



**Historic Building Recording  
and Archaeological Observation at  
Holywell Hall Stable,  
Lincolnshire  
January 2015**

Report No. 15/74

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# Historic Building Recording And Archaeological Observation at Holywell Hall Stable Lincolnshire January 2015

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**OAS/S REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		OAS/S molanort1-210076	
Project title	Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Observation at Holywell Hall Stable, Lincolnshire. January 2015		
Short description	<p>MOLA carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological observation at the Palladian style stable block located within the Holywell Hall estate. The stable is Grade II listed and dates to the early 18th century, showing evidence of a large scale program of enlargement and re-facing in the mid-18th century. In addition there have been internal alterations and partitioning relating to its most recent use as offices. Holywell Hall itself is Grade II* listed and also dates to the early 18th century, perhaps replacing an earlier medieval structure.</p> <p>The archaeological observation was carried out during ground works. Two trenches were observed and three archaeological features were identified, comprising post-medieval brick-lined drains.</p>		
Project type	Historic Building Survey and Archaeological Observation		
Previous work	None		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	18th century stable block		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Lincolnshire		
Site address	Holywell Hall, Stamford		
NGR	SK 99990 16100		
Area	0.03 ha		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Historic Environment Team (Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire)		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir, Mo Muldowney		
Project Manager	Amir Bassir, Mo Muldowney		
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**Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Observation  
at Holywell Hall Stable, Lincolnshire  
January 2015**

**Abstract**

*MOLA carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological observation at the Palladian style stable block located within the Holywell Hall estate. The stable is Grade II listed and dates to the early 18th century, showing evidence of a large scale program of enlargement and re-facing in the mid-18th century. In addition there have been internal alterations and partitioning relating to its most recent use as offices. Holywell Hall itself is Grade II\* listed and also dates to the early 18th century, perhaps replacing an earlier medieval structure.*

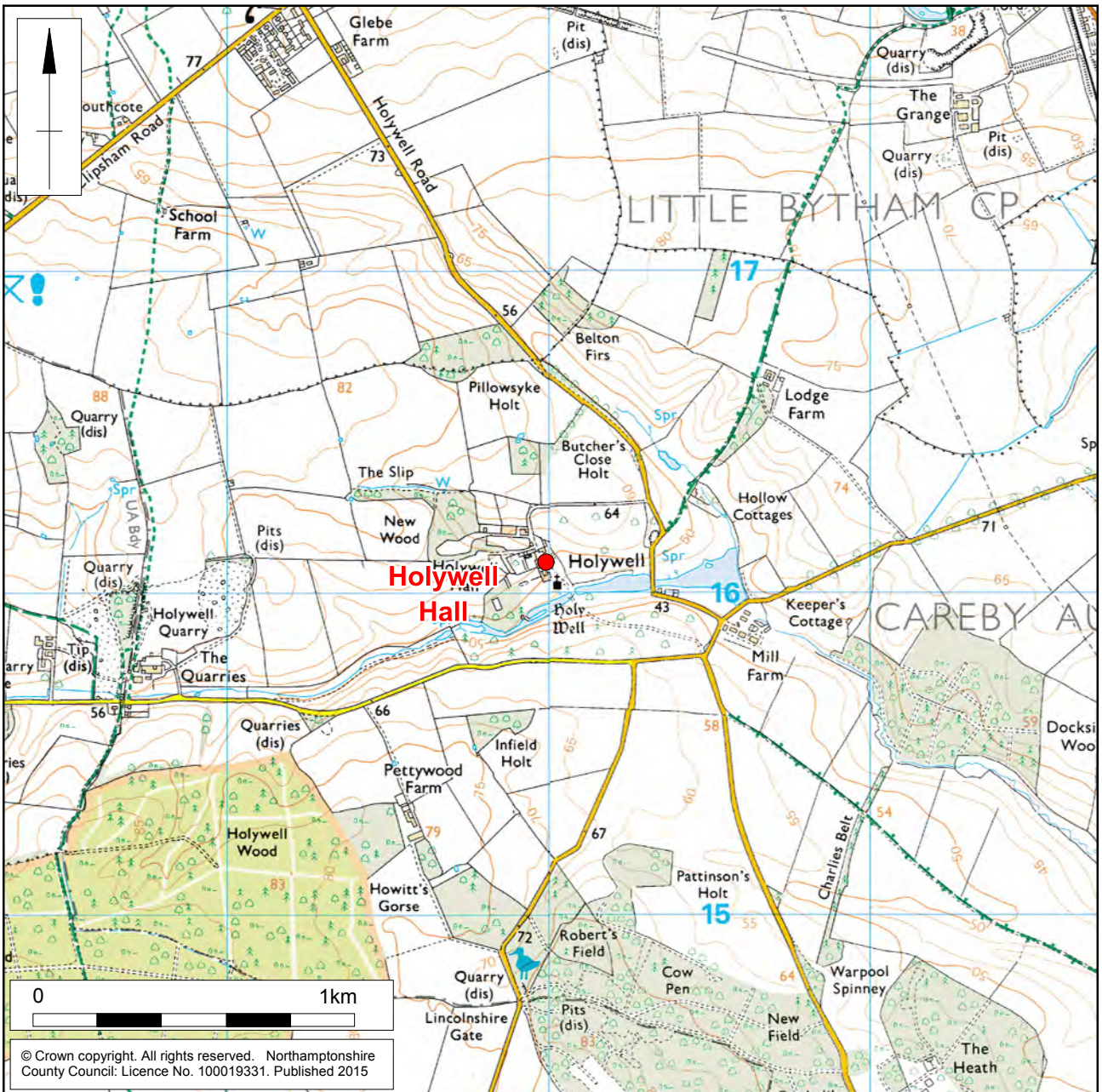
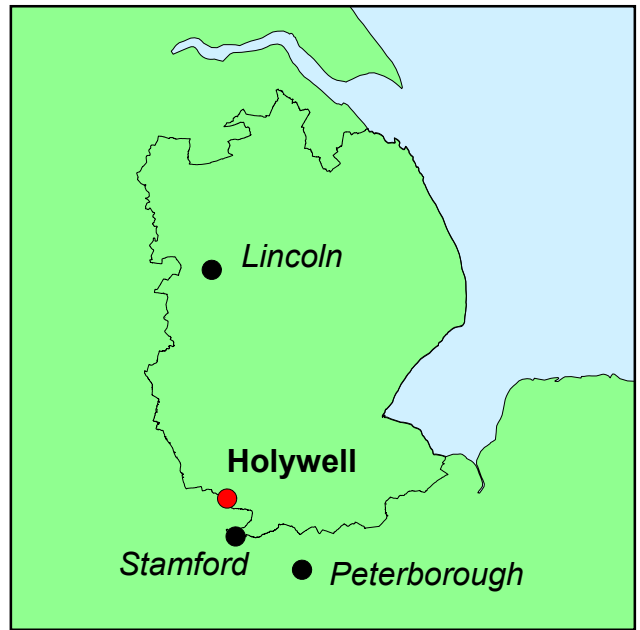
*The archaeological observation was carried out during ground works. Two trenches were observed and three archaeological features were identified, comprising post-medieval brick-lined drains*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA was commissioned in January 2015 by Ross Thain & Associates to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and observation of a Palladian style stable located within the Holywell Hall estate, Holywell, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 99990 16100, Fig 1). The building is located to the north of the Hall and has a prominent location overlooking the grounds and lake to the south east.

