

Sutton Place Guildford Surrey



Archaeological Investigation and Building Recording



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behalf of Sutton Place Unit Trust**

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Martin Ashley Architects on behalf of Sutton Place Property Unit Trust to carry out monitoring and investigation works during the construction of a swimming pool building at Sutton Place, Guildford, Surrey, NGR TQ 011 535. The work revealed mostly modern deposits and structures. A rectilinear arrangement of postholes recorded in the area of the swimming pool may date to the 16th-17th century. Its shallow nature, paucity of associated finds and disturbance of the features by modern rooting preclude interpretation of its function other than as a basic ancillary building associated with the Manor House.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Martin Ashley Architects are project managing the construction of a swimming pool and related amenities at Sutton Place, Guildford, Surrey, NGR TQ 011 535 (Fig.1/Plate.1). Sutton Place itself is a Grade I listed building. The building location and its environs (Sutton Park) are classified as an ‘Area of High Archaeological Potential’ within Surrey County Council’s planning policies. Therefore a condition based on PPG16 was attached to planning permission stating

‘No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority’

1.1.2 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were appointed by Martin Ashley Architects to produce the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and carry out the necessary fieldwork.

1.1.3 OA produced a WSI (OA 2007b) proposing a methodology of Strip Map and Sample and Watching Brief for the works. This was approved by Gary Jackson the Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council on behalf of Woking Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority).

1.1.4 This document reports on the results of the archaeological investigation and monitoring.

2 STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

- Sutton Place is a Grade I listed building - reference LBS427910
- The 18th century stable block to the west of Sutton Place is a Grade II listed building - reference LBS 427912
- The 17th century garden walls and pavilion are Grade II listed building - reference LBS 427911
- Sutton Park is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden - reference 4977

3 LOCATION GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 Sutton Place lies on the north eastern edge of the town of Guildford, although it falls within the modern Borough of Woking. It is surrounded on all sides by Sutton Park, a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden, covering 39 hectares. The house itself is sited upon one of a series of higher terrace gravel deposits associated with the River Wey. Underlying the gravel, the geology consists largely of London Clay, with the Bracklesham and Bagshot Beds beyond to the north and the chalk of the Clanton Downs to the south of the Site (BGS Map 285, 1976).
- 3.1.2 The Site lies within a bend of the River Wey Navigation, which runs roughly north-south to the east of the Site, rejoining the Wey itself to the south-east. The land rises up from the river to a height of *c* 45 m to the west of the Site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 Prior to application for planning permission OA produced a Desk Based Assessment (DBA-OA 2007a) to inform on the decision for planning approval. The following archaeological and historical background is largely derived from that document but this report does not include the related map images, NMR/SMR references and gazetteer included in that report.
- 4.1.2 Sutton Place and Park are located on the floodplain of the River Wey, where the local land-surfaces of the Palaeolithic period have been removed by water-action. With the exception of one Bronze Age flint arrowhead recovered from a later feature *c* 800 m west of Sutton Place, no positively identified features or artefacts dated from the prehistoric to the Roman period have been recorded within 1 km (the Desk Based Assessment study limit).
- 4.1.3 The original Manor House was built in the early medieval period and was probably located *c* 900 m to the west of Sutton Place (the area is now protected as Scheduled Monument SU129). The manor itself is recorded in the Domesday Survey as covering 500 acres. The investigation area was very likely to have been farmed during the medieval period.
- 4.1.4 Sutton Place was largely built in the 1520s, although the buildings surrounding the western courtyard are of 17th century date. Alterations to the house were carried out in the 18th century and focussed principally on the demolition of the gatehouse to the north and the restoration of the east wing: the west end of the house appears to have been largely unaffected by these works. The stable block was constructed in the 18th century (Pevsner 1962, 399). Map evidence from the 19th century to date shows little significant change to the site.
- 4.1.5 Map evidence does shows that the area of the swimming pool development has been subject to a number of impacts from the late 19th century to the 20th century. Specifically a pathway, north-south aligned wall or fence and a tree are all indicated

to the centre of the swimming pool on the 1881 OS map. Two small outbuildings are visible adjacent to the south of the stable block on the 1915 OS, as well as a semi-circular feature, presumably garden landscaping or stepped access to the garden to the west of the area. A larger (though not large) outbuilding is shown to the centre of the site against the southern wall of the stable block on the 1934 OS. This is annotated as Staff Bedrooms on an estate map of 1951 which also shows a 'tank' at the eastern end of the stable block next to the wall (and gateway) which runs from the stable block south eastern corn to the Manor House.

- 4.1.6 An undated (but presumably of a similar date to the Estate Map) service courtyard plan of the area supplied to OA by Martin Ashley Architects shows multiple drainage and service pipes supplying the Stable Block, Staff bedrooms and Manor House as well as 3 bay extensions on the south of the stable block. These were inserted during J P Getty's occupation of Sutton Place (1950-1976) in order to create sufficient length to house his American car collection (*pers comm* Mike Smith Theobald and Gardiner Construction Manager).

5 INVESTIGATION AIMS

- 5.1.1 Given the low potential for prehistoric–medieval archaeology, the aim of investigation was to ensure that any archaeological/historical structures or deposits related to the construction and use of the Manor House were recorded and understood prior to removal during construction.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Excavation and Watching Brief

- 6.1.1 Prior to construction the swimming pool area (and surrounding construction area) was stripped to natural geology. All revealed negative features were mapped recorded and excavated (see Fig.3). A watching brief was carried out on underpinning works on the foundations of walls of the Manor House and stable block/garage where these were being reinforced for incorporation into the swimming pool wing. In addition the initial floor reduction of the stable block/garage was monitored.

6.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 6.2.1 Features revealed during the excavation and watching brief were cleaned by hand and were sample excavated to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992). Due to the horizontal level of the natural sand within the swimming pool excavation it was felt to be an acceptable time-saving methodology for a single recorded level (see Fig.4) to be used on all excavated sections, rather than each feature to be individually levelled.

6.3 Finds

- 6.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

7 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

7.1 General overburden sequence

- 7.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was recorded at many points across the development area. Uninformative sections of underpinning and service trenches have not been illustrated here. The sequence is fairly uniform across the site comprising natural sands overlain by (a maximum 1 m depth) cultivated 18th century or later subsoils and topsoils, sealed by hard-standings and in places impacted by modern foundations and services.

7.2 Brick paving adjacent to manor (See Fig 3 and Plate 2)

- 7.2.1 A localised area of brick paving was revealed in a foundation inspection trench, abutting the external wall west of the Oak Stair Hall. The bricks were set on end into yellow sand bedding. The bricks were handmade, pinkish red, soft-fired and measured on average c 230 mm x 45 mm x 105 mm. The bricks appear identical to those used in the external wall, which potentially dates to the late 17th century (VCH 1911, p390). However building recording work (see attached report: Opening WWG3) noted alterations and inserts to this wall. The use of yellow sand as bedding material as opposed to a more lime based bedding/mortar suggests a modern date and re-use of the bricks. Supplies of original bricks for re-use would have been abundant after the demolition of the gatehouse range in c. 1786 (Pevsner 1962, p398).

7.3 Brick and cobble floor in stable block (See Fig. 3 and Plate 3)

- 7.3.1 Initial reduction of the concrete stable block/garage floor revealed earlier floor levels below the modern surface. A central brick-paved surface comprised hard grey industrial, frogged bricks measuring 235 mm x 115 mm x 54 mm. This surface is slightly lower than the existing courtyard surface level and was not apparent in the area of the JP Getty 'car bonnet extensions' (see above), so is presumably a modern surface immediately preceding the adaptation of the stable block/garage.
- 7.3.2 To the west of the garage, the central brick surface was abutted by a surface comprising stone slabs and cobble setts formed into bays. This is likely to be the remainder of the original 18th century floor of the Stable Block.
- 7.3.3 A test pit within the garage and excavated below the exposed surfaces revealed a c 0.5 m depth of 18th century garden soil overlying natural sand (see Section 1).

7.4 Swimming Pool Area Excavation

- 7.4.1 Archaeological stripping of the swimming pool area revealed features related to various arrangements of the north-south aligned post-built courtyard division, first visible on the 1881 OS first Edition (cut contexts 121, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 137

and 111, as well as six unexcavated and unnumbered features). Eighteenth century pottery retrieved from two of these features (see below) as well as the two square pits (123 and 151 – containing many 18th century bottle fragments) appear to respect this line and show the courtyard division was present prior to OS mapping.

