

February 1998

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**VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE**  
**CHESHIRE**

**Fabric Survey Report**

Vale Royal Great House  
Whitegate  
Cheshire

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Fabric Survey Report

Report no 1997-98/042/AUA7446

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Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TH

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The documentary study was undertaken by Rebecca Smith. The first stage fabric survey was carried out by Rebecca Smith, Chris Wild and Ian Scott. Dennis Thompson carried out the rectified photographic survey. The watching brief was undertaken by Jeremy Ashbee and Peter Redmayne. The report was written by Rebecca Smith, Jeremy Ashbee and Alison Plummer and was edited by Jason Wood, Jamie Quartermaine and Richard Newman. The project was initially under the management of Robert Hill ARICS, and the subsequent watching brief phase was under the management of Jamie Quartermaine.

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## SUMMARY

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An interim survey of Vale Royal House, Cheshire (Grid Reference SJ 6390 6985) was undertaken from the 13th March to the 13th April 1995 by staff of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. The survey was conducted in advance of repair and conversion works on behalf of DHC (Bradford) Ltd.

The intention of the survey was to record the fabric and structure of the building in order to augment previous surveys and to provide a basis for analysis and interpretation of the structural sequence. Architectural details, including structural elements, were annotated onto plans produced by TACP Design and monochrome prints and scale photographs were taken of selective features. A pro-forma recording system was used to organise room-by-room descriptions. An instrument survey was conducted of the exterior of the building, to provide accurate co-ordinates which will facilitate the plotting to scale of the rectified photographs.

The survey has provided an invaluable opportunity to examine the fabric of Vale Royal House, at a time when the majority of the structure had been exposed, being free from plaster and render. However, some areas of the building were inaccessible at the time of the interim survey, in particular the Douglas Wing and the West Range roof.

Following the interim survey a watching brief was carried out between September and December 1995. The interim survey of the site had indicated the possibility that substantial fabric from the Cistercian Abbey, might have been retained *in situ* within the post-medieval building, built after the abbey's dissolution in 1539. At that time, it was not possible to establish with any confidence whether or not this was the case. However, it was decided that the watching brief should be concentrated on specific areas in which it was felt that substantial parts of the medieval abbey or the sixteenth-century house were in place and in which the projected works would cause this fabric to be exposed. These areas were principally located in the west and South Ranges of the house.

The watching brief entailed the recording of several elevations and details from scratch and the enhancement of drawings provided by TACP Designs. Though it was possible to clarify some of the points raised by McNeil and Turner in their previous archaeological recording and by LUAU in the first phase of the project, in general, the results of this survey were inconclusive and did not provide unequivocal evidence for the retention of monastic buildings after the dissolution. However, the observations did indicate the great time-depth of the building's evolution: the idea that upstanding fabric from the Abbey may have survived down to the present *in situ* has therefore not been dismissed.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 In January 1995, LUAU was contracted by the Archaeological Consultant (Dr J Lewis of Liverpool University), on behalf of the client (DHC Bradford Ltd), to carry out archaeological recording of the Great House and Grounds of Vale Royal Abbey in Cheshire (Grid Reference SJ 6390 6985), in advance of their conversion for use as a Golf Club clubhouse. The site is a scheduled monument consisting of a Cistercian monastery converted after the Dissolution into a country house; consequently a number of previous investigations of the site have been conducted. The area of the church was excavated in 1911 and 1958 and the standing buildings were examined in 1977 and 1984, the latter consisting of a rigorous and systematic recording of the buildings of the Great House, including a programme of dendrochronological assay of several roof timbers (McNeil and Turner 1987).
- 1.1.2 The first phase of the LUAU recording of the building was carried out in March 1995, which involved an analytical survey of the interior and the production of a rectified photographic record of the exterior elevations. This recording was non-invasive and included only features visible from the surface; it established a system of archaeological contexts and included a narrative for the development of the building. A brief documentary survey of the site was also carried out at this time by Rebecca Smith. The results of the first stage of analysis were intended to be provisional only but suggested that McNeil and Turner's view that substantial parts of the monastic buildings had survived within the post-medieval house, might be correct (LUAU 1995).
- 1.1.3 Between December 1995 and July 1996 a further survey in the form of a watching brief was carried out. This entailed the recording of several elevations and the enhancement of drawings provided by TACP designs. The targeted elevations were those within specific areas that were thought to retain substantial amounts of the medieval abbey fabric and would be exposed as part as the conversion works.

### 1.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 Vale Royal Great House, a Grade II\* Listed Building, was formerly the site of a Cistercian abbey which was founded in 1277 and extensively altered in the sixteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The abbey was founded by Edward I and the foundations of the abbey church, which stood to the north-east of the present house, show it to have been 420 feet long, making it the longest Cistercian church in the country. It was also unusual in having a chevet of thirteen chapels at its east end.
- 1.2.2 At the Dissolution the site was sold to Thomas Holcroft who demolished the abbey church; the south and west claustral ranges may have been altered and extended to form a new house. In 1616 this house became the property of Mary Cholmondeley, whose family owned it until 1947. Substantial eighteenth and nineteenth century alterations were undertaken, including the rebuilding of the North-West and South-



West Wings, the construction of the Blore Wing in the 1830s and the refacing in brick of the South Range and the construction of the Douglas Wing in the 1860s.

- 1.2.3 In the early twentieth century the house was leased to the Hopkirks and then to Mr and Mrs Dempster. In 1939 Vale Royal was requisitioned as a sanatorium and subsequently became the Imperial Chemical Industry Salt Division headquarters, which it remained until 1961. The more recent history of the house has been marked by attempts to find a suitable use for the building, which, until recently, has been increasingly neglected and in a rapidly decaying state.
- 1.2.4 Vale Royal Great House is therefore a product of seven centuries of building activity, and is of considerable architectural significance. The survey has provided an invaluable opportunity to look for evidence of post-dissolution development on a monastic site and to trace the subsequent evolution of the building through four centuries of changing architectural fashions and styles.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The LUAU project design (*Appendix 3*) was submitted in response to a project brief (*Appendix 2*) produced by the Archaeological Consultant. This required the provision of a fabric survey prior to the initiation of works to the building and a watching brief during the renovation programme. The work has been undertaken in accordance with the project design.

### 2.2 DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

- 2.2.1 The main sources of both primary and secondary documentary information are held at Cheshire Records Office. Four pictures dated to 1616, 1774, 1775 and 1816 are valuable sources which give an indication of the full extent of the building and show some external detail now lost. Omerod's *History of Cheshire* includes an asymmetrical drawing of the west front of the house dated to 1616, which he states to have been copied from a picture in the possession of Thomas Cholmondeley (Fig 30). The same volume includes a reproduction of an engraving of the house viewed from the south-west (dated to 1775) (Fig 32) and also an engraving of the building viewed from the south-west and dated to 1816 (Fig 33). A 1774 picture of the house from the north-east is reproduced in *Chester Archaeological Society Volume XIX* (Fig 31).
- 2.2.2 Henrietta Cholmondoley's account of alterations to the building (CRO 2309/1/11) is an invaluable source regarding 19th century building works and Mary Hopkirk's memoirs, reprinted in Latham's *Vale Royal* (Hopkirk 1993), provide internal information of the house layout in the early 20th century.
- 2.2.3 The history of the monastic use of the site is well documented by Brown *et al* in the *History of the Kings Works* and by Kettle in the *Victoria History of the County of Cheshire*. Holland (1977) and McNeil and Turner (1987) collate some of this information and relate it to existing structural evidence.

### 2.3 FABRIC SURVEY

- 2.3.2 **Recording Levels:** prior to repair and conversion works at Vale Royal, recording was required to augment previous surveys and studies that had been undertaken and to provide a provisional interpretation of the phasing and development of the building.
- 2.3.3 The extent of the survey was to level 3 as specified in *Recording Historic Buildings: A descriptive specification* (RCHM(E) 1991). This was used as a minimum standard and ensured that the work was produced to a consistent level.
- 2.3.4 The building survey was undertaken primarily by photographic techniques, supplemented by hand-measured survey and written descriptions. Existing drawings were located and checked so that there was no unnecessary duplication of detail.

- 2.3.5 **Photographic Survey:** a combination of rectified and oblique monochrome photography was employed. Rectified photographs were taken of the external elevations, along with selected internal views. These were subsequently annotated with structural information, such as evidence of inserted windows. The external photographs were produced at a scale of 1:50 and the internal photographs at 1:20.
- 2.3.6 35mm photography, using both flash and natural light, was employed for the exterior of the building to indicate the building's situation in the landscape. The internal views were taken to record the overall appearance of the principal rooms and selected internal details (structural and decorative) that are relevant to the building's design, development and use. All photographs were given a context number, and direction and location in the building was indicated.
- 2.3.7 **Survey Control and Detail:** a total station, linked to a portable data logger, was used to establish the survey control around the building by means of a closed traverse. The external plan of the building was surveyed, in order to provide a check on the orientation of the existing plans, and co-ordinates were established for the rectified photograph targets, to facilitate the subsequent plotting of the photographs.
- 2.3.8 **Drawn Information:** architectural floor plans supplied by TACP Design at a scale of 1:100 were annotated with the required detail, including building alterations (the accuracy of this aspect will only be as good as the original drawings). Individual context numbers were appended to these details for recording and cross-referencing purposes.
- 2.3.9 Measured drawings were made of details inappropriate for photographic recording, such as mason's marks and sections through floors, at scales of 1:1, 1:5 and 1:10 .
- 2.3.10 **Written Record:** for the purposes of the survey the house has been sub-divided into the South Range, with the Blore Wing to the east and the Douglas Wing to the south-west. The main core of the building is referred to as the West Range with projecting North-West and South-West Wings. The numbering scheme for the rooms compiled by TACP Design has been used, but a separate continuous numbering scheme was used for structural and architectural details; any new context numbers have been cross-referenced with the architect's numbers if they exist.
- 2.3.11 A pro-forma recording sheet was completed for each room with the location, form and fabric of individual contexts described, which laid emphasis on the relative phasing of building alterations.

## 2.4 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.4.1 In view of the limited amount of time which could be allowed for the watching brief, it was essential that observations of the works to the Great Hall were carefully targeted. While it was recognised that all periods of the building's constructional history were important and potentially of interest, it was agreed with the Archaeological Consultant that the question of whether substantial parts of the medieval monastic buildings survived *in situ* was likely to be of particular value. This topic is highlighted in a recent English Heritage policy document (English

Heritage 1991, 37) as a field particularly deserving of study. Moreover, it was felt that a previous study of the architectural development of Vale Royal Great House by Robina McNeil and Rick Turner, which addressed this question at length, did not provide sufficient evidence to support its conclusion (McNeil and Turner 1987).

2.4.2 It was therefore decided that the watching brief should concentrate on those parts of the building in which *prima facie* evidence suggested the possible survival of medieval or sixteenth century fabric and which would be affected by the works. In particular, the opportunity would be taken to observe and record architectural features which were normally hidden and which were exposed during the renovation of the building. These features included:

- The area of the former cross-wing at the west end of the North-West Range, presently only known from pictorial sources.
- The hall roof structure, with a possible lantern or louvre and the closed truss defining the north end of the hall.
- The complicated masonry sequence around the fireplace in the east wall of the hall and library.
- The ground-floor passage of the west range, possibly containing a former monastic undershot claustral walkway.
- The junction of the west and South Ranges at all levels, especially the roof structure of the 'kitchen' and the area above the present staircase to the first floor.
- The east elevation of the truss separating the kitchen from the South Range.
- The masonry/brick/timber sequence in the ground floor rooms of the South Range, possibly containing evidence for a passageway of monastic or early Post-medieval date and selected areas on the first floor of the range.
- The 'window' in the cellar.

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### 3. PREVIOUS WORK

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- 3.1 In 1911-1912 Basil Pendleton excavated most of the north aisle and transept of the abbey church (Pendleton 1915).
- 3.2 In 1958 Hugh Thompson was asked by the editors of the *History of the Kings Works* to locate both the original and later east ends of the abbey church (Brown *et al* 1963). He uncovered the apsidal plan of the earlier east end and determined the unique plan of its successor, in which seven polygonal chapels alternated with six quadrilateral ones.
- 3.3 In 1977 Graham Holland was asked to provide a feasibility report for the Michaelmas Trust, a charity which had purchased Vale Royal House (Holland 1977). He produced preliminary notes on the history and development of the building.
- 3.4 In 1984 Robina McNeil and Brian Howes of Archaeological Services Liverpool and Rick Turner of Cheshire County Council conducted an architectural and topographical survey of Vale Royal House (McNeil and Turner 1987). Dendrochronological work was undertaken by Dr Pat Leggett and the resistivity survey by Steve Hyatt. The main focus of the survey was the roof timbers, with occasional reference to masonry and features such as windows and fireplaces. The project team concluded that substantial monastic fabric was incorporated into the later house in the sixteenth century and survived intact in later phases.

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## 4. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

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### 4.1 THE MONASTIC PERIOD 1277-1538

- 4.1.1 Vale Royal Abbey was founded to honour a vow that Edward I had made during a perilous sea crossing in 1263-4 (Brown *et al* 1963, 248). The original intention was to establish an abbey at Darnhall in Delamere Forest and a colony of Cistercian monks lived there for several years before a more favourable location was found four miles to the north at a place which Edward gave the name 'Vale Royal'. On 13th August 1277, Edward laid the foundation stone of the new abbey (*ibid*).
- 4.1.2 Vale Royal was probably an ideal location, suiting the Cistercian preference for isolated sites and it was also logistically favourable due to the proximity of the River Weaver, good agricultural land and the profusion of woodland. Lodges of wood, and wood and wattle were constructed in 1278-81, and it is to this temporary accommodation that the monks from Darnhall moved in 1281 (Knoop and Jones 1967, 53).
- 4.1.3 Most materials necessary for the construction of the abbey could be obtained locally, such as red sandstone quarried from Eddisbury, four to five miles away. Between 1278 and 1280 fifteen quarrymen and thirty one carters were required (*ibid*). Other materials were imported, such as Purbeck marble, a supply of which was contracted by the abbot in 1287 and cloister columns, capitals and bases were sent to Cheshire by sea (Brown *et al* 1963, 250).
- 4.1.4 The construction process was soon hampered by financial difficulties. In 1290 the King ordered all payments to the abbey to be stopped, due to the redirection of royal funds to the war with Wales. However, the work must have continued at a reduced pace, for in 1330 the monks were finally able to leave their temporary accommodation and take possession of the new abbey. The buildings were not yet finished, as a memorandum by the abbot in 1336 indicates that '*a roof and glass were needed in the church and that the cloister, chapter house, dormitory, refectory and other monastic buildings still remained to be built in proportion to the church*' (*ibid*, 253).
- 4.1.5 In 1340 a new patron, Edward the Black Prince, was found and under this new patronage, elaborate building plans were made. In 1359 a contract was issued by the Black Prince to engage a master mason, William de Hopleston, to build twelve chapels around the east end of the quire (Thompson 1962, 186). The excavations by Thompson in 1958 confirmed the existence of this chevet; he discovered seven polygonal chapels alternating with six quadrilateral ones which were constructed with at least ten re-used stones, presumably derived from the original apsidal east end during its demolition. This new eastern end was unusual for Cistercian churches; the only known English parallels are at Croxden and Hailes (*ibid*, 187 and 189).
- 4.1.6 The new chevet, along with the great length of the church, was 420' long (10' longer than Fountains Abbey (LCAS 1912)) and must have created an imposing building. It would have been an advertisement of power and in accordance with the original

decree by Edward I '*that there should be no monastery more royal than this one, in liberties, wealth and honour, through the whole world*' (Cooke 1912, 19).

- 4.1.7 On the 19th October 1360, a gale blew down the nave from the wall at the west end to the bell tower before the gates of the choir and the great stone columns '*fell like trees uprooted in the wind*' (Brown *et al* 1963, 256). A plan was formulated to rebuild the nave on a reduced scale, but whether this was actually carried out is not known. There is no evidence of a reduction in size of the nave, as Pendleton concentrated his excavations on the north aisle and the north transept (LCAS 1912).
- 4.1.8 Construction work did continue: in 1422 an aisle was apparently added to the church and between 1486 and 1534 regular grants of timber from Delamere forest were received for repairs (Kettle 1980, 162). It is doubtful, however, whether the abbey was ever realised in its original conception. It is also probable that the original plan to maintain one hundred monks never materialised, for in the late fourteenth century there were only eighteen monks including the abbot (*ibid*). The ideology of a peaceful monastery distanced from the lay populace was also probably never realised. As Kettle points out, the history of the monastery was marked by frequent legal disputes and violent feuds with gentry tenants and there are cases of unruly behaviour by members of the house (*ibid*, 161).
- 4.1.9 In summary, the location of Vale Royal was in many ways ideal for the establishment of a Cistercian monastery and royal patronage promised the necessary support. However, it seems probable that neither the original building programme, the size of the community or their ideals were ever realised. As Brown *et al* states '[Vale Royal Abbey] is an object lesson in the unreliability of princes and the folly of monks who had allowed themselves to be drawn into grandiose building schemes inconsistent with the architectural simplicity which had once been the most cherished principles of their order' (1963, 248).

## 4.2 THE POST-DISSOLUTION HOUSE 1538 - 1616

- 4.2.1 On the 7th. September 1538 the abbot, prior and thirteen monks surrendered the house to the Royal Commissioner, Thomas Holcroft (Kettle 1980, 163). The site of the abbey and most of the associated property was leased and in 1542 was sold to Thomas Holcroft for the sum of £45 10s 6d. Holcroft apparently '*plucked down*' the church in 1539 and use was made of some of the stone and timber in altering and rebuilding his own house (Brown *et al* 1963, 257).
- 4.2.2 The 1616 drawing of Vale Royal's west front indicates that Holcroft's rebuilding was on a massive scale. The house plan consisted of south and west ranges (possibly making use of the refectory, kitchen, and lay brothers' dormitory), with two additional wings built to the north-west and south-west. According to Omerod, it appears to have been Holcroft's intention to build an enormous H-plan house (1882, 155); however, this plan was probably never realised and the North-West wing was not extended eastwards to parallel the South Range.
- 4.2.3 The 1616 drawing indicates that the hall was accessible by external steps which led up to a castellated porch with an arched entrance. The windows were three-light

casements with lattice leaded glazing. The dais end of the hall was lit by a two storey bay window and by a lantern in the roof.

- 4.2.4 The North-West Wing was nine bays long with a central two storey castellated bay window of a similar style to the dais window. A castellated tower is depicted on the north side of the North-West end and three lateral chimney stacks imply at least five heated rooms. The function of this wing is not clear, but it is possible that it housed the parlour and private apartments of the Holcrofts; the guest apartments were probably located in the South Range.
- 4.2.5 The South-West Wing is depicted in 1616 as a four-bay building of two storeys, with plain mullioned windows on the first floor and louvered openings and three doors on the ground floor. No chimneys are apparent, suggesting that this building was probably the stables with storage above.
- 4.2.6 The earliest view of the rear of the building is from 1774; the walls in the foreground are reported in a footnote to be those of the monastery. The evidence of robbing of the facing stone and its generally ruinous state suggest that this may be so and that Holcroft did not completely clear the site. The South Range is depicted as a half-timbered building comprising herring-bone panelling above a mid-rail with close studding below. This corresponds with a local timber framing tradition, as outlined by Smith, which was apparently relatively rare before 1570 (Smith 1965, 145). It may therefore date to the Holcrofts' building programme. Just above the east wall are depicted the tops of four broad pointed windows in the West Range. These could possibly date from the monastic period. The mullioned window flanked by two buttresses could possibly date to the sixteenth century; it may have lit the screens passage.
- 4.2.7 In summary, it appears that the Holcrofts created a substantial and impressive building suitable for a large and complex household. The plan suggests that he may have retained elements of the fabric of the west and south Ranges of the medieval claustral complex. The great hall in the West Range became the main ceremonial focus for reception and display and it is probable that the head of the household ate in a separate chamber in accordance with the sixteenth century tradition (Girouard 1978, 30). This chamber may have been located in the south end of the West Range or alternatively in the North-West Wing. The two wings constructed at the front of the house indicate a concern for symmetry and it is possible that the rear South Range accommodated individual guest suites.

### 4.3 THE CHOLMONDELEYS 1616-1947

- 4.3.1 In 1616 the Holcrofts sold Vale Royal to Mary, widow of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, a later descendent of whom was created Baron Delamere of Vale Royal in 1821 (Thompson 1962, 185). During the next three centuries the house was remodelled along Gothick and Neo-Classical lines, but the sixteenth century house plan was essentially retained. Eighteenth and nineteenth century alterations to the building can be ascertained from the 1775 and 1816 drawings and from Henrietta Cholmondeley's diary.



- 4.3.2 The main alterations to the South Range appear to have been at the east end. In February 1833, demolition of the old house began and was completed in August of the same year (Cholmondeley 1844, 258, 259). The architect was Edward Blore and the new building was constructed of brick with stone detailing. The remainder of the South Range was encased in brick by John Douglas in 1860, who built the clock tower to the south-west of this range a year later (Holland 1977, 32). In 1832 a new kitchen range was inserted with a hot hearth which blew hot air into the saloon (Cholmondeley 1844, 258).
- 4.3.3 The west face of the West Range is indicated on an engraving of 1775. The castellated porch remains at first floor level, but the louvre has gone. McNeil and Turner also suggest that the bay windows depicted in 1616 have been replaced by sash-windows with architraves and keystones (1987, 69). However, due to the oblique angle of the view, this cannot be proven with any certainty. It is clear that by 1816, as the picture of this date indicates, sash-windows and pilasters had been inserted. Thus it seems plausible that they were inserted at the same time as the rebuild of the North-West and South-West Wings in 1796.
- 4.3.4 The main alterations to the West Range occurred in the early nineteenth century and are related to the conversion of the great hall into a saloon and library, with an armoury located in the south end. In 1811 the outside steps leading up to the hall were removed and a new porch was built to form a buttress for the support of the old walls which were '*cracked and shaken by the storm in the Spring*' (Cholmondeley 1844, 251). This new porch is depicted in 1816 with its arched doorway and balcony window, above which is a battlemented parapet. A corresponding bay was built on the east side in 1823 which also acted as a buttress (Holland 1977, 29).
- 4.3.5 The new saloon was accessible from below, via a new staircase inserted in 1811, in a seventeenth century style (Cholmondeley 1844, 351). New grates and a chimney-piece to the fireplace were removed to the centre of the room in 1811, following which the internal decoration of the saloon was remodelled. In 1824 it was painted chrome yellow in oils (instead of orange water colour) and gilt mouldings and coats of arms were put up, followed by the addition of cornices in 1827. The saloon was entirely re-roofed in 1828 and in 1830 new sash-windows were inserted with oak casements and armorial glass from Utkinton Hall (*ibid*, 254-258).
- 4.3.6 To the south of the saloon, an armoury was created which apparently received a new floor in 1836. To the north of the saloon was the library, the ceiling of which was pulled down in 1827 to reveal the glazed casement of the earlier lantern. Apparently the old library on the ground floor was made into a bedroom in 1811 and in 1820 the chintz rooms and servants' hall were built in the angle between the West and South Ranges (*ibid*, 253, 256, 257, 251). In 1877 the porch and oriel window on the east side of the library and the bay windows on the north front were added by John Douglas (Holland 1977, 32).
- 4.3.7 By comparing the picture of 1616 to the later engraving of 1775, the North-West Wing appears to have had a second castellated tower added to the west, but the three-light mullioned and transomed windows appear unchanged. McNeil and Turner are of the opinion that this wing had been shortened by the eighteenth century (1987, 69). However, the number of windows, indicating the number of bays, seems unchanged: the only difference which could possibly be indicative of shortening is

that the roof is shown as hipped in 1775, in contrast to the apparently gabled roof of 1616. However, this could reflect an alteration of the roof design, rather than a truncation of the whole wing.

- 4.3.8 A view from the east in 1774 appears to confirm the existence of an easterly extension of the North-West Wing. A timber end-gable, a stair turret and three chimney stacks are depicted projecting beyond the West Range on the eastern side. It is not absolutely clear whether this projection is genuine or a result of artistic licence with the intention of creating a more symmetrical and pleasing view.
- 4.3.9 In *Magna Britannia*, Lysons (1810) states that the short wings (North-West and South-West Wings) which are added to the front of the building, were constructed in 1796. The North-West Wing that is shown in the 1816 painting is shorter than that from the 1775 drawing and is in a completely different style. It consists of casement windows with moulded surrounds and triple keystones. The first floor windows are taller and have half-H aprons. A canted bay window is attached to the gable end with a battlemented parapet and nineteenth century finials. It would therefore appear that the North West Wing was rebuilt in 1796.
- 4.3.10 The dining room was probably located in the North West wing (although the distance from the kitchen makes this a remarkably unsuitable arrangement) and then converted into a bedroom and dressing room in 1821 (Cholmondeley 1844, 253). Omerod in 1882 makes reference to the location of the drawing room beyond the library which therefore could have been situated upstairs in this wing. It is possible that the drawing room was later converted into Lord Delamere's museum of trophies. In 1912 a group from the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society visited an exhibition of African big game in a room situated beyond the library. The exhibition included *'a group of fighting lions mounted in a great case constructed in the wall and lighted by means of an aperture in the roof'* (LCAS 1912, 254).
- 4.3.11 According to Holland, the South-West Wing was demolished in the Civil War (1977, 30) and is depicted in the 1775 engraving as a garden wall. This wing was rebuilt in 1796 at the same time as the rebuilding of the North-West Wing (Lysons 1810). The two wings are of the same length and have the same architectural detailing. It is probable that the drawing room was originally located in this wing before being converted into a dining room in 1821 with new painted panels and gilt borders added in 1838 (Cholmondeley 1844, 253,262).
- 4.3.12 The Cholmondeleys had converted Vale Royal into a building with a symmetrical facade and Neo-Classical detailing and this is essentially how the building remained through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, although the occupiers were to change. Robert Dempster rented the house from the Cholmondeleys from 1907 - 1925 and his granddaughter, Mrs Mary Hopkirk, gives an impression of the interior of the house at this period: *'Leading from the saloon was the library-cum-billiard room, which was rarely used because it faced north and east, and unless there was a fire going for days on end, it was like a refrigerator.... A trompe l'oeil door in the form of a bogus bookcase led from the library into two very large arctic communicating rooms, which had once been the drawing rooms'*. These rooms were now used as the skin rooms with Aunt Edith's sitting room downstairs (Hopkirk 1993, 128).

- 4.3.13 The South Range was most frequently used, containing suites of bedrooms, the 'lawn rooms', 'oak rooms' and 'lilac rooms'. The ostentation of the house at this time is illustrated by the dining room where *'above the table hung a solid silver chandelier about five feet high and four feet wide which two footmen on ladders had to clean each day'* (*ibid*, 129).
- 4.3.14 The Cholmondeleys left Vale Royal in 1947 when Imperial Chemical Industries bought the house. The subsequent history of the house has been one of aborted efforts to find a suitable use for the building accompanied by the increasing decay and damage to the structure.

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## 5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE STRUCTURE

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 An examination of the fabric and structure of Vale Royal house has supported the notion of continued existence of monastic fabric in the West and South Ranges with the possibility of monastic foundations existing in the Blore Wing and cellar. Sixteenth century alterations to the building and its conversion into a house have been provisionally identified along with substantial eighteenth and nineteenth century alterations and rebuilds, which give the house its present form.
- 5.1.2 The interpretation has been organised in terms of the different blocks of the building, rather than in a chronological manner. This is to facilitate understanding of the various areas of the building, which will be of use as the phased conversion works take place.
- 5.1.3 In the examination of the fabric of the building, individual architectural and structural features were given context numbers and annotated on plan. Features are referred to by their location in individual rooms and reference should be made to TACP Design floor plans for room and context numbers.

### 5.2 THE NORTH-WEST WING

- 5.2.1 The North-West Wing is aligned east/west at the north end of the West Range. It consists of three main rooms downstairs (G1, G2 and G4) and two rooms upstairs (FF1 and FF2). As stated above, this wing was apparently rebuilt in 1796 (Lysons 1810), replacing an earlier wing that was depicted on the 1616 and 1775 drawings.
- 5.2.2 An analysis of the structure of the building suggests that this wing was rebuilt, rather than reduced, and refaced in the late eighteenth century, obliterating almost all archaeological evidence for the earlier development of this part of the house. The exact date of construction of this wing may be two years later than Lysons suggests, as an inscription 'IB 1798' was found on the stone architrave of the north lateral light of the west window in G1, or alternatively the wing could have taken two years to build.
- 5.2.3 The walls of this wing are constructed with an external face of coursed sandstone ashlar and a brick internal skin, which originally had timber rails for the attachment of panelling. Most of these rails have now been removed and replaced by modern brick and mortar. All the windows in this wing appear to be contemporary with the construction of the walls as do the external pilasters, which are formed of three blocks of ashlar and have moulded bases and capitals. At the west end is a canted bay window with three central lights (1036-8) divided by stone mullions and transoms with a battlemented parapet and finials to the corners.
- 5.2.4 The ground floor windows on both the north and south faces are fourteen-light casements with moulded stone surrounds, mullions and transoms with triple key-stones. The first-floor windows are taller and have twenty four lights (1039, 1040,

1034 and 1035). Internally the four windows in G1 have reused timber lintels with empty mortices and peg holes. It is possible that these timbers were two spine beams, with mortices originally for the attachment of common joists, which have been subsequently cut into four lengths and reused. Upstairs in FF1, the two southern windows are blocked internally with brick which probably reflects a nineteenth century evasion of window tax.

- 5.2.5 On the ground floor, the main alterations are the insertion of two modern brick and plasterboard partition walls in G2 (1028 and 1030), forming the cupboard space G3. These walls encroach upon a blocked fireplace with a segmental brick arch in the east wall of G3. The doorway leading from G4 to G5 represents the modern narrowing of an earlier aperture and the external doorway in the north wall of G5 is also a later insertion (1025). Internally this doorway has modern brick and mortar reveals and externally the area around this doorway is rebuilt with fine tooled ashlar; the hood moulding of an earlier doorway remains *in situ*. The original doorway with the hood moulding is depicted on the 1816 picture: the present doorway must therefore post-date 1816.
- 5.2.6 The internal walls on the ground floor which divide G2 from G1 and G2 from G5 (1004) are contemporary with the build of this wing. However, the wall which divides G5 from G6 (1005) is an insertion and contains a central blocked doorway (1056) with a reused timber lintel and a brick relieving arch. It is possible that these ground floor rooms were originally the dining room area before being converted into a bedroom and dressing room in 1821, as described by Henrietta Cholmondeley, though the precise layout of the rooms in this area is unclear.
- 5.2.7 Upstairs the situation is more complicated. The wall (1031) which divides FF1 from FF2 is an insertion; it contains a central arched doorway with a neo-classical surround to the south of a blocked fireplace and alcove. It is apparent from the scarring on the north and south walls of FF2 that a wall originally running north/south has been demolished. This would have been on the same alignment as the wall which divides G2 from G5 downstairs, and it was probably demolished prior to the insertion of the present dividing wall between FF1 and FF2. These alterations could possibly represent the conversion of an earlier drawing room into the skin rooms that housed Lord Delamere's museum of trophies in the early 19th century, as described by Mary Hopkirk. The alcove (1060) in the dividing wall between FF1 and FF2 may therefore also have been for the display of some of the African game trophies.
- 5.2.8 As downstairs, the wall which divides FF2 from FF3 (the library) is an insertion with a contemporary central doorway (1050). The fireplace at the south end of this wall is cut through the wall and is of two phases. The first phase consists of a shallow brick arch; in the second phase this was lowered and York stone reveals and a lintel were inserted. This wall may relate to the 1827 conversion of the old drawing room into an extended library.

### 5.3 THE LIBRARY

- 5.3.1 The library (FF3) is situated at first floor level in the north end of the West Range; the corresponding rooms downstairs are G6, G7, G9 and part of G8. Room FF3 has

complex phasing. The south wall (1069) is an 1811 brick insertion and related to the remodelling of the great hall into a saloon. The hall probably originally extended further northwards into the present day library as suggested by the fact that, in 1827, Henrietta Cholmondeley noticed that, on pulling down the library ceiling, a gallery was found above the continuation of the saloon arches with a glazed lantern still *in situ* (1844, 256). The roof of the library has not yet been examined, but McNeil and Turner outline the evidence of an unsooted louver that may have lit the dais end of the sixteenth century hall (1987, 64).

- 5.3.2 In the south-west end of FF3 is a re-used carved stone which appears to be bear a heraldic device which may have been part of a funerary monument or architectural decoration in the church. This suggests that Thomas Holcroft may have rebuilt the first floor of the West Range using reused monastic masonry in the sixteenth century, possibly replacing a timber-framed first floor, which is suggested by the west end of the southern truss in this room. An examination of this truss reveals that originally it had a tie beam, wall plate and post conforming to a lap-dovetail assembly. Subsequently the tie beam was cut back and an arch brace tenoned to the underside of the principal rafter. All that remains of the post is the jowled area; the rest of the post was probably removed when the stone walls were built up to the wall plate. This suggests that the monastic west range was half-timbered. However, it should be noted that this is the only evidence for a medieval half-timbered phase of the west range, and it is possible that the truss is not presently *in situ*. Overall, there is insufficient evidence to definitely propose a medieval half-timbered phase to the West Range. There is no obvious external evidence in the stonework for the rebuilding of the first floor, but it is possible that in the sixteenth century Thomas Holcroft rebuilt the first floor using re-used monastic masonry at the same time as he modified the roof trusses to create a hall.
- 5.3.3 A fireplace (1167) at the southern end of the east wall of FF3 has a moulded sandstone surround contemporary with a triangular relieving arch which extends into the present day saloon. The lintel of this fireplace has been removed and it has been subsequently bricked up to create a narrower aperture. This fireplace is in the correct location to have heated the dais end of the hall.
- 5.3.4 Immediately to the north of this fireplace is a window (1166), blocked with stone, which is probably that depicted to the north of the north chimney stack in the picture of 1774. Thus it may have been an eighteenth century insertion, but any external evidence of this window has been obscured by rebuilding around the 1877 oriel window immediately to the north.
- 5.3.5 A small library was created in 1811 by the insertion of the present south wall (1069) of FF3, containing an elaborate wooden doorway (1070) with a broken pediment and columns carved with foliate motifs. The north wall of this small library has now been demolished, but it is possible that it was originally on the line of the south wall of G7 downstairs, continuing the line of the south wall of the North-West Wing into the West Range. Any evidence of this wall has been destroyed by the insertion of the oriel window (1047) in 1877 and by the insertion of the north end of the west wall. However, the original existence of this wall is suggested by the straw and mortar insulating material supported on a timber lattice under the floor-boards, which extends as far as this point, but not into the south end of FF3.

- 5.3.6 In 1827 the library was extended by incorporating the old drawing room into the small library (Cholmondeley 1844, 256). The north wall of the small library may have been demolished at this date and the existing west wall inserted. Subsequent alterations include the insertion of the oriel window (1047) in the east wall in 1877 by J Douglas and also the insertion of the north bay window (1007). That this north window is an insertion is indicated internally by the cutting of the bricks of the north wall, and externally by the tooled ashlar blocks surrounding the window which contrast with the smooth ashlar of the wall. This window is not depicted on the 1816 picture of the building but two casements are in its place; it may, therefore, have been inserted at the same time as the oriel window.
- 5.3.7 Downstairs there is a corresponding inserted bay window (1007) in the north wall of G6, and on the east wall is an arched doorway (1062) which was inserted in 1877, at the same time as the oriel window that it supports. A partition wall runs east/west forming the south wall of G6. This wall has been cut back by the insertion of the west wall (1005), which, as with the corresponding wall upstairs, may have been built in 1827. The south wall contains a blocked doorway (1077) at its west end which would have led into the passageway G7 and opposed the door (1080) in the north wall of G9. The circulation pattern was subsequently moved further to the east by the insertion of a central doorway (1541) in the south wall of G6 and a corresponding door in the north wall of G9 (1056). Apparently the old library was located in room G6 before it was converted into a bedroom in 1811 (Cholmondeley 1844, 251).

#### 5.4 WEST RANGE

- 5.4.1 ***The cellar and ground floor:*** the brick-vaulted cellar which runs under the West Range and turns to the west under the North-West wing is an eighteenth century insertion according to Holland (1977, 27). The east and west walls have been faced with modern brick and the only evidence of earlier fabric is a stone window in the east wall of C10 (1548) and a stone doorway in the east wall of C5. The window is blocked by brickwork and encroached upon by the brick vaulting. It is physically below the blocked cloister window at the south end of the West Range and the doorway is also in line with the east wall of the West Range. However, examination of the window indicates that it is presently set with external window type hollow mouldings on the interior (a record has been made of the profile of the moulding). Moreover, the internal moulding with a broad hollow is characteristic of the external face of windows from the west face of the West Range. In view of the similarity of the moulding profile to those on the first and second floors, the absence of other fabric of possible medieval date in the cellar and the likelihood that the moulding is *ex situ*, it is suggested that this fragment is a stone of the eighteenth or nineteenth century, opportunistically re-used. It therefore does not appear to represent *in situ* medieval fabric.
- 5.4.2 The ground floor contains a passageway running north/south with a series of six rooms to the west. The four windows in the east wall (1129, 1132, 1133 and 1146) are depicted on the 1774 picture with broad-headed arches. Today the north window has a pointed arch and is glazed with armorial glass. It appears to be cut through the masonry of the wall and thus is a later insertion, however, it may utilise the position of an earlier aperture. The other three windows have four-centred (or possibly

- segmental) arches with simple chamfered surrounds and appear to be contemporary with the wall. The south window (1146) was blocked when the Chintz Rooms were built in 1820.
- 5.4.3 Although the windows do not contain any evidence of tracery it is probable, due to their location, that they illuminated an enclosed cloister walk. This suggestion is further supported by the location of a doorway with a round-headed stone arch at the south end of the east wall (1334). This would have led into the garth and possibly to external steps rising up to the refectory on the first floor of the South Range. There is also a four-centred arched doorway (1304), contemporary with an area of remaining stonework, located at the end of the passage which would have led into the monastic kitchen.
- 5.4.4 The west wall of this passageway is constructed entirely of brick and there is no indication of the original width of the monastic enclosed cloister walk. It was probably originally constructed in the eighteenth century when the supporting walls in the cellar were inserted. This passageway has a plaster-vaulted ceiling in a Gothick style of the early nineteenth century. It appears that the west wall was rebuilt at a point 7.5m along from the north in order to construct this ceiling. At the south end of this wall is a confusion of blocked doorways (122 and 1123) which originally led into the west rooms.
- 5.4.5 In the south wall of G18 and the north wall of G19 are two back-to-back fireplaces (1125 and 1126), one of which has an oven area; all the apertures are now blocked. These fireplaces could possibly be the new kitchen range that was inserted in 1832 with a hot hearth and which blew hot air into the saloon (Cholmondeley 1844, 258). The partitions of these rooms, in particular the dividing walls between G10 and G11 (1092), G16 and G17 (1107), and G17 and G18 (1108), were probably inserted during the 1960s when ICI owned the building.
- 5.4.6 The windows in the west wall of this range are four-light casements (1084, 1091, 1095 and 1111-3) and at least two phases of window are detectable. The stone wall has been rebuilt in brick, in order to form the reveals and relieving arches of the earlier windows. The brick relieving arches cut through the stone corbels which support the floor above. It is apparent that these arches have been subsequently cut through and a lintel inserted below, in order to create a wider and lower aperture for the present windows. Externally the cutting and rebuilding of the masonry around these windows is clear evidence of their insertion.
- 5.4.7 The first floor of this range is supported on a stone corbel table, upon which rests a timber beam that carries the floor joists. According to McNeil and Turner this technique may date to the first quarter of the fourteenth century and thus could be the remains of monastic flooring (1987, 62). These stone corbels, in the south of the east wall, have been cut back in order to insert a staircase (1147). This stone staircase, which leads to the first floor, was constructed in 1811 in a seventeenth century style, with turned wood balusters and stone treads with ogival mouldings.
- 5.4.8 **First Floor:** the first floor of the West Range consists of the saloon (FF4) with the armoury (FF7) located to the south. On the east wall of the saloon are two blocked fireplaces (1152 and 1167) with sandstone flat arches; both are situated in line with two large chimney stacks, and their enormous size suggests that they may have



served to buttress the outward thrust of the hall roof once the tie beams had been removed. These stacks are depicted on the 1774 picture of the rear of the building and, therefore, must predate this time.