Planning has been granted for the conversion of the structure into a pool, games room and leisure facility. The consent has been granted with a condition attached for archaeological recording of the building.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Middle Jurassic limestone of the Upper Lincolnshire Limestone Group. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:20,000

Site Location Fig 1

## 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Building Recording

The level of recording was specified as Level 2, this is defined by English Heritage as consisting of (EH 2006, section 5.2):

- An overall photographic survey of the structures in their present condition comprising general and detailed shots taken in black and white with a high quality camera as well as digital photographs for reporting purposes;
- Written notes on the buildings construction, present and former use and where appropriate, the buildings past and present relationship to its setting in the wider landscape;
- All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a), and *Standard and Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (CIfA 2014b). All works will conform to English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition* (1991b) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2009).

A site visit was made in January 2015 when the interior space and principal elevations were photographically recorded and existing survey drawings were annotated to include any features of historic or architectural interest. Photography was carried out using 35mm black and white as well as digital.

### 2.2 Archaeological Observation

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the groundwork;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation in the development area;
- Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis;

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition* (1991b), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2006), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014).

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the MOLA Northampton *Archaeological fieldwork manual* (MOLA 2014).

A photographic record comprising digital images and 35mm black and white film was maintained.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition* (1991b).

A site visit was conducted in January 2015 to observe the groundworks. All excavations were carried out within the footings of the stable by a 360 mini mechanical excavator. Two trenches were excavated through the modern concrete floors in rooms G4 and G1. The excavated areas were cleaned sufficiently to expose and enable the identification and definition of archaeological features.

### 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Holywell is a small settlement within the Civil Parish of Careby Aunbey and Holywell, known locally for its two springs of Holy well and St Winifrids.

Holywell Hall is a Grade II\* listed structure situated within an estate that encompasses a range of buildings of different periods. The Hall itself dates to the early 17th century and has undergone several stages of enlargement and alteration in the early-mid 18th and 19th centuries. The Hall was historically the seat of the Reynardson family of whom Samuel Reynardson instigated the laying out of the gardens and landscaping of the estate in the early 18th century.

### 4 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING by Amir Bassir

The following is taken from the listed building entry of the stables:

*Former stables, now offices. c.1732 with minor C20 alterations. Squared limestone rubble with rusticated ashlar quoins and dressings. Hipped Collyweston roof. Parallel ranges. Single storey with attics, 7 bay front with plinth, having advanced and pedimented central bay with impost band and moulded cornice. Central double doors with plain fanlight in semi-circular headed opening with flush rusticated surround and stepped keyblock. In the pediment over a Diocletian window. To either side a pair of semi-circular headed windows and a single Diocletian window, all with plain ashlar surrounds and raised keystone. In the roof are 2 pairs of 2 light glazing bar casement dormers with curved lead roof and cheeks. On the centre of the ridge an octagonal cupola on square base with moulded cornice on the front of which is a clock face with glazed centre. The cupola rises from Doric columns supporting semi-circular arches. It has a moulded cornice and ball finial with weather vane. In the rear glazed double doors with fanlight, set in a semi-circular headed ashlar surround with key and impost blocks. Above the doorway a scrolled wrought iron lantern bracket. Staggered butt purlin softwood roof.*

