

AXWELL HALL, GATESHEAD PHASE 2



Archaeological Building Investigation



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SUMMARY

Following the acquisition of Axwell Hall, a Grade II* listed building (IoE Number 303771), by Development and Regeneration Excellence (Northern) Ltd (DARE), who proposed to restore the house and convert it to residential apartments, an archaeological building recording programme was recommended by Jennifer Morrison, the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. This was to assess the significance of the building, provide a permanent record of the structure prior to redevelopment and to inform the proposed conservation and conversion process. Historical research aimed at providing better understanding of the development of the building was also recommended.

The investigation comprised a detailed survey of the building in order to provide an outline of its form, development, and phases of alteration. Following the completion of this investigation recommendations for further investigation were made, including further inspection of the rear wing and terrace during any future development. It was recommended that conversion of the building be carried out with due regard for the character and importance of the house (OA North 2004).

In light of this first recommendation, a second phase of investigation was instigated by Jennifer Morrison, in which the rear wing was the specific area of interest. During the original inspection, the buildings (the annexe and the toilet block) were deemed unsafe for OA North staff to enter, and subsequently, only an external investigation was completed. Subsequently, a building recording programme of Level I (RCHME, 1996) for the toilet block and Level II (*ibid*) for the annexe was proposed, comprising written descriptions, photographic records and in the case of the latter, plan and section drawings.

Unfortunately, it became evident during the second phase of fieldwork, that this was logistically impossible due to reasons of health and safety. Subsequently, the survey became an exercise in improving the existing archive for the exterior of both buildings. This was still valid as the south elevation of the annexe and the west elevation of the toilet block had been only partially surveyed in the original fieldwork, due to both poor access, and the obscuring of much of these elevations by vegetation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Dare (Northern) Ltd for commissioning and supporting the project and for supplying the architects plans. Further thanks are due to Jennifer Morrison, and to Julian Munby for his advice and technical expertise with the plaster survey.

The building investigation was undertaken by Chris Ridings and Christina Clarke, and Chris Ridings also produced the report. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. Alison Plummer managed the project, and also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Development and Regeneration Excellence (Northern) Ltd (DARE) are presently redeveloping Axwell Hall, a Grade II* listed Palladian mansion (IoE No. 303771), located near Blaydon, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear (NZ 1911 6204). As part of the planning application, an archaeological building recording programme was recommended by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer to assess the significance of the building, provide a permanent record of the structure prior to redevelopment, and to inform the proposed conservation and conversion process.
- 1.1.2 An initial phase of investigation was conducted in late 2004 (OA North 2004), which made recommendations for further work to be undertaken at the Hall. The rear wing, comprising the toilet block and annexe was a chief concern in these recommendations, as it only received an external survey during the original investigation (OA North 2004), due to access and safety issues. In light of this, a second phase of investigation was instigated by Jennifer Morrison, which would focus on this rear wing. This involved a Level II (RCHME 1996) investigation of the annexe, comprising a photographic record, drawings and written descriptions of the internal and external features of the building. The toilet block was to be recorded to Level I (RCHME 1996), and therefore only brief written descriptions and a photographic record were to be undertaken. This work was undertaken in February 2006.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A written brief for the second phase of the project was produced by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer (*Appendix*). OA North was commissioned by DARE (Northern) Ltd to undertake both the building investigation and background research. This was carried out in February 2006.
- 2.1.2 The Level II standard investigation (RCHME 1996) for the annexe was not completed in light of health and safety issues within the building. The ground floor was covered with substantial quantities of debris from the ceiling, which included what appeared to be asbestos. In addition, the majority of the first floor was inaccessible due to the collapse of the roof. In like manner, the Level I survey of the toilet block was not completed, as similar issues precluded an internal investigation. In light of this, only the exterior of each building was recorded to the required level. This allowed an opportunity to improve the original investigation (OA North 2004), which had been somewhat hindered by security fencing and vegetation.

2.2 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 2.2.1 ***Descriptive Record:*** written records using OA North *pro forma* record sheets were made of all principal building elements on the exterior of the annexe and toilet block, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance. Particular attention was also paid to the relationship between these parts of the building, especially those that would show its development and any alterations. These records are essentially descriptive, although interpretation is carried out on site as required.
- 2.2.2 ***Site drawings:*** architects 'as existing' drawings were annotated to produce an elevation drawing for the south facade of the annexe. In addition, the drawings from the original survey were checked in order to ensure all the relevant data had been included. This was especially important as the access to the annexe and toilet blocks had been improved following the removal of the security fencing. In addition, the vegetation, which had obscured these elevations during the original fieldwork, had been removed. Subsequently, the hand-annotated field drawing was digitised using an industry standard CAD package to produce the final drawings.
- 2.2.3 ***Photographs:*** photographs were taken in both black and white print and colour print 35mm formats. The photographic archive consists of both general shots of the exterior of the buildings, as well as specific architectural details.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive, including a copy of the report, will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). In this instance the archive will be submitted to the Historic Environment Resource Officer for Tyne and Wear.
- 2.3.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

