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# SHERBORNE HOUSE, NEWLAND, SHERBORNE, DORSET
# TREE-RING ANALYSIS OF TIMBERS FROM THE TUDOR WING

## SCIENTIFIC DATING REPORT

Martin Bridge

INTERVENTION AND ANALYSIS

ENGLISH HERITAGE

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# TREE-RING ANALYSIS OF TIMBERS FROM THE TUDOR WING

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SUMMARY

A small number of samples were obtained from the 'Tudor Wing' of Sherborne House. The ring series from two heavily moulded ceiling beams were dated, one of which retained the heartwood-sapwood boundary, giving a likely felling date range for these timbers of AD 1468–1500. A further four timbers; three tiebeams and an unmoulded ceiling beam, were also dated. One tiebeam retained complete sapwood, and was found to have come from a tree felled in spring AD 1671, and the likely felling date ranges for the other tiebeams and the unmoulded ceiling beam give likely felling date ranges that would suggest these timbers form a single batch, most likely felled at the same time, or within a few years of each other. This suggests that this wing used ceiling timbers from trees felled in the period AD 1468–1500, but it is not clear whether this represents the date of the primary construction of this wing, or whether these timbers were perhaps reused. The west-end ground-floor ceiling, and the tiebeams, were inserted in AD 1671 or very soon thereafter.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr M C Bridge

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Shahina Farid, English Heritage Scientific Dating Team, for commissioning this study. Jenny Chesher, EH Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas, provided useful on-site discussion during the dendrochronological assessment relating to the areas of potential interest for inclusion in the study. Cathy Tyers, EH Scientific Dating Team, made useful comments on earlier drafts of this report. Cover photograph Sherborne House ©English Heritage.

ARCHIVE LOCATION

Dorset Historic Environment Record
Dorset County Council
County Hall
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DATE OF INVESTIGATION

2012

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# INTRODUCTION

Sherborne House is a Grade 1 listed building which is on the Heritage at Risk register. Situated in the middle of the town of Sherborne (Fig 1), this three-storey early Georgian mansion built in *c* AD 1720 incorporates an earlier structure of which one wing survives at the intersection between two ranges, with an additional wing and outbuildings (Fig 2), that has been the subject of a survey by Rodwell (2009).


*Figure 1: Map of Sherborne showing the location within the town of Sherborne House. © Crown Copyright and database right 2014. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900*

The grand, early eighteenth-century, main part of the house was undergoing renovation in late 2012 which revealed the remains of an earlier timber-framed wall that had become incorporated into the fabric of the later building. This discovery provided the initial impetus for Jenny Chesher to request dendrochronological input in order to inform the historical development of the building.

## METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork for the present study was carried out in November 2012. In the initial assessment, accessible oak timbers with more than 50 rings and where possible traces of sapwood were sought, although slightly shorter sequences are sometimes sampled if little other material is available. Those timbers judged to be potentially useful were cored using a 15mm auger attached to an electric drill. The cores were glued to wooden laths, labelled, and stored for subsequent analysis.

The cores were polished on a belt sander using 80 to 400 grit abrasive paper to allow the ring boundaries to be clearly distinguished. The samples had their tree-ring sequences measured to an accuracy of 0.01mm, using a specially constructed system utilising a binocular microscope with the sample mounted on a travelling stage with a linear transducer linked to a PC, which recorded the ring widths into a dataset. The software used in measuring and subsequent analysis was written by Ian Tyers (2004). Cross-matching was attempted by a combination of visual matching and a process of qualified statistical comparison by computer. The ring-width series were compared for statistical cross-matching, using a variant of the Belfast CROS program (Baillie and Pilcher 1973). Ring sequences were plotted on the computer monitor to allow visual comparisons to be made between sequences. This method provides a measure of quality control in identifying any potential errors in the measurements when the samples cross-match.

