BOSCOBEL HOUSE, NEAR BREWOOD, SHROPSHIRE DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF OAK TIMBERS

SCIENTIFIC DATING REPORT

lan Tyers





Research Department Report Series 12-2010

BOSCOBEL HOUSE NEAR BREWOOD SHROPSHIRE

DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF OAK TIMBERS

lan Tyers

NGR: SJ 8376 0824

© English Heritage

ISSN 1749-8775

The Research Department Report Series incorporates reports from all the specialist teams within the English Heritage Research Department: Archaeological Science; Archaeological Archives; Historic Interiors Research and Conservation; Archaeological Projects; Aerial Survey and Investigation; Archaeological Survey and Investigation; Archaeological Survey of London. It replaces the former Centre for Archaeology Reports Series, the Archaeological Investigation Report Series and the Architectural Investigation Report Series.

Many of these are interim reports which make available the results of specialist investigations in advance of full publication. They are not usually subject to external refereeing, and their conclusions may sometimes have to be modified in the light of information not available at the time of the investigation. Where no final project report is available, readers are advised to consult the author before citing these reports in any publication. Opinions expressed in Research Department reports are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of English Heritage.

Requests for further hard copies, after the initial print run, can be made by emailing: Res.reports@english-heritage.org.uk or by writing to:
English Heritage, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD Please note that a charge will be made to cover printing and postage.

© FNGLISH HERITAGE

SUMMARY

A tree-ring dating programme was commissioned on timbers from Boscobel House. The results identified that timbers in two areas of the complex were datable by tree-ring dating techniques, with these areas using timbers felled during the late-sixteenth through to the mid-eighteenth centuries. A dating programme was commissioned on this Scheduled Monument to inform a new interpretation and presentation of the site. This report archives the dendrochronological results.

CONTRIBUTORS

lan Tyers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The sampling and analysis of timbers at Boscobel House was funded by English Heritage (EH). Practical help and valuable discussions were provided by Nicola Stacey, Senior Properties Historian (EH), and Richard Lea, Properties Presentation Dept (EH). Ella Harrison, Custodian (EH) kindly facilitated access.

ARCHIVE LOCATION

Shropshire Historic Environment Record Historic Environment Team, Environment Group Development Services Shropshire Council Shirehall Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

DATE OF INVESTIGATION

2009

CONTACT DETAILS

Dendrochronological Consultancy Ltd, 65 Crimicar Drive, Sheffield S10 4EF lan Tyers; ian@dendro.co.uk

© ENGLISH HERITAGE 12 - 2010

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	I
METHODOLOGY	1
RESULTS	3
DISCUSSION	4
North Range	4
North-East Truss	5
South-West Truss and associated Ceiling Beams	5
Another Ceiling Beam	6
Hunting Lodge	7
Attic	
Other structural elements	8
REFERENCES	9
APPENDIX I	20

INTRODUCTION

This document is a technical archive report on the tree-ring analysis of oak timbers from Boscobel House, Shropshire. It is beyond the dendrochronological brief to describe the building in detail or to undertake the production of detailed drawings. Elements of this report may be combined with detailed descriptions, drawings, and other technical reports at some point in the future to form either a comprehensive publication or an archive deposition on the building.

Boscobel House stands in countryside *c* 12km north-west of Wolverhampton, and *c* 15km east of Telford (NGR SJ 8376 0824) within the county of Shropshire (Fig 1). The Shropshire/Staffordshire border runs along the eastern boundary of the site. Boscobel House is a timber-framed building made famous as the location of an oak tree that sheltered the future Charles II from Parliamentarian searchers after the Civil War battle of Worcester in 1651; he subsequently spent a night in Boscobel House, supposedly pacing in the attic when not hiding in a 'priest hole'. The building was a hunting lodge reputably built *c* 1632, and was subsequently a working farm. A descendant of the original 'Royal Oak' still stands, looking rather forlorn, in an adjacent field. It became a visitor attraction fairly soon after the Restoration. The house had significant alternations and additions to make it more 'authentic' by the Evans family, which owned it from 1812. It is now in the care of English Heritage, and a Scheduled Monument.

METHODOLOGY

Tree-ring dating employs the patterns of tree-growth to determine the calendar dates for the period during which the sampled trees were alive. The amount of wood laid down in any one year by most trees is determined by the climate and other environmental factors. Trees over relatively wide geographical areas can exhibit similar patterns of growth, and this enables dendrochronologists to assign dates to some samples by matching the growth pattern with other ring-sequences that have already been linked together to form reference chronologies.

The building was visited in February 2009, and again in August 2009. An assessment of the dendrochronological potential of timbers in several areas of the structure had been requested by Nicola Stacey. This assessment aimed to identify whether oak timbers with sufficient numbers of rings for analysis existed in key areas of the building. This assessment concluded that limited numbers of timbers in both the North Range and in the Hunting Lodge contained suitable material, whilst both the two priest holes were considered unsuitable for sampling and analysis. English Heritage requested sampling to proceed and Scheduled Monument Class 6 consent was granted for up to 23 samples.

The sampling took place during October 2009. The selected timbers were sampled using a 15mm diameter corer attached to an electric drill. The cores were taken as closely as possible along the radius of the timbers so that the maximum number of rings could be

obtained for subsequent analysis. The ring sequences in the cores were revealed by sanding.

This preparation revealed the width of each successive annual tree ring. Each prepared sample could then be accurately assessed for the number of rings it contained, and at this stage it was also possible to determine whether the sequence of ring widths within it could be reliably resolved. Dendrochronological samples need to be free of aberrant anatomical features, such as those caused by physical damage to the tree, which may prevent or significantly reduce the chances of successful dating.

