



# The Abbey Sutton Courtenay Vale of White Horse Oxfordshire

**Historic Building Investigation  
and Recording**



October 2007

**Client: Westwaddy ADP for  
The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay**

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**The Abbey,  
Sutton Courtenay**

**Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire  
(formerly Berkshire)**

**Historic Building Investigation and Recording**

**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY**

**October 2007**



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# **The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay Oxfordshire**

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# The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire

## HISTORIC BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*Oxford Archaeology (OA) has carried out a programme of historic building investigation and recording at The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay. This relates to a series of interventions made through the render cladding of the building to investigate key points in the underlying timber frame and other historic fabric. This was not designed specifically as an archaeological intervention but was undertaken to enable the architect and engineer to design a programme of conservation and repair.*

*Archaeological recording was necessary as this is a Grade I listed building and some interpretation and analysis of the exposed fabric was also requested to add to the information available for formulating the plan of conservation works.*

*The investigation has given valuable information about the condition of the structure and also about the nature of the surviving historic fabric, identifying primary and later phases of framing in some places and different phases and types of infill panel.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Westwaddy ADP on behalf of The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay to undertake investigation and recording of a programme of investigations into the historic fabric of the building.

1.1.2 The investigations were undertaken to enable understanding of the nature and condition of the fabric to inform the design of a programme of conservation and repair work. The building has been listed Grade I for its architectural and historic interest since 1952.

### 1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 The general aim of this project was to record interventions made through the render cladding of the building to assess the underlying historic fabric in advance of conservation works. The aim of this report is to describe the resulting archaeological findings and any new information they provide regarding the construction and history of the building to assist in formulating the programme of conservation works.

### 1.3 **Methodology**

- 1.3.1 The fieldwork consisted of a watching brief on the cutting of the investigation holes with a subsequent close visual inspection and photographic record. Written notes were made and used in writing this report.
- 1.3.2 Oxford Archaeology arranged for a dendrochronologist to visit the site to assess the suitability of the timber-framing for sampling. The only part of the building that was found to be potentially dateable by this method was the primary phase of the open hall and it was decided not to sample this at the present time.
- 1.3.3 The site work was undertaken during September 2007.

### 1.4 **Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank the community of Sutton Courtenay Abbey for their help and assistance during the fieldwork and for providing copies of earlier reports and archive material including the photographs reproduced as plates 66 and 67.

## 2 **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1.1 The building is well known and was listed Grade 1 in 1952; the list entry gives a very comprehensive description of the house. The structure was described in detail by Currie (1992) and it is not intended to repeat the known history or the earlier findings here. Currie gives the history and phasing options for the house.
- 2.1.2 Doggett (2004) gives an account largely drawn from Currie and usefully summarises his findings and sets out the most likely of the models of development clearly outlining the nine phases of construction identified by Currie.
- 2.1.3 Since 1980 the building has housed a community dedicated to promoting unity and understanding through spiritual and practical means. When the building was acquired in 1980 a property developer had recently been carrying out some works including demolition of a lean-to addition in the courtyard.
- 2.1.4 Some records were made by Julian Munby during works in 1980 and these have been made available and principally give additional information about the framing and infill of the south courtyard elevation and the south end of the east elevation (Figure 1 and Plates 1-3). The Royal Commission made some photographic records during the 1980/81 works and these and other contemporary archive photos held by the Abbey were consulted (Plates 66-7).

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

3.1.1 The Further Investigations are not numbered consecutively in order as they occur due to later additions to, (and removals from), the programme. The numbers run on from the numbering of the further investigations made previously by Oxley Conservation. They are here described by elevation as they occur starting at the east end of the north elevation (with the courtyard elevations following the main elevations) so the numbers do not all run consecutively in the descriptions, however they are illustrated in numerical order in plates 15 to 65.

#### 3.2 North Elevation (*Further Investigations 67-68*)

3.2.1 **FI 67(north).** This is on the east side of the first floor window at the east end of the north elevation just below the east dripmould. On the west side of the investigation is an old post and east of this a smaller timber batten. The back of an internal lath and internal daub coating were visible. Immediately behind the modern outer render were displaced pieces of daub and broken plain tiles.

