



A dramatic subterranean-blew structural challenge realised through bold steel, concrete and cantilevers, marrying architecture with site and wine

Location: Exton, Hampshire

Value: £4m

Architect: Luke Rose Architect

Contractor: RA Parker



Winery / New Build / Basement / Steel

Project Background & Challenge

Exton Hall is a purpose-built events venue within Exton Park Vineyard in the South Downs National Park, completed in 2019. The building houses five function rooms, a basement wine vault and tasting spaces, with floor-to-ceiling glazing and natural stone cladding that complement the surrounding landscape. Delivered in two phases — an initial tasting room followed by a major basement extension — it stands as the largest mixed-use steel frame and deepest basement in AWA's portfolio.

Structural Approach & Engineering Solutions

The 3.5-metre-deep basement was formed using 350mm reinforced concrete walls and base. Two elliptical skylights connect the basement to the main hall: one provides daylight, the other forms part of a glass-insert boardroom table offering views into the wine vault below. As the span beneath was too wide for conventional support, AWA designed a cantilever bracket system to carry the load. The Great Hall — a double-height space — required moment frames to achieve its cathedral-like openness. A prefabricated two-storey corkscrew stair was craned into place, while Purbeck and Portland stone cladding demanded precise fixing and alignment around irregular window frames.

Outcome & Significance

Exton Hall unites architectural ambition with structural precision, showcasing AWA's expertise in delivering complex, design-led projects. The result is a modern, high-end events space seamlessly rooted in its vineyard setting, combining technical innovation with refined aesthetic quality.