In comparing one sample or site master against other samples or chronologies, *t*-values over 3.5 are considered significant, although in reality it is common to find demonstrably spurious *t*-values of 4 and 5 because more than one matching position is indicated. For this reason, dendrochronologists prefer to see some *t*-value ranges of 5, 6, and higher, and for these to be well replicated from different, independent chronologies with both local and regional chronologies well represented, except where imported timbers are identified. Where two individual samples match together with a *t*-value of 10 or above, and visually exhibit exceptionally similar ring patterns, they may have originated from the same parent tree. Same-tree matches can also be identified through the external characteristics of the timber itself, such as knots and shake patterns. Lower *t*-values however do not preclude same tree derivation.

### Ascribing felling dates and date ranges

Once a tree-ring sequence has been firmly dated in time, a felling date, or date range, is ascribed where possible. With samples which have sapwood complete to the underside of, or including bark, this process is relatively straightforward. Depending on the completeness of the final ring, ie if it has only the spring vessels or early wood formed, or the latewood or summer growth, a precise felling date and season can be given. If the sapwood is partially missing, or if only a heartwood/sapwood transition boundary survives, then an estimated felling date range can be given for each sample. The number of sapwood rings can be estimated by using an empirically derived sapwood estimate with a

given confidence limit. If no sapwood or heartwood/sapwood boundary survives then the minimum number of sapwood rings from the appropriate sapwood estimate is added to the last measured ring to give a *terminus post quem* (*tpq*) or felled-after date.

A review of the geographical distribution of dated sapwood data from historic timbers has shown that a sapwood estimate relevant to the region of origin should be used in interpretation, which in this area is 9–41 rings (Miles 1997). It must be emphasised that dendrochronology can only date when a tree has been felled, not when the timber was used to construct the structure or object under study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the assessment of the timbers in the main house wall, in the area designated *c* AD 1720 in Figure 2, it became apparent that none of these timbers were suitable for dendrochronology as they failed to contain sufficient numbers of rings. Assessment of other parts of the building complex did however identify several oak timbers in the western wing of the building, known as the Tudor Wing, as good candidates for dating. Following further discussion it was decided that these should be sampled as any dates they yielded would also give valuable information about the development of the site.

Basic information about the samples taken is given in Table 1. There were two areas sampled, a set of three tiebeams at first-floor level (Fig 3), and a ceiling to the ground floor (Figs 2 and 4) which consisted of a number of intersecting moulded beams, with unmoulded (plain) beams at the west end. The roof timbers above the tiebeams were of quite a different character, being of fast-grown oak with few rings. This and the nature of the principal rafter and collar roof suggested that these replaced the earlier roof with which the tiebeams were probably associated.

All seven samples were measured in spite of shtw06 having only 44 rings. The data for the tree-ring series are given in the Appendix. Sample shtw01, from the east tiebeam, had very distorted inner rings, and the first 41 rings were discarded from subsequent analysis. Cross-matching between this series and the other two tiebeams (shtw02, shtw03) is shown in Table 2. Although the match between shtw01 and shtw03 was reasonable, that for shtw02 is poor (Table 2). However independent dating of each individual series did indicate that these three series were coeval, and they were therefore combined to form a 131-year site chronology. Subsequently, it was found that a fourth timber (shtw05), a plain (unmoulded) beam from the west end of the ground-floor ceiling, also matched these series' (Table 2), and this was added to form the site series SHERHO1, which was dated to the period AD 1540–1670. The dating evidence is shown in Table 3a. One timber, the east tiebeam, retained complete sapwood, and was found to have been from a tree felled in spring AD 1671, the other two tiebeams had felling date ranges which incorporated this date, as did the ceiling timber from the floor below. The relative positions of overlap and felling dates of these timbers are shown in Figure 5.