The Hall and associated buildings including the stables are described in Pevsner's *The Buildings of England, Lincolnshire* (Pevsner 1989). The description of the stable is as follows:

*Facing the drive are the Palladian Stables. Seven bays with a central archway, pediment, and blank walls pierced only by semicircular lights. Above is an octagonal domed stone lantern. The themes are Burlingtonian, and they are continued in a side entrance where an arch is topped by three ball finials.*



## 4.1 Exterior

The stable is a Palladian style structure located to the north of the Hall with its main entrance to the south. To the north the building faces a courtyard with gravelled driveway. The remains of a cobbled surface can be seen running adjacent to the length of the north elevation. The stable is rectangular in plan, aligned approximately north-east, south-west. As Pevsner states, the stable is Burlingtonian in style. This style, also called Palladian revival was popular in the early – mid 18th century and is characterised by the use of symmetry and the proportions of classical architecture. Much of the detailing of the window and door architraves, such as the keystone and lintels which are to be seen both on the stable and surrounding buildings are of a type typical of this region, utilising locally available materials.

The roof is hipped at the east and west with a valley running east-west, central to the building. The exterior faces of the roof, including the hips are of locally available, squared, collyweston slate tiles whereas the inward facing sides of the central valley are of more modern ridged tiles.

The south elevation has a central pedimented entrance, projecting from the elevation, flanked by pairs of tall, arched windows with sliding sashes (Figs 2 & 3). The pediment has a semicircular light inserted. The entrance can be described as a *Gibbs doorway*, in which the architrave is interrupted by blocks of stone with a large keystone over. The doorway encloses a large fanlight over a white painted double door. A string course runs level with the bottom of the fanlight. A plinth course runs the full length of the elevation.

At the far ends of the south elevation are semicircular lights which match the proportions of the upper part of the larger, palladian style windows. Flanking the central pediment are two pairs of square dormer windows. These are six light casements set in white painted timber frames with lead flashing at the edges. The octagonal lantern presents a single clock face to the south. The clock face is black with gold coloured roman numerals surrounding a central, circular window.

The north elevation also follows the palladian rules of symmetry with a central door flanked by square windows with doors located at the far ends of the wall (Figs 4 & 5). The central doorway has double doors with a fanlight over. The architrave is plain with a keystone at the centre. A wrought iron bracket survives *in-situ* directly over the door, below the eaves. The windows are square with two mullions separating three units, each of four lights. Plain, rectangular stone lintels are presented externally, with timber on the inside face. The doors at the east and west ends of the elevation are fairly plain plank and batten doors with strap hinges, rim lock and latch. These doors each have a rectangular transom window over. There are five equally spaced dormer windows looking north. These are smaller than those on the opposing side of the building and are side hung with six lights.

The west elevation is plain with a single window and a door opening (Fig 6). The door opening is original to the wall but the window is likely to be contemporary with the modern use of the building. Two square holes have also been cut into the wall to accommodate modern ventilation ducts. The plinth course continues around this side of the building.

The east elevation is also plain with two high level semi-circular windows, one of which is blocked in stone. Dormer windows look south from each face of the hip, either side of the valley. Two rectangular blockings can be seen on the external face of this wall, adjacent to each other (Fig 7). These are unlikely to be window openings as no evidence of quoins or lintels are evident. The blockings are not visible from



within the structure and it is likely that a smaller structure was formerly joined to the east elevation at this point. The plinth course continues uninterrupted across this area.



