

APETHORPE HALL,  
APETHORPE,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
RECORD OF OPENING UP  
VOLUME TWO

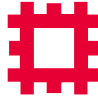
HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

Claire Martin



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APETHORPE  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**RECORD OF AREAS OPENED UP  
VOLUME 2**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Apethorpe Hall

Apethorpe Hall is a Grade I listed country house, located in north-east Northamptonshire. The oldest parts of the house, including the hall, were erected by the courtier Sir Guy Wolston in the late 15th century. Additions were made at various times in the course of the 16th century, and in the early 1560s Sir Walter Mildmay remodelled the house to provide state apartments. This paid off, as Queen Elizabeth I visited in 1566, initiating a long royal association with the property.

King James I visited Apethorpe on numerous occasions. In 1622, he ordered the new owner, Sir Francis Fane, soon to become the 1st Earl of Westmorland, to extend and refurbish the state apartments. The sequence of fine rooms created by Fane in 1622-24 is located in the south and east ranges. These rooms retain elaborate plasterwork ceilings and carved stone fireplaces; they are of supreme historical, artistic and architectural importance.



*Figure 1. Apethorpe Hall from the north west.*

Plans to remodel the house as a Palladian palace with two vast domes were prepared around 1740 by the 7th Earl, Thomas Fane, and his architect, Roger Morris. This scheme was never realised, but resulted in some significant alterations. Then, in the mid-19th century, the Stamford architects Bryan and Edward Browning made various additions and alterations, including the erection of a loggia and conservatory against the south front, and the rearrangement of the 17th century loggia in the east range.

In 1904, the impoverished Westmorlands sold the estate to Leonard Brassey, who engaged Sir Reginald Blomfield to undertake a great deal of work on the house and gardens. In 1947, Brassey sold the house to the Home Office; it became an approved school, and later a community school. Alterations, mostly reversible, were made to fit the house for this purpose, initially in 1949-50, and later in the mid-1970s. The school closed in 1982.

## **1.2 The Role of English Heritage at Apethorpe Hall**

After the closure of the school, Apethorpe Hall was sold, but the new owner lived elsewhere and neglected the property, which was deemed a 'building at risk'. Following the issue of several urgent works notices, the house was subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order in 2004. It was handed over, by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to English Heritage, which has assumed responsibility for instituting a phased programme of repairs and, ultimately, securing a viable future for the property.

## **1.3 Recently Uncovered Features**

Preliminary work undertaken in 2005-06 concentrated on assessing the condition of the property prior to designing and instituting Phase 1 of the repairs programme. This resulted in the opening up of certain areas, revealing important architectural features.

The purpose of this report is to record the features uncovered in 2006-07, alongside the continuing repairs programme, and to inform the ongoing research programme. An earlier report, (Kathryn Morrison *Record of Areas Opened up Prior to Phase I Repairs* 2006, Report Series Number 30/2006) documented those features discovered in the 2005-06 phase of opening up prior to the repairs programme. Throughout the report, individually numbered features are located by reference to room numbers allocated by English Heritage (see floor plans).

## No. 1

### Feature:

Buttery hatch?

### Location:

N1.17, in cellar

### Description:

Coursed rubble wall bonded with clay mortar. The hatch is a stone lined recess set into the wall. It has been lime-plastered and lime-washed. The hatch is now blocked at the front (south side) and was presumably accessible from either side before being filled in.

### Key Measurements:

The hatch measures: 0.40m wide x 0.46m high x 0.40m deep.



*Figure 1.1 The buttery hatch. Taken from the north.*



## No. 2

### Feature:

South wall (in cupboard)

### Location:

Cupboard in N1.15

### Description:

Coursed, neatly dressed and squared stone wall with clay mortar with pecking and two phases of plastering. Presence of red brick suggests some possible repair work.

This wall would have been the outer face of the west porch (H1.02). It would originally have been external, visible from inside a small courtyard.

### Key Measurements:

Height: 1.16

Width: 0.91



*Figure 2.1 Taken from the north.*



### No. 3

**Feature:**

External wall of H1.01/ H1.05

**Location:**

Service courtyard, looking east

**Description:**

A coursed rubble wall with clay mortar, constructed to first-floor level. A row of coping stones runs below the first-floor windows of N2.12 and H2.01 but they do not continue beyond the quoin stones of H2.05. This is a surviving remnant of a garden wall. A break in the wall at this point, running to the ground, suggests that the remainder of the garden wall was rebuilt, so that the first-floor could be built as a continuous construction.

A 20th-century doorway has been inserted with a concrete lintel for access to the school dining room. The doorway has since been bricked in and the dining room demolished.



*Figure 3.1 External wall from the west.*



*Figure 3.2 Detail of the coping stones.*

## No. 4

### Feature:

Wall fabric

### Location:

South and north walls in H1.06

### Description:

Behind thick 20th-century plaster (0.04m on north wall and 0.02m thick on south wall), is a 20th-century red brick wall.

### Key Measurements of exposed area:

South wall: Height: 0.17m  
Width: 0.13m  
North wall: Height: 0.45m  
Width: 0.14m



*Figure 4.1 South wall.*



*Figure 4.2 North wall.*

## No. 5

### Feature:

South-east corner of west porch of hall

### Location:

H1.02

### Description:

An area of opening up in the internal south-east corner of the west porch, revealed the relationship between the hall wall and the porch. The wall is of coursed rubble with clay mortar and the two walls have been neatly tied in together suggesting that their construction was contemporary.

### Key Measurements:

Height: 0.65m

Width: 0.29m



*Figure 5.1 South-east corner of west porch.*

## No. 6

### Feature:

Wall facing

### Location:

North-west and south-west corners of H1.04 (east porch).

### Description:

Two vertical strips of plaster were removed from the north-west and south-west internal corners of the east porch of the hall range.

Both areas reveal regular coursed rubble walling with clay mortar below a modern plaster layer (0.02m thick). The rubble has been neatly tied in at the corners implying that the construction of the east porch was contemporary with that of the hall.

### Key Measurements:

SW Corner: width of exposed strip: 0.37m

Height of exposed strip: 0.56m.

NW Corner: width of exposed strip: 0.29m

Height of exposed strip: 0.65m



*Figure 6.1 North-west corner of east porch.*



*Figure 6.2 South-west corner of east porch.*

## **No. 7**

### **Feature:**

Wall facing

### **Location:**

H1.03

### **Description:**

The removal of c.1922 oak panelling on the west wall of the hall, south of the fireplace, revealed continuous rubble stone walling, undisturbed by any joint holes or former openings, with clay mortar and a thin (0.01m) skim of plaster over this. There is no horsehair in this plaster, indicating that it dates from the 19th or 20th century rather than earlier.

Wooden plugs have been driven through the plaster and well into the rubble wall. Blue horizontal chalk lines are extant over the plaster marking out the level where the plugs were to be inserted, probably as supports for the wainscoting. The plugs respect the positioning of the rails of the panelling now in situ. Electric cables (2m from ground level) and a bell pull (1.22m from ground level and 0.11m south of the fireplace) have been embedded in the plaster.

A black horizontal line along the plaster shows the height of earlier panelling (1.71m high) and prior to that the plaster had at least two coats of paint: grey and then white.

An archive photo from 1904 (Bedford Lemere, NMR) shows the pre-1922 panelling in situ. This and the plaster beneath it probably dated from the 19th century.

