A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

CA PROJECT: 1469
CA REPORT: 02131

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Signed: ................................................................

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A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the reduction of the existing floor of the South Lodge, Ashdown House, Oxfordshire at the request of the National Trust. The work is part of a programme of repairs and restoration undertaken by the National Trust to make fit the South Lodge for use as a ticket office and exhibition area.

The evidence recovered from this project can be ascribed to four broad periods in which significant structural alterations took place. Phase 1 dates from pre-1709 to 1864 when many of the original structures are in use. Phase 2 encompasses the internal reorganisation which occurred around 1864. Phase 3 deals primarily with the construction of a putative stillion trough for brewing and Phase 4 represents the works undertaken after the property was given to the National Trust in 1956.

The evidence generally endorses elements of the structural history defined in a comprehensive building survey (including a small excavation) undertaken by the National Trust (Jessop 2000). However the sequence of deposits examined during this project would suggest that the trough identified as a stillion for brewing is later than previously suggested, and therefore may not be associated with the brewing process.

This project identified several in situ flagstones belonging to the original floor at a depth of 0.30m below the existing concrete floor. Several other features were encountered which are contemporary with this early floor, including a partition wall orientated east to west which effectively separated the northern part of the Lodge from the rest of the ground floor.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2002 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording for the National Trust at the South Lodge of Ashdown House, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SU 282820; Fig. 1).

1.2 A watching brief was undertaken to monitor all groundworks associated with the reduction of the existing floor within the Lodge as part of a programme of repairs and restoration to make the building fit for use as a ticket office and exhibition area. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the programme of works.

1.3 The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a Brief for archaeological recording and a subsequent Method Statement (Marshall 2002) both prepared by Mr Gary Marshall, Regional Archaeologist for the National Trust, Thames and Solent Region, and a subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2002) and approved by Mr Gary Marshall. The fieldwork also followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999).

The site

1.4 Ashdown House is located on a ridge on the South Oxfordshire Downs approximately 2 miles to the south east of Ashbury (Fig. 1). The estate is relatively small, with Kingston Down to the east and Bishopstone Down to the west. The South Lodge forms one of a pair of Lodges, which are situated on the eastern approach to the House (Figs. 2 & 7). The Lodges originally controlled access to the main property. Currently the North Lodge is occupied by the housekeeper and the South Lodge is empty and in need of renovation. Both Lodges have a grade I listed status.

Historical Background

1.5 Using historical records and dendrochronology, Ashdown House has been dated to the 1660s, with the two Lodges probably being contemporary. The earliest illustration of the Lodges is an engraving by Kip dated to 1716, which demonstrates...
significant architectural differences between the two buildings, possibly indicating varying functions. Recent samples of timbers taken from the South Lodge for tree ring dating suggest a 1760s date (Jessop 2000). This implies that at least the interior of the Lodge was fundamentally rebuilt around this time.

1.6 Further alterations occurred in the mid nineteenth century and again in the early twentieth century when the property was used by the Allied Armed Forces during the Second World War. After they left extensive renovation was necessary, resulting in the House and Lodges being given to the National Trust in 1956. Subsequent repairs on the South Lodge were undertaken, with all traces of the nineteenth century alterations removed.

Archaeological background

1.7 A comprehensive buildings survey of the South Lodge was undertaken in 2000 (Jessop 2000), which identified the original use of the building as a possible brew house, bake house and kitchen with accommodation above. As part of the survey several trenches were excavated through the earthen floor at the northern end of the Lodge. These revealed the remains of a bread oven in the north-west alcove as well as evidence of an early flagstone floor which could represent the original floor surface of the Lodge.

1.8 The results from the above works were interpreted as demonstrating three main phases of activity. The earliest phase had a stone floor with a central fireplace along the north wall with a bread oven in the north-west alcove and a stillion trough running down the east wall. The second phase was suggested as being a complete reorganisation. The bread oven was removed, the trough abandoned and the floor and fireplace threshold raised. Low walls were constructed to support a suspended wooden floor. The proposed third phase was when the National Trust took ownership of the property resulting in the removal of the wooden floor and the filling in of the voids between the supporting walls. For the complete structural phasing according to Jessop (2000) see Appendix 4.
Archaeological objectives

1.9 The general objectives of the watching brief were to monitor the building works and to characterise, excavate and record any archaeological features or parts of archaeological features that will be damaged by the proposed building works.