- 5.4.9 Adjacent to these fireplaces are two dummy windows (1148/9). Externally these windows appear to be cut through and inserted into the masonry of the wall. They consist of twenty-four light sashes with key stones. These windows are depicted on the 1774 picture and the thickness of the glazing bars suggests an eighteenth-century date. Both windows are encroached upon by two inserted fireplaces (1151 and 1160), with stone surrounds and with the Cholmondeley arms in the spandrels. They both have a cast iron register grate and probably date to 1811 when Henrietta Cholmondeley refers to the removal of the fireplaces to the centre of the room (1844, 251). Thus the windows were also probably blocked in 1811 (possibly to avoid window tax which was not abolished until 1851, although it should be noted that other windows were apparently inserted in the 1830s).
- 5.4.10 At the centre of the east wall is a bay (1131) with a brick ogee arch. It contains a nine-light casement window (1150) with stone mullions and transoms, and at ground floor level there is a broad arched window which mimics the style of the other windows at this level. This bay is constructed of fine sandstone ashlar and, as with the chimney stacks, it acts as a buttress. This bay was probably constructed in the early nineteenth century and has removed any evidence of the mullioned window flanked by buttresses that was indicated in the 1774 painting.
- 5.4.11 The west wall of the saloon contains four casement windows with thirty two lights and stone mullions and transoms (1153, 1155 and 1158-9). These windows are probably the oak casements that were inserted in 1830, although the armorial glass has been removed. These windows sit in earlier apertures with triple keystone blocks that are cut through the masonry of this wall. The original windows were possibly the twenty-four light sashes depicted on the 1816 picture and of the same style as the dummy windows which remain on the east front. To the south of the two northern windows there is evidence of two earlier apertures, a metre above floor height, which appear to be contemporary with the wall. These could be traces of the three light casements which are depicted on the 1616 painting.
- 5.4.12 Externally the pilasters butt against the west wall and also against the rebuild around the windows. Thus, it is probable that the existing window apertures were inserted first, probably in the early eighteenth century. The pilasters were possibly added later, perhaps in the late eighteenth century, when the North-West and South-West wings were constructed with pilasters in the same style.
- 5.4.13 The porch on the west front is in a Gothick style with angle buttresses, a pointed arch and a battlemented parapet with shields to either side. The bay window above is a six-light casement (1156) in the same style as the bay window on the east front, suggesting that they were built at the same time (possibly in 1823). As stated above, the porch replaced an earlier porch with steps up to the first floor which was demolished in 1811. No trace of this earlier porch remains other than the heavy studded oak doorway at ground floor level, which may be the original sixteenth century door from the first floor.

- 5.4.14 McNeil and Turner identified a fragment of carved stonework re-used in the wall at first-floor height: this was interpreted as a piece of a funerary monument or item of liturgical furniture from the abbey church. Its decoration appears to be heraldic (LUAU 1995, 25). However, the drawing provided by McNeil and Turner (1988, fig. 19), misses several details and does not show the entire stone. There is an upper panel showing two ill-defined shapes, apparently diagonal latin crosses with bulbous trilobate terminals. In view of the poor condition of the sandstone and the complete absence of any coloration, it may not be possible to relate this heraldic device to any particular family. However, it is possible to interpret the stone as showing the letters T and W superimposed and no combination of these letters is matched by any of the abbots of Vale Royal, although there were two abbots named Thomas, whose surnames are unknown (VCH Cheshire 1980, 164). It is, therefore, tentatively suggested that the monogram may refer to a lay benefactor of the house, as yet unidentified.
- 5.4.15 The north and south walls (1069 and 1161) of the saloon are brick insertions of 1811 and both contain doorways (1070 and 1162). These doorways may have been subsequently lowered and narrowed, as suggested by the brick blocking of the reveals, and the lath and plaster blocking under a round headed brick arch in order to create the present pointed arches. These may alternatively be relieving arches.
- 5.4.16 The roof of the saloon consists of eight trusses, the tie beams of which have been removed and replaced by arch bracing which is attached to the principal rafters by loose tenons and pegs. This alteration may date to Holcroft's sixteenth-century creation of a great hall. Subsequently, in the nineteenth century, the ceiling was painted with heraldic shields and devices, and cusped wind braces, in a Gothick style, were inserted. The upper areas of these roof trusses are concealed by the ceiling and have not yet been examined. The most important point to note from McNeil and Turner's survey is that the fourth truss from the south may have been the location of a screens passage relating to Holcroft's sixteenth-century creation of a hall. Apparently, the mortice configurations on this truss indicate that it was closed above the tie beam with raking struts morticed into a king post. McNeil and Turner also suggest that the southern half of this range was partitioned into two rooms with a three-bay chamber (1987, 63).
- 5.4.17 The four roof trusses in the armoury are less drastically altered and may give some indication of the monastic roof, or that of the first post-Dissolution house. The southernmost truss consists of a collar, tie beam with intermediate studs, and straight wind braces. The remains of a post exist at the east end of the tie beam and suggest that this range may have been timber-framed at first floor level. The presence of studding suggests that this truss was likely to have been a closed end gable and probably earlier than the kitchen roof, the tie beam of which butts against the east end of this truss. As McNeil and Turner propose, it is possible that this end gable is the remains of the lay brothers' dormitory which extended northwards for an unknown length (1987, 61).
- 5.4.18 The three other trusses in the armoury are of simple tie beam construction with additional diagonal bracing. It is possible that when, in the fifteenth/early sixteenth century, the monks dispensed with the lay brethren, they demolished the wind-braced roof except for the end gable and rebuilt the roof in a more robust and simpler fashion to function as a store or granary (McNeil and Turner 1987, 63).

- 5.4.19 Other features in the armoury include a blocked opening (1176), probably a window, in the east wall with the same dimensions as the dummy eighteenth-century windows in the saloon. This window has been converted into an alcove possibly for the display of armour.
- 5.4.20 **Conclusion:** in summary, the armoury roof may contain early trusses of two phases: it is to be hoped that further detailed examination will permit some discrimination of monastic from post-Dissolution fabric. The south truss suggests that the first floor of this range was formerly timber-framed.
- 5.4.21 In the sixteenth century Thomas Holcroft may have rebuilt the first floor (incorporating some re-used monastic masonry), removed the tie beams in order to create an arch-braced roof and built a fireplace at the dais end of the hall, now located in the south end of the library. There is some evidence for sixteenth century windows in the west wall of the saloon, but no evidence remains of the porch and stairs which led up to the first floor. The south end of this range was probably a chamber divided from the hall by a screens passage.
- 5.4.22 It is possible that in the eighteenth century sash windows were inserted, two of which remain as dummy windows in the east wall. The pilasters on the west front appear to have been inserted later in the century. The chimney stacks and fireplaces, now blocked, may also have been inserted at this time.
- 5.4.23 In the early nineteenth century, the hall was converted into a saloon by rebuilding the porch and constructing an internal staircase. New fireplaces and casement windows were inserted and partition walls put in place at the north and south ends. The ceiling was decorated with heraldic devices.

## 5.5 THE SOUTH RANGE

- 5.5.1 **Ground floor:** the South Range contains several partition walls running north/south in brick, stone and timber framing. The infill panels of the timber wall between rooms G36 and G38 (1270) are constructed with hard plaster covering large wattles: of the two types of infill visible in the range, this is likely to be the earlier.
- 5.5.2 Room G39 is defined to the east and west by thick walls of sandstone ashlar (1269 and 1268): these bear medium/fine claw tooling in long draughts, though later damaged with a pick. It is assumed that the last-mentioned tooling was carried out to key in a plaster covering. The clawing tooling strongly suggests a medieval date (after 1200).
- 5.5.3 It is suggested that these walls were not built of re-used stones in the post-medieval period but are *in situ* features of the medieval building. Both of them bear round headed doorways which are crudely cut into the stonework (1296 and 1292); they both have empty mortices on their undersides and are directly in line with door 1297 in the timber partition wall to the west. This would suggest a passageway running

through the centre of the range. Door 1297 is four-centred in form and is likely to be of sixteenth century date, probably from the conversion of the building by Holcroft. Since the stone walls pre-date the creation of this east/west passageway, it is logical to interpret them as medieval in date. The most likely explanation is that room G39 was a passageway between the cloister and monastic buildings located in the south.

- 5.5.4 The hard pinkish mortar infill of the timber-framed wall in G38 appears the same as the mortar used for the flooring above all the rooms in this range, apart from the kitchen. This mortar floor is supported on a timber lattice which rests in grooves cut into the sides of the floor joists. Thus, it is possible that in the sixteenth century the South Range was refloored, a partition wall inserted in G38 and a central corridor created, connecting to an unspecified number of rooms.
- 5.5.5 The present passage (G37) at the north end of this range may have been created in the 1860s when the whole of this range was refaced in brickwork. The internal walls dividing G42 from G41 and the south end of the dividing wall between G36 and G22 were also constructed at this date, thus creating the present layout of five connecting rooms. This 1860s rebuild was in brick Flemish bond with stone detailing around the windows which on the ground floor are either four or six light casements.
- 5.5.6 **First floor:** one of the main features of note on the first floor is the remains of external timber framing to the west of this range and sealed by the Chintz Rooms. This timber framing comprises herring-bone panelling above a mid-rail with close studding below. This is in accordance with the western tradition of timber framing as outlined by Smith (1965, 145); it was apparently rare before 1570 and may date to the time of the Holcrofts.
- 5.5.7 It is not clear whether Holcroft inserted this decorative panelling into existing monastic timber framing or if the whole of the first floor was rebuilt. Omerod suggests that the Holcrofts rebuilt the whole of the South Range (1882, 155). However, the four-centred arched doorway (1297) is contemporary with the timber framing and is in the correct position for a day stair leading into the cloister garth and to the stone doorway (now blocked) at the south end of the west range (1309). The eight-light window (1285/6) to the east of this door has chamfered mullions and transoms which appear to be later insertions, but the window lintel and reveals are contemporary with the timber framing. It therefore seems conceivable that the doorway and window aperture are monastic, and that Holcroft inserted herringbone decoration following the latest sixteenth-century fashion. He may also have blocked the doorway as is suggested by a series of empty peg holes on the underside of the lintel. Indeed, the picture of 1774 indicates a series of windows in the first floor timber framing but no doorway at the western end.
- 5.5.8 The passageway which runs east to west, and creates a corridor FF19 and FF17, is timber-framed with close studding above and below a mid-rail. Only one door is intact (1341); it is now blocked but would have led into FF20. It consists of a depressed-arched door head with chamfered sides. It is likely that there were four other doors, now obscured by plaster, that would have given access into a total of five apartment rooms, including the room over the kitchen (FF14). These apartments would have respected the bay divisions in the roof, with the exclusion of a partition wall under truss IV.

- 5.5.9 Of these partition walls only two now remain: the east wall of FF20 (1319), and the east wall of FF18 (1323). Removed partition walls are indicated by empty mortices on the underside of the tie beams of trusses II and V. The timber-framed wall below truss VI in FF22 consists of small framing, of which almost all the timbers have been reused (as indicated by a profusion of empty peg holes). The central doorway has an ogee lintel (1316) and the south doorway (1342) has a canted door head. Both doorways appear to be contemporary with the wall, although the reveals of the central doorway have been refaced. It is possible that the south doorway led into a garderobe, all evidence of which has now been destroyed by the construction of the Blore Wing.
- 5.5.10 The timber-framed partition below truss III, in FF18, also has close studding above a mid-rail. The north end of this mid-rail has been cut back, possibly to insert a doorway which has now been removed. Both of these partitions appear to butt against the timber-framed corridor wall, indicating that they were later insertions. It is probable that this series of five apartments were created by Thomas Holcroft in the sixteenth century as guest suites and subsequently altered into their present form of four rooms.
- 5.5.11 The conversion of these five rooms into four involved the demolition of two timber-framed partition walls below trusses II and V, the rebuild of the wall under truss V in brick, and the construction of another brick wall under truss I. The partition wall under truss II was not replaced. Both of these walls appear to be contemporary with the south wall of this range and may thus date to 1860 when the range was rebuilt in brick. The two east rooms are wood panelled and the east one is referred to as the Kings' Room, as the panels are inscribed to record royal visits from Edward I to James I. The two western rooms are the lilac and morning rooms referred to by Mary Hopkirk in the early nineteenth century.
- 5.5.12 **Second Floor:** the roof in the South Range consists of six roof trusses with carpenters' marks numbered from I to VI, beginning at the west end. It is divided by trenched purlins and short cross timbers producing a grid effect. These timbers are moulded in a double concave and 'bird's mouth' design and a flat area is left at their intersection, possibly for the attachment of a boss. This composition created a highly decorative roof that was presumably intended to be viewed from the first floor refectory. The mouldings on the purlins in the western bay (AF14) are less ornate and may indicate that there was a less prestigious ante-room below. The ridge piece of truss VI, at the east end, extends 0.70m beyond the truss, indicating that the refectory may originally have extended further eastwards. A dendrochronological date of 1460-91 for a timber from truss V indicates a late monastic date for this roof (McNeil and Turner 1987, 56, 75).
- 5.5.13 All of the roof trusses have been substantially altered. The inserted central doorways and the infilling of the trusses with lath and plaster or wattle and daub was probably undertaken in the sixteenth century and may relate to the creation of servants' apartments. Central doorways were cut through trusses V, IV and III, thus creating four adjoining attic rooms. Truss V consists of a tie beam, principal rafter and collar. The collar has been chopped back and queen posts removed in order to insert a central doorway. The central doorways in trusses IV and III have been inserted by chopping back the central boss on the collar and then inserting ill-fitting queen posts that act as door jambs. Subsequently the line of access was moved further to the

north by the blocking of the central doorways with the insertion of new ones into all the trusses by cutting back the tie beams and principal rafters. Thus a continuous corridor was created across the attic space.

- 5.5.14 The roof trusses of the kitchen are largely obscured, but parts of the eastern truss tie beam are visible, also the principal rafter, one stud and a section of collar. Judging by the mortices on the upper and lower sides of the tie beam of this truss it would appear that this was originally a closed truss, with studs above and below the tie beam. It is probable that this truss formed the end gable of the monastic kitchen that was subsequently butted by the construction of the South Range. That the kitchen pre-dates the South Range is supported by the fact that one of the South Range purlins extends 0.26m beyond truss I and butts a kitchen purlin. It is not moulded which suggests that it was never intended to be seen from the refectory.
- 5.5.15 The north end of the tie beam of the south kitchen truss meets the tie beam of the closed south truss in the armoury, suggesting that the kitchen was constructed later than the West Range. The central truss is an arch braced false hammer beam, with chamfered trenched purlins and straight wind braces. These decorative features are not as elaborate as in the South Range, but they do suggest that the kitchen roof was meant to be seen and thus the monastic kitchen may originally have been open to the roof. The western truss does not survive, but it is depicted on the 1775 picture as a closed end gable of a similar style to the existing east truss.

## 5.6 THE INTERNAL TIMBER FRAME OF THE SOUTH RANGE

- 5.6.1 At first-floor level, the north wall of the south wing contains an area of surviving timber wall-framing; this was originally the external wall and was subsequently hidden behind a newer brick wall. In addition, this range contains several internal partitions and has received major alterations, which have involved the stripping-out of areas of the infill panels. This stripping has shown that two types of infill were present. One type consisted of hard plaster, mostly very light pink in colour, covering large wattles and was found principally in the partition on the south side of the corridor and in the cross-wall (1323). The other type was far coarser in character, consisting of orange clay daub with straw. This could be found in the east/west wall across the kitchen first floor (1351) and the wall dividing rooms 20 and 22 (1319); the infill of the latter two seems to be identical in composition.
- 5.6.2 Wall 1319 is not related to a truss or to any other part of the timber frame and appears to be the product of a re-arrangement of the rooms on the first floor. This wall was panelled and was composed of a diverse assortment of timbers, including a re-used door head, which was nailed rather than pegged together. It is likely, therefore, that this wall was intended from the outset to be concealed by panelling. When the panelling was removed, a graffito was discovered on a tenon, identifying the joiner as John Benbow and dating the panel to March 20 (Whit Monday) 1861. It is therefore suggested that this partition, and the insertion of the partition into the first floor of the kitchen, took place in the later nineteenth century.

- 5.6.3 The door (1345) in the north wall of the South Range relates clumsily to the pattern of chevron framing of the wall immediately to the east: in particular, a pair of peg-holes for a diagonal raking timber is immediately adjacent to the eastern door post, indicating that the door must be an insertion. This is further supported by evidence of other alterations to the framing immediately to the east of the door: the mid-rail contains peg-holes showing that the studs at dado height were formerly more widely-spaced. The studs are also fabricated from timbers of thin scantling, similar to those of the internal corridor wall facing, in contrast to the thicker timbers of the rest of the wall.
- 5.6.4 The door itself contains mortices in its upper parts, suggesting to McNeil and Turner that it was blocked at some stage (McNeil and Turner 1987, 59). However, an alternative hypothesis is that these mortices relate to the infill of the upper part of the door opening with a tympanum and door-frame. Their suggestion that this door dates to the period of the monastery and that it became obsolete in the house built by Holcroft is also controversial. It is proposed here that the door led via a dog-leg or stair-turret into the west range. The depiction of this area in a view of 1774 is regrettably unclear (McNeil and Turner 1987, fig. 23). However, such a doorway would have made sense in such a house of the sixteenth century, providing access at first-floor level from the hall to the chambers in the South Range, avoiding the service rooms in the junction between the two ranges.
- 5.6.5 The suggestion that the external timber-frame may date to a late medieval rebuilding of the monastic refectory (McNeil and Turner 1987, 67) is unlikely on several grounds. Although there is evidence on other sites (particularly documentary evidence) that in the late medieval period, some of the more impoverished monastic houses (commonly nunneries) did contain timber-framed buildings within the main claustral suite (Brown 1886, 197-215; Coppack 1991, 66-68), a construction of this type would be more easily accommodated within a post-medieval domestic building. Though the financial situation of Vale Royal Abbey in the later medieval period was dire, the same could be said of many other houses, whose buildings are known to have been masonry structures.
- 5.6.6 The style of framing, with large framed vertical panels filled with raking timbers in a herringbone pattern, may be used tentatively for dating purposes. In Cheshire, this technique appears to date from the second half of the sixteenth century onwards, developing in the Elizabethan period into complex forms with diamond patterns and mid-rails (Cheshire County Council 1994, 13; Smith 1965, 145). There is no evidence in the surviving frame that the raking timbers were added later to a wall, which was formerly built with widely-spaced studs and plain infill panels (McNeil and Turner 1987, 67). It is simpler to believe that this wall was constructed in one campaign in the second half of the sixteenth century.

## 5.7 THE ROOF OF THE SOUTH RANGE

- 5.7.1 During the survey carried out by McNeil and Turner, several of the structural roof timbers were subjected to dendrochronological analysis: two of these (VR5 and VR8) produced dates in the late fifteenth century, which they interpreted as evidence for the survival of a medieval roof structure. However, they also admitted the possibility that the timbers may have been re-used in a post-medieval rebuild of the

roof: as this seems the most plausible explanation for the '*looseness and carelessness in the way the members were chosen and re-assembled*' (McNeil and Turner 1987, 58-59). The results from the present survey favour an interpretation of the range in which the timber-framed first floor replaced a stone-built structure at the Dissolution and such a radical alteration would most probably have entailed the dismantling and re-erection of the roof structure and it is concurred by McNeil and Turner (1987, 59) that '*the refectory roof (sic) cannot be studied in isolation from the timber framing on the first floor*'. The roof of the South Range has undergone so many alterations that its original form is generally difficult to determine. In particular, the removal of the wall-plate and the ends of the tie-beams on the north side, together with several important elements of the south end of the structure, have destroyed important evidence of the roof's development.

- 5.7.2 It is clear that in the three bays in the centre of the range, the roof was intended, at some period, to be seen from the first floor. The underside of the roof pitch in this area contains a grid of moulded purlins and rafters, originally bearing some form of decoration, such as heraldic bosses, and trusses with cambered collars. These collars (in Trusses 3 and 4) originally bore moulded bosses and were supported by arch braces, of which the upper parts remain; this inevitably suggests an arch-braced or hammer-beamed roof structure. McNeil and Turner (1987, 58) reconstruct the trusses with both tie-beams and arch braces, but this type of roof appears to be uncommon (eg Queen's College Cambridge). It therefore seems very likely that the timbers of these trusses are re-used and possibly *ex situ*: the arch-braces are unlikely to be contemporary with the tie-beams and the latter must be later insertions. In standard lap-dovetail assembly, the principal rafters rest on top of the tie beams. It would be impossible, therefore, for a tie-beam to be inserted without the dismantling and re-erection of the principal rafters into which the collars are pegged: the dismantling of the trusses would also necessarily have entailed the removal of purlins and rafters. The carpentry assembly marks show that the principals are in their original places within the numbering system of the range; they bear no mortices in their soffits consistent with their originally having carried the arch braces of a false hammer-beam roof. This suggests that the collars alone are re-used from an earlier roof structure which had arch-braces or false hammer-beams, and that many of the other major structural timbers of the roof were introduced in a single campaign, probably in the sixteenth century during the creation of the Holcroft house. This part of the building contained rooms open to the roof with closed trusses and decoration of the internal roof pitches with moulded timbers and bosses, but could not have been the single unified medieval refectory of McNeil and Turner.
- 5.7.3 The hammer-beam types of roof were apparently a common source of structural instability in late medieval buildings; such frames placed a considerable outward thrust on the wall-plates. For this reason, many of the surviving examples are built on stone walls, although timber-framed structures supporting walls of this kind are not unknown (Lynne Courtenay and Christopher Currie *pers comm*). It is possible, therefore, that the collars formed part of the medieval monastic roof structure, which is more likely to have been supported on a stone wall.
- 5.7.4 The date of the arch-braced or hammer-beam trusses is contentious, since both types originate in the medieval period. Work undertaken at Rufford Old Hall, however, has indicated the possibility that a false hammer-beam roof may have been constructed there in the mid-sixteenth century. The intermediate rafters and purlins bear stepped



cavetto mouldings, which have affinities with mouldings of the late fifteenth to the mid-sixteenth century and which are clearly medieval rather than Renaissance in derivation (Cheshire County Council 1994, 11, 34). Studies of high-status buildings of this period have indicated that references to medieval architecture were not uncommon (discussed more fully in the next chapter). In contrast to McNeil and Turner's interpretation of this open space as the monastic refectory, LUAU favours the view that this was a suite of high-status rooms, possibly a great chamber, within a post-medieval range of lodgings.

## 5.8 THE SOUTH-WEST WING

5.8.1 The South-West Wing, aligned east/west at the south end of the West Range, was rebuilt in 1796 at the same time as the construction of the North-West Wing. The architectural detailing is the same, with ground floor fourteen-light casements with stone mullions and transoms and triple key stones. The first floor windows are larger, however, and have twenty four lights and the west window is a canted bay. The external walls are sandstone ashlar with applied pilasters, apart from the less visible south wall which is constructed of brick Flemish bond.

5.8.2 Internally, the ground floor was originally divided into two rooms, both heated by fireplaces in the south wall (1532) with a doorway (1403) at the north end of the dividing wall. This wing was entered by a doorway in the east wall of G26. Subsequently in the twentieth century, these doorways and fireplaces were blocked and modern partitions inserted in order to create a corridor separating two rooms in the east end of the wing.

5.8.3 On the first floor is a large open room (FF9) which in 1821 was converted into a dining room. The east wall (1373) is a brick insertion and contains a central doorway (1374) with Corinthian columns to either side of a six-panelled door with swags and a pediment above. A scar to the east of this wall, and replicated downstairs, indicates that the original wall was located half a metre further to the east. The reasons for moving this wall are unclear, although it could be related to the need to create space for the stairway which now leads into the 1860s Douglas Wing.

5.8.4 The ceiling is elaborately plastered with a central frieze, strapwork and an enriched cornice with heavy foliage motifs. There are two phases of flooring, the present floor boards rest on narrower ones that have a mortared upper surface.

## 5.9 THE CHINTZ ROOM AND THE SERVANTS HALL

5.9.1 The chintz room and servants' hall were constructed in 1820 in the corner of the South and West Ranges. This consists of one room on the ground floor (G20) and two rooms on the first floor (FF8 and FF16). The north wall (1357) of G20 butts the south chimney stack of the West Range and it contains a four centred arched window (1358) which imitates the style of the lower 'monastic' windows in the West Range. In the east wall is a fireplace (1521) which butts onto the wall and is of twentieth century brick and tile construction.

5.9.2 On the first floor, the partition wall which divides FF8 from FF16 appears to be original. In the west wall are two blocked eighteenth-century windows which are indicated on the 1774 drawing. The window in the north wall of FF8 is a twenty-four light casement with internal shutters and in the east wall is an inserted twentieth century two-light casement. There are two blocked fireplaces with segmental arches in the east wall of both these rooms (1522 and 1523) and the partitions in these rooms are modern plasterboard creating toilet cubicles. The south wall of FF16 consists of a timber-framed wall with herring-bone panelling and represents the remains of the timber-framed upper storey of the South Range (see *Section 5.6.3* above).

## 5.10 THE BLORE WING

5.10.1 The Blore Wing which forms the triple-gabled wing at the east end of the South Range was constructed in 1833 by Edward Blore. It apparently replaced an earlier building, also triple gabled, but of half-timbered construction which is depicted on the 1775 picture.

5.10.2 This wing is constructed of brick Flemish bond with sandstone detailing to the windows. The ground and first floor windows are six-light casements with four-light casements on the second floor. The main features to note in this wing are that the floor joists in G42 of the South Range have been cut back and some of these timbers appear to have been reused for the door lintels in the Blore Wing, as indicated by the groove in the sides of these timbers which originally housed a mortar floor. There are numerous blocked fireplaces with brick segmental arches (eg 1211, 1213 and 1177) and the line of the flues are indicated in grey paint on the chimney breast. The function of this paint is not entirely clear, but was probably for sealing the wall against soot or intrusive damp.

5.10.3 McNeil and Turner have suggested that the wide corridor G45 which runs north to south is an anomaly in the plan of the Blore Wing, as it does not form the entrance to the hall. Its position in the corner between the monastic south and the putative east range led them to propose that it could have formed the passage and day stair leading to the dorter (1987, 61). There is, however, no evidence of masonry in the corridor walls, although there is evidence of stone foundations in the south and east walls of G47, and in the north and west walls of G52. In particular, the stonework in the west wall of G52, which projects 0.36m from the face of the brick wall, may suggest that these walls are the foundations of an earlier building. This stonework could be part of the foundations of the earlier building depicted in 1774 or alternatively it could be even older. Whichever is the case, it would suggest that there was formerly a corridor on the same alignment as the present east/west passage, (G49), and that there were masonry structures to the north and south of this passage.

## 5.11 THE CLOISTER WALKWAY (G8 AND G15)

5.11.1 The wall-plate running along the western side of the 'cloister walkway' on the ground floor of the west range was exposed. This large timber had paired peg-holes at intervals of approximately 150mm, indicating that the west wall of the passage was formerly a timber-framed partition wall with close-studding.

- 5.11.2 The windows facing eastwards from the passage are broad and low, with elliptical window heads (rather than four-centred, as described by McNeil and Turner 1987, 66). These have been interpreted as the products of an eighteenth or nineteenth-century refurbishment, occupying the positions of late medieval windows of a cloister walkway. It may be of note that these windows are spaced more widely than might be expected for a monastic cloister: however, it is also assumed that the ground floor of the west range of the post-Dissolution house was given over to ancillary rooms, and consequently the presence of such large windows is difficult to explain. A late medieval date for the windows seems plausible.
- 5.11.3 McNeil and Turner state that the practice of building 'undershot' claustral walkways was most common in urban houses of the mendicant orders (McNeil and Turner 1987, 66). However, their explanation that this was an adaptation to severe shortages of space is not universally true: the very expansive building of the Coventry Whitefriars, built in the mid-late fourteenth century, also contained such an enclosed passageway (Woodfield 1981). Other examples on rural sites were built by the Cistercians at Cleeve Abbey and by the Carmelite friars at Aylesford (Platt 1978, 71). A need to economise on building materials may offer a more plausible explanation (Gilchrist 1989, 5).

## 5.12 THE 'KITCHEN' CEILING (G22)

- 5.12.1 The ceiling of the kitchen (G22) which is located at the west end of the South Range consisted of closed end-trusses with multiple queen-posts supporting collars and a central open truss (Truss 1) with broad arch-braces supported on hammer-beams. The roof contains two tiers of purlins with short plain wind braces. The central false hammer-beam truss has recently been completely exposed for the first time. McNeil and Turner interpret this as a survival of a medieval roof, of a room open from ground floor level and suggested to be the monastic kitchen (McNeil and Turner 1987, 57, figs. 5 and 6). The later insertion of the first floor chamfered ceiling beams, supported on a tall pillar (1310), would also suggest that this room was originally open to the roof. The northern end of the hammer-beam is partly embedded in the present brick wall and projects slightly to the north. The existence of a long vertical joint in the brickwork immediately below the timber may suggest that the hammer-beam was supported by a timber post and that this survived in place into the nineteenth or twentieth centuries.
- 5.12.2 No dendrochronological date for this roof was obtained (McNeil and Turner 1987, 75), though the style of false hammer-beam roofs may allow some form of dating. This type of truss is comparatively rare in the North-West and in the North of England, being better represented east of the Pennines: most surviving examples, such as All Saints' church, North Street, York, and Calverley Grange, West Yorkshire, date to the late fifteenth century. However, Rufford Old Hall, Lancashire has recently been the subject of an archaeological investigation by LUAU, and an interpretation of this building has been tentatively suggested in which the roof was built after the 1530s (LUAU 1996). In view of the way in which the South Range butts against the 'kitchen' with a roof apex at a lower level, it is probable that the kitchen was built before the range; the probability that this area contains *in situ* medieval fabric is strong.

- 5.12.3 The four centred stone doorway (1304) in the north wall and the masonry in the east wall (1301) could also be part of the remains of the monastic kitchen. The fireplace (1307) in the west wall has a basket-arched wide hearth with lateral basket-arched openings. This nineteenth century fireplace could possibly obscure evidence of an earlier, possibly monastic, fireplace.

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## 6. CONCLUSION

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- 6.1 It can be concluded that Thomas Holcroft did not completely demolish the abbey, but substantially incorporated monastic fabric into the construction of his house. This surviving medieval fabric was principally located on the ground floors of the West and South Ranges. It is likely that a significant proportion of the fabric which survived the Dissolution is still in place today.
- 6.2 In the South Range, monastic stonework may survive on the ground floor and part of a timber framed first floor also remains. The roof trusses may originate in the monastic period, but have been substantially altered. These were evidently highly decorative and were presumably intended to have been seen from the first floor. Monastic fabric may also survive in the Blore Wing and in the cellar. In the West Range it is possible that the east wall contains masonry and window apertures of an enclosed cloister walk.
- 6.3 The relative phasing, in which the West Range predates the kitchen, which in turn predates the South Range, has been confirmed by an examination of the roof trusses.
- 6.4 The main extant elements of Holcroft's conversion of the monastery into a house are the present saloon trusses. These roof trusses indicate that in monastic times this range was possibly half timbered. The earliest roof truss is the southern one in the armoury which may relate to a wind braced roof of the lay brothers' dormitory. In the late monastic period this roof was rebuilt with simple tie beam trusses.
- 6.5 There are indications of sixteenth-century windows on the west front and a fireplace at the dais end of the hall. In the South Range a central corridor was created on the ground floor and at the first and attic floors a series of attics was created which probably functioned as individual guest suites.
- 6.6 In the eighteenth century sash windows were inserted into the east and west walls of the West Range. Two of these windows remain in the west wall, although they are blocked internally. Large fireplaces and chimney breasts were also inserted into this east wall. The North-West and South-West Wings were rebuilt and pilasters added to the west front, thus creating the present symmetrical facade.
- 6.7 In the nineteenth century substantial alterations were made to all areas of the building. The North-West wing was internally modified, relating to a change in function, and the main hall was converted into a Gothick saloon. The Chintz Rooms and Blore wing were built and the whole of the South Range was refaced in brick followed by the construction of the Douglas wing.
- 6.8 Twentieth-century interventions are quite minimal, being mainly restricted to the blocking of fireplaces and doorways, and the insertion of partition walls.
- 6.9 In summary, the building can best be understood as the product of a sequence of development probably stretching back into the medieval period. Consequently, it is of great significance (both regionally and nationally) as an example of a great house developed through architectural accretion and the building is likely to attract greater attention from historians and archaeologists in the future.



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## 7. DISCUSSION

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### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 The 'afterlife' of monastic sites, as part of the general topic of the transition from medieval to post-medieval society, is increasing in popularity (English Heritage 1991, 37) and contrasts with the era when archaeologists routinely destroyed the deposits of post-medieval occupation of monastic sites as an irrelevance. The survival of monastic buildings has become a subject in its own right (Dickinson 1968; Howard 1987). In view of this intellectual climate, there is undoubtedly a predisposition on the part of the archaeologists to seek an interpretation in which an element of continuity with the medieval past is maintained. Though the present interpretation suggests that the level of survival was considerably less than that put forward by McNeil and Turner (1987), the two fabric histories do agree in essential notions: that the form of the house at Vale Royal was conditioned by the form of the monastery and that the most plausible mechanism for this was that the Dissolution of the abbey did not entail the wholesale demolition of all the monastic buildings.
- 7.1.2 In view of the nature of the evidence, this conclusion cannot be considered definitive, nor entirely objective. Nevertheless, it is supported by internal evidence of the development of the structure and by stylistic parallels from other comparable sites .

### 7.2 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

- 7.2.1 The watching brief at Vale Royal Abbey was carried out with an explicit research agenda of examining evidence for the development of the buildings in the mid-sixteenth century. It had become apparent during the initial phase of fieldwork that contrary hypotheses could be formulated. The first, or 'minimalist', view was that the buildings of the Cistercian abbey were razed to the ground without exception at the Dissolution and that the house created by Holcroft retained nothing *in situ*. An alternative view, favoured by McNeil and Turner, held that substantial fabric (from subterranean to roof levels) survived intact through the Dissolution and remained in place up to the present (McNeil and Turner 1987).
- 7.2.2 This survival of medieval buildings after the Dissolution is more common than is often acknowledged, particularly on the smaller and less prosperous monastic sites. Well-known examples include Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire and Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, less well known is Flaxley Abbey in Gloucestershire. Occasionally the church buildings were retained for worship, as at Cartmel, Carlisle and Lanercost. However, more commonly, the churches were completely demolished and selected buildings from the claustral ranges or outer courts adapted for domestic use. This, McNeil and Turner argue, was the case at Vale Royal. However, the 'afterlife' of monastic sites is not well-studied at present by archaeologists or architectural historians and though the potential data-set of comparative sites may be large, there is little synthetic literature on the subject.
- 7.2.3 McNeil and Turner's thesis has been paraphrased in several publications (Crossley 1990, 54-55; Greene 1992, 190-192) and as a consequence, Vale Royal has become something of a *locus classicus* for the concealment of monastic remains within later

buildings. However, the internal evidence for whether the buildings are converted medieval claustral ranges, or built from scratch in the sixteenth century, is equivocal: for this reason, the lack of a clear archaeological model for the conversion of monasteries to houses is regrettable. At present it is a matter of debate whether the houses created from dissolved monasteries represented a dead-end in the development of sixteenth century domestic architecture, or whether there is a recognisable type of house descended from a monastic layout (Howard 1991, 136-162).

- 7.2.4 An analogy may be drawn between Vale Royal and Norton Priory, another monastic site in Cheshire. Norton Priory was the subject of an intensive campaign of archaeological excavation and research during the 1970s and 1980s (Greene 1989). It is clear that substantial fabric of the medieval west range survived *in situ* to form the basement of two successive post-medieval houses. Moreover, depictions of the first of these buildings, constructed in the sixteenth century, shows that this medieval ground floor, built in sandstone, supported an elaborate timber-framed superstructure. The resultant architectural composition was something of a hybrid, with medieval masonry juxtaposed with fashionable herring-bone patterned timber panelling (Greene 1989, fig. 18). The visual similarity between the house at Norton and the South Range at Vale Royal, as depicted in the eighteenth century, is striking (McNeil and Turner 1987, figs. 22 and 23). It is clear that this building also stood on a masonry ground floor with a decorated timber-framed building of two storeys above.
- 7.2.5 This analogy cannot demonstrate conclusively that the fabric history of the South Range at Vale Royal was the same as that identified at Norton; however, it can show that such a process of development could have produced a building of this type, and that converted monastic buildings, constructed in a combination of materials, were part of the architectural vocabulary of houses of the gentry in the Tudor North-West.
- 7.2.6 At Vale Royal the two areas most likely to retain *in situ* monastic fabric are the South and West Ranges and these will be discussed separately.
- 7.2.7 **South Range:** the present interpretation of the South Range is that it occupies the site of the medieval south range of the Abbey, which formerly contained the Refectory and ancillary rooms and that the sandstone partition walls on the ground floor are probably *in situ* from the monastic building. The rough character of their tooling may suggest re-use of disarticulated stones of medieval origin: however, this tooling type would also be consistent with the use of the ground floor of a monastic south range for access, storage or other functions of low status. The fine four-centred doorway leading into the ground floor of the 'kitchen' is clearly of late medieval inspiration, but could date to either shortly before or shortly after the Dissolution.
- 7.2.8 The upper floor of the range is interpreted as of post-medieval construction, though re-using some materials from the demolished buildings of the abbey. The suggestion of McNeil and Turner that the roof of the South Range is of monastic origin, is largely based on a fifteenth-century dendrochronological date for two timbers (VR5 and VR8). However, as suggested above, there is no reason to suggest that these are not re-used. McNeil and Turner admit that this is a possibility in their statement that the roof was dismantled and rebuilt retaining the timbers where possible, when the timber-framed walls were inserted (McNeil and Turner 1987, 58-59). Their statement



that '*it is unlikely that the main framework was dismantled*', however, is less plausible and it seems more likely that the replacement of what was almost certainly a masonry first floor with a timber-framed structure, integrating walls and roof elements, would have entailed the complete dismantling of the medieval roof.

- 7.2.9 The form of the trusses is similarly not well-suited to close dating, generally consisting of simple trussed rafters with collars and queen-posts. Their original form is also confused by the later insertion of timbers and the cutting-back of others, probably with the insertion of the attic floor. McNeil and Turner aptly describe the visual appearance of the roof structure as 'unfinished' (McNeil and Turner 1987, 58).
- 7.2.10 For three bays in the central area of the range, the timber framing is of a more ostentatious character with patterned truss collars and a grid of moulded purlins and rafters. This roof was evidently open from the first floor and was designed to be seen. McNeil and Turner interpret such an open space as a monastic refectory, but it seems more plausible to see it within a post-medieval context as a Great Chamber, or a suite of high-status accommodation within a lodging range.
- 7.2.11 **West Range:** the West Range is interpreted as a more substantial survival of a medieval building, a view which would be in keeping with the evidence of other sites. It has been noted that the west ranges of monastic sites are among the more common elements to be retained in use after the dissolution (Dickinson 1968). This may have been partly the result of the use of this area of a typical Cistercian house as accommodation for the lay-brothers and for cellarage; the buildings may have been already of a more 'domestic' and less religious character than the other main claustral ranges, and may have been adapted for secular occupation with the minimum of expense. It has also been suggested that west ranges were usually the last major buildings of a Cistercian claustral complex to be built, sometimes centuries after the construction of the other parts. As a result, they were often in better condition than the other buildings at the time of the Dissolution and were more appealing to the first secular owners of the sites (Professor James France *pers comm*). Moreover, the greater frequency of conversion of these parts is in keeping with Malcolm Airs' statement that many new owners were conscious of the sacrilege which would be incurred by the occupation of the church or other principal structures (Airs 1995, 27). There is also documentary evidence for some sites that the Augmentation Commissioners, anxious to pre-empt any resurgence of monasticism, ordered the demolition of buildings which would be essential for the communal life, such as the dormitory, church and chapter house (Dickinson 1968, 74). Because of its character, as discussed above, the West Range may have been exempt from these provisions.
- 7.2.12 Examination of the standing fabric at Vale Royal supports the view that the range contains at least the skeleton of a monastic building and this is most evident externally on the eastern face, which is built of finely-jointed sandstone ashlar. In the manner of coursing and, particularly, the appearance of the blocked putlog holes, there are visual similarities with the masonry of other Cistercian houses in the North-West, notably Furness Abbey in Cumbria (Jason Wood *pers comm*). The windows of the ground floor, facing eastwards into the area of the former cloister, similarly may be of medieval date. The arches of the windows are segmental in shape and would not be out of place in either a late medieval or a post-medieval context: their mouldings are extremely simple. It may be valid to suggest that they are spaced slightly wider apart than might be expected for the windows of a cloister walkway,

implying that the interpretation in which they were inserted after the Dissolution. However, wide windows of this kind make little sense in the context of the house layout, in which it is assumed that the ground floor was largely given over to service rooms with most of the important functions on the floor above. There is at present no evidence to provide dating of the insertion of these windows on either side of the Dissolution. However, the character of the masonry, both internally and externally, makes it likely that the east wall of the West Range is largely an upstanding wall of the abbey. The other walls of the building and the roof structure, however, are more easily understood as post-medieval developments, albeit possibly with re-used timbers and stones, including a carved panel with heraldic decoration.

- 7.2.13 The house at Vale Royal is a complex structure and the many alterations have removed substantial amounts of archaeological evidence for the relationship of its constituent elements. Much of the dating evidence, therefore, is based on stylistic parallels with other buildings.
- 7.2.14 It appears, however, that the houses created from the dissolved monasteries may be remarkably ill-suited to this type of architectural analysis. Studies of monastic sites have shown time and again that in the years immediately preceding their suppression, radical campaigns of redevelopment were carried out. On many sites, the new buildings of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries were constructed with innovations in domestic architecture clearly in mind, so that it is tempting to see them as a cross between ecclesiastical and secular buildings, and in several cases these are more heavily secular than monastic in character (Greene 1989, 145). It is also notable that such monasteries could call upon charity to build on an impressive scale during times of relative financial constraint (Greene 1989, 69), so that the fact that Vale Royal was poor during the late medieval period is not in itself an argument against a late-medieval rebuild. To examine the problem from a different angle, it is also the case that the houses created on monastic sites after the Dissolution were often archaic in style, with less symmetrical and ordered external designs than houses built from scratch (Howard 1987, 157). They therefore contained stylistic anachronisms suggestive of the medieval past.
- 7.2.15 This mixture of old and new in architecture is one of the most interesting features of houses such as Vale Royal. The sixteenth century is often portrayed as a time of radical intellectual and social change, in which the old medieval order was replaced by the very different values and styles of the Renaissance. Yet this view underplays an entirely different cultural dynamic, in which many fields of creative endeavour were affected by a desire to combine old and new elements. For example, it has been claimed that the appearance of a new set of ruins in the English landscape after the Dissolution provided a potent stimulus for a revival of interest in history (Aston 1973, 231). The visual arts in general show a gradual assimilation of Renaissance forms and motifs into the mainstream of late Gothic craftsmanship, with a particular persistence of designs incorporating medieval or quasi-medieval heraldic design (Thurley 1993, 98). The medieval past clearly exercised a strong appeal in the mid-sixteenth century.
- 7.2.16 In this context, the hybrid and archaic appearance of the converted monasteries may have been welcomed by their new owners, many of whom, like Thomas Holcroft, were 'new men' of relatively humble origins, whose promotion under Henry VIII owed nothing to an illustrious family history. There is a case to be made that the odd

buildings created by these individuals out of old and new elements gave the impression of antiquity and distinction; the retention of medieval elements may also have created an illusion of continuity, masking the radical (and to some, traumatic) break with the medieval past, which the Dissolution of the monasteries and the decline of the old nobility represented. The evidence from Vale Royal is equivocal, but archaeological investigations of other sites have shown clearly that the monastic layouts provided a clear basis for subsequent developments and that the secular owners of former monasteries, when presented with an opportunity to erase all traces of the medieval past, often chose not to do so. It is proposed, therefore, that the house built by Holcroft retained substantial fabric from the claustral ranges of the Cistercian abbey, perhaps for both pragmatic and symbolic purposes. As such, the post-Dissolution house was entirely in keeping with the spirit of the age.