3.2.2 **FI 68A** On the opposite side of the window to 67. Above 68B just below the lower end of the window dripmould. This showed another section of the upper post revealed in 68B, 12cm wide and in sound condition as far as could be seen. West of this was a narrow strip of timber and then a narrow section of old daub type infill with the corner of another old timber of unknown size on the west of the exposed section. This is either the post seen in 68C with the rail seen at 68B joined to it or it is above that post with rail between them.

3.2.3 **FI 68B.** Below 68A at bottom west corner of first floor window. This showed a rail beneath the window with posts above and below it west of the window. The top of the lower post was badly eroded, the base of the upper post was sound and seated squarely on the rail. The posts were about 12cm in width. Internal lath and plaster was visible on both sides of the lower post, there was then a cavity and no infill between this and the modern expanded metal mesh and render. Between the upper post and the window frame was a narrow strip of lime infill.

3.2.4 **FI 68C.** At the base of the timber-framed first-floor east corner section below 68B. This revealed the old sill plate seated on the stone ground floor wall with two posts rising from it. Old laths were seen on the inner side of the posts with some old daub infill adhering to them. On the west the plate had a lower face halving as though for a scarf joint but here was hard up against stonework which extends up to the eaves. The present render was on mesh nailed to battens fixed to the early posts. The old timber was in quite poor condition, powdery in places.

### 3.3 **West Elevation** (*Further Investigations 48 to 50*)

- 3.3.1 **FI 48/A.** This shows the junction of mainpost wall plate and tiebeam on the north side of the west facing gable at the south end of the hall range; the former service wing. The tie beam is above the wall plate as usual in English timber-framing (normal assembly). The post is not jowled but passes the wallplate to join to the tie beam as well. The post is partly obscured by later battens but is no more than about 0.22m wide.
- 3.3.2 The wallplate overhangs the post on the north side (outside) and later battens fill out the wall to the north to take the surface beyond the face of the plate. The overhang on this side and opposite (see 49) is the result of using a non-jowled post to create a joint to both wallplate and tie, this could possibly indicate later insertion. The joint cannot be seen in detail but the timbers seem in fairly good condition.
- 3.3.3 **FI 48/B.** Below 48/A; this shows a sill plate and corner post (base of post in 48/A) at first floor level seated on the ground floor stone wall.
- 3.3.4 **FI 49.** This shows the junction of mainpost wall plate and tiebeam on the south side of the west facing gable (opposite from 48/A) at the south end of the hall range, the former service wing. The post is not jowled but passes the wallplate to join to the tie beam as well. The wallplate overhangs the post on the south side (outside) but an old timber batten has been inserted under the wallplate and there is further later levelling which takes the current south wall face out beyond the face of the plate. The joint cannot be seen in detail but the timbers seem in fairly good condition.
- 3.3.5 **FI 50.** At the lower south corner of the first floor window in the west facing gable south of the hall. This shows the stone surround of the window is built within a timber surround which is just above a large timber plate, the plate is largely obscured by later levelling battens but is at the same level as the plate in FI 50 and is presumably a sill beam resting on the lower stone wall. South of the window support framing there is a narrow panel of brick infill and a later timber upright south of that. The timber window surround may have been the surround for an earlier timber window or may have been inserted later to support the stone window.
- ### 3.4 **South Elevation** (*Further Investigations 30-1, 33-6 and 63-4*).
- 3.4.1 **FI 64/A.** This was at the top of the south wall of the service wing south of the hall, on the west side of the first floor window. Behind the modern expanded metal the west side of a post was visible which was 0.14m deep. The window clearly abutted the east side of the post. There was no infill west of the post but there was lath and plaster on the rear face so the panel here must be hollow between the modern render and older lath and plaster.