1.10 The specific aims relating to this project were:

- To determine the nature and level of the original floor surface for the building.
- To determine the date and function of the parallel walls and brick structure currently projecting through the earth floor surface.
- To recover by context artefact material which might date the sequence of construction of the existing earth floor.
- To recover artefact evidence relating to the function and design of the building.
- To assess the accuracy of information described and interpreted in the previous archaeological survey (Jessop 2000).

Methodology

1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2002) and the Method Statement prepared by Marshall (2002). However due to a change in the contractors scheme, the depth to which the existing floor was lowered was reduced from 0.30m to a maximum of 0.25m.

1.12 After the initial clearance, the floor was removed from the northern part of the development area first (under archaeological supervision), to allow a section across the existing floor to be recorded. The southern half of the existing floor was subsequently removed, followed by the four low parallel walls. Finally the concrete underlying the lowest flight of the staircase was removed and two footing trenches each 0.50m in width and 0.25m in depth were excavated for the new partition walls (Fig. 2).

1.13 All archaeological features and deposits were planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1 Excavation Recording Manual (CA 1996). Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description;
principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (scale 1:10). Photographs (monochrome print, colour transparencies and digital photographs) were taken as appropriate. The finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record. The artefacts were retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (CA 1995).

1.14 The finds and site archive will be deposited with the National Trust.

2. RESULTS

2.1 What follows is the results from the groundworks associated with this project. All levels are given in relation to the current internal concrete floor located beyond the development area at the south side of the Lodge.

2.2 The earliest evidence encountered during the course of this project was red gravel deposit 136 which was identified in the north facing section of footing trench 2 at a depth of 0.50m below current concrete level (Fig. 6). This was overlain by a similar deposit 135, 0.17m thick, which in turn was overlain by the remnants of a flagstone floor 130, (Fig. 3) with an associated layer of mortar bedding (134). If the flagstones are interpreted as in situ stones from the original floor of the Lodge, then deposits 135 and 136 probably represent demolition debris accumulated during the construction of the building. No dating evidence was recovered from these deposits. The survival of this remnant of flagstone floor might be attributed to its position below the staircase.

2.3 Although no other flagstones from the original floor surface were encountered during the reduction of the existing floor, the groundworks revealed a distinctive mortar surface 106 at a depth of 0.35m below current concrete level (Figs. 4 and 5). This deposit was similar in texture and consistency to 134 and had impressions of flagstones within it. The evidence confirms that the in situ slabs noted at the base of the bread oven in the north-west niche (Jessop 2000) and in the north-east niche were a surviving remnant of a floor surface that covered at least the entire northern part of the Lodge prior to its removal.
2.4 Several structures were encountered which appear to be contemporary with the original stone floor. The most intriguing is the large wall foundation course (131) located in trench 2 (Fig. 3). Solidly constructed from large sandstone blocks, the foundation course appears to belong to an early partition wall which would have effectively separated the northern area of the Lodge from the rest of the ground floor. As the mortar surface 106 respects the line of wall 131, it suggests that this partition wall is contemporary with the original stone floor.

2.5 Two brick structures, 112 and 129 also appeared to be contemporary with the early stone floor. Structure 112 was encountered in the north east alcove and consisted of the remains of an ‘L’ shaped brick wall surviving to two courses; the north arm continued beneath the masonry construction of the east side of the original fireplace (before the construction of the later corner niche 128) (Figs. 5 and 10). The bricks were sitting on a large stone slab with mortar 106 beneath. No evidence was recovered to suggest a possible function for this feature. The presence of large roughly dressed stones at the entrance to the niche suggest the base of a low wall laid to block the entrance to the niche at a later date.

2.6 Structure 129 consisted of a rectangular block 1.3m in length constructed from three courses of bricks with a step down to a single course on the south side (Figs. 3 and 11). The bricks were bonded with a soft, grey lime mortar and after removal, it was clear the mortar surface 106 was not present below 129, which implies this feature was contemporary with or earlier than the early stone floor.

