

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 28/97

WALL PAINTING CONDITION AUDIT,  
ARCHER PAVILION, WREST PARK,  
BEDFORDSHIRE

J Davies  
T Manning

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Summary

This condition audit of wall paintings at Archer Pavilion includes a wall painting record, general audit information, documentation of original materials and execution of the painting, and deterioration and damage including previously used materials and treatment, as well as proposals for treatment and monitoring strategies.

Authors' addresses :-

Ms J Davies  
PAINTINGS CONSERVATION STUDIO  
English Heritage  
Inner Circle Regents Park  
London  
NW1 4PA

Ms T Manning  
PAINTINGS CONSERVATION STUDIO  
English Heritage  
Inner Circle Regents Park  
London  
NW1 4PA



## Archer Pavilion, Wrest Park Bedfordshire

The following report has been generated by the Wall Painting Section database. This archival system provides a computerised record of all wall paintings in English Heritage Historic Properties and is intended to comprehensively document the collection. Each report has been subdivided into four sections to present the data in a clear format. These include:

**1 Wall Painting Record:**

Includes a description of the site and paintings, as well as archival information, such as bibliographic references and photographic records.

**2 General Audit Information:**

Describes any monitoring undertaken and a synopsis of future conservation requirements.

**3 Technique:**

Documents the nature and condition of the original materials and execution of the painting which is described according to its stratigraphy and any related analysis.

**4 Deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment:**

*Deterioration and damage* lists the types of alterations which may have occurred, that is either deterioration (natural alterations such as cracking or delamination) or mechanical damage (such as graffiti).

*Added Materials* documents all non-original materials present on or within a painting. These may include naturally occurring substances (accretions, such as dirt and dust) or deliberately added materials (coatings, coverings and repairs).

*Treatment* documents previous interventions and proposed treatment and monitoring strategies.

Throughout each section, an area of painting is assigned a number between 1 and 4 which is intended as a general indication of present condition. These are: 1 good, 2 fair, 3 poor, 4 unacceptable.

This report is based on information gathered prior to March 1996 and does not include any changes in condition, further research or treatment undertaken after this date. Amended editions will be produced as necessary.

# 1 Wall Painting Record

|                           |                  |        |              |                                 |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Property name             | WREST PARK       |        |              |                                 |
| Region                    | Midlands         | County | Bedfordshire |                                 |
| Location of painting      | Archer Pavilion  |        |              |                                 |
| Orientation               | INTERIOR         |        |              |                                 |
| Century                   | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Date   | 1712         | Height (cm) 0      Width (cm) 0 |
| Subjects included         |                  |        |              |                                 |
| Architectural motifs      |                  |        |              |                                 |
| Figurative                |                  |        |              |                                 |
| Heraldry                  |                  |        |              |                                 |
| Various decorative motifs |                  |        |              |                                 |

## Description

### DESCRIPTION

The Archer Pavilion, which lies to the south of the mansion of Wrest Park, at the base of the Long Water, consists of a small domed rotunda with radiating square- and round-ended chambers. It was designed by Thomas Archer, and was built solely for recreational purposes for the use of the residents of the Park. The interior and porch are entirely painted with trompe l'oeil work, hiding several small doors with passages leading to the kitchens, in the basement, and servants' quarters upstairs. The exterior was originally rendered (as contemporary drawings show) although it now appears stripped back to the brick support.

The domed interior is painted with feigned architecture incorporating busts in niches and figures flanking coats of arms and urns. The dome is painted with feigned coffering. It is signed and dated "Hauduroy pinxit 1712", and is one of two known works to survive in England of Louis Hauduroy, a French painter active c.1700. The other scheme, at Culverthorpe Hall, Lincs., has only recently been rediscovered.

### HISTORY

The manor at Wrest was held by the de Grey family in the 1280s. The first mention of Wrest Park is in 1344, after Roger de Grey was summoned to Parliament. His descendants, due to royal favour, became the Earls of Kent. Henry Grey (b.1671), the 12th and last Earl of Kent, served as a member of the Government of both Queen Anne and George I. He held a number of posts including Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward and Lord Privy Seal. He was made first a Marquess and in 1710 Duke of Kent. None of his sons survived him and the Kent title died with him. However, one of his daughters married a son of the Duke of Devonshire, who made considerable improvements to the estate. He was responsible for developing the Great Garden, the Long Water, and building the Bowling Green House and the Half Houses. He commissioned Thomas Archer to build the Pavilion, and the Hill House (which does not survive).