Standard dendrochronological analysis methods (see eg English Heritage 1998) were applied to each suitable sample. The complete sequence of the annual growth rings in the suitable samples was measured to an accuracy of 0.01mm using a micro-computer based travelling stage. The sequences of ring widths were then plotted onto semi-log graph paper to enable visual comparisons to be made between sequences. In addition, cross-correlation algorithms (eg Baillie and Pilcher 1973) were employed to search for positions where the ring sequences were highly correlated. Highly correlated positions were checked using the graphs and, if any of these were satisfactory, new composite sequences were constructed from the synchronised sequences. Any *t*-values reported below were derived from the original CROS algorithm (Baillie and Pilcher 1973). A *t*-value of 3.5 or over is usually indicative of a good match, although this is with the proviso that high *t*-values at the same relative or absolute position need to have been obtained from a range of independent sequences, and that these positions were supported by satisfactory visual matching.

Not every tree can be correlated by the statistical tools or the visual examination of the graphs. There are thought to be a number of reasons for this: genetic variations; site-specific issues (for example a tree growing in a stream bed will be less responsive to rainfall); or some traumatic experience in the tree's lifetime, such as injury by pollarding, defoliation events by caterpillars, or similar. These could each produce a sequence dominated by a non-climatic signal. Experimental work with modern trees shows that 5–20% of all oak trees cannot be reliably cross-matched, even when enough rings are obtained.

Converting the date obtained for a tree-ring sequence into a useful date requires a record of the nature of the outermost rings of the sample. If bark or bark-edge survives, a felling date precise to the year or season can be obtained. If no sapwood survives, the date obtained from the sample gives a *terminus post quem* for its use. If some sapwood survives, an estimate for the number of missing rings can be applied to the end-date of the heartwood. This estimate is quite broad and varies by region. This report uses a minimum of 10 rings and a maximum of 46 rings as a sapwood estimate (see eg English Heritage 1998, 10–11).

Where bark-edge or bark survives, the season of felling can be determined by examining the completeness or otherwise of the terminal ring lying directly under the bark. Complete material can be divided into three major categories:

- 'early spring', where only the initial cells of the new growth have begun this is equivalent to a period in March/April, when the oaks begin leaf-bud formation;
- 'later spring/summer' where the early wood is evidently complete but the late wood is evidently incomplete, which is equivalent to May-through-September of a normal year, and
- 'winter' where the latewood is evidently complete and this is roughly equivalent to September-to-March (of the following year) since the tree is dormant throughout this period and there is no additional growth put on the trunk.

These categories can overlap as, for example, not all oaks simultaneously initiate leaf-bud formation. It should also be noted that slow growing or compressed material cannot always be safely categorised.

Timber technology studies demonstrate that many of the tool marks recorded on ancient timbers can only have been done on green timber. There is little evidence for long-term storage of timber or of widespread use of seasoned, rather than green, timber in the medieval period (see eg English Heritage 1998, 11–12).

Reused timbers can only provide tree-ring dates for the original usage date, not their reuse. Identifying reused timbers requires careful timber recording which notes the presence of features which are not functional in the structure. It is always possible that some timbers exhibit no evidence of earlier usage, and are thus 'hidden reused' timbers. The dendrochronological impact of this problem is particularly acute where only single timbers have been dated from a structure.

The analysis may highlight potential same-tree identifications if two or more tree-ring sequences are obtained that are exceptionally highly correlated. Such pairs, or sometimes more, are then used as a same-tree group and each can be given the interpreted date of the most complete of the samples. They are most useful where several timbers date but only one has any sapwood or where same-tree identifications yield linkages between different areas.

RESULTS

In October 2009 16 timbers from two separate areas of the building were cored; these cores were labelled I–16 inclusive. Ten timbers were sampled in the North Range, and six from the Hunting Lodge. There is some uncertainty over the origins of this material, since it included several timbers that may have been part of the later modifications to the property (Figs 2–5). No other suitable and accessible timbers were located in these areas. Each sample was assessed for the wood type, the number of rings it contained, and

whether the sequence of ring widths could be reliably resolved. This assessment confirmed that all the sampled timbers were oak (*Quercus* spp.) and that 12 were suitable for dendrochronological analysis. The four exceptions were sample 7, a full-height post from the North Range, samples 13 and 14, which are a queen post and a purlin from the Hunting Lodge attic, and sample 16, a cellar beam from the Hunting Lodge. Sample 14 contained too few rings for analysis, while samples 7, 13, and 16 contained bands of unresolvable narrow rings. There was good survival of sapwood in most of the targeted areas, although the Hunting Lodge attic had been defrassed, resulting in significant loss of sapwood in this area. Bark-edge survival was good in the North Range. The details of these samples are provided in Table 1.

The samples were prepared for analysis, measured, and the resultant ring series were compared with each other. Four samples from the north-eastern end of the North Range were cross-matched (Table 2) and, although these have relatively poor intra-correlation, these four individual sequences provide plenty of support for their dating locations. In addition, five samples, three from the south-western end of the North Range and two from the Hunting Lodge, were also found to cross-match each other consistently (Table 3). Each cross-matched group was combined into a single composite data set, named NR1 and NR2+HL. These two composites, their nine component individual sequences, and the remaining three unmatched sequences were then each compared with medieval and later tree-ring data from throughout England and Wales. Both the composite sequences, and their component samples, and two of the otherwise unmatched individuals, samples 6 and 11, were found to cross-match consistently against data from sites principally in the West Midlands region (Tables 4–7). This cross-matching provided consistent calendar dates for each sequence. A summary of the results for the component samples from the site are provided in Table 1 and Figure 6.

