

Archaeological Watching Brief report of

# TUDOR HOUSE FARNDON

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For Mr P J Dickinson

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Claire Statter BA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief report of

# TUDOR HOUSE FARNDON

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Client:	Mr P J Dickinson
Local Authority:	Chester City Council
NGR:	341238 354538
Planning App:	06/00838/FUL
Author(s):	C Statter
Doc Ref:	LP0520C-AWB-v1.4
Date:	December 06

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## L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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# Abstract

This report contains the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Tudor House Farndon (341238,354538).

The Watching Brief was undertaken at the site on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Fieldwork was carried out by Claire Statter of L – P : Archaeology.

The investigation comprised the monitoring of the digging of foundations for an extension to the existing building.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features on the site.

# 1. Introduction and Scope of Study

- 1.1. On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at Tudor House, Farndon. The fieldwork was commissioned by Esquire Properties.
- 1.2. The site is located at OS grid reference 341238,354538. (FIGURE 1)
- 1.3. The property named Tudor House is located on Church Lane in Farndon, Cheshire.
- 1.4. The local authority is Chester City Council.
- 1.5. We have issued the site code FAR/THCL 06 following the Chester Archaeology standard.
- 1.6. The developer of this property is building an extension to the rear of Tudor House.
- 1.7. The archaeological site recording was carried out by Claire Statter of L – P : Archaeology.
- 1.8. The site was located to the rear of the existing building on the site. The extension is to be built on the West facing wall of the property.
- 1.9. The investigation comprised the monitoring of the digging of the foundation trench.
- 1.10. The aims of the archaeological watching brief were;
  - ◆ To make a record of any occurring archaeological deposits or features and to establish their date, character and importance.

## 2. Planning Background

2.1. In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued PPG 16, “Archaeology and Planning”. This document provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

2.2. In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, Chester City Council, is bound by the policy frameworks provided by Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), and the policies within the Chester District Local Plan.

2.3. Full planning permission, reference number 06/01722/DEX, has been granted by Chester City Council with the following condition:

*No development shall take place within the area ... until full details of a programme of archaeological work have been submitted to and agreed by in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out to the approved specification which shall include investigation and recording during the groundworks.*

2.4. Simon Ward of Chester City Council agreed that a Watching Brief was required during the groundworks. This report details the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief carried out.

2.5. This report will now be submitted to Chester City Council in order for the Planning condition to be satisfied.

## 3. Geology and Topography

### 3.1. Geology

- 3.1.1. The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of Farndon is Triassic sandstone. However this information is presented in a low resolution and therefore only gives a general indication of the geology of the area.
- 3.1.2. Farndon sits on a Bunter sandstone ridge of bedrock which runs north south through Chester to Farndon (CARRINGTON 1994).
- 3.1.3. Observations on site showed that the natural sandstone bedrock was 0.25m below the surface.

### 3.2. Topography

- 3.2.1. Farndon lies 7 miles to the south of Chester on the banks of the River Dee.
- 3.2.2. The site lies on the west corner of Church Lane and High Street, Farndon.
- 3.2.3. The site lies within the Medieval village boundary of Farndon.

## 4. Archaeological and Historical Background

### TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

PERIOD	FROM	TO
<b>PREHISTORIC</b>		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
<b>HISTORIC</b>		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT

4.1. This section is not a formal Desk Based Assessment however various published and unpublished sources have been consulted. The evidence shows that the site lies within the area of the Medieval village of Farndon.

#### **PREHISTORIC**

4.2. A search of the Cheshire Historic Environment Record reveals no evidence for significant Prehistoric activity within Farndon or the surrounding area.

#### **ROMAN**

4.3. Although a search of the HER record showed no evidence for Roman activity in the area, Carrington (CARRINGTON 1994) refers to a hypocaust at Crewe Hall in Farndon.

4.4. This one reference to Roman archaeology in Farndon may be evidence of the local people taking on new Roman ideas rather than a large Roman occupation of the area.