2.7 Four dwarf or sleeper walls were investigated prior to their removal. The walls 102, 103, 109 and 119 were all constructed from stone blocks of varying sizes bonded together with a soft brown sandy mortar (Figs. 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9). The walls were all orientated north to south. Walls 109, 102 and 103 were spaced approximately two metres apart with a gap of one metre between wall 103 and 119. The presence of occasional dressed stones with traces of lime wash on the faces indicates that at least some of the stones were reused. Jessop (2000) suggested that stones from the abandoned bread oven in the north-west alcove may have been used to partially construct the four low sleeper walls. Walls 102, 103 and 109 overlaid partition wall foundation course 131.

2.8 Once removed, it was revealed that all four sleeper walls sat on the mortar surface 106 that had originally underlain the flagstone floor. During excavation it was noted
that a section of brickwork and mortar marked “1864” overlay wall 109 at the northern most window reveal on the west elevation. This evidence appears to confirm that the walls date to the 1864 renovations (Jessops phase 3, Appendix 4) and were built to support the suspended wooden floor that replaced the original flagstones. The artefactual evidence recovered from the walls support this date (Appendix 2).

2.9 Deposit 107 was encountered between sleeper walls 109 and 102 and between 102 and 103 (Fig. 4). The deposit consisted of a light brown sandy gravel with occasional charcoal fragments. As noted by Jessop (2000), the infilling of the voids between the sleeper walls took place in 1956 after the removal of the timber floor. A varied assemblage of finds were recovered from deposit 107, almost all of it dating to the eighteenth century (see Appendix 2). One possible explanation for this early date is that the 1956 infill originated from an early deposit possibly acquired from Ashdown House itself, with a tiny fraction of modern artefacts incorporated during re-deposition.

2.10 Located down the eastern side of the development area was a trough previously identified by Jessop (2000) as a possible stillion. The trough was formed by two brick walls 104 and 118 approximately 1m apart with a wall linking the two together forming the back of the trough (Figs. 3, 4 and 5). From the removal of the walls of the trough, it was clear that they were later than sleeper walls 103 and 119. The white mortar bonding of wall 104 clearly overlaid sleeper wall 103, while several bricks from wall 118 sat directly on stones belonging to sleeper wall 119. These results contradict the conclusions noted by Jessop (2000) and demonstrate that the trough is later in date than the sleeper walls for the suspended timber floor. This in turn throws into doubt the interpretation that this feature represents a stillion associated with the area of the Lodge used as a brewhouse before the renovation in 1864 (Jessop 2000).

2.11 Deposit 116 was located between the walls 104 and 118 and consisted of a yellow brown sandy gravel similar to infill deposit 107, but in contrast to 107, produced high amounts of artefacts dated to the twentieth century (see Appendix 2). This would suggest that the trough was either infilled at a different time or from a different source.
2.12 The reduction of the existing floor uncovered more evidence of the construction of the original fireplace as it existed before the fireplace threshold was raised in 1864. See Fig 5 of this report and interpretation in Jessop (2000).

2.13 All the above features and deposits were sealed by earthen floor 105, apart from the areas under the staircase and in front of the doorway which were sealed by several concrete deposits (139, 140 and 141) with an accumulative depth of 0.55m.

2.14 Several pieces of a fireplace surround were recovered 147 (Fig. 12). These were recorded and deposited at the National Trust yard at the Estate Office.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Although the results of this project reinforce several of the conclusions reached by Jessop (2000), there are significant new pieces of evidence that suggest variations to some of the structural phases defined in the earlier analysis. These are discussed below and a revised structural sequence is suggested.

3.2 Using the evidence from this project in conjunction with historical documentation and the report by Jessop (2000), the structural sequence as identified from the excavated evidence can be split into four broad phases of activity. These four phases are discussed below.