One individual series failed to provide any consistent dating evidence.

The measurement data for all the measured samples are listed in Appendix 1.

DISCUSSION

The dated samples are derived from different parts of the building, and produce a range of results. Their interpretation is not straightforward, due to the likely reuse and/or recycling of earlier timbers in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century remodelling of the house. These results are discussed by area below. All the datable material matches consistently with other local reference data, and it is likely that these timbers were derived from the general vicinity of Boscobel.

North Range

The North Range is a two-storey four-bay building. The external walls have been almost entirely rebuilt. This probably occurred during the twentieth century, since it is

constructed of machine-sawn timber. Internally there are three trusses, labelled here TI—T3, and on different alignments there is another ground-floor timber partition, and a very large fireplace. The ceiling beams are a rather confusing mixture of large heavily chamfered beams, and a number of much slighter roughly squared timbers. The material suitable for sampling was principally from around T1 at the north-east end, samples I—4 and 8, and around T3 at the south-west end, samples 5—7. In addition, two of the three large heavily chamfered floor beams were also suitable, samples 9 and 10. The third of these beams, to the north-west of sample 9, was clearly derived from the same tree as sample 9 (see below), but this timber had no surviving sapwood. Truss T2 was inaccessible behind presentation panels and later plasterwork.

North-East Truss

The five samples from the north-east end around truss T1 comprise a stud, a storey post, a tiebeam, a purlin, and a lower girt (Figs 3 and 4). Four of these samples were found to cross-match to form the composite sequence NR1, which was found to date and thus provides tree-ring dates for these structural elements. The 88-year composite sequence was found to strongly match at AD 1609 to AD 1696 inclusive. This material comprised fast-growing and short-lived oaks.

The tree-ring analysis dates the rings present in the cores. The correct interpretation of those dates relies upon the characteristics of the final rings in them. Bark-edge survived on three of these timbers, and a small amount of sapwood on the fourth. Making allowances for minimum and maximum likely amounts of missing sapwood provides individual felling dates, or felling date ranges for each of the datable timbers. Figure 6 and Table 1 includes the felling date or interpreted felling date ranges for each of the datable samples.

The interpretation of this material is straightforward. The three samples complete to bark edge each retain a complete ring for AD 1696. These three timbers were therefore felled in the winter of AD 1696 or early spring of AD 1697. The calculated felling date range for the remaining sample indicates this timber was either precisely or broadly contemporaneous. The three timbers with precise felling dates comprise a stud, a tie beam, and a purlin. There is no suggestion any of this material is either reused or secondary.

South-West Truss and associated Ceiling Beams

Two samples came from truss T3, comprising two full-height posts (Fig 4). This truss contained timbers with noticeably distorted growth patterns, quite unlike those in truss T1. Sampling was not considered feasible for most of the timbers in this truss. One of these two samples contained very distorted sequences that could not be resolved. The remaining sample, 5, although having some narrow growth bands, was successfully analysed, and it is one of the components of the NR2+HL group (Table 3, Fig 6).

Between truss T3 and the south-western wall is a single large ceiling beam, with large chamfers and simple curved chamfer stops. This beam crosses through an otherwise almost empty bay of the building. It is jointed to a couple of ceiling joists but has empty mortises for a complete floor, and it is rebated on the upper surface to take floorboards. Sample 10 was obtained from this beam (Figs 3 and 4). Further north-east, between T2 and an intermediate partition, in the 'salting room', are two more large ceiling beams with large chamfers and simple curved chamfer stops. Both these timbers have later parts added at one end to give the impression that they have chamfer stops at both ends. Visual inspection suggested that there were derived from two parts of the same quartered tree. One of these was sampled, as sample 9.

Both these samples, 9 and 10, although having some narrow growth bands were successfully analysed, and both are components of the NR2+HL group (Table 3, Fig 6). The high levels of cross-matching between samples 5, 9, and 10 (Table 3) make it likely they were derived from a single tree, thus linking truss T3 and the three ceiling beams. The 229-year composite sequence that they are part of was found to strongly match at AD 1367 to AD 1595 inclusive. This material comprised slow-growing and long-lived oaks, quite twisted in character, with narrow bands of growth similar to those seen in unmeasured samples 7, 13, and 16. This characteristic suggests the possible widespread use of former pollards in this phase of construction, and supports observations made during both the assessment and the coring that the buildings at Boscobel contained a lot of this type of material.

The interpretation of this material is straightforward. Sample 5 is complete to bark edge and retains a complete ring for AD 1595. This timber was therefore felled in the winter of AD 1595 or early spring of AD 1596. The calculated felling date ranges for the samples from the ceiling beams indicates this material was either precisely or broadly contemporaneous. Whilst there is no suggestion the timbers that provide samples 5 or 10 are either reused or secondary, it seems quite likely that the two beams associated with truss T2, one of which provided sample 9, are reused in their present position.

Another Ceiling Beam

The final sample from the north range was derived from one of the other ceiling beams. Most of these beams throughout the range were derived from fast-grown young trees. A single short small beam adjacent to truss T3 was of slightly different characteristics and appeared to be suitable for sampling (Fig 4). This sample, 6, although fairly short-lived was successfully dated to AD 1682 to AD 1756 inclusive, and is hence of a different date than any of the other samples obtained from the site (Table 6, Fig 6).

The interpretation of this sample is straightforward. Sample 6 is complete to bark edge and retains a complete ring for AD 1756. This timber was therefore felled in the winter of AD 1756 or early spring of AD 1757. It is unknown whether this beam is primary, secondary, or reused in its present position.