The south elevation, looking north Fig 2



Detail of the windows of the south elevation Fig 3



The north elevation, looking south Fig 4



Detail of the north elevation Fig 5





The west elevation with side entrance, looking north-east Fig 6

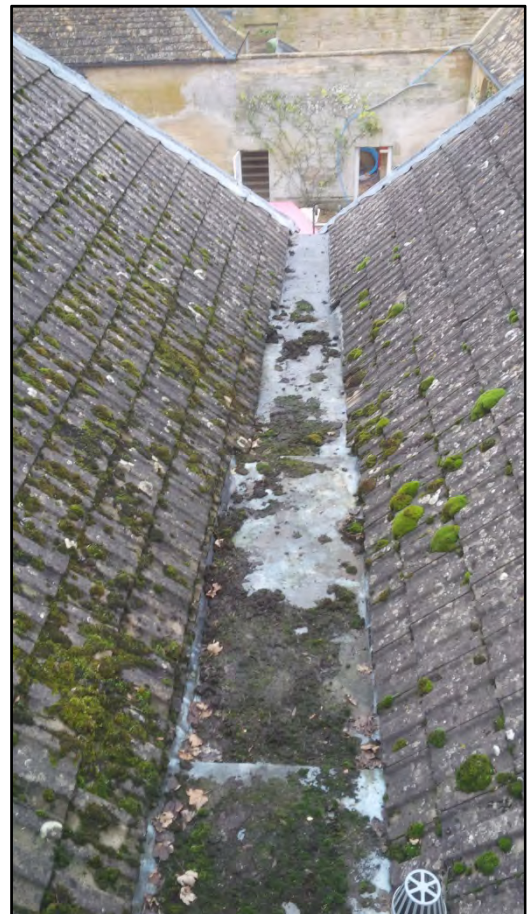


The east elevation, showing the rectangular blockings, looking south-west Fig 7





Detail of the lantern and clock, looking north-west Fig 8



Detail of the dormer windows and roof valley Fig 9

## 4.2 Interior

The stable is essentially formed of two parallel ranges, aligned north-east to south-west, each range with equal sized rooms at ground and first floor flanking a central hall and stair (Fig 10). The building was latterly in use as an office space with the large rooms partitioned into utilities, kitchen, store rooms, toilets etc. These partitions had been removed by the time of this survey, restoring the interior to its original layout. Only room G3, in the north-east corner of the building retained the fixtures and fittings relating to its original use as a stable.

The main entry to the ground floor is via the central, north-south hallway which provides access to each of the four rooms. A central door divides the north and south halves of the hallway. A stone with the date 1764 can be seen to the left side of the south door, facing into the hall (Fig 15). The embellishment of door surrounds is continued inside the building with the door openings having ashlar quoins and keystones (Fig 13). These have been picked out in blue paint throughout the building, both on the ground and first floors.

**Room G1** is located in the south-east corner of the building (Fig 10). It retained no fittings relating to its function as a stable save for iron tether rings on the north wall (Fig 16). The room measures c9.7 x 5.m and has a modern concrete floor. A modern suspended ceiling had been removed by the time of this survey. There is a single doorway in the south-west corner and two tall windows look south with a single semi-circular window adjacent. The main windows are recessed with splayed reveals and have pronounced ashlar quoins of varying sizes (Fig 18). The clerestory semi-circular window of the south wall is also set within a full height splayed recess. A clerestory, semi-circular, Diocletian style window looks east, central to the east wall. From the base of the window, the sill slopes downward at a steep pitch. The north wall of the room has a number of blind, arched recesses (Fig 17). The recesses have angled sills which are mirrored on the opposing side of the wall. Small iron tether rings survive in-situ between each recess. Square holes for modern ventilation ducts have been cut into the western wall of the room.

**Room G2** forms the western half of the southern range and measures c9.7 x 5.5m (Fig 10). The original doorway to the hall has been enlarged in modern times to accommodate a wide, arched opening which was knocked through prior to this survey (Fig 19). An RSJ supported by breeze blocks was inserted over this opening. The layout of this room is essentially the same as Room G1 with tall windows looking to the south, flanked by a clerestory semi-circular window (Fig 20). An additional doorway provides access to the west from the south-west corner of the room. The north wall presents a number of blind, arched recesses though no tether hooks survived in this room (Fig 21).

**Room G3** is of interest in that it retained a full complement of fixtures and fittings relating to the building's use as a stable. From the central hall a door leads to a passage that runs the length of the room providing access to three square stalls, each measuring c3.2 x 3.2m (Fig 22). The passage is floored with tightly packed red bricks laid on edge (Fig 27). The stall partitions and furniture are of a good quality in wrought iron and timber with bead boards around the inside of each stall (Figs 24 & 26). It is likely that the stalls and stable furniture are mid-late 19th century and represent a renovation of the stables at this date. Rounded hay feeders survive *in-situ*, one per stall (Fig 25). The floor within each stall is of concrete with scored grooves radiating from a central drain. A plank and batten door in the north-east corner of the room provided suitable access for animals (Fig 28). On the south wall of the room could be seen the opposing sides of the blind, arched recesses. Iron tether rings were fixed between each of these. In the north wall, the window opening is recessed to the floor

with splayed reveals. The door to this room was latterly blocked to separate the room from the adjacent offices.

**Room G4** had, until recently, been partitioned for use as a kitchen, toilet, shower, and sitting room. These brick partitions had been removed by the time of this survey. As a result of this partitioning, several of the arched recesses of the south wall of the room had been filled in with modern breeze blocks (Figs 29 & 30).

The ground floor landing for the stair case is located in the north half of the central hall, adjacent to the door of room G4 (Fig 10). It is plain with squared, wooden balustrading and a bullnose step at the bottom. The treads and risers appear to have been replaced in modern times. An intermediate landing is created midway between the floors from which opposing flights of stairs lead to the north and south ranges. The south landing is located directly below the lantern (Fig 34). From here, it is possible to access the interior of the lantern and the clock mechanism (this area was not accessed during this survey). The small space at the south end of the landing, underneath the clock, has been partitioned into a small room which was used as a WC (Fig 10). From here, a Diocletian style semi-circular window opens south, central to the exterior pediment (Fig 39). A stone shelf is formed, projecting into the room at the base of the pediment. A stone arch is positioned just within the room (Fig 38). This is one of a pair of arches which help to carry the weight of the lantern into the main structure, the other being located above the landing and helping support the north side of the lantern. Adjacent to the central landing, it is clear that the central, east-west wall has been cut to allow for the construction of the stair. The remains of several possible ashlar quoins can be seen on western side of the wall adjacent to the short flight of steps to the south landing (Figs 32 & 33). It is possible that these represent a former south facing, high level window or door opening to the building and as such may indicate that the north and south ranges are not contemporary with each other.

