

## Base Court Tudor Door Opening and Gate Hanging, Hampton Court Palace



### Watching Brief and Historic Buildings Recording



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## Base Court Tudor Door Opening and Gate Hanging, Hampton Court Palace

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## **Base Court Blocked Door Opening and Gate Hanging, Hampton Court Palace**

### **HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to undertake historic building recording and investigation during works within Base Court at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey. This work consisted of two different projects – the opening up of a blocked Tudor doorway creating a new opening to the shop within the east range of the court and the hanging of new gates within the Anne Boleyn Gatehouse east elevation.*

*Unlike many gateways within the Palace, the gateway on the east elevation of the Anne Boleyn gatehouse does not contain gates. Pictorial evidence could not determine when the wooden gates were removed but three remaining pintles were recorded and 19th century views of the Palace show three pintles on each jamb. The 19th century granite setts at the base of each jamb were lifted in order to ascertain if any archaeology beneath would be affected by the insertion of slots for pivots and ground bolts. The northwest jamb has a flat red brick surface formed of 19th century bricks and thought to be part of the 19th century works to improve drainage within the courtyard.*

*The removal of brick facing covering a known Tudor doorway revealed the stonework for the doorway to be still in situ. A void in the blocking and the presence of timber fragments and iron strapping confirmed that the doorway had been blocked with the possibly Tudor wooden door still in situ. The blocking had initially been carried out using a mix of 16th and late 17th/early 18th century bricks. Pictorial evidence tells us the stonework had been left visible. During the 19th century this stonework had the smooth outer face removed and a mix of 16th, 17/18th and 19th century bricks was used to infill this area. It was concluded from the presence of large areas of graffiti and the use of late 17th/early 18th century bricks that the door had remained in use for a considerable period.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was requested by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) to undertake building recording and investigation on works within Base Court, Hampton Court Palace. Hampton Court Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Surrey, no: 83).

1.1.2 The recording was carried out as per the Specification for Archaeological Watching and Recording Brief issued by Historic Royal Palaces in September 2009 and in consultation with HRP staff Patricia Les and Rob Umney. The watching brief comprised of two separate works within base court: The installation of new oak gates on the western archway of the Anne Boleyn Gatehouse at Hampton Court Palace and the opening up of a blocked Tudor doorway on the west elevation of the east range of Base Court.

1.1.3 Much of the research was undertaken for the *Base and Clock Courts Statement of Significance* (2007 and revised in 2008) by Dr Kent Rawlinson, Curator of Historic Buildings, Hampton Court Palace. The chronology covers key events in the development of Base Court along with references to primary sources used. This document forms the basis of the historical background contained within this report. Many views and plans of the palace showing Base Court were also included and some are reprinted within this report as plates.

1.1.4 Two recent OA archaeological investigations were relevant to the watching brief works: *Post Excavation Assessment, Base Court Resurfacing Works* (December 2009) and *Anne Boleyn Gatehouse, Historic Building Recording and Investigation* (August 2009).

1.1.5 Alison Kelly (Oxford Archaeology Buildings Supervisor) carried out the investigations with the watching brief and survey work taking place in December 2009 with some observation during the spring of 2010.

### 1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 The purpose of the investigation was:

- To record the walling within the doorway area and the Anne Boleyn gateway prior to works;
- To provide watching brief services during opening up works;
- To provide a summary written phasing of the historical development of the wall;
- To create an ordered archive of the work for deposition with Historic Royal

Palaces.

### 1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Overall the work comprised three principal elements: a photographic, drawn and written survey. The *photographic survey* consisted of general photographs and specific details and was undertaken using 35 mm black and white print film. Digital photographs were also taken using a Caplio 400G 3.2 megapixel camera. Scales were used where appropriate.

1.3.2 The *descriptive survey* complemented the photographic survey and added further analytical and descriptive detail. Brick typology sheets were completed for analysing the brick and mortar types or any exposed brickwork to enable comparison to the Hampton Court Brick Typology.

1.3.3 The opening up of the Tudor doorway was further recorded with *drawn survey* with a drawing of the opening following removal of face brickwork was completed on archivally stable permatrace at a scale of 1:10. This is reproduced within this report as figure 3.

### 1.4 The Brick Typology

1.4.1 The Brick Typology was completed by Daphne Ford for English Heritage and this document, formed using a mix of visual inspection and archive evidence, established a typology for the bricks used at Hampton Court Palace, and included elevation drawings of the majority of the Palace which have been phased according to the typology. During recording works at Hampton Court Palace, careful note is made of any brickwork and this is compared to the Brick Typology. Where necessary a tentative identification is made.