### Photographic Record

TM/JD audit record.

DOE negative search;  
Wrest Park, Archer Pavillion

17-2-49

A361/7 Exterior with scaffolding, 'View from the north.'

A361/13 'Interior looking north before repair.'

A361/14 'Interior looking east before repair.'

A361/15 'Interior looking south before repair.'

A361/16 'Interior looking west before repair.'

A361/17 'Upper part of interior north face from basement, looking through floor joists, before repair.'  
A361/23 'The painted walls and domed ceiling before repair, south-west sector.'  
A361/24 'The painted walls and domed ceiling before repair, south-east sector.'  
A361/25 'The painted walls and domed ceiling before repair. North sector.'  
A361/26 'The domed painted ceiling before repair. Inclination towards north.'

24-3-52

A1687/3 Detail paint and plaster?  
A1687/5 Detail figure in porch.

12-5-52

A1788/1-19 During conservation, scaffolding in place.

9-11-53

A2888/3 'The Pavilion. Internal painting'

8-2-54

A3033/1 'The Pavilion, Entrance steps completed.' Also shows porch painting

5-11-56

A4542/1-3 Detail damage and loss of ceiling plaster, insertion of new timber joists? nb lath and plaster support is visible.

28-4-58

A5009/1-6 During conservation, scaffolding in place.

24-7-58

A5091/3-8 During conservation, scaffolding in place, appear to be during retouching.

26-10-59

A5389/6-10 Interiors of the Pavilion after restoration.

### **Bibliography**

- 1) Cirket, A.F. History of Wrest House, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, vol. 59, 1980.
- 2) Croft-Murray, E. 1962, Vol. 1, 248.
- 3) Godber, J. The Marchioness Grey of Wrest Park, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, Vol. 48.
- 4) Godber, J. Wrest Park and the Duke of Kent, Bedfordshire County Council, n.d.
- 5) Hunter, A. Wrest Park, unpublished pamphlet, 1991.
- 6) Wiffen, M. Thomas Archer, London, 1950.

# 1 Wall Painting Record

|                      |                  |        |              |            |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|------------|
| Property name        | WREST PARK       |        |              |            |
| Region               | Midlands         | County | Bedfordshire |            |
| Location of painting | Archer Pavilion  |        |              |            |
| Orientation          | PORCH            |        |              |            |
| Century              | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Date   | 1712         |            |
|                      |                  |        | Height (cm)  | Width (cm) |
| Subjects included    |                  |        |              |            |
| Figure(s), male      |                  |        |              |            |
| Masonry pattern      |                  |        |              |            |

## Description

### DESCRIPTION

The Archer Pavilion, which lies to the south of the mansion of Wrest Park, at the base of the Long Water, consists of a small domed rotunda with radiating square- and round-ended chambers. It was designed by Thomas Archer, and was built solely for recreational purposes for the use of the residents of the Park. The interior and porch are entirely painted with trompe l'oeil work, hiding several small doors with passages leading to the kitchens, in the basement, and servants' quarters upstairs. The exterior was originally rendered (as contemporary drawings show) although it now appears stripped back to the brick support.

The domed interior is painted with feigned architecture incorporating busts in niches and figures flanking coats of arms and urns. The dome is painted with feigned coffering. The porch is painted with imitation ashlar and two grisaille figures in niches. It is signed and dated "Hauduroy pinxit 1712", and is one of two known works to survive in England of Louis Hauduroy, a French painter active c.1700. The other scheme, at Culverthorpe Hall, Lincs., has only recently been rediscovered.

### HISTORY

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## Photographic Record

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- 2) Croft-Murray, E. 1962, Vol. 1, 248.
- 3) Godber, J. The Marchioness Grey of Wrest Park, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, Vol. 48.
- 4) Godber, J. Wrest Park and the Duke of Kent, Bedfordshire County Council, n.d.
- 5) Hunter, A. Wrest Park, unpublished pamphlet, 1991.
- 6) Wiffen, M. Thomas Archer, London, 1950.