- 3.4.2 **FI 64/B.** Below 64/A at the lower corner of the same window. There was a post on the west and a rail below the window, the post was 14cm deep and about 17cm wide. It appeared to be badly eroded and no longer supporting the rail as originally intended. No infill could be seen west of the post or below the rail.
- 3.4.3 **FI 64/C.** This was below 64/B at first floor level where there is an offset in the wall and revealed the base of a tile hung facade of the first floor which had simply been covered over by the modern render. The tiles exposed were plain red tiles and there were no decorative elements.
- 3.4.4 **FI 34.** This shows a 60cm long section of a large main post halfway up the elevation. The post is 23cm wide in fair condition with no joints in this section. There is later brick infill to the west of the post and a small gap and then a later timber just visible on the east side.
- 3.4.5 **FI 33.** East of 34. The upper investigation (A) on the east side of a first floor window showed no early fabric. There was a late post east of the window and a rail east of this with brick infill above and below, all perhaps of later 19th or earlier 20th century date. The lower investigation (B) at the lower east corner of the window showed a part of the same post with brick infill to either side.
- 3.4.6 **FI 35.** East of 33. The upper panel (A) showed the junction of post, wall plate and tie beam. The post was tenoned and pegged to the plate, it had a shake in it and was about 20cm wide. The timbers and joint appeared in sound condition. The wall plate is now some 80cm below the eaves, the wall has been heightened with brick above it as this has not been done on the north side of this range (south courtyard elevation) one assumes the frame rotted and dropped (see comments under FI 36 and FI 37). There was also brick between the post and adjacent window. The lower panel (B) halfway down the wall showed a 40cm high section of the same post, 18cm wide at this point. To the east was brick infill and on the west side some later framing had been inserted. The east end of a rail had been halved into the post and pegged to it and rising from this immediately west of this old post was a post contemporary with the rail. Precisely what this corner of framing represents is uncertain, it could be part of a later window now blocked or may have had some other function such as remedial work after frame had dropped. Dating is also difficult on such a small piece, it could be anything from 17th to 19th century in date.
- 3.4.7 **FI 36.** .At base of wall below 35. This shows the base of the post seen in 35 resting directly on the stone plinth with no sign of a sill plate and no sign of a joint or peg hole. The sill plate presumably rotted and perhaps this side of the structure dropped and this is why the wall has been built up above the wall plate, for on the courtyard side of this range the wallplate is at eaves level and the sill beam resting on the stone plinth survives. (see **FI 38**). The base of the post has rotted and is not in very good condition, there is later brick infill to either side of the post. The plinth which is 1m in height above present ground

level is of random rubble with occasional fragments of brick or other ceramic building material bonded with lime mortar.

- 3.4.8 **FI 31.** East of 35. This shows a small part of the wallplate with later brick raising or levelling above which here is about 0.6m high to the eaves board. The brickwork is vertically cracked here.
- 3.4.9 **FI 30.** Below 31 halfway up the elevation. This reveals an old probably primary timber post behind later levelling up battens and laths applied over it and to the west. There is later brick infill east of the post.
- 3.4.10 **FI 63A.** At east end of south elevation above the east ground floor window. This reveals the timber plate or lintel over the window with brick infill above it. The timber is in extremely poor condition crumbling to powder. However portions of the outer face survive and exhibit remains of what appears to be red paint, specialist investigation would be necessary to identify whether this is an early colour scheme and may not be appropriate for this one timber. Later large scale exposure of the historic fabric may reveal the full extent of this treatment.
- 3.4.11 **FI 63B.** Below 63A just away from the lower east side of window reveals a small area of brick masonry incorporating some fragments of tile.

