

Weigh House Vault, French Street, Southampton

Graffiti Survey Summary

A team from Southampton Archaeology Society visited the Weigh House Vault on 28th May, 2019. The team included K. Wardley, M. Garner, M. Dowell, B. Webb, J. Webb, J. Porter, R. James and G. James.

The Weigh House Vault is one of the best preserved undercrofts in Southampton. It is at present entered through the east wall, via what may be an original lobby. At the western end, entrance from the street was down a flight of steps between spur walls. The recesses flanking the spur walls each contain a window, both now blocked. A unique feature of the Weigh House Vault is a stone bench against each spur wall in the side recesses. It suggests that this area of the vault was used to settle accounts rather than for storage.

This vault is dated to at least the end of the fourteenth century.

Very little graffiti was found. There was one curved scratched line, some scratched vertical and diagonal lines, incised letters and some red marks possibly crayon. One of the most interesting finds was a pencil line on the spur wall in the south recess. This was from the ceiling to the top of the bench and was presumed to mark the position of the toilet when the vault was used as an Air Raid Shelter during World War II.



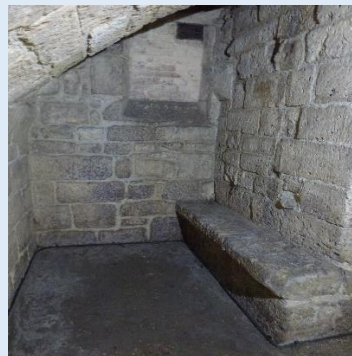
Line on exterior of East Door Arch



Eastern End of Vault



Detail of Pencil Line



Stone Bench South Recess