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APPENDIX 1  
PROJECT BRIEF

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APPENDIX 2  
PROJECT DESIGN

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Lancaster  
University  
Archaeological  
Unit

January 1995

**THE GREAT HOUSE  
VALE ROYAL ABBEY, CHESHIRE**

**ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY AND RECORDING  
OF THE GREAT HOUSE**  
(revised edition)

***Proposals***

*The following project design is offered in response to a brief submitted by The University of Liverpool, dated 13 December 1994, for an historic building survey, in advance of and during building works and alterations to the Great House at Vale Royal Abbey, Cheshire.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This is a revised edition of the original project design brief submitted. This document contains additional information and changes to costings and the level of information previously supplied. The inclusions are generally as our letter ref. JW/RJH/VLRYLT0107/2 dated 12 January 1995 together with additional information requested in a letter from Dr Lewis (un-referenced) dated 13 January 1995.

The consultant archaeologist (Dr J. Lewis of The University of Liverpool) on behalf of the developer has requested an archaeological survey to record the fabric and structure of the Great House at Vale Royal Abbey, Cheshire. The survey is required to augment previous surveys and studies that have been undertaken to provide an interpretation of the phasing and development of the remaining portions of the former Cistercian Abbey on this site.

The main level of recording required is to provide additional information that can be recovered from the site in advance of and during the alteration and conversion works to the Great House at Vale Royal. So as to ensure that the new plan recording work is produced to a consistent standard we have opted to work in accordance with the second edition of the *Specification For The Recording Of Historic Buildings* as established by The Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME). This establishes a method of recording structures of historic interest in a standardised format so that the information is presented consistently. The extent of the survey and its presentation will be to Level 3 of the specification as a minimum standard and this we have used as a basis for our survey. Elevation and detail drawings will be to LUAU standard procedures. We have not allowed for bringing any of the existing drawings or recorded information up to this standard if they are otherwise deficient.

The archaeological watching brief and recording of details will be undertaken in line with the Code of Practice as issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and current good practice. Such additional recovered information would be integrated with the main survey as set out above.

Set out below are the details of how we will modify this specification to meet your particular needs for the recording of this project whilst working within your site development programme as closely as we are able. The exact working arrangements will need to be confirmed following detailed discussions with you, your clients and ourselves if we are to be awarded the contract for this project.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of varying sized projects during the past 15 years. LUAU has particular experience in the recording and analysis of standing ancient monuments and historic buildings. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the differing requirements of clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. LUAU has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The following programme has been designed, in accordance with the brief from the consultant archaeologist on behalf of the developer, DHC (Bradford) LTD, dated 13 December 1994. This is to provide an appropriate and interpretative archaeological survey of the great house at Vale Royal Abbey. The required stages to achieve this is are as follows and relate to their clauses in the project specification:

### 2.1 Preliminary preparation and liaison

To organise the appropriate resources with which to undertake the survey work and agree a suitable working programme with the clients' agents and others involved with the site re-development. This will also include a desk top assessment of the existing records to determine the level of previous research (5.4.1.1). Full liaison will be undertaken with the consultant architect and archaeologist to ensure the appropriate extent of the recording (5.4.1.2). In this latter case, due to the lack of details relating to then conversion of the building at the time of tendering, we have had to make assumptions as to the extent of the involvement required.

### 2.2 Survey and recording in advance of repair and conversion works

Execute photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building to produce plain and rectified monochrome prints to a suitable scale. These will form a general record (5.4.2.1) of the building and specific details (5.4.2.2). Selective photographs will be shot of features that will be obscured or removed as part of the works (5.4.2.3), structural detailing decoration, etc. (5.4.2.7). Suitable scale drawings are to be produced from



the photographic survey (5.4.2.4), together with annotations, additions and corrections to these drawing as necessary (5.4.2.5). Measured drawings will be made of details and features that are inaccessible to photographic recording (5.4.2.6). Timbers for dendrochronological sampling will also be marked in liaison with the required consultation (5.4.2.8).

To meet your rectified photographic requirement we would record the exterior at a minimum scale of 1 : 20, but the plate size will be in the region of 16" x 20" and not the 10" x 8" as specified in the project brief. One set of rectified prints will be released to the architect within 4 weeks of the commencement of the site photographic survey (weather conditions permitting). So as to keep costs of the rectified photographic work within commercial considerations the coverage would be of the principle elevations and important faces and returns. Any specific additional work determined whilst on site could be accommodated on an individual day rate basis of £1100.00 (including all materials, costs, an extra set of prints for the architect and VAT) although properly quoted work would be considerably less expensive. If any extra work is undertaken outside of our period of site working there may an additional cost for LUAU staff attendance.

From the rectified photographs we will produce a general set of archaeological elevation drawings sufficient to show architectural and style changes, but not to a stone by stone detail. These drawings will normally be produced off site with amendments being added as and when additional small and corrective detail is obtained from the further site investigations. This work will generally be annotative and additional during this part of the survey and will continue as corrective and additional during the period of the watching brief.

### **2.3 Survey and recording during the conversion and repair works**

A monochrome photographic record, at a suitable scale, will be made of the repair work to the great house (5.4.3.1). Drawings, at a suitable scale, will be made of features exposed during repair work (5.4.3.2).

### **2.4 Analysis and interpretation of results of survey and recording**

Collate available historical data, including that from the previous investigations to form an analysis and interpretation of the structure of the building (5.4.4).

### **2.5 Reports**

Written interim reports of the progress of the works will be submitted to the consultant archaeologist within two weeks of completion of each phase of the project (14.1- 3). A final report will be prepared in line with the recommendations of MAP2 after completion of the contract (14.4). This will set out a full and argued interpretation of the standing structure. A summary of the results will be prepared for publication in a suitable journal or other approved outlet (14.5).

## **3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The site survey will be undertaken primarily by means of photographic techniques. This is to ensure that the recording of the surviving structure is undertaken at an economical level whilst ensuring quality of delivery and the capture of the highest level of information to meet the project brief. This will be reinforced with hand measured survey techniques to obtain the additional information that may be required for specific or selected areas and items

### **3.1 Survey Control**

LUAU proposes to conduct the survey control of the standing structure by means of a closed traverse, using a total station linked to a portable data logger with full micro-computer data transfer capability. This work will be undertaken by our experienced staff in conjunction with the computer software used by LUAU. The use of a total station instrumentation allows a very accurate survey to be carried out and, if necessary, printed out on-site.

The aim of the survey is to provide accurate, three-dimensional co-ordinates, with respect to altitude datum to locate the surrounds of the site and other visible features. The survey control will be tied into the grid by means of the nearest OS bench mark.

### **3.2 Survey Detail**

The captured information of data at the instrument survey stage will facilitate the manipulation of the data set, for analytical purposes such as the plotting of the rectified photographs. The survey data will be transferred to a CAD (Computer Aided Draughting) system for the generation of the final drawings. This offers us the flexibility

to enhance, manipulate, and model the graphical data output. Where we will be adding detail or annotating drawings supplied by others this will be undertaken by manual drafting techniques. The accuracy in respect of this latter aspect will only be as good as the original survey and we have not allowed for any re-drawing of the originals.

### **3.3 Photographic Survey**

This will be undertaken by a mixture of rectified and traditional monochrome photography, all fully recorded and related to a location log indicating direction and aspect. The use of rectified photography will allow the elevation details to be recorded without the high cost of a manually measured survey. The detail shown on the rectified photography may also assist the interpretation of the development of the masonry structures.

The photographic record will show:

- i) general external and internal coverage of the standing structure.
- ii) selective views of architectural details (including structural elements)
- iii) additional photography to support the interpretation of the development, phasing and management of the building.

### **3.4 Drawn Information**

Drawings that are produced within a CAD environment will be produced using an industry standard system. Copies of the drawings as CAD data can be made available to the consultant architect at a nominal cost as shown with the section 10.0 of this document, but would be subject to revision if a different standard or format is required. If we were to be awarded this contract we would be able to clarify these costs at an early stage as part of the liaison process.

All locations for both photographic and measured survey work would be fully integrated into the consultant architects' data, i.e. room, window, feature numbers. The exact method would be discussed with those involved in advance of commencement of the work if we were to be awarded this contract. This would enable the most efficient means of working to be achieved from the outset.

### **3.5 Development Analysis**

The visual inspection of the structure of the great house will be undertaken by a suitably experienced person to derive an interpretation of its development and the phasing. This will entail a thorough inspection of the fabric where this is exposed and safe access can be gained.

The recording of the phases and development of the building determined from this visual inspection, will be marked onto available drawings or those produced during this survey. This will show those phases and will delineate each major development in the construction of the great house as can be determined from this inspection. Photographic records and a pro-forma recording system will be related to this part of the site inspection.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

Whilst the demolition, reconstruction and consolidation works relating to the building are underway there is a requirement to provide a watching brief over the site to record archaeological and historical features that may be exposed. The method of undertaking this is very similar to that already described for the main survey work.

### **4.1 Survey Control**

The material recorded during the watching brief will be recorded photographically and on the drawings as appropriate. This will ensure that it is possible to understand the development of the site in relation to the existing layout. The capture of the revealed information will be in much the same manner as that described for the main survey.

### **4.2 Survey Detail**

Where material is recorded during the watching brief, this will be in the form of drawn or photographed information. If artefacts or other significant objects are recovered from the site of the works and subsequently require conservation or other processing that will involve the client in a cost, then we will notify their agents as soon as possible. All recording of finds, their handling and conservation will be undertaken using best current practice to ensure the appropriate level of preservation.

## **5. ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND REPORT**

It should be recognised that the choice of survey methodology forms the basis of the recording scheme, and determines the best potential for deriving an analysis and interpretation of the surviving historic fabric.

### **5.1 Drawing Analysis**

Developmental analytical considerations will be added to the derived drawings, which will be at a scale appropriate to show the relevant detail. The conventions used for the development of the drawings will be those employed within the RCHME specification and supplemented where necessary to clearly define the information.

### **5.2 Interpretation**

An interpretation of the fabric's history will be offered in the light of the evidence generated during the field survey both prior to and during the opening up of the site coupled with the documentary analysis. No other intrusive survey work apart from the watching brief has been allowed for within our costings.

The interpretation will be undertaken by the surveyor employed on the site together with other specialist LUAU staff. This will involve an integration of the information obtained from this survey together with the benefit of considerations of the development of the building in previous studies. As with all studies of this nature, it will be subjective during the early part of the survey and will be refined as the job proceeds and more of the ancient structure is exposed by the works.

### **5.3 Report**

The final report for the project will be produced within eight months of the completion of the contract and all subsequent additional research or conservation work. Four hard copies of the completed document will be forwarded to the client's agent for distribution by them. The contents will be generally in line with that set out in the project brief and as we have attempted to clarify above. The document will be in the same basic format as this project design. A copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" IBM compatible disk in either ASCII or Word for Windows form if required, for a small additional charge.

### **5.4 Publication**

In addition to the main report as set out above, a summary of the results in a format suitable for publication in a journal or other suitable approved outlet will be produced.

## **6. ARCHIVE**

The final archive (the resultant information from the survey) is an important source of future historical research. As set out in the brief, a copy of the full archive will be deposited in a suitable registered museum together with a copy of the full report of the survey.

### **6.1 Archive**

The results of Stages 1-5 will form the basis of the report that will be prepared and presented as set out in the brief. Included within the final document will be a catalogue of the documentary information used and that can be considered as a reference source for the this project. This will be in the form of cross references included within the final report and may act as the basis of future study.

New drawings will be produced on dimensionally stable drafting film on standard 'A' size sheets and in metric format and each sheet and will be fully titled. Line thicknesses will be chosen to allow for ease of duplication and/or reduction. Particular attention will be paid to achieving drawings of the highest quality and accuracy. We would expect drawings by others to be delivered in a similar format

The textual report will be provided as a printed document and similarly hard copy drawings only will be supplied at completion of the work. However LUAU has the capability of delivering the drawings in digital form, formatted and layered for use in an industry standard CAD format if required. We would be pleased to discuss this matter more fully with you and give an indication of costs.

### **6.2 Archive Deposit**

Upon completion of the project and following delivery of the report and other documents to the client's agents we would normally deposit a full copy of the archive in an independent safe storage place. As there is no specific

archive specified in the brief we would normally deposit the material with the Sites and Monuments Record for the locality in which the site is. For the purposes of this costing exercise we have assumed that this will be the situation in this case.

### **6.3 Artefact Deposition**

Following completion of the archaeological programme all artefacts recovered from the site should be stored in a safe and secure place where they can be maintained properly and also be available for future research purposes. In this context the specification requires the deposition of the of finds and similar material with a Registered Museum which will be advised by the curator. Costs have been allowed for the storage of this material up to the time of delivery to the selected museum, but not for preparing finds for display, etc.

## **7. WORK TIMETABLE**

If we were to be awarded the contract for this work we would wish to have early discussions with the client's agents and any contractors involved to determine the best working pattern on site and to fit in with any other works that may be happening. This would enable us to achieve the optimum working pattern to avoid delays from the outset and then attempt to maintain this through the work period. By regularly reviewing the working plan with the main contractor for the conversion and restoration works, during the watching brief, it should be possible to adjust our surveying to suit the contract and achieve the best delivery of results.

### **7.1 Phasing**

It is envisaged that the various stages of the project outlined above will fall into seven distinct phases, which would run in a suitable order.

The phases of work would comprise:

- i) Project preparation
- ii) Liaison with consultants
- iii) Documentary research
- iv) Initial interpretative survey
- v) Survey draughting
- vi) Watching brief
- vii) Report including analysis and interpretation

### **7.2 Outline Programme**

We confirm that LUAU would be able to make staff available to commence within 2 - 3 weeks following receipt of an acceptance of our tender. This would then continue until completion of the relevant phase of the works, but would be subject to public and LUAU staff holidays.

Survey and associated recording on site would involve approximately 3 - 4 weeks work and then be completed and enhanced in an office environment. Rectified and standard photography would be undertaken whilst our surveyor was on site so as to ensure complete integration of results. Concurrently with the site survey we would do the documentary research.

As there is no specified programme for the watching brief we have allowed a total of ten day's fieldwork within our costings. Support time is allowed for the amendment of the survey drawings and the production of further drawn material as is required. This element of the costing will need to be adjusted on a pro-rata basis to suit the actual time involved.

### **7.3 Monitoring**

Prior to our commencement on site we would provide the consultant archaeologist with a detailed timetable for our working on site. This would be derived from discussions with the consultant architect and any other contractor working on site as previously mentioned. The timetable would include for our proper working for the completion of the job in the most efficient manner.

During the period of the contract we would liaise closely with the consultant architect and archaeologist and other contractors to ensure compliance with our timetable. If, due to circumstances beyond of our control, there are changes to working arrangement we would seek approval from the consultants set out in the brief (11.4) to alter and adapt this programme to achieve the best completion route.

During the working of the contract a representative of LUAU's staff will attend regular contract progress meetings as appropriate. Reports will be submitted at these meetings to show our progress together with any other relevant matters. Access will be allowed to all authorised persons (11.7) to areas of the site under our sole control whilst we are working there.

## **8. ACCESS and ATTENDANCES**

We understand that at the start of the archaeological contract there may not be any other contractor on site, but that site facilities may be made available. Therefore we have only included for the items of cost we would require on this site as set out below.

### **8.1 Site Accommodation**

We have assumed that this will be supplied to us as assistance in kind from the developer at no cost to this contract. This should include site accommodation, toilets, power, safety measures and other arrangements to enable us to undertake the work properly.

### **8.2 Site Protection**

At the time of visiting the site to ascertain it's extent and condition, it was found to be generally open and lightly secured. There were only partial safety barriers or fences around open or collapsed parts of the house and so we have not included for any additional security measures. We would require the provision of safe working access (floors and overhead protection as required) to all parts of the building where we will be working.

### **8.3 Access**

We have assumed that we will be able to use scaffolding, platforms and similar supplied by the main contractor as part of their working arrangements in agreement with the developer as assistance in kind. Therefore we have not allowed for the costs of such plant in our costings. Specialist towers and access equipment required by the photographers as part of their working has been included within our costs.

### **8.4 Safe Working**

The interior of the house is large and rambling without any form of lighting apart from windows. So as to ensure our best working conditions we would require full artificial lighting throughout the interior of the great house during the time we are on site.

Because of the size and extent of the house we would recommend that a fire alarm system is installed throughout the building at the commencement of the works. This could also be used as an intruder alarm by all employees to reduce the risk of assault by unauthorised people on site.

### **8.4 Health and Safety**

LUAU maintains a Health and Safety at Work policy that actively promotes safe working. A copy of the policy can be provided if we were to be awarded the contract for this project.

Whilst working on site we would follow the directions of the site safety officer appointed by the main contractor or developer.

## **9. STAFFING AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **9.1 Staffing**

All aspects of staff and sub-contract staffing have been included within this submission. Those employed as part of the overall project would be suitably qualified and experienced for the role in which they would be used. It is anticipated that we would only sub-contract the specialised photographic (rectified) work, but this would be done under LUAU supervision. These include:

**Jason Wood BA MIFA**, LUAU Assistant Director

**Robert Hill ARICS**, LUAU Project Manager (to whom all correspondence should be addressed)

**Jeremy Ashby**, Project Officer  
**Rebecca Smith**, Project Supervisor  
**Dennis Thompson**, Specialised photography

**9.2 Confidentiality**

This tender submission is for the use of DHC (Bradford) Limited in connection with this project only and we request that it be treated as a confidential document and not be disclosed to others without our prior agreement.

## APPENDIX 3 BUILDING CONTEXTS

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### GROUND FLOOR

#### *Room G1*

1000-1002 These walls are contemporary. They have a sandstone external skin and brick internal skin. They originally had timber batons for attachment of panelling that have now been removed and replaced by modern bricks and cement.

All windows are contemporary with build of walls.

In the north-west corner of the room is an area of angled and projecting brickwork. It consists of five courses of bricks which project by 0.06m. It appears to cut through wall 1002, which has been photographed but not given a context number. The junction is as yet unclear.

1010 This window is a four light casement - four panes to each light, the same as 1011. Window 1010 has been built up to sill height with brickwork (internally). These windows have re-used lintels (1052) that appear to be re-used bridging joists, similar lintels also occur for windows 1017 and 1018 on the south facing wall.

1017 This window is a six light sash; its shutters and neo-classical surround survive.

1018 Window 1018 is also a six light sash.

1014 The west bay window 1014 also appears to be contemporary with wall 1001. It has stone lintels ie no internal timber lintel.

1014, 1016 and 1017 have four lights.

1016 On stone surround of window 1016 is inscribed **IB 1798** - which probably indicates the date of construction of this north-west wing.

1003 The west facing wall 1003 is keyed into wall 1000 and is therefore probably contemporary. It appears to be contemporary with wall 1002 to the north as well. The wood is still *in situ* for panelling.

1063 Fireplace 1063 is located in the centre of this wall. It has a fire surround of white marble with a cast iron internal surround; the actual grate has been removed. To the south is a more modern brick pillar, probably inserted to support the floor, that butts wall 1003.

The ceiling is of one phase with no evidence of re-used timbers. Common joists are pegged into the spine beams from the underside of the spine beam. The floor is carried on wooden sleepers and there is possible evidence of a clay floor in the north-west corner and a brick floor towards the centre of room.

It is possible that the stone external skin of the walls 1000 - 1002 is a later addition? - the only evidence is that the keying-in stones which run through the total thickness of the wall look cut into the brick walls ie surrounded by lots of mortar - also the bricks on the east reveal of window 1018 look cut back for the insertion of the external sandstone reveal. Admittedly this evidence is scanty and it remains a possibility that the stone and brick are all part of the same build.

#### *Room G2/G3*

1009 This window is the same as 1010 and 1011, ie a four light sash. It has a brick sill and butts wall 1000, with which it is contemporary.

1004 This wall is the same as wall 1000 and is contemporary with wall 1030. To the west of 1030 is an additional skin added on the south side to form the doorway into the small cupboard. This brickwork is modern and probably the same as partition walls 1029 and 1028.

- 1024 Doorway 1024 represents the narrowing of an earlier aperture, the whole of the area up to ceiling height is rebuilt with modern bricks and cement (cf partitions 1029 and 1028) given context number 1054.
- 1053 On the west facing wall of G3 (ie wall 1004) is a blocked aperture 1053, with two courses of soldiers which form a low arch - possibly a blocked fireplace?
- 1023 Doorway 1023 into G1 is modern, but the aperture is contemporary with wall 1003.
- 1019 This window is contemporary with wall 1002 - it is a six light sash and a sill is formed by the brickwork which butts the wall.  
The floor is concrete.
- 1059 The west aperture of this doorway is formed by a projection from wall 1003 which appears contemporary with this wall. But the east edge of the aperture is partially rebuilt with modern brickwork - cf 1054.

#### **Room G4**

- 1025 This doorway has an internal modern repair on either side of the reveals of this door which may indicate a narrowing of an earlier doorway. Externally there is no evidence of the stonework being cut through - it lines up with the present stone reveals, therefore the original doorway must have been narrower externally than internally.
- 1005 On the west facing wall 1005 is a blocked doorway 1056 with a re-used timber lintel and a relieving arch above.  
On the north facing wall the stone quoins of wall 1000 are visible, but as yet it is not clear if this wall butts wall 1056 or vice versa.  
Stone flag floor.
- 1058 This doorway leads from G4 - G7. It comprises a smaller arch with a re-used timber inserted below it. This is probably later in order to support the arch. The north reveal is of chamfered bricks.
- 1005 Wall 1005 butts wall 1006 which is chopped off in the north-west corner of G6.
- 1059 The staircase appears to be contemporary with wall 1005. Part of wall 1005 is narrower at the south end. It has wooden treads and risers. It was turned wood balustrades and newels. The whole feature is panelled in.  
Ceiling - It has spine beams running east/west and modern common joists. The spine beams look re-used. The second from the north has three empty halving joints on its underside, the third one has three unused peg holes with pegs *in situ*, as do fourth and fifth ones.

#### **Room G6**

- 1005 There is a blocked doorway in wall 1005 which is 1056 and is contemporary with this wall (described in room G4).
- 1006 The north facing wall 1006 is brick and mortar. This wall is cut back by the insertion of wall 1005. Blocked doorway 1077 is contemporary with this wall and is blocked with purple coloured bricks. To the east of this blocked doorway is doorway 1451. This doorway is cut through wall 1006 and is probably twentieth century. It has a plain surround and six panelled door. The east end of the wall is obscured by plaster and the remains of a cornice.
- 1008 The west facing wall of G6 consists of bricks. In the centre of this wall is fireplace 1078. It probably uses same flue as blocked fireplace 1072 upstairs.
- 1007 This wall contains window 1021 - there are definite straight joints either side of the bay which represent start and finish of wall 1007 - it butts wall 1002 to the west and wall 1008 to the east. As with upstairs in FF3, this brickwork would seem to imply that window 1021 is an insertion, but externally there is no evidence of a break in the stonework, therefore it may be that the reveals of the window and the sill have been rebuilt? The window frame itself is modern.  
The ceiling up the point of the bay window has straw and mortar below the floorboards and rests on a herringbone timber framework which rests on the spine beams and floor joists. The fact that this rush



and mortar floor does not continue into the bay could possibly indicate the window's later date. The spine beams run north/south and have chamfered edges and also end at the point where the bay window starts.

The floor is constructed of floorboards and does not have a break where the bay window begins.

### **Room G8**

1085 East facing wall - described in G9.

It contains fireplace 1102 which has a marble surround with keystone and a cast iron internal surround - the fireplace grate has been removed.

There is a step down in the floor level at the point where the Gothic vaulted ceiling begins and where wall 1103 butts wall 1085.

1135 This is a modern breeze block wall. Doorway 1136 is knocked through it.

1128 West facing wall constructed of sandstone, in the same style as wall 1099 which forms the east facing wall of rooms G9 - G19. It again has stone corbels which the floor rests on. These run right across the wall and may continue into G15 but are obscured by the ceiling. There are numerous masons marks, a sample of which have been drawn.

1129 North window - it has a four centred stone arch. The reveals on both the north and south sides appear to cut through wall 1128, therefore it may be a later insertion. Externally there is no evidence of this but it seems that when the library oriel and porch were rebuilt in 1877 an area to the south was rebuilt which may include this window.

The actual window has stained glass. The stone window frame is much darker in colour than the reveals and it is the same as the internal stone sill. It is probable that the actual window is later than the aperture.

1132 There is no evidence to suggest that this window is an insertion - ie it is contemporary with wall 1128. Its sill is made of two courses of wall 1128 and it has a double pointed arch which is more pointed than for window 1129. The actual window is a replacement and has leaded lights, therefore it is possible that if wall 1128 is part of the monastic fabric then this window aperture could also be monastic.

The floor is flagged with York stone.

The ceiling - floor joists run east/west. The joists rest on a horizontal timber which sits on the stone corbels and to the west they are cogged into a horizontal timber which rests on wall 1185.

The Gothic 1811 arched ceiling is made up of laths and plaster and rests on small corbels. The wall is rebuilt, ie wall 1103 butts wall 1085 at the point where there is a step down - half way along G8.

### **Room G9**

1089 This wall is aligned north/south and positioned to the north end of G9. It is probably contemporary with wall 1056. It is contemporary with window 1097. This window has been blocked with breeze blocks, cf wall 1090.

Wall 1089 originally continued for an unknown length in an east/west direction. It is cut back by the insertion of wall 1090 which is built of modern brick and breeze block and butts wall 1067 to the west.

1067 East facing wall in G9. It is butted by rebuild 1086. It supports stone corbels 1099 which support the floor joists.

This wall represents the rebuild of a sandstone wall 1099; it butts the remains of the sandstone wall in the south-west corner of the room and the stone corbels are contemporary with wall 1099.

1084 By window 1084 the stone corbels are partially cut off in order to insert a brick arch of window 1084. This arch is contemporary with wall 1067 and is a segmental arch. The original window, contemporary with wall 1067, has been subsequently widened as the reveals of the present window are composed of cut bricks.

The present window 1084 is a four light window with four panes to each of the lower lights and two to the upper lights. There is a timber lintel below the brick arch. There is no evidence of re-use.

The phasing is:

- 1) stone wall 1099;
- 2) partial rebuild of wall 1067 and brick arch and narrower window than present one;
- 3) present window 1084.

1086 This wall butts 1067, 1088, 1085. It is brick built and is indistinguishable in style from 1067 and 1088, but it butts these walls in order to block in the corners of the room.

1088 This wall runs east/west and forms the partition between rooms G9 and G10. It butts the sandstone wall 1099 to the west. It is contemporary with wall 1069 upstairs.

Doorway 1087 is cut through this wall on the east edge. The west edge is contemporary with the wall but has been partially rebuilt to create a narrower doorway, therefore of the original doorway the west edge survives and the east edge has been cut back in order to create a doorway further towards the east. The present door frame is twentieth century and there is no door.

The relationship to wall 1085 is obscured.

1085 West facing wall. The mortar is very fine on the east facing side (facing into the passage) and much rougher on room G9 side.

The wall is butted by wall 1086, and contains fireplace 1100 which has a brick segmental arch and has been blocked by twentieth century bricks. It backs onto fireplace 1102 in the passage G8. To the south of 1100, on the curve of the wall, is a further small fireplace with a segmental brick arch blocked by bricks.

To the north of fireplace 1100 is the springing of a relieving arch which has been cut through and then subsequently blocked. This may have been doorway 1101 that was then blocked. On the passage side of the wall the blocking is narrower and the relieving arch has been reinstated. Therefore was it a doorway or may it be related to the insertion of the cellar?

The floor is carried on the brick vaults of the cellar. The floorboards run north/south.

The ceiling joists run east/west and are supported on a timber which rests on the stone corbels 1099 to the west. The joists lap onto this timber. The east joists are cogged into a large beam which rests on the wall.

### **Room G10/G11**

1067 East facing wall consisting of ashlar sandstone blocks. It has the same phasing as for G9, ie there are substantial remains of a sandstone wall 1099. The remains of stone corbels exist at ceiling height and support the floor.

This wall has been rebuilt with brick wall 1067 and a segmental arch built over the window. This original window has been widened, indicated by the cut bricks on the reveals, in order to insert window 1091 which is of the same style as window 1084 in G9. The only difference is that the lintel is shaped into an arch and sits squarely under the brick arch.

The south facing wall is described in G9.

1092 North facing wall which divides room G10 from G11 is modern twentieth century plasterboard and timber frame.

The north-east corner of the west facing wall is rebuilt with modern brick (1104) and butts walls 1085 and 1103. Wall 1103 appears to butt wall 1085. This joint between walls 1103 and 1085 corresponds with the start of the plaster 'vaulted' ceiling in G8 passage. The wall was probably rebuilt in order to provide arches for the support of this ceiling.

1093 This doorway on the north reveal appears to cut through wall 1103, but the south reveal is obscured by the frame which is simply moulded and contains a six panelled door.

The floor is supported on the cellar vaults. Floorboards run north/south. What is visible of the ceiling is the same as for G9.

**Room G12**

This is an added on bay which acts as a buttress to support the east and west walls of the west range that are being pushed apart by the weight of the roof. The sandstone wall 1131 of this bay butts the sandstone wall 1128.

- 1145 This window is round headed with three lights and three lights above in the arch. The central bottom light is a casement. The lights are leaded and have metal bars in front. The window is contemporary with wall 1131. The wall below the window is constructed of brick with a large sandstone block at the west end.

It is possible that the sandstone arch, which leads into this bay, is earlier than the bay, but as it is totally obscured by plaster this is impossible to say. The front part of the arch leading into the bay was originally a recess. The sandstone blocks at the rear of the recess have been roughly cut back when the bay was added.

**Room G13**

- 1105 This is a north facing wall which butts stone wall 1099 to the east. A brick wall butts the west wall of G15.

- 1096 This south facing wall also butts the stone wall 1099 to the east.

- 1137 This is a very large, heavy 'medieval' door with iron bolts and a central 'peep' door (photographed). It was possibly re-used from an original door that lead into the first floor hall. The doorway has a pointed stone arch and the reveals appear to butt wall 1099; thus the porch and door reveals were probably rebuilt as one phase, as opposed to using an existing doorway and simply building on a porch.

- 1138 This is a modern external door.

The floor is York stone flags, continuous with the floor in G15 and G8.

The ceiling is Gothic vaulting with two of the central bosses still *in situ*, painted red with gold decoration.

**Room G11**

- 1092 South facing wall, comprising modern plasterboard around a timber frame.

- 1067 As in rooms G10 and G9, this wall has the same sequence of builds. It is more difficult to see because the top half of the wall is still plastered.

- 1095 To the south of window 1095 are the remains of stone wall 1099; this stonework continues under the sill of the window. The window is of the same style as 1091 and 1084. It probably has a brick arch and timber lintel.

- 1099 This wall is butted by 1096

- 1096 North facing wall of G11, butts wall 1099 to the west and to the east it is keyed in to wall 1103, and is therefore probably contemporary with it.

To the east is an aperture (1118) which may have been a window, but is now blocked by modern bricks.

- 1103 The upper courses are obscured by plaster but it is probable that there is a large brick arch, the south end of which is partially visible on the passage side of this wall. This arch would be for the support of the 'vaulted' ceiling in the passage.

The north edge of doorway 1094 appears to cut through this wall, but the south edge is not cut through the wall. The door has been removed, but the style of the step and the architraves suggest that this door may be contemporary with door 1093 which leads into G10.

The floorboards run north/south and are supported on the brick arches of the cellar, the same floor as in G10. The floor above is supported on stone corbels, cf G10 and G9.

**Room G14**

The porch to the front consists of hall 1139 which is sandstone and butts wall 1099, ie it butts the face of the building.

The north and south walls of this porch have archways which externally are blocked with sandstone and are probably contemporary with wall 1139. Internally they are blocked with brick. It is probable that these archways were never doorways, but alcoves which have then been subsequently blocked with brick 1144.

### **Room G15 - Passageway (South of) West range**

1106 East facing wall described for rooms G16 - G19. It has a continuous rail at top with scarf joints numbered with simple marks: III south of entrance, VI east end.

At the north end of G19 there is evidence of a partition across the passage to north of stairs and on wall opposite. It appears to be quite modern.

1128 West facing wall, constructed of well coursed sandstone ashlar blocks with one mason's mark on a stone just before the stairs. This wall has stone corbels to support the floor above (cf G8). To the south of the room, in the area by the stairs, the corbels have been chopped back at the point where the brick arch of east/west aligned wall 1109 intervenes.

1109 This wall forms a brick arch over G15. It butts wall 1128 to the west and is contemporary with wall 1106 to the east.

1133 Window 1133 is positioned to the north in wall 1128. It has a four centred stone arch and eight lights of leaded glass. It is the same style as window 1132 further to the north in G8. It appears to be contemporary with wall 1128, both internally and externally.

1146 This is a blocked window aperture to the south of window 1133. It has the same four centred arch and overall dimensions and again it appears to be contemporary with wall 1128. It is blocked with brickwork, and was probably blocked when the chintz rooms were built. The blocking is butted by staircase 1147.

1147 A stone staircase to the south of G15. It leads up to FF7 and has 19 stone steps. It has turned wood balusters, wooden hand rail and a flat-topped newel. The nose of the stone stairs have ogival moulding. The first flight leads up to a quarter landing and then there are four more stairs.

The staircase butts wall 1128 and blocking of window 1146.

The sides of the staircase are sandstone and a stone arch supports the upper steps. This stone arch butts the brick arch which is probably a continuation of wall 1140.

The ceiling is of Gothic vaulting up to c 1m from brick arch 1109, ie before the staircase. Plastered from then on.

The floor is of York stone slabs.

### **Room G16/G17**

1105 South facing wall, constructed of brick. This wall butts wall 1099 to the west and wall 1106 to the east.

1106 West facing wall constructed of brick. Within this wall is a brick arch (cf G19) which appears to be contemporary with the wall. This arch is for the support of the ceiling in the passageway and carries on into G17.

At the south end of the wall is a doorway (1119) which is contemporary with the wall. It is blocked with breeze blocks - probably prior to the insertion of the modern breeze block wall 1107.

1107 Modern breeze block wall which butts wall 1106 to the east and is the same as wall 1108. Built in order to create a toilet.

1114 This doorway from G16 - G17 is modern twentieth century.

1110 East facing wall. Consists of stone work 1099. It has been cut back in order to accommodate the modern brick reveals 1120 (modern bricks) of window 1111. The stonework runs under the window, with modern bricks on top to form the window sill.

1120,1111

1067 As with windows 1095, 1091, 1084 this window has a brick segmental arch above which is probably contemporary with wall 1067. In this case, rather than using the 1067 brickwork, the whole area below the arch and the reveals has been rebuilt with 1120 modern brick.

The window is of the same style as the others on this west frontage. The arch is now supported by an RSJ.

1099 1120 butts 1067 (arch) and 1099 and 1067 arch cuts through stone corbels of wall 1099.

The floor is concrete.

Ceiling joists are same as in room G11 - no evidence of re-use. 3rd joist from north has inscribed D.

### **Room G18**

1108 A breeze block wall that butts 1099 to the west and blocked doorway 1121 to the east.

1106 West facing wall, contains three blocked doorways: 1121 to the west, 1122 in the centre and 1123 to the south.

1121 This doorway has a soldier course at lintel level and is actually part of the blocking. The aperture on the north side appears to cut through wall 1106.

1122 This doorway is blocked by modern glazed bricks and breeze blocks. This blocking encroaches upon the blocking of doorway 1121 to the north and upon a small area of wall 1106 to the south. It is impossible to ascertain the relationship of this doorway to wall 1106.

1123 The north edge of this doorway appears to be contemporary with wall 1106 as does the south edge. It is blocked by bricks. Wall 1109 has chamfered bricks at its east end, indicating that doorway 1123 is also contemporary with this wall.

Possible sequence: 1) door 1123 contemporary with wall 1106; 2) door 1121 knocked through 1106 and then blocked; 3) possible insertion of doorway 1122 and then blocked.

1109 North facing wall. Brick.

Doorway 1115 is cut through the west end of this wall. It has a twentieth century door surround and inserted RSJ. The door is missing.

1124 At the east end of 1109 is a blocked aperture which has a large sandstone lintel. There is hairy plaster on the reveals and it is blocked by irregular brickwork. It was possibly a blocked oven at the rear of fireplace 1127. It could possibly be contemporary with wall 1109.

1125 A fireplace, blocked with one skin of modern bricks. It was originally arched but the arch has been removed. It was originally back-to-back with fireplace 1126 in G19.

1112 Window in the east facing wall, style same as 1111, 1095, 1091, 1084. The only difference is that the shutters of this window remain. Again there is a brick arch which cuts through the stone corbels of wall 1099.

The window frame itself is set back from the reveals, a clear indication that this window is a narrower window than the original one which was contemporary with the aperture.

The north edge of the aperture is rebuilt in a mixture of brick and stone which butts up to the coursed wall 1099. The south edge is different, it comprises stone which is the same as the external rebuild and which are cut back to make a chamfer. These stones appear contemporary with the brickwork to the south, ie these stones are part of wall 1067.

There are three phases:

1) Wall 1099

2) cut to insert brick arch and some re-use of stone to make the window reveals

3) present narrower window inserted.

NB: stones of 1099 carry on under the window and continue into room G19.

The floor is concrete and the ceiling are cf G16 - G18.

### **Room G19**

- 1109 South facing wall. It appears to be contemporary with west facing wall 1106. This wall contains two blocked fireplaces. The west one (1126) has a round headed arch of rubbed bricks. 1127, the fireplace to the east, also has a rubbed brick round headed arch, although the blocking is different from that of 1126.
- 1106 West facing wall. It contains a central doorway (1141) blocked with brick. The doorway is contained within an earlier blocked arch the full width of the wall, which also shows in the passage to the north.
- 1117 North facing wall. The junction with wall 1106 is not visible but the bricks and mortar are essentially the same. To the east of doorway 1143 the upper part of the wall is ashlar sandstone (associated with cellar door) which continues to the east side of door. The base is brick, with brick arch of cellar entrance visible above.
- 1116 This is not cut through wall 1117. It is simply an aperture, there is no door frame.
- 1143 This doorway, which leads into a small cupboard, cuts through wall 1117. The reveals are rebuilt on both sides with modern glazed bricks. The door frame is very badly decayed. It contained a six panelled door. The upper area of the door is obscured by plaster but it is probable that only the reveals of this door were rebuilt.

What is interesting is that sandstone wall 1099 is visible on the east facing wall in the cupboard. It projects beyond the general line of this wall, therefore there has always been an outstep in the stonework at this point.

- 1142 At the back of the cupboard is doorway 1142, which is blocked with modern glazed bricks.
- 1140 This wall is the same as wall 1106.
- 1113 This window is in the east facing wall. The north reveal is formed by a brick rebuild which butts the stone wall 1099. The south reveal is formed from the same brickwork as the north, but this rebuild butts another area of rebuild which butts sandstone wall 1099. Two courses of sandstone wall continue under the window and the sill has been built up with bricks - the same as the rebuild of the reveals.

Again there is a segmental brick arch which appears contemporary with the second area of rebuild on the south reveal and is probably contemporary with wall 1067 which is evident further north in rooms G18 and G16.

The lintel is formed of a re-used timber shaped into an arch. It has large rectangular mortices on its underside, five in total.

The window is the same style as for other windows further north. Again there is evidence of two phases of window: 1) cut back stone wall 1099, build brick arch and reveals; 2) remove north reveal and rebuild - add to south reveal and build up sill and insert lintel and window itself.

To the north of the window are the remains of a corbel table at the wallhead, which has been cut back for the insertion of a timber row.

Floor is concrete, and again floor joists run east/west and rest on the remains of stone corbels; however, the difference from other floors is the central spine beam which rests on wall 1109 to the north and 1117 to the south. There is no evidence of re-used timbers for the common joists; they are modern. The west facing side of the spine beam has large empty mortices with two peg holes running up from the underside. It looks like a re-used spine beam with joists taken out of these mortices, and modern ones coggled into either new sockets, or re-use part of empty mortice. These joists are nailed from the underside.

### **Room G20 - 'Servants' Hall'**

- 1357 South facing wall. It has a brick inner face, with a sandstone ashlar external face. This wall butts chimney stack 1134 and is contemporary with wall 1356.
- 1358 Wall 1357 contains window 1358, which has a four centred arch constructed of brick internally and stone externally. It has eight lights with four panes to each light.