3.5 **East Elevation (*Further Investigations 40 -3 and 65-7*)**

- 3.5.1 **FI 40.** This shows the first post north of the end of the elevation. The upper investigation (A) shows 1m or so of the post above the frieze window and it appears in good condition here and measures 0.25m in width. This post is also the south jamb of the window which extends across four panels with the next three posts acting as mullions between the square lights.
- 3.5.2 There is a mid-rail at the top of the window and peg holes on both sides of the post mark where this is mortised to it. There is a second peg hole on the north side about 11cm above the first. The photograph from 1982 (fig ) shows that this is redundant. It may therefore indicate re-use.
- 3.5.3 The lower investigation (B) shows the base of the post below the window and the sill plate into which it is mortised. The faces of the timbers and the soffit of the plate are somewhat eroded, but they are still tightly joined and appear relatively sound. The sill beam sits directly on the high stone plinth and some of the later brick infill was exposed to the south.
- 3.5.4 **FI 41.** This shows the fourth post from the south end of the elevation. The upper investigation (A) shows about a 1m of the post above the window. This measures 15cm in width and is in good condition, the brick nogging of the panels to either side was partially revealed. The tops of the mid rails mortised to the post were also exposed and appeared sound. Below the rail there are window panels to either side of the post and the outer surface is exposed and painted as part of the window. Below the window the lower investigation (B)

showed the join of post and sill plate. Unlike no 40 this joint was badly eroded but the timbers were still relatively sound.

- 3.5.5 **FI 65.** The former surface of lime plaster or render was exposed below the modern render above the plate at the south end of the shallow jetty. Roofing felt had been hung on the old surface over some later levelling battens and odd patches of mortar. The old surface leans back from the vertical and was levelled up by the present rendering. The exposed top of the plate was in good order.
- 3.5.6 **FI 42.** The upper investigation (A) just below eaves level shows the old surface 15cm behind the modern render. This had been levelled up with substantial battens and laths to which the expanded metal had been fixed. No primary or early timbers were exposed. At the lower investigation (B) the jetty plate and the end of joist supporting it were visible and a post rising from the plate above the joist. The plate was quite eroded around the joint. The plate was not large being only about 12cm wide on the outer face. Brick nogging was exposed in the panel above the plate and south of the post. North of the post there appeared to be old laths over, or integral with, old daub and over this were later laths, expanded metal and the modern render.
- 3.5.7 **FI 43.** The upper investigation (A) showed the old lime infill surface 25cm behind the modern render. An old post was just visible behind a later post. The surface had been levelled up with a timber framework of substantial rails and battens which had been lathed over this may have been 19th century in date. The modern expanded metal had been nailed to the earlier levelling and then rendered. The lower investigation (B) showed the base of the post jointed to the jetty plate. The tenon was exposed, the front part of the plate was either eroded or this was a lapped joint. The north end of the joint was empty and the north side of post slightly angled as though there may have been a brace extending up and north but it may just have indicated decay of the post base. Just south of the joint the end of a face-halved scarf in the plate was visible. There were the remnants of earlier laths and daub or lime mortar which appeared to have covered the post. These in turn were overlaid by later, possibly 19th or early 20th century, laths and then the modern render.
- 3.5.8 **FI 66.** The upper investigation (A) did not appear to reveal any primary fabric but exposed later levelling up of the facade as seen elsewhere, with the present render on expanded metal sheeting nailed over earlier laths. The lower exploration (B) exposed the original jetty plate and corner post of the jettied section, the joint was eroded and open. Some brick infill was visible and where a brick was missing some internal lime plaster or mortar was exposed. There were later levelling battens and lath over the early fabric.
- 3.5.9 **FI 67(east). L** This was located in the upper north corner of the east wall below the east facing gable at the north end of the east elevation and as

expected revealed the top of a jowled post. The post appeared to be in good condition, the edge of some brick infill was visible south of the post.

### 3.6 North Courtyard Elevation (*Further Investigations 55 and 58-9*)

3.6.1 **FI 55 A.** Located at the west end of the elevation above the door in the outshut leading to the stairs to the upper chamber. This showed the wallplate of the outshut with brick infill below abutting the wall of the hall.

3.6.2 **FI 55 B.** On the east side of the outshut door at the base of the wall; this showed the doorpost has a splayed joint where a new lower section has been scarfed in. There is brickwork east of the door sitting on a low stone plinth with no sill beam.

3.6.3 **FI 58.** This at the angle of the courtyard wall of the north range and the outshut over the stairs, west of a first floor window. An old post was visible behind modern levelling battens and metal mesh. This is probably the corner post of the later timber-framed east end of the north range where it abuts the earlier stone masonry of the high chamber.