## **EARLY MEDIEVAL**

- 4.5. The HER records that Farndon was a royal estate by 924. This is where Edward the Elder is thought to have died (SMR 1791/0/0).
- 4.6. The presence of a Royal residence may be shown by King Edgar's visit to Chester after his coronation in 972. Documentary evidence states he was rowed up the River Dee from Farndon where there was a Royal Palace (CROSBY 1996).
- 4.7. Farndon was the site of a very early church related to the royal estate. The church at Farndon was the mother church to the chapel of Holt (SMR 1791/1/1) and is located 154m to the south east of the site. The church was dedicated to St Chad which was the most significant cult within Cheshire during this period.
- 4.8. The Domesday Book refers to Farndon as Forendon (MORGAN 1978).

## **MEDIEVAL**

- 4.9. Farndon remained as a village throughout the Medieval period. The Farndon Bridge spans the River Dee between England and Wales. This bridge lies 140m to the south of the site. SMR 1791/0/1 states that the bridge was built c. 1345.

## **POST MEDIEVAL**

- 4.10. Farndon continued to grow within the Post Medieval period. This is shown by SMR 1797/1, this records the site of one of the earliest race courses in the country which was located in Farndon dating from 1631.
- 4.11. Many buildings in the area date to this period. Several timber framed buildings still stand within Farndon, including Tudor House, dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

## 5. Methodology

5.1. The watching brief consisted of archaeological monitoring of the digging of foundation trenches to the rear of Tudor House.

5.2. Standard L – P : Archaeology field practice for an Archaeological Watching Brief was employed.

## 6. Results

6.1. This section will discuss the results of the watching brief.

6.2. A thin layer of topsoil (100) was present across the site. This reached a depth of 0.25m below ground level. This deposit consisted of loose dark brown black humic loam topsoil.

6.3. This deposit appears to have been imported in order to create a garden to the rear of the building.



*Plate 1 - North East facing section*

6.4. (100) sealed in (101) the natural red sandstone bedrock. The foundation trench was dug into the solid bedrock.

6.5. No archaeological features were present on the site.

## 7. Summary and Conclusions

7.1.This report contains the results of an archaeological watching brief on the site of Tudor House, Farndon.

7.2.The watching brief revealed no archaeological features on the site.

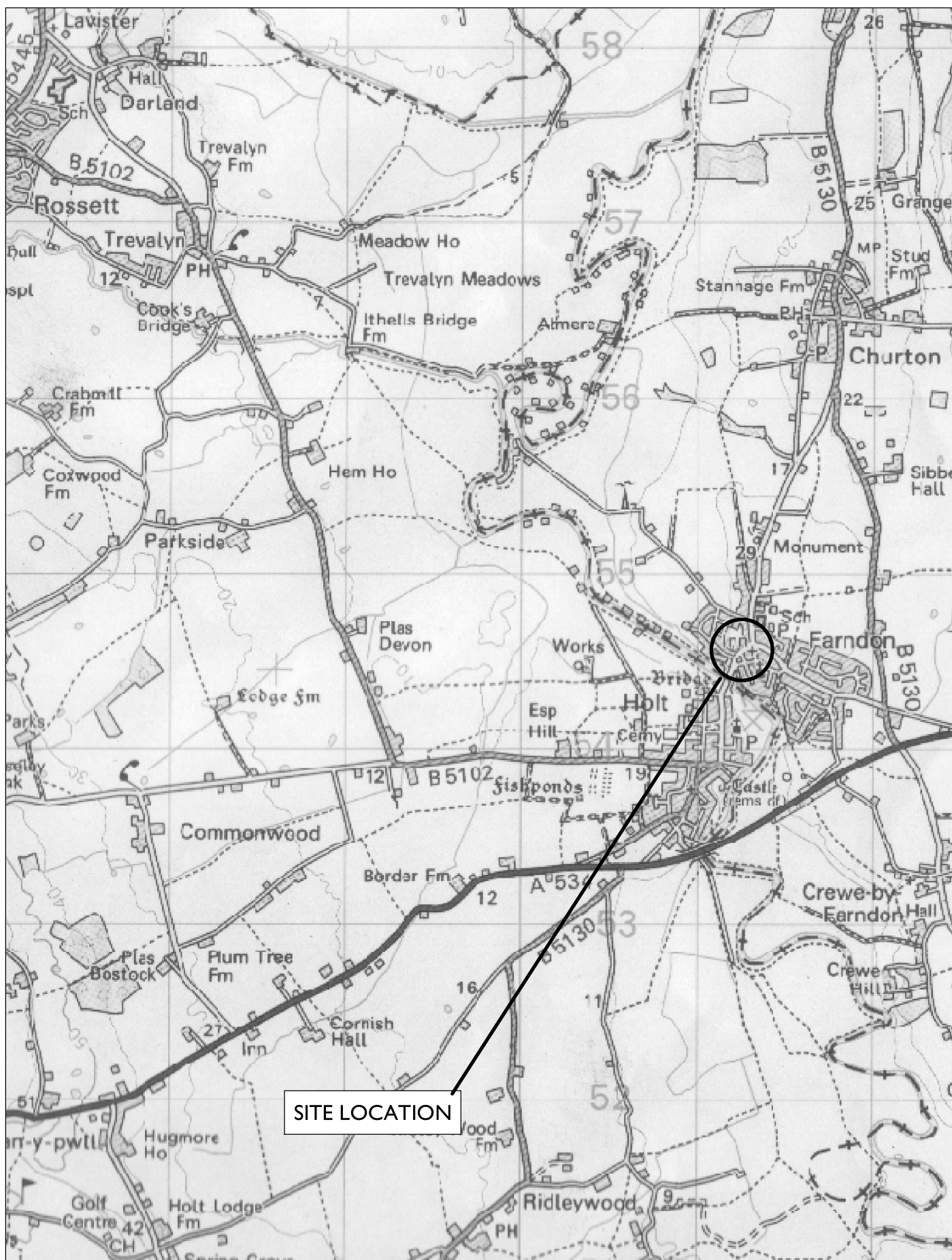
7.3.Two deposits were identified the first being (100) a thin humic loam topsoil overlaying (101) the natural red sandstone bedrock.