It is a nineteenth century window mimicking the style of windows 1132 and 1133 in the west range. It is buckling under structural stress.

- 1356 West facing wall and is the same as wall 1357. It contains two brick alcoves with segmental arches just below ceiling height and a central fireplace (1521).
- 1521 This fireplace butts wall 1356. It is a modern twentieth century brick and tile construction with hearth with a 'WIDE HOLMER RED' fire back.
- 1333 North facing wall, which is contemporary with wall 1356 and has the same bricks and mortar. It contains doorway 1336 which is contemporary with the wall and has a timber lintel with no signs of re-use, and twentieth century boxed in reveals.  
Wall 1333 butts wall 1128 to the north.
- 1128 East facing sandstone wall, which is butted by chimney stack 1134 to the north and wall 1333 to the south.  
It contains window 1146 which is contemporary with the wall and same style as windows 1137 and 1133 in the west range. It has been blocked with three skins of brickwork.  
The floor is concrete.  
The ceiling has two large spine beams running north/south. The east one has elaborate Baltic timber marks, but there is no evidence of re-use. There are three bridging joists which run east/west and the common joists rest on these. Straw and mortar insulating material (cf Library, FF3) is sealed under the floorboards, and extends into passage G34.

### **Room G22 - Kitchen**

- 1271 North facing wall.
- 1285, 1286 A window contemporary with wall 1271. It has a large sandstone mullion four light casement to either side.
- 1309 A blocked doorway to the west of the window, blocked by breeze blocks. The original aperture is contemporary with the wall.
- 1276 East facing wall.
- 1308 It contains a cupboard 1308 at its south end that has shelves in it (wall above brick with square blocked metal vent above (evidence for flue?) and a central alcove 1307 and doorway 1306.  
All these features have round headed arches of limestone and the bulk of the central alcove is covered in white tiles. It is impossible to determine if there was an earlier fireplace located here, but it is possible that the central alcove at some stage was the site of a fireplace.
- 1275 South facing wall. Same style of brickwork as west facing wall 1277. It could be contemporary.
- 1304 To the east is blocked doorway 1304. This is contemporary with wall 1301 and is butted by 1275 (wall). It is a four centred arch doorway - probably monastic and is blocked by boarding.
- 1305 To the west is blocked doorway 1305 which is contemporary with wall 1275 and blocked with breeze block.
- 1301 North end of the west facing wall. It is a sandstone wall contemporary with doorway 1304.  
The south end of this wall is chamfered and probably cut back as it is covered in a hard render. It is butted by wall 1277.
- 1277 South end of west facing wall - brick and contemporary with north facing wall, cut through by door 1302. (butted to 1271. It has A small blocked fireplace with brick arch and metal plate c5mm above floor level. The flue is contained in a projection east facing wall G36.)
- 1310 In the north end of the room is a sandstone pillar 1310 with chamfered sides - it supports the wall upstairs and is butted by a wooden pillar. It is oval in section and supports the spine beam. The stone pillar predates the timber pillar and also probably predates the upstairs flooring.  
The floor above the large spine beam runs east/west and is jointed to four north/south running spine beams which are jointed to narrow joists running east/west. The north/south spine beams have chamfered sides but no stop chamfers. There is no evidence of re-use for any of the timbers. Floorboards have been removed. Floor joists are in good condition - nineteenth century?

**Room G23**

1364 The south facing wall, same as wall in G26 and G27. It is butted by wall 1373. To the east of this wall the brickwork is very disturbed, as it is upstairs in FF15. It is probable that a wall aligned north/south was originally located here and has been demolished and replaced by wall 1373 which cuts through wall 1364.

Wall 1364 is also butted by wall 1140. Wall 1364 contains window 1394 which is contemporary with the wall (four light casement) four panes to lower lights and one to upper lights. Architrave has been removed.

1404 East facing wall and contemporary with wall 1364. Doorway 1409 is probably an insertion although this is difficult to tell. It may have superseded doorway 1534 which is now blocked? or both could have been contemporary. It has a plain twentieth century architrave.

1373 Runs north/south down the middle of this passageway. As stated above, it butts wall 1364. It may also be contemporary with staircase 1376 as it forms the east enclosing wall of this staircase. It is a four centred arch over G23.

1535 West facing wall butts onto wall 1276. It is two skins thick and made of very fine, almost rubbed, bricks around the segmental arch of doorway 1306. It forms the east side of staircase 1376.

1410 This doorway leads into G24. It is filled by a modern glass partition and swing door, therefore evidence that the east wall of the south-west wing was located slightly to the west of the join with the west range, then the south wall of the armoury was built, and was probably contemporary with the construction of the Douglas wing built walls (1373 and 1535) and staircase 1376.

The floor is concrete.

The ceiling shows two phases of flooring, as in the south west wing, in the area to the west of wall 1373. To the east there is only one phase.

**Room G24**

1404 East facing wall, as in G25. There is a return/buttress at the south end.

1373 A west facing wall. There are no features at the south end (1404), and the north end forms an arch in G23. The east return has door 1536 cut into it for cupboard under staircase 1376.

1535 West facing wall east of 1373. It contains doorway 1537 into a small room east of G24. It is described in G23.

1380 East facing wall in small room in south-east corner of G24. It is plastered except for a small part showing modern brick blocking of archway into G33.

1414 North facing modern breeze block wall at south end of G24.

1377 Butts wall 1404. It is an east facing external wall of Douglas Wing. It contains door 1411. It is a twentieth century insertion, although the aperture is contemporary with wall.

The floor is concrete.

At the south end of the ceiling the joists run north/south. Some are original to Douglas Wing, four are modern replacements. The north end is obscured by plaster.

**Room G25**

1372 North facing wall, same as in G27.

1412 Contains window 1412 which is a four light casement with four panes to the lower lights and two panes to the upper lights. It has a timber transom and lintel. Externally it does not look inserted. Internally the reveals have been repaired with modern brick and cement.

1403 East facing wall (described in G27). The north end lower courses are one skin thinner than upper the courses, which are supported on a timber lintel.



At the south end is blocked fireplace 1533. This fireplace butts walls 1372 and 1403. It has a segmented brick arch which has been lowered with brickwork and a metal bar has been inserted at same time as the aperture was narrowed. The aperture was then blocked with modern bricks.

1407 South facing wall. It is a modern plasterboard partition with a twentieth century door 1408. This wall butts walls 1403 to the west and 1404 to the east.

1404 This wall is contemporary with 1372.

The floor is concrete.

The ceiling has a large spine beam running east/west, and, as in G27, there are two phases of flooring.

### **Room G26**

1403 An east facing wall, contemporary with wall 1364 and contains blocked doorway 1530.

1304 A south facing wall, contains window 1395 which is a four light casement. There are four panes to the bottom two light and two panes to upper ones. It has an internal timber mullion and transom. externally they are sandstone. It has a reeded architrave. Contemporary with wall.

1404 South facing wall, contemporary with wall 1364. It contains doorway 1534 which is blocked with modern bricks and cement.

1405 North facing wall and door are twentieth century plasterboard insertions.

The floor is concrete.

The spine beam in the ceiling runs east/west and the floor is the same as in G27, ie two phases.

### **Room G27 - Southwest wing**

1368 East facing wall constructed of very orange bricks. It contains windows 1397, 1398 and 1399.

1397,1399 These are four light casements with stone mullions and transoms. The reveals of the windows look chopped through, but externally there is no evidence to suggest that they are insertions - this may be the result of removing the timber reveals. The lintel of windows 1397 and 1399 is a long timber which runs the full width of the room. Where it crosses the bay window 1398 there are two empty mortices on the underside of the timber, which could be related to some form of architrave for the bay window. These have now been removed.

1398 This is the central window. It is a six light casement with two lights to the sides and is contemporary with the wall. It has stone mullions and transoms.

Wall 1364 South facing wall, same as wall 1368. It contains a dummy window 1396 which is covered by plaster internally so it is not possible to tell if it was originally intended to be a dummy or has been subsequently blocked.

This wall is butted by modern partition 1401 and is contemporary with 1403.

1401 Modern plasterboard partition. Doorway 1402 is a twentieth century; it is a two panelled door with one light.

1403 West facing wall, contemporary with walls 1372 and 1364. It contains blocked doorway 1530 at north end. It has a machine-cut timber lintel. The mortar of the blocking is indistinguishable from the wall, and the bricks are quite blackened. There is a central access point 1531, which has a round headed arch (plastered over so cannot tell if it is contemporary with the wall or not). At the south end there is an area of broken bricks which may indicate that the wall originally went out at an angle (cf room G25) and has been cut back for insertion of window 1400.

1372 North facing wall - same as 1303 and 1403. It contains fireplace 1532 which is blocked with bricks. It has a brick segmented arch which is contemporary with the wall.

1400 At the east end of wall 1372 is an inserted window 1400. This is a twentieth century two light casement which has a concrete lintel and modern brick and cement reveals. The wall probably filled in the corner of the room as in G25, judging by the scarred brickwork, and has been cut back to insert this window.

The floor is modern lino and tiles - probably set on concrete.

The ceiling has two spine beams running east/west and there are no signs of re-use. Three lines of bridging joists are coggled to these and they support 'thin' common joists. There are two phases of flooring: 1st phases floorboards are very narrow and have a mortared upper surface. The present floorboards rest on these.

### **Room G34**

- 1252 West facing wall, contemporary with 1860s rebuild of south range. It appears to pre-date the south facing wall 1333 of the Chintz rooms.
- 1332 This contains window 1332 which is contemporary with the wall. the south reveal is formed from moulded bricks and wall 1333 has been juttred out to accommodate it. The window has sandstone mullions, transoms and sill. It has four lights, of which three are blocked with brickwork and one with a metal shutter.
- 1273 North facing wall. Described in room G35.
- 1335 East facing wall constructed of sandstone blocks, same as wall 1301. Butted by walls 1273 and 1333. Contains blocked doorway 1334.
- 1334 This doorway is contemporary with wall 1335. It has a round headed arch and is blocked by breeze blocks. The area above the arch has been rebuilt in brick. It is probably a monastic doorway.
- 1333 South facing wall. It contains doorway 1336.
- 1336 This doorway is contemporary with wall 1333. It has plain timber jambs. One peg hole on the north face of lintel may suggest re-use. It has a plain architrave. The door itself has been removed.
- 1337 At the east end of north facing wall 1273 is a large rotten post 1337. It was at one stage tenoned into the underside of a beam which runs north/south and rests on top of wall 1272 in G35. The north end of this beam is chopped off, it has a socket cut out of its upper face, but otherwise there are no signs of re-use. It is no larger than the floor joists in G35.

The floor is concrete.

There is no evidence of a mortar floor above. It has a rush and mortar insulation supported on a timber lattice (cf Chintz rooms). The floor itself is probably contemporary with the Chintz rooms. However, above the beam which rests on post 1337 is a timber running east/west; this could be the remains of a wall plate? or alternatively is could simply be a re-used timber? It has two peg holes on its underside.

Above this beam in room G35 is another north/south aligned timber, which is of the same style as the large beams at the east end of G34. It has large mortices on its underside which have mason's marks with two large pegs. It's north end is chopped off, but its south end continues into the timber-framed partition 1270 into room G36. This partition therefore 1270 originally extended as far as post 1337.

### **Room G35**

- 1273 South facing brick wall, which contains doorway 1299. To the east of the doorway are three courses of sandstone, which could they be the remains of an earlier wall?
- This wall looks like the rebuild of an earlier brick wall, evidenced by the straight joint in the east corner and could have been rebuilt contemporaneously with wall 1272. It was possibly rebuilt when the Chintz rooms were added as they have the same style of bricks.
- 1299 This doorway was originally a window. The east reveal was re-used for the door and the west reveal was butted up to with brick. The original lintel survives on the other side of the wall. It has been cut through and the west reveal is partially bricked in. The door itself has been removed.
- 1300 To the west of door 1299 is blocked door 1300. The aperture looks contemporary with wall 1273.
- 1272 West facing wall which butts wall 1260 and is itself of two phases. Up to 0.9m high it is roughly coursed bricks, above this are machine-made bricks and cement. It could be either a repair or a blocked window.
- 1301 East facing wall. Stone wall, butted by 1273 and 1277. Evidence of tooling on higher courses. No apparent masons marks.

The floor is concrete.

The ceiling joists run north/south to spine beam on top of wall 1274. The joists have grooves to take a mortar floor that has been removed.

### **Room G36 - South Range**

- 1270 West facing wall, butted by 1274 and 1271. The wall has been covered in plasterboard. It consists of a timber frame with wattle and 'mortar' infill ; the wattles run vertically.
- It contains cranked doorway 1297 to north end, and cranked doorway 1545, blocked with brick, at south end. There is an iron hinge in stud IIII in G36 near the top level of door 1297, with a socket also near the base. This is almost certainly the door between G36 and G38 which was hinged and opened into G38.
- 1271 North facing wall.
- 1184 This contains window 1184 which is contemporary with the wall. The window is a six pane casement. The wall looks contemporary with wall 1277.
- 1277 East facing wall, same build as wall 1271.
- 1302 This contains doorway 1302 which is definitely cut through this wall. A stub of wall remains at the north end and butts stone wall 1301. The door has two leaves (twentieth century) below a segmental arch.
- 1274 South facing wall, which butts walls 1277 and 1270. It has been cut through centrally in order to connect with room G35. The reveals of this partition are of modern brick and cement.
- The floor is concrete.
- The ceiling has north/south aligned joists with grooves for a mortar floor. A spine beam runs east/west on top of wall 1274 and the joists are cogged into this.

### **Room G37 - South Range**

- 1262 Doorway leading from G37 - G34. It is a twentieth century plasterboard partition with a six panelled door. One panel has glass in.
- 1252 South facing brick wall.
- 1261 This contains doorway 1261 which has rounded brick reveals, ie the bricks are pre-moulded rather than cut *in situ*. The door is contemporary with the wall and has an almost flat arch of soldier bricks. The door is six panelled and without mouldings. It has a sandstone lintel and a very simple frame with no architrave.
- 1259 This window is contemporary with wall 1252. It has rounded brick reveals and is a four light casement with four panes per light. The glazing bars are metal.
- 1263 This doorway, also in wall 1252, again has moulded brick reveals. It is a shouldered door with a light set above it. The door itself has two lights and the top 'fanlight' area is set into stonework.
- 1303 This doorway leads from G37 to G34. The east reveal is formed of moulded bricks. It is contemporary with wall 1252, but the area above the door and to the west of the door has been rebuilt in brickwork, the same as 1298, a possible blocking of a window on the east facing wall. The lintel has been removed.
- 1260 North facing wall. All doors are described in the individual rooms. The bricks and mortar of this wall are virtually identical to those of wall 1252, therefore the two walls are probably contemporary.
- The floor is concrete.
- At the east end of the ceiling a spine beam runs north/south (1289). This beam has chamfered sides and at least one visible mortice on its underside. It is the same style as beam 1288. It rests on post 1293 but has been cut off in room G41. Three joists are cogged into this beam. The north one is a modern replacement, but the other two have grooves to take a mortar floor. The joists run to another beam just before door 1294; this beam rests on stone wall 1268. The joists continue in an east/west direction up until wall 1269, where they are aligned north/south. Part of the mortar floor survives in this area.

**Room G40**

- 1253 This wall is the same as, and contemporary with, wall 1252, and is part of the 1860 rebuild.
- 1256 This window is a two light casement with four panes per casement and iron glazing bars. It is set below a brick segmental arch and has a sandstone sill. The south edge has some moulded bricks which run out towards the top.
- 1257 This window is the same style as 1256.
- 1258 This window has been blocked with modern bricks and cement.

**Room G38**

- 1269 West facing sandstone wall. butted by walls 1260 and 1271. It contains blocked doorway 1296. The sandstone is finely tooled on this side and there are at least two mason's marks.
- 1270 East facing wall. Timber framed (described in room G36).
- 1271 North facing wall. The bricks and mortar are indistinguishable from wall 1260, and are probably contemporary.
- 1282, 1283 This contains windows 1282, a narrow three light casement (cf 1281), and 1283, a four light casement. Both windows have metal frames. 1282 is contemporary with wall 1271; 1283 has modern repair work on both the reveals, and the external stonework looks like a replacement. It is possibly a contemporary window that has been repaired?
- 1260 South facing wall, butts walls 1269 and 1270. It contains doorway 1265.
- 1265 This doorway was originally a window contemporary with wall 1260. The lintel indicates that this is an earlier phase as it has five mortices evenly spaced on its underside, possibly for the insertion of mullions. The window was then converted into a doorway using modern brick and cement. It is a Twentieth century doorway with frosted glass overlights and side lights.

The floor is concrete.

The common joists of the ceiling run north/south and are cogged into two bridging joists aligned east/west and to the north of the room. The northernmost spine beam has six mortices on its underside; the two pegs to each mortice have masons marks - the third one from the west = III. There was possibly a partition here, which would correspond with either side of doorway 1296. (It could be an outer partition wall with a corridor between the bridging joists.)

The other spine beam, to the south, is narrower and has the same number of mortices on its underside. The joists rest on top of it. This beam is located to the south of doorway 1296 and also the doorway in the timber-framed partition - it could be an inner partition wall.

**Room G39 - South Range (Gents)**

- 1260 South facing wall, butts walls 1268 and 1269.
- 1264 It contains doorway 1264, which is contemporary with the wall. It is a twentieth century panelled door with four lights above.
- 1268 West facing wall, described in room G41. This face is finer, and has no evidence of tooling although it has been scratched for the application of plaster and some stones at the south end have lost their faces.
- 1269 East facing sandstone wall. It has been whitewashed before being plastered. There is some evidence of tooling.
- 1296 This doorway in wall 1269 is on the same alignment as doorway 1292, It is blocked by brickwork. It may have a rounded arch (the upper area of the door has not been exposed). It does not appear to cut through the wall in the area that is exposed.
- 1271 North facing wall, which butts walls 1268 and 1269. It contains window 1281, which is a narrow three light casement, contemporary with the wall.

The floor is concrete.

The ceiling has 11 joists running east/west, supporting a mortar floor. They are cogged into a spine beam which rests on top of wall 1268. This spine beam does not have mortices on its underside.

### **Room G41**

- 1260 South facing wall, contemporary with wall 1267.
- 1293 Contains post 1293 at its east end. The wall is built up to the post, which has chamfered sides. It supports spine beam 1289 which is chopped off in this room. The nature of the joint between the post and beam is obscured. The post is jointed at the base to the sill beam. It is in very poor condition and appears to be footed on stone not brick. This beam has identical stud numbering to the beams between G36 and G38, and G41 and G42. It is possibly the remains of a timber framed building.
- 1294 This doorway is contemporary with wall 1260 on the east reveal. The west reveal has been rebuilt and it may therefore have originally been a wider doorway. The door frame is modern (twentieth century); the door has been removed. The lintel is a re-used floor joist with a groove.
- 1269 East facing wall, butted by walls 1260 and 1271. It is a stone wall, with regular coursing. Some stones have deeply incised tooling. There is no evidence of masons marks. The south stones appear quite weathered. Wall was whitewashed before being plastered.
- 1292 Contains blocked doorway 1292. It has a round headed arch cut out of the stone wall. The doorway appears to post-date the wall. It is blocked with brick.
- 1271 North facing wall, butts wall 1269. It appears to be contemporary with wall 1267.
- 1280 Contains window 1280, which is contemporary with the wall. It has chamfered brick reveals and a segmental brick arch of two rows of soldiers. The window is a four light casement. No architrave.
- 1267 West facing wall. It contains fireplace 1295 which is blocked with modern brick and cement. This south-west corner of the room appears to be contemporary with walls 1267 and 1271.

The floor has been removed. It rested on brick 'sleeper' walls.

The ceiling joists have been cut off *c* 0.95 from the east facing wall 1268 and replaced by modern machine cut timbers. These cut off joists are probably the source of all the re-used lintels, for example in doorway 1294 in this room and particularly in the Blore Wing. The mortar floor also finishes at this point.

### **Room G42**

- 1266 West facing wall, butts wall 1260.
- 1260 South facing wall, butts wall 1221. It is contemporary with east facing wall 1267.
- 1291 This doorway leads into G43 and appears to be cut through wall 1260. A very rotten timber lintel shows no signs of re-use and no door or frame survives. The bricks have been cut, suggesting that the doorway was cut through when wall 1267 was inserted; or, more probably, that the bricks were cut when the door frame was removed or the doorway has been widened - the doorway being contemporary with the wall.
- 1267 East facing wall. It is contemporary with wall 1260. Butted by the build of fireplace 1290.
- 1290 This fireplace is built in the south-west corner and butts walls 1267 and 1271. It comprises a brick arch with an iron bar as support. It has a cast iron grate and a 'quarry' back.
- 1271 North facing wall. It contains a four light casement window with metal frames. The east and west reveals are rebuilt with cement - probable that this is a replacement.

The floor is concrete.

The ceiling joists are obscured by felt.

### **Room G43**

- 1221 West facing wall, which is a division between Blore Wing and South Range. It is contemporary with wall 1187 and is butted by wall 1252.

- 1277 Contains what may be a blocked window - 1277. It has a segmental arch which is inserted into wall 1221. The north and south reveals appear to be chopped through the wall. It is blocked by very roughly coursed brickwork, and is now a recess in the wall. It could have been a window or alternatively could have been constructed as a recess/alcove.
- 1278 A window in north facing wall; it has one light, within a cast iron frame. It is contemporary with wall 1271. The west reveal and sill area appear to have been rebuilt. This rebuild butts wall 1266.
- 1266 East facing wall. Butts wall 1260 to the north and wall 1271 to the south. It is very roughly pointed.
- 1252 South facing wall, butts wall 1187. Brick.
- 1254 Contains window 1254. A two light casement, four panes to each light. It is contemporary with wall 1252. The reveals are formed of rounded bricks.
- 1255 Also contemporary with wall 1252. This window has rounded brick reveals and is a four light casement, four panes to each light.
- 1287 This twentieth century door is cut through wall 1252.  
The floor is concrete.
- Ceiling A large spine beam (1288) runs north/south. This timber has chamfered sides and on its underside are large mortices - the northernmost one has the remains of a vertical timber still *in situ* and was pegged from the west facing side. Nine mortices in total, numbered from the south end. There are elaborate carpenters marks on the west facing side, marking out these mortices.  
  
Three common joists are coggled into the north end of the timber and support a mortar floor. This timber was probably a spine beam and also a mid rail - it must have had vertical studs below it. The north end is rotten, but there is evidence of a mortice where a post may have been tenoned in. The south end looks chopped off.

#### **Room G44 - Blore Wing (Stairwell area)**

- 1195 The doorway leads from G44 - G45 and is described in G45.
- 1219 Internal brick wall runs east/west. It is contemporary with wall 1196. There is no evidence of timber rails for panelling. It forms a segmental arch leading into the stairwell and contains doorway 1218 to the west.
- 1218 This doorway is as tall as the ceiling, where there is a re-used lintel. It was probably a ceiling joist with a groove for a mortar floor. The area below is blocked with modern brickwork and cement and contains a metal security door. The area behind this door is inaccessible.
- 1187, 1193 South facing wall 1187 contains window 1193 which is the same style as the ground floor windows in the Blore wing, except that the shutters have been removed and lower lights replaced with 'dimpled' glass.
- 1221 East facing wall, which is contemporary with wall 1187.
- 1222 Doorway leading from G44 - G43. This doorway is contemporary with wall 1221. It has a re-used timber lintel with a mortice on its west facing side. The door frame looks twentieth century; the door has been removed.
- 1220 This early nineteenth century staircase winds up to the 1st and 2nd floors. It has wooden balustrades, square in section, and oval-sectioned banister and a newel at the bottom. The steps are wooden.

#### **Room G45 - Corridor, Blore Wing**

- 1175 West facing wall. Contains doorways 1194 and 1183 and blocked doorway 1176.
- 1196 East facing wall, contains doors 1195 at its north end and 1197 at south end.
- 1195 This aperture is contemporary with wall 1196. The door is twentieth century with one light and is set into a modern glass and panelled surround. Originally this was probably simply a passage without a door.
- 1192 This window is in the south facing wall. It is a four light vertical sash with two lights to each sash, each light divided into four panes. The window is contemporary with wall 1187.

- 1197 This door is described in room G48. It is probably contemporary with wall 1196.  
The raised floor is supported on brick 'plinths'.  
This area has a separate ceiling. The timbers are modern, machine cut. There is no spine beam. The joists run east/west and rest on the walls.

### **Room G46 - Blore Wing**

- 1173 North facing wall described in room G47. It has no stone plinth. It contains blocked doorway 1174, also described in G47. The doorway is decorated with applied plaster arches.
- 1188 Remains of a fireplace in the south-west corner of the room. The bricks are blackened and there is a raised brick platform.
- 1182 West facing wall, same as 1173. This wall has a stone plinth which is only partially exposed.
- 1189 This window is located in the centre of wall 1182. It has six lights (cf 1180 and 1181 further south).
- 1187 South facing wall. It is the same as wall 1173 and is contemporary with it.
- 1190 Contains window 1190 which is six light, with individual vertical sashes, two lights to each sash. It is contemporary with wall 1187.
- 1191 To the west of this wall is window 1191 which is a four light vertical sash, contemporary with wall 1187.
- 1175 East facing wall. Contemporary with walls 1173 and 1187. No evidence of stone plinth.
- 1194 Contains doorway 1194, a six panelled door, cf door 1183, but the aperture is different. This doorway is definitely cut through wall 1175 - Twentieth century style architrave.  
The floor is supported on brick 'sleeper' walls, which run east/west. The floor boards and joists have been removed.  
The ceiling is all one phase. It has modern joists and no spine beams. The floor boards have been removed.

### **Room G47 - Blore Wing**

- 1173 South facing wall, comprising brick on stone footings. The wall is contemporary with walls 1182 to the east and 1175 to the west.
- 1174 Blocked doorway in wall 1173. It has a brick relieving arch, below which is a lintel made of a re-used floor joist. Below this is the brick blocking of the doorway.
- 1175 East facing brick wall. It is contemporary with walls 1173 and 1178.
- 1176 Contains blocked doorway 1176. It is exactly same style as doorway 1174.
- 1177 Fireplace in wall 1175. It comprise two phases: 1) original fireplace with segmental brick arch, contemporary with wall 1175, iron bar underneath; 2) narrower fireplace created slightly to north of earlier fireplace, ie not central, and bricks butt wall 1175. It has a segmental brick arch and iron bar. This fireplace was subsequently blocked with a skin of face-on bricks.
- 1183 This doorway is located at the south end of wall 1175. The door is six panelled, three to each half of the door. The architrave is moulded and early nineteenth century in date. It has a brick relieving arch above it and it appears to be contemporary with wall 1175.
- 1178 North facing wall. It is the same as 1175 and contemporary with it and wall 1182. It has a stone plinth.
- 1179 Contains blocked alcove 1179 at its east end. The alcove runs up to ceiling height. It has a large timber lintel just below the floor joists, but no apparent evidence of re-use. This alcove was blocked by bricks. It is an alcove, not a blocked doorway - there is evidence of a cut-off wall which lines up with the blocking in wall 1184 (see plan).
- 1182 West facing wall and is the same as walls 1173 and 1178. It has a stone plinth coated in a protective layer and with areas cut away to house the floor joists. The floor level drops to the north. It could possibly be the footings of an earlier building or alternatively the stone footings are contemporary with the wall.

1180, 1181 Two windows in wall 1182. Lights to either side of central ones are vertical sashes.

1183 A blocked window which is truncated to the south by the insertion of window 1181. The north edge looks contemporary with wall 1182. It has a brick relieving arch over, therefore it is probable that both windows 1180 and 1181 are insertions into wall 1182, although externally this does not seem to be the case.

The floor is supported on brick walls two skins thick, on which the joists rest. The joists are aligned east-west and also rest on the plinth of wall 1182. The floorboards run north-south.

The two spine beams in the ceiling run north-south. There is no evidence of re-used timbers.

### **Room G48 - Blore Wing**

1196 West facing wall. Brick. It has rails for attaching panelling. It is contemporary with wall 1198.

1197 This doorway is in the south end of wall 1196. It is exactly the same style as doorway 1183 on opposite side of the corridor. The moulded architrave obscures evidence as to whether or not the door is contemporary with the wall.

1198 North facing wall, which is contemporary with wall 1196; it has the same make-up.

1202 Contains central blocked doorway 1202, which is contemporary. It has a brick relieving arch above a re-used timber lintel (formerly a floor joist). The doorway is blocked with brick which contains rails for panelling. Contemporary with the blocking is a one skin partition wall which has now been removed. The scar is visible on the south facing wall and returned to meet the west facing wall.

1186 This wall is the same, and contemporary with, wall 1198.

1203 It contains window 1203 which is a six pane sash. Five lights have been replaced with modern glass and the reveals have been altered. The original window was probably contemporary with the wall.

1200, 1201 South facing wall, which is contemporary with walls 1186 and 1196. There are no rails. An alcove built into the corner contains fireplace 1201. It is contemporary with the wall and has a segmental arch and iron support bar. It has been blocked. The east end of the wall appears to have been rebuilt.

The floor is concrete.

The ceiling timbers are all machine-cut. The joists run east/west and there is a central spine beam. There is no evidence for the re-use of any timbers.

### **Room G49 - Blore Wing Passage**

1182, 1216 East facing wall contains a modern inserted casement window 1216. Externally and internally it appears to be contemporary with the wall: it is probable that just the casement itself has been replaced.

1199 North facing wall. It has a scar of a wall running perpendicular to it - this would have formed the west wall of the blocked alcove 1179 in G47.

East end of this corridor was a toilet - the drain is visible and the door has a very tall light above it. The door itself is the same style as door 1206.

This corridor joins corridor G45. It has segmental brick arches which link wall 1178 to wall 1199 and wall 1198 to wall 1199.

1217 At the west end is doorway 1217. It is probably contemporary with wall 1186. It consists of an arched fanlight with six lights. The door has six fielded panels.

### **Room G50**

1199 South facing wall and is the same as all other walls in this wing; it has timber rails for panelling.

1204 Contains projecting doorway 1204 which has a brick relieving arch. The door is the same style as 1206, 1197 and 1183. The east and west of this door are two cupboard areas with timber lintels. The lintel of the west cupboard is a re-used timber with a groove - a former joist.

1186 East facing wall. Contemporary with walls 1199 and 1185. It has no timber rails.



- 1211 Contains central fireplace 1211 which has a segmental brick arch with an iron bar below. The aperture has now been blocked with bricks.  
To the north and south of this fireplace are two cupboard areas. The north one has a re-used timber lintel with empty mortices on its underside.
- 1185 North facing wall. Contemporary with wall 1186.
- 1208 Contains window 1208. Same style as window 1209 in G51 and is contemporary with the wall.  
The floor and ceiling are the same as in G51.

### **Room G51 - Blore Wing**

- 1199 South facing brick wall. It is the same as all the walls in this wing. It contains rails for the attachment of panelling.
- 1205 At north end is doorway 1205 which leads into G49. This has a brick relieving arch above and is exactly the same style as doorways 1183 and 1197.
- 1214 This appears to always have been a cupboard. It has a brick relieving arch above it and the same architrave as for doorway 1205.
- 1212 West facing wall. It is the same as wall 1199 except that the rails have been removed and replaced with modern brick.
- 1213 Contains fireplace 1213 which has a segmental brick arch supported by an iron bar and subsequently blocked. As in the rest of this wing, the flue has been traced on the wall and coated with grey paint, this was possibly to seal the wall to prevent intrusion of soot and water.
- 1185 North facing wall, contemporary with wall 1212. Some of the rails have been replaced with modern brick.
- 1209 Contains central window 1209. This window is the same style as all the others on the ground floor of this wing, ie six light with two lights to each sash, each light is divided into four panes. Shutters and architrave survive, as does the panelling below the window. Contemporary with wall 1185.
- 1196 East facing wall, which is contemporary with and the same as walls 1184 and 1185. Again, part of the rails has been replaced by modern brick.
- 1207 Contains central doorway 1207. This doorway was originally a recess on room G50 side and has been knocked through, as the single skin of broken bricks on G51 side indicate.  
The floorboards probably rest on brick walls.  
The ceiling joists are modern and machine-cut. The central spine beam runs east/west. No evidence of re-use.

### **Room G52 - Blore Wing**

- 1199 South facing wall. It is the same as and contemporary with wall 1182. It rests on a stone plinth which projects from the wall line. Sockets have been cut in the plinth to take the floor joists.
- 1206 It contains doorway 1206 which has a brick relieving arch contemporary with wall 1182. It has a six panelled door and architrave the same as for doors 1183, 1197 etc.
- 1212 East facing wall, contemporary with wall 1199. Again, it has timber rails for attaching panelling. This wall also has a stone plinth. two of the stones have tooling marks. This was possibly the foundation of an earlier wall.
- 1185 North facing wall. It was contemporary with walls 1212 and 1182. It also has rails for attaching panelling.
- 1210 Contains window 1210. It is the same style as all the other windows on the ground floor of this wing.
- 1182 West facing wall. Contemporary with walls 1199 and 1185.
- 1215 It contains fireplace 1215 which has a grey marble surround and cast iron grate and surround, and is probably contemporary with wall 1182. To either side of the fireplace are two alcoves with brick arches and timber lintels which show no evidence of re-use.

The floor has been removed. Again, it rested on brick sleeper walls.

The ceiling is constructed of modern machine-cut timbers. A spine beam runs east/west.

## FIRST FLOOR

### *Room FF1*

1000 Brick wall. Nine timbers for attachment of panelling have been removed and replaced by modern bricks and cement.

1064, 1065 Contains blocked fireplace 1064 and open fireplace 1065.

1001 Contemporary with wall 1000. The timbers for attaching panelling to this wall still remain. A large timber wall plate also remains. Some timbers are definitely re-used.

1037 This window is contemporary with wall 1001. It is a nine-light casement with three lights on the reveals.

1002 cf wall 1000. It is butted by wall 1031.

1039, 1040 These windows are contemporary with wall 1002. They are twelve-light sashes with shutters. Both have timber lintels with no immediate signs of re-use.

1066 In the north-west corner of wall 1002 is a narrow area of rebuild that runs from floor to ceiling - context 1066 - possibly a blocked chimney flue?

The ceiling is plastered with a square central frieze.

The spine beams have carpenters marks. There are six mortices for the attachment of the common joists with carpenters marks above the mortice numbers. There is no evidence for the timbers being re-used. The flooring is of two phases: the earlier phase consists of tongue and groove floorboards with moulded upper sides attached with wooden dowels. This floor was mortared over and the modern floorboards laid on top.

Cf south-west wing which also has two phases of flooring.

### *Room FF2*

1031 This brick wall butts walls 1000 to the south and 1002 to the north. It displays no evidence of timbers for panelling.

1049 Doorway 1049 is cut through this wall. It consists of a large archway with a neo-classical architrave.

1060 At the north end of wall 1031 is blocked aperture 1060 which may be the remains of a fireplace.

1061 At the very north end of this wall is a rebuilt area only two skins thick. The wall is not cut through and this rebuilt area is not visible on the other side of the wall, therefore it probably represents the blocking of an alcove.

1002 As downstairs, the timber panelling rails have been removed and the channels blocked with modern brick.

1041, 1042 These windows are twelve pane vertical sashes and are contemporary with the wall. The lintels do not look re-used.

1004, 1062 This wall, which separates G2 from G4, probably originally continued upstairs as in this position there are two areas of rebuild on walls 1002 to the north and 1001 to the south. These areas of rebuild have blocked up brick areas where panelling rails have been removed, therefore the removal of wall 1004 at first floor level must predate the 'abandonment' of panelling in this room. The areas of rebuild have been given context number 1062 and are probably a single skin refacing of a chopped-off wall.

1032 This brick wall still has its timber rails. It butts wall 1002 to the north and 1002 to the south.

1050 This doorway is contemporary with the wall. It has a large relieving arch above it and a timber lintel that shows no signs of re-use.

1051 Fireplace 1051 is situated at the south end of wall 1032. It is cut through wall 1032 and it backs on to room FF3. The rear wall of the fireplace has been removed.

Staircase 1058 is later than wall 1032.

- 1033 This window is contemporary with wall 1000 and is a twenty-four light sash.  
The ceiling is plastered and has the remains of a cornice.

### **Room FF3 - Library**

- 1032 East facing brick wall, butts wall 1002 to the north. The timber rails for attaching panelling are *in situ* and have large nails in. The wall is cut through by fireplace 1051 (described in room FF2) and at the south end it returns to butt wall 1067.
- 1050 This wall contains doorway 1050, described in room FF2.
- 1007 Brick wall.
- 1044-46 This wall contains window 1044, a large oriel window with a central window of nine lights. The two side windows have six lights. Internally, it appears that this window has been cut through walls 1002 to the west and 1008 to the east.
- 1008 This brick wall has evidence for timber rails for panelling only in the north-east corner, where they appear to have been replaced with modern bricks.
- 1071 The wall is cut by recess/alcove 1071.
- 1072 Wall 1008 also contains fireplace 1072, at its north end, which appears to be contemporary with it. The fireplace is now blocked. One stone of the stack has 'C.G. 1824' on it.
- 1047 This window is an 1877 insertion, but there is evidence of an earlier window which may have been contemporary with the wall. Window 1047 has a four-centred archway formed out of wall 1008. The south end of this archway has been chopped back and an area one skin thick has been rebuilt (context 1073). This rebuild butts the stone wall 1074 which runs behind it. Wall 1008 may be later than 1074: on the north reveal of window 1047, this brickwork butts up to the stonework.
- 1067 This wall forms the south end of the east facing wall. It is brick with an external skin of stone, and has no evidence for the timber rails for panelling. The upper courses of this wall (behind the parapet) have been rebuilt with modern brick. The wall is butted by 1032 to the north and itself rests on a stone wall which contains re-used stone 1076.
- 1068 Window 1068 is located in the centre of wall 1067. Both sides of this window have been rebuilt - 1075 - the rebuild forms the internal reveals of the window. This area of rebuild butts wall 1067 and suggests that the window is an insertion. The window itself is a four light sash. The top two lights have sixteen panes, the bottom two have eight.
- 1069 This wall is an inserted partition. It butts walls 1074 to the east and 1099 to the west. The library bookcase and panelling stand proud of this wall.
- 1070 This doorway was contemporary with wall 1069 before it was narrowed to its present form. It has elaborate wooden Corinthian columns with foliage carving down the shaft.  
The roof is largely obscured by a modern diamond-panelled ceiling. At the south-west end, the end of a principal rafter is visible: it rests in a slight recess in the wall and has a large mortice on its underside which may have been for the attachment of a post with a jowl (see context 1169).  
The rafters in the south-east corner are now suspended in mid-air; however it is possible that they may have rested on a wall-plate that has been removed. This wall plate could have rested on the south end of wall 1032, which finishes before the ceiling.  
The floorboards are not tongue and groove. They overlie an earlier straw and mortar floor, context 1083, which is supported on a timber herringbone lattice. This floor continues up to wall 1056 (the north facing wall of G7), which possibly indicates that the library was split into two, or was a smaller room, at one stage, with a mortar floor.
- 1166 At the south-east end of the room is a possible window blocked with stone. It is immediately to the north of fireplace 1167 in wall 1074.

### **Room FF4 - Main hall/Saloon**

- 1074 West facing sandstone wall.
- 1151 This mid-nineteenth century fireplace is situated at the north end of wall 1074. It has a carved stone surround with foliage motifs and coats of arms in the spandrels. It has a cast iron interior.
- 1148 This dummy window is encroached upon by fireplace 1151, therefore the blocking of the window predates the insertion of the fireplace. The window extends the full height of the wall. The stones of wall 1074 are not cut through; they are butted by a column of bricks on both edges of the aperture. These areas of brickwork may relate to the removal of the window reveals and the narrowing of the window, which was subsequently blocked internally with brickwork. The blocking butts the columns of bricks on the reveals.
- 1160 This fireplace, further south in the same wall, is of the same style as 1151 and is therefore probably contemporary.
- 1149 This dummy window is the same as 1148 except for a vertical timber which runs behind the post supporting the arch braced truss. This timber runs up to the lintel a short distance from the north edge of the window; it rests on a short timber rail. These timbers are butted by the brick blocking and their function is unclear. Both this and window 1148 are twenty-four light sashes - twelve lights to each sash and externally it looks as if the wall is cut through and rebuilt to insert them.
- 1163 In the south corner of wall 1074 is a blocked aperture that was probably a fireplace (context 1063). It consists of a sandstone flat arch blocked by bricks. This fireplace is probably contemporary with the fireplace at the north end of the room (1152). These fireplaces have exactly the same flat arches and are the same height and are both blocked with similar brickwork. Both also appear to be contemporary with wall 1074.
- Extending from dummy window 1149 to the north facing wall of FF4 is a timber which rests on wall 1074, this could possibly be the remains of a wall plate.
- 1069 This brick wall forms the south facing wall of FF4 and divides the saloon from the library. It butts walls 1074 to the east and 1154 to the west.
- 1070 It contains doorway 1070 which has a pointed arched surround sitting under a round headed brick arch which has been packed in with laths. The doorway was originally wider; this is indicated by the brick blocking on either side of the doorway, therefore it is possible that this doorway contained a 'saloon door' with a round headed arch prior to the insertion of a Gothic style door. The door is the same style as 1162 to the south.
- 1154 East facing wall. It consists of the remains of a stone wall that has been substantially rebuilt with brick. The style of the wall is the same as wall 1074. Both have frequent masons marks.
- 1153, 1155,  
1158-9 This wall contains four windows: 1153, 1155, 1158 and 1159. All have 12 lights in the upper area and 18 in the lower. The south 'leaf' of the lower window is a casement; the rest do not open. All the windows have rebuilt brick reveals which extend up to the eaves level and project out from the wall. These brick reveals butt both the wall and the brick blocking of the probable earlier windows (see below). All have internal wooden shutters. The lintel of 1154 is re-used: it has a dove-tail joint exposed on its east side. The lintel of 1155 has a large mortice on its east; the lintel of 1158 has no obvious signs of re-use and the lintel of 1159 has a large mortice on its underside. All windows have brick infilling which forms the sill.
- There is possible evidence of a window contemporary with wall 1154 just to the south of window 1153, and possibly another similar window to the south of the present window 1155.
- 1161 North facing wall. The brick is the same as wall 1069, doorway and 1070. This wall butts 1074 and 1154.
- The floorboards run north/south.
- Ceiling Arch braced roof trusses with collar and bases of braces exposed. See context 1169 for indications that originally there were tie beams. The nineteenth century ceiling with insped wind braces and applied shields survives in the south end of the room. The arch braces have mortices on their undersides which are filled with tenons - ten per arch brace - the southernmost trusses have some pegs instead of tenons, probably to facilitate the attachment of these arch braces as on the north facing side of the rafters are four series of pegs which correspond to the location of these inserted tenons.