3. BUILDING INVESTIGATION RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 As already noted, the building investigation was originally designed to focus in particular on the interior of the annexe and toilet block, comprising the rear wing of Axwell Hall. However, in light of safety concerns regarding the interior of both structures, the investigation focussed solely on the external elevations, and in particular, the west extension of the toilet block and the south elevation of the annexe. The toilet tower projects out from the rear (north) elevation of the Hall (Plate 1), and therefore does not have a south elevation. The north-west corner of the tower is incorporated into the fabric of the south elevation of the annexe (Plate 9).
- 3.1.2 **Toilet Tower – East Elevation:** as with all other elevations of the toilet tower this elevation is composed of yellow random uncoursed sandstone decorated with pick marks. All three elevations are finished with stepped coping stones. The northern section of the east elevation projects out from the southern section (Plate 1). The windows in the southern section of the block are stone-mullioned double windows with flat vertically-furrowed lintels and slightly projecting sills. These are similar in style to the windows on the rear elevation and most of them are blocked or unglazed. There is a blocked door (with cinder block) at the base of the tower, which has a moulded stone surround with horizontally-furrowed jambs. The door has a projecting hood with what appears to be the remains of a segmental pediment. A cast iron down pipe is located in the south corner. The northern section of the elevation has five single window apertures with the same flat lintels and projecting sills as noted above. The quoins are decorated with pick marks. The roof of the toilet tower is evidently flat with a castellated parapet with plain sandstone coping.
- 3.1.3 **Toilet Tower - West Elevation:** the west elevation of the toilet block is much the same as the east elevation (Plate 2). The windows are all single apertures, some glazed with mesh-reinforced glass. At the base of the elevation, there is a low roofed structure constructed from brick and featuring a reinforced concrete roof. Although this extension is now infilled with cinder blocks, it originally provided access to the cellar under the main house (Mr David Best, local resident, pers comm). There is a blocked window situated low down on the elevation and is only accessible from the sunken walkway; it is similar to the other windows on the elevation. The sunken walkway continues along the base of the elevation.
- 3.1.4 **Toilet Tower - North Elevation:** this elevation has no architectural detail and contains just one blocked doorway at ground floor level.
- 3.1.5 **Annexe - East Elevation:** the rear annexe building is more vernacular in style and exhibits various stages of building and modification (Plate 3). A roof scar is visible and testifies to a former building attached to the east end of the annex. The scar covers the whole of the elevation and is also evident on the toilet tower where some of the stonework is damaged/missing. Beneath this

scar there is a blocked door and two flanking windows. The door has a modern brick surround and is blocked with cinder block. It appears to have been inserted in place of a window that was probably similar to the windows on either side. These are consistent with the majority of windows on the building, and feature flat voussoir arches and flush sills. All three windows are blocked with random rubble stone. Above the scar are two further windows, which have flat stone lintels and slightly projecting sills. These have traces of twentieth century casement windows. Above these windows the character of the building material changes slightly to random square uncoursed stone with pick marks. There is a 28" high plinth at the base of the wall.

- 3.1.6 **Annexe – West Elevation:** the general proportions of this elevation are similar to the east elevation (Plate 8). There are four windows, the upper two of which are similar to those on the east elevation. The lower two are also similar and are without glazing. There is a pitched roof scar on the northern half of the elevation below which is a blocked door (blocked in a similar fashion to that on the north elevation) and a partially blocked window with a concrete sill and lintel. A large area of brick blocking is present here below what could be an outshut or lean-to roof scar. Sitting atop the gable is a pale yellow brick chimney with three cylindrical terracotta pots.
- 3.1.7 **Annexe – North Elevation:** the north elevation of the rear annexe has been much modified and is in a poor general state of repair (Plates 4-6). It is largely composed of random coursed stone, which is patched in places with modern brick. There are four upper windows, all of which are unglazed and have flat lintels and slightly projecting sills. The easternmost window is twice as large as the other three windows, which are all the same size. All of the latter appear to have been reduced by the infilling of the lower half. A smaller lintel above the large window may be the remains of a small window. Above the windows at eaves level is a row of brick headers. Below the three small windows, a line of missing stones and the remains of some roofing material, together with brick infilling alludes to the presence of a lean-to or outshut which extended north. To the east of this, and below the large window, a timber lintel is present within the wall. Below this is a small blocked (with modern brick) aperture with a stone sill and lintel, which was probably a window. To the right of this is a blocked (with cinder block) doorway. West of this a cast iron down pipe has been built into the wall. The remains of a brick arch are visible above a wide blocked (with brick) doorway that has a sandstone lintel. This blocked aperture has a stone sill. A further doorway is situated approximately 6m east of the western end of the wall, which has a timber lintel with some brick infilling above. This door has been blocked on its interior, approximately 0.5m back from the elevation. To the west of this there are the remains of plaster adhering to the wall. The extreme western corner of the elevation has been patched with brick.
- 3.1.8 Although, most of the roof is collapsed and now lies on the first floor, sufficient evidence remains from the surviving timbers and truss that lie on the internal cross-partition at the east of the building. The roof was originally hipped with a composite truss of king-post design with queen struts added (Plate 7). Both the king post and the queen struts have diagonal braces, and

there is also a pair of shallow angled braces, which run from the end of the tie-beam to the king-post. As a later roof structure, all of the timbers are fixed with iron bolts and three way straps/plates.

- 3.1.9 ***Annexe – South Elevation:*** this elevation is constructed using both the same stone and the vernacular style employed on the rest of the building (Plate 9). In the centre of the elevation, there is a tall, narrow extension, which houses the dumb-waiter between the kitchen on the ground floor and the canteen above. It is constructed from cinder block with a flat bitumen roof, and it is obvious that its upper limits have been repaired or extended. This is evident from the courses of cement-rendered brick, which have been scored to suggest continuity with the cinder blocks below. In addition, the windows feature the same flush lintels and projecting sills of sandstone as their counterparts on the north elevation. Likewise, there is a suggestion that the windows on the first floor have been reduced in height in a similar fashion to their aforementioned counterparts. The window lying to the east of the dumb-waiter would appear to be an earlier feature, which has had a later sandstone mullion and lintel inserted, whilst the sill appears to be contemporary with the rest of the windows on the elevation. To the west, there is a small window, again with lintel and sill, which straddles the ground and first floors. In addition, at the west end of the elevation, a few scraps of iron denote the extent of the fire escape from the canteen door on the first floor. Towards the opposite end of the elevation, there is a substantial voussoir round-arch, which appears to be either an original or early feature of the building. There are now only five stones visible as the mullioned window cuts the arch, whilst the later extension leading to the cellar has obscured the rest of it.

