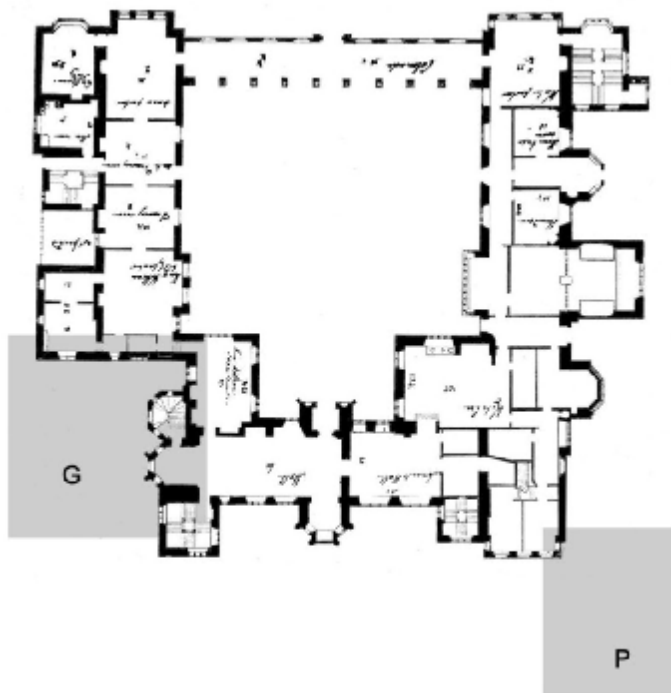


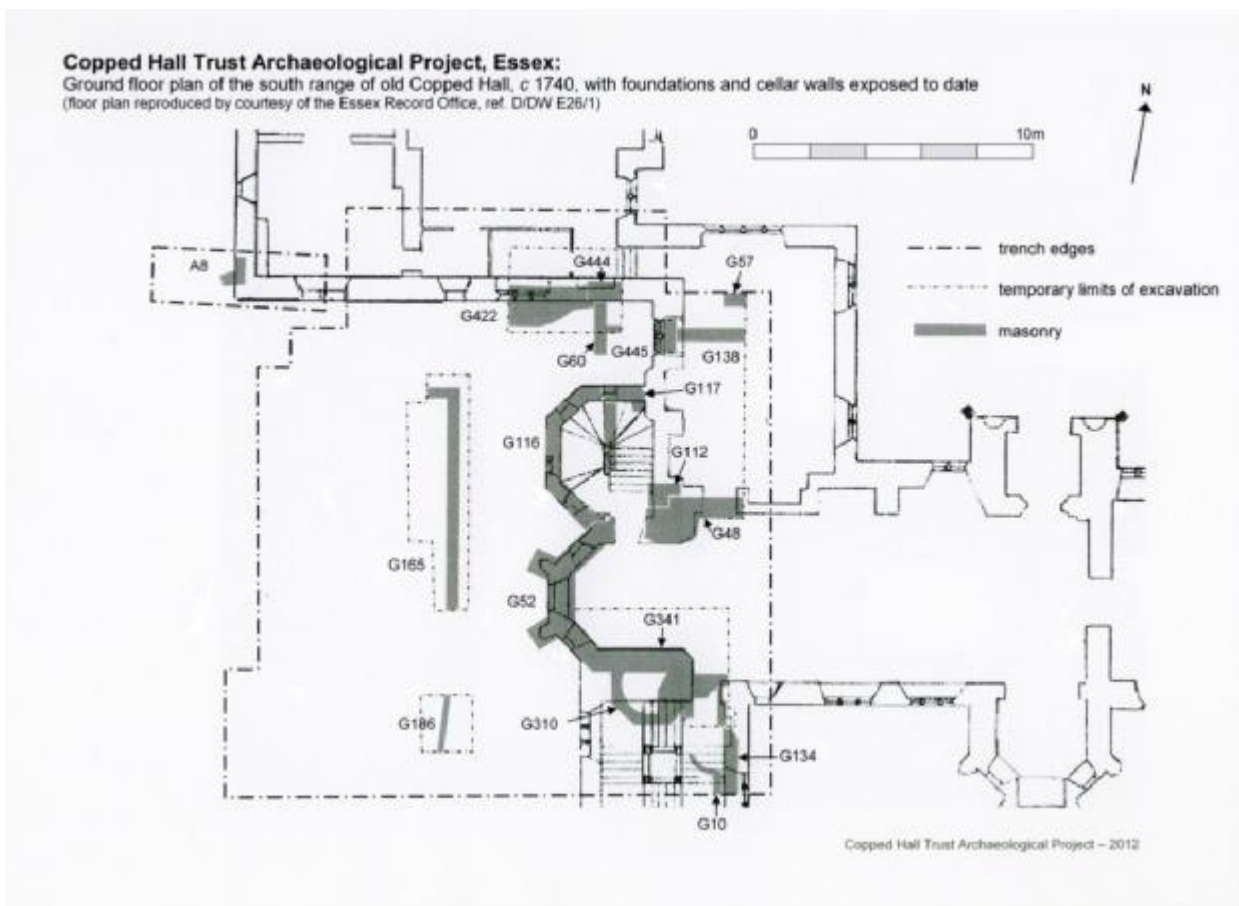
# Archaeology in 2011 in the Rose Garden At Copped Hall