**Rooms F1 and F2** flank the central hall and landing (Fig 10). They are of an equal size, each measuring c9.7 x 5.5m. The first floor rooms are essentially a former hayloft serving the stables below. It was a common feature for there to be a gap around the edges of a hayloft so that hay could be pushed into the mangers from above, though due to the re-flooring of the stables no evidence of this survives. The rooms are primarily within the pitch of the roof with approximately 1m of vertical wall to the eaves. The roof construction is of interest with well-made arched collar trusses spanning the room (Figs 40,41 & 46,47). The west wall of room F1 and the east wall of room F2 incorporate arched collars within the wall, spanning over the door openings. Rather than continuous purlins, the roof structure incorporates staggered butt purlins throughout (Fig 42). Both rooms feature dormer windows, looking south, which are positioned within the butt purlins without interrupting or cutting them. Room F1 has an additional dormer looking to the east. Low stud partitions around the edges of the rooms shrink the interior space away from the outer walls. The facing of the partitions had been largely removed by the time of this survey, leaving only the studwork. The removal of the partitions has exposed two pairs of equally spaced substantial oak tie beams, two per room, which have been cut short (Figs 10, 43, 44 & 48). These beams protrude from the south walls of the two rooms. They are roughly squared with chamfered edges and measure c0.25m x 0.25m. Square peg holes, some empty and some plugged can be seen on two of the beams. On the north wall of the rooms, opposing the beams, blocking or patchings in stone can be seen, indicating where the tie beams formerly attached to the north wall (Figs 10, 45 & 49). As at ground floor, the detailing around the first floor door openings have been picked out with blue paint. A secondary door in the north-east corner of room F2 allows access to room G4 (Fig 50). There is evidence of an earlier, slightly higher floor in the two rooms, in the form of defunct floor joists which are to be positioned

with regular spacing around the full extent of both rooms (Fig 49). The majority of the joists have been cut short, flush with the wall though in places only the joist sockets remained.

The landing north of the stair provides access to rooms F3 and F4 via opposing doors (Fig 10). These are squared openings with typical keystones central to the lintels. A central dormer window allows light into the landing from the north. A pair of short, roughly cut tie beams span the upper part of the roof over the landing (Figs 51 & 52). These are in turn joined by a central, waney edged timber.

**Rooms F3 and F4** form the northern half of the stable and are accessed primarily from the central landing at the north of the building (Fig 10). Room F4 has a secondary door opening to room F2 in its south-eastern corner. These rooms are near identical in layout to rooms F1 and F2, with dormer windows facing to the south and a roof structure comprising collar trusses and staggered butt purlins (Figs 53-56). The carpentry seen on the roof timbers over rooms F3 and F4 is of a poorer quality than that seen in rooms F1 and F2 where the collar trusses are well made with curving edges. The roof structure here appears to be an imitation of that in the southern rooms though constructed of poorer quality timbers with less skilled joinery. The remains of tie beams seen in the south rooms is not repeated in the north rooms and no earlier, chopped floor joists were evident.

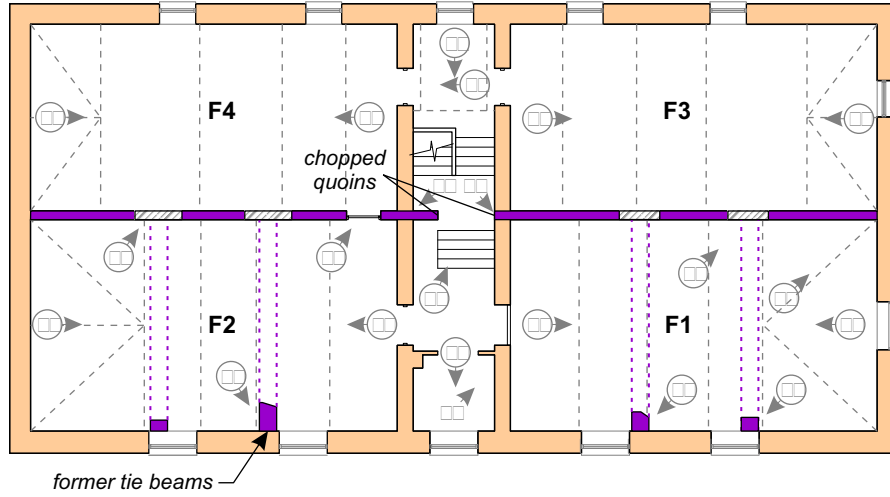
## 5 Analysis

There are a number of discrepancies between the north and south halves of the first floor rooms which suggest that the south range is of an earlier date than the north. Evidence also suggests that the stable has undergone a large scale re-facing to create the façade seen today. The stable is commonly accepted to date to the early 18th century as stated in the building's listing description. It seems likely that the south range is the earliest part of the structure with the current central dividing wall being formerly the north external wall of the stable. At ground floor the wall is pierced by a number of regularly spaced arched recesses which could have been open when this was an external wall, allowing light into the rooms. At first floor, the remains of former tie beams and floor joists are present only in the south range. It is unclear if these are contemporary with the collar trusses in this range or if they represent an earlier phase. A number of quoin like stones can be seen at the intermediate stair landing which indicate that an elevated window or door opening was formerly located here. It is common for haylofts to have an elevated opening to allow for material to be hoisted up from the outside. The timberwork in the roof of the northern first floor rooms imitates the style of that of the southern range, though in poorer quality timbers with less skilled carpentry.