The subsequent change in height of the oak panelling was part of the remodelling of the hall by Reginald Blomfield in 1922 and the insertion of the electric cables and bell pull, may well have been a part of this scheme.

### **Key Measurements:**

Width of exposed wall surface: 2.8m

Height of exposed wall surface: 2.4m



*Figure 7.1 Wall and fixings. Taken from the east.*

## No. 8

### Feature:

Blocked doorway and remains of 19th-century 'panelling'

### Location:

South wall of H1.03 within the oriel window

### Description:

Removal of the c.1922 panelling on the south wall of the hall (to the east of the lobby (H1.09) doorway), lying within the oriel window, revealed a blocked doorway set within a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar. The doorway is particularly high. It has a stone surround, with a segmental head and plain jambs. The east jamb is formed from the quoins on the canted north-east corner of the cross-wing.



**Figure 8.1** Blocked doorway and panelling effect.  
*Taken from the north-west.*

The base of the former aperture is filled with a band of rubble (0.15m high) and above this, a stone block or step (0.17m high). A *Country Life* photograph of 1909 shows a stone step projecting in front of the rubble band, but this has been removed. Above this, the doorway has been filled with Fletton brick laid in English garden wall bond. Embedded within the brick work is modern electric cabling. The removal of part of this brickwork has revealed a rebate on the front of the east jamb in which a door



once hung. The photograph of 1909 shows the medieval door which currently hangs inside the east porch, in this position. The space (0.55m deep) behind this door was clearly used as a cupboard as there are brackets for shelving on the back wall of the recess. It does not appear to have originated as a cupboard, however, and the sloping wall on the east side of the recess suggests that it may once have contained a spiral staircase.

The wall to the west of the doorway is plastered and painted. An oblong, painted brown, represents the remains of a panelling scheme which can be seen in early 20th-century photographs but which was replaced c.1922. Lines around this oblong mark out the positions for the rails and stiles of the panelling that were affixed to the plaster surface, by means of wooden plugs. The east jamb of the blocked doorway is painted with a wood-grain effect similar to that of the panel.

### **Key Measurements**

Aperture of doorway. Height: 2.33m; Width: 1.33m

Top of step from floor level: 0.32m

Depth of cupboard recess: 0.55m



**Figure 8.2** *The cupboard space behind bricked up doorway.*

## No. 9

### Feature:

Corner between two walls

### Location:

H1.08

### Description:

In the corner of a modern cupboard constructed in room H1.08, the plaster has been removed to reveal the join between two walls. There is a straight joint between the north wall of H1.08 (which forms a party wall with the hall) and the dividing wall of H1.07. The walls are of coursed rubble with clay mortar.

### Key Measurements:

Area opened up: 2.16m long x 0.15m high along north wall and 1.86m from floor level.



*Figure 9.1 Straight joint between two walls.  
Taken from the south.*

## **No. 10**

### **Feature:**

Blocked window

### **Location:**

H1.08

### **Description:**

A two-light stone mullion window, set within a rubble wall, has been partially revealed behind modern plasterboard walling. Each light has a round head; these, together with the mullion and jambs, are carved with a plain chamfer. There are traces of lime-wash, plaster and paint on the stonework. Above the window is a horizontal piece of timber. The slope of the sill is continued downwards, with a slope in the rubble wall, to height of 0.85m from the present floor level, but this has been truncated by the present plasterboard and timber stud wall. This rubble sill is plastered and lime-washed.

A very few small, thin, greenish fragments of old glass survive within the lights, which have been blocked with thick stone slabs. A red brick wall has been poorly constructed behind this. Iron glazing bars remain in situ, together with associated mortar within the glazing grooves. Three iron pintle hinges for shutters survive in the sloping embrasures beyond the jambs, two on the west side and one on the east. A hole has been made in the centre of the mullion: this may have related to a fixing for the shutters, or could have contained a wooden plug inserted when this feature was covered over.

This is clearly the internal side of a window which lit the room in this position, on the ground floor of the cross-wing. It would have overlooked an internal courtyard and garden. The room itself was used as a beer cellar from an early date, but may have originally been a parlour. The window seems to date from the late 15th century.

### **Key Measurements:**

Whole window: 1.04m wide x 1.28m high.

Internal Apertures: 0.38m wide x 0.98m high.

Chamfers: 0.11m

Sloping wall below sill: 0.37m deep x 1.24m wide and 0.85m from floor level.

Hinges: 1.41m and 2.05m high from floor level.

Hole for catch: 1.63m from floor level.



**Figure 10.1** *Blocked two-light stone mullion window. Taken from the north.*



**Figure 10.2** *Detail of window.*

## No. 11

### Feature:

North-west corner between two walls

### Location:

H1.07

### Description:

Removal of modern plaster revealed a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar, but the joint between two walls was not visible. It is possibly a straight joint, but this is inconclusive.

### Key Measurements:

Area opened up: 2.27m high and 0.17m wide.



*Figure 11.1 Join of two walls. Taken from the south east.*

## No. 12

### Feature:

Joint between walls

### Location:

H1.11, in a cupboard

### Description:

Coursed rubble walls run north-south and east-west in a small cupboard. Both have clay mortar and early plaster and lime-wash over. The two walls have been badly tied in together, so the phasing of their construction is ambiguous.

The north-south wall contains a large ashlar stone. The ashlar stands at 1.45m from floor level and it is 0.26m thick. It is possible that the east-west wall is later and was built as part of the 'cross-wing extension'.

The areas opened up over the north-south and east-west walls measure as follows:

1.58m wide x 0.81m high (N-S wall)

0.23m wide x 1.83m high (E-W wall)



*Figure 12.1 Join of two walls.  
Taken from the south west.*



*Figure 12.2 Taken from the north west.*

## No. 13

### Feature:

Corner between walls

### Location:

Above door to O1.01, in H1.11

### Description:

Coursed rubble wall with clay mortar survives above the concrete lintel of a doorway leading into the orangery. The insertion of this lintel has resulted in some disturbance to the rubble wall above and the necessity of underpinning the wall slightly, with uncoursed rubble stones, directly above the lintel.

Quoin stones may indicate the corner of the wall, with its original length being obstructed by the addition of the north wall of H1.15 (this wall is also coursed rubble with 20th-century brick infill after insertion of modern pipes).

There are 20th-century repairs to the floor above and modern stud wall facing which also interferes with the original make-up of the wall.

### Key Measurements:

Concrete lintel: 2.25m from floor level

And above that, the area opened up is: 1.37m wide x 1.04m high.



**Figure 13.1** *Join between walls.  
Taken from the east.*



## No. 14

### Feature:

Wall

### Location:

South-west corner of H1.15

### Description:

Removal of successive layers of plaster has revealed the usual coursed rubble wall with clay mortar in the south-west corner of the room.

Welsh slate has been inserted into the wall at 1.55m from floor level. This reflects the height of ground level outside, so the slate may be acting as a damp course, or it may be a later insertion. However, the use of this material (set in cement mortar), helps us to date this phase of walling, Welsh slate only being available in this part of the country from the mid to late 19th century.

Above this there are some early 20th-century brick repairs and insertions, creating a straight joint between the south and west walls.