## 2 General Audit Information

|               |                 |            |              |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| Property name | WREST PARK      | County     | Bedfordshire |
| Region        | Midlands        |            |              |
| Location      | Archer Pavilion |            |              |
| Orientation   | INTERIOR        |            |              |
| Century 18th  | Date            | 1712       | Height (cm)0 |
|               |                 |            | Width (cm) 0 |
| Auditor(s)    | JD, TM          | Start date | 13/12/95     |

**Overall condition score** 2

### Recommendations

Wrest Park is an important site both architecturally and art historically. Unfortunately the original paintings, which had survived in fragmentary condition, were heavily restored during the renovation work of the 1950s. During the 1994 audit, access to the dome was not possible. Certain conclusions have been made without this access, but it is recommended that full scaffolding is erected within the next five years.

- 1) Deterioration phenomena such as blanching and flaking appear to be active, and therefore the condition of the paintings should be monitored visually on a routine basis. Closer examination, with a scaffold, is desirable. This will be necessary in order to assess the condition of the flaking and the extent of plaster delamination in the upper areas. Treatment would be desirable within the next ten years.
- 2) Environmental monitoring equipment should be installed as soon as possible in order to gather sufficient data to aid and inform a future conservation campaign.
- 3) Routine maintenance would vastly improve the appearance of the building. The accumulation of bird faeces and insects has detracted from the appearance of, as well as directly harmed, the paintings and furnishings. There is evidence, from within the building, of infiltration damage. It is not clear whether this is historic or active and therefore gutters at dome level should be checked for efficacy. These problems are clearly related to the fact that the building is closed most of the year; however, regular maintenance should be considered a high priority.
- 4) The painted canvases within the lantern appear to be torn and coming away from their support. Scaffolding erected in the future should be sufficiently high to permit access into this area and to allow emergency conservation treatment.
- 5) Re-rendering of the exterior of the building should be considered. It is not clear when or why the brick support was exposed.

## 2 General Audit Information

|               |                 |            |              |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| Property name | WREST PARK      | County     | Bedfordshire |
| Region        | Midlands        |            |              |
| Location      | Archer Pavilion |            |              |
| Orientation   | PORCH           |            |              |
| Century 18th  | Date            | 1712       | Height (cm)  |
|               |                 |            | Width (cm)   |
| Auditor(s)    | TM, JD          | Start date | 13/12/95     |

**Overall condition score** 3

### Recommendations

Wrest Park is an important site both architecturally and art historically. Unfortunately the original paintings, which had survived in fragmentary condition, were heavily restored during the renovation work of the 1950s.

1) Some limited conservation treatment of the paintings in the porch is urgently required. This should include flake fixing, minor repairs, dusting and general cleaning of the porch area.

2) Routine maintenance would vastly improve the appearance of the building. The accumulation of bird faeces and insects has detracted from the appearance of, as well as directly harmed, the paintings and surroundings. These problems are clearly related to the fact that the building is closed most of the year; however, regular maintenance could be improved.

3) Re-rendering of the exterior of the building should be considered. It is not clear when or why the brick support was exposed.



### 3 Audit Information: Technique

|               |                  |             |              |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Property name | WREST PARK       |             |              |
| Region        | Midlands         | County      | Bedfordshire |
| Location      | Archer Pavilion  |             |              |
| Orientation   | INTERIOR         |             |              |
| Century       | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Date        | 1712         |
|               |                  | Height (cm) | 0            |
|               |                  | Width (cm)  | 0            |
| Auditor(s)    | JD, TM           | Start date  | 13/12/95     |

**Overall Condition Score      2**

#### Stratigraphy

|            |               |                          |   |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Support Layer | Specific condition Score | 2 |
| Thickness  | 50 cm         |                          |   |

#### Comments

The thickness of the brick support varies. The exterior has been stripped back to the brick, but was originally rendered. Traces of this survive on the surface.  
The lantern appears to be constructed of canvas and timber. The canvas appears to be torn and coming away from the timber frame (condition score: 4).  
There are signs of infiltration at the west side of the dome.