## 2 HAMPTON COURT □ BACKGROUND HISTORY

2.1.1 The Knights Hospitallers acquired the manor of Hampton in 1236 and used the land as a grange. The only known buildings at this time were a great barn or hall and a stone camera. The first known occupant other than the knights was John Wode who obtained a lease for the court, the exact date of which is unknown. Alterations to the building during his time may have included the extension of the residential part of the dwelling by means of a tower. Wode died in 1484 with no heir, and it was not until 1494 that the manor was re-leased.

2.1.2 The next occupant of Hampton Court was Sir Giles Daubeney, who in 1494 acquired an eighty-year lease. The freehold of Hampton Court was unobtainable by Daubeney but he did however obtain a new 99-year lease in 1505. This new lease was much improved allowing him to enlarge the property. Daubeney died in 1508 and when his son came of age in 1514 he immediately gave up the lease to Thomas Wolsey, then the Bishop of Lincoln, but soon to become Archbishop of York and a Cardinal.

- 2.1.3 As with Daubeney's lease Wolsey's gave permission for alterations to be made to the fabric of the buildings. During his time at the palace Wolsey carried out many alterations and new builds and amongst his earlier works was the construction of the ranges that form Base Court in 1514-1522. Henry VIII, who acquired Hampton Court in 1527/9, continued this building of the palace as he embarked upon a building programme that shaped much of the Tudor palace we see today. During this time existing buildings were removed or adapted and decorated for royal use.
- 2.1.4 Among the later alterations that are recorded, the major programme of alterations was carried out by William III, who commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to rebuild Hampton Court in 1689. Wren's original plan was to rebuild the whole of the Tudor palace, keeping only the Great Hall. Lack of time and money meant that Wren concentrated his efforts on rebuilding the King and Queen's apartments on the south and east sides of the palace.
- 2.1.5 After Williams death in 1702 the Palace was little used by subsequent monarchs although improvements and alterations to the palace fabric continued. The last reigning monarch to use Hampton Court was George II in 1737. After his succession in 1760, George III decided not to live at Hampton Court leaving the palaces many room unoccupied. It was decided that the lodgings and other rooms in the palace should be divided up into apartments for grace and favour residents who were granted free residency by the monarch.
- 2.1.6 In 1837 Queen Victoria declared that Hampton Court Palace should be open to all her subjects and the Palace became a tourist destination and visiting antiquarians and artists began to write about and draw the palace on a grander scale than previously done. Parts of the Tudor Palace were gradually restored with the removal of 18<sup>th</sup> century casement windows amongst some of the building works at this time. Changes to the palace in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries have primarily involved the conservation and restoration of the building fabric as well as the presentation of the palace to visitors.

## 2.2 **Base Court**

- 2.2.1 Documentary evidence shows that Wolsey began construction on the ranges forming base court immediately after his acquisition of the lease of Hampton Court and the work was completed by c.1521. This involved the construction of two gatehouses and four ranges, the ranges having two storeys, the great gatehouse having five storeys and the Anne Boleyn Gatehouse three or four principal storeys. According to documentary sources the bricks were manufactured on site by Richard Recolver and the timber cut and fabricated at Barwyn Wood. The east range of Base Court is partly constructed over Lord Daubeney's south range constructed between 1495-1514 and the remains of a garderobe turret was incorporated into Wolsey east range.

2.2.2 The stair turret on the west elevation of the east range was added sometime between 1526-1529 to provide access to the first floor chambers and the Wolsey rooms. The adjacent doorway was thought to be partially blocked by the new turret and therefore not in use from this period.

### 3 THE NEW GATE HANGING

#### 3.1 Background

3.1.1 The 16<sup>th</sup> century views of the palace by Wyngaerde do not show the arch of the gatehouse in any detail and 18th and 19th century views of the gatehouse do not show any gates hanging on either the east or west elevations. A view through the gatehouse from around 1800 (Plate 1) shows 6 pintles, three on each side, still in situ. It is assumed that the gates were in use following initial construction of the gatehouse and fell out of use before the mid 18th century.

#### 3.2 The Archaeological investigation

3.2.1 The installation of new oak gates on the west elevation of the Anne Boleyn gatehouse (Plate 5) involved the insertion of new pivots and slots into the ground beside each jamb. An area beside each jamb was excavated to a depth of 330mm and 380mm in order to ascertain if the works were likely to damage any archaeology beneath.