4. PLASTER SURVEY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The plasterwork within Axwell Hall is mainly confined to the grand reception rooms on the ground floor at the front (south) of the building, and would appear to fit into two broad phases of development. Room numbers referred to in the text relate to Figure 3.
- 4.1.2 **Room 23, The Best Dining Room:** thick layers of paint obscure the detail of the mouldings and make recognition of some of the decorative forms difficult (Plates 16 to 19).
- 4.1.3 The south and east doors have hoods supported on scrollwork consoles with acanthus leaves below. The hoods have cyma recta mouldings above a narrow band of decorative moulding and a plain band at the base. Below the hood are three bands of moulding which project out as brackets above the consoles. These consist of egg and dart above dentil moulding with another decorative band at the base. Below these and between the consoles is a wide torus moulding with a foliate design with decorative moulding below.
- 4.1.4 The large wall panels on the west wall are framed with mouldings that have an inner band of cyma recta shape enriched with what appears to be a simplified form of anthemion and palmette motif. Each plant having three pairs of 'lobes' which are curled upwards and downwards on alternate plants. Outside this moulding is a narrow plain band followed by a raised band with a roll with a four petalled floral motif alternating with ribbon windings.
- 4.1.5 There is a relatively simple moulded high picture rail on all four walls. The ceiling is divided into nine panels. The cornice and panel mouldings are of the same depth but the lower mouldings of the cornice differ to those of the panels. The cornice has a band of egg and dart and above that a band of modillions alternating with paterae, the modillions having moulded soffits. Above the modillions are some simpler unenriched mouldings which continue around the panels. The panels have a lower band of dentilled moulding and the soffits are decorated with applied paper embossed with a foliate design.
- 4.1.6 There is an elaborate floral ceiling rose (Plate 7) with curving tendrils and foliage, which might be bindweed from the shape of the leaves, extending from between eight foliate motifs, consisting of two alternating types arranged around a central circular rosette.
- 4.1.7 **Room 28, The Common Dining Room:** the ceiling is divided into panels consisting of a large central oval with surrounding square and rectangular panels (Plates 20 to 22). The cornice projects below the soffit of the panel mouldings and has a bead moulding below modillions alternating with paterae. This is similar to Room 23 although here the modillions have plain soffits. The upper cornice and panel mouldings have a cyma recta moulding at the top with a band of bead or bead and reel moulding below it. The soffits are decorated

with guilloche mouldings with two alternate floral rosette motifs in the circles.

- 4.1.8 Below the cornice is a deep frieze with low relief decoration of heavy floral swags suspended from urns on decorative stands (Plate 21). Below the frieze is a plain wooden picture rail.
- 4.1.9 **Room 29 Entrance Hall:** this room has a coved ceiling (Plate 10) with an elaborate cornice, stringing to the coving, a moulded ceiling panel and central rose (Plate 11). The cornice rail has a decorated astragal moulding at the base with deep band of elongated acanthus leaf above that followed by a band of egg and dart (Plate 12). Above the egg and dart is a plain band with a narrow decorative band above.
- 4.1.10 Above the picture rail each arris of the coved ceiling is decorated with a plait moulding and each cove of the ceiling has a panel of single beading with foliate motifs at the corners.
- 4.1.11 There is a vented ceiling rose which may be a later addition. This is more formal than the rose in Room 23. Eight 'spokes' decorated with guilloche moulding, with gridded vents between, project from the central foliate rosettes to an outer astragal moulding with guilloche decoration. The grilles are probably functional not decorative and may vent the room via a duct to the exterior.
- 4.1.12 **Room 30, The Withdrawing Room:** this room has a cornice (Plate 15) enriched with a band of egg and dart moulding and a narrow upper decorative moulding. The ceiling is coved with a central rectangular moulded panel, which has a bands of beaded moulding and what appears to be waterleaf moulding (Plates 13 and 14). The soffit is decorated with a wide band of Greek key moulding.
- 4.1.13 **Room 32, Entrance Lobby:** the entrance lobby has an elaborate moulded surround to the main door. Fluted pilasters either side of the door are topped by scroll consoles enriched with acanthus leaves and egg and dart moulding. A semi-circular arch around the fanlight springs from the consoles; this has two orders of decorative moulding, an outer band of acanthus and inner band with oak leaf and acorn motif.

4.2 PHASE 1

- 4.2.1 The ceiling plasterwork is an interesting aspect of Paine's design, and much of the surviving plaster seems likely to relate to the original phase of the building. It is typically mid-eighteenth century, and free either of Rococo abandon or Adamesque purity. This is illustrated perfectly by both the Entrance Hall (Room 29) (Plates 10-12) and Drawing Room (Room 30) (Plates 13-15), which have coved ceilings, a modest amount of added decoration, and chaste classical detailing. In marked contrast, the two Dining Rooms feature more elaborate ceilings, which have been divided into compartments. Despite this ornamented design, the rooms still retain an air of lightness, control and

restraint. The Best Dining Room (Room **23**) (Plates 16-19) has a fine rose of Augustan design, with associated decoration continuing on the wall panels and over-door, whilst the Common Dining Room (Room **28**) (Plates 20-22) is more sophisticated, with its oval ceiling compartment and deep decorated frieze of swags and urns.

4.3 PHASE 2

- 4.3.1 There may have been some modification of the ceilings in the Victorian period, as in the case of the ceiling rose in the entrance Hall (Room **29**) (Plate 11), which may have been renewed or adapted for gas lighting.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The secondary phase of the investigation was limited, and it has yielded very little information which would enhance the original fieldwork (OA North 2004). In light of this, the discussion in the original report is still relevant, and an augmented version is featured below.

