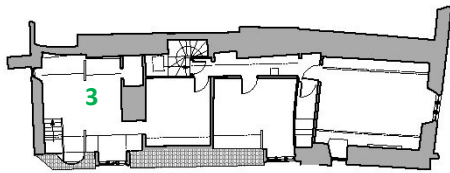
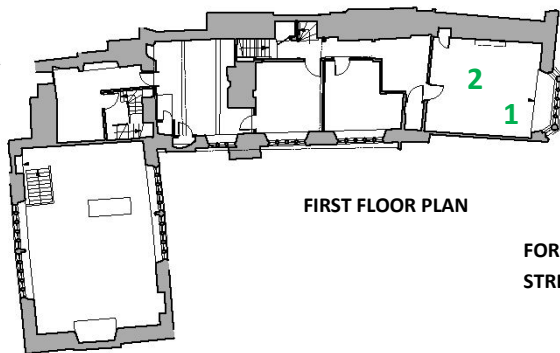




ABOVE: No 9 Fore Street, Chard, with a common entrance through the porch (green arrow).

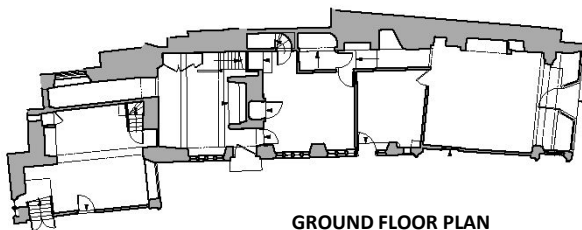


SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

FORE STREET



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Drawings courtesy of Levitate Architects

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

The **Somerset Building Preservation Trust** is a charitable organisation that repairs and restores buildings of historical interest which would otherwise be lost and brings them back into beneficial use within communities.

The Trust promotes higher standards of architectural design through its **William Stansell Historic Building Awards** and encourages the use of apprenticeships to teach traditional skills in conservation.

To learn more about the Trust and its work and how you can become involved with helping to save this most important building visit <https://www.sbpt.info/> and refer to the Somerset Building Preservation Trust YouTube Channel to see Episodes of "Saving No 9".

DONATION FORM

PAYMENT METHOD:

BACS preferred or see website for alternative payment details.

BARCLAYS Bank Plc Sort 20-99-40 Account 60544566 Ref No 9

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: PHONE:

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other fees such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the Charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. **THANK YOU.**

SIGNED: DATED:



'SAVING No 9'

Discovery - Dendrochronolgy

1. CORE DRILLING TIMBER BEAM COMMENCES



July 2025 Pictured Dr Dan Miles from Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory commencing the investigations which might help to inform the date of building construction of No 9 Fore Street Chard....



OUR AIM:

... is to Conserve No 9 Fore Street and Connect the wider Community with Centuries of History in the Centre of Chard.

DENDROCHRONOLGY

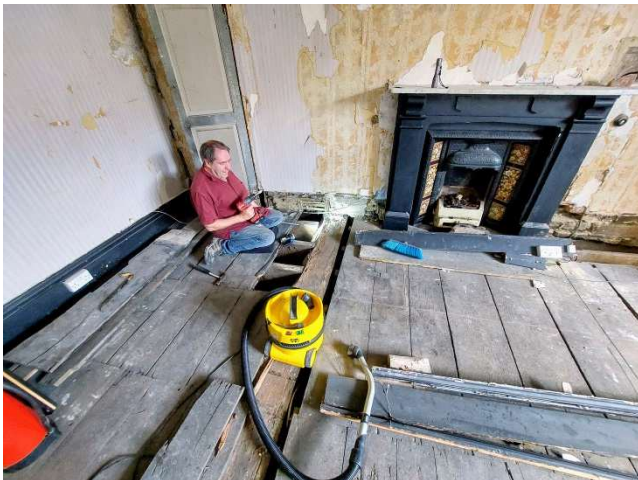
The scientific study of tree rings and the patterns they create that can be used to date timbers in buildings by providing either the range of felling dates or in some circumstances the exact year the tree was felled...

In July 2025 Dr Dan Miles FSA visited No 9 and after a survey of the building he selected several areas where core drilling of principal timber beams, joists or rafters could be achieved, crucially with as much sapwood present as possible.

The presence of a sapwood/heartwood interface gives a felling date range of about 30 years, dating precision increases with more sapwood and if a bark line is present then an exact year can be determined.

A number of samples from widely varying timbers in the building should provide a reliable indication of the felling date of the trees used and the building construction then follows!

BELOW: Dr Dan Miles in drill mode - core taken from beam.



Photos P J Stow

OUR MISSION:

... is to engage with the diverse population of Somerset, tailor the repairs and alterations to this historically important building to suit a communal purpose for the widest benefit and ensure the best quality workmanship to secure the building for future centuries.

WHAT'S IN A HOLE?

Using an endoscope to peer into one of the core drilled holes means one starts to look back in time to when this particular tree started as a sapling, maybe in the 1400's in reigns of King IV and V?



LEFT:

Drill hole location 2 in principal first floor beam front bedroom No 9.

BELOW

Typical core drill hole starting with sapwood layer and blurred photo from endoscope screen showing base of hole.



We await the final report but preliminary date is
.... year specific for all samples ... 1554 !

THE CRUCIAL SAMPLES



ABOVE & BELOW (Left):

Assembling the pieces of a core sample as they do not always arrive intact but some delicate gluing saves the day.



ABOVE:

1 Core hole in joist in first floor bedroom.

Note the detritus from past activities present in the floor void.



www.sbpst.info

05 - July 2025 Designed, published and printed in house by The Somerset Building Preservation Trust



YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@SBPT-tv>

SOMERSET BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST



SOMERSET COUNCIL



CHARD TOWN COUNCIL



SWHT



The Hub