- 7.4.2 No further reliable dating was retrieved from features excavated in this area. Two linear features – Cuts 135 (Fig.4, Section 4) and 105 - were flat-based and loam filled and therefore may be bedding trenches. The arrangement of the linear features does not seem sensible in relation to the existing courtyard or that represented on historic maps, so presumably these features pre-date construction of the 18th century stable block.
- 7.4.3 The most interesting group of archaeological features comprised ten postholes (cuts 101, 115, 117, 119, 149, 139, 141, 143, 145, plus one unexcavated/unnumbered feature) in a rectilinear arrangement. The postholes were shallow (c 0.20 m max) generally 0.6 m in diameter and although heavily disturbed by modern rooting (negating potential for C14 dating), 0.3 m diameter post-pipes were visible in many of the features. Twenty-eight fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) were retrieved from eight of the postholes. Five fragments retrieved from 5 of the postholes are tentatively dated to the 16th-17th century date (although the problematical dating of the CBM - see Appendix 3 and obvious disturbance of the fills does not allow for a certain assignation of this date for the structure). The structure measured c 9 m x 7 m.
- 7.4.4 The postholes represent a fairly simple timber building. There are numerous functions such a building could perform at this close proximity to the Manor House. For example, Malcolm Airs in his publication on Tudor and Jacobean Country Houses (Airs M, 1995, p183) discusses many documentary financial accounts for basic workers lodgings, workshops and storage buildings associated with the construction of comparable 16th-17th century residences. Although visible in the accounts, graphic depictions are rare due to their low status and temporary nature.
- 7.4.5 Alternatively, throughout its history (or at least from the 17th century addition of the 'Kitchen Court') the west side of the Manor House has functioned as the domestic part of the establishment, encompassing staff quarters, kitchens and stables etc. Therefore the building may represent food storage (hanging room, small granary, buttery etc) or early staff lodgings. Unfortunately the archaeological evidence is insufficient to move beyond such speculation.

7.5 Finds

Pottery

By John Cotter

- 7.5.1 A total of 4 sherds of pottery weighing 164 g were recovered from 3 contexts (122, 124 and 132). The pottery sherds are in a fresh though fragmentary condition. The four sherds comprise three separate late post-medieval vessels. Two of these are in Staffordshire-type Pearlware - a refined white tableware dating to c 1780-1830

(contexts 122 and 132). These include a mug or a jug rim with blue transfer-printed decoration. The third vessel (context 124) is a base sherd from a large dish in Surrey/Hampshire red Border ware. This has a broad date range from the 16th to the 19th century. The piece here would not be incompatible with an 18th or even 19th century date.

Ceramic Building Material (see Appendix 3)

By John Cotter and Leigh Allen

- 7.5.2 A total of 132 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 10646 g were recovered from sixteen contexts. The dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise discipline and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be regarded with caution.
- 7.5.3 The assemblage comprises fragments from bricks and roofing material dating to the 16th-18th centuries. The bricks are all very fragmentary; only one example has a measurable dimension other than thickness. Two types of brick fabric have been identified; the first is a red friable fabric with straw impressions (fabric 1); the second is a light orange/red mottled with clay pellet inclusions (fabric 2). The form and fabric of the near complete brick (fabric 1) from context 104 indicates a date in the 16th-17th century. The brick is crudely made and heavily worn along one of the long narrow sides, there are traces of mortar on the wider faces. The brick may have been set on edge in a floor or path. Other fragments of this fabric were recovered from contexts 106, 118, 140 and 150. Brick fragments of fabric 2 are dated to 16th-18th centuries and were recovered from contexts 124, 128, 132, 148 and 150.
- 7.5.4 The roofing material comprises either fragments described as flat roofing tile (with no distinguishing features) or fragments of peg tile with circular nail holes for suspension. Most of the fragments are of a fine sandy reddish brown fabric.

Wine Bottles (see Appendix 4)

- 7.5.5 Thirty-five bottle bases and 11 neck fragments were retrieved from Pit 151 (fill context 152). All of these date to the 18th century

8 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 8.1.1 The watching brief and swimming pool investigation revealed mainly structures and deposits relating to the recent history of the Manor House.
- 8.1.2 Evidence of a post-built structure to the west of the Manor House clearly relates to a simple ancillary structure, however its function and date are difficult to interpret given its shallow disturbed nature, a lack of reliably diagnostic artefacts and (apart from CBM and modern roots) generally sterile feature fills.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Sutton Place Guildford

Site code: GUSUP07

Grid reference: TQ 011 535

Date and duration of project: 09/2007- 01/2008

Area of site: 0.1 ha

Summary of results: monitoring and investigation works during the construction of a swimming pool building at Sutton Place Guildford. The work revealed mostly modern deposits and structures. A rectilinear arrangement of apparent postholes recorded in the area of the swimming pool may date to the 16th-17th century. The structure represents a simple timber building possibly temporary storage or lodging associated with the construction of the manor or the domestic functions of the west wing. However its shallow nature, paucity of associated finds and disturbance of the features by modern rooting preclude definitive interpretation of its function.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Guildford Museum in due course.

APPENDIX 3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL*By John Cotter and Leigh Allen****Introduction and methodology***

A total of 132 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 10646 g. were recovered from sixteen contexts. The CBM was examined and spot-dated, the results appear in the table below. Complete dimensions were recorded when present. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be regarded with caution.

Date and nature of the assemblage

The assemblage comprises fragments from bricks and roofing material dating to the 16th-18th centuries. The bricks are all very fragmentary only one example has a measurable dimension other than thickness. Two types of brick fabric have been identified; the first is a red friable fabric with straw impressions (fabric 1); the second is a light orange/red mottled with clay pellet inclusions (fabric 2). The form and fabric of the near complete brick (fabric 1) from context 104 indicates a date in the 16th-17th century. The brick is crudely made and heavily worn along one of the long narrow sides, there are traces of mortar on the wider faces. The brick had been set on edge in a floor or path. Other fragments of this fabric were recovered from contexts 106, 118, 140 and 150. Brick fragments of fabric 2 are dated to 16th-18th centuries and were recovered from contexts 124,128,132,148 and 150.

The roofing material comprises either fragments described as flat roofing tile (with no distinguishing features) or fragments of peg tile with circular nail holes for suspension. Most of the fragments are of a fine sandy reddish brown fabric.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot date</i>	<i>No.sherds</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Comments</i>
104	C16-17	1	1392g	Brick fragment, red friable fabric with straw impressions. Heavily worn along one narrow edge (and with mortar present on sides). Set on edge it could have formed part of a floor or pavement). Max L:173mm, W:105mm, Th:53mm,
106	-	3	99	Misc brick fragments (red friable fabric)
108	-	1	44	Misc brick fragment
118	C16-17	1	127	Brick fragment (red friable fabric with

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot date</i>	<i>No.sherds</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Comments</i>
				straw impressions) .Th: 53mm (no other complete dimensions) Mortar on surface
118	-	5	140	Misc brick fragments (red friable fabric)
118	-	1	28	Flat roof tile fragment
118	-	1	23	Peg tile fragment
122	-	7	113	Misc fragments
124	C16-17	4	399	Brick fragments (red friable fabric with straw impressions) only one fragment has a measurable thickness 55mm
124	C16-18	1	541	Brick fragment (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions) Th: 55mm
124	C16-18	6	694	Brick fragments (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions) no measurable thicknesses
124	-	6	318	Flat roof tile fragments
124	-	2	115	Peg tile fragments one with ash glaze
126	-	5	12	Misc fragments
128	-	11	570	Flat roof tile fragments
128	-	3	388	Peg tile fragments (chunky and fairly crudely made)
128	C16-18	3	85	Brick fragments (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions)
128	C16-18	1	253	Brick fragment with sharp arris
128	Modern	1	24	Fragment from modern pipe
128	-	6	142	Flat roof tile fragments
128	-	2	167	Peg tile frgments (chunky and fairly crudely made)
128	C16-18	3	217	Brick fragments fragments (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions) only one fragment has a measurable thickness of 48mm
128	-	2	36	Misc fragments
130	-	7	133	Misc fragments
132	-	1	157	Brick fragment (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions) measurable thickness of 49mm
132	-	1	172	Brick fragment with ash glaze
132	C16-17	1	342	Brick fragment (dark red fabric with large flint inclusions) Th:50mm mortar adhering to bottom and sides
132	-	7	287	Misc brick fragments
132	-	2	224	Flat roof tile fragments
132	-	1	33	Peg tile fragment
132	-	3	16	Misc fragments
134	-	8	637	Flat roof tile fragments
134	-	3	544	Peg tile fragments (thin and well made)
134	-	1	170	Misc brick fragment
138	C16-17	1	412	Brick fragment fragments Th:50
138	-	2	74	Misc brick fragments
140	C16-17	1	25	Misc brick fragments (red friable fabric)
142	C16-17	1	483	Brick fragment (red friable fabric) no

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot date</i>	<i>No.sherds</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Comments</i>
				complete dimensions
144	-	2	35	Misc brick fragments
148	C16-18	3	148	Misc brick fragments (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions).
148	-	2	138	Flat foot tile fragment (hard fired) one frag with ash glaze
150	C16-17	1	255	Brick fragment (red friable fabric with straw impressions) Th:53mm
150	C16-18	1	257	Brick fragment (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions) Th:59mm
150	C16-18	7	237	Brick fragments (light orange/red mottled fabric with clay pellet inclusions)

APPENDIX 4 WINE BOTTLES

By Ian Scott

The bottles from Context 152 comprise a group of wine or liquor bottles of 18th-century date. The assemblage comprises bases or base fragments from 35 bottles and 11 neck fragments. All were from free blown bottles.