5.2 THE REAR WING

5.2.1 The rear wing annex and toilet tower appear to date predominately from the 19th and 20th Centuries. No clear conclusions about the early phases of the rear wing are able to be drawn, as inspection of the building was limited to the external elevations. The earliest Ordnance Survey map (1856) and an engraving made of Axwell Park (ND/Du 9/2) does show some form of wing attached to the rear of the house. The wing on this engraving is, however, slightly obscured by trees (intentionally so?) and some of the detail on the right (east) elevation of the main house (such as missing pediment above the central window on the second floor of the middle bay) differs slightly.

5.2.2 Grace McCombie (McCombie 2002) suggests that the rear wing was not shown on Paine's 1767 plan 'because it was a service wing'. Certainly, Paine's plans do not include all the elevations or the basement but as Paine denied credit for any other buildings on the site, he may not have included the rear wing because he did not design it; it is possible Paine's original plans did not allow for construction of a rear wing to accompany the house. We know that Clavering altered Paine's plans as Paine describes at length (Paine 1767). So it is possible, therefore, that the service wing, although in place from an early date, has nothing to do with Paine. There is no evidence to suggest that John Dobson constructed the rear wing, as his exact alterations were not recorded. If Dobson did move the main entrance from the front to the rear elevation, would the Claverings have entered their ultimate achievement via the service wing?

5.2.3 There are probably three main phases of development of the rear wing, which will be outlined below.

5.2.4 **Phase 1:** the lower windows on the east elevation of the rear annex have flat arches and voussoirs, which are very similar to those on the attic storey of the main house. It is possible that the lower floor of the rear annex is roughly contemporary with the construction of the house or some time soon after.

5.2.5 **Phase 2:** some of the visible structure (of the rear annex) dates to the nineteenth century and was probably constructed before 1856. Some additional alterations may have been carried out in the extensive 'restoration' carried out in the late nineteenth century

- 5.2.6 **Phase 3:** following the sale of the house in the 1920s the toilet tower was probably constructed (which probably replaced an earlier link building) and other additional alterations were made. The north elevation of the main house has been much altered with the addition of windows and doorways through the central bay on most floors giving access to the toilet tower.
- 5.2.7 **Plaster Survey:** much of the surrounding plaster within the hall seems likely to relate to the original phase of the building. There may have been some modification of the ceilings in the Victorian Period.

5.3 CONCLUSION

- 5.3.1 The investigation was able to gather more detailed information regarding the south elevation of the annexe and the west elevation of the toilet block, but these contributed little to the understanding of the history of these buildings. In light of this, there is nothing further to add to the conclusions of the previous report (OA North 2004).

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7. ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 LIST OF FIGURES

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Figure 2: The south elevation of the Annex at Axwell Hall

Figure 3: Ground floor plan featuring the reception rooms included in the plaster survey

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Plate 2: The west elevation of the Toilet Block

Plate 3: The east elevation of the Annex

Plate 4: The north elevation of the Annex, west end

Plate 5: The north elevation of the Annex, east end

Plate 6: Detail of the north-east corner of the Annex

Plate 7: Detail of the roof-truss at the east end of the Annex roof showing surviving roof detail

Plate 8: The west elevation of the Annex

Plate 9: The south elevation of the Annex

Plate 10: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Entrance Hall **(29)**

Plate 11: Detail of the ceiling rose in the Entrance Hall **(29)**

Plate 12: Detail of the cornice in the Entrance Hall **(29)**

Plate 13: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Drawing Room **(30)**

Plate 14: Detail of the ceiling moulding in the Drawing Room **(30)**

Plate 15: Detail of the cornice in the Drawing Room **(30)**

Plate 16: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Best Dining Room **(23)**

Plate 17: Detail of the ceiling rose in the Best Dining Room **(23)**

Plate 18: Detail of the cornice in the Best Dining Room **(23)**

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Plate 20: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Common Dining Room (28)

Plate 21: Detail of the frieze and cornice in the Common Dining Room (28)

Plate 22: Detail of the ceiling compartments in the Common Dining Room (28)