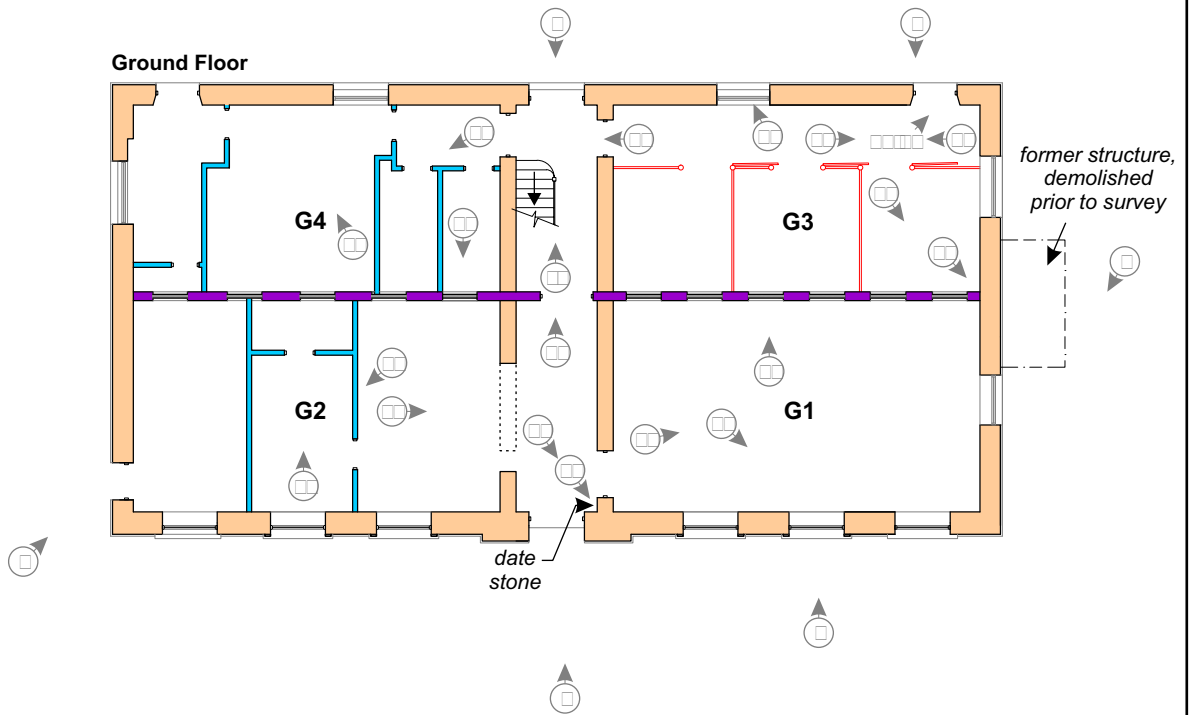
Externally the building is a whole unit with no evidence of a split to be seen. One might expect that the division of the two ranges to show on the east and western elevations, however no vertical join or defunct quoins are present. It seems clear that as part of the creation of the north range of the stable, the earlier south range was entirely refaced, leaving the former northern external wall now central to a larger structure with its window openings being blocked. It is likely that the other walls of the south range were incorporated into the re-facing as at first floor the defunct floor joists continue around the far west and east walls. A date stone just inside the main doorway at ground floor places the re-facing of the south range and the construction of the north range at 1764.

















**First Floor**



**Ground Floor**



-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  







The hall, looking north Fig 11



The underside of the stair, looking north-east Fig 12



Detail of door header styles and keystones at ground floor Fig 13



The main entrance and entry to room G1, looking south-east Fig 14





Detail of date stone, 1764, adjacent to the main entrance Fig 15



General view of room G1, looking east Fig 16



The north wall of room G1, showing the arched recesses Fig 17



Room G1, detail of the windows, looking south-east Fig 18





Room G2, showing the modern door opening, looking east Fig 19



General view of room G2, showing the window and door openings, looking south-west Fig 20



The north wall of room G2, showing the arched recesses, looking north Fig 21



Room G3, looking west towards the hall Fig 22





Room F3, the north facing window Fig 23



The eastern stall, showing the corner feeder, looking south-east Fig 24



Detail of the corner feeders Fig 25



Detail of the stall doors Fig 26





Detail of the brick floor Fig 27



Detail of the eastern door Fig 28



General view of room G4, looking west Fig 29



Room G4, detail of the blocked arched recesses Fig 30





Room G4, looking north-west Fig 31



The intermediate landing, showing former quoin stones in line with the central dividing wall, looking south-east Fig 32



The intermediate landing, showing the quoins of a former door or window opening in the central dividing wall, looking south-west Fig 33



The south landing with stone arch below the lantern, looking north Fig 34





The interior, south face of the lantern, showing the central clock window and stone supporting piers Fig 35



