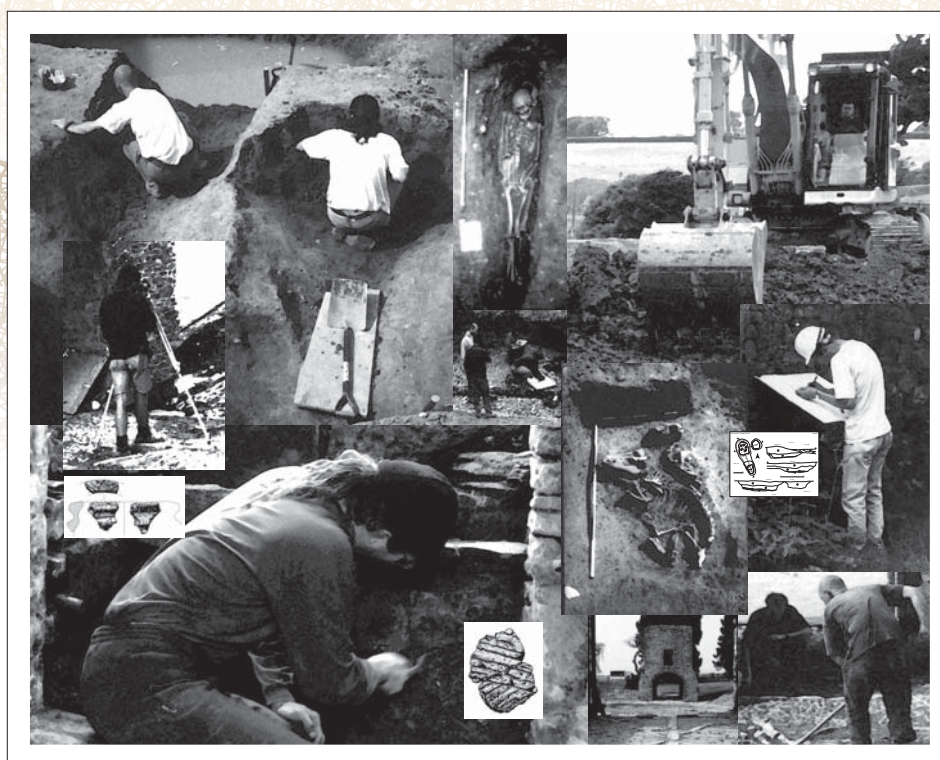


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

Lloyd Close Farndon, Cheshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Kevin Blockley, MIFA MPhil



CAP Report No. 402

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**Lloyd Close
Farndon, Cheshire**

BY *Kevin Blockley MIFA MPhil*

Prepared for:
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Michael Nield Homes Limited

CAP Report No: 402

Project No: 689

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Non Technical Summary

This report details the results of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects on behalf of Michael Nield Homes Limited at Lloyd Close, Farndon, Cheshire. The report draws upon the results of a metal detector survey and watching brief of topsoil stripping.

The work showed that no archaeological features were evident in the field and the only significant find from the metal detection survey was a hearth base from iron smithing.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) in November 2005, during ground works prior to a housing development (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to a Specification prepared by Kevin Blockley for Cambrian Archaeological Projects (Blockley 2005).
- 1.1.3 The development is situated at National Grid Ref: 341440 354658.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies over natural boulder clay which in turn overlies Old Red Sandstone.

Archaeological and historical background

- 1.2.2 Mike Morris has noted that Farndon may have prehistoric, but certainly Roman presence as the site lies opposite the Holt Roman tile kilns at a major river crossing. Farndon is a Saxon royal centre and possibly a burgh, but no archaeological remains have been found.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Watching brief

- 2.1.1 To record any archaeological deposits within the development area during ground works and report on the results.