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Figure 1: Site Location

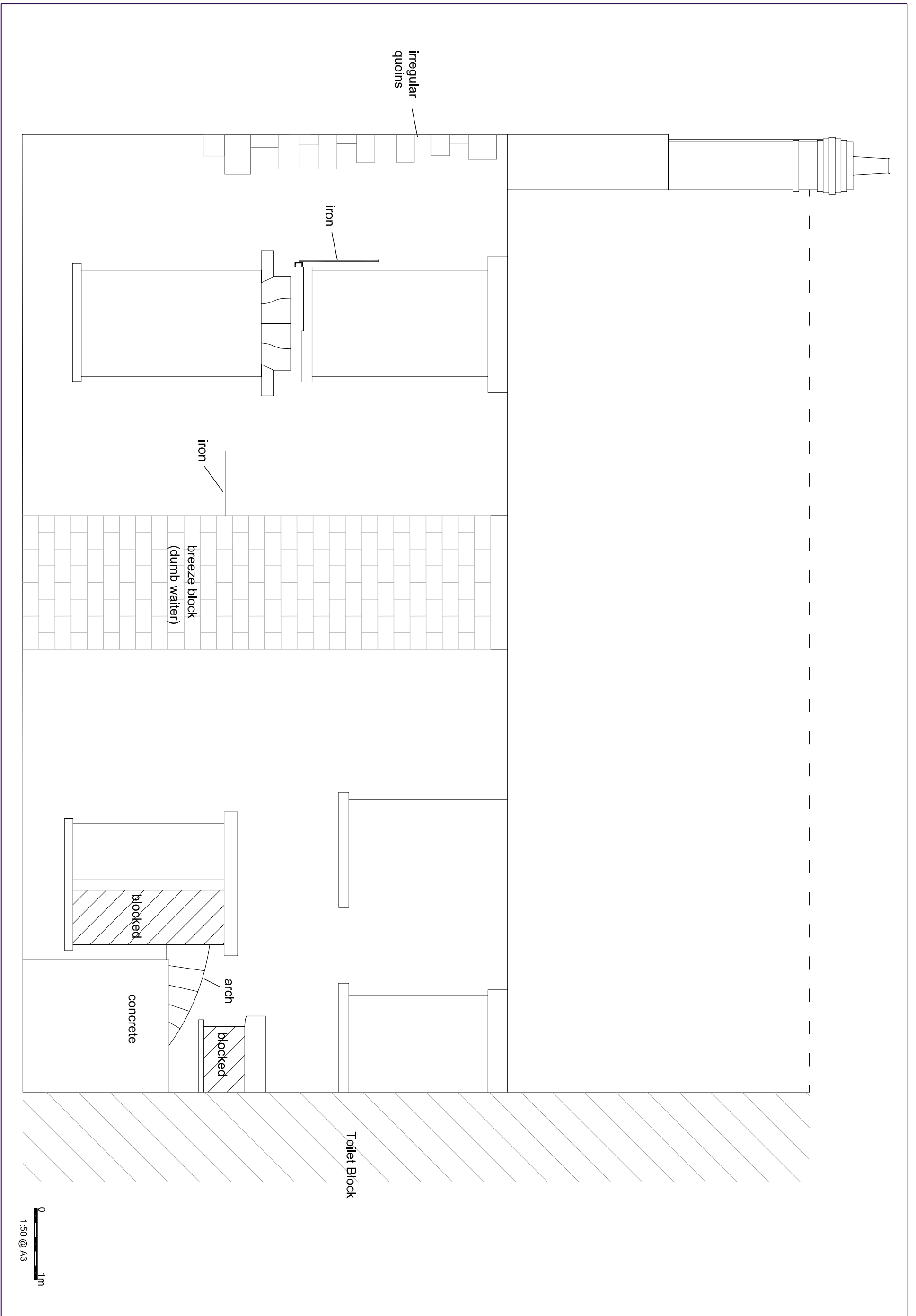


Figure 2: South elevation of the Annex at Axwell Hall

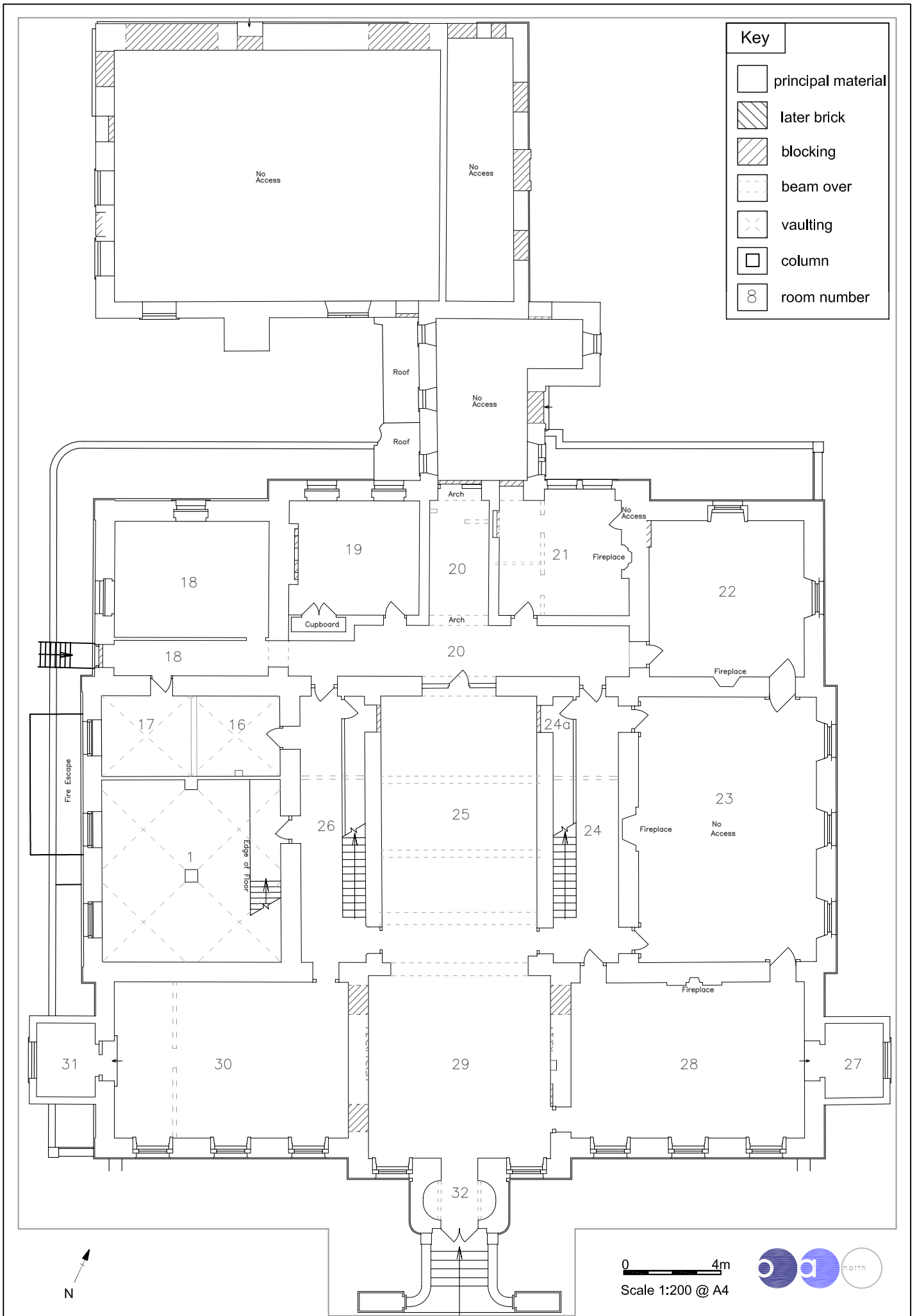


Figure 3: Ground floor plan featuring reception rooms included in plaster survey



Plate 1: The east elevation of the Toilet Block



Plate 2: The west elevation of the toilet block



Plate 3: The east elevation of the Annex



Plate 4: The north elevation of the Annex, west end



Plate 5: The north elevation of the Annex, east end

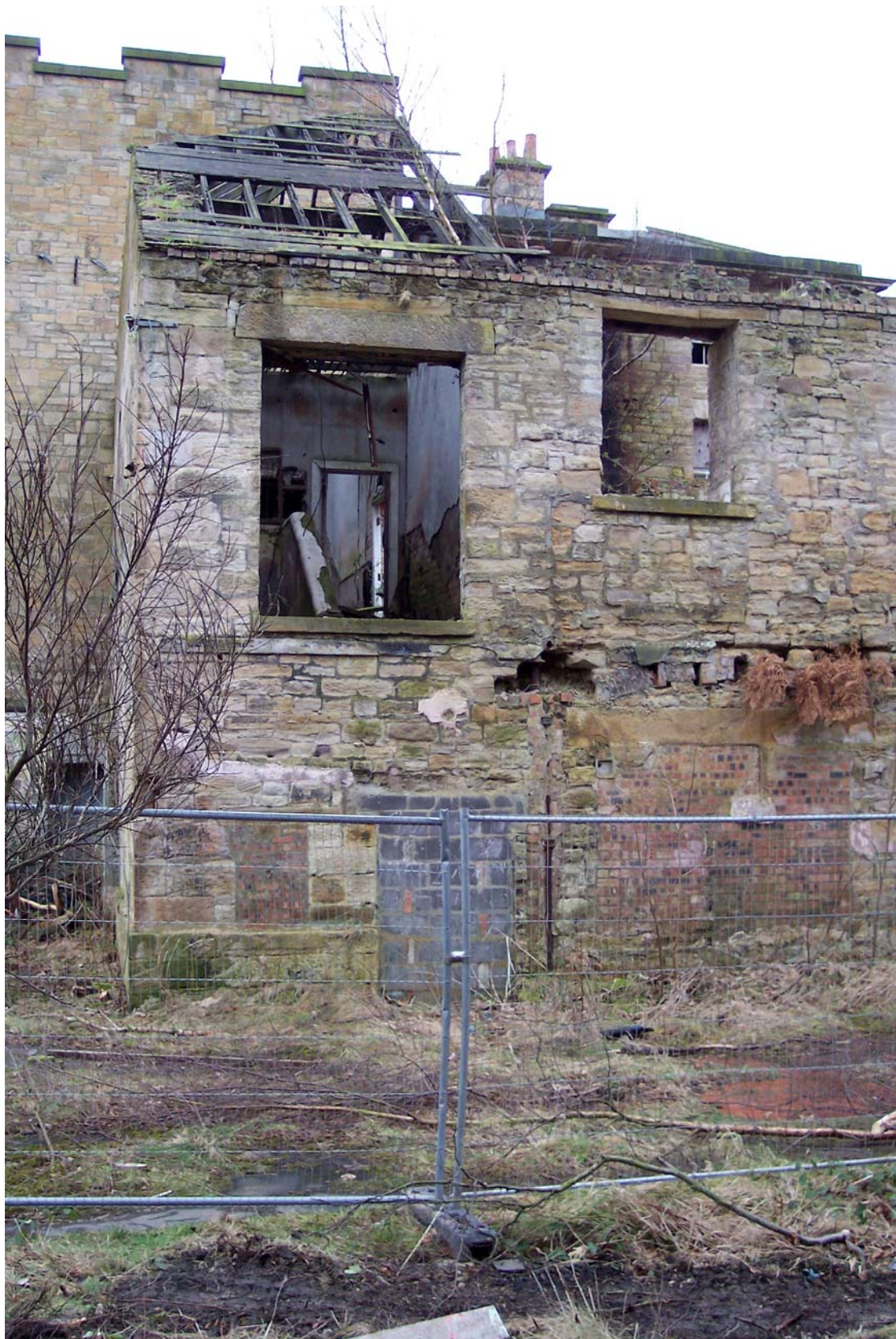


Plate 6: Detail of the north-east corner of the Annex



Plate 7: Detail of the roof-truss at the east end of the Annex roof showing surviving roof detail



Plate 8: The west elevation of the Annex



Plate 9: The south elevation of the Annex



Plate 10: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Entrance Hall (29)



Plate 11: Detail of the ceiling rose in the Entrance Hall (29)



Plate 12: Detail of the cornice in the Entrance Hall (29)



Plate 13: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Drawing Room (30)



Plate 14: Detail of the ceiling moulding in the Drawing Room (30)



Plate 15: Detail of the cornice in the Drawing Room (30)



Plate 16: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Best Dining Room (23)



Plate 17: Detail of the ceiling rose in the Best Dining Room (23)

