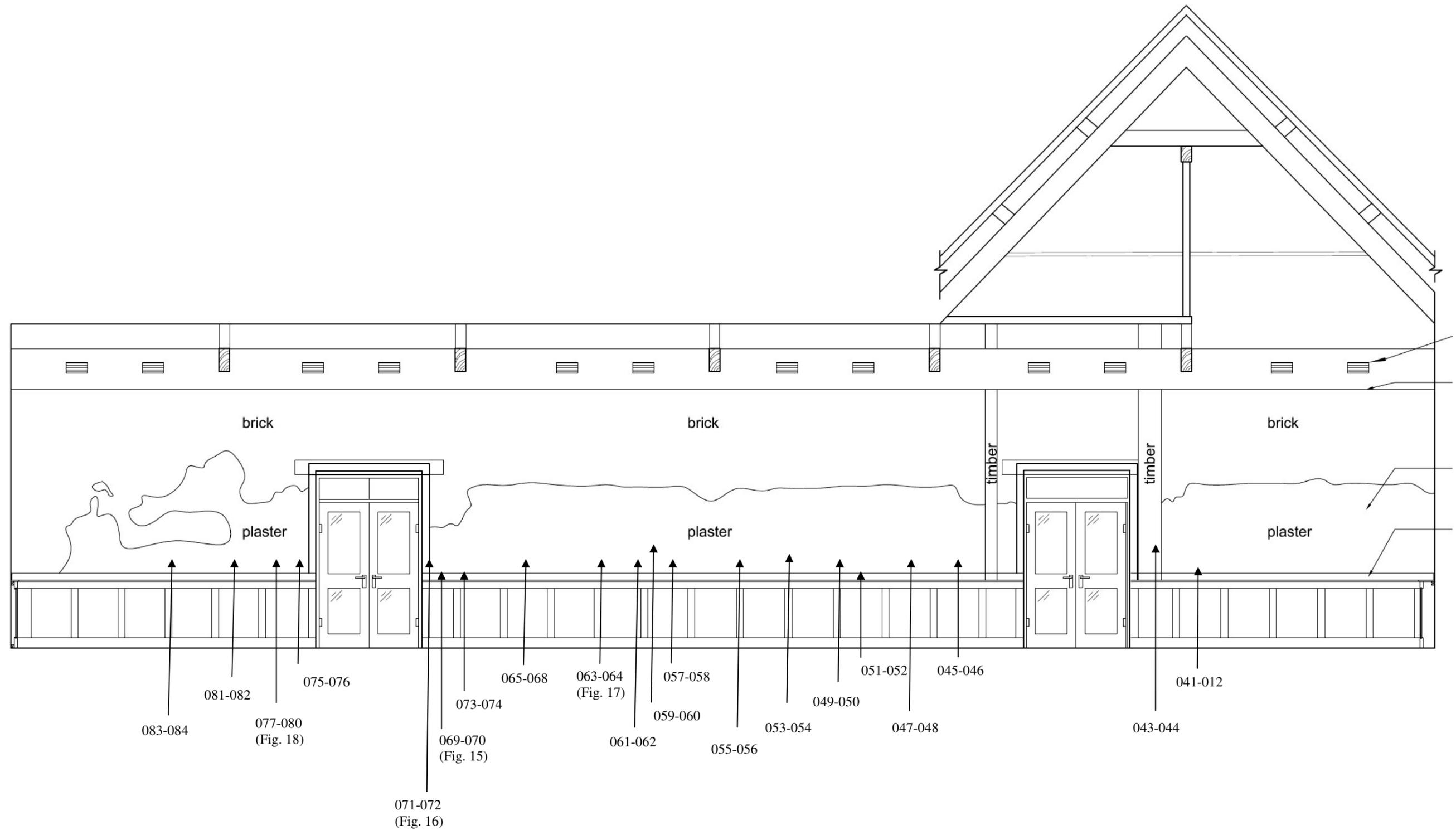
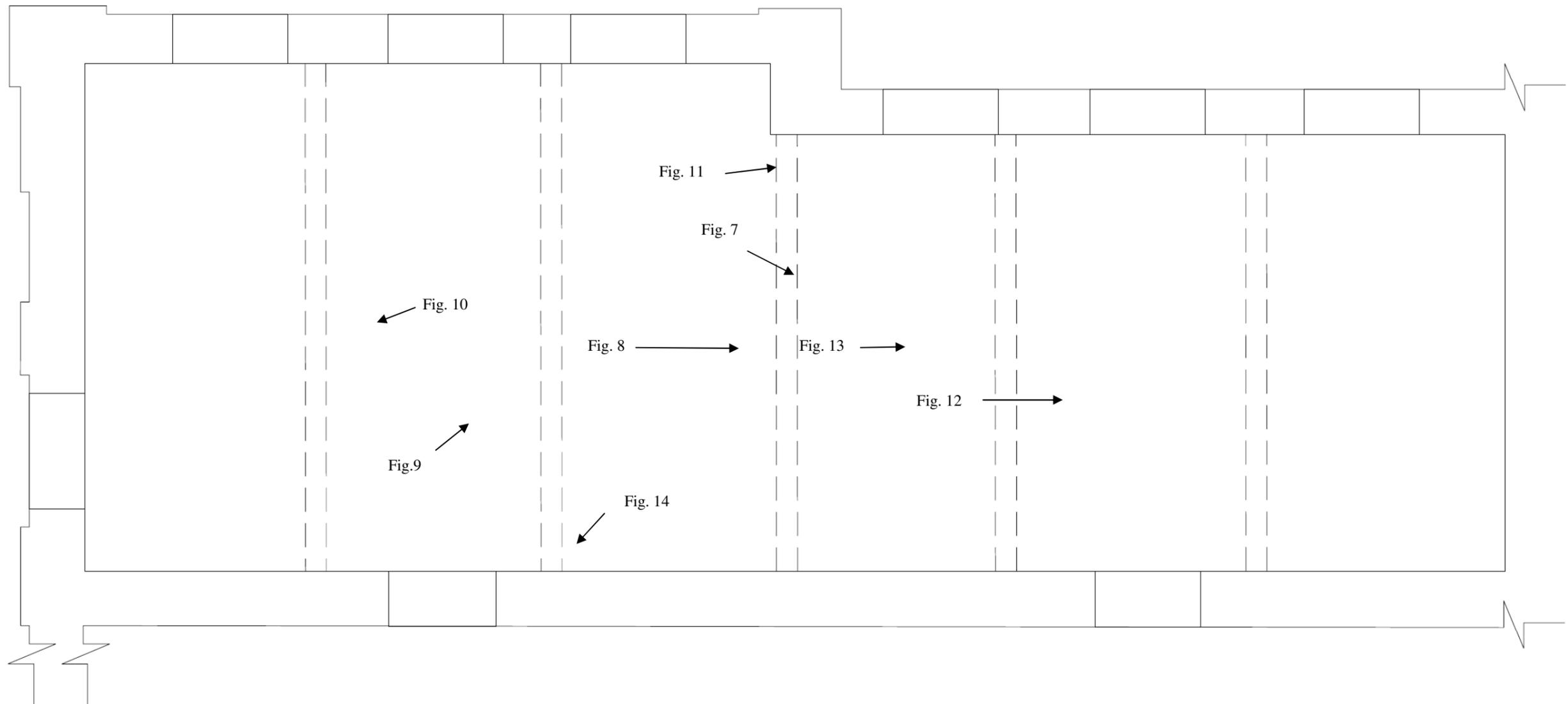
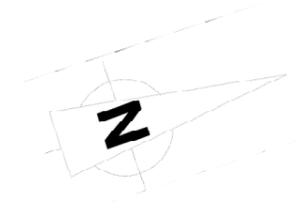