*Phase I (pre 1709 to c.1864)*

3.3 Jessop noted that the earliest evidence for the construction of the Lodge is a carving on a stone belonging to the northern fireplace of 1709, although he concluded that the building is most probably older than this, being contemporary with Ashdown House itself (1660s). It is likely that the original floor would have consisted of flagstones laid on a bed of mortar (130 and 106). During this period the northern most area of the Lodge was separated from a central lobby by a partition wall orientated east to west identified during the reduction of the existing floor levels (131). Feature 129 may have served as a threshold or steps into the northern room. This northern area was most probably dedicated to brewing and baking, with the bread oven located in the north-west alcove, and the brick structure (112), in the north-east alcove perhaps representing the base of another oven for proving dough.
or pastry baking. The interpretation of the north room as a brewhouse is largely based on circumstantial evidence and the interpretation of sockets and openings observed in Jessop’s structural analysis of the building (Jessop 2000). The reduction of the existing floor levels has produced no further evidence for the brewing process, while the sequence of deposits revealed would suggest the stillion post-dates Jessop’s phase 3: “removal of brew and bake house” (Appendix 4). A major internal rebuild around 1767 (after fire?) (Jessop phase 2, Appendix 4) indicated by dendrochronological dating of timbers occurred during this period but could not be identified from any of the evidence revealed during the reduction of the existing floor levels. There is no evidence to indicate that the function of Lodge changed during this refurbishment.

**Phase II (c.1864)**

3.4 At this time the building was completely reorganised. The partition wall 131 was dismantled and the flagstone floor was removed although a small area 130, survived below the staircase. The bread oven and structure 112 was abandoned and the stones used to create four sleeper walls orientated north to south to support the timbers of a suspended wooden floor. The northern fireplace threshold was raised to the height of the new floor and the recess on the east corner of the chimney breast was in-filled with brickwork 128. The north-east niche was also apparently blocked off by a low wall of large stones (103, 119, 145) in this phase. A new range was inserted in the southern fireplace.

**Phase III (undated – late 19th century?)**

3.5 This phase represents the construction of the putative stillion trough located along the eastern side of the Lodge. Evidence demonstrates that this feature is later than the sleeper walls, however there is nothing to indicate if the brickwork was constructed soon after the sleeper walls (before the insertion of the wooden floor) or whether the new floor was laid and subsequently removed from the eastern side to allow the stillion to be built. The later date now ascribed to the trough brings into question the original interpretation of this feature as a part of the brewing process. As Jessop notes, by 1860 commercial beer had become available via the railway network and domestic brewing was in decline.
**Phase IV (1956-)**

3.6 The property is taken over by the National Trust. The interior was stripped including the removal of the timber floor. All the plasterwork throughout the building, including the window reveals, was removed uncovering the masonry walls. The voids between the sleeper walls and the internal area within the trough were infilled with demolition debris from various sources. The northern fireplace was blocked and a new brick supporting wall for the staircase constructed. Over time an earthen floor 105 accumulated over the earlier deposits.

**Summary of phases**

**Phase I**
(pre 1709 –c.1864)
South Lodge constructed. Flagstone floor laid. Partition wall separates the northern part of the Lodge. Bread oven located in north west alcove.

**Phase II**
(c.1864)
Total internal reorganisation. Flagstone floor removed, as is the partition wall. Bread oven and related structures dismantled with the stones used to construct the sleeper walls for suspended wooden floor.

**Phase III**
(late 19th c?)
Construction of a brick trough along the east wall. Possible stillion for brewing. Possibly contemporary with the construction of the wooden timber floor.

**Phase IV**
(1956-)
Property handed over to National Trust. Internal fixtures and fittings removed. Timber floor lifted. Voids between sleeper walls infilled, as is the trough. Northern fireplace blocked. Brick support for staircase built.

**4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kevin Colls, who also compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Kevin Colls, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Mary Alexander.
5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cotswold Archaeology would like to thank the National Trust for funding this work, in particular Mr Gary Marshall of the National Trust for his support and guidance. Thanks also to RJ Smith for their co-operation during the work programme.

6. REFERENCES

CA 2002 South Lodge, Ashdown House, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Marshall, G. 2002 Brief for archaeological recording at the South Lodge, Ashdown House, Oxfordshire.

Marshall, G. 2002 Methodology for the excavations to the floor of the South Lodge, Ashdown House, Oxfordshire.

### APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Modern concrete floor located from the central stairway to the southern end of the South Lodge. 0.20m in thickness. Top of this deposit used as current ground level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Sleeper wall for suspended timber floor. Two courses of limestone blocks, some dressed with lime wash. Bonded by dry, friable, soft brown mortar. Stones on average 0.25m by 0.15m with varying depths. Mid nineteenth century is the most likely construction date. The wall is bonded onto the original ashlar side of the original fireplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Sleeper wall for suspended timber floor. Three courses of limestone blocks, some dressed with lime wash. Bonded by dry, friable, soft brown mortar. Stones on average 0.25m by 0.15m with varying depths. Mid nineteenth century is the most likely construction date. Brick wall 104 of the punitive stillion bonded onto and over wall 103.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>West brick wall of ‘stillion’ trough. A maximum of three courses of bricks 0.24m by 0.11m by 0.07m. Bonded by green-grey mortar with frequent limestone inclusions. Bonded to and, in places, over sleeper wall 103.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Compact earth floor of the northern area of the South Lodge present before commencement of work. Mid brown sandy earth accumulated over several decades after the Trust took over the property in 1956.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Cream-white soft mortar deposit. Consistently identified over most of development area at a depth of 0.35m below current concrete level. Probable mortar bedding for original flagstone floor to the South Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Light brown sandy gravel deposit brought in by Trust to in-fill the voids between the sleeper walls. Dating suggests the source of this material could be an early deposit, possibly from Ashdown House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Light grey mortar deposit located as a result of small sondage through mortar 106. Possible evidence for earlier floor, although most probably just a primary mortar deposition laid prior to the better quality mortar 106.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Sleeper wall for suspended timber floor. Three courses of limestone blocks, some dressed with lime wash. Bonded by dry, friable, soft brown mortar. Stones on average 0.25m by 0.15m with varying depths. Mid nineteenth century is the most likely construction date. Overlaid by mortar and bricks dated 1864 (most northern of the western elevation window reveals).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Light brown sandy gravel deposit located sealing the features in the north-east alcove. Same as 107.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Mid yellow brown mortar deposit with several associated large stones. Sealed by 110. Appears to be a dump or collapse of material which occurred prior to 1956.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Partially surviving brick structure located in north-east alcove. Bricks 0.22m by 0.10m by 0.07m. Bonded by soft brown lime mortar. The corner recess blocking 128 built over 112. Runs beneath the east side of the original fireplace. Two courses, with the base course abutting a large flagstone and laid on mortar 106. No indication to suggest the original height or the function of the structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>One course of brickwork located along the internal side of brick wall 112. Also sitting on the large flagstone. Possible internal step within the structure to support an internal shelf. Could represent a storage cupboard, perhaps for unbaked bread to rise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Flagstone floor surface located in north-east alcove abutting brick structure 112. Sitting on mortar bedding 106. Potentially part of the original floor of South Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Creamy yellow mortar deposit. Located in north-east alcove. Same as 106.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Yellow-brown sandy gravel. Modern in-fill brought in by National Trust to fill the brick trough running down east wall. Similar to 107, but the volume of twentieth century finds suggest it came from a different source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Grey mortar deposit located under deposit 116. Possible floor surface to the brick trough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>East brick wall of putitive stillion trough. A maximum of two courses of bricks 0.24m by 0.11m by 0.07m. Bonded by green-grey mortar with frequent limestone inclusions. Bonded to and, in places, over sleeper wall 119.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Sleeper wall for suspended timber floor. Three courses of limestone blocks, some dressed with lime wash. Bonded by dry, friable, soft brown mortar. Stones on average 0.25m by 0.15m with varying depths. Mid nineteenth century is the most likely construction date. Brick wall 118 of the punitive stillion bonded onto and over wall 119.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Cream-white soft mortar deposit located in the north-east alcove. Same as 106.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Ashlar fireplace set into the northern chimney breast. Grey clunch. Located below concrete slab 127 covering threshold of raised fireplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Red orange brick repair set into grey mortar. Original corner to recess prior to the construction of 128.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Red brick filling of fireplace. Bonded by grey lime mortar. Blocking to raise the fireplace threshold to the level of the new suspended floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Brown-yellow plaster located on the face of brickwork 123. Only partially surviving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Large grey clunch fragments located within brickwork 128. Possible re-use of stones from the original fireplace or the bread oven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Possible stone slabs forming original base to original fireplace. One large slab with rubble base underneath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Concrete slab covering threshold of raised fireplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Brick blocking to corner recess. Built over sleeper wall 103 and brick structure 112.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Rectangular block 1.3m in width constructed from three courses of bricks with a step down to a single course on the south side. The bricks were bonded with a soft, grey lime mortar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Flagstone floor located beneath the concrete under the staircase. Flags vary in both size and depth. Sitting on a bed of mortar 134. Original floor to South Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Wall foundation course located in trench 2. Solidly constructed from large sandstone blocks, the foundation course appears to belong to an early partition wall which would have effectively separated the northern area of the Lodge. Orientated east-west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Brown gravel deposit located in the eastern end of trench 2. Cut by modern intrusion 137.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Mid brown sandy clay deposit laying over wall foundation course 131. Possible remnant of the wall matrix. Butted by mortar floor 106.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>Cream-white mortar bedding for flagstones 130. Badly degraded, possibly the same as 106.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Red gravel deposit identified in the north facing section of footing trench 2. Possible levelling deposit associated with the construction of the Lodge. Sealing 136. Sealed by 134.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Red gravel deposit identified in the north facing section of footing trench 2. Possible levelling deposit associated with the construction of the Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Cut for modern intrusion located under the lower flight of stairs. 2m by 2.2m. Depth beyond the limits of excavation. Cuts 130, 134, 135, 136. Filled by 138.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Mid brown sandy gravel fill of 137. Modern artefacts located but not retained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Concrete deposit sealing modern intrusion 137. 0.20m in thickness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Concrete layer under 101. 0.20m thick. Earlier floor of the south side of the Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Modern brick and mortar floor located beneath 140. 0.15m thick. Extremely hard. Possible early floor for this part of the Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Modern make-up or levelling deposit beneath 141. Limits beyond the formation level for this project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Drain cut running alongside trench 1. Filled by 144. Depth beyond the limits of this excavation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Fill of drain cut 143. Brown silty clay with ceramic drain pipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Two dressed ashlar stones demarcating the feature recorded in the north-east alcove. Situated one at each side of the alcove with a mortar/plaster beam slot linking the two. See Fig 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Same as 121, only above the new raised threshold of the fireplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Fragments of carved stone fireplace surround.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