Hunting Lodge

The Hunting Lodge is also a two-storey building, but with very tall storeys compared with the North Range; it also has a walk-in attic space converted into accommodation. Very few of the structural timbers are accessible in the ground and first floors due to the decorative panelling and plasterwork. The building has a three-bay roof with dormers, at right angles to the North Range. This roof had several accessible timbers, although this area used relatively slight timbers, which unfortunately had been defrassed at some stage. This had removed most of the sapwood from the visible timbers. There are two 'priest holes' in the Hunting Lodge, one accessible from the attic floor, and one through a hole on the second floor. Careful assessment of both of these concluded that neither contained timbers suitable for analysis. The material suitable for sampling was principally from the attic; elsewhere, the only suitable timbers that could be located were a large vertical post in one of the first-floor bedrooms, and one of the floor-supporting beams in the cellar. No other structural elements could be identified within the Hunting Lodge that were suitable and accessible for sampling.

Attic

The four samples from the attic (Trusses T4–T7, samples 11–14) comprise two queen posts and two purlins (Fig 5). Only two of these samples were suitable for analysis. One of these, sample 12, was found to form part of the NR2+HL group (Table 3). As is the case with the rest of this material, this timber contained some narrow growth bands.

Sample 12 is a queen post, which has a defrassed surface that appears to be the heartwood/sapwood boundary along its back edge. Visible below the floorboard is a further outer 20–25mm of growth that appears to be sapwood, which presumably was not accessible when defrassing took place. If this interpretation is correct, the calculated felling date range for this sample, AD 1562–98?, indicates this material was either precisely or broadly contemporaneous with samples 5, 9, and 10 from the North Range T3 and ceilings, which includes one timber felled AD 1595/6.

The second suitable sample from the attic, sample 11 from a purlin, was also successfully analysed and was determined to be of a different date to any of the other samples obtained from the site (Table 7, Fig 6). This timber certainly includes sapwood and this provides a calculated felling date range of AD 1607–43.

The interpretation of the date of the attic area must proceed with caution, since it is based on only two timbers. The result from the purlin may indicate that the queen post discussed above does not end at the heartwood/sapwood boundary, or may indicate that the purlins of this roof were modified a few decades after the original construction, perhaps relating to the insertion of the dormers, which, because of some differences in construction, may be secondary. The building is traditionally stated to have been built in the AD 1630s, but the tree-ring evidence hints it may actually have been remodelled from

a late sixteenth-century structure in this period, or that it was constructed with reused timbers.

Other structural elements

A single datable sample was obtained from across the entire structure below the roof. This was derived from a vertical post through a first-floor room (sample 15, Fig 5). This post was probably originally the north-east side wall of the building, before the addition of the chapel or oratory. This sample, although it also contained narrow growth bands, was successfully analysed, and is one of the components of the NR2+HL group (Table 3, Fig 6). This timber contained no sapwood, but was targeted at the request of Richard Lea. The calculated *terminus post quem* date for this timber indicates a date no earlier than AD 1522. It matches strongly to the other elements that are dated to AD 1595/6 (Table 3). Again this piece of tree-ring evidence hints the Hunting Lodge may actually have been remodelled from a late sixteenth-century structure, or was built using late sixteenth-century timbers.

The only other sampled timber from the structural elements of the Hunting Lodge was obtained from the cellar, and this proved to be unsuitable for analysis. This timber (sample 16, Fig 5) is another of the Boscobel samples dominated by narrow bands of unmeasurable rings, similar to the material dated elsewhere in the structure to AD 1595/6.

REFERENCES

Arnold, A J, Howard, R E, and Litton, C D, 2003a *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the bell frame and tower roof of St Margaret's Church, Wetton, Staffordshire*, Centre for Archaeol Rep, 22/2003

Arnold, A J, Howard, R E, and Litton, C D, 2003b *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the roof of the keep or "Little Castle", Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire*, Centre for Archaeol Rep, 15/2003

Arnold, A J, Howard, R E, and Litton, C D, 2004 *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from Kibworth Harcourt Post-Mill, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire*, Centre for Archaeol Rep, 76/2004

Arnold, A J, Howard, R E, and Litton, C D, 2005 *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the Riding School, Bolsover Castle, Bolsover, Derbyshire*, Centre for Archaeol Rep, **40/2005**

Baillie, M G L, and Pilcher, J R, 1973 A simple crossdating program for tree-ring research, *Tree Ring Bulletin*, **33**, 7–14

English Heritage, 1998 Dendrochronology: guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates, London

Groves, C, 1997 Dendrochronological analysis of Ightfield Hall Farm Barn, Ightfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire, 1997, Anc Mon Lab Rep, 91/97

Howard, R E, Laxton, R R, and Litton, C D, 1999a *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from St Andrew's Church, Owston, Leicestershire*, Anc Mon Lab Rep, **39/98**

Howard, R E, Laxton, R R, and Litton, C D, 2000 *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the buildings and living trees at Stoneleigh Abbey, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire*, Anc Mon Lab Rep, **80/2000**

Howard, R E, Laxton, R R, and Litton, C D, 2003 *Tree-ring analysis of oak timbers from Combermere Abbey, Whitchurch, Cheshire*, Centre for Archaeol Rep, **83/2003**

Howard, R E, Litton, C D, and Laxton, R R, 1999b *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from Bretby Hall, Bretby, Derbyshire*, Anc Mon Lab Rep, **43/99**

Laxton, R R, and Litton, C D, 1988 An East Midlands master tree-ring chronology and its use for dating vernacular buildings, University of Nottingham, Dept of Classical and Archaeological Studies, Monograph Series, III

Miles, D, Haddon-Reece, D, Moran, M, and Mercer, E, 1993 Tree-ring dates for buildings: List 54, *Vernacular Architect*, **24**, 54–60