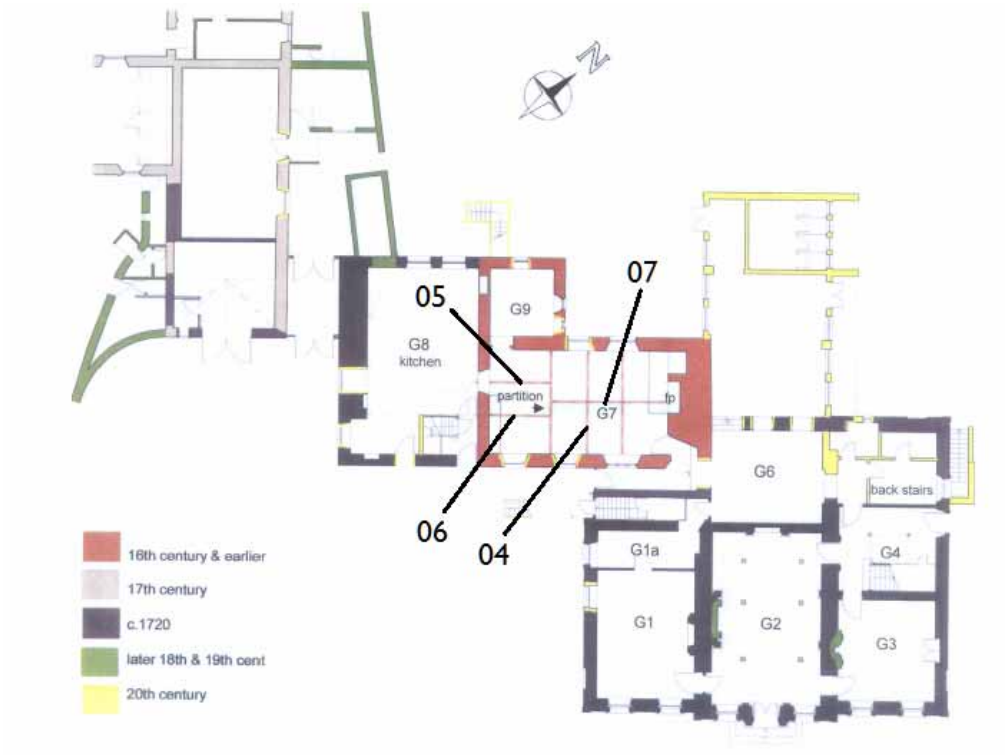


*Figure 2: Ground-floor plan of Sherborne House, showing the 'Tudor Wing' outlined in red (rooms G7 and G9), and the timbers sampled for dendrochronology. Adapted from an original drawing in Rodwell (2009)*

*Figure 3: View of the three original tiebeams at first-floor level, looking west. (Photograph Martin Bridge)*

The second series from an unmoulded beam at the west-end of the ground floor ceiling only provided a 44-year ring sequence, and this could not be satisfactorily matched against the other series, or dated independently.

The two series derived from moulded ceiling beams (shtw04, shtw07) from the ground floor matched each other very well ($t$ = 15.5 with 100 years overlap), suggesting that the timbers were derived from the same parent tree. These two series were therefore combined, and the resulting 142-year chronology, SHERHO2, was dated against the available reference material, the strongest matches being shown in Table 3b. One of these timbers retained the heartwood-sapwood boundary, and a felling date range of AD 1468–1500 could therefore be derived for these two beams, as shown in Figure 5.

Two phases of development of the Tudor Wing were therefore identified from this study, giving previously unknown information for this site. The tiebeams and west-end of the ground-floor ceiling were most likely inserted in AD 1671 or within a year or two after this date. The moulded ceiling beams represent an earlier phase of development of the building, having most likely been inserted, or possibly reused from a phase of building in the latter decades of the fifteenth century.

*Figure 4: View of the ground-floor ceiling beams . (Photograph Martin Bridge)*

Rodwell (2009) had not recognised any age division between the two sides of the room she designated as G7 (Fig 2), simply suggesting that the woodwork was *c* AD 1500 and that the room was divided into a high-quality heated living room to the east and a simpler service room to the west'.