**Room FF5 (The projecting bay on the east side of main hall FF4)**

1131 Sandstone wall. Most of the stones have very deep tooling 'in all directions'. This wall butts wall 1074 to the east: it was probably constructed as a buttress to support the bulging wall 1074 - this bulging was probably due to the removal of the tie beams in the main hall.

1150 This window has nine lights, four panes to each light. It is contemporary with the wall and has voids to either side of the window. These were possibly for the accommodation of sash boxes, or for elaborate pillars/architrave?

The floorboards are the same as in FF4 and therefore the post-date the construction of this bay.

This room has an ogee brick arch leading into the main hall. The arch is the same style as for FF6, therefore the two bays are probably contemporary.

**FF6 (The projecting bay on the west side of main hall FF4)**

1157 This wall has a brick internal skin and stone exterior. It has an ogee arch of brick into the main hall. This wall clearly butts wall 1154, which returns at this point. It is possibly the location of earlier steps and doorway?

1164, 1165 These are both dummy windows, 1164 in the north wall and 1165 in the south wall. They are blocked internally with face-on bricks of slightly different appearance to those of wall 1157. The windows have stone transoms and three lights. They were probably blocked internally after this bay was built.

1156 This window in the east facing wall has nine lights with four panes in each light. It is exactly the same style as window 1150 in the opposite bay. There is a modern repair below the window.

The floorboards are the same as in the main hall FF4, therefore they post-date the insertion of this bay.

**Room FF7**

1161 South facing wall - contains doorway 1162 (described in room FF4).

1074 West facing wall. It is constructed of sandstone, with no real evidence of tooling and lots of masons marks. The north end of this wall has been rebuilt in brick, as has the south. It looks more like localised repairs than features; it does not go through the full width of the wall.

To the north of this wall, and on the east end of wall 1161, are broken bricks and an indentation on the wall which probably indicates the position of some form of cupboard in the north-east corner of the room.

1170 This aperture, which probably housed a suit of armour, is contemporary with wall 1174. It is built into an earlier window aperture and has the same dimensions as dummy windows 1148 and 1149 in hall FF4. A brick 'column' on either side of the window forms the reveals. This brickwork is now butted by the brickwork which creates the pointed arched alcove.

1154 East facing wall. It is constructed of sandstone, with no evidence for tooling, but scratches for attachment of plaster and a few masons marks. This wall is rebuilt to the north and south in brick. The southern rebuild is butted by wall 1171.

1168 This window has been cut through wall 1154. The reveals and sill area have been rebuilt in brick. It is a six light window with internal shutters.

1171 North facing brick wall. It is butted by the brickwork to the south of west facing wall 1074 and it butts the brickwork to the south of east facing wall 1154. It appears to have a return just before the west edge of doorway 1171 and the bricks on the north face of the wall have been cut back, indicating that a partition wall running north/south may have been cut back.

1172 Contains doorway 1172, a six panelled door with classical architrave and pediment. The west edge of the aperture has been rebuilt in brick and the east edge is obscured by the architrave, therefore it is not clear if this doorway is contemporary with wall 1171 or not.

The floorboards run north/south.

The roof consists of three trusses. The southernmost truss consists of arch braces and a collar with panelling above, and rests on the remains of a post which is masked by brick but butts on to the south

edge of the blocked window. The middle truss is very close to the southern one and consists of a huge tie beam, principal rafters and two braces. The northern truss is of the same style, but on the underside there are eleven empty mortices, which either indicates that there was a partition wall under it, or that this is a re-used bridging joist. Both trusses rest directly on the walls (there are no wallplates) and have trenched purlins.

### **Room FF8 - The Chinese Room**

- 1357 South facing wall. It is of sandstone interspersed with brickwork. It is one skin narrower than the corresponding wall downstairs, with which it is contemporary. This wall is also contemporary with wall 1362.
- 1360 It contains window 1360 which is a four light sash with six panes to each light. The internal shutters are partially intact. This wall butts chimney stack 1134 to the west and is contemporary with wall 1356 to the east.
- 1356 West facing wall, the same as the corresponding wall below in G20. It was probably contemporary with the partition walls.
- 1359 This window is a two light casement and looks inserted into the north alcove in wall 1356. The brick segmental arch of the alcove has been built up with modern bricks. It is therefore probably a twentieth century window.
- 1522 This blocked fireplace is central on wall 1356. It has a brick segmental arch and is blocked with machine-made bricks. To the south of this fireplace is an alcove that is contemporary with wall 1356.
- 1362 The north facing wall is obscured by plaster but is probably the same as the corresponding wall downstairs (1333 in G20). It is butted by modern plasterboard walls 1363 which form three toilets.
- 1074 East facing sandstone wall. Butted by chimney stack 1134 and walls 1362 and 1363.
- There is a window in this wall which is probably contemporary with it, although a few stones are cut through in order to insert the stone reveals. The mortar of the reveals is the same as that for the wall. The window has been blocked with brickwork in the same style as for the build of the Chintz room.
- The floorboards are not tongue and groove.
- The roof is constructed of a king post truss with two braces, tie beams and two trenched purlins. The rafters look like modern machine-cut replacements. The two bay roof truss is central and aligned north/south. The roof is gabled.

### **Room FF9 - Dining Room**

- 1373 West facing wall. Brick.
- 1374 Contains doorway 1374 which is very elaborate. It has carved Corinthian columns to either side and a pediment - generally rococo style, but partially obscured.
- 1364 South facing wall. It has a sandstone ashlar outer skin and brick inner skin. Originally this room was panelled, some of the rails remain, but others have been replaced with modern brick.
- 1365-7 This wall contains three windows - 1365, 1366 and 1367. All are contemporary with the wall and all are four light sashes with internal shutters. All have brick relieving arches above. Below the sills of the three windows are a number of re-used jamb stones of the same pattern as those used in the west range. The jambs of these windows were in many sections rather than two pieces like those in G9, which suggests that the addition of this wing may have involved the removal of the original window - originally there were four to either side of the main door.
- 1368 East facing wall - same as wall 1364.
- 1369, 1371 It contains dummy windows 1369 and 1371 that internally appear as alcoves. They were always dummy windows as the backs of the alcoves are contemporary with wall 1368 and they contain rails for attaching panelling.
- 1370 This is a central bay window with a nine light central area with 36 side lights. It has an elaborate surround, heavily carved with "foliated heart" motifs below the lintel area.

- 1372 North facing wall, which is contemporary with wall 1368. Again, the rails for panelling have been removed and replaced with modern brick. The blocking in the wall, which is almost square, cuts the line of the timber rails and has end on bricks at top and bottom with horizontal courses in between. Contains two fireplaces, 1527 and 1528.
- 1527 This fireplace has a soldier course brick segmental arch and is contemporary with the wall. It has been blocked by bricks and mortar indistinguishable from the construction of wall 1372.
- 1528 This fireplace is to the east of 1527. It appears to be of two phases. Phase one consists of a low brick arch and could possibly be contemporary with wall 1372. Phase two is a lower and narrower aperture with a segmental brick arch that slightly protrudes from the plane of the wall. This fireplace uses the flue of 1527.
- 1375 This doorway in wall 1372 has a six panelled door with lection moulding. It is cut through the wall, and was probably inserted when the Douglas Wing was built.
- The ceiling is of elaborate plaster with a cornice. The central frieze area has gone but the surrounding area with strapwork survives above a projecting cornice with heavy foliage motifs.
- The roof is gabled with three bay trusses running north/south and trenched purlins. It has a king post. Some timbers have Baltic marks - cf timbers in G20 and the timber removed from the Blore Wing which bear similar marks.
- The floorboards are not tongue and groove.

### **Rooms FF10 and FF15**

- 1377 East facing brick wall. It is part of the Douglas Wing butts wall 1372 to the north.
- 1378 Contains window 1378 which is a six light casement with stone mullions and transom. It is contemporary with the wall.
- 1381 North facing wall, same as 1377.
- 1382 Contains doorway 1382 which is nailed up. It has a simply moulded architrave.
- 1379 Staircase 1379 leads upstairs from this room. It is wooden, very simple, with a wooden balustrade and newel posts.
- 1376 This staircase leads downstairs. It has the same banister as 1379 but has stone treads
- 1380 The west facing wall is the same as wall 1381. It is not clear in this room if it butts wall 1352 which is the east facing wall of FF14; upstairs it appears to do so.
- 1529 The south facing wall is obscured by plaster, therefore its construction and relation to 1373 are unclear. There is one small area of exposed bricks which look the same as those used in the Douglas Wing. The wall was possibly inserted at the same time (1861).

### **Room FF15**

All the walls for this room have been described under the respective other rooms. The only features to note are the central glass passageway and the elaborate cornice with foliage motifs.

### **Room FF14 - Room above the Kitchen**

- 1347 The west facing wall is contemporary with north facing wall 1271.
- 1350 Contains fireplace 1350, a simple opening with a segmental arch of two courses of soldiers.
- 1271 North facing wall.
- 1353 Contains projecting bay window 1353 which has stone mullions and transoms and a ten light casement. Both reveals have been repaired with brickwork.
- 1354 This doorway at the west end of wall 1271 leads into room FF11 (Douglas Wing). It has a round headed arch. The east edge of the doorway looks contemporary with the wall, but the west edge looks cut through.

- 1352 The east facing wall is completely concealed by plaster but, judging by the corresponding wall downstairs in the kitchen, is probably brick.
- 1351 The south facing wall is again concealed by plaster but the one area that is uncovered could be timber framed with thick plastering on either side.
- 1355 Contains doorway 1355 which has an elaborate carved wood surround. The door is missing. It is impossible to tell if the doorway is contemporary with the wall or not.
- The subsequent of the outer lath and plaster covering of the wall revealed it to have a timber core with an infill of mud/clay and straw on closely placed laths which differs from the lath and hard pink plaster observed elsewhere. The studding of the eastern part of the wall comprises a mid rail with two studs above and below. The bottom studs are pegged to the joist supported by the stone column in the kitchen below, which shows evidence of peg holes in its underside. The top ones are pegged to a two-part rail above. The mid rail is numbered where the studs join it. The easternmost stud has six pairs of open peg holes and is almost certainly re-used. The western post has an empty mortice for a midrail numbered. The rest of wall has been rearranged for doors etc.
- 1547 This is a large central doorway into which door 1353 was set at the east. It may have been the 'cranked' type but has been altered by the later insertion.
- 1546 This doorway was formerly totally obscured. It is a tall, arched doorway inserted into wall 1355 a short distance from the north-west corner. It projects from both sides of the stud wall. It is contemporary with the later refacing and was subsequently superseded by door 1353. It was aligned with doorway 1534.
- The floorboards have been removed. The four spine beams run north/south and the joists are aligned east/west.
- The ceiling has a round central moulding with a frieze around the light and an elaborate egg and dart cornice.

### ***FF16 - Chinese Room***

- 1362 The south facing wall is a plasterboard insertion. It butts wall 1362 and encroaches on blocked fireplace 1523. The room appears always to have been divided; there are two fireplaces.
- 1361 It contains doorway 1361 which has a six panelled door with planted moulding and fielded panels and a simply moulded architrave. It is probably nineteenth century and contemporary with the wall.
- 1356 The west facing wall is brick. It is butted by wall 1362.
- 1523 At the north end is fireplace 1523. It is the same style as fireplace 1522 in FF8 and is blocked by modern brick.
- 1524 This window is a four light casement with four panes to each light. It has a stone mullion and transoms. It looks like an insertion into this wall as both reveals are chopped bricks patched with cement. The lintel is iron.
- 1344 The north facing wall is the remains of the timber-framed south range and is described as part of passage FF17. It is butted by wall 1356 and by modern rebuild, part of wall 1525.
- 1345 This doorway in wall 1344 has peg holes on the underside of the lintel and two mortices on the jambs which may indicate that it was blocked at some stage.
- 1363 Inserted partitions.
- 1525 East facing wall, same as that in the Armoury (FF7), although at one point there is what appears to be a window blocked with bricks. The north reveal is contemporary with the wall of FF7; the south reveal is obscured by a modern brick rebuild that created arch 1526.
- The floor and ceiling of this room are the same as those in FF8.

### ***Room FF18***

- 1323 Timber framed, west facing wall. It consists of studding above and below a mid-rail. The mid-rail is constructed of two timbers separated by a vertical stud. The north midrail timber has had its south end cut back, probably to create a doorway. The infill of the wall is wattle, probably hazel? arranged



vertically and set in a hard mortar matrix. It is the same as the wall between G11 and G16 downstairs, and appears to run from the ground floor to the attic.

The wall is butted by wall 1271 to the south and appears to butt timber-framed wall 1317 to the north.

1271 The north facing wall is brick and is part of the 1860's rebuild with stone quoins and surrounds for the windows.

1324, 1325 Window 1324 is located to the east and 1325 to the west in the wall. Both are four light casements with stone mullions and transoms and sills. They are contemporary with wall 1271, although the areas below the sills have been cut back by a skin of bricks which is contemporary with wall 1347.

1347 The east facing wall has a straight joint which may represent the blocking of a fireplace, as indicated by a stone hearth.

1317 South facing wall - timber framed.

1337, 1338 Contains two doorways, 1337 to the east and 1338 to the west. Both post-date the timber-framing. Both have moulded architraves and boxed in reveals. The west door survives: it is modern.

This room was originally divided and shows two phases of division. The first phase is indicated by the tie beam which supports the truss in the attic: it has large mortices on its underside, probably for studs. The second phase was probably a modern hardboard partition, and is indicated by scars on the wallpaper of wall 1317 and along the floorboards.

The floorboards run east/west.

Half of the ceiling has been removed. The remains in the west end of the room indicate that a mortar floor lies under the floorboards in the attic.

### **Room FF19**

1252 South facing wall. Brick, part of 1860s rebuild.

1329 Contains window 1329, a two light casement with four panes to each light and stone transom, sill and surround. The areas on each side of the window has been refaced with modern brick and cement which butts the stone surrounds of the window.

1327 This window is identical to 1329.

1326, 1328 These windows are four light casements. In all other details they are the same as 1329.

1344 This is a stretch of timber-framed wall which contains doorway 1345 and window 1346. It has a midrail with close studding below. To the south of the doorway, it appears that two horizontal and two vertical timbers have been removed - there are peg holes on the mid rail and the east door jamb. To the east of the window is an area of timber framing with herringbone timbers above the midrail and close studding below. On the north facing side of this wall all the carpenters marks match up. If the herringbone is a subsequent infill, why is there no evidence of peg holes which do not relate to it? Unless it was all one large panel.

Above this wall is a wall plate which has halving joints cut out for the support of ceiling joists now removed. Above this timber is a side purlin which supports the elaborate roof rafters.

1345 The doorway has a four-centred arch and appears to be contemporary with the wall.

1346 The midrail forms the sill of this window. It has three studs below which are tenoned and pegged in. There is no evidence of pegs on the top side of the midrail, which may suggest there never were any studs above it, therefore the window could be contemporary. The stone mullions do not sit very well the mid rail but this could be the result of later displacement.

1317 The north facing wall is timber-framed with a midrail and close studding above and below. It has horizontal wattle and appears to be contemporary with the roof bosses. The second truss from the east, the tie beam, has a large mortice on its underside, probably for a brace. This mortice is numbered V, as is the post in the wall that it rests on. The fourth truss from the east - the tie beam has no mortices but is marked III, as is the post. The fifth from the east has two mortices on its underside, probably for braces, and is numbered II; therefore the trusses are numbered I to VI from the west to the east. The numbers on the trusses and posts all correspond. Only two trusses, V and II, have mortices for braces.

1341 This doorway in wall 1317 has a four centred arch.

1318, 1322 These more modern doorways probably replace similar doorways to 1341.  
1337

1348 This doorway is an insertion. It has an elaborate cusped wooden panel on the west side and is in similar style to the decor in the King's Room. The present door is six panelled with three lights replaced by glass, as are two in the partition.

The floorboards run east/west.

The floor above has been removed beyond truss V. The attic space to the south has been closed off with a plasterboard wall.

### **Room FF20 - The Oak Rooms**

1271 North facing brick wall. It is covered from floor to ceiling in panelling with a heavy cornice.

1313, 1314 The windows have oak architraves and shutters and are four light casements. They are distinguishable from the windows in room FF22 as the top two lights of these windows have curved tops. They have iron frames and stone transoms and mullions.

1319 This wall is again panelled. It contains doorways 1321 and 1320 which are described in room FF22.

1343 At the corner of walls 1319 and 1271 is a fireplace, 1343. It has a marble surround and an inserted mirror above.

1323 The east facing wall, which is timber-framed with mortar infill, but one small exposed area shows clearly that the original infill was daub.

1317 South facing timber framed wall. A small exposed area in the north-east corner shows timber studs and daub.

1341 This doorway, now blocked, is visible on the other side of the wall. The doorway is contemporary with the wall and has a four centred arch. The unusual feature is that on the other side of the wall it appears to be blocked with studs and daub as described above.

The ceiling is plastered.

Two phases of flooring are visible: 1340, a mortar floor, and subsequently, floorboards.

### **Room FF21**

1263 This wall is the same build as 1252, the north facing wall of the south range, ie it was built in the 1860s as a projecting bay.

1330 This window is constructed of two two-light windows with four panes to each light.

1331 This window is a two light window with four panes to each light and a stone mullion.

1349 This is a blocked fireplace in the south-west corner of the room. It has a segmental brick arch constructed of two courses of soldiers, and is blocked with brick.

The roof is gabled and has a decorative air vent on the north gable, the same style as those in the Douglas Wing.

### **Room FF22**

1271 The north facing wall externally has the same brick work as that downstairs, therefore it is part of the same wall. Internally it is panelled over.

1311, 1312 These windows are four panel casements with shutters and classical architraves.

1339 The fireplace has a cast iron grate still intact. It has a timber surround which is continuous with the wood panelling.

1315 The west facing wall is timber-framed. A detailed drawing exists. This wall does not quite line up with the beam 1288 downstairs.

1316 Contains doorway 1316. This doorway has an ogee arch and the door itself is a later replacement.

- 1342 To the south is doorway 1342 which has a pointed arch. It has blocked with modern brick and cement.
- 1317 The south facing wall is timber framed, as exposed on the north facing side. It consists of close studding above and below a mid-rail.
- 1318 Door 1318 is probably a later insertion contemporary with the wood panelling in the room. Internally there is elaborate carving above the doorway. The door is a later replacement.
- 1319 The east facing wall is panelled up to dado height and plastered above.
- 1321 It contains doorway 1321 which has an elaborate design of a king on this side of the room. There are two doors; the one on this side of the room has a mirror in it, the door on the other side has elaborate applied panels the same as in room FF20.
- 1320 There is no evidence of this door in the north end of wall 1319, it is completely plastered over. However, in room FF20 there is a similar doorway to 1321 with the same carving above the door except that the lady faces the opposite way, so that the figures face each other. This door indicates that the panelling in room FF22 is later than that in room FF20, the panelling is up to dado height.
- The floorboards run north/south.
- The ceiling is plastered over.

### **Room F23 - Shower Room, Blore Wing**

This room is plastered and tiled. Window 1232 is a later insertion - modern brickwork and cement is visible. It is a two light casement.

### **Room FF25 - Corridor, Blore Wing**

- 1187 The south facing wall still has its rails for panelling.
- 1244, 1245 It contains windows 1244 and 1245. The former is a four light window with four panes per light; the latter is a six light window. The architraves for both are the same as for the doorways. They do not have shutters.
- 1219 The north facing wall has a lattice of modern machine-cut timbers which stand proud of the wall to bring the plastering of this wall in line with that of the south range. It contains doorways 1246 and 1247.
- 1246 This is a twentieth century door with a nineteenth century architrave which stands proud of the wall.
- 1247 This doorway has the same architrave. It is blocked.
- A round headed brick arch leads into FF19 of the south range.

### **Room FF26 - Blore Wing**

- 1186 The east facing wall is contemporary with wall 1198. The timber rails for panelling have been replaced by modern bricks.
- 1231 It contains window 1231, which is a six light sash with four panes to each light. The architrave has been removed, and the area below the sill has been repaired with modern brick. The lintel is a re-used timber, with a groove which indicates it may be a re-used floor joist as is the norm in this wing. The window is contemporary with the wall.
- 1200 The south facing wall is contemporary with wall 1196. Its relationship with wall 1186 is obscured by an area of modern breeze block which runs up to ceiling height and could be blocking an alcove similar to the one at the east end of the wall.
- 1249 In the centre of the wall is a blocked fireplace 1249 with a segmental brick arch and an iron bar. It is blocked with bricks and mortar.
- To the east of the fireplace is a recess which runs up to ceiling height.
- 1196 The west facing wall is contemporary with walls 1200 and 1198. There is no evidence of timber rails. There has been a lot of modern cement repointing.

- 1236 It contains doorway 1236 which is contemporary with the wall. The door frame and door have been removed and the lintels have been replaced with modern brick and iron lintels.
- 1198 The north facing wall is contemporary with wall 1196 and 1186. There are no features. The timber rails for panelling replaced by modern brick.
- The floor is a yellow, white, red and blue mosaic of an 'overlapping arch' design.
- The roof has modern machine-cut joists running east/west. The west end has been repaired very recently with the insertion of an RSJ and new joists.

### **Room FF27 - Blore Wing**

- 1198 The south facing wall is contemporary with walls 1186 and 1196. It has no features.
- 1196 The west facing wall is contemporary with walls 1185 and 1198.
- 1248 It contains fireplace 1248 which has a segmental brick arch, supported by an iron bar. This fireplace is not blocked, it contains two large blocks of sandstone and the grate has been removed.
- 1235 This doorway is located to the north of the fireplace. It is contemporary with wall 1196, and has a brick relieving arch and a reused lintel with a groove on both sides of the doorway. There are three lintels in total, the central one is also reused: it has a truncated mortice with two peg holes. There is no door or door frame.
- To the south of the fireplace is an alcove which is contemporary with the wall. It has a brick relieving arch above it. The two lintels show no evidence of re-use.
- 1185 The north facing wall is contemporary with walls 1186 and 1196.
- 1229 It contains window 1229, which is the same as windows 1223 in FF31 and 1228 in FF30.
- 1186 The east facing wall is contemporary with walls 1185 and 1198.
- 1230 It contains window 1230, which is a four pane sash, the same style as window 1229 but narrower. Externally, this window appears to be a later repair.
- To the south of the window is an area of modern blocking which fills an alcove, again with re-used timber with a groove.
- To the north of the window is an alcove with a brick relieving arch, which has been converted in to a small walk-in cupboard with an architrave and a six-panelled door.
- The floor of the room above is very recent pine.
- The floorboards run east/west.

### **Room FF28 - Blore Wing**

- 1173 The north facing wall has timber rails for panelling. There is no evidence of alcove 1239 on this side. Doorway 1240 in this wall is described in room FF29.
- 1187 The south facing wall is contemporary with walls 1182 and 1175.
- 1242 It contains window 1242, which has ten lights and four panes to each light. The architrave has been removed and the lintel replaced by an RSJ.
- 1243 This window, also in wall 1187, has been blocked internally with slates and five upright timbers. Externally it is a dummy window.
- 1175 The east facing wall contains blocked fireplace 1251 which has a segmental brick arch.
- 1238 The doorway has a six panelled door and is the same style as doorway 1240 in wall 1173.
- 1182 The west facing wall has rails for panelling. It contains two recesses containing shelving; they have relieving arches and architraves the same as those for the doors.
- The floor has been removed, apart from the joists, one of which, in the east end of the room, has an elaborate timber mark.

The ceiling has on spine beam to the west. The other has been removed. There is no evidence of re-used timbers.

### **Room FF29 - Blore Wing**

- 1173 The south facing wall is contemporary with walls 1175 and 1182. Most of the panelling rails have been replaced with modern brick.
- 1240 It contains doorway 1240, which leads into FF28, and is contemporary with the wall. It has a brick relieving arch above it and contains a six panelled door. The architrave is the same as that of doorway 1226 (FF30).
- 1239 To the west is doorway 1239, which is also contemporary with the wall. It has a brick relieving arch and a re-used timber lintel. However, unlike the usual timbers with grooves, this one has a mortice on the room side. The doorway is blocked by four machine cut timber uprights and is plastered over on the other side. It was never meant to be a doorway and was possibly a cupboard.
- 1175 The east facing wall is contemporary with walls 1173 and 1178. The timber rails have been replaced with modern brick.
- 1237 It contains doorway 1237 which is contemporary with the wall. It is the same style as doorway 1240.
- 1250 In the centre of the wall is fireplace 1250. It has a brick segmental arch and contains an elaborate cast iron register grate. The original surround has been removed and replaced by a 1950s fake marble type.
- 1178 The north facing wall has no features other than a relieving arch and timber rail described in room FF31.
- 1182 The west facing wall has its timber rails still *in situ*. It is contemporary with walls 1173 and 1178.
- 1241 It contains window 1241. The architrave, shutters and panelling below are the same as those for window 1223 in FF31.
- To the south of the window is an alcove with a relieving arch. It is boxed in with an architrave of the same style as the window. To the north of the window is a similar cupboard with the same style architrave and a modern door.
- The ceiling has two spine beams running north/south. There is no evidence of re-use. The floor joists are very narrow.

### **FF30 - Blore Wing**

- 1199 The south facing wall is the same as the other walls.
- 1227 To the west end of wall 1199 is doorway 1227. It has a brick relieving arch and a re-used timber lintel with a groove facing the room, which was possibly a re-used joist. This doorway has been blocked with four upright machine-cut timbers, including a door jamb.
- 1226 This doorway is at the east end of wall 1199. It has a brick relieving arch and a six panelled door with only one bead of applied moulding to each panel, compared to the more elaborate door 1224. The architraves are the same.
- Doorway 1227 is certainly contemporary with wall 1199. The architrave of doorway 1226 obscures any evidence of it contemporaneity or otherwise.
- 1212 The west facing wall is contemporary with wall 1199.
- 1234 It contains fireplace 1234 which has a segmental arch supported by an iron bar and is blocked by modern bricks and cement.
- To either side of the fireplace are cupboards, contemporary with the wall, set below brick relieving arches. Each has a re-used timber lintel with a groove facing the room - re-used floor joists.
- 1185 The north facing wall is contemporary with wall 1212. Some of the timber rails have been replaced by modern brick.
- 1228 It contains window 1228 which is contemporary with the wall and is the same style as window 1223 in FF31.

1196 The east facing wall is contemporary with walls 1185 and 1199. Some timber rails are still *in situ*, others have been replaced by modern brick.

The floor and ceiling are the same as in room FF31.

### **Room FF31**

1178 The south facing wall contains a timber rail which has been cut back, truncating three peg holes in its outer face, one of which has the peg still *in situ*. The function of this re-used timber is unclear. It has six rows of nails vertically aligned which suggests it may have been inserted for the attachment of panelling.

There is a brick relieving arch below the timber.

1182 The west facing wall contains two cupboards with 1950s/60s doors. The wall has rails for the attachment of panelling, although some have been replaced by modern brick.

1225 It contains a central fireplace 1225, which has a segmental brick arch and has been blocked with modern bricks and cement and has a modern radiator inserted in front of it.

1185 The north facing wall has modern brick in place of all its rails.

1223 It contains window 1223 which has six lights, the same as downstairs, but has a decorative transom with neo-classical decor. It has three vertical sashes, a simply moulded architrave and panelling below the sill. The window is contemporary with the wall.

1212 The east facing wall is the same as the other walls - again, some of the rails have been replaced by modern brick.

1224 It contains doorway 1224 which has a brick relieving arch above it. The door is six panelled with applied moulding to the panels and is panelled in the reveals. It has a simply moulded architrave.

The floorboards run east/west.

The ceiling has very thin machine cut joists running east/west.

## **SECOND (ATTIC) FLOOR**

### **Room AF1**

1377 West facing wall - described in AF2.

1387 North facing wall, contemporary with wall 1377.

1390 East facing wall. It is contemporary with wall 1387, as is the south facing wall.

This room is at a lower level than AF2; wooden steps, contemporary with the floor, lead down into this space. The floorboards are the same as in AF2; they are all one phase.

The roof is hipped.

### **Room AF2 - Attic, Douglas Wing**

1387 North facing wall. Brick and mortar. The bond is different internally and externally.

1498 It contains window 1498, which is contemporary with the wall. It is a two-light casement with sandstone mullions and surround.

1384 West facing wall. It is contemporary with, and the same as, wall 1387.

1497 Contains window 1497, which is the same as 1498 and is also contemporary with the wall.

1381 South facing wall, same as wall 1387.

1496 It contains blocked fireplace 1496, which has a segmental brick arch blocked with modern brick and cement.

To the east is an area recessed in order to accommodate the hip of the roof. This was never an access point.

- 1495 This doorway is contemporary with wall 1381. It has a simple beaded architrave. The door itself has been removed.
- 1538 This partition butts this wall and wall 1377. It is a lath and plaster partition wall boxing in the hip of the roof.
- 1377 East facing wall. It is the same as wall 1387.
- 1499 It contains doorway 1499 which is of two phases. The first phase has a segmental brick arch of three courses of soldiers, and is contemporary with the wall. The second phase consists of the brickwork used to lower the height of the doorway and the construction of another segmental arch five courses below the original. The north reveal has also been cut back by a headers width.
- The floorboards, which are not tongue and groove, run north/south. They rest on floor joists lapped onto three spine beams which also run north-south. There is no evidence of any re-used timber.
- The roof has four gables.

### ***Room AF3 - Attic, Douglas Wing***

- 1381 The north facing wall staggers outwards, possibly to accommodate the chimney for the fireplace in AF2. It is of the same construction as wall 1387. There are three empty holes in wall 1381 which may have been the housing for floor joists. They are above the present floor level, therefore the floor may have been lowered. This suggestion is supported by the fact that the floor in the west of the room encroaches on the lintel of the window in the room below; although three joist holes do not seem to be sufficient evidence to support such a theory. There are no corresponding holes on the south wall.
- 1493 Wall 1381 is butted by a plasterboard partition wall, 1493, which runs north-south and boxes in the staircase. It originally completely blocked off the Douglas Wing from the South Range.
- 1494 Wall 1493 contains doorway 1494 which was created by removing one plasterboard panel. It is very narrow.
- 1539 Staircase 1539 leads up to AF2. It is the same style as the staircase that leads downstairs and is contemporary with wall 1381.
- 1377 East facing wall. It is contemporary with wall 1381 and it butts 1372 to the south, ie the south wall of the south-west wing. It also contains the brick relieving arch for the window in the room below.
- 1372 The south facing wall is part of the south-west wing. It is butted by walls 1377 and 1373 (which is itself butted by partition wall 1493).
- 1380 The west facing wall is contemporary with wall 1381. It butts wall 1352 of the south range.
- The ceiling is all plastered over.
- The floor has mainly been replaced by plasterboard.

### ***Room AF4 - Kitchen, 2nd Floor***

- 1514 This truss is in the west facing wall. It is only partially visible. Its collar has been cut back at the north end and a stud has been removed from below the collar, as indicated by the empty mortice in the tie beam. One stud, part of the collar and part of the principal rafter are visible in the room. This truss appears to be later than truss I (1513) of the south range: a purlin of this range has been cut back in order to accommodate the kitchen truss.
- 1486 The south facing wall is completely plastered over. It is a plasterboard partition wall, contemporary with doorway 1487.
- 1485 Window 1485 is in the north facing roof valley - it has a large purlin and windbrace jointed to the principal rafter of east facing truss 1518. The window was a three light casement dormer. The glass has been removed.
- The floorboards run north/south. They are tongue and groove and rest on machine-cut joists raised above a mortar floor.

### ***Room AF5 - South Range Attic***

- 1472 The west facing truss is described in room AF6. The infill in the south corner is wattle and plaster covered with lath and plaster.
- 1271 The north facing wall is of brick. It is part of the 1860s refacing.
- 1512 It contains window 1512, a one light casement.
- 1317 The south facing wall is plasterboard.
- 1477 It contains window 1477 which is a two-light casement. The east light has four panes, the west light one.
- 1473 The east facing truss. Like truss 1472, this one has been altered in order to create two doorways, 1481 and 1482.
- The infill is of wattle and mortar. The wattle runs vertically immediately to the south of the doorway. Further south and below the brace the wattle runs horizontally. Both sections are bonded with the same mortar, originally covered with white plaster and laths, traces of which remain.
- Two side purlins to the south have been removed in order to accommodate the inserted gable at this point. Empty mortices remain in the principal rafters.
- The floorboards run east-west. They are not tongue and groove.
- The ridge piece and two purlins and two lengths of moulded rafters survive. All the other rafters are replacements.

### **Room AF6**

- 1471 West facing truss.
- 1511 Contains doorway 1511; the collar was cut back to insert this door and the jambs butt up to the studs which are cut as queen posts. The door jambs are pegged to the lintel which forms a segmental arch. It is now blocked with plasterboard on the west side, and with lath and plaster on the east.
- 1470 In order to form this doorway, the tie beam has been cut back, the collar cut through and the principal rafter and queen post have been cut back. The door surround is modern, plain, twentieth century. The infill of the truss is generally lathe and plaster covered with plasterboard. When the collar was cut back for the insertion of the doorway, an additional tie beam between principal rafters was bolted on.
- 1317 South facing wall., below the moulded purlin. It is plasterboard.
- 1478 This one light dormer window is in the north facing roof valley.
- 1472 The east facing truss has a cambered collar at a higher level than truss 1471, with a central boss that has been cut back in order to insert doorway 1476.
- 1476 This doorway is formed from two re-used timbers with grooves on both north and south sides. They fit into a mortice on the underside of the collar which runs from the boss to just before the south end of the collar -the peg holes are plastered up - the original queen posts may have been removed. The tie beam slopes at this point - it has not been cut back.
- 1475 Cf doorway 1470: the tie beam and principal rafter have been cut back and the stud has been removed. No door frame survives.
- Up to doorway 1475 the floorboards run north/south. They are tongue and groove and are probably replacements as the other floorboards in line with the door run north-south but an area of six floorboards run east/west. The floorboards in the line of the doors are not tongue and groove.
- The roof is of trenched purlins, moulded with 'bosses' where they meet moulded rafters.
- There is complete survival of the south side, but to the north two of the rafters have been replaced. The roof today sits on machine-cut common rafters.

### **Room AF7 - South Range Attic**

- 1467 West facing truss, which is plasterboarded over. The principal rafter and purlins are visible. The ridge piece projects beyond this truss to the east - this may indicate that the refectory roof continued further east before the Blore Wing was built.



- 1480 Contains doorway 1480 (nineteenth century style?) moulded surround. The door itself has been removed.
- 1468 This is a modern partition wall of plasterboard inserted to create a bathroom.
- 1317 Lath and plaster partition - south facing wall.
- 1469 This window in the south facing wall is a two light dormer with a central wooden mullion.
- 1479 This is a four light dormer window in the north facing wall.
- 1471 East facing truss - described in room AF6.  
The floorboards run north/south.  
The roof is of machine-cut rafters. One visible purlin which has been boarded over may be original underneath.

**Room AF9 - Blore Attic**

- 1186 East facing brick wall. There are no features, other than four courses of brickwork which have been rebuilt with modern bricks. This may indicate that the floor has been lowered.
- 1185 North facing wall. It is contemporary with wall 1186. Again, the lower courses have been rebuilt with modern brick.
- 1451 Contains window 1451. This four light sash has a stone mullion and a timber lintel. The area below the window has been rebuilt with modern bricks and cement, therefore the window has been raised at some stage.
- 1196 The west facing wall is contemporary with walls 1185 and 1458.
- 1460 This doorway is inserted into wall 1196. There is no door or frame, simply an aperture.
- 1508 This blocked doorway is contemporary with the wall. It is blocked with modern bricks and cement.
- 1461 The fireplace has a segmental brick arch. It is blocked with modern bricks and cement.
- 1458 This wall is described in room AF8/AF12.  
The floorboards run north-south. They are tongue and groove. The joists are modern machine-cut.  
The roof has been rebuilt with pine. The tie beams and king post are re-used.

## APPENDIX 4

### CONTEXT RECORDS IN NUMERICAL ORDER

Context No	Room No	Context No	Room No
1000	G1	1072	FF3
1000	FF1	1074	FF4/FF7/FF8
1001	G1/FF1	1084	G9
1002	G1/FF1/FF2	1085	G8.G9
1003	G1	1086	G9
1004	G2/FF2	1088	G9
1005	G4/G4/G6	1089	G9
1006	G6	1092	G10/G11
1007	G6/FF3	1093	G10/
1008	G6/FF3	1095	G11
1009	G2/G	1096	G13/G11
1010	G1	1099	G11/G16
1014	G1	1103	G11
1016	G1	1105	G13/G16
1017	G1	1106	G15/G16/G18/G19
1018	G1	1107	G16/
1019	G2/G	1108	G18
1023	G2/G	1109	G15/G18/G19
1024	G2/G	1110	G16/
1025	G4	1111	G16/
1031	FF2	1112	G18
1032	FF2/FF4	1113	G19
1033	FF2	1114	G16/
1037	FF1	1116	G19
1039	FF1	1117	G19
1040	FF1	1120	G16/
1041	FF2	1121	G18
1042	FF2	1122	G18
1044	FF3	1123	G18
1045	FF3	1124	G18
1046	FF3	1125	G18
1047	FF3	1128	G8/G15/G20
1049	FF2	1129	G8
1050	FF2/FF3	1131	FF5
1051	FF2	1132	G8
1053	G2/G	1133	G15
1058	G4	1135	G8
1059	G2/G	1137	G13
1059	G4	1138	G13
1060	FF2	1140	G19
1061	FF2	1142	G19
1062	FF2	1143	G19
1063	G1	1145	G12
1064	FF1	1146	G15
1065	FF1	1147	G15
1066	FF1	1148	FF4
1067	G9/G10/G11/G16/FF3	1149	FF4
1068	FF3	1150	FF5
1069	FF3/FF4	1151	FF4
1070	FF3/FF4	1153	FF4
1071	FF3		

Context No	Room No
1154	FF4/FF7

Context No	Room No
1213	G51

1155	FF4	1214	G51
1156	FF6	1215	G52
1157	FF6	1216	G49
1158	FF4	1217	G49
1159	FF4	1218	G44
1160	FF4	1219	G44/FF2
1161	FF4/FF7	1220	G44
1163	FF4	1221	G43/G44
1164	FF6	1222	G44
1165	FF6	1223	FF3
1166	FF3	1224	FF3
1168	FF7	1225	FF3
1170	FF7	1226	FF30
1171	FF7	1227	FF30/GG22
1172	FF7	1228	G44
1173	G46/G47/FF2/FF2	1230	G22
1174	G47	1231	G44/G22
1175	G45/G46/G47/FF2/FF2	1232	G43
1176	G47	1233	G41/G38
1177	G47	1234	G38
1178	G47/FF2/FF3	1235	G22
1179	G47	1236	G22
1180	G47	1237	FF30
1181	G47	1238	FF1/FF2
1182	G46/G47/G49/G52/FF2/FF2/FF3	1239	FF30
1183	G47/G47	1240	FF1/FF2
1184	G36	1241	FF2
1185	G50/G51/G52/FF2/FF30/FF3/AF9	1242	FF1, G41
1186	G48/G50/FF2/FF2/AF9	1243	G39
1187	G44/G46/FF2/FF2	1245	G37
1188	G46	1246	G34
1189	G46	1247	G22
1190	G46	1248	G22/G34
1191	G46	1249	FF30
1192	G45	1250	G37
1193	G44	1251	G22
1194	G46	1252	FF1
1195	G44/G45	1253	FF30
1196	G45/G48/G51/FF2/FF2/FF30/AF9	1255	FF2
1197	G45/G48	1256	FF30/FF2
1198	G48/FF2/FF2	1257	G37
1199	G49/G50/G51/G52/FF30	1258	FF8/FF16
1200	G48/FF2	1260	FF30
1201	G48	1263	FF16/FF30
1202	G48	1264	G20
1203	G48	1265	G38
1204	G50	1266	G42/G43
1205	G51	1268	G36
1206	G52	1269	G22
1207	G51	1270	G22
1208	G50	1271	G22/G36/G43
1209	G51	1272	G43
1210	G52	1274	G41
1211	G50	1275	G38
1212	G51/G52/FF30/FF3	1278	G38

Context No	Room No
1280	G22
1282	G22
1284	G43
1285	G42

Context No	Room No
1365	FF9
1366	FF9
1367	FF9
1368	G27/FF9

1286	G42	1369	FF9
1288	G41	1370	FF9
1290	G41	1371	FF9
1291	G41	1372	G25/G27/FF9/AF3
1294	G39	1373	G23/G24/FF9
1295	G35	1374	FF9
1296	G35	1375	FF9
1299	G36	1376	FF1
1300	G37	1377	G24FF1/AF1/AF2/AF3
1302	G22/G26	1378	FF1
1303	G22	1379	FF1
1305	G22	1380	G24/FF1/AF3
1307	G22	1381	FF1/AF2/AF3
1309	G22	1382	FF1
1310	G22	1384	AF2
1312	FF2	1407	G25
1313	FF2	1410	G23
1314	FF2	1412	G25
1315	FF2	1414	G24
1316	FF2	1451	AF9
1317	FF1/FF1/FF2/FF2/AF5/AF6AF7	1458	AF9
1318	FF1/FF2	1460	AF9
1319	FF2/FF2	1461	AF9
1320	FF2	1467	AF7
1321	FF2	1468	AF7
1322	FF1	1469	AF7
1323	FF1/FF2	1470	AF6
1324	FF1	1471	AF6/AF7
1325	FF1	1472	AF5/AF6
1326	FF1	1473	AF5
1327	FF1	1475	AF6
1328	FF1	1476	AF6
1329	FF1	1477	AF5
1330	FF2	1478	AF6
1331	FF2	1521	G20
1336	G34	1522	FF8
1350	FF1	1523	FF16
1351	FF1	1524	FF1
1352	FF1	1525	FF16
1353	FF1	1527	FF9
1355	FF1	1528	FF9
1356	G20/FF8/FF16	1529	FF1
1357	G20/FF8	1535	G23
1359	FF8	1536	G24
1358	G20	1538	AF2
1361	FF16	1539	AF3
1362	FF8/FF16	1546	FF1
1363	FF16	1547	FF1
1364	G23/G27/FF9		

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 ILLUSTRATIONS
 

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***Plans and Elevations***

- Fig 1 Vale Royal Location Plan
- Fig 2 Vale Royal Great House - Local Context
- Fig 3 General Ground Plan
- Fig 4 General First Floor Plan
- Fig 5 Cellar Plan
- Fig 6 Second Floor Plan
- Fig 7 Ground Floor Plan - North (North West Wing and West Range)
- Fig 8 Ground Floor Plan - South West Wing
- Fig 9 Ground Floor Plan - South Range
- Fig 10 Ground Floor Plan - East (South Range and Blore Wing)
- Fig 11 First Floor Plan - North (North West Wing, Library and West Range)
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- Fig 16 North Elevation of North West Wing
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- Fig 18 North Elevation - South Range and Blore Wing
- Fig 19 East Elevation of Blore Wing
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- Fig 21 South Elevation - Orangery, South West Wing, South Range and Blore Wing
- Fig 22 South Elevation of the North West Wing
- Fig 23 West Face Elevation Wall 1270 - South Range, Ground Floor
- Fig 24 South Face Elevation Wall 1351 - South Range, First Floor
- Fig 25 Drawing Key for Truss Sections
- Fig 26 Truss 1 (1513) South Range (East Face)
- Fig 27 Truss 2 (1474) South Range (East Face)
- Fig 28 Truss 3 (1473) South Range (West Face)
- Fig 29 Truss 4 (1472) South Range (West Face)
- Fig 30 Truss 5 (1470/1) South Range (West Face)
- Fig 31 Truss 6 and Lower Partition (1315 and 1467) South Range (West Face)

***Prints and Engravings***

- Fig 32 1616. 'Vale Royal House as it appeared in 1616, from an original drawing, in outline, in the possession of Thomas Cholmondeley', reproduced in Omerod, G, 1882, 'The monastery of St. Mary of Vale Royal', *History of Cheshire*, 2 edn. ed. T Helsby, 159
  
- Fig 33 1774. 'The old hall of Vale Royal from the spot whereon stood the high altar', reproduced in 'The ancient abbey of Vale Royal', *Journal of Chester Archaeological and Historical Society*, 19. 1912, 109
  
- Fig 34 1775 'Vale Royal 1775', a view of the house from the south reproduced in Omerod, G, 1882, 'The monastery of St. Mary of Vale Royal', *History of Cheshire*, 2nd. edn. ed. T Helsby, 154

Fig 35 1816. 'Vale Royal', a view of the house from the north-west reproduced in Omerod, G, 1882, 'The monastery of St. Mary of Vale Royal', *History of Cheshire*, 2 edn. ed. T Helsby, 158

Fig 36 Plan of Vale Royal House in relation to the monastic plan, taken from McNeil, R, and Turner, RC, 1988, An Architectural and Topographical Survey of Vale Royal Abbey, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society*, 70, 51-79.