Introduction

The programme of works at South Lodge resulted in the recovery a diverse range of artefacts including pottery, glass, fragments animal bone, copper-alloy iron items, worked stone, clay pipe and ceramic building material. The clay pipe, pottery and other datable items indicate a mid-seventeenth to twentieth century date range. A coin of George II, dated 1753 was also recovered.

Concordance of finds

102 3 fragments of clay pipe stem (10g)
    1 fragment of bottle glass (10g)
    Spot date: post-medieval

103 1 sawn wood block.
    1 fragment of clay pipe stem (2g)
    1 copper alloy ?door fitting: prob. brass ‘key-hole’ guard.
    Spot date: C19-C20

106 1 fragment of animal bone (2g): bird?

107 8 sherds post-medieval/modern pottery (578g): Ashton Keynes type glazed earthenware, including conical bowl, salt-glazed stoneware, ?English porcelain.
    20 fragments vessel glass (1143g): thick green bottle glass
    10 fragments of clay pipe stems/bowls (77g): Oswald forms 5 and 17.
    2 fragments of animal bone (7g)
    1 stone roof tile. Perforated at top. Oolitic limestone.
    1 fe nail
    1 perforated lead disc.
    1 copper-alloy coin: penny of George II dated 1753
    Spot date: MLC18

110 3 fragments of animal bone (10g)
    2 fragment of vessel glass (14g): thick green and thinner clear glass
    Spot date: post-medieval

116 1 sherd post-medieval pottery (3g): salt-glazed stoneware
    1 fragment porcelain basin (15g)
    2 fragments ceramic tile (50g): blue-coloured wall tile
    7 fragments vessel glass (80g): thick green bottle glass
    2 fragments of animal bone (12g)
    1 fe ‘safety’ razor
    1 limestone architectural fragment.
    Spot date: C20

132 1 fragment bottle glass (15g): thick green bottle glass
    5 fragments of window glass: diamond shaped ‘quarries’. Pale green glass.
    1 fragment ceramic tile (30g): orange sandy fabric with grey core.
    Spot date: post-medieval

Discussion

The most noteworthy material derives from layer 107. Two clay pipe bowls from this context are the earliest finds to be recovered, datable to c. 1640-1670 and 1640-1680 respectively. Other finds from 107 include a George II penny and quantities of pottery and bottle glass of probable eighteenth century date. Small quantities of nineteenth or twentieth century pottery and modern window glass were also recovered from this context.

Also of note are fragmentary diamond-shaped window quarries from context 132. A seventeenth century date is most likely for this material.