The dating evidence for the two derived site master chronologies (Tables 3a and 3b) shows wide-spread geographical matching. This may be the result of the distribution of available chronologies representing the relevant time periods, especially in the case of the later timbers in SHERHO1. It seems likely that the timbers were derived from relatively local sources, although there is little evidence to support this view in the matches found.

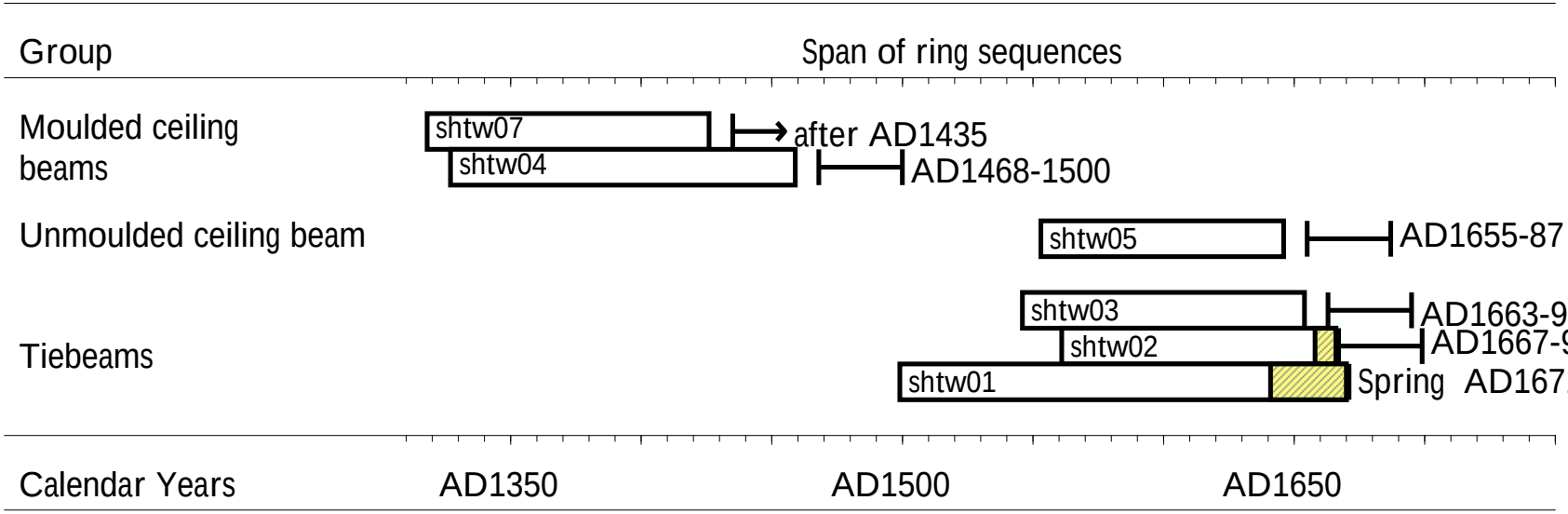


*Figure 5: Bar diagram showing the relative positions of overlap of the dated timbers from the Tudor Wing, Sherborne House. White bars represent heartwood rings and hatched yellow sections represent sapwood rings*

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# TABLES

*Table 1: Details of the samples taken from the Tudor Wing, Sherborne House, Sherborne, Dorset*

| Sample Number | Timber and position | No of rings | Mean HW ring width (mm) | Dates spanning (AD) | h/s bdry AD | Sapwood rings | Mean sensibility | Felling date ranges (AD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| First floor | | | | | | | | |
| shtw01 | East tiebeam | 131 (+41NM at start) | 0.81 | 1540–1670 | 1651 | 29¼C | 0.24 | spring 1671 |
| shtw02 | Central tiebeam | 106 | 1.98 | 1561–1666 | 1658 | 8 | 0.26 | 1667–99 |
| shtw03 | West tiebeam | 109 | 1.47 | 1546–1654 | 1654 | h/s | 0.27 | 1663–95 |
| Ground floor | | | | | | | | |
| shtw04 | West moulded ceiling beam | 133 | 1.77 | 1327–1459 | 1459 | h/s | 0.22 | 1468–1500 |
| shtw05 | North unmoulded beam at west end of room | 94 | 1.28 | 1553–1646 | 1646 | h/s | 0.18 | 1655–87 |
| shtw06 | South unmoulded beam at west end of room | 44 | 2.95 | - | - | h/s | 0.26 | - |
| shtw07 | Central moulded ceiling beam | 109 | 2.18 | 1318–1426 | - | - | 0.21 | after 1435 |