WEAG members' evening, February 2012 - Christina Holloway.



*The Newdigate plan of Old Copped Hall, showing Trench G (the Rose Garden) and Trench P (the Dovecote).*

At our 2012 WEAG members' evening in February, I described what was found in 2011 in Trench G, over the south-western corner of the Old Hall, where a rose garden was created in the late-19th century, cutting through the buried remains of the old walls. Here we have previously uncovered the walls of cellars, the base of a spiral stair, and some of the foundations of the west wing, shown shaded below, overlaid on a plan of the ground floor of the Old Hall shortly before it was demolished c 1748.



*The masonry (foundations and cellar walls) exposed in Trench G (the Rose Garden) up to 2012.*



*Large piece of early-medieval or possibly late-Iron Age pottery from Trench G.*

Some parts of Trench G, particularly around the spiral stair (G310), are now over 1m lower than the surrounding paths, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to access these areas and work safely at such depths. Nevertheless, we continued removing the clay backfill to the south-east of the stair: finds are scarce in this, but it contained a large piece of pottery, either early-medieval or possibly late-Iron Age.

*Brick feature with possible drain.*

A brick feature (bottom left of this picture, a possible drain?) was revealed to the east of the stair, which has been severely truncated in this area. It may be possible in the future to extend the trench to the east to find out more.



In 2010, we had started to explore an area near the north end of the trench, and continued to dig here in 2011. We had previously found walls G60 and G138, not shown on the 18th century plan and so possibly part of earlier building phases demolished to below ground level by that time, or possibly the remains of planned changes to the Hall which were not finished. We found that they had been truncated by the construction of the much thicker walls G444 and 445, exposed this year at low level. Their superstructure had presumably been cleanly robbed away when the Hall was demolished, but the adjacent older walls were less easily accessible.



*Thick wall G444, exposed in 2012.*

G444 is shown on the left. Mysteriously, to the east of this, however, surviving to a higher level on a slightly different alignment is what appears to be a very well-compacted foundation deposit of crushed brick rubble (G422), shown below.

*Foundation deposit of crushed brick rubble G422.*

This is around a metre deep, and excavation of a sample of it proved to be very hard work. This year we will also explore the deposits to the north and south of it, as they may give clues to its date and the sequence of construction in this area



Another feature which we have yet to investigate fully is the brick culvert in the eastern edge of the trench. It is around 0.5m high, and extends for at least 1.5m to the east under the main path.



*The brick culvert in the eastern edge of Trench P.*

*Measuring, planning and recording a brick wall foundation in Trench P.*



For further information on the archaeology of Copped Hall since 2001, and this year's plans, see [www.weag.org.uk](http://www.weag.org.uk) and [www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk](http://www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk)

As always, thanks are due to everyone who took part on site in the trenches, or helped behind the scenes.

**Christina Holloway**  
WEAG Research and Excavation Committee