3.2.2 There are three remaining iron fittings inserted within the stonework on the inner jambs of the archway. Two pintles are set within the northwest jamb and one within the south west jamb – all are of indeterminate date. The worked stone on the archway of the gatehouse was examined and identified by Robin Sanderson in September 2008. It was determined that the upper parts of the archway below the springing joint on both jambs are of Caen stone which probably dates to the original construction of the gatehouse in the early 16th century. Beneath this are quoins of Wheatley limestone which is difficult to date accurately due to its extensive use within the palace; however the appearance suggests that it is a later repair to the archway stonework and therefore post Henrician but pre 19th century in date. The lower quoins are of Bath stone and probably of 19th century date. The upper pintles on the north west jamb has a patchy white mortar surrounding it and the lower pintles has a small section of Bath stone adjacent suggesting these were either later insertions or reset. Bath stone is typically used in 19<sup>th</sup> century repairs and refenestration at the palace suggesting that, for a short time, gates may have been hung in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.3 The flooring and material beside the northwest jamb was removed to a depth of 380mm, beneath this the underlying material consisted of a compacted brown, sandy layer with frequent rubble stone inclusions. Three fragments of generic post medieval flat clay roof tile and one fragment of salt glaze stoneware pottery were

noted within this layer. It is probable that this material is a bedding layer for the stone setts laid down during the resurfacing works of 1891.

- 3.2.4 The dressed stonework for the arch continues down from ground level to a depth of approximately 150mm and beneath this are three courses of brick footings which project outwards from the base of the stonework by approximately 80mm (Plate 7). The bricks are a deep red colour and measure 235 x 115 x 58mm, which, when compared to the Hampton Court Brick Typology (English Heritage, 1991) which is characteristic of Type T brickwork (19th century). The mortar is a creamy white colour with irregular inclusions. At approximately 380mm depth there was a level surface of red brick of a similar size to the footing, however there were no full measurements visible for analysis.
- 3.2.5 As with the northwest jamb, below ground level by the southwest jamb has the same sandy brown coloured fill with rubble inclusions, which was excavated to a depth of 330mm (Plate 9). The brick footing protruded 100mm from the lowest stone quoin and it is possible that the same flat surface as seen by the northwest jamb exists; however this was unseen.

### 3.3 Discussion

- 3.3.1 The presence of 19th century brickwork below the ground level at this point probably relates to extensive works during the 19th century which as well as resurfacing the cobbled courtyard also sought to improve the drainage of the courtyard. The flat surface seen beside the northwest jamb and possibly existing by the southwest jamb would not be affected by the insertion of the new gate pivot and slots.

## 4 THE TUDOR DOOR OPENING UP WORKS

### 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 A blocked doorway in the east elevation of Base Court has been depicted in many drawings and sketches from the 18th century onwards (Plates 2 & 3) and a scale drawing of this section of the east elevation featured in AW Pugins *Specimens of Gothic Architecture* (Plate 4). The door was part of the original Wolsey build of the courtyard ranges and was thought to have fallen into disuse following the addition of a stair turret to the elevation shortly after completion of Base Court in 1522. From the pictorial evidence and the type of bricks used as infill it is clear that the doorway was initially bricked up in the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century with the stonework remaining exposed. During the 19th century the stone was removed and the void was infilled with brick and a brick and stone plinth was later added.

### 4.2 The Archaeological investigation

- 4.2.1 The archaeological recording was in the form of a watching brief during the removal of the face brickwork (Plate 10). The surrounding Tudor brick is Type A