Mills, C M, 1988 *Dendrochronology of Exeter and its application*, unpubl PhD thesis Sheffield Univ

Nayling, N, 1998 Dendrochronological analysis of timbers from Old Abbey Farm, Risley, Cheshire, ARCUS Rep, 412

Tyers, I, 1995a *Tree-ring analysis of Claydon House, Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire*, Anc Mon Lab Rep, **13/95**

Tyers, I, 1995b *Tree-ring analysis of the bellframe at St Andrews, Sutton-in-the-Isle, Cambs*, Anc Mon Lab Rep, **15/95**

Tyers, I, 1998 Tree-ring analysis of oak timbers from the "Brewhouse" and "Refectory" at Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, Anc Mon Lab Rep, 20/98

Tyers, I, 1999 Dendrochronological analysis of timbers from Black Ladies, near Brewood, Staffordshire, ARCUS Rep, **484**

Tyers, I, 2004a Medieval Pembridge: report on the tree-ring analysis of properties in the village, ARCUS Rep, 778

Tyers, I, 2004b *A report on the tree-ring analysis of properties in New Buckenham, Norfolk*, ARCUS Rep, **783**

Tyers, I, 2004c *The tree-ring analysis of Sunnybank, Luston, Herefordshire*, ARCUS Rep, 717p

Tyers, I, 2005 Report on the tree-ring analysis of properties in Eardisley, Herefordshire, ARCUS Rep, **895**

Tyers, I, 2006 *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from a building: Moseley Farm Barn, Cookridge, West Yorkshire*, ARCUS Rep, **853u**

Tyers, I, 2008 *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from a building: 'The Barns', Turton, Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire*, Dendro Co Rep, **222**

Tyers, I, 2010 *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from Storeton Hall Farm, Storeton, Merseyside*, EH Res Dept Rep Ser, **2-2010**

Tyers, I, and Price, S, 2007 Tree-ring dates from Wribbenhall, Worcestershire: List 188, Vernacular Architect, 38, 117–9

Worthington, M J, and Miles, D W H, 2004 *The tree-ring dating of New Hall, Eaton-Under-Heywood, Shropshire*, Centre for Archaeol Rep, **2/2004**

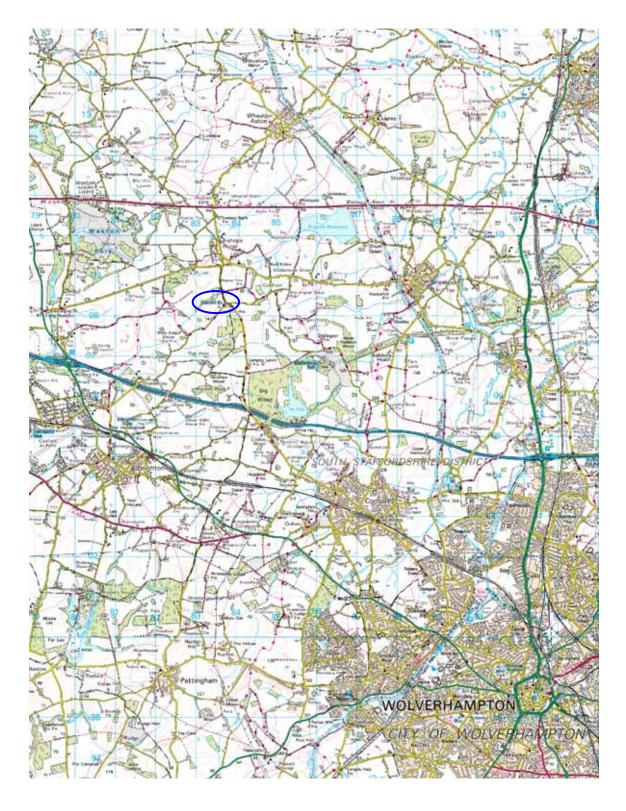


Figure 1. Location of Boscobel House. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. English Heritage 100019088. 2010

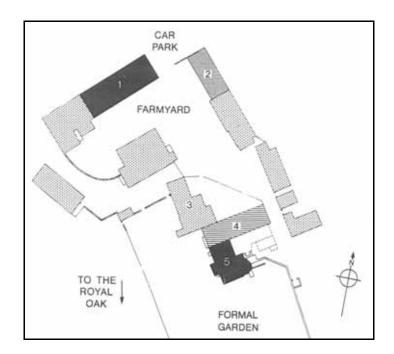


Figure 2. Sketch plan of the site showing the location of the 2 sampled buildings. The North Range, or Dairy, labelled 4, and the Hunting Lodge, labelled 5. Based on a figure in the EH Guidebook, supplied by EH

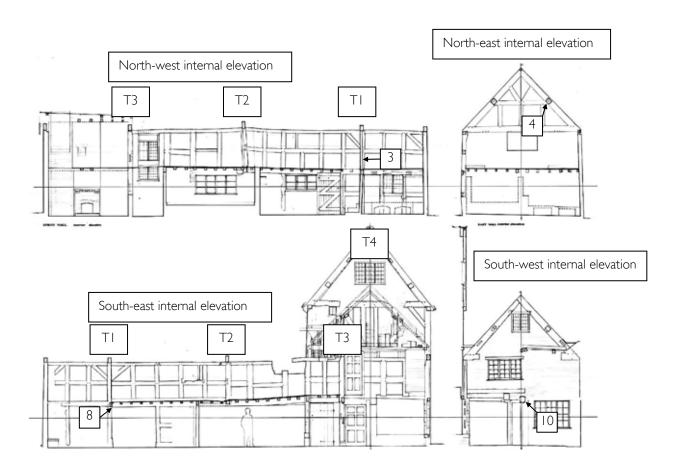


Figure 3. Four internal elevations of the North Range of Boscobel House showing the approximate location of some of the sampled timbers. Based on a figure supplied by EH