|            |                |                          |   |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Render Layer 1 | Specific condition Score | 2 |
| Thickness  |                |                          |   |

#### Comments

Only visible in places. Yellowish hair plaster with fine black aggregate (2-3 mm maximum).

|            |                |                          |   |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Render Layer 2 | Specific condition Score | 2 |
| Thickness  |                |                          |   |

#### Comments

Thin smooth white render. Finer aggregate of black and yellow particles. Brushstrokes visible, some brush-hairs caught in surface. Possible oil additive? Several seriously hollow areas, mostly around doors; however it is not always clear what is original and what is repair plaster.

|            |                |                          |   |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Ground Layer 1 | Specific condition Score | 2 |
| Thickness  |                |                          |   |

#### Comments

Possible ground layer; no obvious layer present. Creamy white ground appearance, which could also be the surface of render layer 2. Oil may have been added to a limewash ground, or the surface was oiled before the application of paint, accounting for its smooth brushed appearance.

---

|            |               |                          |   |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Paint Layer 1 | Specific condition Score | 3 |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Thickness |  |
|-----------|--|

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Comments |  |
|----------|--|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Heavily abraded paint layer. Entirely repainted, except for one area uncovered in 1990 (east side, lower part of northeast chamber). Medium probably oil. Original painted scheme in muted colours of brown on greyish-white. |  |
|---|--|

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Identified pigments | Colours |
|---------------------|---------|

|     |       |
|-----|-------|
| --- | blue  |
| --- | green |
| --- | grey  |
| --- | brown |
| --- | white |

---

|            |               |                          |   |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Paint Layer 2 | Specific condition Score | 3 |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Thickness | .01 cm |
|-----------|--------|

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Comments |  |
|----------|--|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Remains of gilding, perhaps gold leaf, probably applied with a type of gold (oil) size. |  |
|---|--|

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Identified pigments | Colours |
|---------------------|---------|

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| gold leaf | gold |
|-----------|------|

### 3 Audit Information: Technique

|               |                  |            |              |             |
|---------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Property name | WREST PARK       |            |              |             |
| Region        | Midlands         | County     | Bedfordshire |             |
| Location      | Archer Pavilion  |            |              |             |
| Orientation   | PORCH            |            |              |             |
| Century       | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Date       | 1712         | Height (cm) |
|               |                  |            |              | Width (cm)  |
| Auditor(s)    | TM, JD           | Start date | 13/12/95     |             |

**Overall Condition Score** 3

#### Stratigraphy

|            |               |                          |   |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Support Layer | Specific condition Score | 2 |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|

Thickness

Comments

Brick support, now stripped back on the exterior. Entirely rendered within the porch area. The stone stairs to the entrance porch were entirely rebuilt during the 1950s restoration. Round-headed niches recessed into wall on east and west sides of porch.

|            |                |                          |   |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Render Layer 1 | Specific condition Score | 2 |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|

Thickness

Comments

Render layer 1 is not visible and information about its thickness, additives and aggregates are not known.

|            |                |                          |   |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Render Layer 2 | Specific condition Score | 3 |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|

Thickness

Comments

Possible ground layer; no obvious layer present. Creamy white ground appearance, which could also be the surface of render layer 2. Oil may have been added to a limewash ground, or the surface was oiled before the application of paint, accounting for its smooth brushed appearance.

|            |                |                          |   |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Ground Layer 1 | Specific condition Score | 3 |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|

Thickness

Comments

Possible ground layer; no obvious layer present. Creamy white ground appearance, which could also be the surface of render layer 2. Oil may have been added to a limewash ground, or the surface was oiled before the application of paint, accounting for its smooth brushed appearance. Medium probably oil.

Identified pigments Colours

--- brown

--- white

---

|            |               |                          |   |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Layer type | Paint Layer 1 | Specific condition Score | 3 |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|

Thickness

Comments

Obscured by extensive overpainting. Flaking in many areas. Medium probably oil.

