

**FARLEIGH HUNGERFORD CASTLE
SOMERSET**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

ENGLISH HERITAGE


CA PROJECT: 2833
CA REPORT: 09049

APRIL 2009

FARLEIGH HUNGERFORD CASTLE SOMERSET

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CA PROJECT: 2833
CA REPORT: 09049

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date	23 March 2009
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date	2 April 2009
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signed	
date	3 April 2009
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	5
5. REFERENCES	5
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	6
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	6

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Farleigh Hungerford Castle
Location: Somerset
NGR: ST 8011 5764
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 23 March 2009
SMC: 3790
Location of Archive: To be deposited with English Heritage
Site Code: FHC 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of timber steps at Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for English Heritage at Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 8011 5764; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the installation of timber steps leading to a sunken garden area under a *Certificate of Class 6 Consent for Works to Properties in Care* (ref: 3790). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IFA 2001), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

1.3 The site is 1.3ha in area and consists of the Scheduled Monument Farleigh Hungerford Castle (SM 28840). The castle is situated on high ground on the western bank of a bend in the River Frome.

1.4 The site is bordered to the north by Watercress Cottage and associated buildings, to the east by the River Frome, to the south by the A366 and to the west by agricultural land (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 44m AOD.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Great Oolite Limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 2000). The natural geological substrate was not encountered during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

1.6 Farleigh Hungerford Castle is a Scheduled Monument and is Listed Grade 1. The castle was built by Sir Thomas Hungerford in the late 14th century, and is an example of an enclosure castle. It includes an inner court and outer court with natural and man-made defences surrounding it.

1.7 The inner court lies at the north-west end of the castle and comprises a quadrangle hall with a rectangular enclosure surrounded by a curtain wall with a circular tower at

each angle. The inside of much of the keep was divided into living quarters, which included a hall and kitchen, while the northern corner was devoted to a garden. An inner gate, barbican and ditch separate the hall from the outer court.

- 1.8 The outer court, lying to the south-east of the hall, is formed by a curtain wall with east and west gates, which abuts the hall and encloses an irregular area of c. 3000m². It contains the Chapel of Saint Leonard, the Priest's House and the site of the stables (CA 2006).

Methodology

- 1.9 An archaeologist monitored groundworks related to the installation of timber steps leading to a sunken garden area (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with English Heritage. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The intrusive groundworks did not penetrate below the topsoil 1001. The natural geological substrate of Great Oolite Limestone was not revealed during the present groundworks.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits is probably due to the very shallow depth of the intrusive groundworks, which did not penetrate through the topsoil.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2000 *Geological Survey of England and Wales*, Sheet 281: Frome, 1:50,000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset: Programme of Archaeological Recording*. CA typescript report **06013**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS


Trench 1 – 1.5m in length and 1.5m in width

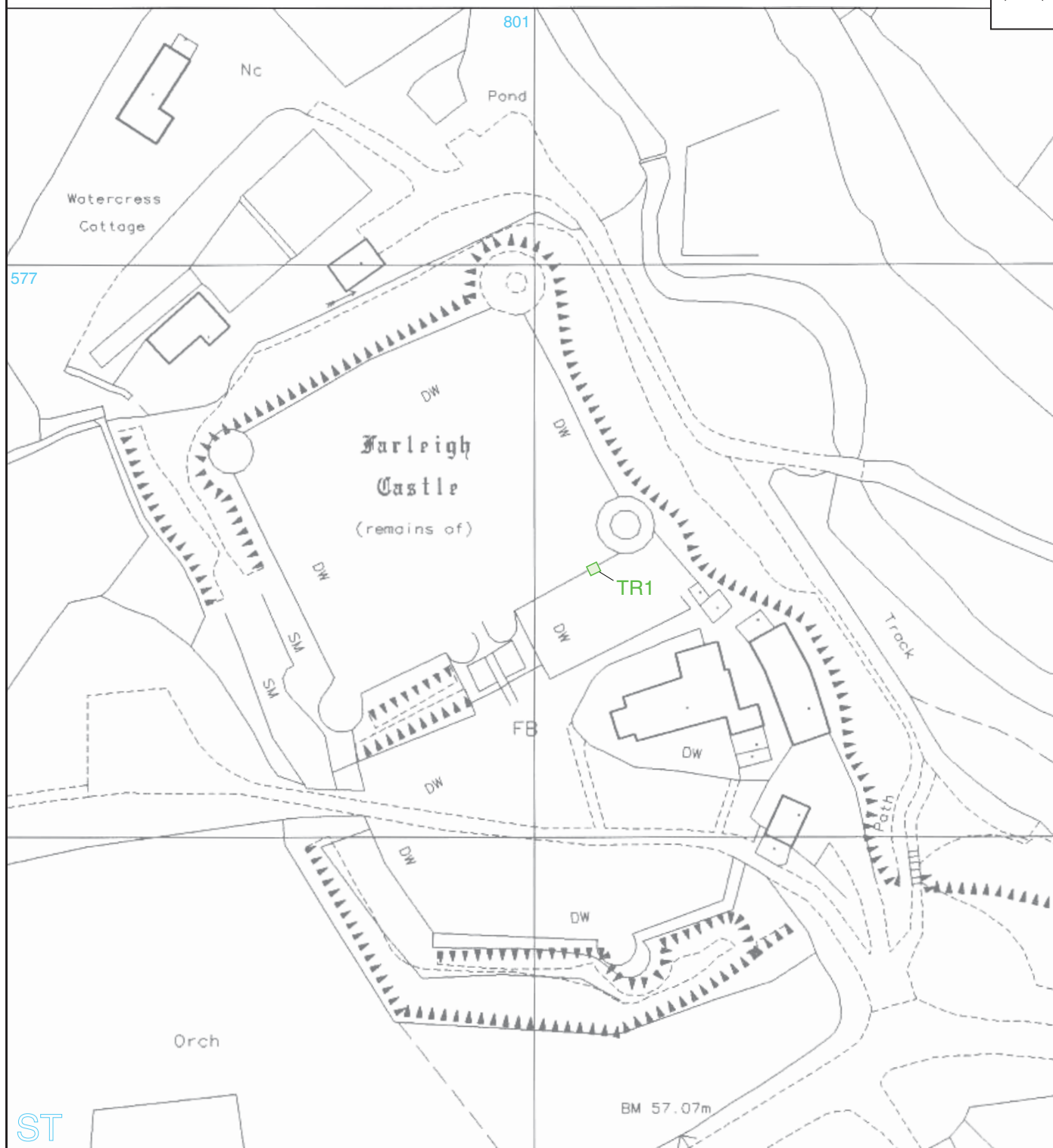
No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Turf and Topsoil – Grey brown sandy silt, rare small mortar and rubble inclusions.			150mm	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Farleigh Hungerford Castle	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of timber steps at Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	23 March 2009	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 8011 5764	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	N/A	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	English Heritage	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs.
Digital	English Heritage	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 09049</p>		



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Farleigh Hungerford Castle Somerset			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Farleigh Hungerford Castle
Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
groundworks**

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1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2833

FIGURE NO.

2