3.6.4 **FI 59/A.** To the west of the east first floor window. This is on the line of a main cross frame and revealed a post immediately west of the window which is probably a primary post. Another upright was abutted to the west side of it and set back which is probably a later insertion. Modern battens to level up the face and metal mesh and render were affixed over the older timbers.

3.6.5 **FI 59/B.** Below 59/A at first floor level and at the top east corner of the ground floor window. This shows a post with the first floor plates mortised in to either side of it. The post is about 14cm wide. The timber is quite eroded around the joint and the post is decayed and powdery below the joint. The panel below the plate and west of the post has later brick infill.

3.6.6 There was a small empty mortise about 6.5cm long in the soffit of the west plate just west of the joint. This may indicate reuse or perhaps there was an early window in this panel but this is very speculative until further evidence is uncovered.

### 3.7 West Courtyard Elevation (*Further Investigation 52*)

3.7.1 **FI 52.** Located at the extreme south end of the elevation on the east facing wall of the service wing. This was at the base of the tile hung gable and beneath the tiles a small section of an old plate was exposed which had a V-section slot in its upper surface; this may have been for inserting staves to take an earlier daub infill. The base of a post or stud seated on the plate was seen and this may have been a later insertion as no joint was visible but only a small area was exposed.

3.7.2 A photograph taken about 1981 during works to the house shows that this section had been within a lean-to addition which was removed at that time and



was subsequently tile hung to match the upper gable. Several intermediate posts can be seen rising from the substantial plate. The wall below the plate is infilled with concrete blocks and possibly this had been open into the lean-to but previous to the lean-to being added there would have been some framing here (Plate 66).

### 3.8 South Courtyard Elevation (*Further Investigations 37-8, 51 and 54*)

- 3.8.1 **FI 37.** This was sited on a main truss line immediately west of the door at the east end of the south courtyard wall. The top metre or so of the main post was exposed and its junction with the wallplate. The wallplate here is at eaves level and the post is tenoned into it and pegged. This is the north side of the truss seen in FI 35-6 on the south elevation where the upper investigation (35/A) showed the wallplate (with tie beam and post) about 0.8m below the eaves, built up with brick above, and the lower (36) showed the post with no sill beam on the stone plinth. The frame presumably rotted on the south side here and dropped or was lowered and the eaves built up in brick to compensate. How far this extended on the south is uncertain. The effects and compensatory alterations must be visible on the interior but this was not investigated in depth as part of this study.
- 3.8.2 Near the base of the exposed section of post about a metre below the plate there is a horizontal mortise extending right through the post with a peg hole on either side. The mortise is open on the east the front being broken or cut off. Presumably this was for a mid rail to either side subdividing the first floor panels vertically. As the 1980 sketch shows (Fig. 1) there are mid-rails at this level in the two panels to the west of the one west of the post seen here. or it is a reused timber The panel west of the post is infilled with concrete block Munby noted this in 1980 and it was probably done at that time. East of the post (at the top) there is brick infill, this panel is not annotated in the 1980 sketch.
- 3.8.3 **FI 38.** West of 37 at eaves level. This shows a small part of the next post to the west which is an intermediate post not a main truss post and a section of the wallplate west of the post. Immediately west of the post a wide downbrace is joined to the wallplate it appears to be partly lapped or trenched to the plate so may be a later addition but the timber itself looks pretty contemporary with the plate. There are a couple of redundant mortises in the soffit of the plate just west of the brace implying that it is reused or that uprights were removed before the brace was inserted. There is no old infill here but sections of plasterboard have been inserted either side of the brace before the rendering was applied.
- 3.8.4 The 1980 sketch shows this brace as curved and that it joins to a mid-rail in this panel below which the lower panel had wattle and daub infill. The wallplate is partially exposed to the west and the peg holding the next main post is visible just east of the first floor window.