Where identifiable the base fragments were from cylindrical bottles and most if not all are from short broad cylindrical bottles. Most have marked kicks or push-ups, generally rounded cones. A small number had shallower domed kicks. Of the 35 base fragments, 29 could be measured. The base diameters range from 110 mm to 142 mm, but there is a preponderance of larger diameter bases: the mean diameter is 126 mm, the average is 130.35 mm. The short cylindrical form of wine bottle was current from the early decades of the 18th century well into the second half of the century when taller narrower cylindrical bottles became more common.

The necks are all tapered with fire polished cracked-off rims and single hand-applied string trails. Some necks are quite short. One neck was quite narrow. Where the evidence survived, the shoulders seem to have been sloping. Again the necks are securely dated to the 18th century.

Catalogue***Bottle bases***

- 1-7 Bases of short cylindrical bottles with deep kicks. Five are complete or near complete bases, two incomplete bases. All probably free blown. Dating c 1730-1780. Diameters 128 mm, 130 mm, 132 mm, 135 mm and 140 mm.
- 8-14 Bottle bases, probably from short cylindrical bottles. Five complete bases and two incomplete fragments. Free blown. Diameter of complete or near complete bases: c 140 mm (x 4), 142 mm.
- 15-16 Bases from two cylindrical bottles with deep kicks. Free blown. Later 18th century. Diameters: 110 mm, 120 mm.
- 17-24 Bases from eight cylindrical bottles with deep kicks Free blown. Probably later 18th century.. Diameters 114 mm; 116 mm, 122 mm, 125 mm, 128 mm (x 2), c 130 mm (x 2).
- 25-29 Bases from five short cylindrical bottles with shallow domed kicks. Free blown. Mid 18th century. Diameters 136 mm; 138 mm (x 2), 140 mm; 142 mm.
- 30-31 Bases from two short cylindrical bottles with deep bell-shaped kicks. Free blown. Mid 18th century. Diameters: 138 mm (x 2).
- 32-33 Bases from two octagonal section bottles. Mould blown. Mid 18th century. Diameters 110mm (x 2).
- 34-35 Two deep bell-shaped kicks from wine bottles, probably of short cylindrical form.

Bottle necks

- 36-39 Four short tapering necks, with cracked-off fire polished rims and single hand applied string trails. Two rims have uptooled V-shaped trails, one a V-shaped trail, and one a

- trail flattened top and bottom. All have the beginnings of the flare to sloping shoulders. 18th century.
- 40 Tapering neck with cracked-off fire polished rim and single hand-applied V-shaped string trail. Beginning of flare to sloping shoulder. 18th century.
- 41-42 Two slightly tapered necks with cracked-off fire polished rims and single hand applied string trails; one a V-shaped trail, the other trail flattened top and bottom. Beginning of flare to sloping shoulders. 18th century.
- 43 Narrow tapering neck with cracked-off fire polished rim and single round string trail. Marked flare to sloping shoulder. 18th century.
- 44 Tapering neck with cracked-off fire polished rim, with single hand applied uptooled V-shaped string trail. Mid 18th-century.
- 45 Neck fragment with cracked-off fire polished rim and single string trail, flattened top and bottom. 18th century.
- 46 Narrow neck fragment with cracked-off fire polished rim and single string trail, flattened top and bottom. 18th century.



