

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**FAWLER MANOR, KINGSTON LISLE, OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR SU 32316 87790**

*On behalf of*

*Mr & Mrs P Blackwell*

**OCTOBER 2014**

**REPORT FOR** Mr & Mrs P Blackwell  
c/o Property Pathfinder Ltd  
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**PREPARED BY** Mark Woodley

**FIELDWORK** 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**REPORT ISSUED** 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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**Site Code:** CBFM14  
**JMHS Project No:** 3159

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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. A small pipe trench for drainage was observed showing the previous floor layers, wall foundations and building rubble.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location & Planning Background**

Fawler Manor is located on the north side of Fawler Road in the small sub-hamlet of Fawler, north-west of Kingston Lisle village, Oxfordshire. (NGR SU 32316 87790).

As requested by the conservation officer, a watching brief was carried out on a small location for a service trench dug within the floor of the original sixteenth century building.

### **1.2 Archaeological Background**

Fawler Manor is a traditional yeoman's farmhouse, probably first constructed during the sixteenth century. This section of the house remains on site today and comprises the central, recessed bays of the building. The original plan was probably based around a central hall with open hearth and an adjoining service room, with a cross passage running from west to east between the two areas. There may also have been an additional room on the northern end of the hall on the site of the existing northern cross-wing.

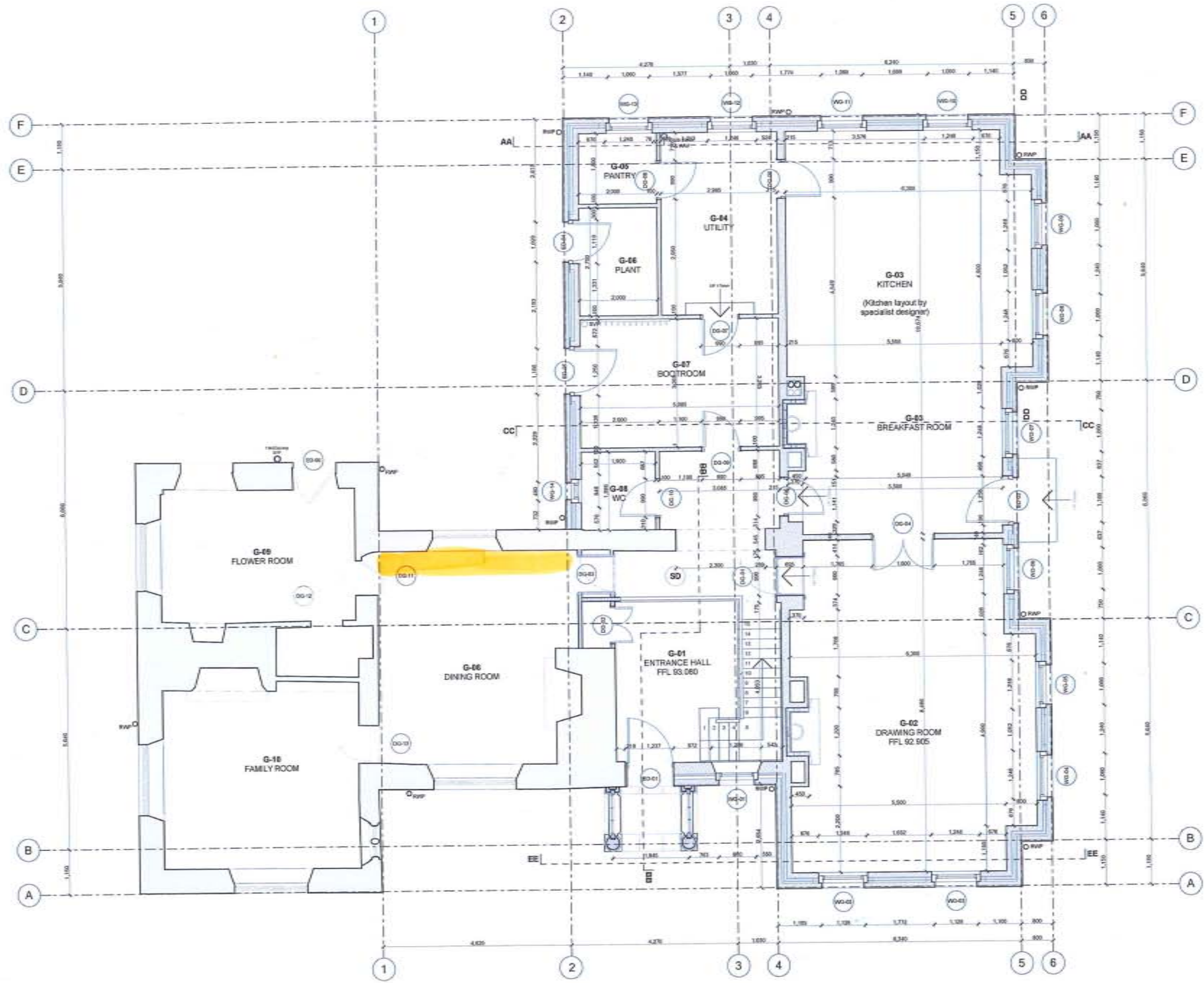
Evidence indicates that the house has been altered and extended on several occasions during its history, most significantly with the addition of a large cross-wing to the south which was entirely replaced in the early twentieth century, but largely destroyed by fire in August 2012.