*Figure 14.1 Straight join between stone and brick wall. Taken from the north east.*



*Figure 14.2 Slate damp-course. Taken from the north east.*

## No. 15

### Feature:

Wall

### Location:

H1.15

### Description:

In an area (1.91m high x 0.70m wide) opened up in the south-east corner of the room another coursed rubble wall with clay mortar was revealed beneath successive layers of lime plaster, gypsum plaster and thick 20th-century Portland plaster cement. There are no former joint holes or quoins, but wooden plugs have been inserted into the wall, perhaps to act as fixing points for wainscoting.

The thickness of the Portland cement plaster is also due to the position of the room below ground-floor level. The cement plaster is effective against damp.



*Figure 15.1 Taken from the north.*

## No. 16

### Feature:

Wall

### Location:

West wall of H1.14

### Description:

The area opened up revealed a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar tied in to ashlar jambs. To the right is a brick and lime mortar chimney stack, but there is no conclusive evidence of the presence of the pre-1858 fireplace.

Wooden pegs have been inserted into the ashlar jamb possibly as fixings for panelling or a later lathe and plaster wall surface, and most recently covered in Portland cement plaster.

### Key Measurements:

Opening from ground level: 0.50m

Area opened up: 1m wide x 1.5m high.

Height of top of jamb from floor level: 1.73m. Its widest point was 0.21m.



*Figure 16.1 Taken from the east.*

## No. 17

### Feature:

Fireplace

### Location:

S1.05

### Description:

A wide fireplace, with stone on the right, but red brick on the left, has been revealed in the south wall of S1.05. Internally the bricks have been bonded with lime mortar and are blackened with smoke. Perhaps the bricks were inserted to make the fire place smaller or more central to the new smaller room. There is a stone lintel to the fireplace, but this is only visible from inside the fireplace as the whole feature was obscured by 20th-century brick infill and plaster work undertaken by the school.



*Figure 17.1 Taken from the north.*

The fireplace is still open to the flue.

### Key Measurements:

Approximate measurements of the aperture of the fireplace: 1.05m wide x 0.56m deep.



*Figure 17.1 Looking up - the brick built flue.*

## No. 18

### Feature:

Fireplace

### Location:

S1.10

### Description:

A brick backed fireplace in stretcher bond with very white pointing is revealed behind 20th-century plaster coating. The fireplace surround is constructed with the same bricks, but the headers are most prominent. This is not conclusive as modern Portland cement plaster obscures part of the fire surround.

Visible are remnants of a wider stone surround and there may have been a stone lintel, though some of the 'stone walling' is actually a paint effect on plaster.

This fireplace was bricked in by 1913.

### Key Measurements:

Approximate measurements of the aperture of the fireplace: 0.96m wide x 0.36m deep.



*Figure 18.1 Taken from the north.*

## No. 19

### Feature:

Fireplace

### Location:

North wall of N1.23

### Description:

Not much survives of this feature, but beneath a layer of plaster, coursed black stone survives (not a local material) bonded with cement mortar. A red brick surround to the fireplace is inset adjacent to the original rubble wall bonded with clay mortar. Two large ashlar stones are on either side of the brick fireplace (1.33m wide) and these have been pecked, and later plastered.

### Key Measurements:

1.72m wide x 0.72m high and 0.89m above floor level.

The top of the brick coursing is 1.15m above floor level



*Figure 19.1 Remains of fireplace. Taken from the south.*



## No. 20

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

N2.25

### Description:

Floorboards and skirting boards removed in this room under the window revealed an inner wall of brick with the joists of the floor structure set into the external facing stone wall. There are twelve joists across the width of the room, running north-south with alternating scantlings. Joists measuring 0.07m wide by 0.23m deep alternate with joists measuring 0.07m wide by 0.16m deep. They are very closely spaced with a measurement of only 0.20m between the centre points.

The floorboards however have been raised, and rest on a series on batons measuring 0.04m by 0.04m which have been nailed to the joists, perhaps to facilitate the insertion of wires and cables.



*Figure 20.1 Floor structure. Taken from the south.*

## No. 21

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

N2.20

### Description:

Thirteen joists run north-south across the room. The floor structure was most likely laid down in the 20th-century judging by the regular scantlings of the beams. All joists measure 0.08m wide by 0.22m deep, with an average spacing of 0.43m. They have all been cut down the centre line to receive wires and pipes.

Several screwed up letters from the St John's School era were found beneath the floorboards in this room.



*Figure 21.1 Floor structure. Taken from the west.*

## No. 22

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

The Old Dining Room (N2.15) – in the north end of the room



*Figure 22.1 Floor structure in The Old Dining Room. Taken from the north.*

### Description:

A large area of the hardboard floor has been removed here to reveal the original floor structure. The main beam runs north-south through the room, with an average width of 0.30m tailing to 0.26m towards the southern end. It is 5.19m long.

The timber partition wall, of the room below is visible underneath the floor structure of the Old Dining Room. It is 4.81m from the north wall, and only visible on the east side of the room. The top rail measures 0.08m wide by 0.04m deep. The mortise joints within the rail, for studs, measure 0.07m x 0.025m and are centred 0.36m apart on average. The studs, for the timber framed wall measure 0.06m wide by 0.08m deep.

This partition wall marks the likely position of a stone wall that once also divided the Old Dining Room, and a second main beam, overlapping the first, runs parallel for 0.44m and is 3.35m long. It is 0.32m wide on average, but tails off at its northern end. This is probably a result of damp from the stone wall in which it was once embedded.



**Figure 22.2** *Overlapping main beams. Taken from the north.*

Because of the overlap of the two beams and of surviving stone walls in N2.14 it is estimated that the thickness of the stone wall which supported the two beams was approximately 0.80m.

The scantlings of the joists in the north-east quadrant of the room are, on average 0.16m wide and 0.11m deep. There are eight joists exposed here with an average spacing of 0.50m between centre points. There is a run of nine joists running east-west. A more recent joist, only 0.12m wide is inserted between two older joists.

In the north-west quadrant of the room only five joists are exposed. The scantlings here are more irregular, measurements ranging from 0.13m wide to 0.18m wide and depths ranging from 0.10m to 0.12m, and 0.50m spacing between centre points.

All joists in the north end of the room have a mortise and tenon joint and are fixed to the central beam with pegs.

In the south-east quadrant of the room, running north to south are six exposed joists. The widths of the joists range from 0.12m to 0.18m. The depths range from 0.09m to 0.12m. The spaces between the centre points of the joists are equally irregular, ranging from 0.44m apart to 0.53m apart.

The scantlings of the joists in the south-west quadrant of the room are much more regular, measuring from 0.17m to 0.20m wide by 0.11m deep, and centred roughly 0.49m apart.



**Figure 22.3** *Timber partition wall slot.  
Taken from the east.*

## No. 23

### Feature:

Ashlar quoins

### Location:

N2.12

### Description:

An exposed area of wall to the east of the Cock Loft stair doorway reveals a straight joint between the end of a wall and a door jamb implying two distinct phases or a change of direction to spatial flow. The ashlar quoins of the wall and the jamb have both been pecked and plastered. There is a suggestion of red oxide paint adhering to the stone work. The 20th-century plaster is 0.04m thick.