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Figure 1: Site location

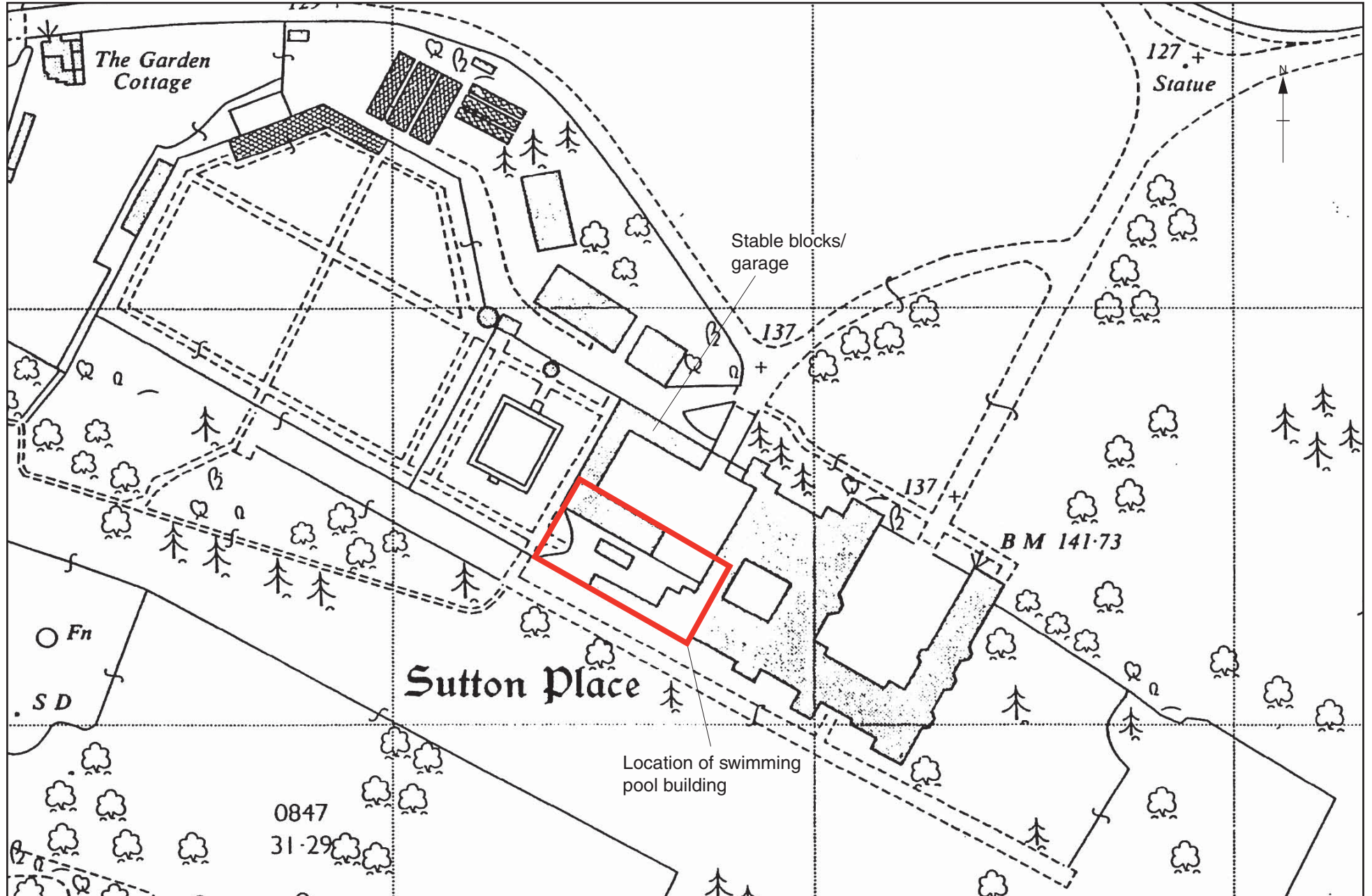


Figure 2: Location of building recording, excavation and watching brief

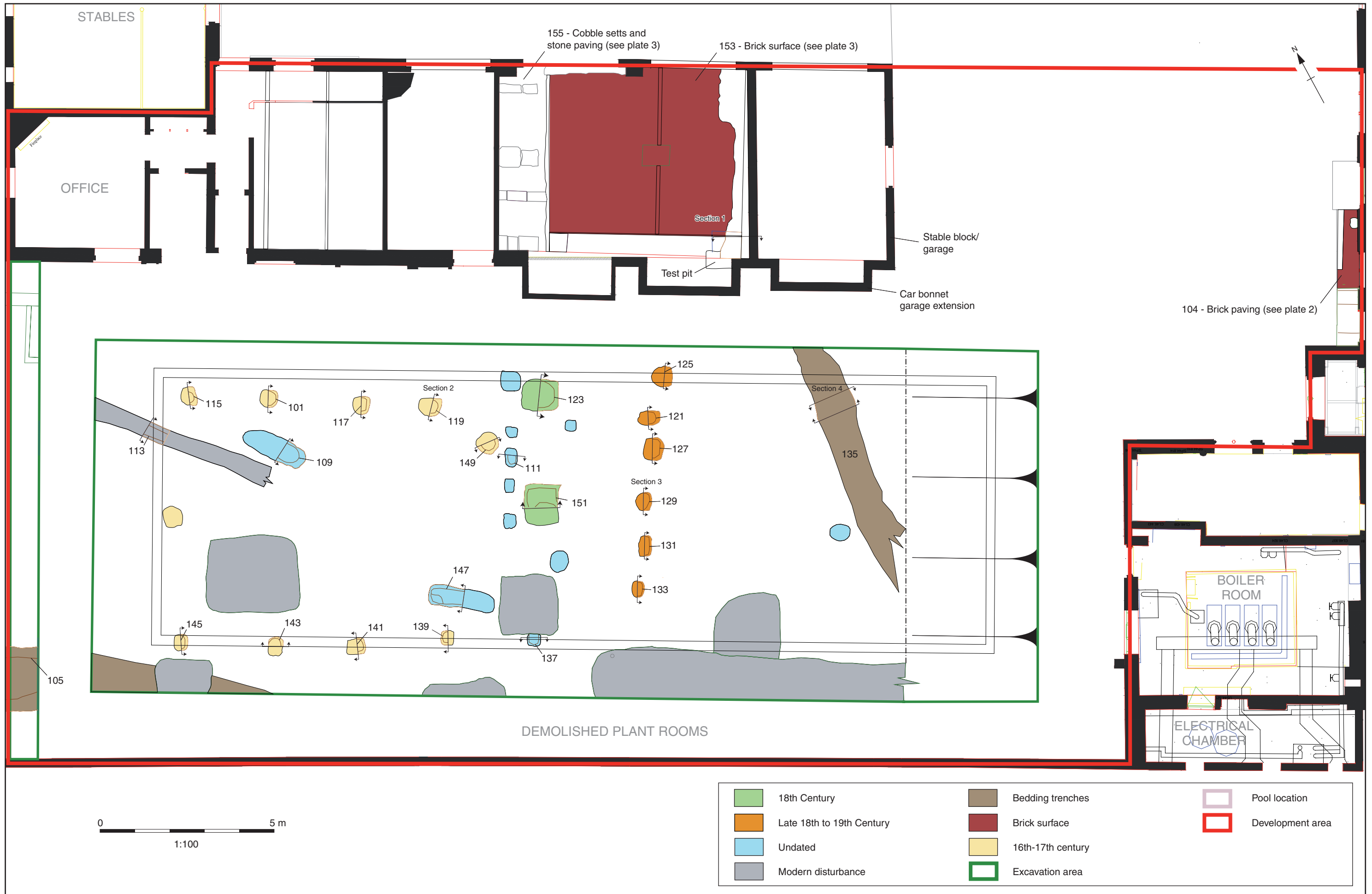


Figure 3: Excavation and watching brief results

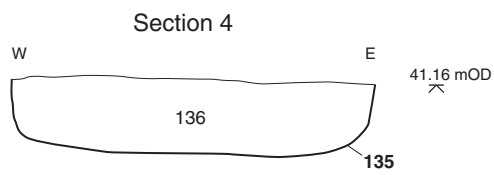
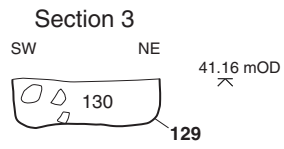
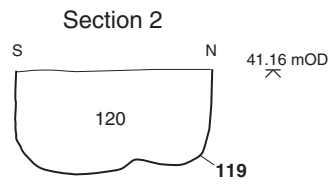
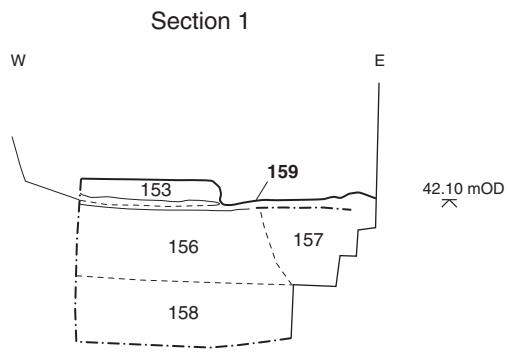


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: Sutton Place

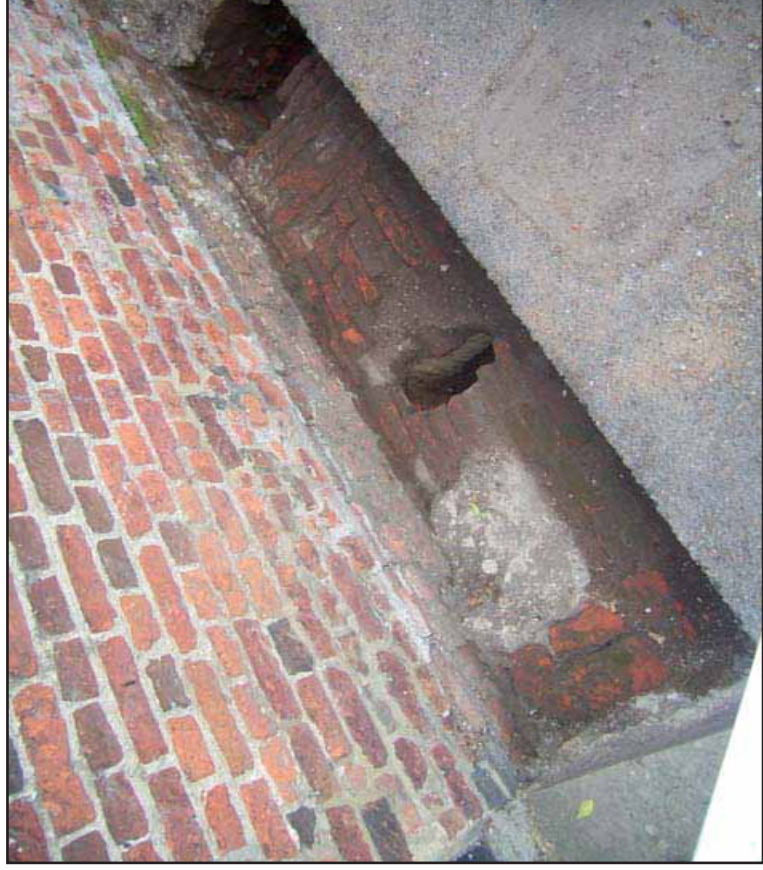


Plate 2: Brick paviors



Plate 3: Brick hard standing in garage



Plate 4: Excavation area



Plate 5: Posthole section of possible 16th-17th century post built structure

Client Name: Martin Ashley Architects on behalf of Sutton Place Trust

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Sutton Place, Guildford, Surrey

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Martin Ashley Architects on behalf of Sutton Place Property Unit Trust to record four areas of walling prior to the formation of new openings during building works. All four areas to be removed relate to later phases of the house's development with one (DF66) part of a range potentially dating to the 1530's and the remainder to additional ranges built around a second courtyard in the mid 17th century.

The walling at the west end of corridor 6 (opening DF53) was found to consist of primary bricks phase, topped with 20th century, brickwork. However, the method of pointing on the early phase brickwork is different to that seen on extant primary phase brickwork and therefore it was concluded that this wall had been built reusing early bricks.

Opening DF66 was to be made through an internal timber frame. The opening is situated at the same location as a previously blocked doorway, although due to a change in floor level the lintel will be removed. The timbers are considered to be early in date but unlikely to be part of an insitu early room divide.

Opening DF70 is a brick constructed dividing wall, which is likely to date from the main 17th century construction phase of the second courtyard. This wall section had been subject to much blocking in and opening up over the years.

Opening WWG7 is currently a window on the ground floor SW elevation. There is evidence of refenestration as well as the shadow of a previous lean to or courtyard division wall on the exterior wall.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Following a request from Stephen Twine from Martin Ashley Architects (MAA), Oxford Archaeology (OA) visited Sutton Place in Surrey to archaeologically record four locations of walling prior to doorway insertions during building works.

1.1.2 This visit was to ensure compliance with listed building consent requesting recording of the primary or potentially primary fabric prior to removal.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 The general aims and objectives were:

- Ensure compliance with listed building consent requesting recording of the primary or potentially primary fabric prior to removal.
- To produce a brief report detailing the findings of the survey.
- To deposit the survey archive with the appropriate body.

1.3 Methodology

- 1.3.1 The recording was undertaken by Alison Kelly (OA Buildings Archaeology Supervisor) and took place on 31 October 2007.
- 1.3.2 The codes used in this report to refer to each opening are the same as those used on current building plans provided by MAA. These are included in this report as Figure 2 with the locations of the recorded openings highlighted.
- 1.3.3 Recording was largely of a photographic nature, using 35mm colour slide, black & white film and digital images.
- 1.3.4 The photography was supplemented with site notes and sketches. The visible area of the east elevation of the timber frame at the point for doorway DF66 was also hand drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 1.3.5 Previous investigations into the history and development of Sutton Place are included in previous Oxford Archaeology Reports: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (April 2007) and Sutton Place, Watercolour Gallery, Building Recording and Investigation (March 1992). These reports should also be consulted in order to gain a fuller insight into the history of the site. Access to the ceiling and floor joists was not possible at the time of survey and so locations of these have been taken from the 1992 OA report, figures 2 and 3.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Sutton Place was constructed by Sir Robert Weston after he was granted the Sutton estate in 1521 (Pevsner 1962, p398). The exact construction date cannot be identified but is thought to be around 1523-1525 (VCH 1911, p390). The main construction phase consisted of four ranges set around a courtyard.
- 2.1.2 Sutton Place is of brick construction with terracotta rather than stone for windows, doors and quoins and therefore is similar to Layer Marney Tower, Essex (c.1523). Terracotta is also extensively used as decoration, much of which can unusually be seen within the main courtyard, reserving the best decoration for those inside the building. Other decoration includes diaperwork formed using vitrified bricks. Entrance to the house would originally have been through a gatehouse on the north range but this range was pulled down c. 1786 (Pevsner 1962, p398) and not rebuilt.