3 **Watching Brief Methodology**

3.1 **Scope of Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 The first phase of archaeological works was a metal detection survey. A John Allen Tracker IV machine was used for the survey. This was undertaken in sweeps no more than 2m wide across the field, over which a survey grid had been established using 50m tapes and ranging rods. Any anomalies identified by the machine were tagged and investigated by trowel and shovel and the results planned. All finds were retained for inspection in the office.
- 3.1.2 The second phase of archaeological work was a watching brief of topsoil stripping, with a contingency for further watching brief should archaeological features or deposits be identified.
- 3.1.3 A machine fitted with a toothless blade was used throughout the works.
- 3.1.4 Kevin Blockley and Ian Davies undertook the on site work in November 2005.
- 3.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching briefs* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 **Watching Brief Results**

4.1 **Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 The site was a virgin field prior to the metal detector survey and watching brief.
- 4.1.2 The weather was fair, but cold during the work.

4.2 **Metal detector survey**

- 4.2.1 The anomalies investigated were spread throughout the field (Fig 2). A total of 13 metal finds were identified and plotted.
- 4.2.2 The finds and their likely dates are listed in Appendix 1.
- 4.2.3 In summary they comprise modern metal waste such as tin cans, a toy car and sheet metal waste. Identifiable objects include a fragment of horseshoe, a complete hearth base from iron smithing and a lump of slag. The latter two finds indicate smithing in the area.

4.3 **Watching brief**

- 4.3.1 An archaeologist was present on site when the topsoil was stripped with a toothless blade.

- 4.3.2 The topsoil was 0.4-0.5m thick on the western two thirds of the field, but only 0.3m thick on the eastern third. The marked change of depth is marked on Fig 2.
- 4.3.3 In the centre of the field was a deposit of 20th century brick rubble, with fragments of sheet steel.
- 4.3.4 The topsoil and rubble came down on to a clay subsoil.
- 4.3.5 Only 20th century finds were made in the watching brief.

4.4 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.4.1 The metal detector survey was undertaken in good weather and the watching brief was not hampered by the weather.

4.5 Overall interpretation

- 4.5.1 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.
- 4.5.2 The metal detection survey has identified waste material from iron smithing. Since no archaeological features were identified during the watching brief this material must have been brought into the site.

5 Acknowledgements

- 5.1.1 Thanks to the on site contractors acting for Michael Nield Homes Limited.
- 5.1.2 Mike Morris, Chester City Council advised on the required works.

6 Bibliography and References

Blockley, K. 2005. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. CAP Project 689.

APPENDIX 1: Metal detector finds

<i>No</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Likely date</i>	<i>Discarded or retained</i>
1	Cast iron bar	19-20 th century	discarded
2	Cast iron lock fitting	19-20 th century	discarded
3	Wrought iron horseshoe	18-19 th century	discarded
4	Cast iron bar	19-20 th century	discarded
5	Iron nail	20 th century	discarded
6	Smithing hearth base	unknown	retained
7	Cast iron ring from gas cooker	19-20 th century	discarded
8	Smithing slag waste	unknown	retained
9	Matchbox toy car	1970s	discarded
10	Drinks can	20-21 st century	discarded
11	Sheet metal	20 th century	discarded
12	Plough tine	20 th century	discarded
13	Cast iron drain pipe	19-20 th century	discarded