Identified pigments    Colours

yellow

grey

brown

white

## 4 Audit Information: deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment

|               |                 |      |              |            |              |
|---------------|-----------------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Property name | WREST PARK      |      |              | County     | Bedfordshire |
| Region        | Midlands        |      |              |            |              |
| Location      | Archer Pavilion |      |              |            |              |
| Orientation   | INTERIOR        |      |              |            |              |
| Century 18th  | Date            | 1712 | Height (cm)0 | Width (cm) | 0            |

### DETERIORATION AND DAMAGE

#### Deterioration phenomena

**Type** damp  
**Location** West side, above cornice, male figure  
**Comments** Appears active. Associated flaking in this area, related to possible infiltration.

**Type** damp  
**Location** Entire  
**Comments** There has been a history of damp-related problems to the building.

**Type** flaking  
**Location** Especially, NE ante-room, but also throughout, mainly of retouching  
**Comments**

**Type** staining  
**Location** Below sills of round recesses and windows, at dome level  
**Comments** Obvious evidence of infiltration and/or condensation, possibly in combination with bird activity within the windows.

**Type** blanching  
**Location** Throughout  
**Comments** Probably related to 1950s application of wax varnish.

**Type** blanching  
**Location** SE side  
**Comments** Blanched dripmarks visible on the southeast side of the room, at dome level.

**Type** delamination (render layer)  
**Location** Low level, render layer 1  
**Comments** Render layer 1 appears to be delaminating from the support. Gentle tapping often revealed hollow pockets, in areas accessible from the ground. The uneven surface of the render higher up on the walls may indicate extensive delamination. Much may have been replastered prior to the repainting.

**Type** photodeterioration  
**Location** Canvas support in lantern  
**Comments** Tearing and loss to canvas support in lantern (visible from the ground) possibly related to photodeterioration.

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**Mechanical damage**

**Type** minor losses  
**Location** NW ante-room, west side of arch  
**Comments**

---

**Type** abrasion  
**Location** Around doorknobs  
**Comments** Abrasion of paint layer(s) due to keys (hanging from keychains) when doors are locked/unlocked.

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## ADDED MATERIALS

### Accretions

**Type** biodeterioration

**Location** Throughout the room, especially in NE chamber arch

**Comments** Especially visible on the east reveal of arch into the northeast chamber, but found throughout the room. Appear as brown stains/spots.

---

**Type** dirt

**Location** Entire

**Comments** Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to a general accumulation of surface dirt and dust.

---

**Type** dust

**Location** Entire

**Comments** Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to a general accumulation of surface dirt and dust.

---

**Type** cobwebs

**Location** Especially corners

**Comments** Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to a general accumulation of dust, insect activity and cobwebs.

---

**Type** insect activity

**Location** Throughout

**Comments** Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to general insect activity, especially moths and flies.

---

**Type** bird excreta

**Location** Under windows

**Comments** Drip marks and stains on paintings (and on varnished chairs) possibly from birds or bats.

---

### Coatings/Coverings

**Type** wax

**Location** Entire

**Comments** Cleaned and consolidated with wax c.1952, and this remains on the surface. Examination in ultraviolet light showed a greenish fluorescence of the layer. Drip marks visible: appears to have been applied dilute and allowed to run down during cleaning.

---

**Type** repainting

**Location** Entire

**Comments** A mixture of overpainting and repainting was carried out during the restoration work of the 1950s. The retouching appears over losses, and also over the original - apparently applied with a broad brush.

---

**Type** unidentified

**Location** Entire

**Comments** The glossy surface of the painting indicates that an (unidentified) varnish may have been applied.

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**Repairs**

**Type** gypsum

**Location** Throughout

**Comments** See the report of J.S. Jack (1 July 1952) which states that for deep losses : '...a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water...'

---

**Type** modern plaster

**Location** Throughout

**Comments** Numerous repairs, all overpainted, not easily discernible from the original.

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**Type** lime:sand

**Location** Throughout

**Comments** See the report of J.S. Jack (1 July 1952) which states that for deep losses : '...a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water...'