Key: NM = not measured; HW = heartwood; h/s = heartwood-sapwood boundary; ¼C = complete sapwood, felled spring the following year

*Table 2: Cross-matching between the series included in site master SHERHO1,* t*-values above 3.5 are considered significant*

| | *t*-values | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sample | shtw02 | shtw03 | shtw05 |
| shtw01 | 2.8 | 5.7 | 1.7 |
| shtw02 | | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| shtw03 | | | 4.1 |

*Table 3a: Dating evidence for the site series SHERHO1 AD 1540–1670*

| Source region: | Chronology name: | Publication reference: | File name: | Span of chronology (AD) | Overlap (years) | *t*-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regional reference chronologies** | | | | | | |
| England | South Central England | (Wilson *et al* 2012) | SCENG | 663–2009 | 131 | 7.6 |
| Hampshire | Hampshire Master Chronology | (Miles 2003) | HANTS02 | 443–1972 | 131 | 7.6 |
| Southern England | Southern England Master | (Bridge 1998) | SENG98 | 944–1790 | 131 | 7.3 |
| France | Brittany Master Chronology | (Pilcher *et al pers comm.*) | BRIT3FRN | 1082–1979 | 131 | 7.0 |
| Oxfordshire | Oxfordshire Master Chronology | (Haddon-Reece *et al* 1993) | OXON93 | 632–1987 | 131 | 6.8 |
| **Individual site chronologies** | | | | | | |
| Kent | Knole | (Miles *et al* 2010) | KNOLE1 | 1431–1605 | 66 | 8.7 |
| Sussex | Warhams, Rudgwick | (Miles *et al* 2009) | WARHAM3 | 1342–1606 | 67 | 8.6 |
| London | White Tower, Tower of London | (Miles 2007) | WHTOWR7 | 1463–1616 | 77 | 8.4 |
| Hampshire | Chawton House | (Miles and Haddon-Reece 1996) | CHAWTON1 | 1511–1592 | 53 | 7.8 |
| Hampshire | Blaegrove Cottage, Up Nately | (Bridge *et al* 2011) | BLAEGROV | 1347–1610 | 71 | 7.7 |
| Somerset | Market Place, Shepton Mallet | (Miles 2002) | SHPTNMLT | 1518–1677 | 131 | 7.4 |
| Worcestershire | Mere Hall, Hanbury | (Miles *et al* 2005) | MEREHALL | 1408–1610 | 71 | 7.3 |
| Hampshire | The Vyne, Sherbourne St John | (Miles and Worthington 1998) | THEVYNE3 | 1543–1653 | 111 | 7.3 |
| Buckinghamshire | Olney bellframe | (Miles *et al* 2009) | OLNEY | 1472–1625 | 86 | 7.0 |