### Key Measurements:

Area opened up: Height: 0.70m

Width: 0.53m



*Figure 23.1 Straight joint between ashlar quoins and rubble walling. Taken from the north.*

## No. 24

### Feature:

Door jamb

### Location:

East wall of staircase, entered from N2.12

### Description:

The removal of a small area of plaster in this position has revealed a door jamb which has been erected against west face of the quoin stone of a rubble wall (see No. 23).



*Figure 24.1 Stone door jamb behind lathe, reed and plaster wall.*

The door jamb has a plain chamfer 0.13m on the north-west corner and a 0.07m rebate (suitable for a door) on the south face. The door would have opened into the room on the south and therefore the doorway pre-dates the staircase.

A reed, lathe and plaster wall construction 0.07m thick fills the redundant door rebate mentioned above and creates a partition wall for the stairway to the Cock Loft.

### Key Measurements:

Height of area opened up: 1.95m

Width of area opened up: 0.50m



*Figure 24.2 Detail taken from the west.*



## No. 25

### Feature:

Wall with former cupboard

### Location:

Underneath stairs in H2.02

### Description:

The removal of part of the lathe and plaster wall on the south side of the staircase has revealed a coursed rubble and clay mortar wall - the ashlar quoins of which are visible from N2.12 (see No 23). This lies parallel to, or butts up against, the west wall of the hall, forming a double thickness wall.

The wall incorporates a recess 0.33m deep which has been used in the past as a cupboard. The south side of the cupboard has been roughly truncated to provide access to a doorway leading on to the hall gallery: some of the 20th-century red brick later used to block this doorway is visible on this side of the wall. The surviving width of the recess is 0.67m. The sill is formed by a 1.00m long timber, located 0.63m above present floor level. Two brackets, at 1.17m and 1.63m above floor level, protrude 0.27m from the back of the recess; these probably supported shelves. Because the corners of the recess do not have ashlar quoins, this feature is likely to be secondary. The walling here has been plastered and lime-washed.



*Figure 25.1 Wall with former cupboard behind.  
Taken from the south.*

The underneath of the stairs to the Cock Loft (H3.01) are visible in this area of opening up. The structure incorporates several re-used timbers.

The architectural evidence in this space is confusing and inconclusive, but a few things can be intimated. It is likely that Sir Walter Mildmay constructed the rubble wall in the 1560s when he was infilling this space and adding the Cock Loft. One would expect this wall to rise up for another storey forming the east wall of the Cock Loft, and supporting its roof. There is also no evidence for any abutting roof of the west porch against this wall – any evidence has been removed by later alterations.

The reason why the north end of this wall is neatly quoined is unclear, but it is possible that there was always (as there still is today) a doorway to the north of this, leading into a chamber positioned over the buttery and pantry.

The internal divisions, at first-floor level, in the 1560s are not clear. It is possible that the space was divided into two rooms as it is on the floor above, but the presence of the quoins (described in feature No. 23) make this uncertain.

The position of the 1560s staircase is not known. The current stair had been installed by 1858.



**Figure 25.2** Showing the ashlar door jamb, the rubble constructed wall and wooden shelf brackets.



**Figure 25.3** Looking north under the stair to the Cock Loft, showing long beam, embedded in rubble wall.

## No. 26

### Feature:

Squint

### Location:

The north wall of the hall, at gallery level (H2.03 and N2.14)

### Description:

On the south side (H2.03) there is a small niche with a pointed arch stone frame that has been roughly chipped away. It is now lined with 20th-century brick, plastered and painted white, possibly during the c.1922 remodelling of the hall.



*Figure 26.1 Squint from gallery (H2.03).  
Taken from the south*

On the north side, the removal of a modern lathe and plaster wall exposed a deep sloping plastered and painted reveal with ashlar quoins which forms part of a wide frame on this side, looking towards the hall from a chamber (N2.14) behind the gallery (H2.03). The surrounding coursed rubble wall with clay mortar and a levelling timber is probably contemporary with the squint. A thin lime plaster skims the surface of both the south wall and the quoins of the squint.

Rubble infill with clay mortar completely conceals the reveal on the north side (N2.14).

Lime and horsehair plaster still remains to suggest that the infill was once entirely plastered over to disguise the blocking. The presence of 20th-century red brick, forming a niche on the south side, suggests that prior to this, the squint was entirely blocked by the rubble, from front to back.

Prior to the infilling, an aperture would have been visible all the way through. With its small opening on the south side, it would have been barely visible from the hall, but with its wide, sloping reveal on the north side, access to the aperture would have been easy. It is clear therefore, that this small feature was a squint, allowing people to view activities within the hall, unobserved.



*Figure 26.2 Squint from corridor (N2.14).  
Taken from the north.*

**Key Measurements:**

Height of frame on south: 0.40m

Width of frame on south: 0.34m

Height of niche on south: 0.26m

Width of niche on south: 0.13m

Depth of niche on south: 0.18m

Height of exposed area on north: 0.42m

Width of exposed area on north: 0.78m

## No. 27

### Feature:

Wall

### Location:

South wall in H2.06

### Description:

Behind the skirting a coursed rubble wall was revealed, with inserted 20th-century pipes. Timber studding for the current lathe and plaster wall are in situ. The lime plaster rendering appears to continue below the current floor level, suggesting that the floor level has been raised at some time.

There is no visible evidence remaining of a fireplace, a doorway, or any other feature.

### Key Measurements:

Scantling of floor joists: 0.06m w x 0.16m d



*Figure 27.1 Coursed rubble walling. Taken from the east.*

## No. 28

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

H2.07

### Description:

Floorboards removed in two areas to reveal floor joists spaced at regular 0.27m intervals. There is no evidence of any phasing or alterations.

### Key Measurements:

Scantlings: 0.06m x 0.20m



*Figure 28.1 Floor structure. Taken from the south.*

## No. 29

### Feature:

Wall

### Location:

H2.07

### Description:

Beneath several phases of plaster a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar exists. Visible is a 0.16m length of timber, 1.94m from present floor level, which may have acted as levelling for the construction of the wall or infilling when a window (visible in the Rudge watercolour) was removed. There is no other physical evidence for the presence or removal of the window.

### Key Measurements:

Area opened up measures: 1.41m wide x 1.88m high.



*Figure 29.1 Coursed rubble walling. Taken from the south-west.*

## No. 30

### Feature:

Corner of west wall in corridor

### Location:

H2.09

### Description:

An ashlar quoin and rubble wall, partially encased by red brick, has been revealed behind 20th-century plaster 0.05m thick and earlier horsehair and lime plaster, 0.01m thick.

The quoin stone has had its corner edge removed and tool marks are visible on its western face, indicating a possible re-use, or re-positioning of the stone.

### Key Measurements:

Dimensions of area opened up: 0.84m long x 0.56m high x 0.23m deep.



*Figure 30.1 Ashlar quoin with red brick modifications. Taken from the south-east.*



## No. 31

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

Leading from H2.12 to H2.10

### Description:

Three areas opened up in this room show the construction of the floor joists between two rooms. Smaller joists have been nailed above the original joists for the purpose of raising the floor level in H2.10 to meet that of H2.12. Early 20th -century electricity cables and wires run under the floorboards.

In the north side of the room the floorboards have been removed across nearly the whole width of the room to reveal three phases of joists. Nine joists have been exposed and they all run north-south. Of these, only seven could be measured. They are all evenly spaced at 0.45m apart, with measurements taken from the centre points.