The interior of the lantern with partitioned area over the landing, looking north-west Fig 36



The clock mechanism, prior to removal Fig 37



The stone arch supporting the south face of the arch, as seen from within the WC Fig 38





The WC, showing the inner face of the pediment, looking south Fig 39



Room F1, looking east Fig 40



Room F1, looking west Fig 41



Room F1, detail of the joinery around the east hip, looking north-east Fig 42





Detail of former tie beam with square peg holes Fig 43



Detail of former tie beam with square pegs Fig 44



Detail of blocking opposite the easternmost tie beam Fig 45



Room F2, looking west Fig 46





Room F2, looking east Fig 47



Detail of tie beam with square holes Fig 48



Detail of blocking opposite to the tie beam, also showing defunct joist slots, looking north Fig 49



The doorway between rooms F2 and F4, looking north Fig 50





The north landing, looking west Fig 51



Detail of the roof structure over the north landing Fig 52





Room F3, looking east Fig 53



Room F3, looking west Fig 54



Room F4, looking west Fig 55



Room F4, looking east Fig 56

## 6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE by Tim Sharman

A site visit was carried out in January 2015 to observe and record two areas of excavation (trenches 1 and 2), both within the footprint of the stable, in rooms G1 and G4. Both trenches were partly bounded by walls and were excavated through the modern concrete floors.

### 6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Figs 57, 63) was excavated by machine in the south-east corner of the stable block, the trench measured 4.5m long by 1.9m wide by 0.6m deep and was aligned north to south. The eastern and southern sides of the trench were formed by part of the east and south wall foundations respectively, of the stable block. The western and northern sides of the trench were cut through the later concrete floor of Room G1 within the building.

The natural substrate was not observed in this trench. At a depth of between 0.3m and 0.6m below floor level, a compacted layer of limestone rubble and yellowish brown sandy clay loam (103) was found throughout the length of the trench overlying the base. This layer appeared to have been cut by the foundation trench of the east wall of the building. At a point roughly 2m to the north of the south eastern corner of the room, a possible square-sectioned, weep-hole was noted within the eastern wall foundations (Figs 57,59, 63)

Partly set within layer (103) at a depth of between 0.3m and 0.5m below the later floor level of Room 1, three drains (104, 105, 110) constructed of red, hand-made bricks were revealed.

Drain 104 was aligned in an east to west direction in the northern part of the trench (Figs 57, 60). The drain floor comprised horizontally laid bricks the width of a brick stretcher, the walls consisted of two lines of vertically laid bricks, which were capped by horizontally laid bricks. The drain had been badly damaged close to the western side of the trench. Drain 104 was approximately twice the width of the other drains (105, 110) and appeared to be a 'main drain'.

Drain 105 joined 104 at a right-angle and was aligned in a north to south direction towards the north end of the trench (Figs 57, 60). It comprised a narrow base of horizontally-laid bricks, the width of a single brick header, with walls formed by a single layer of horizontally-laid bricks. The drain had been badly damaged with only two bricks surviving from the walls, the capping having been entirely removed.

In the extreme north-west corner of the trench, drain 110 was aligned in an east to west direction running parallel with the course of drain 104 approximately 1m to the north. Drain 110 survived in good condition in the east facing section of the trench (Figs 57, 61). It is likely that 110 and 105 may have been linked, however the eastward continuation of drain 110 is uncertain.

Overlying drain 110 was a 0.05m thick layer of mortar (108) above which was a former floor layer (102) consisting of grey engineering-type bricks formed into square-embossed slabs. Set within this floor layer, at the north western corner of Trench 1 were two semi-circular sectioned, steel drains (106 and 111). Drain 106 was aligned in a north to south direction close to the north west corner of the trench. (Figs 57, 61-62). Drain 111 was located immediately above brick-lined drain 110 and was aligned in an east to west direction (Figs 57, 61).



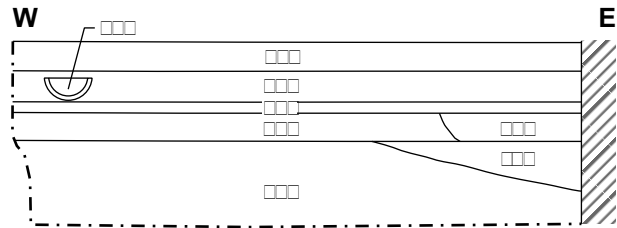
Overlying floor layer (102) and drains 106 and 110 was a 0.1m thick layer of concrete (101) which formed the current floor of the room (Figs 57, 61-63).