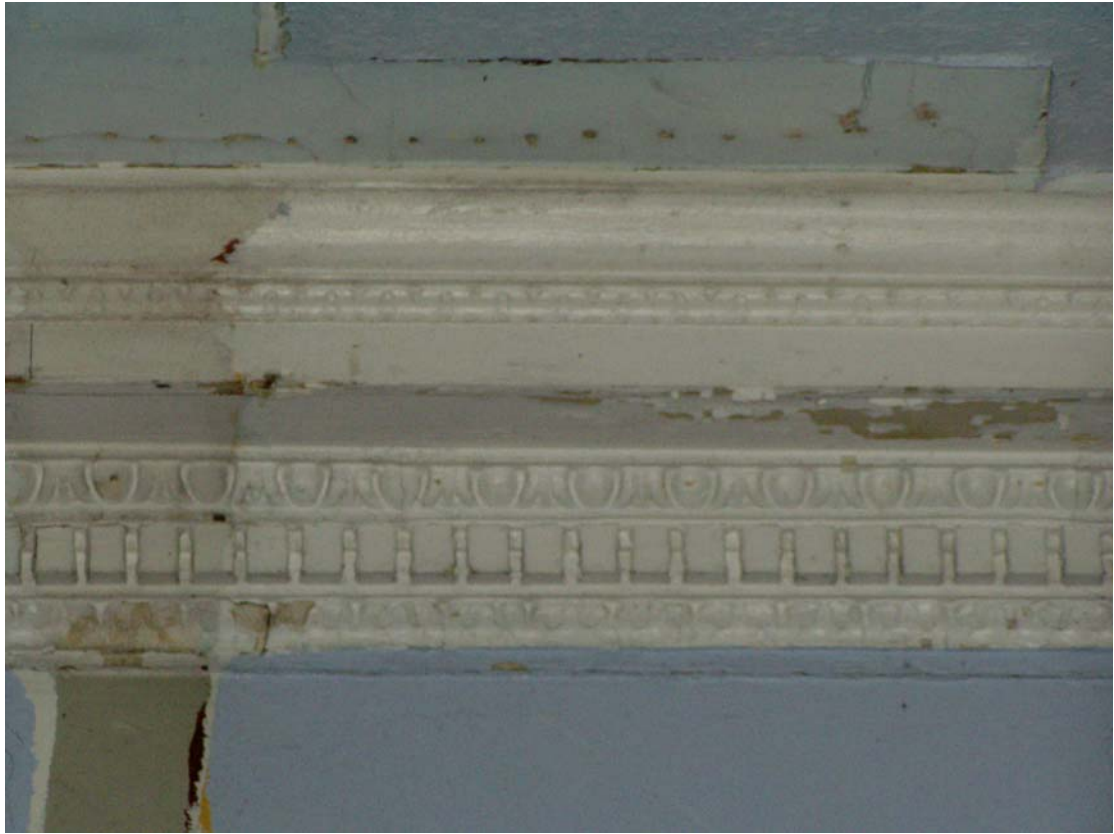


Plate 18: Detail of the cornice in the Best Dining Room (23)



Plate 19: Detail of the ceiling compartments in the Best Dining Room (23)



Plate 20: General view of the ceiling plasterwork in the Common Dining Room (28)



Plate 21: Detail of the frieze and cornice in the Common Dining Room (28)



Plate 22: Detail of the ceiling compartments in the Common Dining Room (28)

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF PARK FEATURES WITHIN AXWELL PARK, BLAYDON, GATESHEAD, TYNE AND WEAR

Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 18 three-storey dwellinghouses in three blocks with associated parking, restoration of the walled garden and part of the historic estate parkland.

The appointed archaeological contractor must consult the previous archaeological reports for the site before starting work – these reports are an archaeological assessment of Axwell Park (Tyne and Wear Museums, January 2005), Appraisal of Designed Landscape of Axwell Park (Fiona Green, February 2005) and building recording of Axwell Hall (Oxford Archaeology North, December 2004).

The commissioning client will provide the appointed archaeologist with a full set of plans, both existing and proposed.

Axwell Park was the creation of Sir James Clavering in the late seventeenth century after his purchase of the smaller Whitehouse Estate from the Selby family. In the mid eighteenth century, Sir Thomas Clavering built Axwell Hall and added to the estate.

The park and Hall were further improved in the early and late nineteenth century.

In 1920 the estate was sold and the Hall became a special school. In the 1980s Clavering House was built in the north-western corner of the walled gardens. The Hall itself has stood empty ever since. The Hall is now to be converted into residential units. Housing and other development has encroached upon the former estate, although some key elements still survive.

Digging and sand quarrying in part of the estate has revealed Bronze Age cists.

Axwell Park was removed from English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in July 2000 because of the modern encroachments into the estate. However it is still designated as a Conservation Area and is on Gateshead Council's Local List.

In accordance with standard practice, it is recommended that a programme of recording is undertaken prior to restoration works to provide a permanent record of the surviving park structures as-is and to identify significant features which need to be addressed/retained during the restoration process. The finished report will include recommendations for any further recording required.

Prospective archaeological surveyors must be able to recognise architecturally important features and place these within the chronological sequence of the development of the park. Experience of recording buildings is essential, and a proven track-record in this field must be demonstrated in the tendering process.

This recording work must take place before development related work starts on site, and the report submitted to and approved by Gateshead Planning Authority before development related work commences.

The Survey

The following tasks comprise the building survey.

The appointed archaeologist will make several visits to the park, in order to walk over and thoroughly examine the parkland in detail and to photograph all historical elements including the drive, original paths and low stone walls, which may be partially covered in undergrowth. It is advised that a copy of the DTA and Fiona Green's appraisal is taken out on site. A small selection of general photographs of the parkland and pleasure grounds, including some of the fine trees and original planting of holly, yew and rhododendrons, will also be taken during these visits. The location of all of the historic features recorded will be shown on a large-scale plan of the park (which can be provided by the commissioning client).