*Figure 31.1 Floor structure leading from H2.12 to H2.10  
Taken from the south.*

Measurements have been taken from the east to the west. The most recent phase of joists has scantlings which measure thus:

0.07m x 0.03m  
0.10m x 0.04m  
0.08m x 0.07m  
0.11m x 0.06m  
0.07m x 0.07m  
0.07m x 0.06m  
0.08m x 0.06m

The intermediate layer, or second phase, of joists also has irregular scantlings:

0.17m x 0.11m  
0.16m x 0.12m  
0.14m x 0.12m  
0.12m x 0.12m  
0.18m x 0.12m  
0.16m x 0.10m  
0.17m x 0.10m

The earliest phase of joists were very difficult to measure, because they were so obscured by the later phases but an approximate average scantling of 0.09m wide by 0.12m deep can be suggested.

In the south side of the room, floorboards have been removed across the whole width of the room. Eleven joists have been revealed, also running north-south, and also with more than one phase.

Measurements of the scantlings of the later phase of joists, from east to west are as follows:

0.07m x 0.02m  
0.07m x 0.07m  
0.12m x 0.08m  
0.08m x 0.08m  
0.07m x 0.10m  
0.10m x 0.07m  
0.08m x 0.08m  
0.08m x 0.06m  
0.08m x 0.08m  
0.08m x 0.07m

They measure 0.45m apart from the centre points.

The earliest phase of joists in this southern half of the room has scantlings which measure thus:

0.15m x 0.10m

0.14m x 0.12m

0.17m x 0.12m

0.15m x 0.09m

0.12m x 0.12m

0.15m x 0.11m

0.17m x 0.10m

0.18m x 0.09m

0.16m x 0.11m

0.16m x 0.12m

These two sets of joists are not directly one on top of the other. The gaps between them range from 0.03m to 0.12m, depending on the scantlings of the joists. Where the gap is large, a vertical batten provides support.



**Figure 31.2** *Showing levels of floor structure.  
Taken from the west.*

## No. 32

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

H2.08

### Description:

Thirteen joists were revealed by the removal of two large floorboards. The joists are all short, running north-south and the measurements were taken from the east. All joists have had sockets cut into them to receive electric wires and cables.

The scantlings are an average 0.07m wide by 0.12m deep. The average centre spacing was 0.38m.



*Figure 32.1 Floor structure in H2.08.  
Taken from the west.*

## No. 33

### Feature:

Blocked window

### Location:

North wall of Steward's Block, first floor, north face (now within the east-west arm of the matted passage, H2.08)

### Description:

Coursed rubble wall with clay mortar and faced with lime plaster with ashlar window jambs, which have been infilled with coursed rubble and clay mortar. The window jamb has a plain 0.10m chamfer, followed by a 0.10m hollow chamfer. The groove for the glass exists between that and the hollow chamfer on the 'internal' side of the window frame. The depth of this groove is 0.27m

The window jamb is 0.88m from floor level. The window frame has been damaged and removed at the top to create a flat surface, for the new wall face.

The wall has been underpinned with Fletton brick to a height of 0.44m from floor level, and 20th-century plaster now covers the wall.

Study of floor plans reveals that this is the external face of the window in the north wall of a room which was once Lady Westmorland's Bedroom (H2.11). Therefore, it is likely that the window was infilled with rubble and plastered over at the time when the matted passage was constructed in the 16th-century.



**Figure 33.1** *Blocked window.  
Taken from the north.*



**Figure 33.2** *Brick underpinning.  
Taken from the north.*

## No. 34

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

H2.11 (Lady Westmorland's bedroom)

### Description:

This floor structure has had several phases.

At the east end of the room is a floor structure most likely laid down in the 20th-century, judging by the regular scantlings and neat cut of the beams. The main beam, of this phasing of floor, runs north-south and is 0.17m wide by 0.13m deep. The joists are all 0.32m apart from centre point to centre point and they measure an average of 0.07m wide by 0.11m deep.



*Figure 34.1 Floor structure in H2.11.  
Taken from south.*

Directly under this lies a plaster floor surface that is 0.03m to 0.04m thick. The plaster has been laid on a thin layer of reed which in turn lies on thin lathe-like joists, measuring only 0.04m wide by 0.01m thick.

The plaster floor surface lies above an earlier floor level with a main beam running north-south across the width of the room. It is partially obscured by the present floorboard scheme, so a measurement of the width of this main beam is not possible, but an average depth of 0.37m was ascertained. Running along the length of the beam are regularly spaced mortises, two of which still have tenons in place. They are set 0.09m down from the top of the main beam and have a height (haunch) of 0.05m and a width of 0.20m.

In the west end of the room, the joists are part of a 'new' floor structure, with scantlings of 0.07m wide, by 0.11m deep, and an average centre spacing of 0.34m. The axial beam (east-west) for these joists is 0.27m wide and 0.27m deep. It is situated 2.24m from the north wall.

The transverse joists (north-south) relating to the same floor structure are pegged with mortise and tenon joints and measure 0.15m wide by 0.12m deep.

Some of the joists are not aligned as pairs, but rather they are staggered. The reason for this is unclear. The floorboards relating to this structure measure no more than 0.015m thick and 0.27m wide.

The present floor rests on the beam and joists of the old floor. Joists have been doubled up in the east part of this space.

The gaps between floor levels may be significant. They are as follows: 0.25m to first phase floor on east side; 0.38m to top of present joists and 0.42m to the floorboards. There is a 0.60m gap between floor boards and dropped ceiling below.



*Figure 34.2 Showing the earlier plaster floor surface.*

## No. 35

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

H2.13

### Description:

The removal of floorboards in this room revealed joists which run east-west along the length of the room. There are nine joists across the main width of the room, with another two extending into the window bay, so there are eleven joists in total. The scantlings measure 0.16m wide by 0.12m deep. The centre spacing averages 0.38m. The joists in the window bay have a smaller scantling of 0.07m wide by 0.10m deep, and are centred 0.35m apart.

There is a layer of straw beneath these joists, but any evidence of a corresponding plaster floor is obscured.

The floor level has been raised with planks with irregular positioning and varied scantlings; 0.13m wide by 0.03m deep or 0.10m wide by 0.05m deep. The irregularity of this suggests that it was a rather a haphazard solution to create space for the insertion of wires and cables.



*Figure 35.1 Floor structure. Taken from the east.*



## No. 36

### Feature:

Wall

### Location:

S2.02

### Description:

Removed skirting on the south and west walls reveal a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar and 18th-century red brick repairs by the west doorway. There is no evidence for apertures in the wall, or any other features.

### Key Measurements:

Exposed area on south wall: 1.69m long x 0.13m high.

Exposed area on west wall: 4.93m long x 0.13m high.



*Figure 36.1 Wall surface. Taken from the east.*

## No. 37

### Feature:

Wall fixing and window

### Location:

South wall of S2.02 (Great Chamber), to east of fireplace

### Description:

The removal of lathe and plaster has revealed a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar. A triangular void appears to be contemporary with construction of the wall (there is no later disturbance, and the clay mortar respects the void), and would have contained a wooden fixing. It stands at 2.60m from floor level.