- (Early Wolsey building phase), brown/orange coloured and laid in an English Bond with a cream coloured lime mortar used for bedding. The infill brickwork is laid in a varying Flemish bond with obvious areas of further infill and patch repair. The elevation has been repointed with black ash pointing, probably during the 19th or early 20th century.
- 4.2.2 The brickwork over the stone arch and jamb was of facing brick with a rubble/half brick layer behind. The removed brickwork covering the area within the stonework had been identified on the Hampton Court brick typology as Type I Wren stock bricks which have a distinct plum colour. However these bricks have a colour more suggestive of Type H, which date to the same period as Type I - the late 17th/early 18th century. The brickwork covering the area in front of the stone doorframe is a mix of Type A Wolsey bricks and late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> brick. There are occasional single and small patches of 19th century bricks, which are most comparable with Type T, distinctive through the deep red colour. The mortar included chips of Reigate stone from the reduced face of the stonework behind indicating the 19<sup>th</sup> century refacing was completed quickly and in one phase.
- 4.2.3 The plinth is a later addition built using Type Q bricks measuring 224 x 106 x 66mm, laid in Flemish bond and added to the doorway in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Behind this plinth was the primary infill brickwork, also laid in Flemish bond with bricks measuring 219 x 104 x 58mm (Plate 11). The bricks were a reddish rose colour and have a creamy coloured mortar and probably Type H or I dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This brickwork ended in a straight joint beside the north west jamb. Below the north west jamb the brick infill was randomly laid with large amounts of mortar. The bricks were a mix of 19<sup>th</sup> century and 18<sup>th</sup> century bricks and brick fragments, this was probably added as part of the raking back works on the stone facing in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.2.4 Following the initial investigation the face brickwork was fully removed to reveal the doorway which had evidently been blocked from behind the door initially (Plate 12). The brickwork used in this rear infill was a mix of 16th, 17th and 18th century bricks indicating that the doorway had been used for much longer than initially thought. Two bricks within the fill were thought to date to the pre Wolsey building phase of the palace, both were orange/brown in colour and cut to shape with an angled corner section. Only one brick was whole and this measured 242 x 127 x 65mm, the brick fragment had a header width of 127mm. The large size of these bricks is comparable with the earliest identified brick on the Brick Typology, Type A (Pre Wolsey and Wolsey). The general appearance and the close location of some pre Wolsey structures suggest that these bricks predate the construction of this range.
- 4.2.5 The mortar used was a creamy coloured lime mortar and the mortar 'snots' which appear when brick walling is constructed from one side only, had been flattened by the presence of the timber door still being in situ at the time of blocking in. The mortar has the details of the individual planks forming the door and the two rails.



The impression of the wood grain could also clearly be seen and is shown on Figure 3.

- 4.2.6 The door within the opening had been initially nailed shut as two nails were found set in the north western jamb beside the metal strap, the opening had then been bricked up from within the building. Two iron straps, complete with nails, were attached to pintles fixed to the stonework of the south west jamb (Plate 20), however no further furniture from the door was found within the loose debris suggesting the lock and handle on the door had been removed prior to blocking in. The inner face of the northwest jamb has a rectangular rebate, which was possibly used as part of the blocking with an inserted section of timber (Plate 18). Above this rebate is a T shaped iron fitting which probably was part of the latching system, this partly covers a further section of the rebate below which has been infilled with a lime plaster/mortar. The upper section of the jamb has a small opening with a sloped edge possibly for a metal bar. The southwestern jamb has a rectangular rebate matching that of the northwest jamb (Plate 19).
- 4.2.7 The mortar of the infill brickwork clearly showed the location of the timber rails of the door and even the individual planks used to form the door. Fragments of wood were still fixed to the iron strapping, however most of the door had disintegrated, forming a void between the internal and external infill brickwork. Many fragments were found amongst the general debris and these were given a closer cursory inspection by Dan Miles of Oxford Dendrochronology. He identified the wood as slow grown oak, quarter cut. The fragments have a depth of 200mm and there is evidence of woodworm, which probably exacerbated the degradation. Amongst the general debris were also several nails of differing types suggesting the door timbers were dovetailed together with the iron straps and timber rails nailed on.