*Table 3b: Dating evidence for the site series SHERHO2 AD 1318–1459*

| Source region: | Chronology name: | Publication reference: | File name: | Span of chronology (AD) | Overlap (years) | *t*-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regional reference chronologies** | | | | | | |
| Southern England | Southern England Master | (Bridge 1998) | SENG98 | 944–1790 | 142 | 9.1 |
| Hampshire | Hampshire Master Chronology | (Miles 2003) | HANTS02 | 443–1972 | 142 | 8.6 |
| Southern England | South Master Chronology | (Hillam and Groves 1994) | SOUTH | 406–1594 | 142 | 8.6 |
| England | South Central England | (Wilson *et al* 2012) | SCENG | 663–2009 | 142 | 8.6 |
| Somerset | Somerset Master Chronology | (Miles 2004) | SOMRST04 | 770–1979 | 142 | 8.1 |
| **Individual site chronologies** | | | | | | |
| Wiltshire | Saxon House, Malmsbury | (Miles *et al* 2003) | MALMSBRY | 1304–1486 | 142 | 8.6 |
| West Sussex | Field Place Barn | (Bridge 1993) | FIELDPB | 1309–1465 | 142 | 8.6 |
| Hampshire | Stables, Pilgrims Hall, Winchester | (Miles *et al* 2009) | PILGRIM2 | 1245–1478 | 142 | 8.4 |
| London | White Tower, Tower of London | (Miles 2007) | WHTOWR5 | 1260–1489 | 142 | 8.2 |
| Somerset | George Inn, Norton St Philip | (Miles and Worthington 1998) | GEORGIN1 | 1258–1457 | 140 | 8.0 |
| Gloucestershire | Ashleworth Tithe Barn | (Bridge 2002) | ASHLEWTH | 1319–1475 | 141 | 7.8 |
| Hampshire | Summers Farm, Long Sutton | (Miles and Worthington 2002) | SMMRSFRM | 1270–1440 | 123 | 7.4 |
| Somerset | Shapwick House | (Miles and Haddon-Reece 1996) | SHAPWCK1 | 1268–1488 | 142 | 7.3 |
| Worcestershire | The Commandery, Worcester | (Arnold *et al* 2006) | WORDSQ01 | 1284–1473 | 142 | 7.3 |

# APPENDIX

## Ring width values (0.01mm) for the sequences measured

shtw01

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 254 | 239 | 231 | 176 | 188 | 204 | 210 | 229 | 182 | 257 |
| 199 | 182 | 274 | 250 | 237 | 262 | 192 | 251 | 242 | 302 |
| 205 | 328 | 342 | 238 | 204 | 160 | 197 | 139 | 156 | 161 |
| 106 | 180 | 132 | 159 | 45 | 47 | 48 | 63 | 72 | 79 |
| 99 | 82 | 95 | 79 | 97 | 111 | 145 | 120 | 104 | 131 |
| 126 | 126 | 172 | 131 | 120 | 178 | 206 | 125 | 103 | 50 |
| 53 | 61 | 54 | 81 | 71 | 79 | 76 | 49 | 45 | 53 |
| 75 | 63 | 96 | 87 | 87 | 74 | 48 | 57 | 88 | 86 |
| 143 | 207 | 157 | 175 | 144 | 157 | 165 | 130 | 100 | 47 |
| 43 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 24 | 28 | 23 | 28 | 15 | 24 |
| 28 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 39 | 53 | 40 | 83 | 76 | 81 |
| 63 | 102 | 76 | 75 | 163 | 95 | 102 | 111 | 65 | 45 |
| 36 | 35 | 53 | 54 | 52 | 52 | 75 | 74 | 68 | 93 |
| 69 | 76 | 54 | 46 | 28 | 23 | 41 | 43 | 64 | 135 |
| 94 | 95 | 87 | 92 | 66 | 57 | 85 | 66 | 74 | 110 |
| 65 | 93 | 83 | 68 | 60 | 24 | 33 | 32 | 42 | 61 |
| 45 | 59 | 84 | 104 | 111 | 68 | 94 | 66 | 96 | 102 |
| 77 | 88 | | | | | | | | |