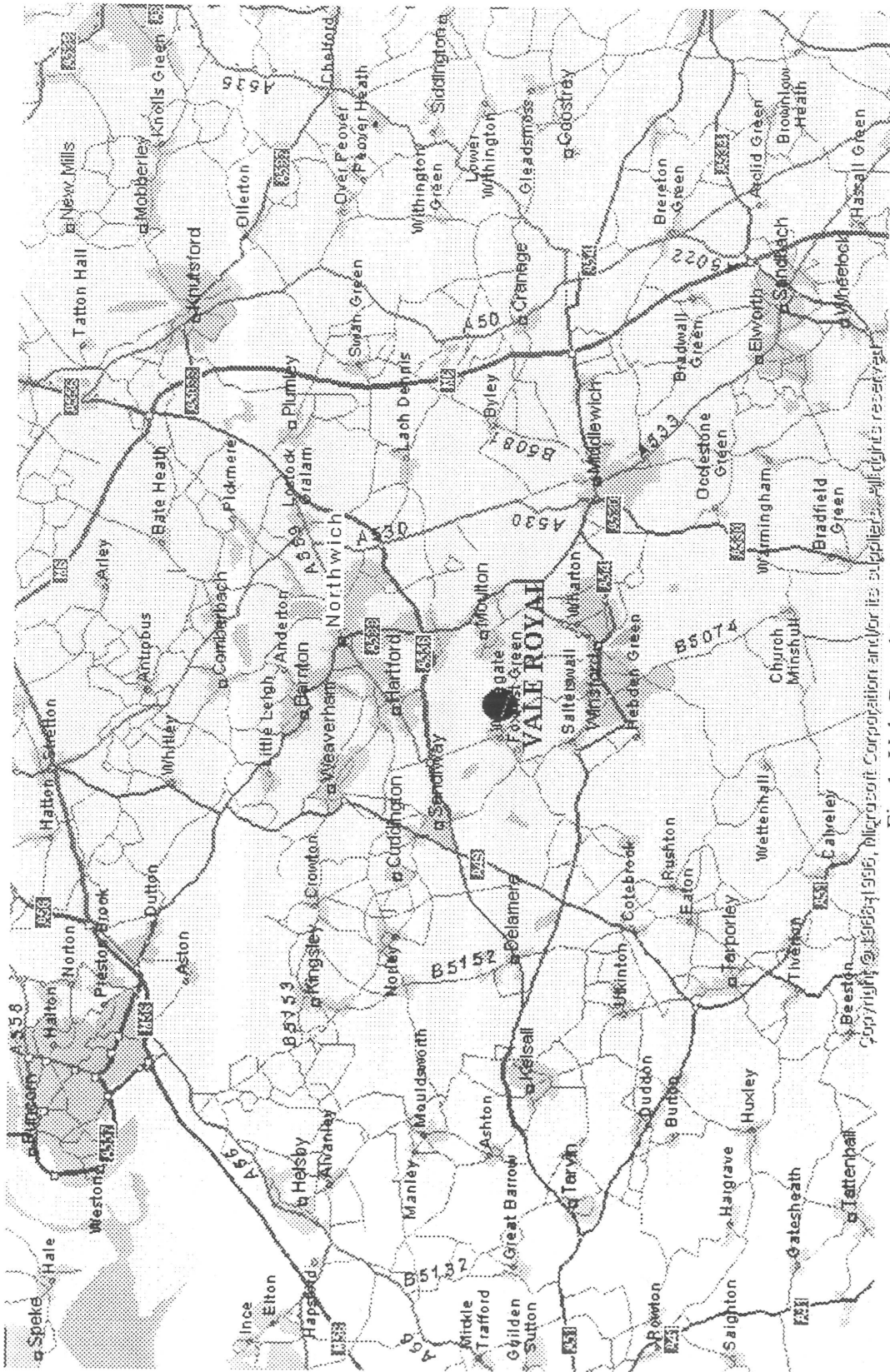


Fig 1 Vale Royal Location Map

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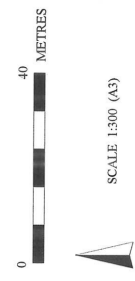
**VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,  
CHESHIRE**

PLAN NAME:  
VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE

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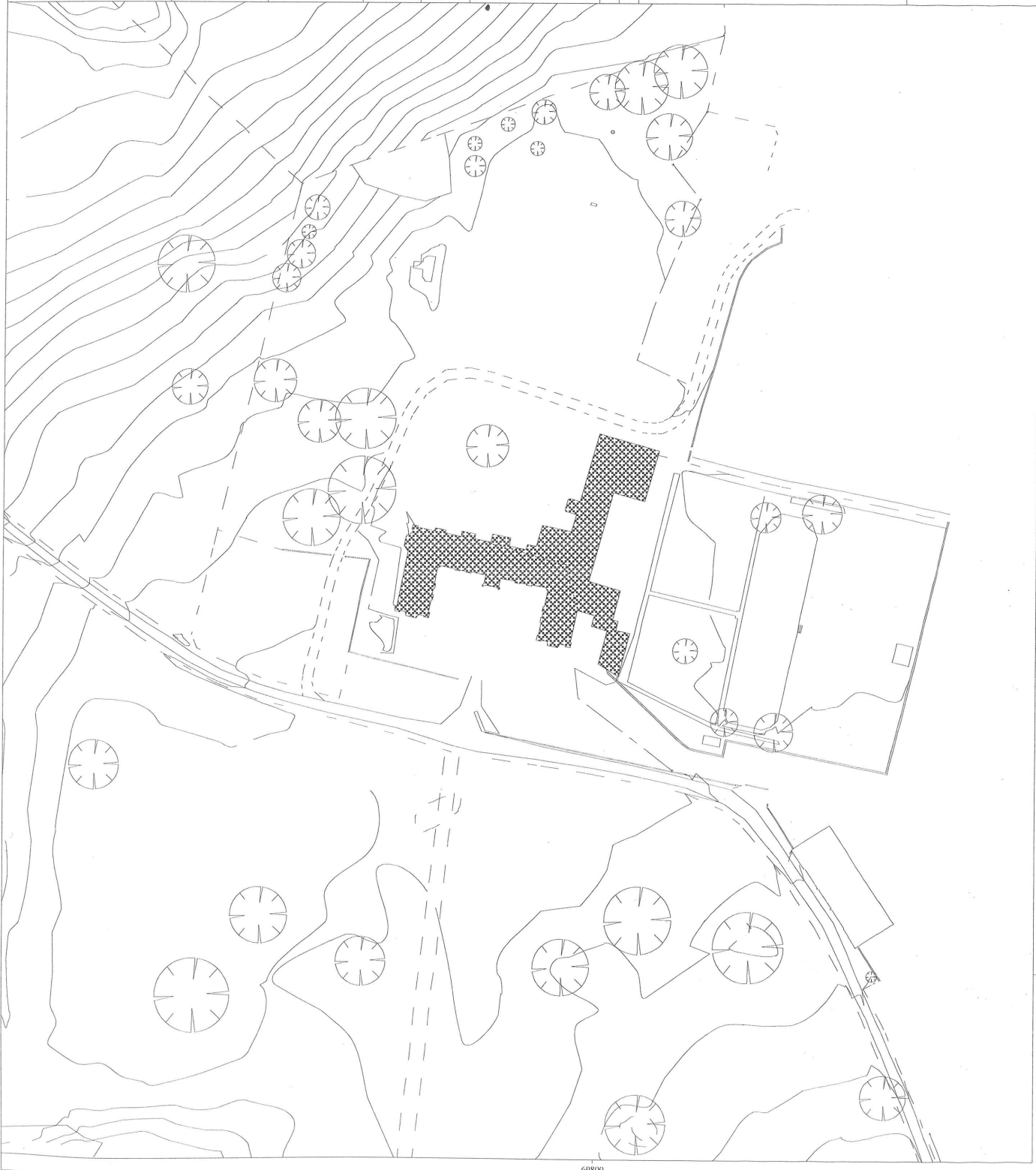
**FIGURE 2**

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63800

Fig 2 Vale Royal Great House in Context



# VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE, CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

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FIGURE 3

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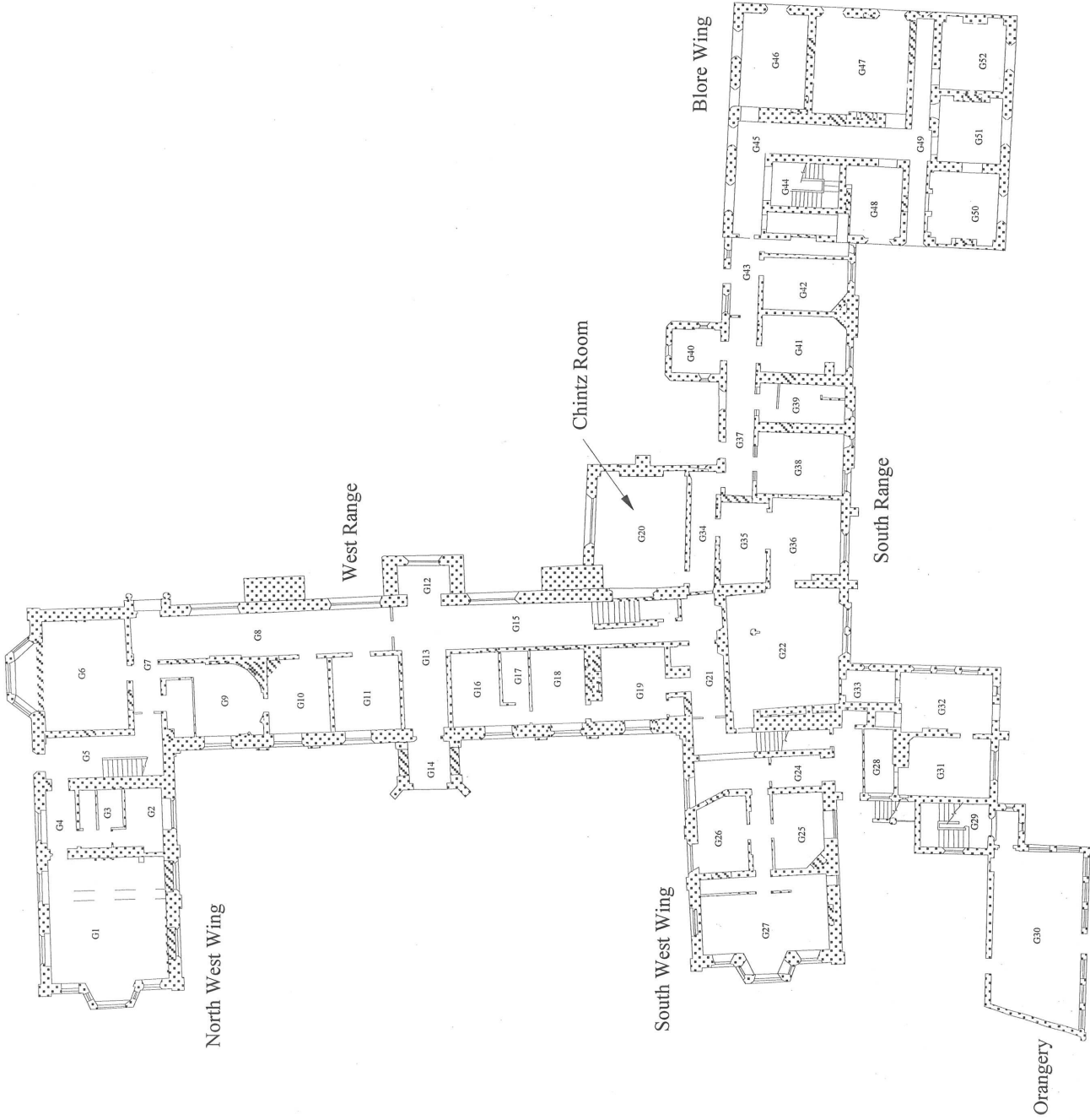


Fig 3 General Ground Plan

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,  
CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

COMMISSIONED & FUNDED BY:

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FIGURE 4

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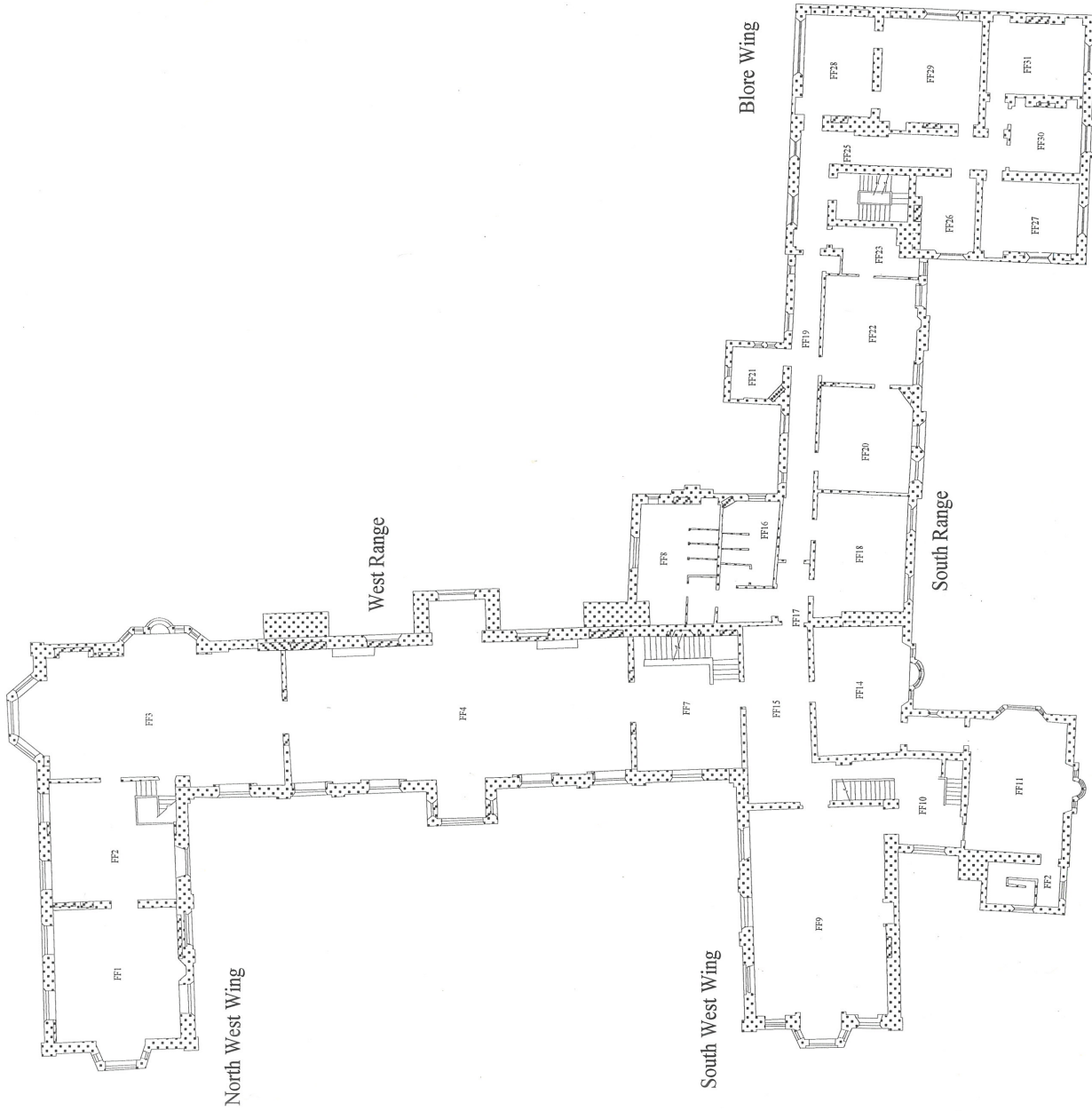


Fig 4 General First Floor Plan

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

CELLAR PLAN

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FIGURE 5

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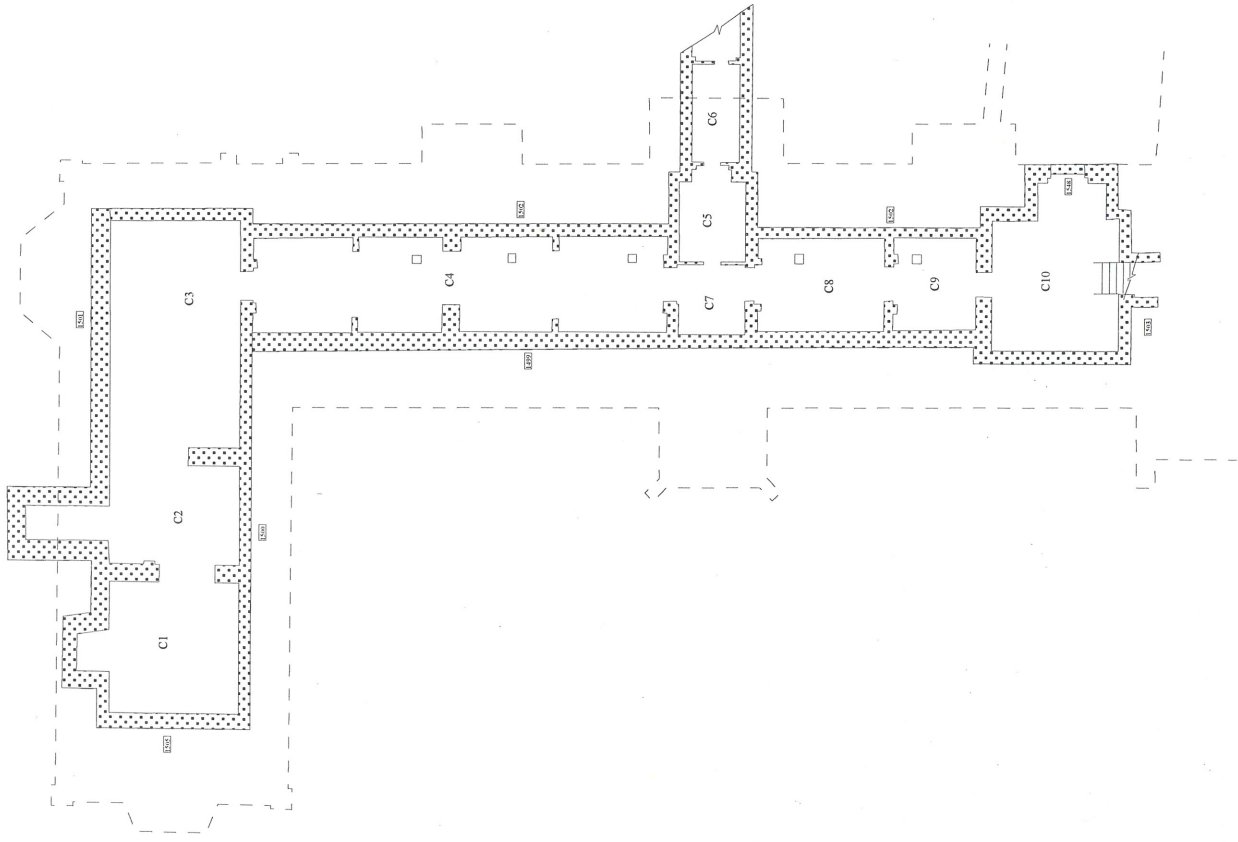


Fig 5 Cellar Plan

# VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE, CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE

PLANNING:

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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FIGURE 6

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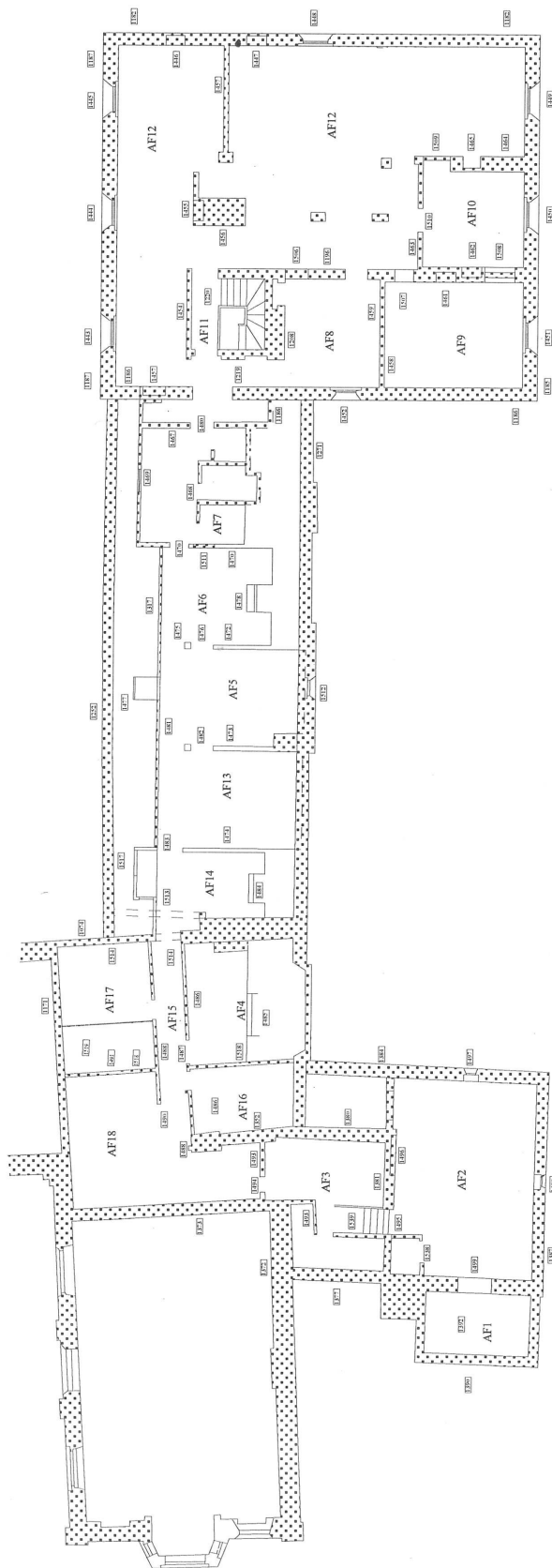


Fig 6 Second Floor Plan

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,  
CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
(NORTH SECTION)

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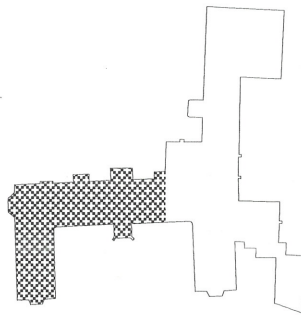
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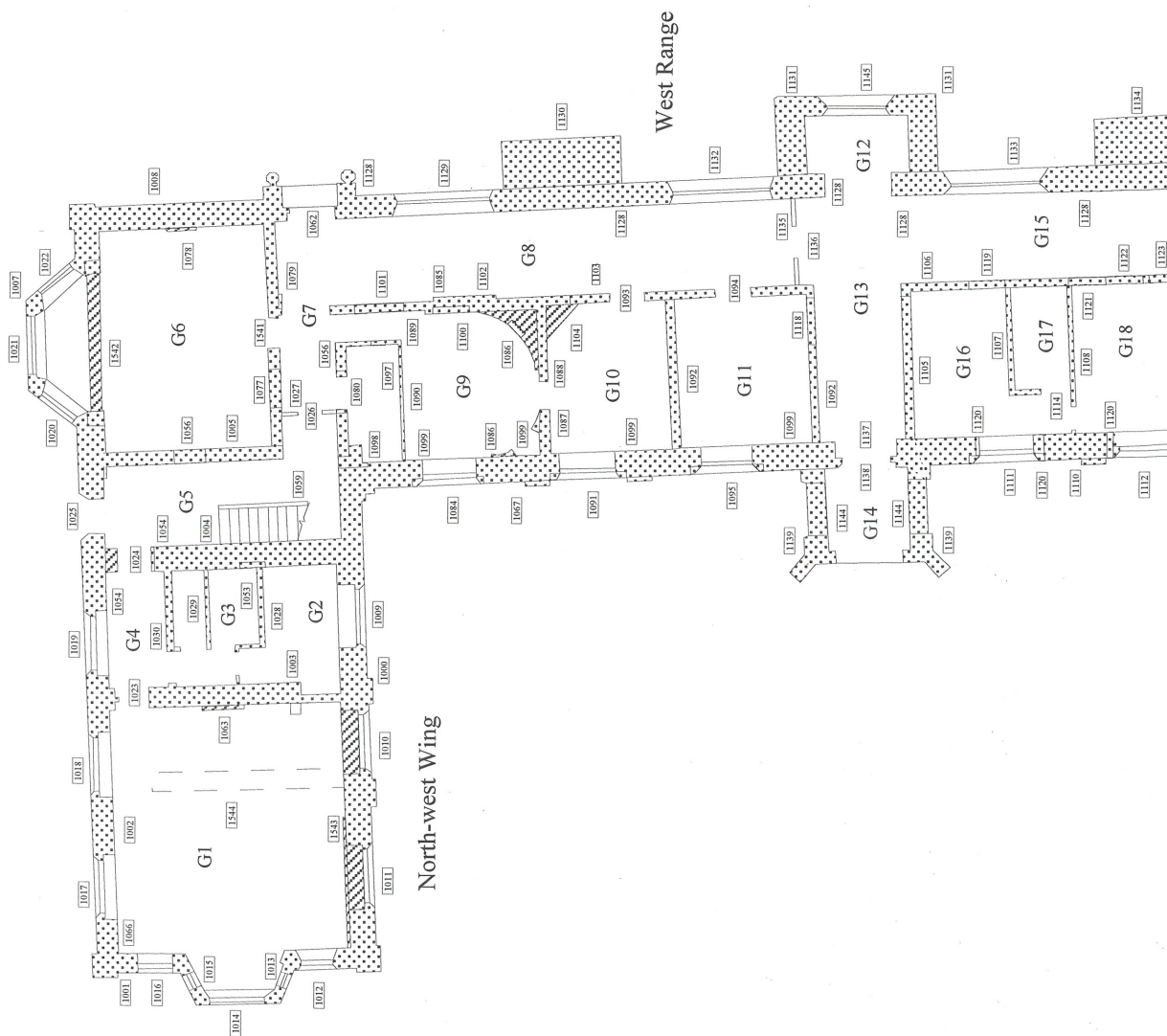


Fig 7 Ground Floor Plan - North West Wing and West Range



VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

SOUTH RANGE

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FIGURE 9

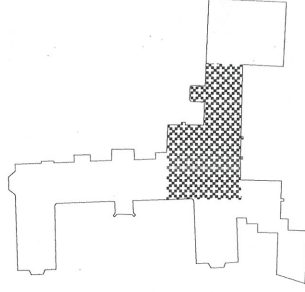
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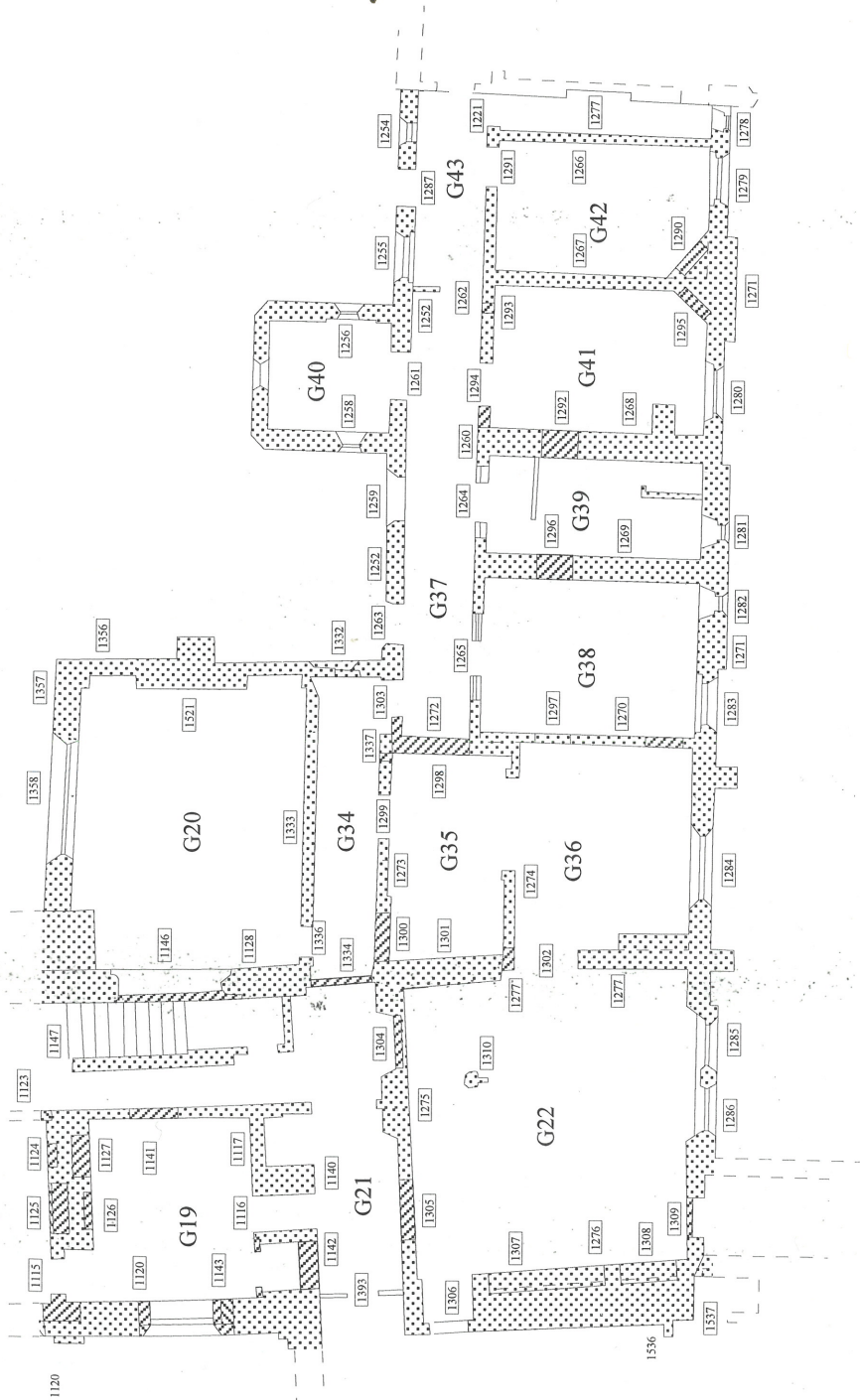


Fig 9 Ground Floor Plan - South Range

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
(EAST SECTION)

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FIGURE 10

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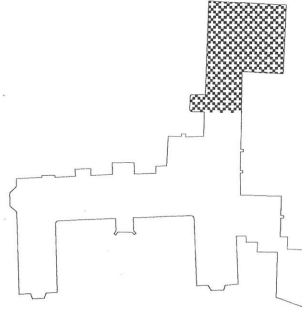
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Fig 10 Ground Floor Plan - East (South Range and Blore Wing)



VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
(NORTH SECTION)

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FIGURE 11

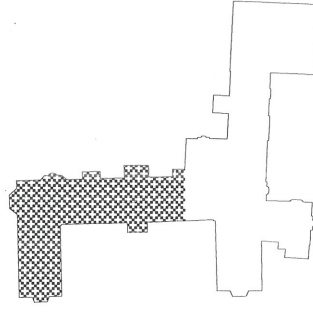
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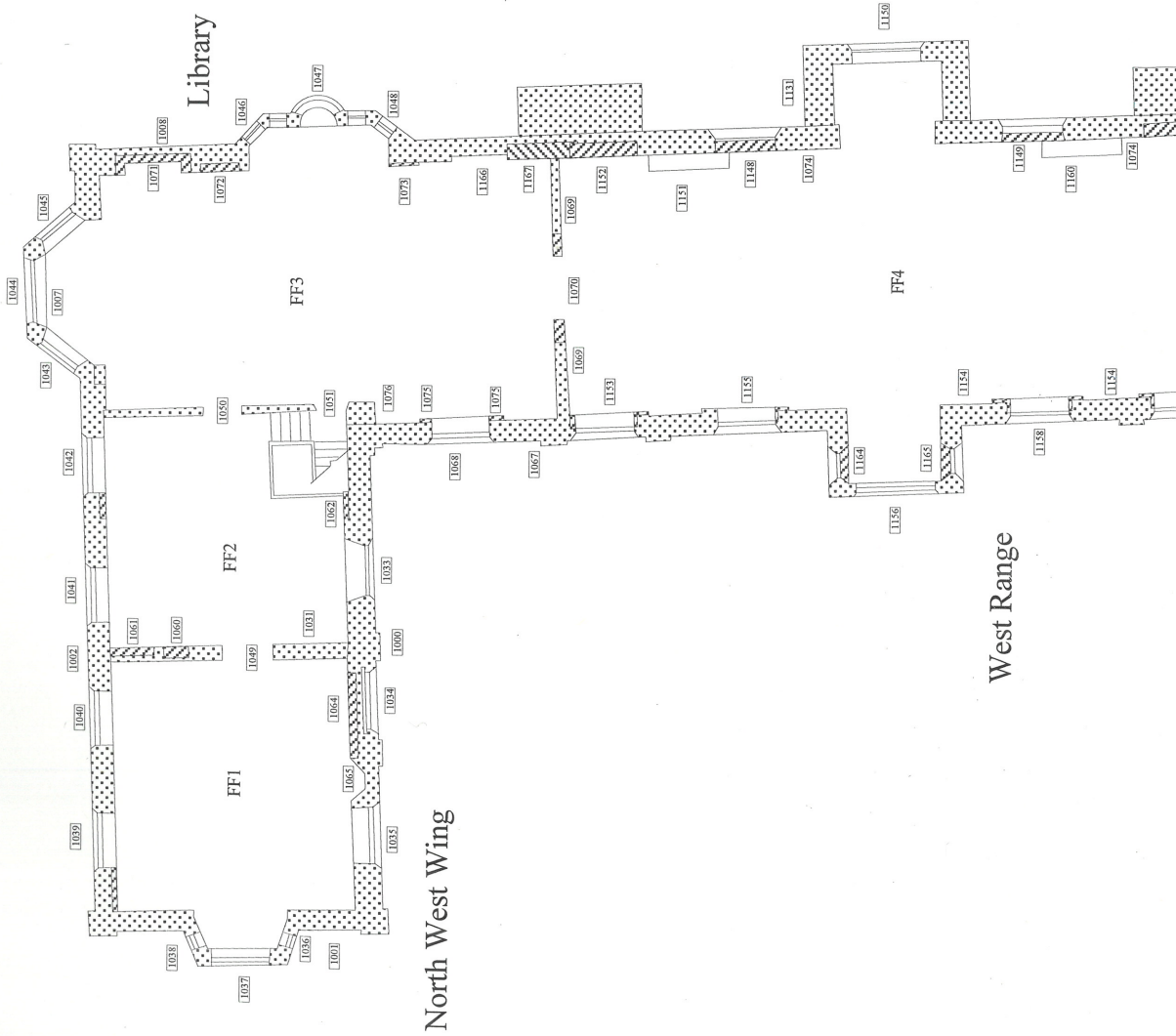


Fig 11 First Floor Plan - North (North West Wing and Library)

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
(SOUTH-WEST SECTION)

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FIGURE 12

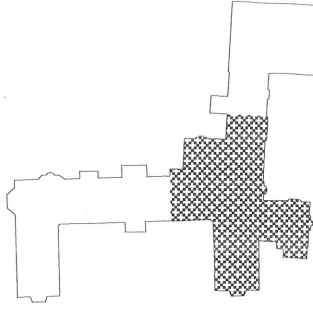
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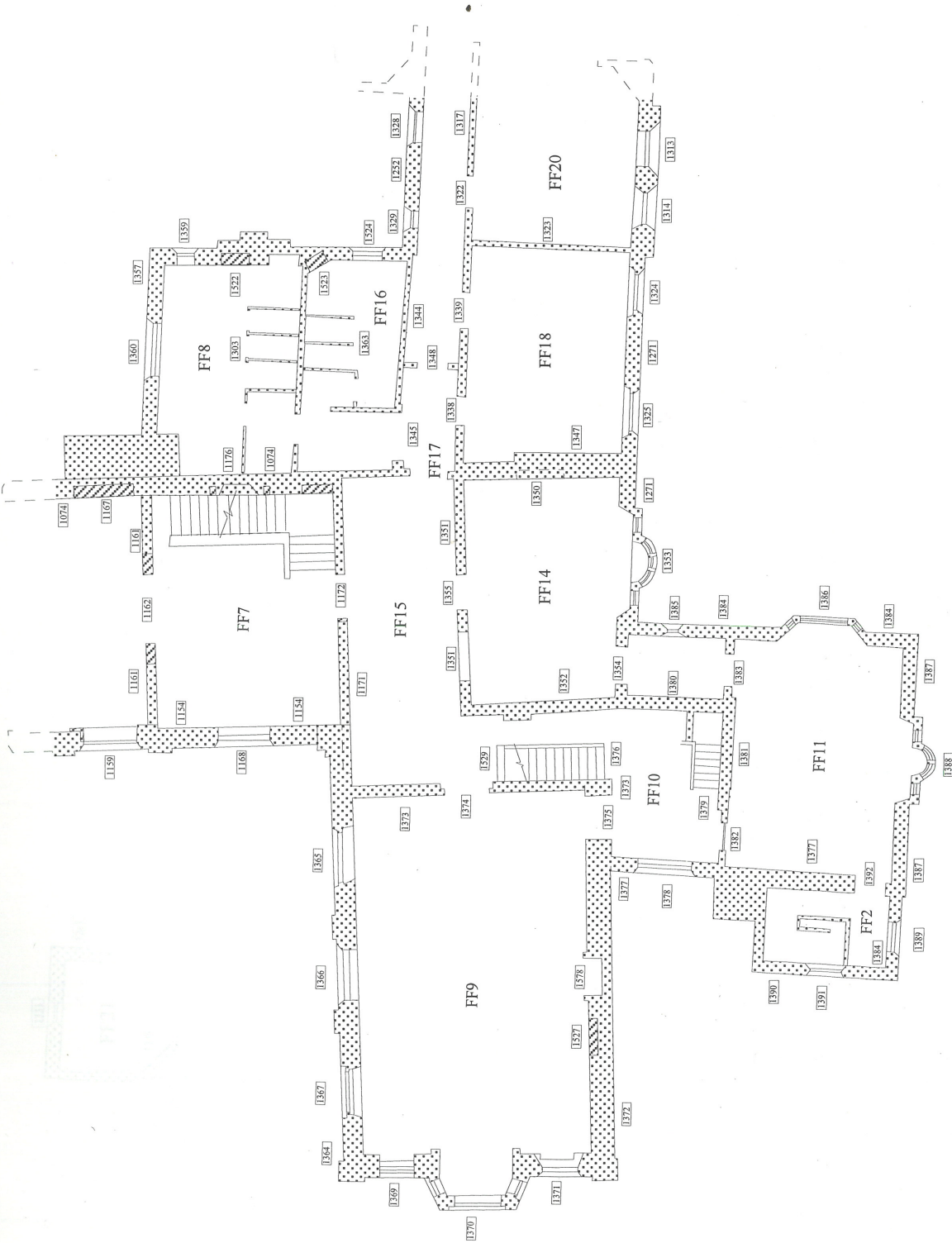