*Figure 37.1 Window jamb.  
Taken from the north.*

A large window jamb was also revealed by the removal of the lathe and plaster wall. It is the west jamb of a window which has subsequently been blocked with red brick. This is the only aspect of the window to be revealed. The splayed jamb has a plain chamfer and has been pecked in order to create a surface for later plastering. Two round peg holes have been made in the surface of the jamb at 1.32m and 1.84m from floor level. Full dimensions could not be measured because the surviving window jamb was only partially revealed and largely beyond reach.

**Key Measurements:**

Height of top of jamb from floor level: 3.47m

Width of jamb (approx): 0.29m

Exposed length of jamb: 1.20m



*Figure 37.2 Void for wall fixing.  
Taken from the north.*

## No. 38

### Feature:

Doorway and stud wall

### Location:

South end of wall between S2.04 (King's Chamber) and S2.03 (Drawing Room)

### Description:

The removal of an area of 20th-century lathe and horsehair plaster panelling revealed a timber doorway of the 1622-24 type. The surround has quadrant (or ovolo) and cyma (or ogee) mouldings, and a number of nails and wooden pegs have been driven into the surface.



*Figure 38.1 Doorway to King's Chamber.  
Taken from the west.*

There is a recess within the north door jamb for a lock plate at 1.05m from floor level. It is 0.17m high, 0.04m wide and 0.01m deep. There is no recess for a door and although there is no sign that it was ever painted, fragments of plaster suggest that it may have been coated in gesso, which could have been painted. Analysis is currently being undertaken.

The standard of detail and construction of the door frame is perhaps less than might be expected for an entrance to the King's Chamber. It has been built into the framing of the timber wall. The rail and post double up as the lintel and south jamb of the

door respectively. Pegs, holding the mortise and tenon joint of the rail are visible in the post. The north jamb is inserted by means of a mortise and tenon joint and pegs remain clearly visible here in the rail, so the construction of the door is asymmetrical. The pegs stand proud of the main timbers by a millimetre or two. The stops are very angular mouldings which contrast with the gentle curved mouldings of the lintel and jamb.

**Key Measurements:**

The aperture of the doorway is 1.93m high x 0.92m wide.

The external edges of the doorway measure 2.19m high x 1.25m wide.



*Figure 38.2 Detail of door jamb incorporated into stud walling. Taken from the west.*

## No. 39

### Feature:

Floor structure

### Location:

E2.02

### Description:

The removal of floorboards in this landing area has revealed a massive timber beam, trimmer beam and indication of the position of a newel post which is evidence of the position of the 17th -century back staircase.

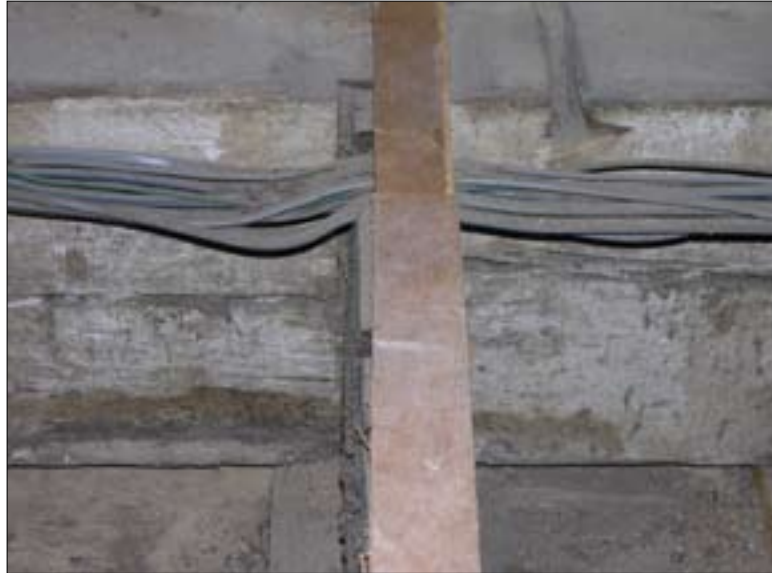


*Figure 39.1 Removal of floorboards has revealed main east-west beam. Taken from the north.*

This main beam runs east-west. It measures 0.32m square and has been given a wash of white paint on the north face, except at the east end, where the first 0.11m has been painted green. There is no evidence on the beam for the presence, or position of mortises for wall studs for the partition wall that it must have carried. The beam lines up nicely with the king mullion of the east facing window, which would be the line expected for a partition wall.

Narrow slits have been cut into the north side of the beam, from above, for floor joists.

This is proof that these mortises are secondary – they can only have been cut from above, if the beam was *in situ* and that therefore, originally there was no floor to the north of this beam. This indicates a void, which from earlier floor plans, has been identified as a stairwell.



**Figure 39.2** Detail showing painted surface on main beam.  
*Taken from the north.*

The mortises measure 0.06m wide and 0.20m long and cut the depth of the beam by only 0.04m. The joists have been 'lapped' over the main beam to fit into the mortises.

Four dips appear to have been chiselled into the top of the main beam at intervals, perhaps to allow the floorboards to lay flush.

The eastern end of this major beam has been shortened, or sawn off – it is now supported by a steel girder instead of resting directly in the stone masonry of the east wall.

Eight joists have been inserted into the east end of the beam, all running north-south. The first two joists (from the east) each look to have been replaced with, or substituted by, two planks on their side, supported between two short battens of wood. The other six joists have consistent scantlings of 0.05m wide by 0.32m deep. They are each topped by thin scraps of wood, perhaps to raise the floorboards slightly to create room for wires and cables.

The centre spacing alternates between 0.36m and 0.40m between each of the joists.

The westernmost end of the main beam has a patch clear of paint where it abuts the trimmer beam, suggestive of some earlier obstruction, though there is no other evidence as to what this may have been.

The trimmer beam, which runs north-south, may also have been whitewashed – only very faint traces are now visible. This beam has been heavily chamfered on its east face for its entire length until the cut for the newel post interrupts the chamfer. The chamfer is 0.12m deep and it is neither neat nor decorative. From what is accessible, an approximate scantling for this beam measures 0.19m wide and at least 0.25m thick, with the chamfer on the east side, starting after 0.11m.

The cut for the newel post is 1.66m north from the main beam, along the trimmer beam. This mortise measures 0.17m wide by 0.05m deep by 0.25m high.

To the west of the trimmer beam, the main beam continues. There is no evidence of paint on this side which would always have been floored. A 0.10m deep haunched mortise and tenon has been cut for the trimmer beam.

At least three other haunched mortises have been cut into the main beam towards the west, but these do not contain floor joists. These appear to have been a genuine construction mistake as the floor joists in this section actually run east-west, not north-south and are secured into the back of the trimmer beam. The 'false' mortises are 0.35m apart and the easternmost mortise was never finished. The others measure 0.16m high and 0.10m deep.

The first joist west of the trimmer beam, running east-west, is 0.30m north of the main beam. The other joists are centred 0.35m apart from centre point to centre point – the same measurement as the abandoned haunch mortises on the main beam.



**Figure 39.3** *Detail showing construction of mortise in the wrong position. Taken from the north.*



## No. 40

### Feature:

Fireplace

### Location:

South west corner of E3.13

### Description:

A red brick chimney breast, post-1858 (it does not appear on the floor plan of that date), has an aperture of 0.89m high x 0.62m wide x 0.20m deep. The brick surround is 0.22m thick with a two-course segmental arch above, at 0.25m high. There is a timber lintel 1.28m from floor level and the fireplace stands 0.50m proud of the rubble wall.