- 3.8.5 **FI 51/A.** A small investigation at the west end of the eaves on this elevation shows the wall plate and top of the main post, only a very small area is exposed but the old timbers seem relatively sound. In the angle of the post and plate is the corner of a light timber frame consisting of two rebated members pegged at the corner. This is not terribly old possibly a 19th century window. The 1980 sketch does not show any reference to this but the panel is annotated as brick infill.
- 3.8.6 **FI 51/B.** Below 51/A this shows a long lower section of the main post. A main rail at first floor level is mortised into the post and the joint is held with two pegs. The post is 25cm wide and the rail is 22cm wide. East of the post and above the rail there is brick infill. About 25cm below the rail the post has been truncated perhaps because of early decay and there is brick infill below it. A later post has been inserted on the west which has been partially cut into the primary post so that its upper surface is bearing against the post and the rail, although later this post is still of some age and like the primary post and rail its surface has been lightly axed to key a coat of render.
- 3.8.7 The inserted post is only 1.02m long, its base is 0.92m above ground level; the fabric below this was not exposed. Some 18cm above its base the post and the brick infill to either side has been cutback from the face by 7cm. This cutting back extends to ground level and some way to the east. The reason for this is unclear but it would appear to be a modern alteration. A fairly modern plate abuts the cutback section of the post on the east. The cutback occurs where there is an empty mortise with peghole on the west side of the post this is probably due to reuse of the later post rather than to a former inserted plate or rail having been removed.
- 3.8.8 East of the cutback section the plinth wall which is about 1m high is offset slightly and as the 1980 sketch shows the sill beam sitting on it survived then and is presumably still *in situ*.
- 3.8.9 **FI 54.** This was located on the east end of the tile hung north wall of the service wing adjacent to the east slope of the hall roof. This exposed a large area of the corner post and wallplate which were joined and pegged. The lower part of the post had been replaced by a later softwood insert. Above this a peg hole on the west side of the post may indicate the former position of a rail, there was a carpenter's mark in the form of four parallel incised lines below the peghole. There was brick infill west of the post with a later horizontal timber in the brickwork abutting but not joined to the post.
- 3.9 **East Courtyard Elevation (*Internal Further Investigations 60-61*)**
- 3.9.1 **FI 60.** A small internal investigation immediately north of the central first floor window revealed the back of the intermediate post which is visible in the external wall. The south side of the post was overlain by a batten which supported an internal lath and plaster wall which in turn was overlain by modern levelling battens and plasterboard. North of the post the back of the

infill panel which is visible on the outside was seen and this had modern grey paper adhering to it.

- 3.9.2 **FI 61.** This investigation was made in the wall just north of the southern first floor window. This exposed the back of an intermediate frame post 8.5cm wide and about 10cm deep. This had modern battens to either side making a framework which supported the internal plasterboard wall and the external modern render to the north of it. At the base of the investigation was the top of a rail of modern softwood within the modern render. This may be the same mid-rail as appears on the exterior where it seems to overlap the post. On the exterior the post below and above the rail is of different width possibly being two separate members, some alterations have taken place here but the full sequence could not be ascertained from this investigation. The mid rail however is a later addition.

### 3.10 **Additional Investigation in Hall Passage**

- 3.10.1 An additional investigation was made in the south facing elevation of the north wall of hall passage to investigate the eastern post of the spere truss to confirm if a post present at this lower level. The upper part of the post in the hall roof is primary but a new section has been spliced in above the floor of the gallery and from the gallery it appeared that this section sat on the lower wall. The investigation shows that there is a post lower down. The post is 25cm wide but only about 7cm deep so if part of the early post it has been severely cut down but is probably be a later replacement.
- 3.10.2 The surface of the post is roughly worked but sound. There are plates to either side which are supporting the ceiling joists of the passage, the plates about the post but do not seem to be joined to it. There is brick masonry to either side and all was covered in a thick coat of lime render.