The remaining artefactual material comprises a mix of items dating to the eighteenth to twentieth centuries as well a small quantities of animal bone. Fragments of thick green vessel glass, almost certainly from wine bottles,
are present in most contexts. Forms include long-necked vessels with bulbous bodies and with a pronounced basal ‘kick’. Such forms probably date to the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Later (nineteenth to twentieth century) dated contexts include tile, architectural fragments, door or furniture fittings and personal items, presumably associated with the use of the building.

References

Oswald, A., 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist* BAR 14
APPENDIX 3: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current concrete level located at the south side of the South Lodge (176.68m AOD).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deposit/Structure</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top of earth floor 105</td>
<td>0.07m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of flagstones 130</td>
<td>0.30m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of mortar 106</td>
<td>0.35m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of sleeper walls</td>
<td>0.01m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of wall 131</td>
<td>0.47m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit of excavation</td>
<td>0.35m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4: STRUCTURAL HISTORY FROM JESSOP (2000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Pre 1709</td>
<td>North and South Lodge constructed, with differing functions – North for accommodation and the south for use as a kitchen, bake and brewhouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-1767</td>
<td>Internal timber superstructure of the South Lodge replaced (after fire?), including insertion of central staircase; used as a kitchen, store and for accommodation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-1864</td>
<td>Removal of brew and bake house. Bread oven destroyed and the flagstone floor lifted, suspended wooden floor laid; insertion of range in south fireplace; first floor subdivided and fireplace inserted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-L. 19th</td>
<td>Insertion of sanitation and plumbing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-E. 20th</td>
<td>Fireplace inserted on first floor in south chimney breast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-E. 20th</td>
<td>Insertion of electricity, involving re-plastering of kitchen ceiling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-1939-45</td>
<td>Use of building and main house by allied forces during World War II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-1956</td>
<td>Given to National Trust; works undertaken involving stripping of interior and demolition of the external wings and service corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a</td>
<td>Blocking of northern fireplace and brick support to staircase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Construction of dog kennel; minor repairs; updated electrical wiring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fire on ground floor destroying kennel and part of first floor joists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-1999</td>
<td>Archaeological survey; dendrochronological survey; and conservation plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2000</td>
<td>Partial refurbishment by the National Trust.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jessop (2000)
APPENDIX 5: RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF TO EXTERNAL DRAINAGE WORKS

At the request of the National Trust a watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on 6th April 2003 during drainage works at the South Lodge, Ashdown House, Oxfordshire. The works were part of a programme of repairs and restoration undertaken by the National Trust to make fit the South Lodge for use as a ticket office and exhibition area.

The drainage works necessitated the excavation of four small trenches adjacent to the exterior wall of the South Lodge (TP1-4, Fig. 2). These trenches were hand-excavated by the contractors undertaking the refurbishment of the South Lodge prior to the arrival of an archaeologist on site. The watching brief therefore comprised solely the recording of the standing sections of these trenches. These trenches had a maximum depth of 0.80m.

The observation of the standing sections of the four trenches revealed that beneath the present gravel drive lay an earlier gravel surface that had been set upon two successive make-up layers of stone fragments in a matrix of sandy silt and clay sand (Fig. 13). The foundations of the South Lodge were not exposed in any of the four excavated trenches.
Fig. 1 Site location plan
Fig. 2  The location of South Lodge, trenches and groundworks
A. Phase I

B. Phase II

C. Phases III and IV

Fig. 3 Phases I-IV
Fig. 4  North facing section through floor deposits
Fig. 5  South facing section of fireplace elevation and north-east alcove
Section

Fig. 6   North facing section of Trench 2
Fig. 7  Ashdown House and the two lodges

Fig. 8  Sleeper wall 103
Fig. 9  Sleeper walls 102 and 103 and fireplace elevation

Fig. 10  Structures in the north-east alcove
Fig. 11  Brick structure 129

Fig. 12  Fireplace stones 147
Test pit 2

Gravel surface
Gravel surface
Brown sandy silt
Make-up deposit
Yellow brown clay sand
Make-up deposit

Test pit 4

Gravel surface
Gravel surface
Brown sandy silt
Make-up deposit
Yellow brown clay sand
Make-up deposit

Fig. 13  Sections through external drainage test pits 2 and 4 (1:10)