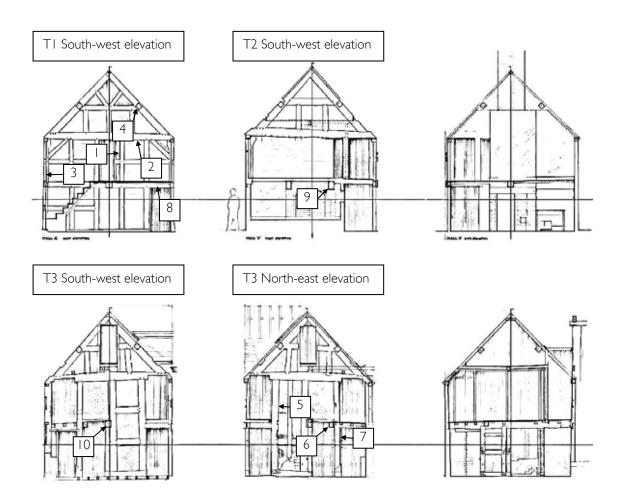


Figure 4. Trusses elevations from North Range of Boscobel House showing the approximate location of some of the sampled timbers. Based on a figure supplied by EH

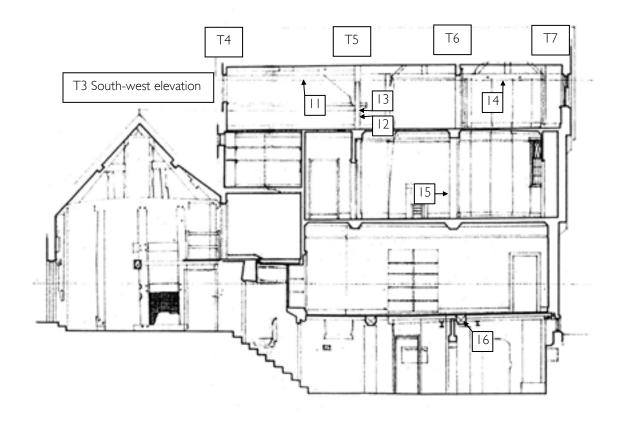


Figure 5. Section through the Hunting Lodge at Boscobel House, with North Range T3 to the left, showing the approximate location of the sampled timbers. Based on a figure supplied by EH

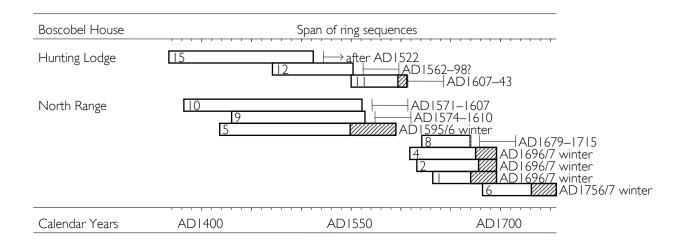


Figure 6. Bar diagram showing the absolute dating positions of the 11 dated tree-ring sequences for samples from Boscobel House. The interpreted felling dates are also shown for each sample.

KEY White bars are oak heartwood, hatched bars are sapwood.

Table 1. Details of the 16 samples from timbers from Boscobel House.

Sample	Location	Rings	Sap	Date of measured sequence	Interpreted result
	NR T1, wall stud	65	26+Bw	AD 1632–1696	AD 1696/7
2	NR TI, tie beam	81	18+Bw	AD 1616–1696	AD 1696/7
3	NR TI, NW post	77	23+Bw	not dated	-
4	NR NE end wall-T1, SE purlin	88	21+Bw	AD 1609–1696	AD 1696/7
5	NR T3 SE full height post	178	46+Bw	AD 1418-1595	AD 1595/6
6	NR T2-T3, NE/SW ceiling beam	75	25+Bw	AD 1682-1756	AD 1756/7
7	NR T3 NW full height post	-	-	not measured	-
8	NR TT NW/SE ceiling beam	50		AD 1621–1670	AD 1679–1715
9	NR T2-T3, NE/SW ceiling beam	135	H/S	AD 1430–1564	AD 1574–1610
10	NR T3-SW end wall, ceiling beam	180	H/S	AD 1382-1561	AD 1571–1607
	HL T4-T5, NE upper purlin	57	9	AD 1550-1606	AD 1607–43
12	HL T5, NE queen post	82	?H/S	AD 1471-1552	AD 1562–98?
13	HL T5, SW queen post	-	-	not measured	-
14	HL T6-T7, SW upper purlin	-	-	not measured	-
15	HL I st floor bedroom post	146	-	AD 1367–1512	after AD 1522
16	HL Cellar, NE/SW ceiling beam	-	-	not measured	-

KEY For locations see Figures 2–5. NR; North Range, or North-East Range or Dairy, trusses TI-T3 from north-east. HL; Hunting Lodge, T4–T7 from north-west. N north, S south, E east, W west, H/S is heartwood/sapwood edge, PH/S is possible heartwood/sapwood edge, Bw bark after complete ring.

Table 2. The t-values (Baillie and Pilcher 1973) between 4 sampled timbers from Boscobel House. - t-value less than 3.0. These were combined to form the composite sequence NR1 used in Table 4.

	2	4	8
	-	5.14	3.25
2		-	3.56
4			-

Table 3. The t-values (Baillie and Pilcher 1973) between 5 sampled timbers from Boscobel House. These were combined to form the composite sequence NR2+HL used in Table 5.