## 4 **DISCUSSION**

- 4.1.1 The, Oxford Archaeology (OA) has carried out a programme of historic building investigation and recording at The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay. This relates to a series of interventions made through the render cladding of the building to investigate key points in the underlying timber frame and other historic fabric. This was not designed specifically as an archaeological intervention but was undertaken to enable the architect and engineer to design a programme of conservation and repair.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological recording was necessary as this is a Grade I listed building and some interpretation and analysis of the exposed fabric was also requested to add to the information available for formulating the plan of conservation works.
- 4.1.3 The investigation has given valuable information about the condition of the structure and also about the nature of the surviving historic fabric, identifying

primary and later phases of framing in some places and different phases and types of infill panel this information is contained within the descriptive section of the report.

- 4.1.4 Some records were made by Julian Munby during works in 1980 and these have been made available and principally give additional information about the framing and infill of the south courtyard elevation and the south end of the east elevation
- 4.1.5 The sketch of the south courtyard wall (Figure 1) shows that some wattle and daub infill survives (WD on the drawing) along with later brick infill panels and three upper panels filled with modern concrete blocks. This information will be useful particularly when removing large areas of render from the wattle and daub infill as this may be primary and of great historic significance as well as being more fragile.
- 4.1.6 Oxford Archaeology arranged for a dendrochronologist to visit the site to assess the suitability of the timber-framing for sampling. The only part of the building that was found to be potentially dateable by this method was the primary phase of the open hall and it was decided not to sample this at the present time. Of the rest of the framing; some was of Elm which is not generally dateable by dendrochronological techniques and the majority of the Oak was fast growing and the timbers were of relatively small scantling. Most frame members contained twenty or so years growth whereas fifty or more rings are need for a secure match to a dated tree-ring sequence.

## 5 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Figure 1: Sketch of south courtyard elevation during 1980s work (courtesy of Julian Munby)







Plate 1: South half of east elevation during 1980s works (courtesy of Julian Munby)



Plate 2: North half of east elevation during 1980s works (courtesy of Julian Munby)







Plate 3: Exposed frame at south end of east elevation during 1980s works (courtesy of Julian Munby)



Plate 4: North elevation







Plate 5: South end of west elevation



Plate 6: West part of south elevation







Plate 7: East part of south elevation



Plate 8: East range







Plate 9: North end of east elevation



Plate 10: North courtyard elevation







Plate 11: West side of courtyard



Plate 12: South west corner of courtyard







Plate 13: South courtyard elevation



Plate 14: East side of courtyard







Plate 15: FI 30



Plate 16: FI 31



Plate 17: FI 33/A



Plate 18: FI 33/B





Plate 19: FI 34



Plate 20: FI 35/A



Plate 21: FI 35/B



Plate 22: FI 36







Plate 23: FI 37 (upper half)



Plate 24: FI 37 (lower half)



Plate 25: FI 38



Plate 26: FI 40/A







Plate 27: FI 40/B



Plate 28: FI 41/A



Plate 29: FI 41/B



Plate 30: FI 42/A





Plate 31: FI 42/B



Plate 32: FI 43/A



Plate 33: FI 43/B



Plate 34: FI 48/A







Plate 35: FI 48/B



Plate 36: FI 49



Plate 37: FI 50



Plate 38: FI 51/A







Plate 39: FI 51/A (close-up)



Plate 40: FI 51/B



Plate 41: FI 52



Plate 42: FI 54 (upper half)







Plate 43: FI 54 (lower half)



Plate 44: FI 55/A



Plate 45: FI 55/B



Plate 46: FI 58







Plate 47: FI 59/A



Plate 48: FI 59/B



Plate 49: FI 60



Plate 50: FI 61





Plate 51: FI 63/A



Plate 52: FI 63/A (close-up)



Plate 53: FI 63/B



Plate 54: FI 64/A







Plate 55: FI 64/B



Plate 56: FI 64/C



Plate 57: FI 65



Plate 58: FI 66/A





Plate 59: FI 66/B



Plate 60: FI 67 (east)



Plate 61: FI 67 (north)



Plate 62: FI 68/A







Plate 63: FI 68/B



Plate 64: FI 68/C



Plate 65: FI in Hall Passage







Plate 66: South-west corner of courtyard during works c1981



Plate 67: South-east quadrant of courtyard during works c1981





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