## **6.2 Trench 2**

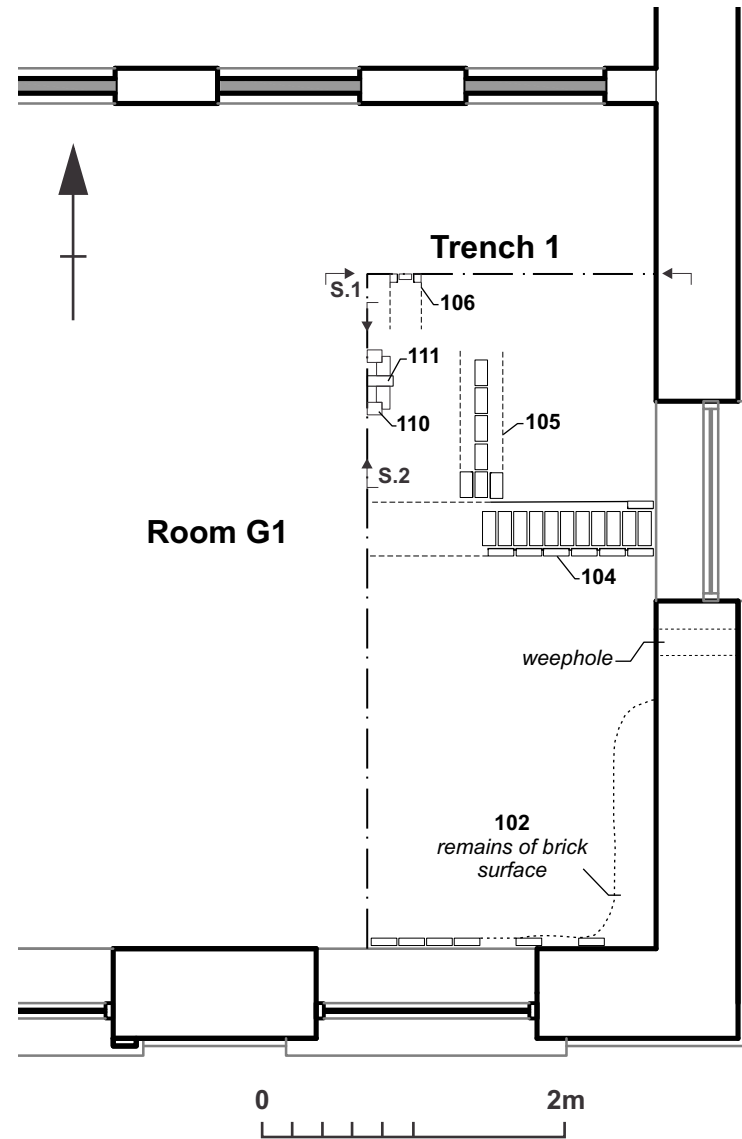
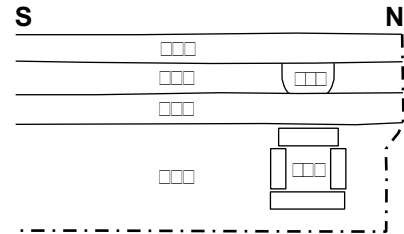
Trench 2 (Fig 58) had been excavated on a previous occasion, within the former kitchen area in the north-west corner of the stable block. Trench 2 measured 5m long by 2m wide by 0.6m deep and was aligned in a north to south direction (Figs 58, 64). The sides of the trench were formed by the external and internal wall foundations of the later kitchen area.

Trench 2 had been deepened to a depth of approximately 1m below the floor level at the north end adjacent to the external kitchen door. The natural substrate was observed at a depth of approximately 0.5m below floor level. The natural substrate consisted of solid, compacted limestone. Overlying this natural substrate were the stable block wall foundations. Within Trench 2, no archaeological features were observed.

**Section 1**



**Section 2**









Trench 1, possible weep hole in foundations of east wall. Fig 59



Trench 1, drains 104 (right), 105 (left) looking east. Fig 60





Trench 1, drain 111 overlying drain 110 looking west. Fig 61



Trench 1, south facing section. Drains 110, 111 on left. Fig 62





Trench 1, looking south after removal of drains. Weep hole on left. Fig 63



Trench 2, looking south. Fig 64



## 6 Conclusion

The stable is a fine example of its type, combining the symmetry and classical proportions of Palladian revival with the typical detailing and architectural styling of the Lincolnshire and East Northamptonshire area. The structure utilises local stone in its construction and is well positioned to take advantage of its prominent setting overlooking the grounds to the south-east. The building is well preserved, retaining its tall Palladian style and smaller Diocletian style semi-circular windows. Internally it retains a well-constructed roof structure which incorporates arched collar trusses and staggered butt purlins. At ground floor, room G3 retained a full complement of good quality, late 19th century wrought iron stable fittings.

It is likely that originally the stable comprised only the south range which was constructed in the early 18th century. In 1764, the building was doubled in size with the construction of the north range and the south range was re-faced. Later alterations included re-flooring the rooms both at ground and floor and the partitioning, in brick of the four main ground floor rooms into smaller offices and utilities.

The archaeological evidence for re-flooring alterations was visible in Room G1 where the brick-lined drains (104, 105, 110) visible in Trench 1 appear to confirm the survival of an internal drainage system installed during the construction of the south range of the stable Block in the 18th century. These drains appeared to have been abandoned and damaged during the construction of the later brick floor (102) and later steel drains (106, 111) possibly in the 19th century. The deep limestone rubble layer (103) within which the brick-lined drains were laid, would appear to be associated with the levelling of the area immediately prior to the construction of the original south range.

No evidence for an internal drainage system was found within Trench 2 in the later north range, however the natural limestone substrate immediately beneath wall foundations and floor sub-base would suggest that in the north western part of the building the overlying stratigraphy had been removed during construction, thereby limiting the scope for survival of archaeological features pre-dating the construction of the stable block.

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