	9	10	12	15
5	11.97	13.40	5.45	4.97
9		13.24	6.66	5.99
10			6.00	9.01
12				5.49

Table 4. Showing example t-values (Baillie and Pilcher 1973) between composite sequence NR I constructed from samples from the North Range at Boscobel House and oak reference data.

	Boscobel
Reference chronology	NRI
	AD 1609–96
Cheshire, Combermere Abbey (Howard et al 2003)	8.97
Cheshire, Storeton Hall (Tyers 2010)	5.94
Derbyshire, Bretby Hall Bretby (Howard <i>et al</i> 1999b)	7.13
Derbyshire, Riding School Bolsover Castle (Amold <i>et al</i> 2005)	6.88
Derbyshire, The Keep/Little Castle Bolsover Castle (Amold <i>et al</i> 2003b)	7.64
Staffordshire, Black Ladies near Brewood (Tyers 1999)	9.35
Worcestershire, Wribbenhall (Tyers and Price 2007)	5.67
Yorkshire, Cookridge Moseley Wood Farm barn (Tyers 2006)	6.25

Table 5. Showing example t-values (Baillie and Pilcher 1973) between composite sequence NR2+HL constructed from samples from both the North Range and the Hunting Lodge at Boscobel House and oak reference data.

	Boscobel
Reference chronology	NR2+HL
	AD 1367–1595
Herefordshire, Eardisley The Tram Inn (Tyers 2005)	5.80
Herefordshire, Pembridge Westleigh (Tyers 2004a)	6.20
Herefordshire, Sunnybank Luston (Tyers 2004c)	5.68
Nottinghamshire, etc, regional sequence (Laxton and Litton 1988)	6.32
Shropshire, Brookgate Farm Plealy (Miles et al 1993)	6.30
Shropshire, Ightfield Hall Barn (Groves 1997)	6.14
Staffordshire, Black Ladies near Brewood (Tyers 1999)	6.20
Staffordshire, St Margarets Church Wetton (Amold <i>et a</i> /2003a)	6.85

Table 6. Showing example t-values (Baillie and Pilcher 1973) between sample 6 from the North Range at Boscobel House and oak reference data.

Reference chronology	Boscobel #6 AD 1682–1756
Buckinghamshire, Claydon House Middle Claydon (Tyers 1995a)	4.01
Cheshire, Risley Old Abbey Farm (Nayling 1998)	5.42
Devon, Exeter Cathedral (Mills 1988)	4.74
Leicestershire, Kibworth Harcourt Post Mill (Arnold <i>et al</i> 2004)	4.37
Nottinghamshire, etc, regional sequence (Laxton and Litton 1988)	6.15
Shropshire, Eaton-under-Heywood (Worthington and Miles 2004)	4.32
Warwickshire, Stoneleigh Abbey (Howard et al 2000)	4.78
Yorkshire, Nostell Priory nr Wakefield (Tyers 1998)	4.16

Table 7. Showing example t-values (Baillie and Pilcher 1973) between sample 11 from the Hunting Lodge at Boscobel House and oak reference data.

Reference chronology	Boscobel #11 AD 1550-1606
Cambridgeshire, Sutton-in-the-Isle bellframe (Tyers 1995b)	5.37
Cheshire, Storeton Hall (Tyers 2010)	4.56
Derbyshire, Bretby Hall Bretby (Howard et al 1999b)	6.10
Derbyshire, Riding School Bolsover Castle (Amold <i>et al</i> 2005)	4.65
Lancashire, Turton Bam (Tyers 2008)	4.18
Leicestershire, Owston St Andrews church (Howard et al 1999a)	5.18
Norfolk, New Buckenham Pinchpot (Tyers 2004b)	7.29
Yorkshire, Cookridge Moseley Wood Farm barn (Tyers 2006)	4.84

APPENDIX I

bosl 305 140 78 54 105 116 74	316 284 38 62 77 161 107	317 269 89 79 65 84 136	247 294 126 70 75 86 154	206 298 104 55 185 154 142	285 373 75 57 178 159	369 293 70 83 183 128	264 210 44 89 135 118	260 152 58 123 112 68	460 195 46 124 118 83
bos2 247 120 98 218 218 106 137 121	362 247 164 125 226 119 136 150	345 223 240 67 181 119 96	276 372 139 82 101 134 91	304 260 202 79 156 189 83	259 250 193 84 148 206 89 81	303 166 107 84 138 183 52 63	257 138 75 163 91 103 37 62	200 123 83 213 70 73 81 116	158 126 131 253 112 57 78 127
bos3 717 417 360 56 122 182 69 45	643 380 272 38 73 233 65 34	583 311 201 22 96 207 111 44	538 354 334 48 105 125 68 68	404 244 107 43 120 154 91 82	443 244 222 37 124 76 96 105	511 157 161 43 180 122 201 121	170 195 150 38 128 104 202	399 247 215 40 178 123 132	355 250 80 83 241 109 90
bos4 796 237 192 156 257 196 226 241	571 174 125 210 141 210 275 197 86	385 232 133 228 186 159 198 166 97	374 281 141 153 208 182 170 176 79	288 198 147 167 162 140 153 170	256 136 137 207 288 126 145 116	256 126 108 216 315 138 136 112	264 127 98 245 324 181 159 144	318 185 145 199 259 162 158 152	299 180 196 312 231 207 212 143