- 2.1.3 Internally the spaces within the 16th century primary build were partitioned with timber frame covered in lath and plaster, with the only internal masonry walls separating the north and south ranges from the east and west (Harrison 1893, p179).
- 2.1.4 There have been many changes to the house and later amendments include the addition of an office court to the west of the main house, the easternmost range of which abuts the primary phase west range and was probably constructed in the 1520-30's (Pevsner 1962, p399). The remainder of the western 'Kitchen' court was constructed in the mid to late 17th century (VCH 1911, p390) and it is thought that the construction of this 'inner court' enabled the extent of preservation of Tudor material that we see today (Howard 1983, p23).
- 2.1.5 A separate stable range was added in the 18th century (Pevsner 1962, p399). The continual changes in use of space and, more recently, ownership has meant that few internal divides remain untouched.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 Introduction:

- 3.1.1 Figure 1 shows the location of the openings recorded. All of the openings are located in the western quadrangle building which was constructed in the mid to late 17th century.
- 3.1.2 A first floor plan dated 1851 (NMR MD81/00067) shows the galleries F12, F15 and F18 linked by a corridor on the courtyard side of the range and gallery F29 subdivided into staff bedrooms.
- 3.1.3 The partitions within gallery F29 were the subject of the OA report Sutton Place: Watercolour Gallery (March 1992) and a 1992 floor plan by Rodney Mellville Associates included in this report shows this area mostly unchanged from the 1851 plan. However, the galleries F12, F15 and F18 had been somewhat altered since 1851 with the opening up of F12 and part of F15 and the retention of the corridor linking F15 and F18.

3.2 Opening DF53

- 3.2.1 This is a section of brick wall at the west end of corridor 6. The wall is of mixed type brickwork with two obvious new build sections to the top (Fig 2).
- 3.2.2 The majority of walling consists of similar brickwork to the primary phase brickwork seen elsewhere in the house. The bricks are mostly pinkish red with some darker bricks. The bond is very mixed but predominantly header bond. The wall is thickly mortared with a creamy mortar with lime inclusions. The mortar has score lines which are not seen on extant earlier phase brickwork. This suggests that the walling is mostly rebuilt using potentially primary phase bricks but it is not part of the primary structure.

3.3 Opening DF66

- 3.3.1 The area (fig 3) consists of an early timber frame wall covered by a modern false wall, the latter probably built as part of late 20th century alterations. It is proposed to insert a new opening into this wall, which will preserve timber uprights but will involve the loss of a short section of rail. The exposed timbers are covered with thick layers of paint the topmost of which is black, there does appear to be a lime green layer also.
- 3.3.2 The east face (see fig 5) shows the affected timbers are chamfered and probably relate to an earlier doorway. The brick infill on the lower section uses bricks that appear consistent with a Tudor date although only a few were visible at the time of survey and these are likely to have been reused from elsewhere. The brickwork is covered with roughly applied horsehair plaster. The upper section (above the lintel) is hollow wall with lath and plaster fixed to softwood studs. The lath and plaster with softwood studding is not consistent with 17th century work and therefore probably dates to the 18th century.
- 3.3.3 The framing stands on a plate, which is not resting on a floor joist/beam below which is indicative of a later partition. Access to the floor plate was limited to one area only but it could be seen that the floor plate has been cut underneath to allow the insertion of new floor joists; this work appears recent, probably dating to the late 20th century alterations.
- 3.3.4 The west face of the timber frame can be seen from the adjacent lower level bathroom (room F34) showing that the frame hidden by the modern false wall is filled with lath and plaster. The brick infilled doorway also has small timber sections inserted into the brickwork, presumably for later bathroom fitting fixings. The timber uprights show signs of keying for plaster on this face.
- 3.3.5 It is likely that this frame wall forms part of an 18th century partition for this range and is not part of the mid 17th century building phase. The difference in blocking materials for the wall cavity and doorway suggests that the door was used to provide access to the 1530's offices range until it was infilled with reused early phase bricks. The date for this work is uncertain but the opening is not shown on the 1851 plan so it can be assumed that the blocking occurred prior to this date.

3.4 **Opening DF70**

- 3.4.1 This area (fig 4) consists of a brick wall 51cm deep where an opening (approximately 1.02 m x 2.23 m) will be created to form a doorway between rooms F18 and F15. The present doorway DF46 was probably inserted as part of the 1990's works. An opening at the south eastern end can be seen on the 1851 plan of the building where a corridor runs down the south eastern side of the range.
- 3.4.2 The brick walling has been covered by plaster and wire reinforcement of recent date, probably dating to the 1990's refurbishment. The bond is English and the bricks are mostly a reddish pink in colour with some occasional darker plum coloured bricks. The bricks are roughly made with many cracks to the face and visible stone inclusions. The bricks average measurement (229 x 57 x 115 mm) is

consistent with brickwork of the 16th and 17th centuries. The mortar is creamy white with lime inclusions and is mostly roughly applied but there are patches of single struck pointing

- 3.4.3 The brickwork appears to be all one phase. There is a small patch of plaster at the base that is of an early date, potentially late 19th/20th century. This plaster is hard with a smooth finish and a small amount of horsehair. The southern face has infill bricks that have been inserted using a grey coarse horsehair plaster as a mortar. The bricks used as infill appear to be fragments of early phase bricks.
- 3.4.4 The wall has a small opening which, on removal of plaster, was found filled with loose bricks, suggesting there had been an opening here at some point, possibly part of an earlier refurbishment to allow for services.
- 3.4.5 This brickwork is likely to be primary to the 17th century construction of this range. The thickness of the wall is far larger for a standard internal divide and so this wall is part of the divide between the two ranges. A similar construction process can be seen in the 16th century courtyard ranges. The extent and positioning of the ground and first floor ceiling joists and beams are also consistent with this.

3.5 **Opening WWG7**

- 3.5.1 This area (fig 5) involves the removal of a ground floor window and walling to make an access door.
- 3.5.2 The interior shows rough mortaring to the Tudor brickwork, the mortar being creamy coloured with lime inclusions as before. The three courses of brickwork directly below the window is later in date and indicative of an earlier insertion or replacement of the window. There is modern brickwork to one side and a concrete lintel, the sill is timber. There is a blocked vent beneath the window opening.
- 3.5.3 The exterior shows extensive mortar repairs using various mortars and infill bricks (19th/20th century in date). There is also a shadow of a structure which abutted the building and it is likely that this was the position of either a wall enclosing the area between the main house and the stables or the location of a small lean-to structure. There are cuts in the brickwork to allow for fixtures and fittings, since removed. The ground level brickwork is extremely weathered.
- 3.5.4 There is a straight joint in the 17th century brickwork, which is not reflected on the interior elevation and does not appear to relate to any door opening. This is most likely connected either with repairs to a pipe opening above or the addition of the adjacent extension which can be seen on the 1851 plan and which currently houses the oak stair (inserted in the 1990s). The exact construction date for this extension is unknown but it was constructed using early bricks laid out in an English bond, possibly reclaimed from elsewhere in the building. The extension has been subject to a complete remortaring in recent years which means the bedding mortars cannot be compared.

3.5.5 There is a substantial amount of below ground brickwork which extends outwards from the building footprint. This brickwork supports the base of a concrete drain and appears to be constructed for this purpose (although the bricks themselves appear to be re-used).

4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

4.1.1 From recording and research it can be concluded that the wall dividing galleries F15 and F18 is potentially part of the primary mid 17th century build of the ranges surrounding the inner courtyard. The opening in the south eastern end of the wall, and used as a corridor shown on the 1851 plan, has been infilled and the current opening DF46 is a later doorway formed through the primary fabric.

4.1.2 The timber partition wall at the south eastern end of gallery F29 is formed using early timbers. The timbers are possibly part of an early division reset in this location. The doorway within this partition was used until blocking up as the opening is not shown on the 1851 plan.

4.1.3 The wall at the west end of corridor 6 is a later build using some early bricks in the construction. The ground floor window WWG7 shows evidence of refenestration and structures abutting the exterior wall in this area.

4.1.4 The use of early bricks as infill is as expected considering the amount of primary phase material available particularly after the demolition of the primary court north range in 1786, this may also explain the use of early bricks on the extension adjacent to WWG7.

