

Archaeological Investigations

Test Trenching 2021

Four trenches were excavated across the footprint of the mansion revealing the presence of a largely intact cellar level, some of which had been backfilled with substantial architectural fragments. Additionally, at the ground level the remains of the Circular Room, various internal walls, the tiled floor of a 'triangular closet' and the intact remains of the Portland stone façade were all uncovered.

Community Excavation 2022

Twenty-three volunteer archaeologists took part in a five-day excavation along the south wing of the mansion. The excavation revealed the preserved remains of the Statue and Drawing Rooms. Masonry features included substantial window recesses from the Statue Room, a distinctive apse which originally housed an organ in the Drawing Room. A large collection of beautifully crafted plaster moulds from the apse were found. The excavation demonstrated that the external footprint of the south wing is preserved below the mound.

North Mound Investigations 2022

A test trench across the north mound revealed that it is made of clay. The surface of the original yard was exposed below the mound, as was a garden wall aligned with the Herculaneum Temple.

Community Excavation 2023

In 2023 the excavation area was significantly expanded to cover the southern edge of the mansion and take in the western half of the southern wing. Twenty-three volunteer archaeologists took part in the four-week excavation, which revealed substantial structural remains including the walls of the Picture Gallery, Statue Room, Drawing Room and a small vestibule or side entrance to the house. Elements of the internal plumbing, external drainage, the central heating system and structural remnants of a part of Thornhill House were also uncovered. Finds included a large quantity of decorative plasterwork, floor and wall tiles from the house's interior, sherds of stained window glass, lead window tracery, post-medieval ceramics and fragments of structural decorative stonework.