---



**Past Treatment**

**Date** 01/05/52

**Comments** Instructions from J.S. Jack (in a letter dated 9/5/52) prescribed the following treatment: 'The first aim is to refresh the remaining paintings by removing any surface dirt so as to give them every opportunity of drying out. Brushing with a soft brush and then with a very thin solution of wax would serve the double purpose of preliminary cleaning and also "fixing" the paint. The wax solution should be brushed downwards so that the liquid carries any remaining dirt down to the bottom edge of the area under treatment. The surplus liquid should then be taken up by the brush and be squeezed out into a bowl and the brush should be wiped or rinsed in turpentine. The wax solution should be very thin so as to avoid sealing the surface too much and so preventing exit of moisture from the plaster... after preliminary "fixing" of the paintings generally they should be cleaned as completely as possible, and be waxed again, so that a further set of photographs can be taken to show the remaining work as clearly as possible for a guide in later restoration.'

**Date** 01/05/52

**Comments** Instructions from J.S. Jack (in a letter dated 9/5/52) prescribed the following treatment: 'Brushing with a soft brush and then with a very thin solution of wax would serve the double purpose of preliminary cleaning and also "fixing" the paint. The wax solution should be brushed downwards so that the liquid carries any remaining dirt down to the bottom edge of the area under treatment. The surplus liquid should then be taken up by the brush and be squeezed out into a bowl and the brush should be wiped or rinsed in turpentine. The wax solution should be very thin so as to avoid sealing the surface too much and so preventing exit of moisture from the plaster... The badly decayed parts of the paintings, where the surfaces of plaster and paint are swollen and blistered will require very careful consideration. The aim here should be to preserve and make more clear any traces of the old composition so that they can be photographed later on as a guide to the artists when the final work of restoration is being considered. It might be possible to fix some of the bad areas with wax and when sufficient wax has been absorbed and become fairly stiff to press back and flatten the blistered surfaces... after preliminary "fixing" of the paintings generally they should be cleaned as completely as possible, and be waxed again...'

**Date** 01/05/52

**Comments** Instructions from J.S. Jack (in a letter dated 9/5/52) for treatment of a crack in the dome prescribed the following: 'As the painted surfaces surrounding the crack are inclined to be powdery they should be treated over a fair margin round the crack with a thin solution of parchment size. When this has dried the crack in plaster should be cut out, thoroughly cleaned and the edges treated with thin shellac in spirit. Thereafter the crack should be filled in with fine plaster of Paris retarded with Cannon's size in water. To avoid weakening the plaster work by cutting out the whole length of the crack at one operation it would be advisable to cut out in lengths of 1 foot leaving intermediate sections of 1 foot undisturbed... when the portions which have been filled are quite set and firm the remaining sections can be dealt with. After this repair the area of plaster should be reinforced temporarily by having 6" wide strips of strong compo board - each about 3 or 4 feet long and screwed through to some of the vertical ribs above the plaster. The strips of compo board to be about 12" apart.'

### Past Treatment

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION Date 01/07/52

Person J.S. Jack/MOW

Comments See the report of J.S. Jack (1 July 1952) which stated that 'The intention is to replaster only those parts which show no trace of old painting. Where the old plaster is bad and has lost its surface it should be cleaned back to the brickwork. The brickwork joints should be raked sufficiently to give a good "key" and a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water and the coat should be about 1/4" thick. The lime and sand rough coat should be allowed to mature for a few weeks before the plaster finishing coat is applied.'

---

### Past Treatment

Type UNCOVERING Date 01/01/90

Person H. Hughes/C. Babington

Comments A small area on the north reveal of the arch leading to the northeast ante-chamber was uncovered during research undertaken by Helen Hughes in 1990. She stated: 'From the cross-sections I was able to identify an earlier paint scheme on the reveals leading into the small rooms on the ground [floor]. (This arabesque design was indicated below the existing overpaint when the wall was viewed in raking light). With the help of Caroline Babington, I have been able to reveal a small section of this design. The pattern is in brown on a white background.'

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### Proposed Treatment

Type CLEANING Date 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments The appearance of the paintings would be considerably improved by partial removal of repainting.

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Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION Date 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments Minor repairs are necessary to the northwest corner.

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Type FLAKE FIXING Date 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments The condition of the paintings would be considerably improved by treatment of the blanching and associated flaking.

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Type MONITORING CONDITION Date 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments The condition of the paintings should be monitored. Treatment will probably be necessary in the long term, probably within the next ten years. However, in the short term, environmental monitoring equipment should be installed. The data gathered over the next few years will help to formulate and inform the conservation work.