Fig 12 First Floor Plan - South West Wing

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,  
CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
(EAST SECTION)

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FIGURE 13

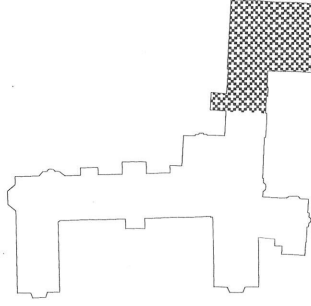
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VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE

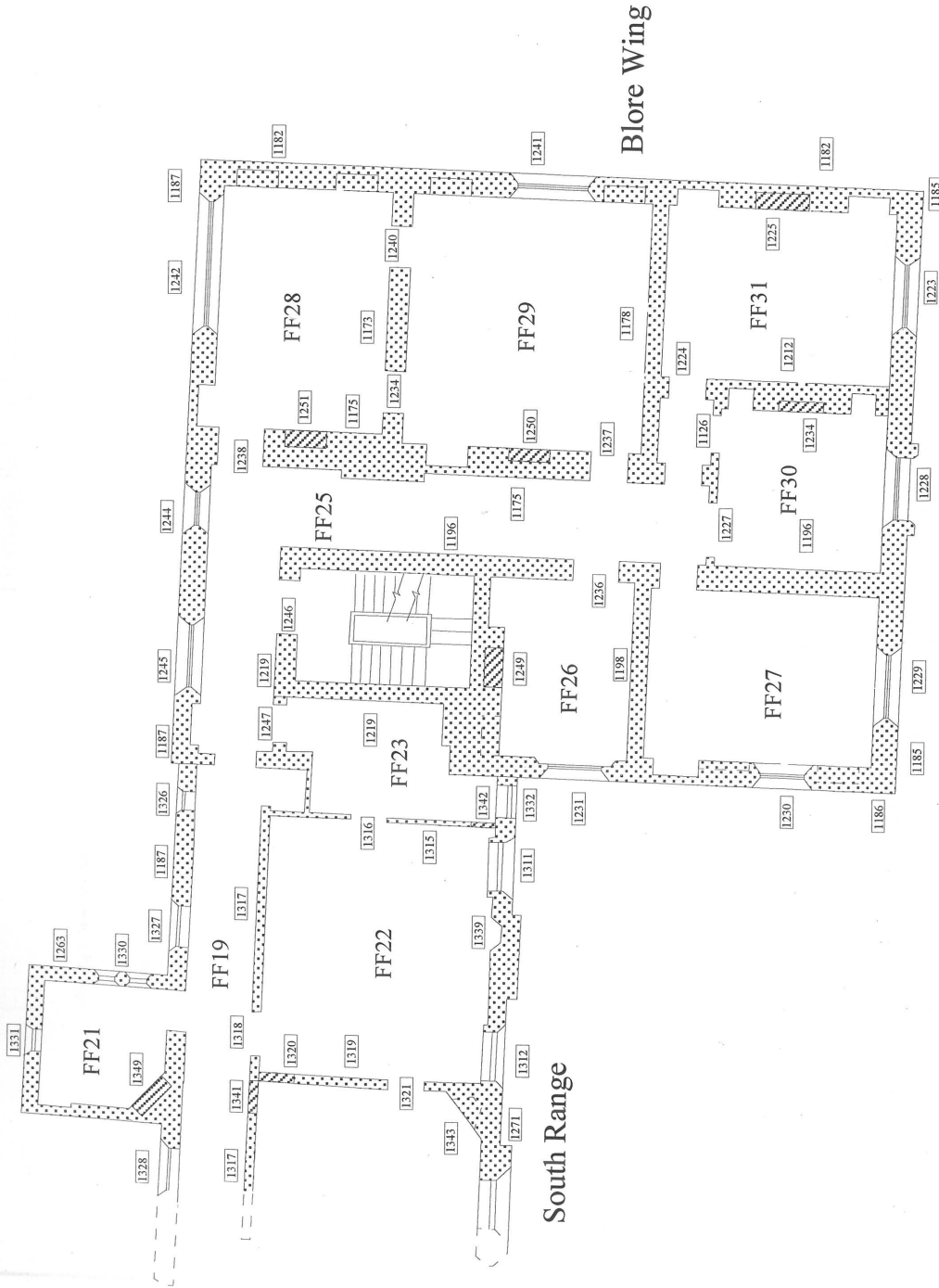


Fig 13 First Floor Plan - East (South Range and Bloore Wing)

# VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE

## Drawing Key for Elevations

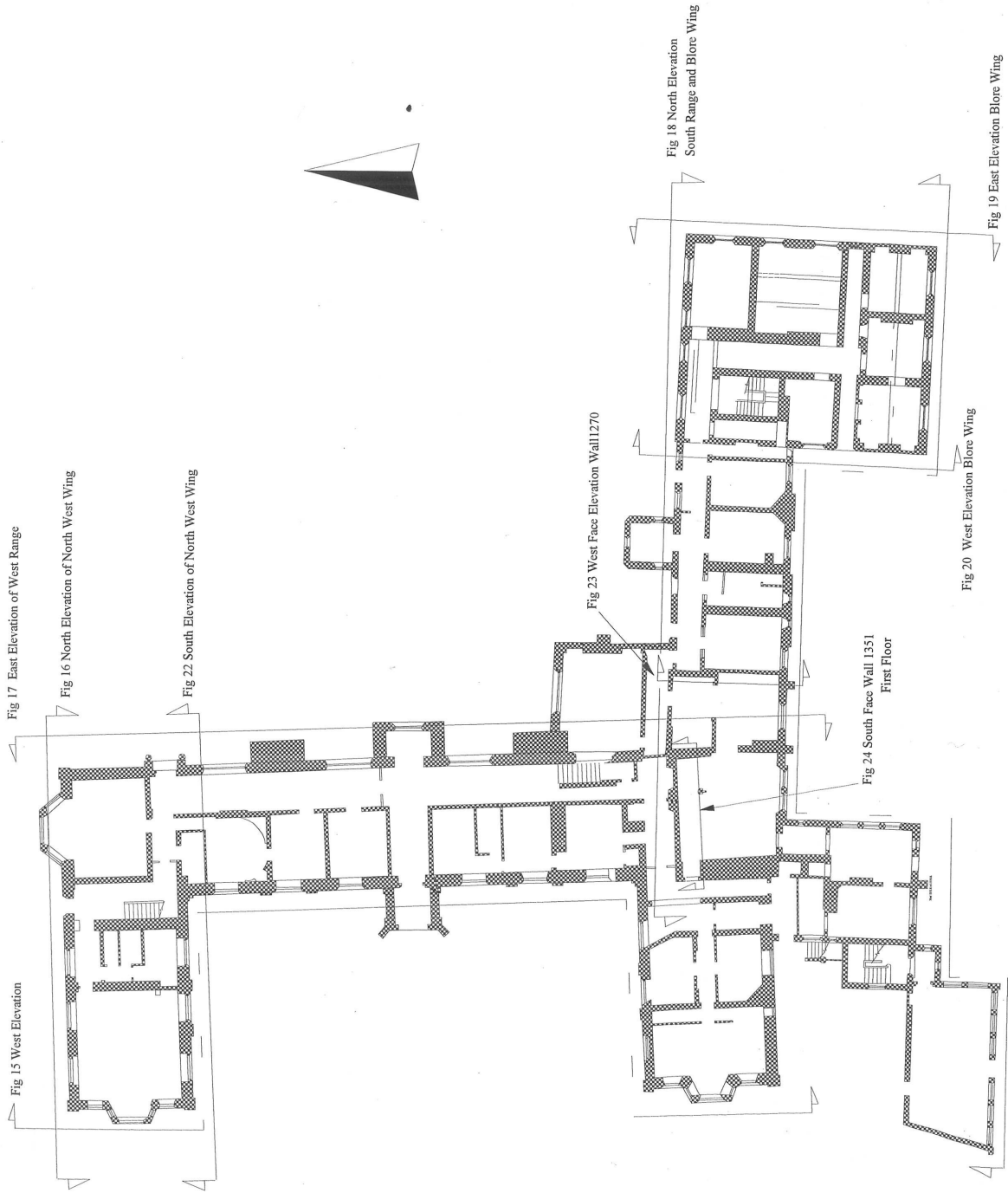
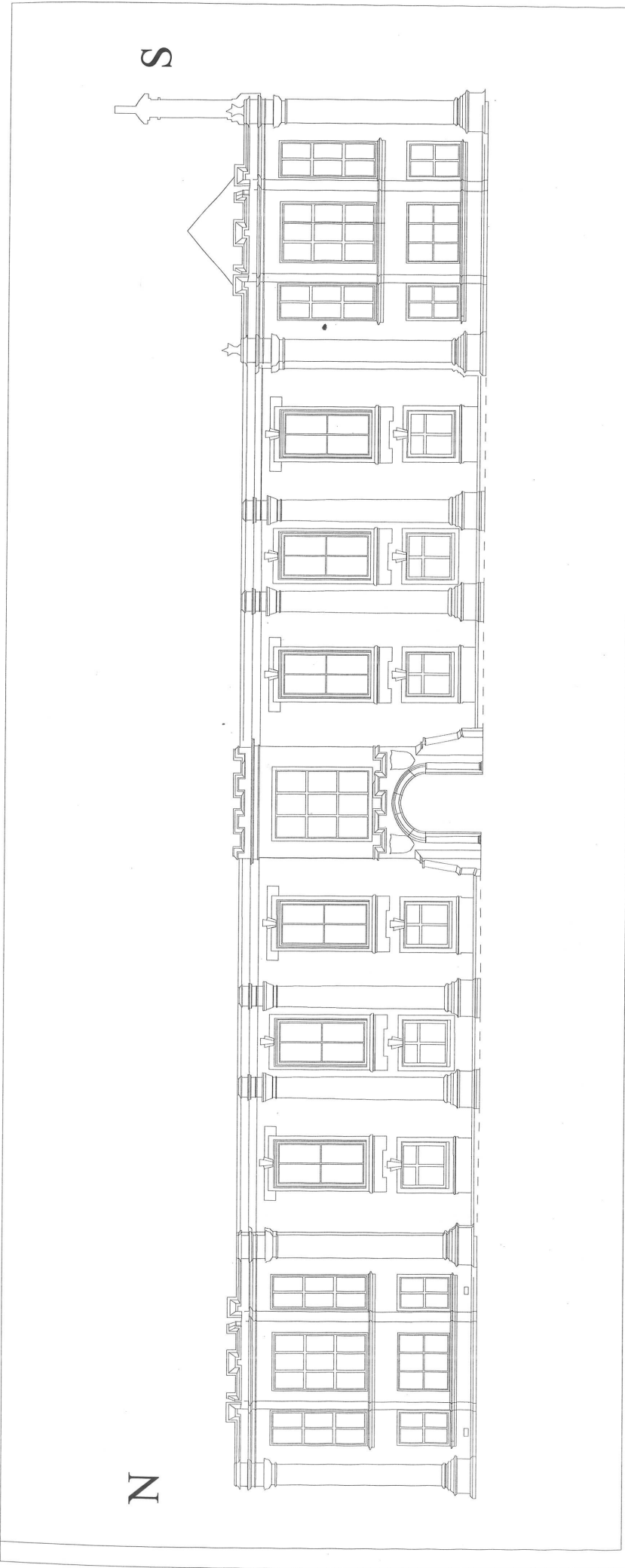


Fig 14 Drawing Key for Elevations



<b>VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE</b>	<b>PLAN NAME</b> WEST ELEVATION North West Wing, West Range, South West Wing	Outline Survey Generated From Rectified Photographs	<b>DRAWN BY</b> AC	<b>SCALE</b> 1:75
			<b>DATE</b> 12-1996	<b>SHEET NO.</b> 15

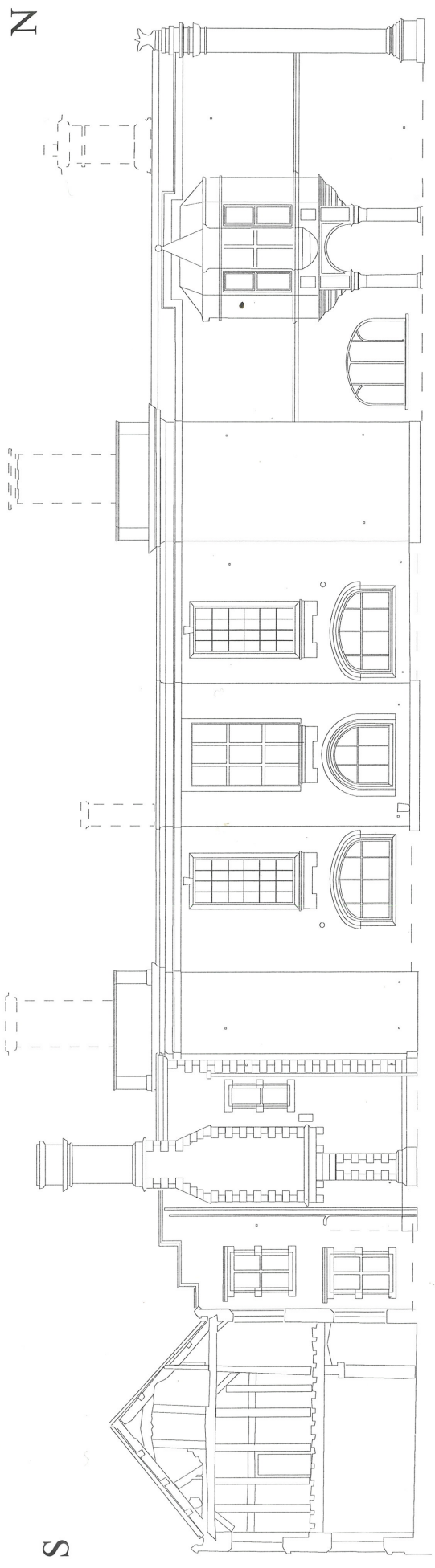
Fig 15 Principal Western elevation - North West Wing, West Range, and South West Wing

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SCALE 1:75	DRAWN BY AC	Generated from Rectified Photographs	PLAN NAME NORTH WEST WING NORTH ELEVATION
SHEET NO. 16	DATE 12-1996	2m	VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT			

Fig 16 North Elevation of the North West Wing




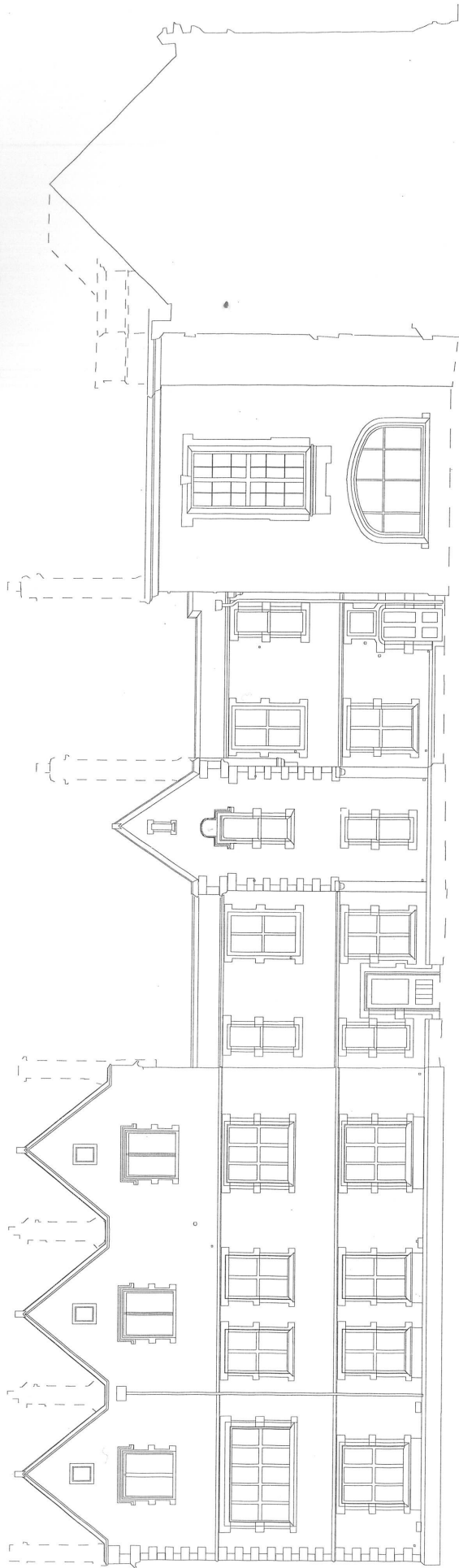
VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE	PLAN NAME	East Elevation of West Range	Based on Rectified Photographs	 5m	DRAWN BY	AC	SCALE	1:75
					DATE	12-1995		
				LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT		SHEET NO. 17		

Fig 17 East Elevation of the West Range



VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE

PLAN NAME

NORTH ELEVATION BLORE WING AND SOUTH RANGE

5m



DRAWN BY AC

DATE 12-1995

SCALE 1:75

SHEET NO. 18

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Fig 18 North Elevation - South Range and Blore Wing



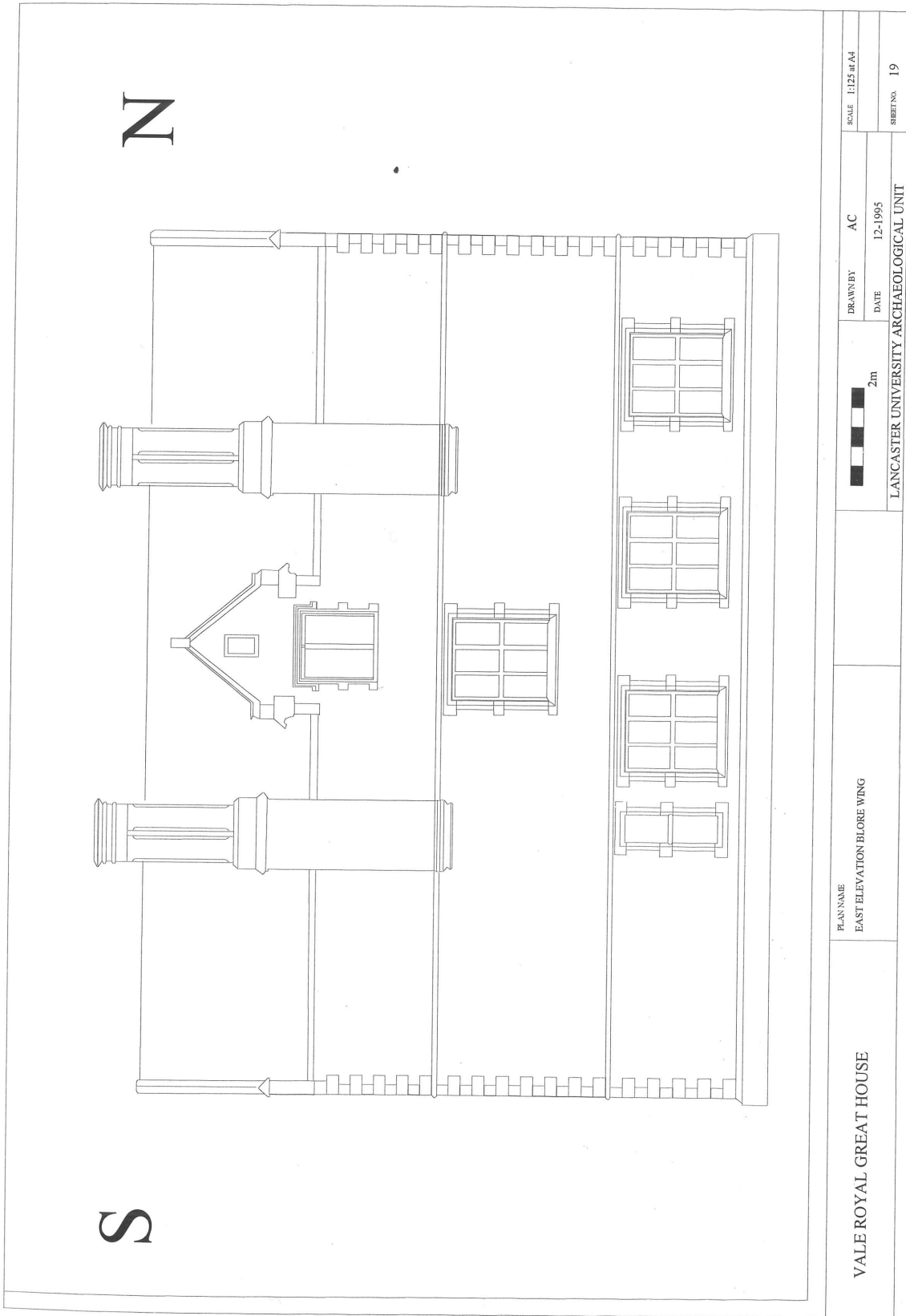
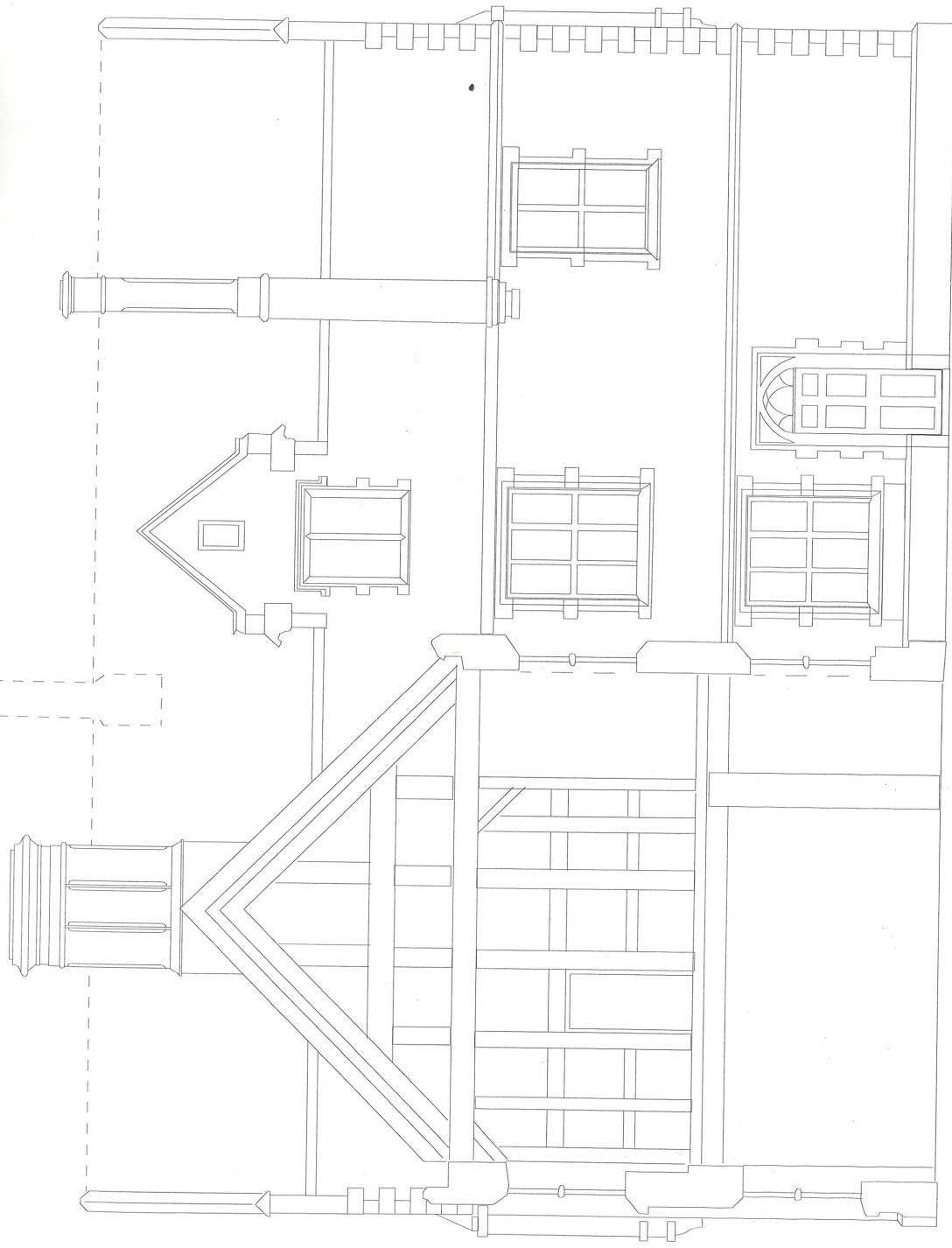


Fig 19 East Elevation of Blore Wing

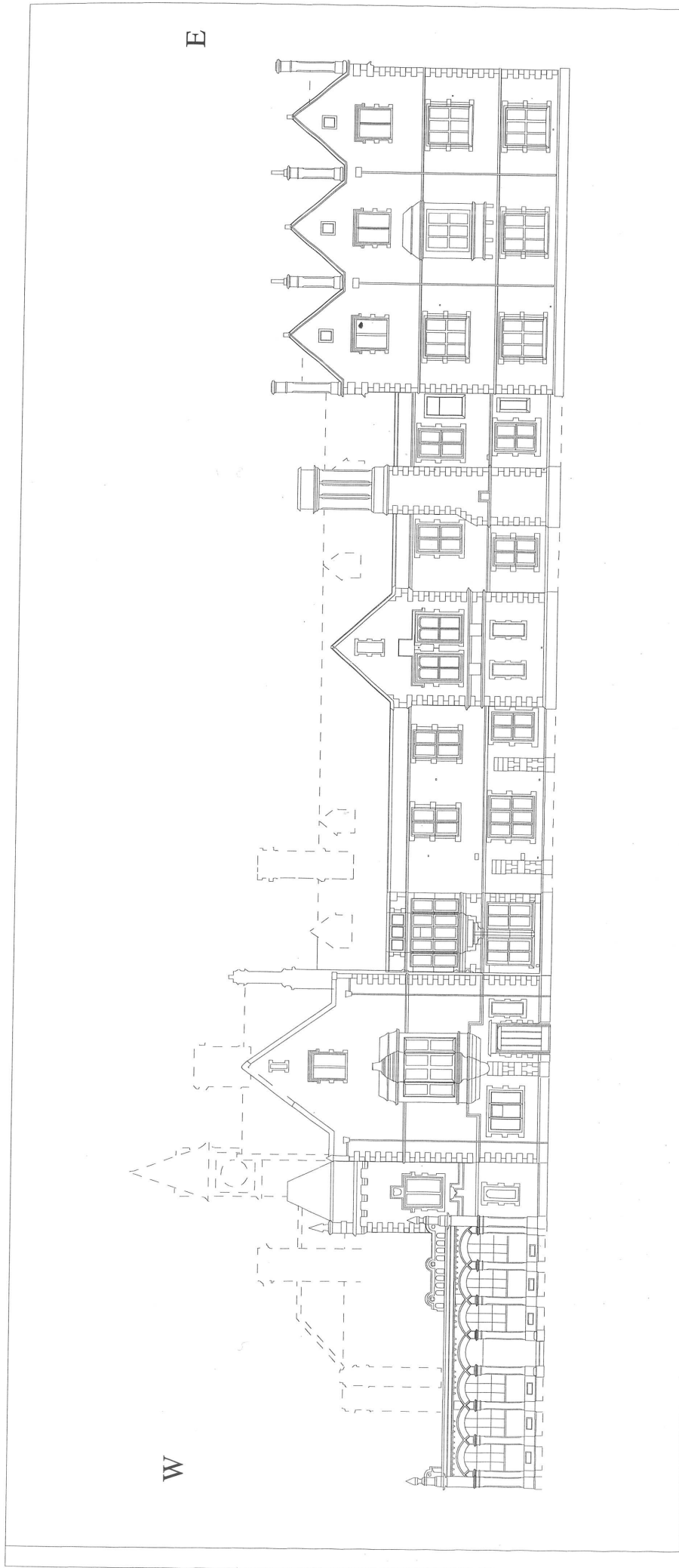
S



N

VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE	PLAN NAME WEST ELEVATION BLORE WING	 2m	DRAWN BY	AC	SCALE	1:100 at A4
			DATE	12-1995	SHEET NO. 20	
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT						

Fig 20 West Elevation of Blore Wing



VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE

PLAN NAME  
SOUTH ELEVATION SOUTH RANGE



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DATE 12-1997

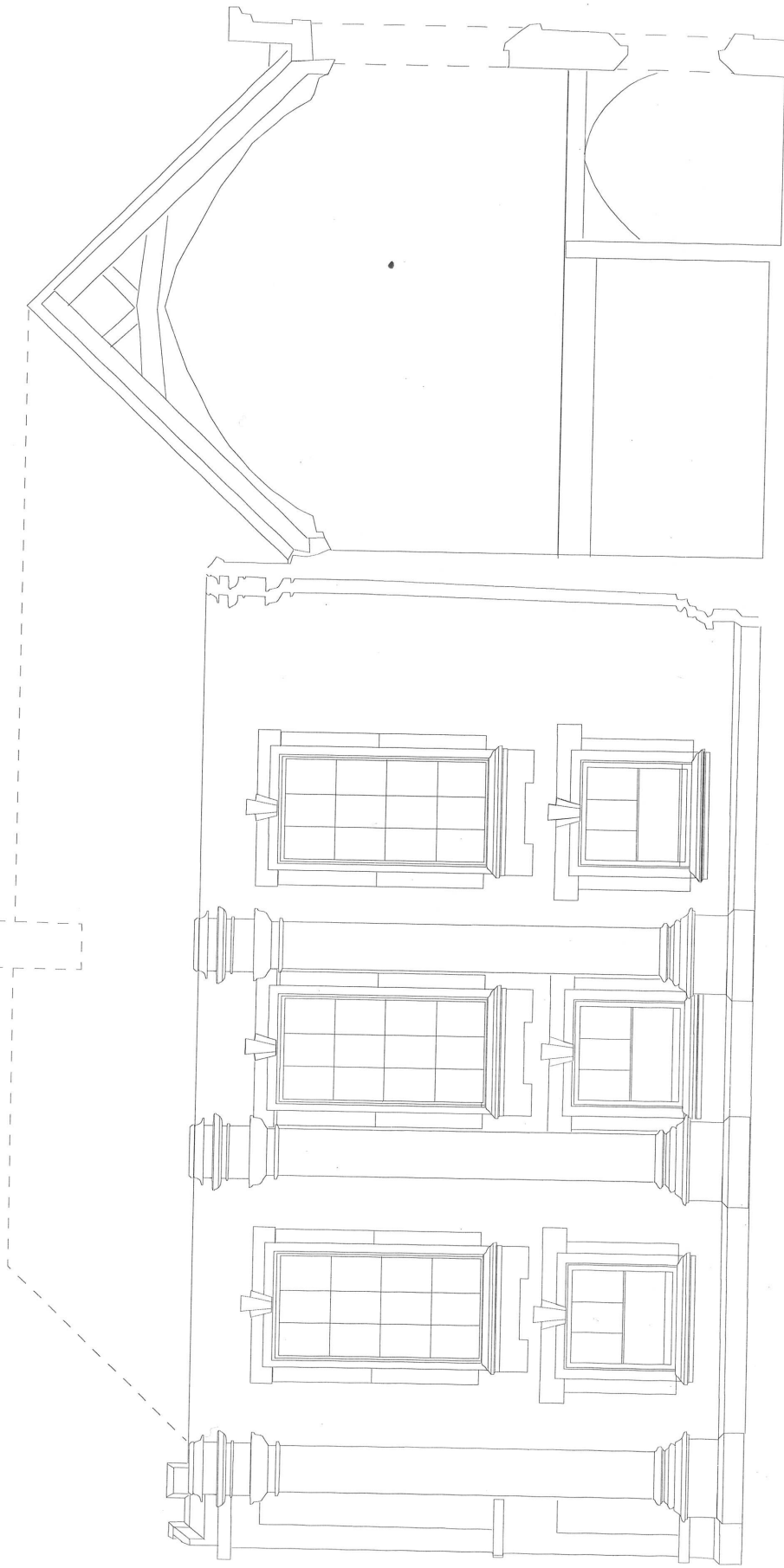
SCALE 1:250

SHEET NO. 21

Fig 21 South Elevation - Orangery, South West Wing, South Range, and Blore Wing

W

E



VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE

PLAN NAME  
SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE NORTH WEST WING

Generated from Rectified  
Photographs



SCALE 1:75

DRAWN BY AC/JQ

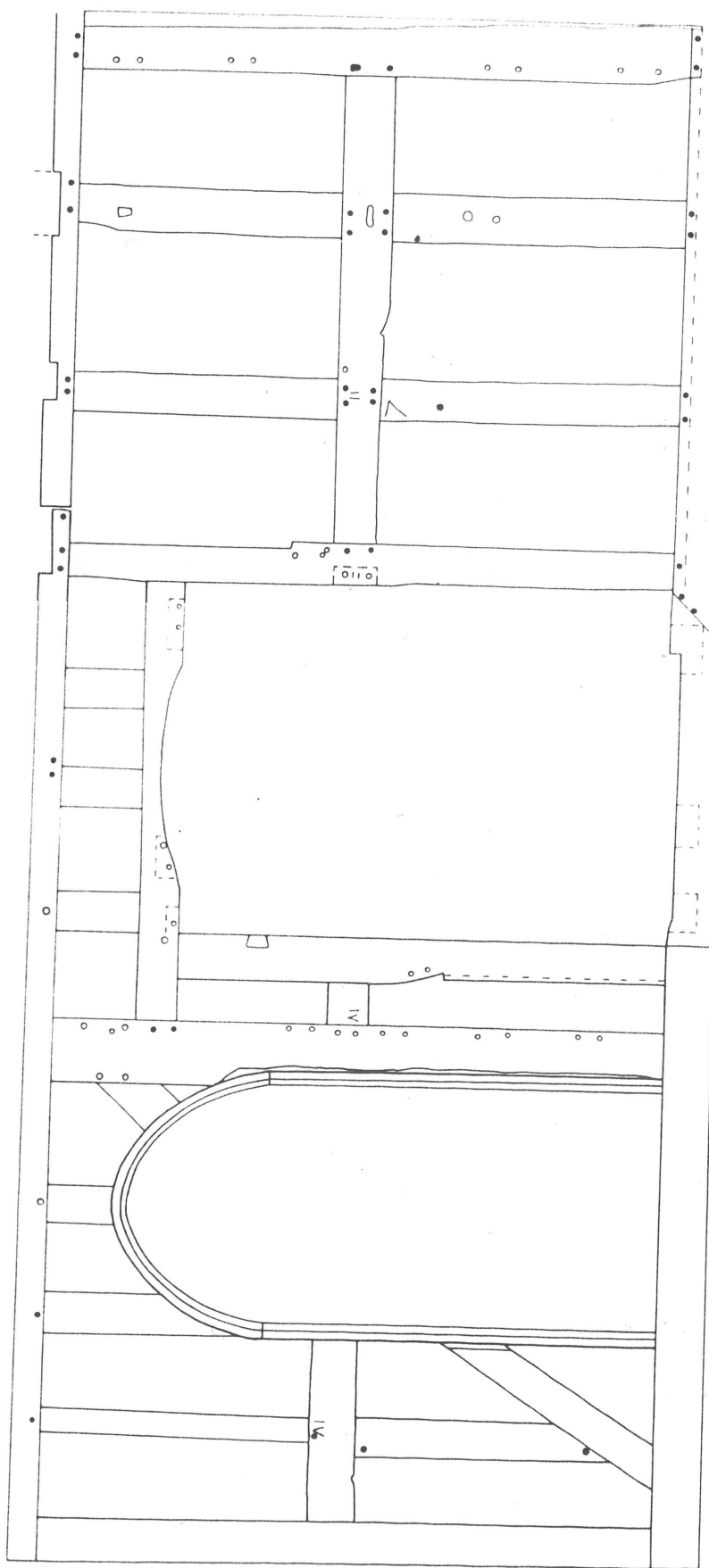
DATE 12-1997

SHEET NO. 22

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Fig 22 South Elevation of the North West Wing





VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE  
FABRIC SURVEY

PLAN NAME  
Wall 1351  
South Face Elevation

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SCALE  
SHEET NO.