- 4.2.8 Within the void formed by the timber door there was a large quantity of building debris as well as some bones that were identified by an archaeozoologist at OA as pig, chicken, lamb and water vole/water rat. Some nesting material, together with evidence of gnawing on some of the bones, suggests the void was accessed and used by the water voles/rats as a nesting site. The removal of the timber lintel (Plate 22) revealed evidence of a rat run from the timber lintel above the doorway into the void. The pig, chicken and lamb bones are probably the remains of a workman's lunch, most likely dating to the removal of the stone facing and its replacement with brick in the 19th century. Its inclusion within the opening suggests the doorway had already, if only partly, disintegrated at this time. The deposition of food remains has been seen elsewhere within the Palace (OA 2009a). The bones found during the removal of the lintel suggest this work had been completed at the same time as the external refacing. Amongst the general debris were fragments of roof tile and one whole roof tile measuring 265 x 145 x 8mm. All were plain flat clay tile and of post medieval date. There were fragments of glass and a small round metal button, probably dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 4.2.9 The stonework forming the doorway appears to be of Reigate stone, which had been used extensively in construction at Hampton Court. Analysis of stone chippings and dust found within the masons yard building excavated within Base Court in 2008 (OA 2009c) was confirmed at Wheatley Limestone and Reigate Sandstone indicating that Reigate was used during the Wolsey building phase of the Palace. Surveys of stonework at the palace by Robin Sanderson (2008) also confirm this. The moulding (Plate 16) is simple in design identifiable with a type from the moulding survey of 2001 as type D1c - Wolsey and Henry low status public and private (Goulding 2001). The design is consistent with many early 16<sup>th</sup> century doorways within the palace.
- 4.2.10 A lead pipe revealed above the level of the plinth connected an internal heater sited to the rear of the doorway within the shop to a small metal vent which was positioned within the outer facing bricks. The pipe was encased within a very hard grey cement mortar and probably dates to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. A mix of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick fragments were used as fill within this mortar.
- 4.2.11 The internal brick blocking stopped 210mm above current ground level (Plate 13) and there were several tiles, including fragments of three Tudor 'black and white' Flemish style tiles. The presence of these tiles does not clearly suggest a 16th century floor level at this point, in fact it is likely to have been below the current ground level as evidenced by internal floor levels within the shop. It does however indicate the floor level at the time of blocking in, with the Tudor floor tile used as slip. This method was also used during late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century works within the Royal Pew of the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court (OA 2009a). The primary threshold of the door was unclear with much alteration and debris and an opening beside the southwest jamb going into the vault below.
- 4.2.12 The south western jamb is relatively intact, as the visible external face is protected by the adjoining stair turret, however the remaining stonework on the northwest jamb has had the face removed and large areas have visible tool markings (Plate 14). Several large pieces have fractured off, some of which were found within the void left by the disintegrating wood door. There is a large quantity of graffiti on both jambs, further indicating the door was at least accessible for a longer period of time than initially thought. The majority of the graffiti is formed of random incised marks some of which form patterns, the northwest jamb has the name 'THOMAS' inscribed and below this a depiction of a fish. The graffiti seems of the same type as seen in similar locations within the palace.
- 4.2.13 Beside the doorway within the shop the floor is formed of a raised wooden platform (Plate 17). Beneath the timber platform were a series of pipes, for utilities including an electric heater, which had been positioned within the door area. As part of the works the platform was opened up revealing the vaulted chambers underneath. This area was not fully investigated or recorded as it was not within the scope of works, however previous research and an excavation in 1966-7 has identified this area to