7.4.The conditions encountered did not permit survival of archaeology due to the small deposit of topsoil on the site. If any archaeological remains had been present on site these would probably have been destroyed due to thinness of the topsoil above bedrock.

7.5.No further archaeological works are recommended.

# FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



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CLIENT // Mr P J Dickinson

PROJECT // 0520C - Tudor House Farndon

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

DOC REF: LP0520C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detailed



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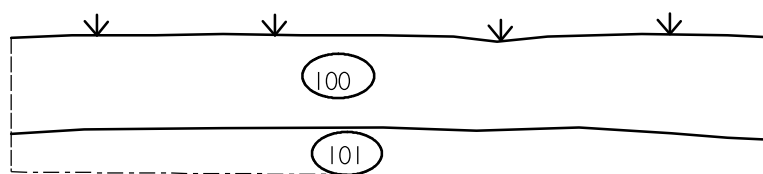
PROJECT // 0520C - Tudor House Farndon

DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detailed

DOC REF: LP0520C-AWB-v.1

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FIGURE 3 // North East facing section



Scale 1:20 @ A4



CLIENT // Mr P J Dickinson

PROJECT // 0520C - Tudor House Farndon

DESCRIPTION // North East facing section

DOC REF: LP0520C-AWB-v1

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# SOURCES CONSULTED

## APPENDIX I

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# BIBLIOGRAPHIC

CARRINGTON P, 1994. *Chester*. Batsford Ltd and English Heritage, London

CROSBY A, 1996. *A History of Cheshire*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester

MORGAN P ed, 1978. *The Domesday Book*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk>

<http://www.chestertourist.com/farndon>

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## Project details

Project name	Tudor House Farndon Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Watching Brief comprising the monitoring of the digging of the foundations for an extension to the existing building. The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features on the site.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2006 End: 15-11-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FAR/THCL 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER FARNDON Tudor House Church Lane
Postcode	CH3 6QD
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 41238 54538 53.0845239519 -2.8774107476 53 05 04 N 002 52 38 W Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Guy Hunt
Project supervisor	Claire Statter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Esquire Properties

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Paper Archive ID	FAR/THCL 06
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Section'

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report of Tudor House Farndon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Statter, C
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