Figure 23 Truss 5.



**Figure 24** Photo Locations of Graffiti on East Wall Photo Archive Number & Report Figure Number.  
(Not to Scale)



**Figure 25** Photo Locations of Roof Structure.  
(Not to Scale)

**Appendix** Listed Building Description: Boughton House.

WEEKLEY

SP88SE BOUGHTON PARK

1337-0/5/221 Boughton House

25/10/51

GV I

Great house. Early C16 origin, with extensive late C17 alterations and additions, including north range, for Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu. Limestone ashlar, with some squared stone and coursed rubble and some red brick to rear and internal courtyard faces. Collyweston stone slate roofs with numerous moulded stone stacks. Planned round several courtyards, with half-H plan north range in French style. North range of 2 storeys and attic, with mansard roofs. Main block 9-windows wide, wings 4 windows deep with ends 3 windows wide. Banded rustication to basement and ground floor, plain pilasters above carrying full entablature with deep eaves cornice. Main block has arcaded loggia containing round-headed panelled double doors at centre and ends, and 8 round windows. First floor has 9/9 sash windows in plain raised architraves. Attic has 2-light leaded casement dormers with pediments alternately segmental and triangular. Wings have segment-headed basement windows (many blind) and dormers similar to main block. West front: a long 2-storey range stretching away from the north-west wing and stepping forward, has moulded string course above ground and first floor, and crowning balustrade. Windows mostly cross casements with glazing bars. 4 sets of French windows with round heads and 2 double part-glazed doors with overlights. East range: 2 storeys and attic, 7-windows wide, roof hipped to left, has band between storeys. Leaded cross casement windows with gauged heads and keystones to ground floor and in raised plain architraves to first floor. 6 pedimented dormers. Rainwater head dated 1704 in angle. Recessed block, 2 windows wide, linking east range to north-east wing, has 2 pairs of French windows reached by a generous flight of steps. Interior: early C16 great hall behind north range retains collar and tie beam roof with queen posts and wind braces, but concealed by ceiling painted by Louis Cheron with the marriage of Hercules and Hebe. One C16 doorway with 4-centred head and carved spandrels also survives. Several mid-C16 chimney pieces are to be found in the house, mostly reset, but the character of the interior is now overwhelmingly late C17 and early C18. Many rooms, are panelled and a number have ceilings painted by Cheron, who also painted the main staircase hall, west of the loggia. The main stair which leads to the suite of state apartments on the first floor of the north range is of stone with an elaborate wrought-iron balustrade. The interior of the north-east wing was never completed and it now contains a late-C18 Chinese style tea tent brought from Montagu House, London.

(Buildings of England: Northamptonshire: pp110-114; J. Cornforth: "Boughton House: Northamptonshire": a series of 6 articles).

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS)

40 Winfield Street  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV21 3SJ

Tel 07423813638

email [gerwyn.richards@archbuildservices.co.uk](mailto:gerwyn.richards@archbuildservices.co.uk)