shtw02

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 413 | 502 | 244 | 376 | 301 | 270 | 280 | 310 | 630 | 464 |
| 382 | 357 | 344 | 352 | 191 | 223 | 238 | 170 | 302 | 425 |
| 328 | 312 | 312 | 261 | 273 | 96 | 87 | 109 | 181 | 86 |
| 159 | 123 | 187 | 368 | 293 | 315 | 348 | 334 | 268 | 237 |
| 385 | 321 | 333 | 269 | 183 | 293 | 116 | 85 | 59 | 62 |
| 92 | 79 | 191 | 186 | 192 | 138 | 188 | 194 | 150 | 243 |
| 221 | 214 | 168 | 144 | 222 | 197 | 176 | 199 | 112 | 58 |
| 52 | 50 | 42 | 35 | 59 | 66 | 94 | 150 | 132 | 109 |
| 120 | 133 | 114 | 107 | 41 | 45 | 37 | 33 | 40 | 45 |
| 52 | 72 | 115 | 139 | 155 | 145 | 133 | 190 | 134 | 137 |
| 195 | 170 | 197 | 172 | 186 | 273 | | | | |

shtw03

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 105 | 147 | 278 | 295 | 197 | 219 | 130 | 126 | 198 | 295 |
| 138 | 137 | 129 | 206 | 329 | 191 | 325 | 233 | 287 | 316 |
| 264 | 313 | 225 | 351 | 298 | 361 | 265 | 245 | 279 | 263 |
| 182 | 178 | 170 | 201 | 258 | 197 | 186 | 183 | 179 | 221 |
| 152 | 178 | 132 | 201 | 83 | 156 | 131 | 125 | 166 | 136 |
| 138 | 112 | 118 | 86 | 114 | 97 | 104 | 107 | 119 | 75 |
| 148 | 147 | 142 | 124 | 144 | 92 | 79 | 135 | 61 | 48 |
| 34 | 47 | 73 | 66 | 94 | 76 | 88 | 58 | 58 | 65 |
| 87 | 105 | 125 | 116 | 103 | 65 | 21 | 24 | 29 | 77 |
| 88 | 76 | 108 | 101 | 86 | 66 | 69 | 56 | 86 | 81 |
| 96 | 70 | 204 | 71 | 82 | 109 | 95 | 140 | 137 | |

shtw04

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 131 | 158 | 179 | 195 | 122 | 142 | 155 | 135 | 210 | 80 |
| 96 | 150 | 202 | 234 | 209 | 181 | 215 | 178 | 207 | 314 |
| 216 | 125 | 103 | 106 | 147 | 139 | 212 | 222 | 183 | 164 |
| 197 | 145 | 95 | 105 | 110 | 187 | 229 | 253 | 153 | 144 |
| 99 | 117 | 152 | 191 | 184 | 152 | 106 | 143 | 171 | 200 |
| 164 | 161 | 202 | 229 | 233 | 262 | 224 | 193 | 224 | 274 |
| 205 | 243 | 173 | 143 | 94 | 129 | 153 | 156 | 253 | 205 |
| 182 | 133 | 164 | 196 | 268 | 183 | 206 | 224 | 190 | 255 |
| 211 | 248 | 181 | 161 | 193 | 270 | 298 | 371 | 253 | 140 |
| 158 | 230 | 135 | 259 | 220 | 153 | 393 | 262 | 254 | 154 |
| 122 | 179 | 125 | 157 | 176 | 217 | 162 | 156 | 169 | 140 |
| 142 | 199 | 171 | 159 | 218 | 183 | 165 | 128 | 107 | 112 |
| 120 | 121 | 106 | 132 | 172 | 130 | 131 | 129 | 128 | 163 |
| 133 | 105 | 108 | | | | | | | |

shtw05

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 186 | 200 | 319 | 139 | 177 | 228 | 180 | 217 | 149 | 213 |
| 167 | 235 | 217 | 163 | 140 | 156 | 200 | 147 | 187 | 189 |
| 189 | 208 | 179 | 144 | 142 | 107 | 152 | 203 | 165 | 120 |
| 141 | 152 | 147 | 120 | 147 | 117 | 164 | 127 | 135 | 130 |
| 127 | 115 | 123 | 123 | 102 | 114 | 109 | 115 | 110 | 103 |
| 106 | 125 | 96 | 115 | 112 | 121 | 90 | 112 | 79 | 77 |
| 74 | 90 | 54 | 24 | 45 | 52 | 53 | 73 | 100 | 101 |
| 135 | 116 | 124 | 111 | 86 | 49 | 49 | 40 | 40 | 46 |
| 69 | 79 | 101 | 122 | 134 | 136 | 130 | 118 | 121 | 123 |
| 131 | 124 | 119 | 133 | | | | | | |