Some of the more important parkland features require more detailed recording as listed below:

1 *Walled gardens and heated wall*

The walled gardens are of unknown date, but are probably contemporary with Axwell Hall, late eighteenth century. The desk based assessment and appraisal of designed landscapes describe the walled garden and outer heated wall. The larger walled garden is built of stone and brick, with stone capping. There is a doorway in the eastern wall. The smaller walled garden is accessed from the larger garden by an arched entrance. The northern wall is a garden hot wall with internal channels, still displaying evidence of soot and is repaired in places with yellow firebricks. A plan of the walled gardens is required, based on existing architect's drawings. Elevation drawings are required of all of the garden walls, based on existing architect's drawings at 1:50.

Structural phasing, changes in building material, evidence of any doorways, blocked openings, channels in hot wall, stone capping, blocked openings, fixtures and fittings must be shown on the drawings.

Detailed stone-by-stone measured survey is not required of the entire length of the walls, outline drawings will suffice (based on available architect's drawings, or by a combination of sketching and some measured survey), but the elevation drawings **must** include a short section of stone-by-stone and brick-by-brick detail (a couple of metres length of each wall to its full height), to demonstrate how the walls were constructed.

Two possible formats are acceptable: CAD files from a package supporting AUTOCAD DWG files or exporting as DXF files; Drawing film, inked-in to publication standard and labelled with transfer lettering for reproduction on A4 size.

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a detailed record of the walled gardens in colour print, (digital images are not acceptable) with scale. General views of the gardens will be taken, inside and outside, along with face-on shots of the exterior and interior elevations, and more detailed close-up shots of any features of architectural interest – doorways, entranceways, hot wall channels, change in fabric etc.

The finished report will include a short description of the feature with dimensions.

2 *Ha-ha*

A plan is required showing the location and course of the ha-ha – the commissioning client should be able to provide this. An elevation drawing is required of a four metre length of the ha-ha wall (detailed measured survey, stone-by-stone, with scale). The location of this section will be marked on the overall plan of the ha-ha. A cross section/

profile will be drawn of the ditch and wall. The drawings will need to take place **after** clearance of undergrowth.

Two possible formats are acceptable: CAD files from a package supporting AUTOCAD DWG files or exporting as DXF files; Drawing film, inked-in to publication standard and labelled with transfer lettering for reproduction on A4 size.

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a detailed record of the ha-ha in colour print, (digital images are not acceptable) with scale. General views of the ha-ha will be taken, along with close-up face-on shots of the ditch and wall elevation. The photographs will be taken **before and after** clearance of undergrowth.

Investigations to ascertain whether parts of the ha-ha wall are buried below ground level, proposed by Wardell Armstrong, will be archaeologically monitored and a photographic record and scale drawings undertaken as required.

The finished report will include a short description of the feature with dimensions.

3 *Serpentine lake*

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a detailed record of the lake in colour print, (digital images are not acceptable) with scale before works are carried out to the lake.

Clavering and Rounding (1995, 257) suggest that the lake was formed using trenches created to provide water to a mill associated with Winlaton Colliery when it was owned by the Selbys during the seventeenth century.

The remains of a twentieth century suspension footbridge are to be removed. The original outline of the lake is to be restored, re-excavating the southern end of the lake. Partial clearance of overgrown areas of the lake is proposed. This work should be subject to an archaeological watching brief. The aim is to record (by scale plan and photograph as necessary) any evidence of the lake's original profile, and construction technique – is it clay or stone lined? Any historic artefacts found in the lake during the clearance works should be collected and retained.

The finished report will include a short description of the feature with dimensions.

4 Terrace south of walled gardens

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a detailed record of the former terrace in colour print, (digital images are not acceptable) with scale. General views of the terrace will be taken, along with close-up shots of the retaining wall and stone steps leading to the former tennis courts. The walls and steps will be shown on a scale plan.

The finished report will include a short description of the feature with dimensions.

5 Stone wall west of large walled garden (hidden within the trees)

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a detailed record of the wall in colour print, (digital images are not acceptable) with scale. Its location will be shown on a scale plan.

The finished report will include a short description of the feature with dimensions.

6 Carriage Drive bridge

The bridge (listed grade 2) over the ornamental lake is to be restored. It is late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in date, built of sandstone ashlar and coursed squared sandstone with flat stone coping. A scale plan and outline elevation drawings are required, based on existing architect's drawings or by a combination of sketching and some measured survey.

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a detailed record of the bridge in colour print, (digital images are not acceptable) with scale. General views of the bridge will be taken, along with close-up shots of the detail.

The finished report will include a short description of the feature with dimensions.

Survey report

At the conclusion of the work, a report will be produced, detailing the recording methodology and describing the park and its individual features, as observed from the survey. The finished report will include historic map regression.

The report must have the following features:-

1. List of drawings, cross-referenced to a location plan or plans and a grid reference
2. Details of visits to the building undertaken by the contractor
3. Photographic prints and negatives in transparent plastic wallets in A4 ringbinders (all three copies require a full set of prints, but only one set of negatives is required and these should be included in the copy for the HER)
4. A card cover with title, date, author, contractor organisation and commissioning client
5. Some form of secure binding, preferably of the spiral or ring type.
6. Recommendations for any further archaeological work required.

Three copies of the report need to be submitted, one for the commissioning client, one for the planning authority, and one for deposition in the Tyne and Wear County HER. A digital copy of the report is also required on CD by the HER – to be sent with the report in a plastic case (**not attached to the report please**).

The archaeological contractor will inform the County Archaeologist of the start date of the work to allow the CA to make a monitoring site visit.

OASIS

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their building recording at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or [oasis@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto: oasis@english-heritage.org.uk)). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or [oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto: oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

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