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## 4 Audit Information: deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment

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|               |                 |      |      |             |              |
|---------------|-----------------|------|------|-------------|--------------|
| Property name | WREST PARK      |      |      | County      | Bedfordshire |
| Region        | Midlands        |      |      |             |              |
| Location      | Archer Pavilion |      |      |             |              |
| Orientation   | PORCH           |      |      |             |              |
| Century       | 18th            | Date | 1712 | Height (cm) | Width (cm)   |

### DETERIORATION AND DAMAGE

#### Deterioration phenomena

Type flaking  
Location Figures, east and west walls  
Comments Dark outlines of figures flaking. More loss in lower half of niches. This is probably due to the partial protection provided by the archway into the porch.

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Type delamination (render layer)  
Location Pockets throughout; only surveyed from ground level.  
Comments Several areas sound hollow when gently tapped. Slightly undulating render.

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Type loss  
Location East side, south end, centre  
Comments Small round loss, in line with repair which pre-dates the overpainting.

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#### Mechanical damage

Type scratches  
Location General, lower level  
Comments Accidental and deliberate damage to paint and ground layers.

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Type graffiti  
Location General, low level  
Comments Incised and drawn graffiti of various dates, especially to imitation masonry.

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Type minor losses  
Location West wall, dado height  
Comments Gouges to plaster and loss of painting, ground and plaster.

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## ADDED MATERIALS

### Accretions

**Type** bird excreta  
**Location** Corners of floor, north side, also splashes on walls  
**Comments** Heavy deposits, extremely disfiguring. Routine maintenance could vastly improve the appearance of the porch.

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**Type** dirt  
**Location** General, especially upper level  
**Comments** Disfiguring amount of dirt and deposits, probably brushed away from the lower half of the walls.

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**Type** cobwebs  
**Location** General, especially corners and at upper level  
**Comments** Disfiguring. Probably brushed away from lower half of wall.

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**Type** insect activity  
**Location** West side  
**Comments** Hibernating insects.

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### Coatings/Coverings

**Type** repainting  
**Location** Entire  
**Comments** A mixture of overpainting and repainting was carried out during the restoration work of the 1950s. The retouching appears over losses, and also over the original - apparently applied with a broad brush.

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**Type** wax  
**Location** Entire?  
**Comments** The interior was cleaned and consolidated with wax c.1952, and this remains on the surface there. It is likely that the porch paintings were treated in a similar way.

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**Type** unidentified  
**Location** Entire  
**Comments** The glossy surface of the painting indicates that an (unidentified) varnish may have been applied.

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### Repairs

**Type** modern plaster  
**Location** East side, south end, centre  
**Comments** Small round overpainted repair, at same height as current loss. The porch was extensively repaired during building works, however, few repairs are visible within the painted area.

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**Past Treatment**

**Person** J.S. Jack/MOW

**Person** J.S. Jack/MOW

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**Type** FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 01/05/52

**Person** J.S. Jack/MOW

**Comments** There are no specific references to the treatment of the porch paintings. Presumably the treatment would have been the same as, or similar to, that carried out on the interior paintings. A report from J.S. Jack (dated 1/7/52) prescribed the following treatment for the interior paintings: 'The intention is to replaster only those parts which show no trace of old painting. Where the old plaster is bad and has lost its surface it should be cleaned back to the brickwork. The brickwork joints should be raked sufficiently to give a good "key" and a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water and the coat should be about 1/4" thick. The lime and sand rough coat should be allowed to mature for a few weeks before the plaster finishing coat is applied.'

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**Proposed Treatment**

**Type** DUSTING **Date** 13/12/94

**Person** JD, TM

**Comments** General cleaning of the porch area is necessary. Regular basic maintenance is required.

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**Type** FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 13/12/94

**Person** JD, TM

**Comments** Small loss to the east side should be repaired. Grouting may be considered.

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**Type** FLAKE FIXING **Date** 13/12/94

**Person** JD, TM

**Comments** Flake fixing is quite urgent. The extent of flaking accounts for the poor condition score.

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Interior, general view to north



Northeast ante-room, north side, area uncovered in 1990