shtw06

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 190 | 188 | 266 | 312 | 437 | 316 | 441 | 385 | 322 | 319 |
| 446 | 484 | 397 | 439 | 406 | 287 | 470 | 220 | 86 | 86 |
| 141 | 163 | 227 | 277 | 335 | 280 | 340 | 258 | 280 | 256 |
| 393 | 525 | 257 | 360 | 355 | 178 | 159 | 167 | 327 | 250 |
| 280 | 249 | 235 | 183 | | | | | | |

shtw07

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 189 | 248 | 224 | 241 | 266 | 213 | 190 | 143 | 96 | 218 |
| 222 | 295 | 315 | 199 | 236 | 223 | 222 | 343 | 178 | 172 |
| 285 | 369 | 322 | 296 | 252 | 262 | 229 | 271 | 315 | 258 |
| 172 | 120 | 167 | 252 | 149 | 252 | 300 | 255 | 245 | 216 |
| 173 | 149 | 165 | 139 | 247 | 274 | 311 | 219 | 179 | 118 |
| 136 | 172 | 250 | 232 | 197 | 126 | 158 | 199 | 256 | 170 |
| 198 | 210 | 243 | 247 | 290 | 228 | 233 | 250 | 303 | 224 |
| 255 | 201 | 148 | 143 | 141 | 168 | 171 | 259 | 192 | 193 |
| 157 | 199 | 227 | 300 | 212 | 226 | 249 | 173 | 184 | 198 |
| 213 | 214 | 177 | 178 | 200 | 237 | 285 | 219 | 177 | 146 |
| 193 | 147 | 241 | 212 | 207 | 355 | 270 | 228 | 170 | |

## ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

English Heritage undertakes and commissions research into the historic environment, and the issues that affect its condition and survival, in order to provide the understanding necessary for informed policy and decision making, for the protection and sustainable management of the resource, and to promote the widest access, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage. Much of this work is conceived and implemented in the context of the National Heritage Protection Plan. For more information on the NHPP please go to http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan/.

The Heritage Protection Department provides English Heritage with this capacity in the fields of building history, archaeology, archaeological science, imaging and visualisation, landscape history, and remote sensing. It brings together four teams with complementary investigative, analytical and technical skills to provide integrated applied research expertise across the range of the historic environment. These are:

* Intervention and Analysis (including Archaeology Projects, Archives, Environmental Studies, Archaeological Conservation and Technology, and Scientific Dating)
* Assessment (including Archaeological and Architectural Investigation, the Blue Plaques Team and the Survey of London)
* Imaging and Visualisation (including Technical Survey, Graphics and Photography)
* Remote Sensing (including Mapping, Photogrammetry and Geophysics)

The Heritage Protection Department undertakes a wide range of investigative and analytical projects, and provides quality assurance and management support for externally-commissioned research. We aim for innovative work of the highest quality which will set agendas and standards for the historic environment sector. In support of this, and to build capacity and promote best practice in the sector, we also publish guidance and provide advice and training. We support community engagement and build this in to our projects and programmes wherever possible.

We make the results of our work available through the Research Report Series, and through journal publications and monographs. Our newsletter *Research News*, which appears twice a year, aims to keep our partners within and outside English Heritage up-to-date with our projects and activities.

A full list of Research Reports, with abstracts and information on how to obtain copies, may be found on www.english-heritage.org.uk/researchreports

*For further information visit www.english-heritage.org.uk*

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