Alison Kelly
Oxford Archaeology
April 2008

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Archive Research

National Monuments Records Office, Swindon

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MD81/00066 First Floor Plan

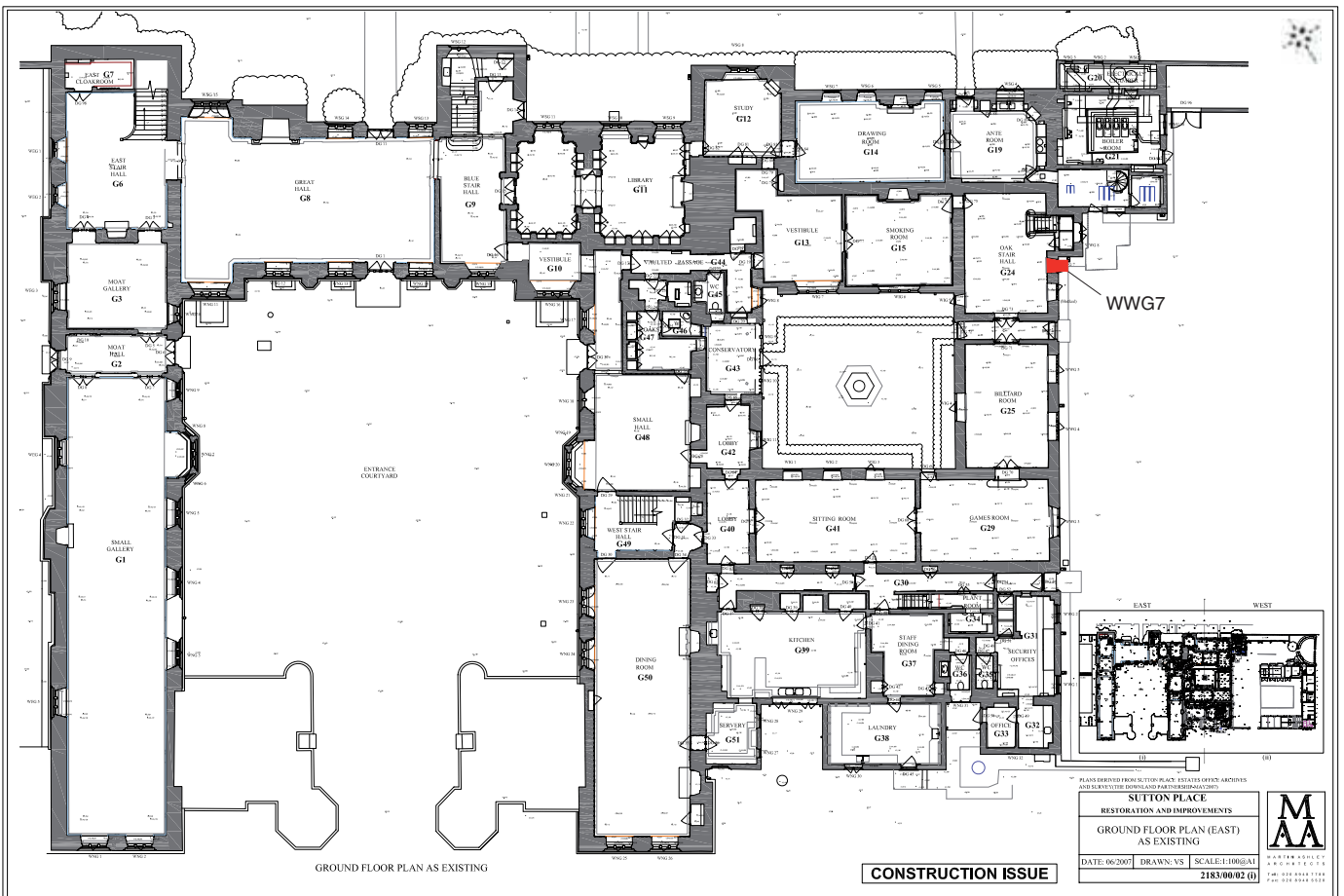
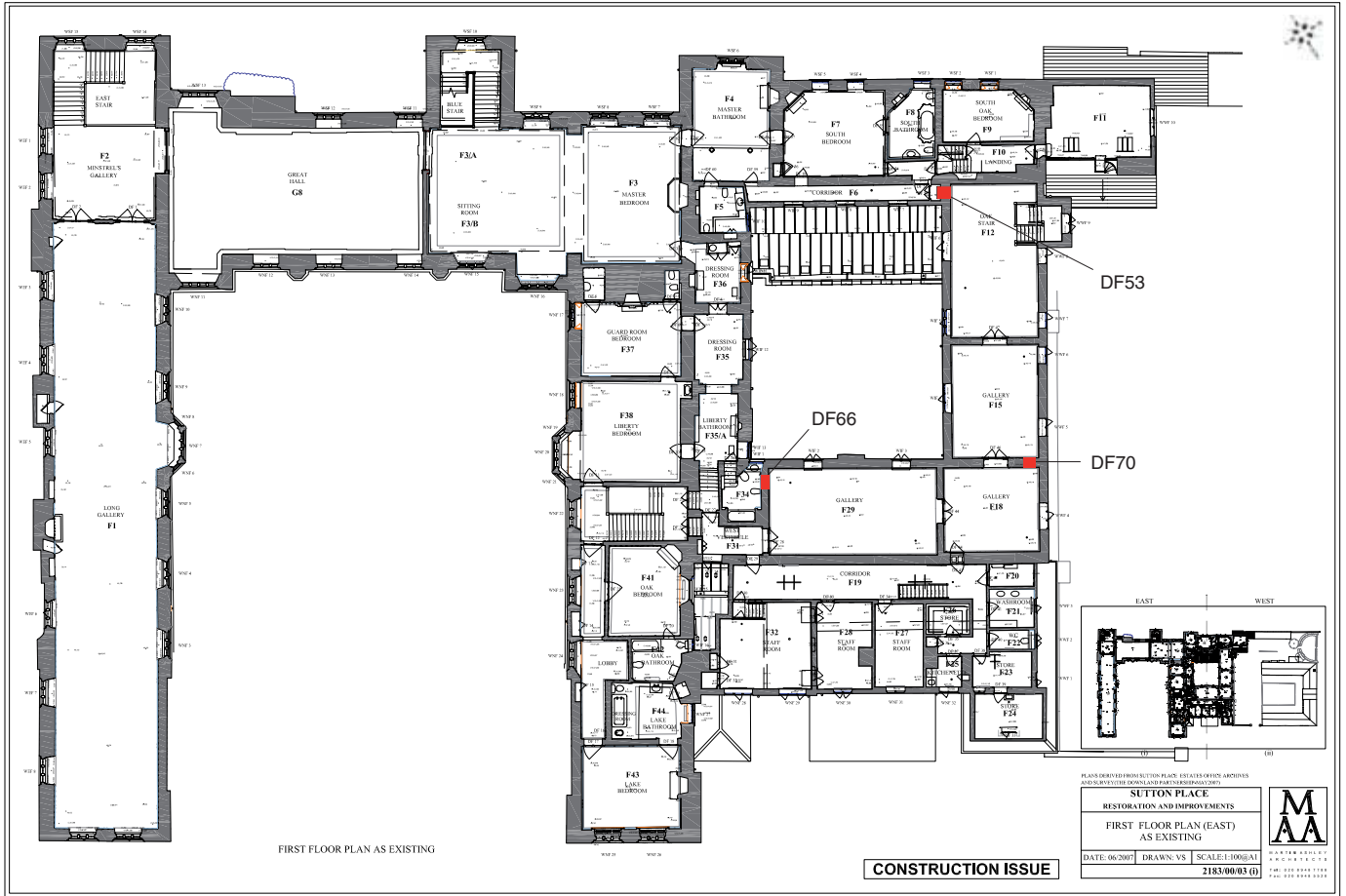
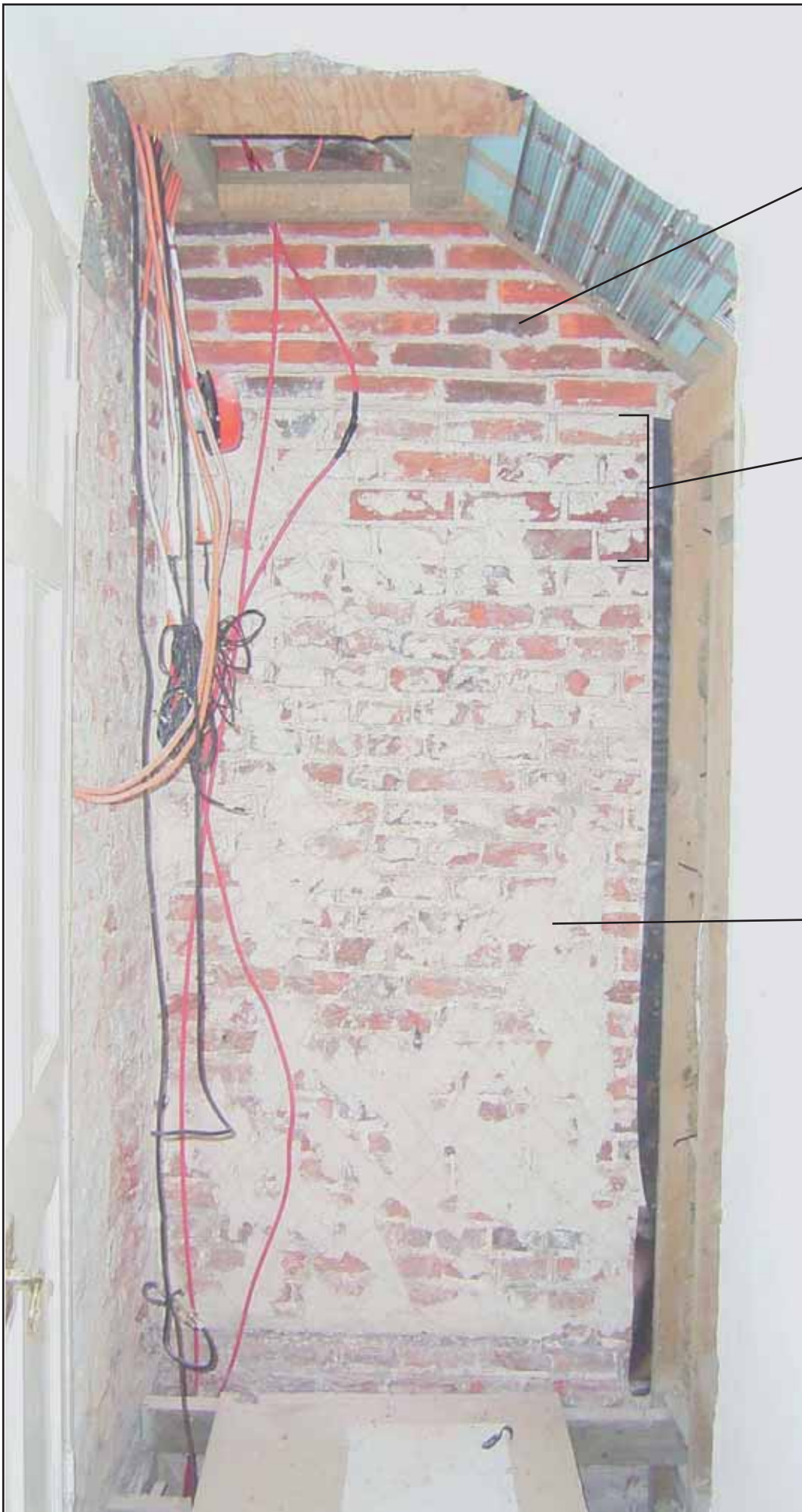