## **2 STRATAGY & RESULTS**

An archaeological observation of an area 2.00m x 0.70m directly abutting the eastern wall of the hall was undertaken whilst the area was reduced by hand for the service run (see plan). Digital photographs were taken of the works and the layers that had been revealed.

The present floor surface, directly below the current window and abutting the wall comprised of modern orange coloured quarry tiles, lain in a sand mortar on top of unfrogged red brick rubble to a maximum depth of 0.30m. This extended 1.00m to the west into the room from the eastern wall. The rest of the room at the time of the visit was, as exposed, compact dark grey clay soil with abundant small chalky stone inclusions. Removal of the tile and rubble layers revealed that they sat upon the same compacted soil as in the rest of the room.

Excavation through the clay soils was to a maximum depth of 0.85m from the present floor surface, showing this clay layer was 0.48m thick and overlay a creamy white



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 All areas shown are approximate and should be verified before forming the basis of a decision.  
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 No deviation from this drawing will be permitted without the prior written consent of the Architect.  
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 Ground Floor Slabs, Foundations, Sub-Structures, etc. All work below ground level is shown provisionally. Inspection of ground condition is essential prior to work commencing.  
 Reassessment is essential where the ground conditions are apparent, and redesign may be necessary in the light of soil conditions found. The responsibility for establishing the soil and sub-soil conditions rests with the contractor.



Revised	Date	Description	By
B	05/08/2014	Drawings revised to reflect latest Design proposals	MBE
A	13/01/2014	Building Regulations submission	MBE

PROJECT	Fowler Manor, Fowler, Oxfordshire
TITLE	Ground Floor - Dimensioned Plan
SCALE	1:50 @ A1
DATE	March 2013
DRAWING No:	5659/065 B
DRAWN BY:	RC

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chalky clay natural deposit. Excavation also revealed the foundation stones of the east wall and it was noted that they were of roughly dressed large limestone blocks laid onto a 0.04m thick lime mortar.

The southern half of the trench also contained a large quantity of roughly hewn limestone and darker stone blocks which were within the compacted clay soil, but which were below the line of the foundations. These, however, did not appear to form any type of structural feature and may have simply been rubble from the construction of the original farmhouse.

Removal of the rubble showed more of the same dark clay layer extending down to the natural geology.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

No significant archaeological features were identified in this program of works.

**APPENDIX – Photographs**



**Plate 1 – Foundations**



**Plate 2 – Rubble Layer**



**Plate 3 – Floor Layers**