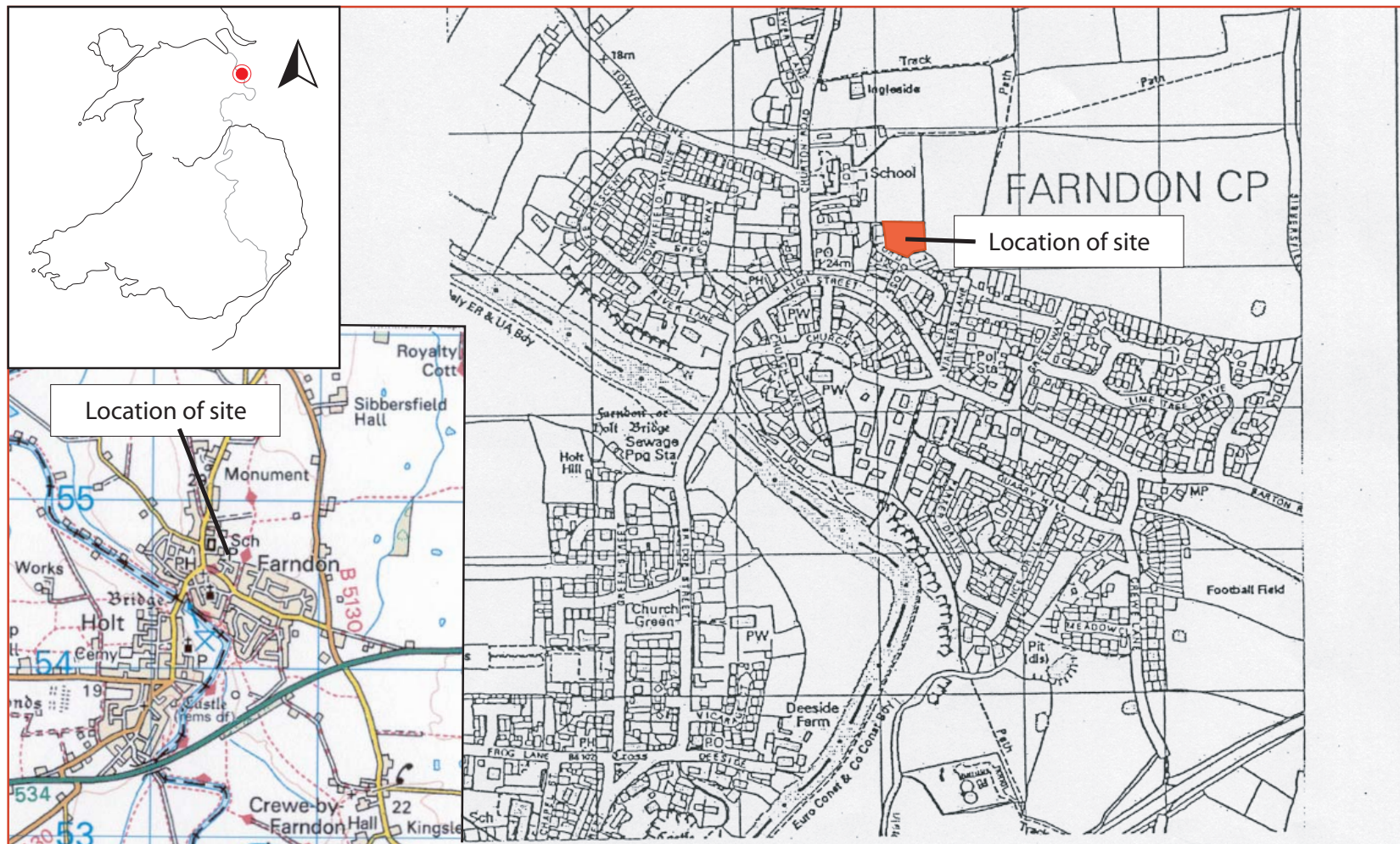


Fig 1: Map showing location of Farndon and Lloyd Close site. (Grids 1km)