Figure 1: Location of openings recorded (first floor and ground floor)



Modern bricks probably 1980s

Rebuilt with new bricks, mortar is scored date uncertain

Rebuilt using c. 16th century bricks, mortar is scored, date uncertain

Figure 2: Sutton Place – Opening DF53 as seen from corridor 6 (east facing)

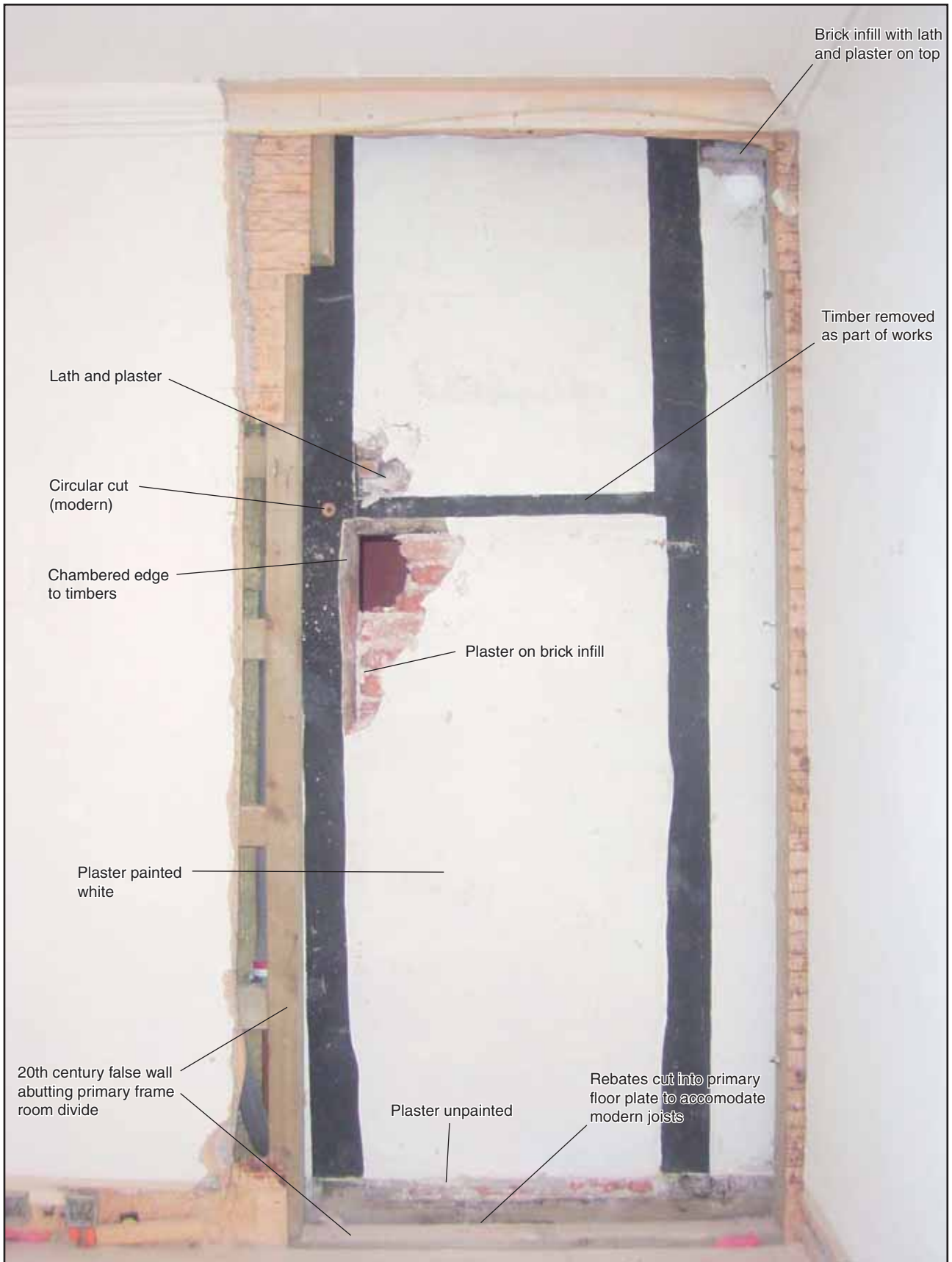


Figure 3: Sutton Place – Opening DF66 as seen from gallery F29 (west facing)

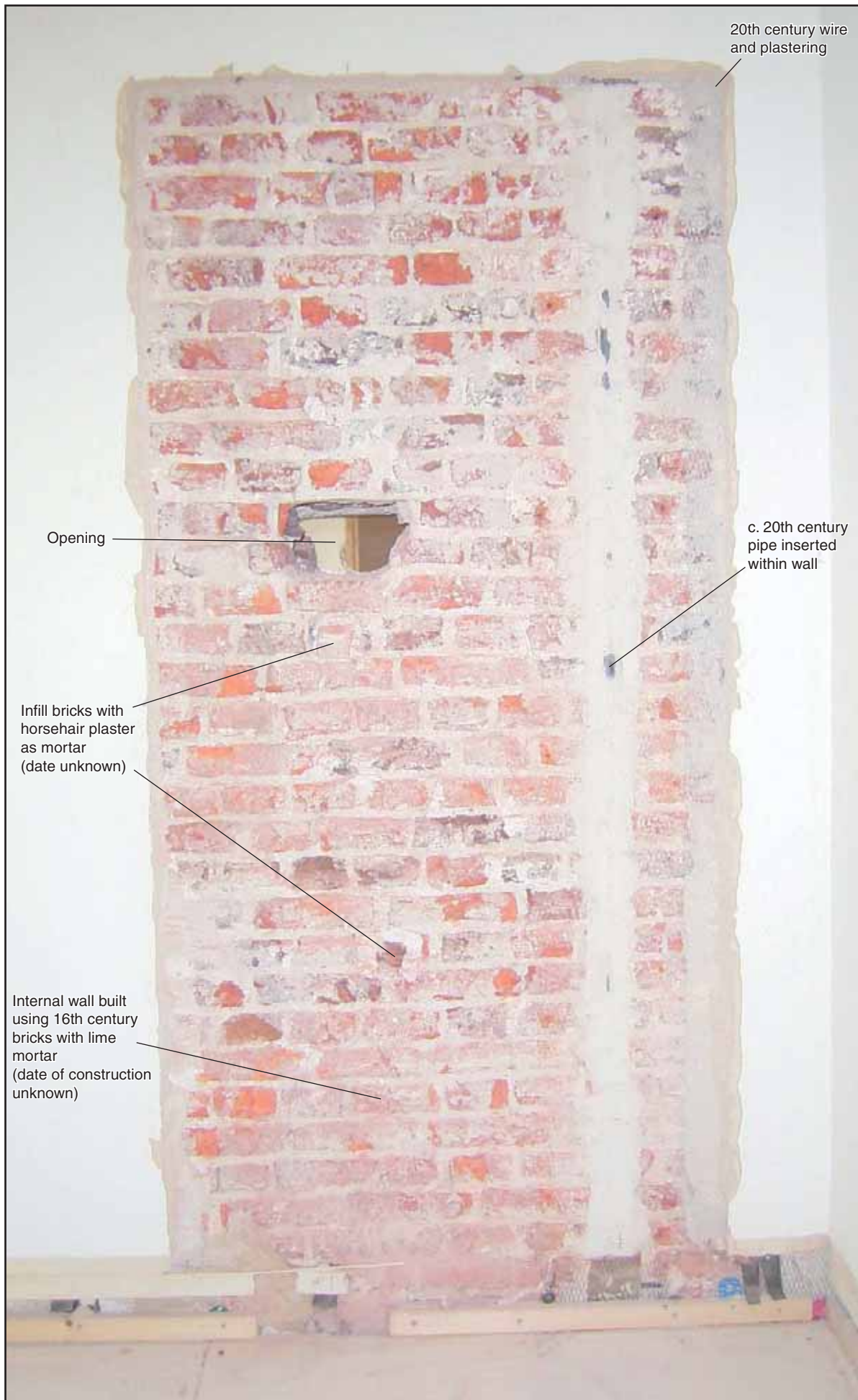


Figure 4: Sutton Place – Opening DF70 as seen from gallery F18 (north facing)