The rubble wall appears to have been plastered and painted before the fireplace was built. A straight joint between the two surfaces and patterned wallpaper running behind the inserted fireback is further evidence that the fireplace is a later structural addition, and not an original feature of the room.



*Figure 40.1 Fireplace. Taken from the east.*



*Figure 40.2 Straight joint between brick wall of fireplace and back wall. Taken from the east.*

## No. 41

### Feature:

Lintel and wall of doorway above stairs to Cock Loft

### Location:

Stairway leading to H3.01

### Description:

A timber lintel (0.08m x 0.22m) with nails inserted supports a coursed rubble wall with clay mortar. Horsehair and lime plaster and lime-wash were the original wall coverings followed by green paint and latterly, wall-paper. This layering measures 0.015m thick.

The ends of floor joists of the Cock Loft (H3.01) are visible within the coursed rubble walling.

### Key Measurements:

Height of area opened up: 0.57m

Width of area opened up: 0.95m

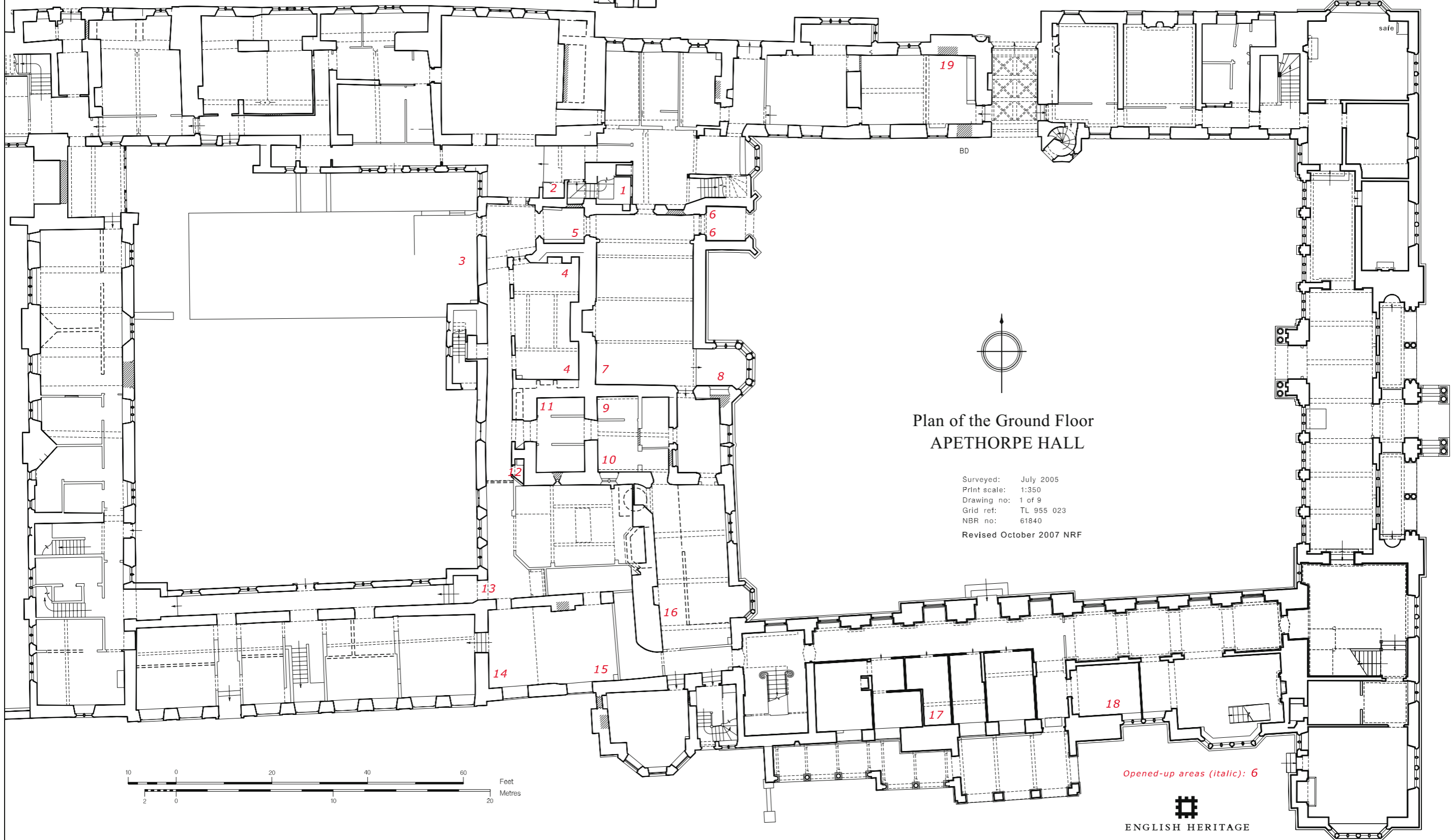
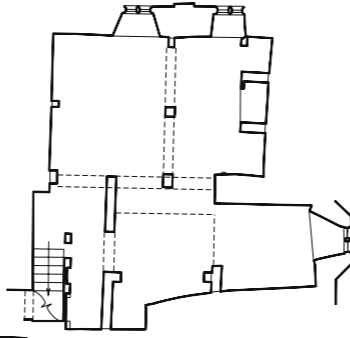


*Figure 41.1 Taken from the south.*



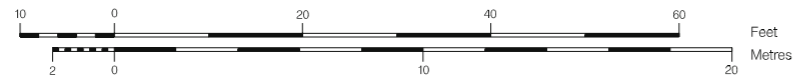
*Figure 41.2 Coursed rubble walling above doorway to Cock Loft stairway, showing the incorporation of floor joists from the room above.*