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Fig 24 South Face Elevation Wall 1351 - South Range, First Floor

# VALE ROYAL GREAT HOUSE

Drawing Key for Trusses

Second Floor Plan

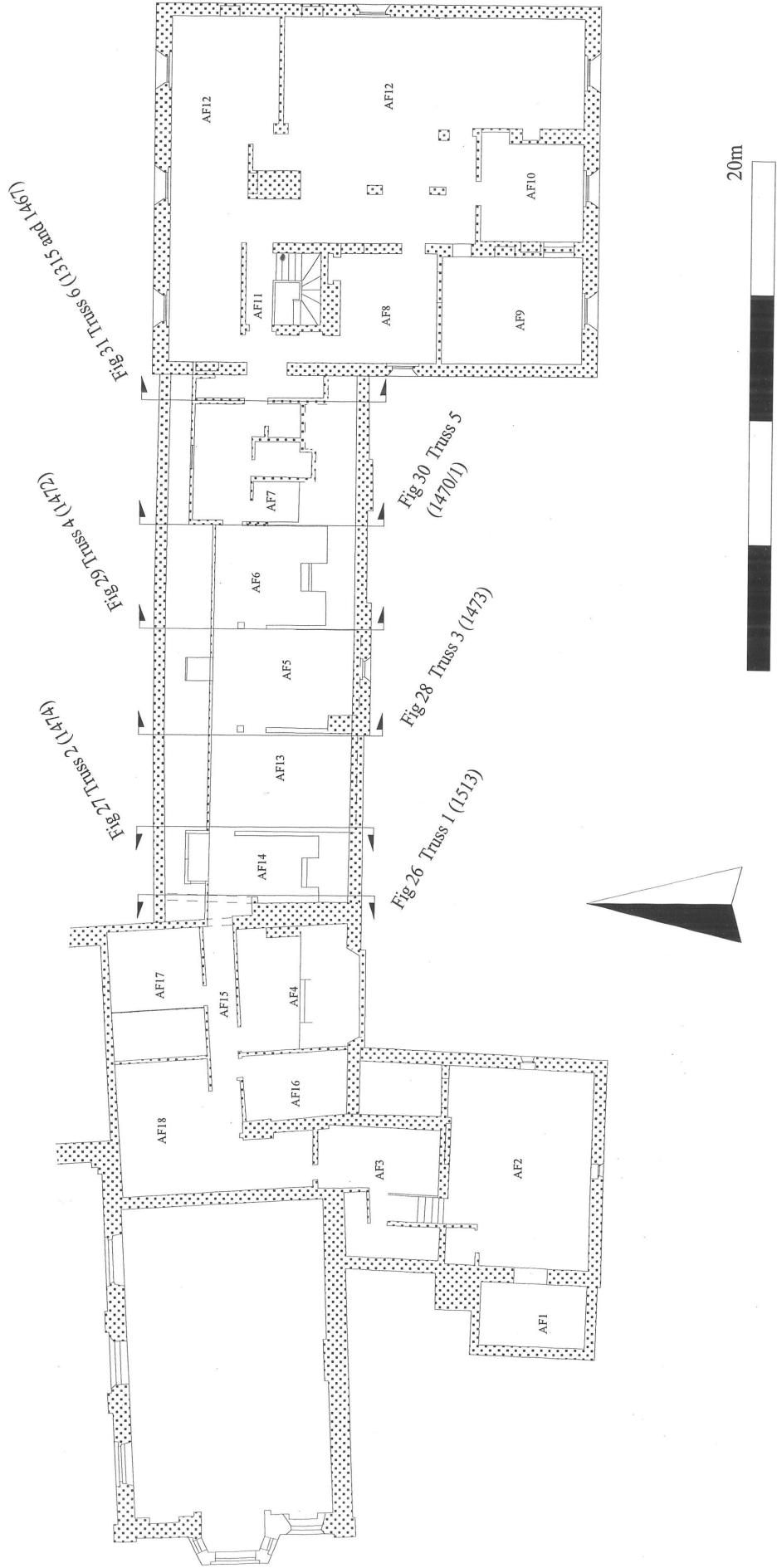


Fig 25 Drawing Key for Trusses

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

TRUSS 1 (1513)  
SOUTH RANGE  
(East Face)

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FIGURE 26

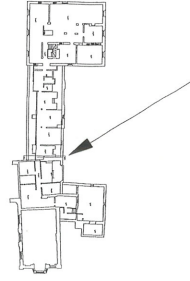


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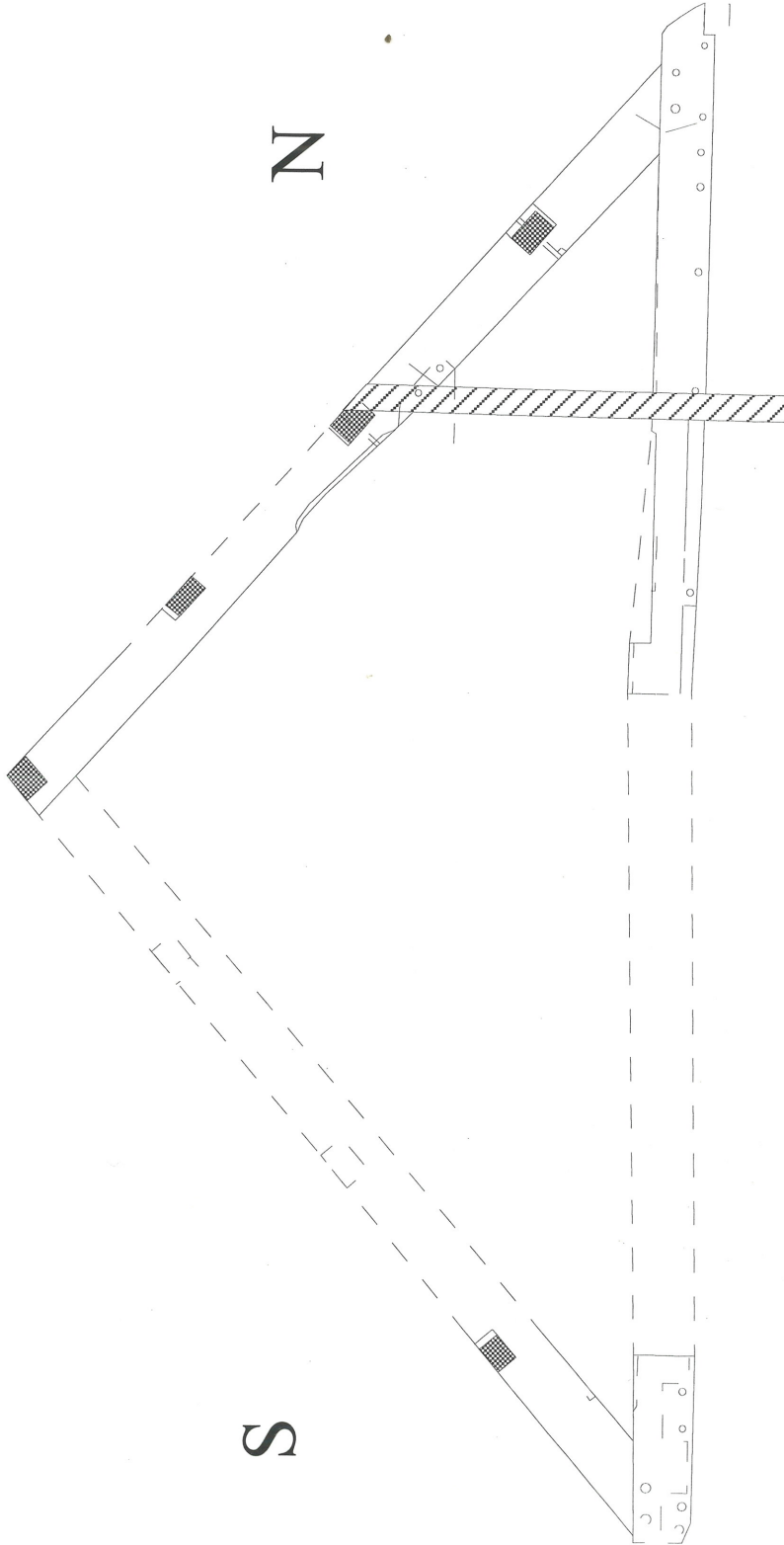


Fig 26 Truss 1 (1513) South Range (East Face)



VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,  
CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:  
TRUSS 2 (1474)  
SOUTH RANGE  
(East Face)

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FIGURE 27

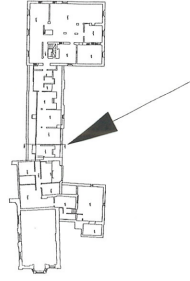


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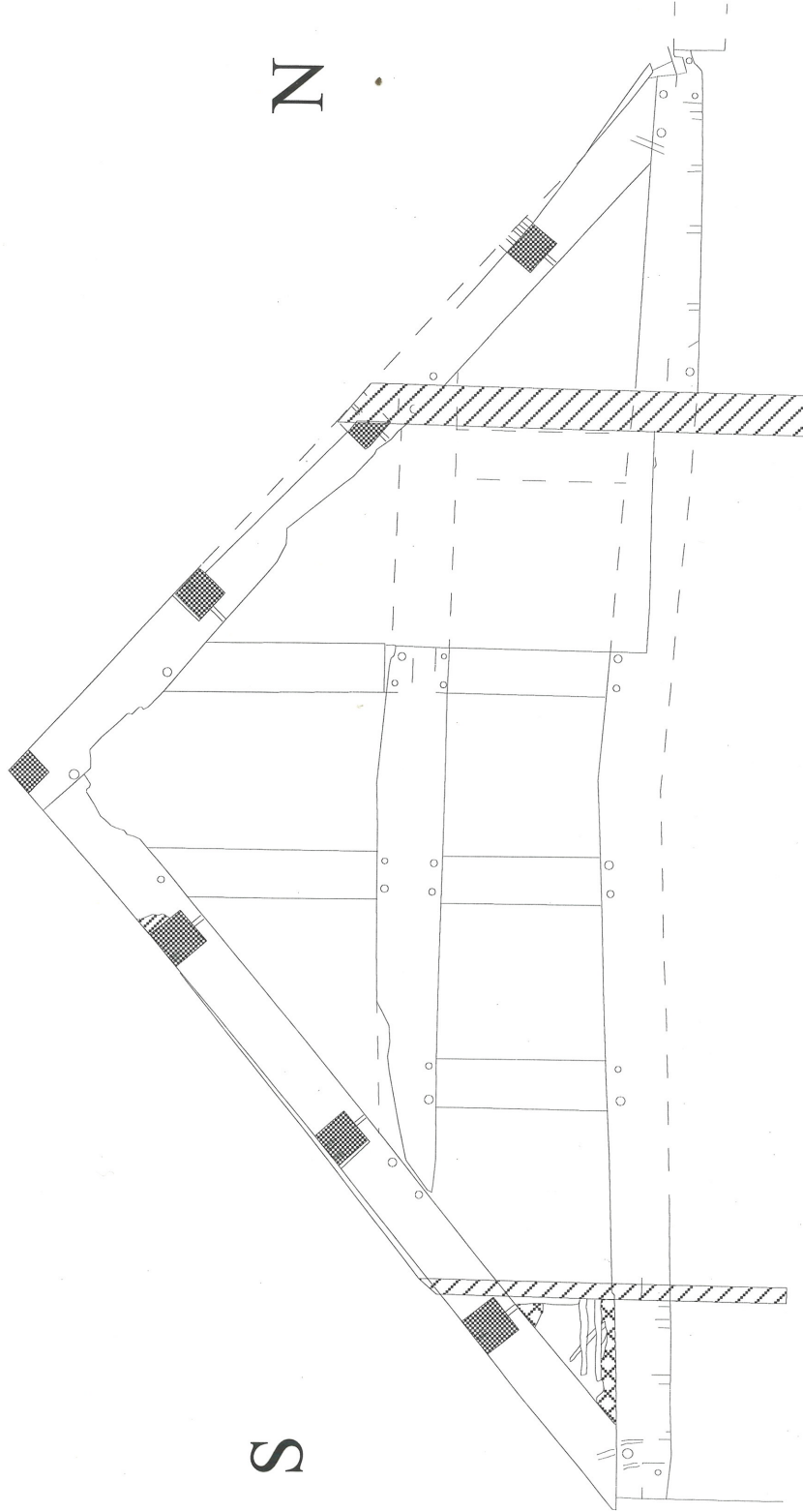


Fig 27 Truss 2 (1474) South Range (East Face)

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

TRUSS 3 (1473)  
AND LOWER PARTITION  
SOUTH RANGE  
(West Face)

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FIGURE 28



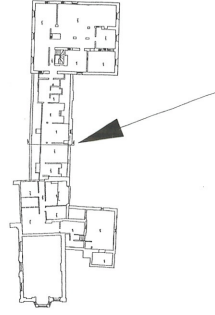
1m

SCALE 1:40 (A3)

DRAWN BY: JQ & CW

DATE: 06/97

Location:



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

STOREY INSTITUTE  
MEETING HOUSE LANE  
LANCASTER  
LA1 1TH

TEL: 01524 848666

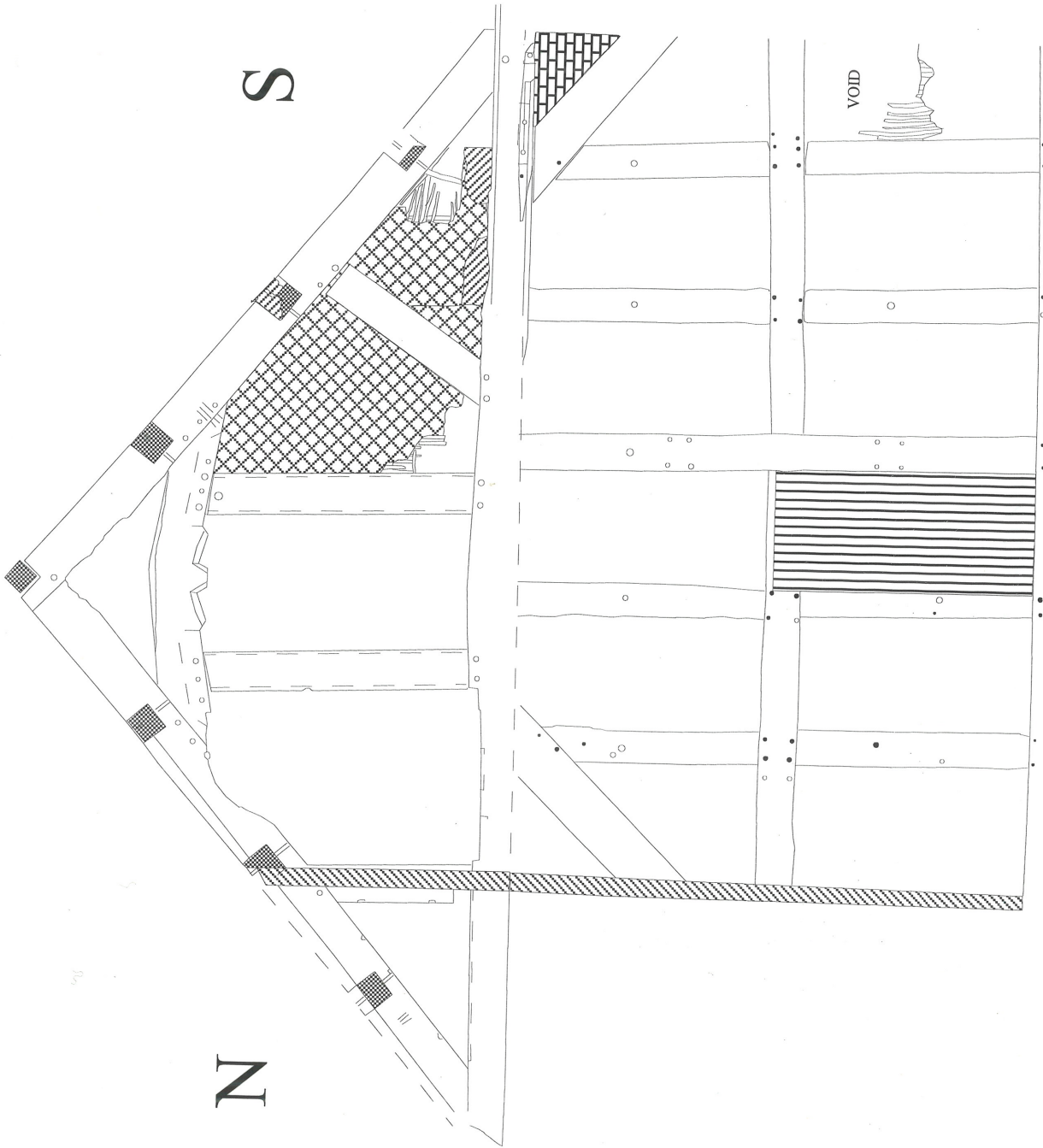


Fig 28 Truss 3 (1473) and Lower partition, South Range (East Face)

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:  
TRUSS 4 (1472)  
SOUTH RANGE  
(West Face)

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FIGURE 29

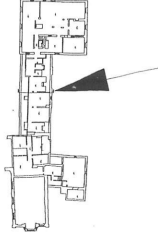


SCALE 1:25 (A3)

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TEL: 01534 448666

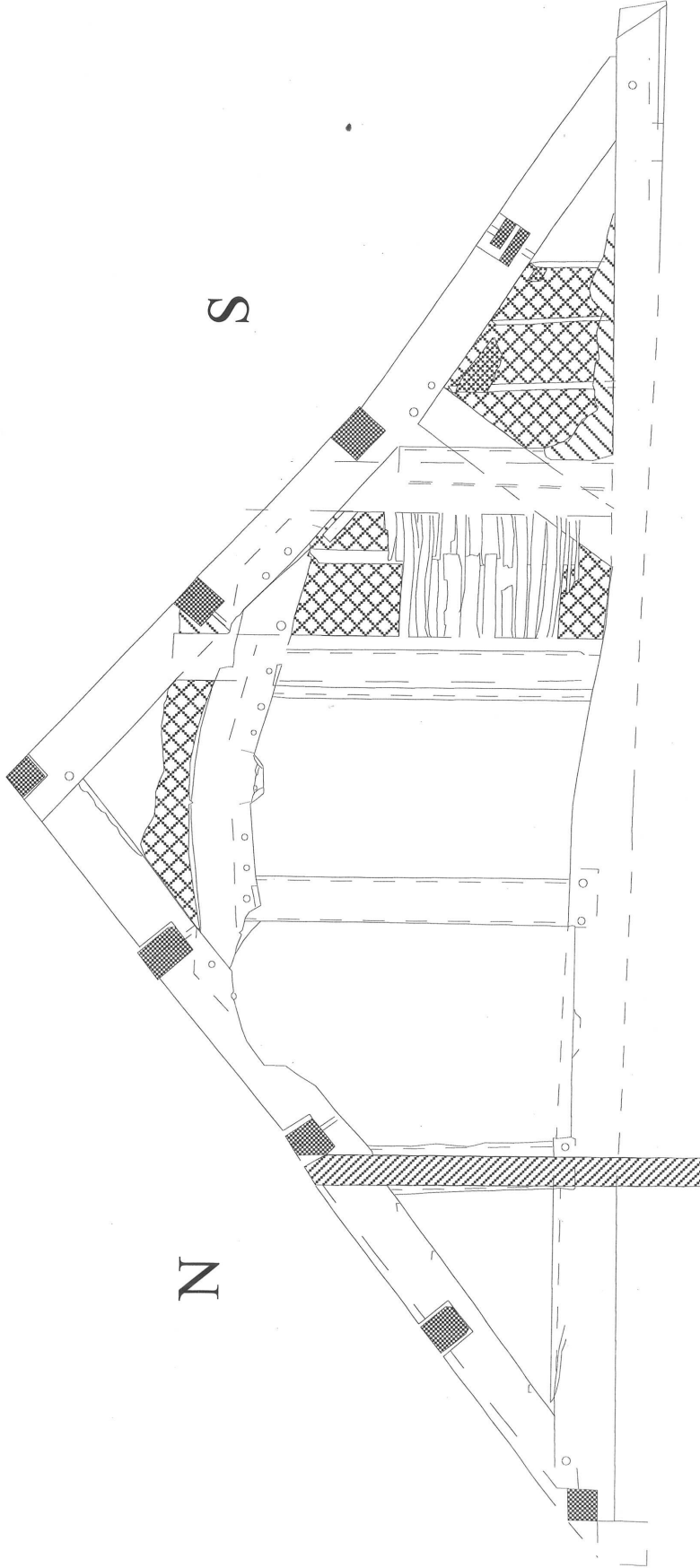


Fig 29 Truss 4 (1472) South Range (West Face)

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE,

CHESHIRE

PLAN NAME:  
TRUSS 5 (1470/1)  
SOUTH RANGE  
(West Face)

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FIGURE 30

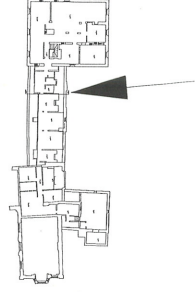


SCALE 1:25 (A3)

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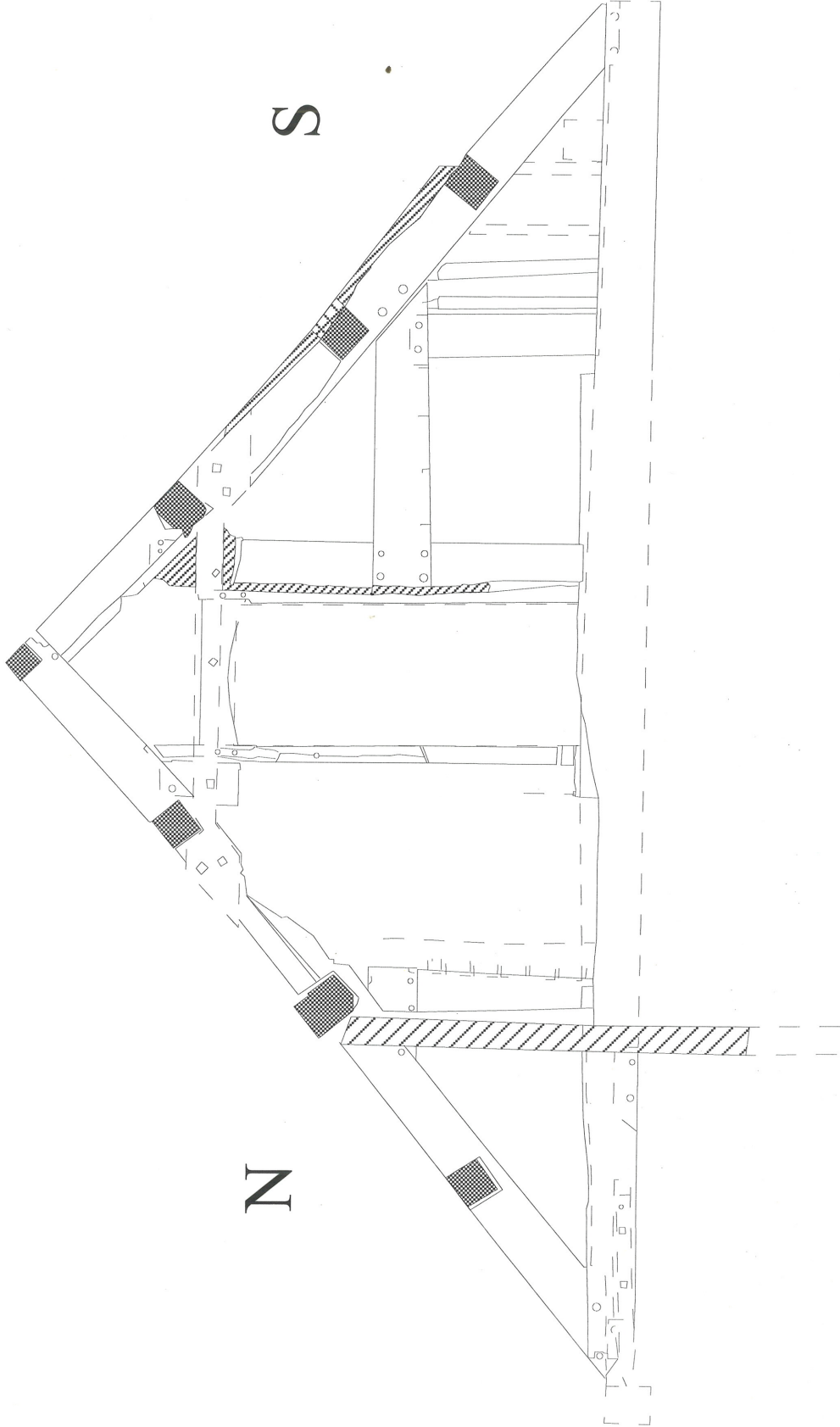


Fig 30 Truss 5 (1470/1) South Range (West Face)

VALE ROYAL  
GREAT HOUSE

CESHIRE

PLAN NAME:

TRUSS 6 (1467) AND  
LOWER PARTITION (1315)  
SOUTH RANGE  
(West Face)

COMMISSIONED & FUNDED BY:

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FIGURE 31

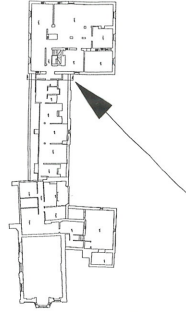


SCALE 1:40 (A3)

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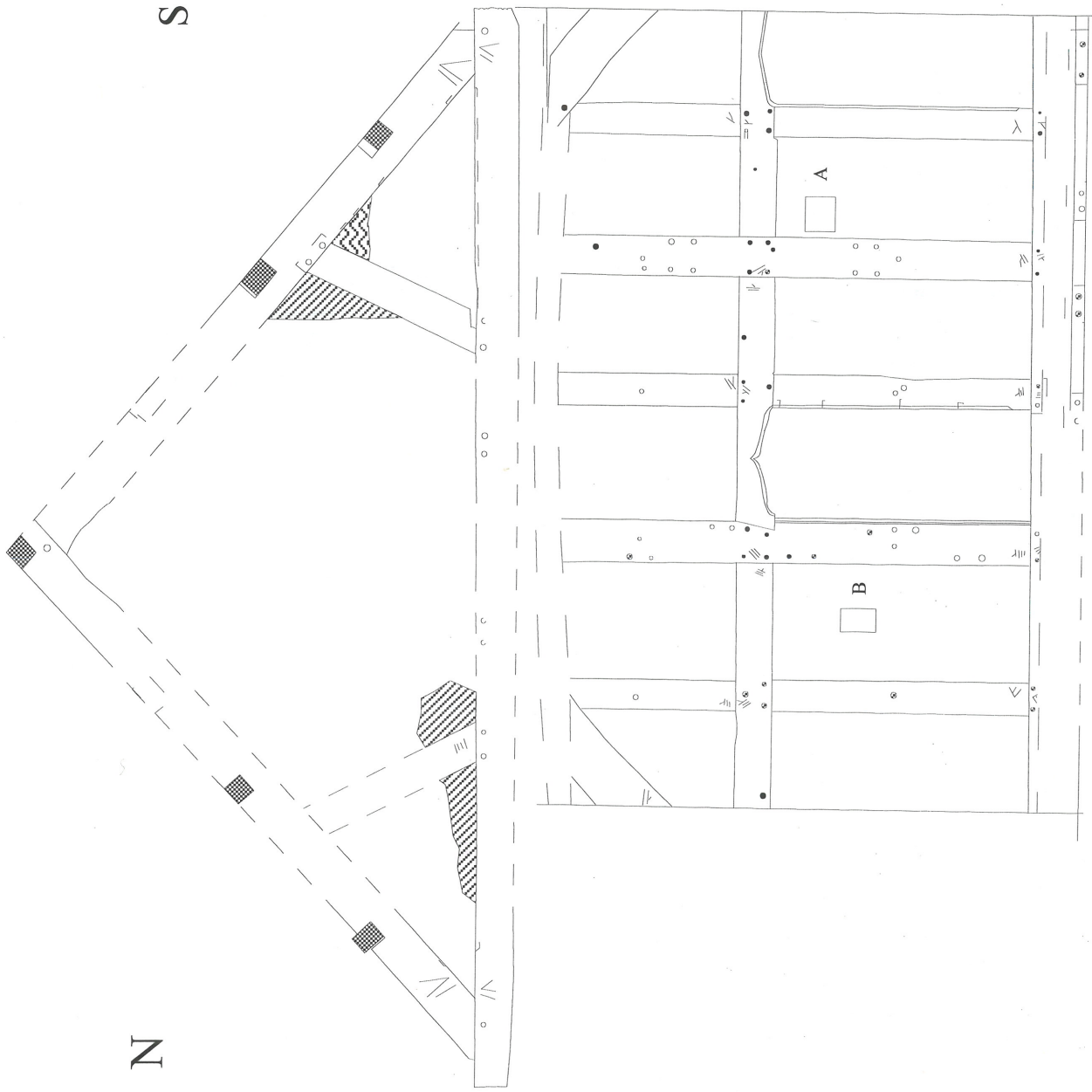


Fig 31 Truss 6 (1467) and Lower partition (1315), South Range (West Face)

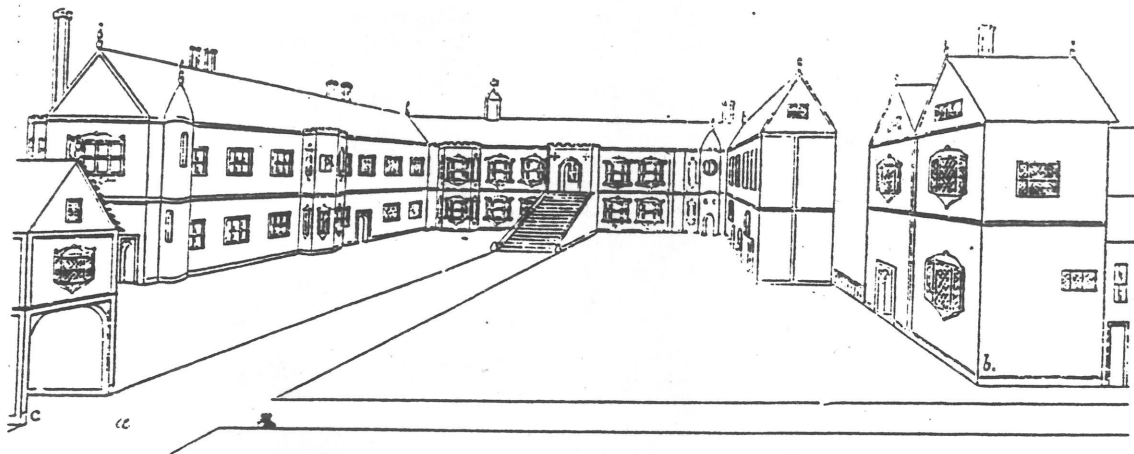


Fig 32 Vale Royal House as it appeared in 1616, from an original drawing, in the possession of Tomas Cholmondeley, reproduced in Omerod 1882

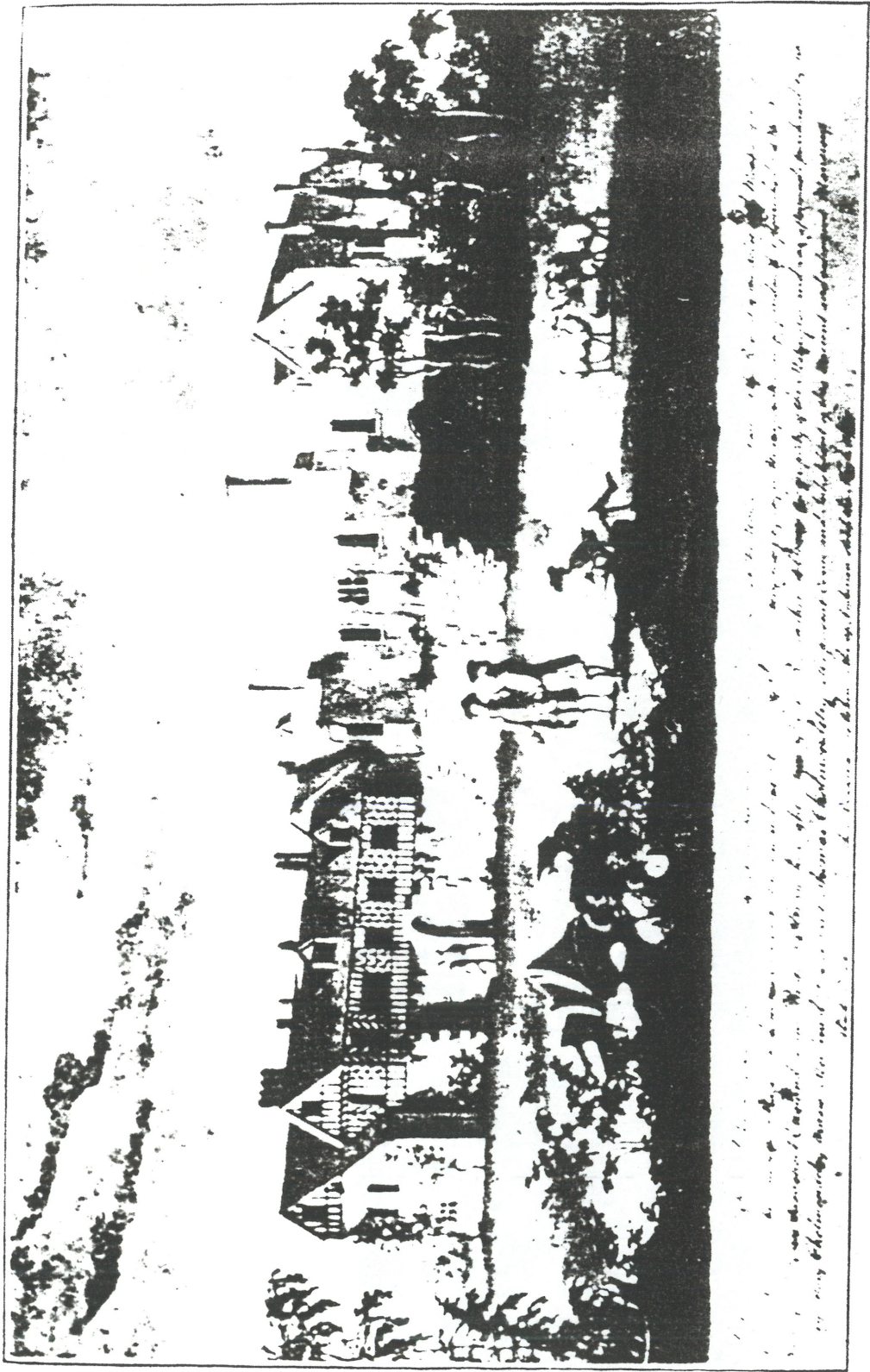


Fig 33 1774 'The old hall of Vale Royal from the spot whereon stood the high altar' reproduced in Cooke 1912

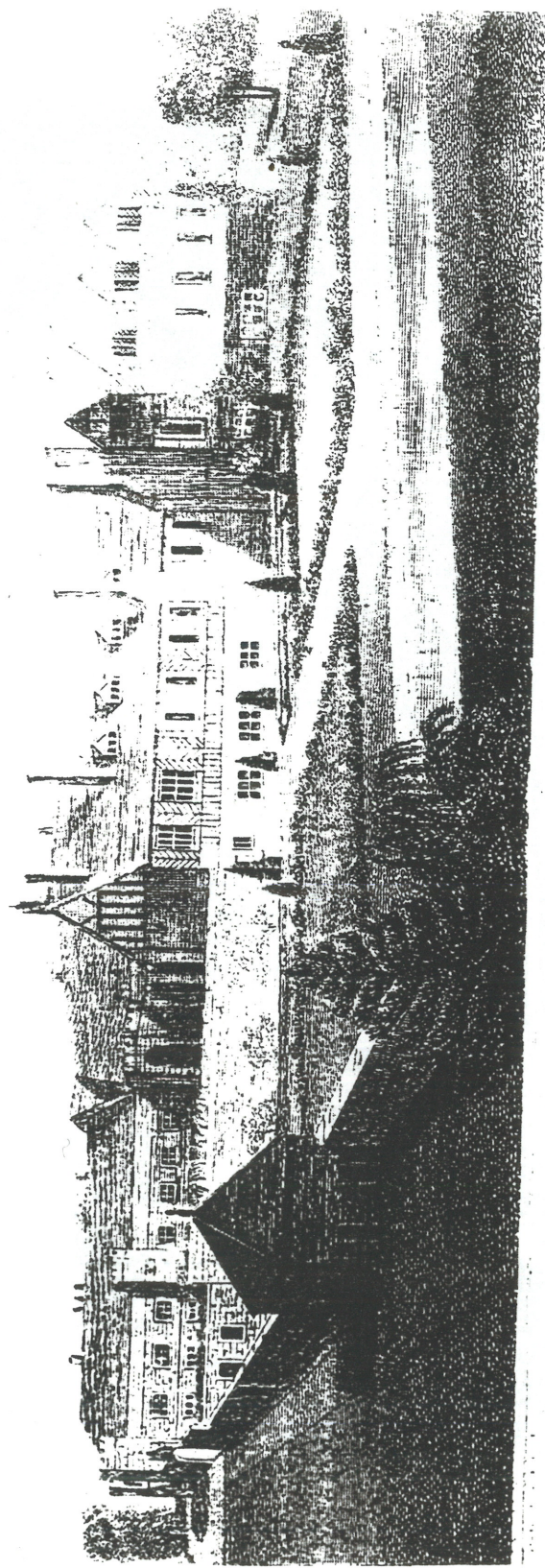


Fig 34 1775 'Vale Royal 1775, a view of the house from the south reproduced in Omerod, 1982.



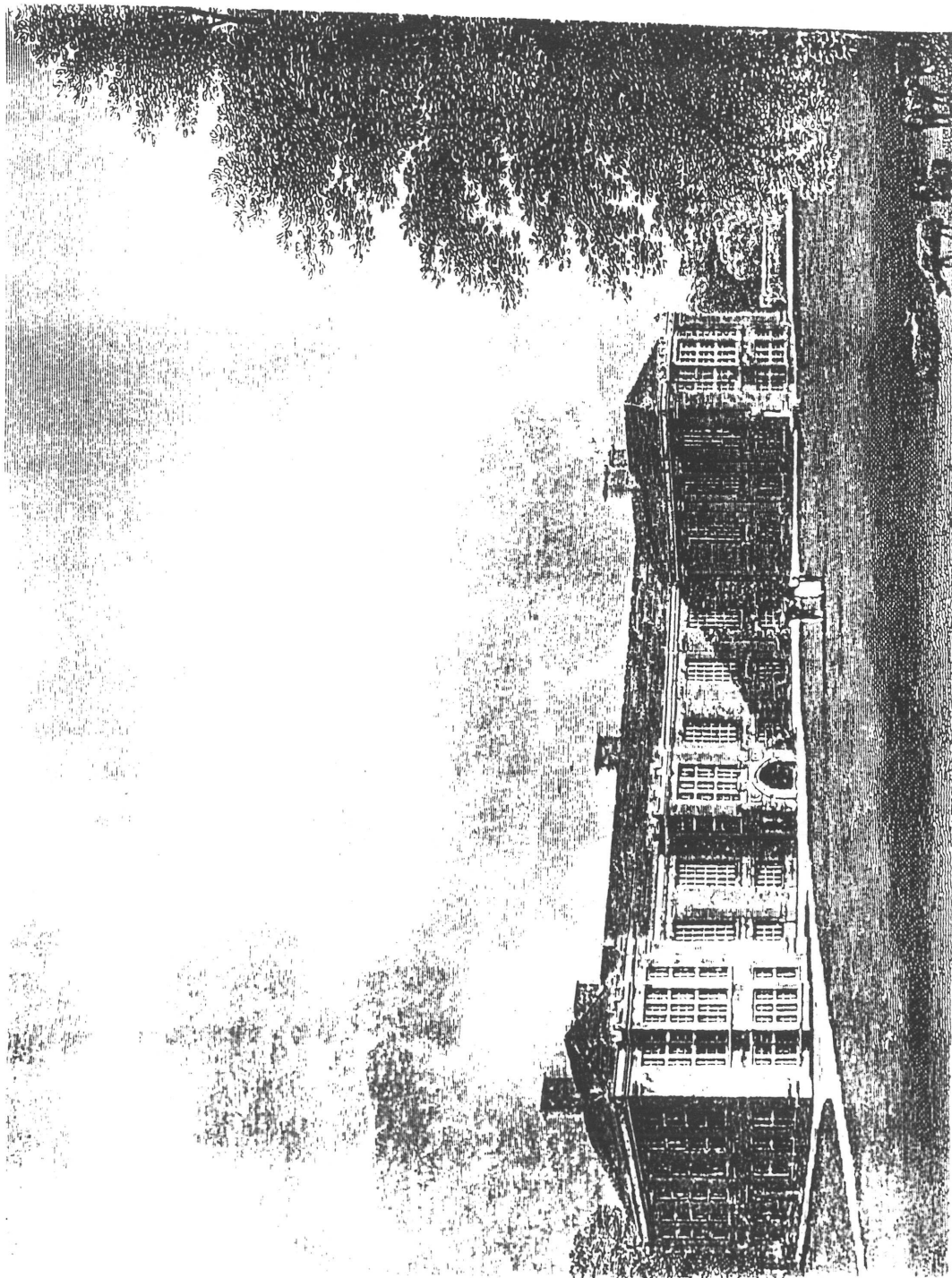


Fig 35 1816 A view of the house from the North West reproduced in Omerod 1882

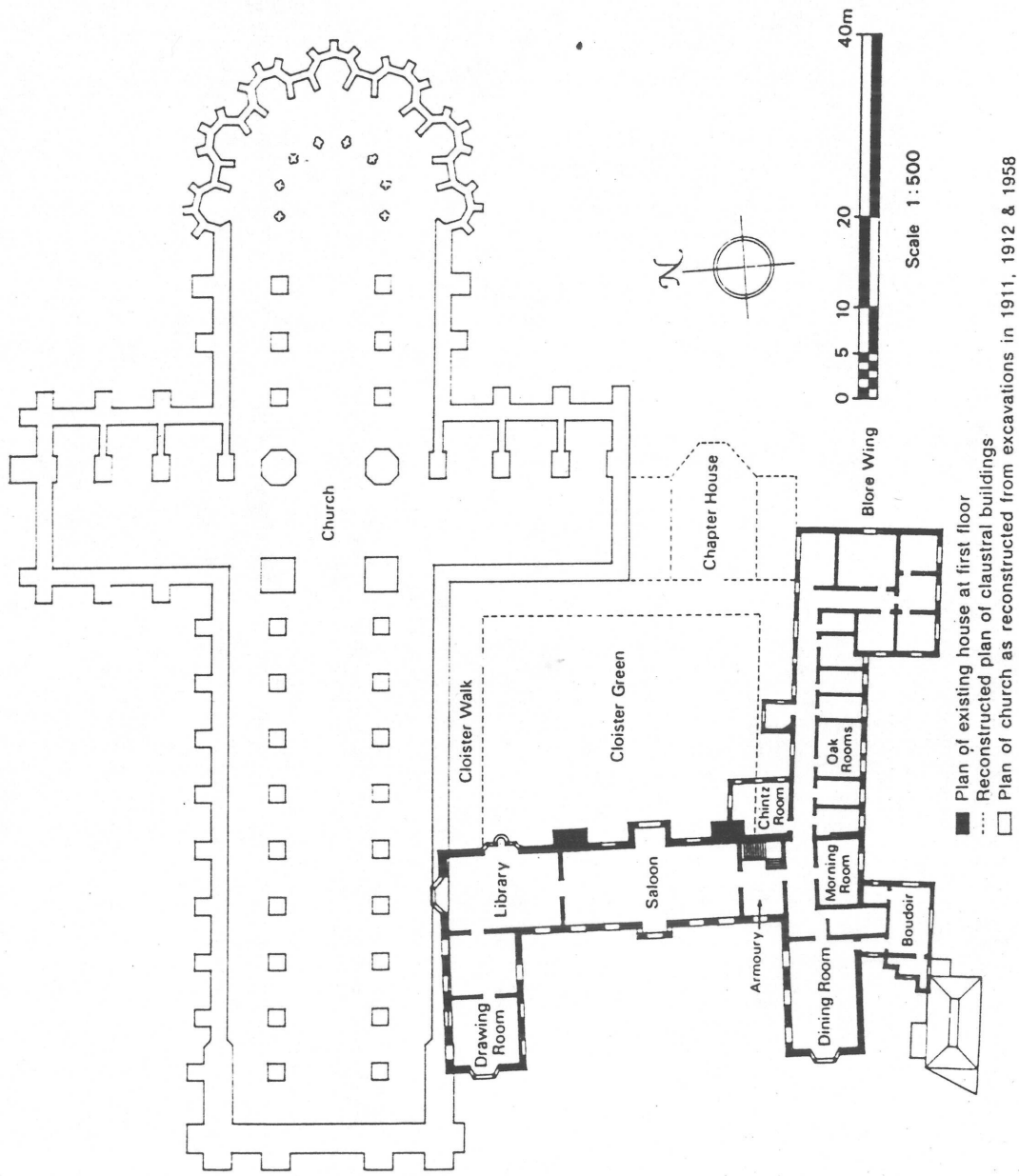


Fig 36 Plan of Vale Royal House in relation to the monastic plan, from Mcneil and Turner 1988