Figure 5: Sutton Place – Opening WWG7 as seen from exterior (west facing)



Plate 1: Sutton Place, Opening DF53 prior to removal of walling (W elevation)



Plate 2: Sutton Place, Opening DF53 detail of reused brickwork (W elevation)

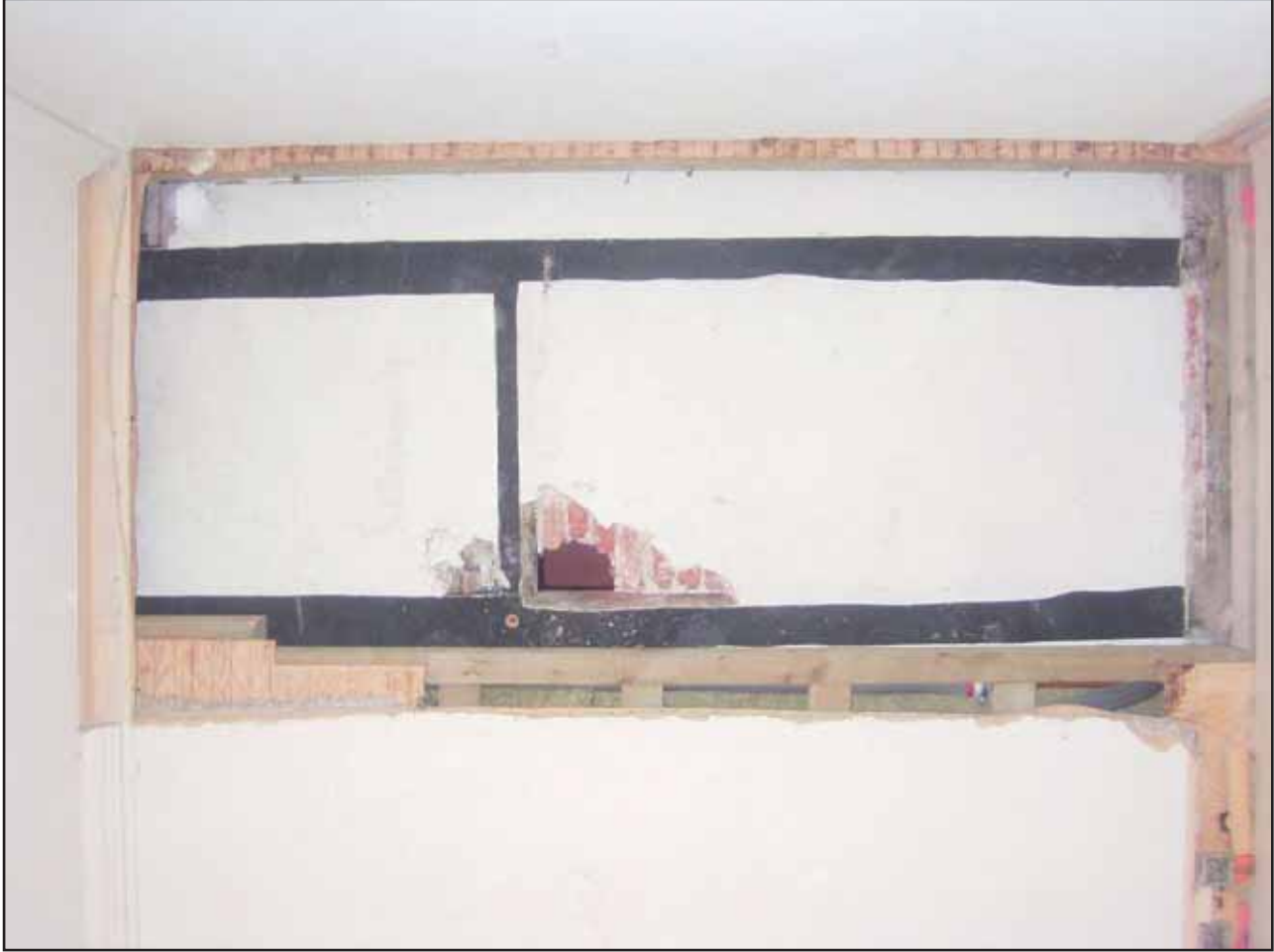


Plate 3: Sutton Place, Opening DF66 prior to removal of infill and lintel (SE elevation)



Plate 4: Sutton Place, Opening DF66 detail of chamfered timbers and infill (SE elevation)



Plate 5: Sutton Place, Opening DF66 reverse of timber frame (SW elevation)

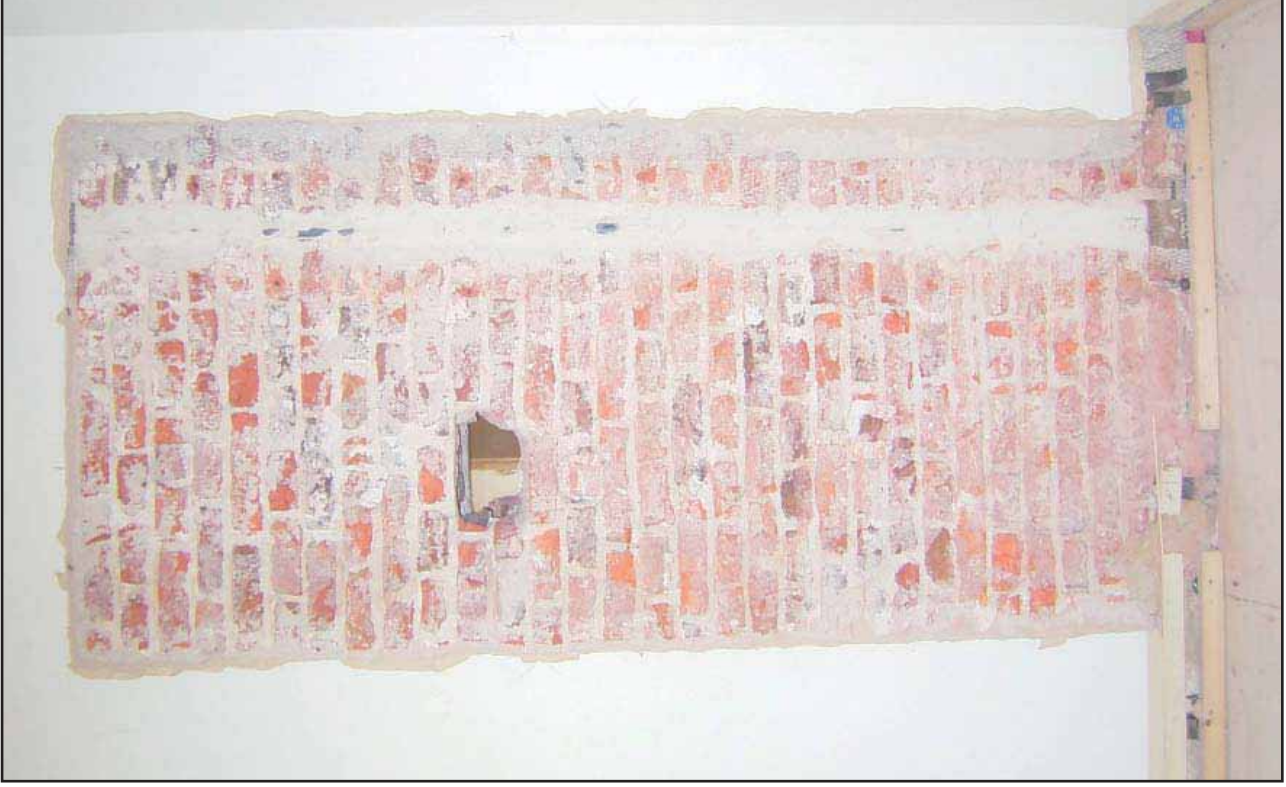


Plate 6: Sutton Place, Opening DF70 prior to removal of walling (S elevation)



Plate 7: Sutton Place, Opening DF70 prior to removal of walling (N elevation)



Plate 8: Sutton Place, Opening WWG7 prior to removal of walling (W elevation)



Plate 9: Sutton Place, Opening WWG7 prior to removal of walling (E elevation)



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