Plan of the Cellar

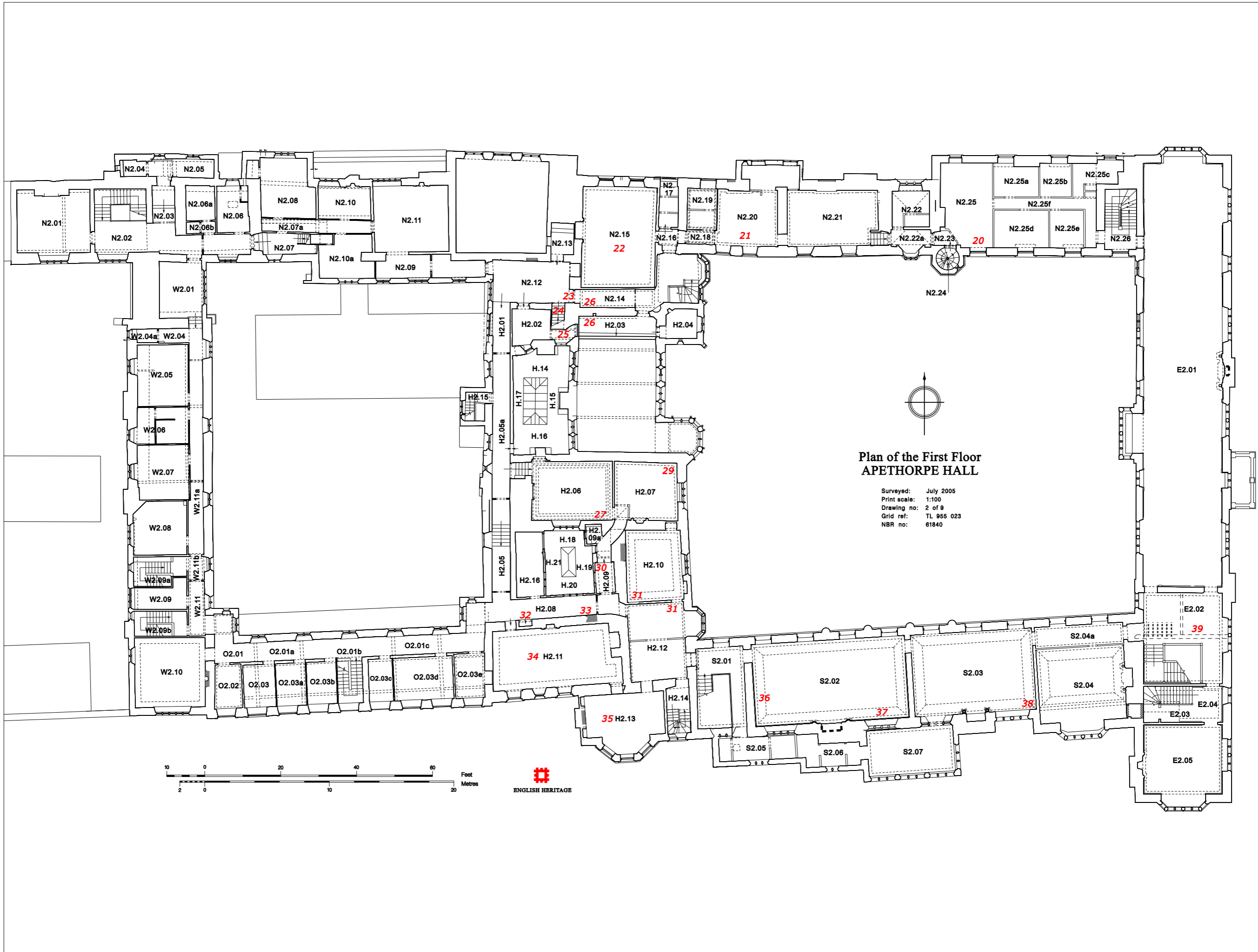


Plan of the Ground Floor  
APETHORPE HALL

Surveyed: July 2005  
Print scale: 1:350  
Drawing no: 1 of 9  
Grid ref: TL 955 023  
NBR no: 61840  
Revised October 2007 NRF

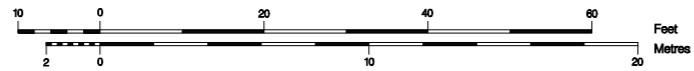


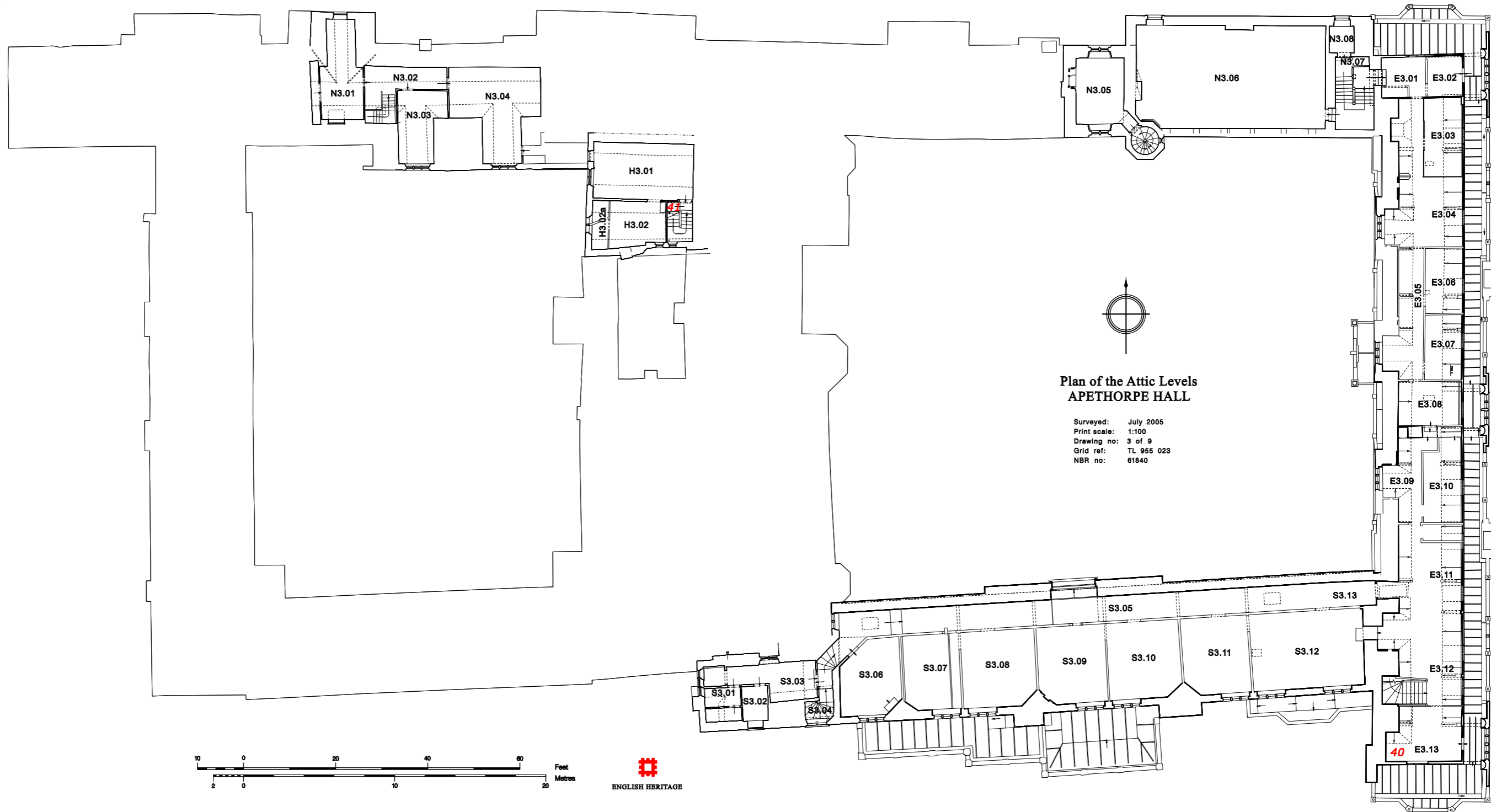
*Opened-up areas (italic): 6*



**Plan of the First Floor  
APETHORPE HALL**

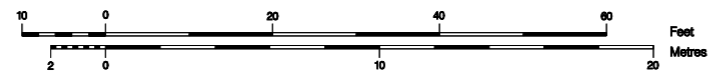
Surveyed: July 2005  
 Print scale: 1:100  
 Drawing no: 2 of 9  
 Grid ref: TL 955 023  
 NBR no: 61840





**Plan of the Attic Levels  
APETHORPE HALL**

Surveyed: July 2005  
 Print scale: 1:100  
 Drawing no: 3 of 9  
 Grid ref: TL 955 023  
 NBR no: 61840







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