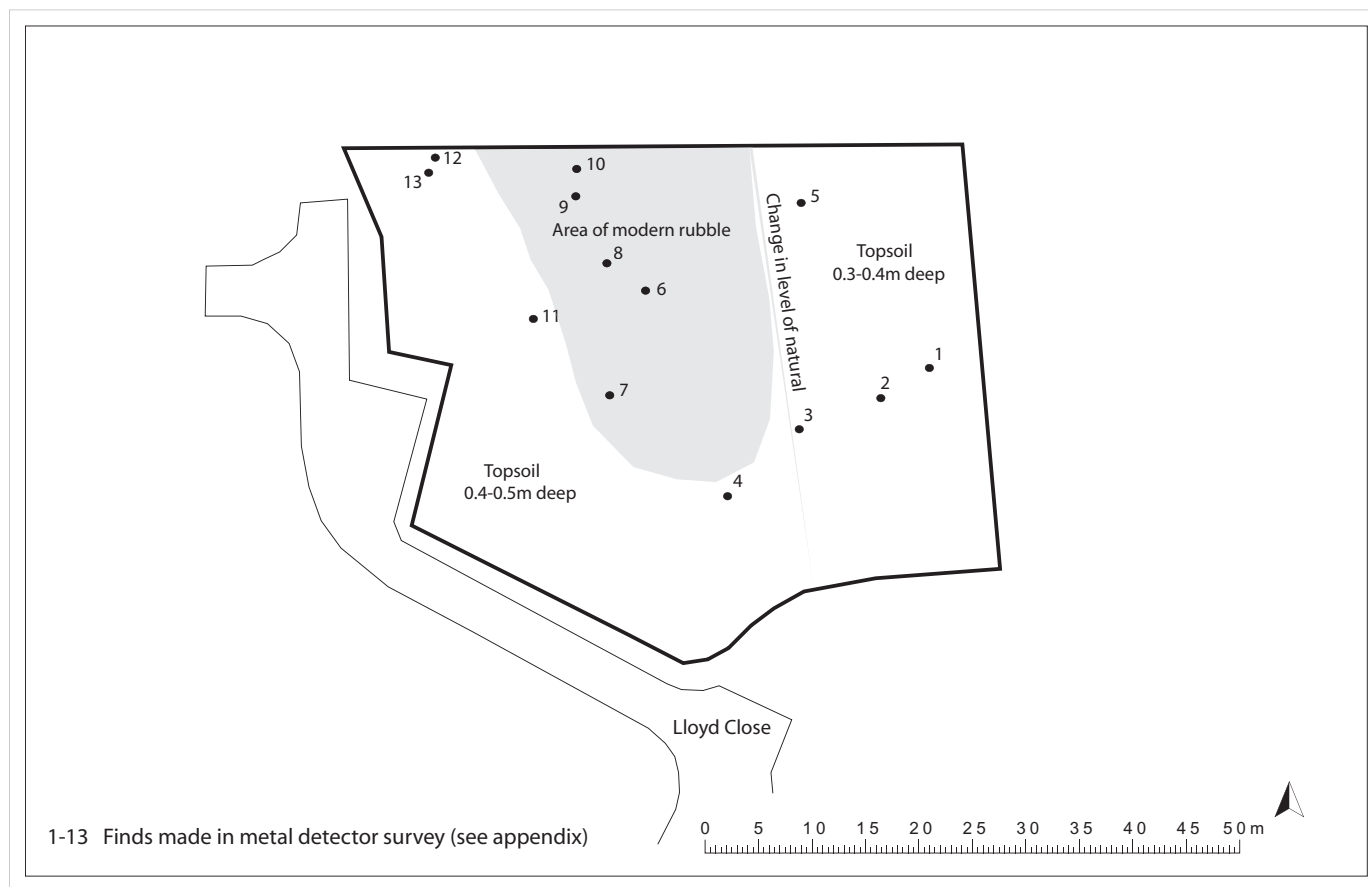


Fig 2: Plan of development area showing metal detector finds and watching brief results

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Lloyd Close, Farndon, Cheshire (LCF/05/WB)

Site Name:	Lloyd Close, Farndon, Cheshire
Site Code:	LCF/05/WB
PRN:	N/A
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	Project No 689
NGR:	341440 354658
Site Type:	Virgin field
Project Type:	Metal detector survey and watching brief
Project Officer:	Kevin Blockley and Ian Davies
Project Dates:	November 2005
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	Chester Cit Museum
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	One
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	N/A
Copyright:	CAPLtd
Restrictions to access:	None



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