be part of the south front of Lord Daubeney's house, constructed prior to Wolseys grand building programme.

#### 4.3 Discussion

4.3.1 It became clear, shortly after opening up works began, that the door remained in use for a considerable period after the construction of the adjacent turret. The type of bricks within the initial blocking suggests that the door was initially blocked from the rear in the late 17th/early 18th century. The timber door, possibly of Tudor date was nailed shut and the west elevation was blocked within the stone frame with H or I Type bricks. In the late 19th century the upper blocking was removed and the visible face of the stonework of the arch and northwest jamb was raked off resulting in considerable damage. A mix of H or I Type bricks, A Type and T Type bricks were used to infill the opened up area. The door had at this point begun to disintegrate and the builders doing the refacing works left remains of their lunch within the void created, this void was also used as a rat run and nesting site by a water vole/rat. A plinth was also added to the elevation during these works.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 The recording of ongoing works within Base Court has enabled archaeologist to build a better picture of the construction phases and techniques used. As with many projects at Hampton Court Palace, the potential for archaeological discovery is huge and can sometimes be unexpected, highlighting the need for consistent and accurate recording.

Alison Kelly  
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October 2010

## APPENDIX I      BIBLIOGRAPHY

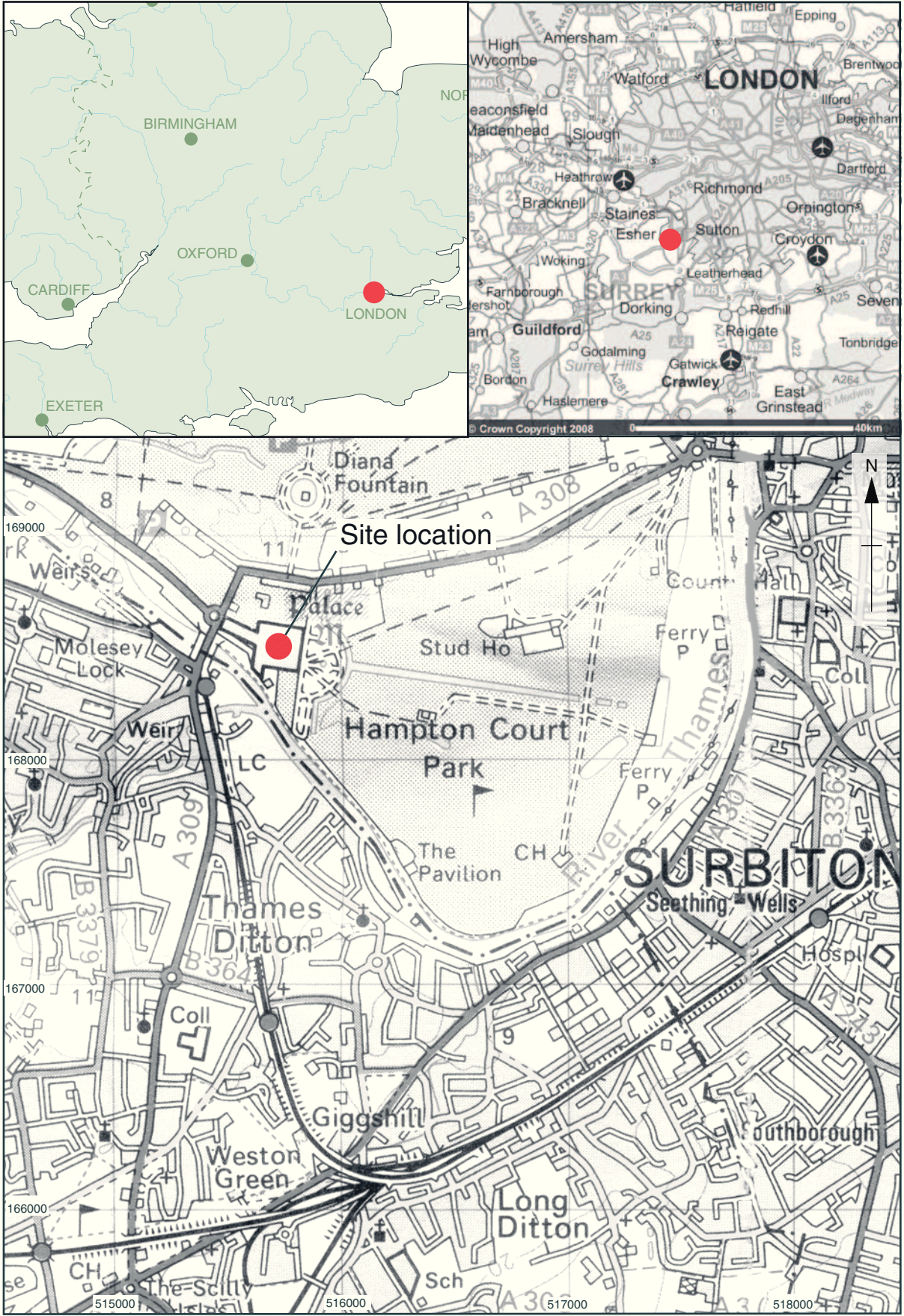
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Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