bos5 98 162 265 258 119 187 113 119 103 128 82 82 75 89 62 78 56 96	113 202 273 261 104 133 141 61 171 195 91 88 94 63 69 63 46 90	123 235 246 337 115 130 89 54 128 173 71 95 121 81 58 75 44 95	99 233 203 472 131 113 87 70 121 146 103 96 105 94 57 97 73 97	80 206 182 325 158 66 48 86 148 194 127 73 69 86 72 89 43 111	101 149 124 246 164 75 117 125 139 158 95 47 78 72 65 61 69 89	125 201 156 305 137 93 127 111 162 140 121 80 78 82 60 42 80 102	73 151 158 188 121 142 129 128 172 97 117 71 65 70 69 71 86 112	82 170 258 217 134 153 135 137 120 59 98 61 83 74 73 56 101	130 180 240 161 141 96 181 96 109 103 96 71 66 51 75 58 94
311 211 110 140 185 166 58 138	283 197 139 181 169 140 67 109	126 207 149 169 148 118 77 187	212 186 105 158 143 99 94 240	281 250 92 201 106 88 88 205	311 175 117 202 127 89 109	317 137 170 143 127 135 91	349 126 191 125 138 132 106	284 92 153 140 160 109 155	366 108 212 185 166 74 166
bos8 308 214 277 111 77	342 201 148 86 133	338 131 102 82 128	198 161 132 123 129	207 213 157 160 134	202 138 202 149 105	220 219 223 135 126	288 265 200 98 92	404 238 203 112 117	254 250 164 111 122
bos9 412 285 259 178 70 71 46 87 127 41 91 182 128 108	357 221 283 184 56 83 91 94 90 51 109 172 127 123	351 244 281 196 47 36 107 83 115 79 90 76 128 152	259 190 254 208 62 123 103 93 109 67 58 100 131	338 184 305 164 61 141 103 111 89 82 94 111 118 135	251 173 212 106 85 169 92 126 47 88 113 114	211 229 241 124 97 117 83 68 49 95 130 123 107	326 221 232 162 62 202 55 64 55 104 146 108 79	259 303 189 173 76 123 73 72 53 131 150 118 98	238 264 152 87 110 79 85 133 58 102 131 114

bos15 301 210 172 122 77 66 68 60 57 158 225 188 240 129 68	bos12 87 79 100 154 135 109 148 89 86	bosll 341 284 215 312 324 263	bos10 171 161 241 173 149 301 213 196 177 106 56 115 149 198 138 159 107 156
343 251 180 154 106 105 79 55 69 149 216 186 135 128 85	66 66 135 158 157 153 85 67 71	347 296 180 248 256 347	184 196 302 194 183 290 144 200 200 116 129 129 178 167 108 124 106 165
377 186 135 132 139 84 82 40 76 161 143 87 65 149 120	76 116 107 140 107 68 76 87	320 237 100 174 267 272	172 211 264 120 181 335 145 207 154 116 153 162 215 156 164 143 134 138
272 179 124 181 107 81 68 66 114 220 140 105 74 132 102	72 108 167 197 119 85 73 79	251 237 132 261 386 391	222 234 195 159 89 256 139 168 112 143 144 149 195 111 135 178 176 146
245 163 136 165 103 95 53 62 155 234 111 93 96 102 138	119 109 197 176 76 66 129 91	237 90 167 464 394 413	285 220 201 94 82 231 202 203 125 174 136 173 114 93 138 139 138 135
242 165 119 134 119 85 77 64 210 215 130 98 163 79 150	137 110 156 147 82 80 120 73	239 135 130 502 372 281	317 160 147 163 152 246 208 214 160 102 159 117 124 125 133 163 144
187 167 115 181 111 114 57 70 192 233 97 169 194 128	104 191 116 96 92 98 120 78	140 160 96 570 321 284	323 167 200 176 228 225 232 158 198 113 121 127 173 138 165 181 149 100
145 128 151 134 74 76 62 48 187 178 118 219 188 134	85 83 128 150 86 107 116	120 168 137 575 310	270 145 215 175 288 166 222 162 147 126 50 161 189 95 162 175 145 131
223 171 127 112 95 66 56 52 174 152 192 201 222 109	81 79 158 196 110 90 115 76	194 202 133 429 339	197 175 174 166 369 227 239 149 135 109 58 150 177 95 143 219 136 131
235 201 176 104 63 61 47 59 176 190 236 195 200 80	98 79 182 152 118 89 97 81	253 266 186 468 291	177 209 184 169 284 208 244 178 166 99 83 112 175 111 174 166 171 156













ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

English Heritage undertakes and commissions research into the historic environment, and the issues that affect its condition and survival, in order to provide the understanding necessary for informed policy and decision making, for sustainable management, and to promote the widest access, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage.

The Research Department provides English Heritage with this capacity in the fields of buildings history, archaeology, and landscape history. It brings together seven teams with complementary investigative and analytical skills to provide integrated research expertise across the range of the historic environment. These are:

- * Aerial Survey and Investigation
- * Archaeological Projects (excavation)
- * Archaeological Science
- * Archaeological Survey and Investigation (landscape analysis)
- * Architectural Investigation
- * Imaging, Graphics and Survey (including measured and metric survey, and photography)
- * Survey of London

The Research Department undertakes a wide range of investigative and analytical projects, and provides quality assurance and management support for externally-commissioned research. We aim for innovative work of the highest quality which will set agendas and standards for the historic environment sector. In support of this, and to build capacity and promote best practice in the sector, we also publish guidance and provide advice and training. We support outreach and education activities and build these in to our projects and programmes wherever possible.

We make the results of our work available through the Research Department Report Series, and through journal publications and monographs. Our publication Research News, which appears three times a year, aims to keep our partners within and outside English Heritage up-to-date with our projects and activities. A full list of Research Department Reports, with abstracts and information on how to obtain copies, may be found on www.english-heritage. org.uk/researchreports

For further information visit www.english-heritage.org.uk