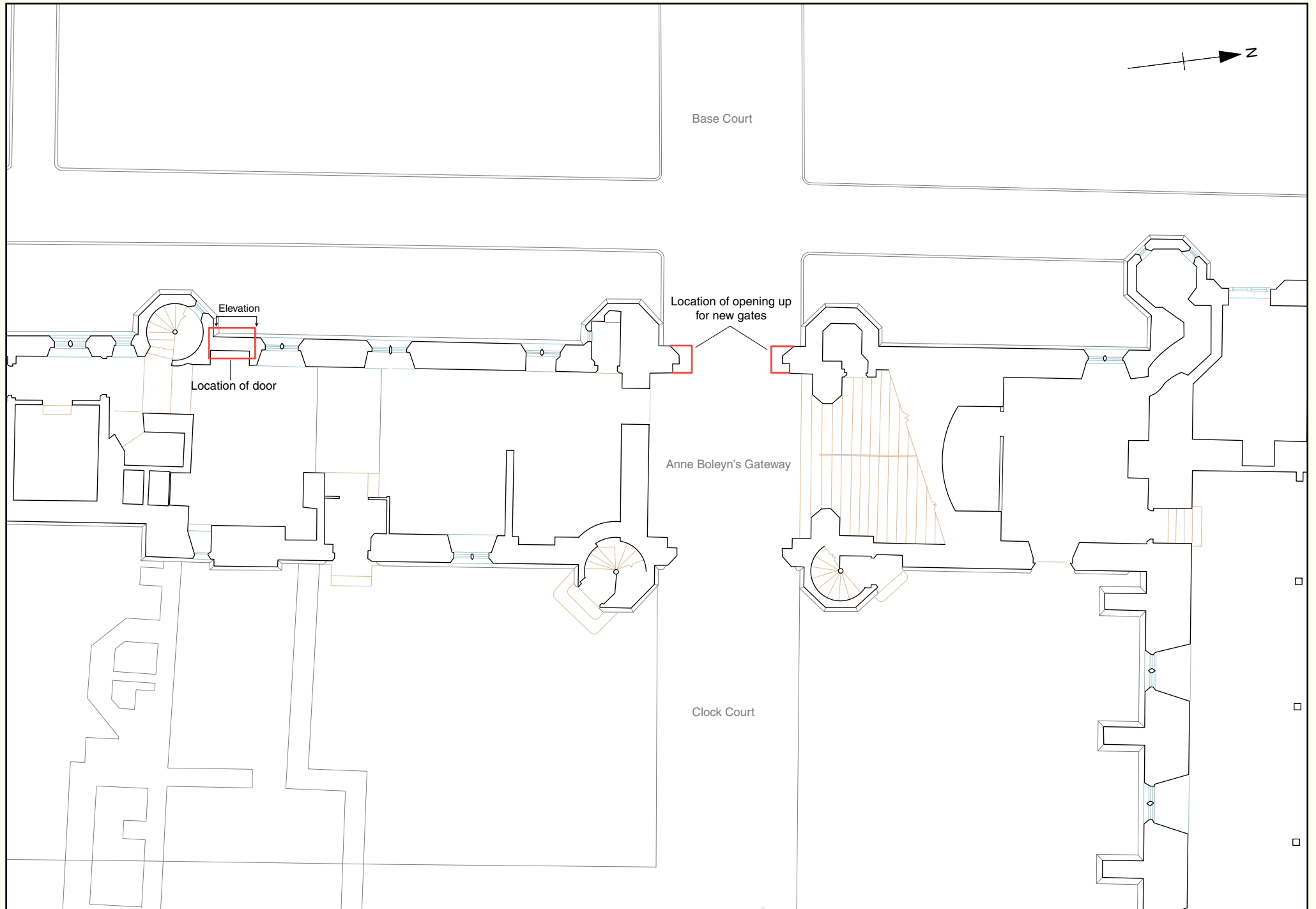


Figure 2: Location of opening up

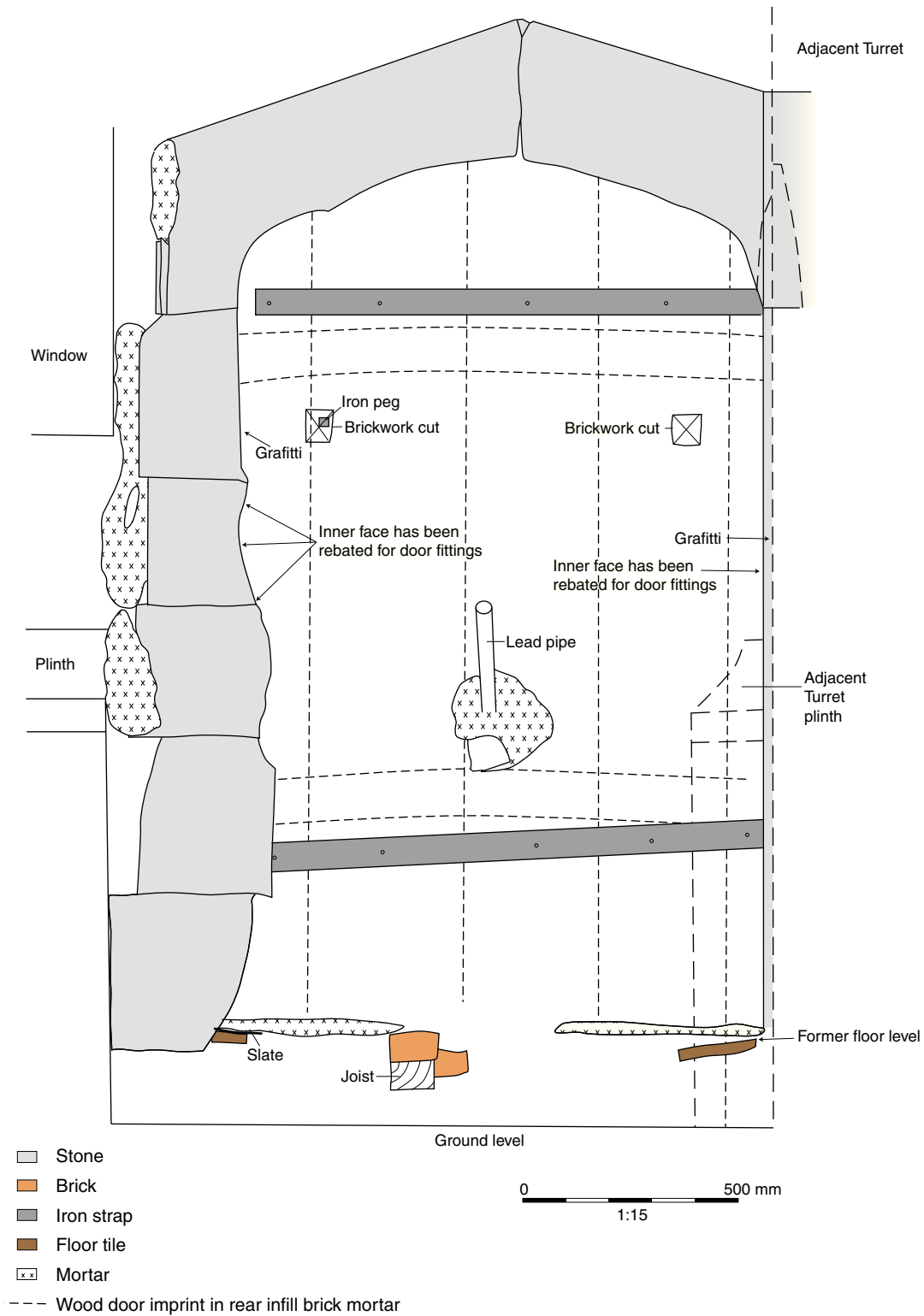


Figure 3: Blocked door on north elevation (rear infill brickwork omitted for clarity)





Plate 1: Interior of Anne Boleyn Gate showing pintles of former gate (anon. 1800) © Historic Royal Palaces



Plate 2: 'Quadrangle, Hampton Court' by W. Westall (1819) © Historic Royal Palaces



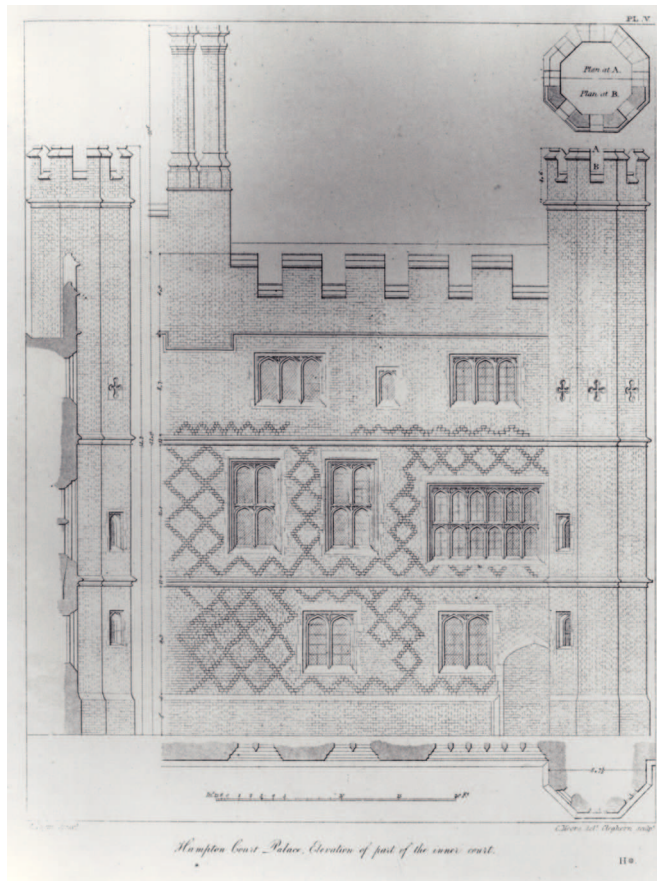


Plate 3: 'PL. V. Hampton Court Palace. Elevation of part of the inner court' from Specimens of Gothic Architecture by AW Pugin. C. Moore c 1821.



Plate 4: Detail from photograph of east range of Base Court showing blocked doorway with recent addition of plinth (pre 1891) © Historic Royal Palaces





Plate 5: West elevation of Anne Boleyn Gatehouse



Plate 6: The northwest jamb granite setts prior to removal





Plate 7: The northwest jamb following removal of material



Plate 8: The southwest jamb granite setts prior to removal





Plate 9: The southwest jamb following removal of material



Plate 10: The brickwork covering the blocked doorway prior to removal





Plate 11: Following removal of facing and topmost infill brickwork



Plate 12: Following removal of all brick infill





Plate 13: Detail of threshold



Plate 14: Detail of reduced stonework north-west jamb





Plate 15: Detail of adjacent plinth northwest jamb



Plate 16: Detail of southwest jamb showing moulding and fractured stone





Plate 17: View of pre Wolsey vaulted area beneath floor within the shop



Plate 18: Detail of door fixing on northwest jamb





Plate 19: Detail of door fixing slot on southwest jamb



Plate 20: Detail of door lower pintle on southwest jamb





Plate 21: Detail of upper stonework from within shop



Plate 22: Detail of timber lintel replaced during works





Plate 23: The doorway following removal of material



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