FARLEIGH HUNGERFORD CASTLE
SOMERSET

PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

For

ENGLISH HERITAGE

CA REPORT: 06013

FEBRUARY 2006
FARLEIGH HUNGERFORD CASTLE
SOMERSET

PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

CA PROJECT: 2118
CA REPORT: 06013

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Signed: 

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Farleigh Hungerford Castle
Location: Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset
NGR: ST 801 586
Type: Programme of Archaeological Recording
Date: January 2006
Location of Archive: To be deposited with English Heritage
Site Code: FHC 06

A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) during groundworks associated with the installation of an upgraded electricity supply between the old granary and the priest house at Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and no pottery predating the modern period was recovered. However a disarticulated mandible and skull fragment both of which are human were retrieved from undated deposit 106.
INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2006 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording at the request of English Heritage during the installation of an upgraded electrical supply at Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset (centred on NGR:ST 801 586; Fig. 1). The programme of archaeological recording was carried out under a Certificate of Class 6 Consent for Works to Properties in Care.

1.2 The archaeological recording was carried out in accordance with a detailed WSI produced by CA (2006). The fieldwork followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IFA 1999), the Statement of Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (IFA 1999) and the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).

The site

1.3 Farleigh Hungerford Castle is an enclosure castle situated on high ground on the south bank of a bend in the River Frome. The castle, which was built by Sir Thomas Hungerford in the late 14th century, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28840) and is Listed Grade 1. It includes an inner court and outer court with natural and man-made defences surrounding it.

1.4 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.

1.5 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.
Methodology

1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2006). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the re-excavation of an existing electricity service and the laying of a new service within the trench (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

1.7 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Excavation Recording Manual (1996).

1.8 Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with English Heritage.

2. RESULTS

2.1 This section provides an overview of the fieldwork results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts appear in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was silty clay 107 identified at a depth of 0.66m below present ground level. It was sealed by silty clay 106 from which a human mandible and skull fragment were knocked out of the section after excavation of the trench. Despite further investigation no further human remains were encountered. Deposits 107 and 106 remained undated. Deposit 106 was cut by modern pipe trench cut 103 that contained silty clay backfill 104. This in turn was sealed by concrete bedding 102 for flagstone surface 101.

Trench 2

2.3 The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was gravely silt 206, from which sherds of modern pottery were recovered. The remaining deposits encountered were all associated with the backfill of the existing modern services (see Fig 3). These were all sealed by concrete bedding 202 for flagstone surface 201.

The Finds

2.4 No pottery predating the modern period was recovered during the current works. A human mandible and a fragment of human skull were recovered from deposit 106.
These fragments were disarticulated and considering the close proximity to the chapel the grave from which they originated had probably been disturbed some time ago, probably during the construction of the granary.

**The Biological Evidence**

2.5 Although considered for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2, no deposits were sampled during the course of this evaluation.

3. **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the programme of archaeological recording identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may be due to the relatively shallow depth of the development and the disturbances caused by the building of the granary and the previous laying of the electrical cables and drainage system.

4. **CA PROJECT TEAM**

4.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Emily R. King, who also compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by Liz Gardner. The archive has been compiled by Emily R. King, and prepared for deposition by Teresa Gilmore. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.
### APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

#### Trench 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Surface; Grey flagstone surface. 0.04m in thickness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Layer; Pale grey concrete bedding layer for 101. 0.04m in thickness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Cut; Cut for waterpipe trench and manhole. Steep sided with horizontal base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Fill; of 103, pale yellow brown silty clay with fine grit and small stone fragments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Manhole; Brick built manhole bonded with pale yellow brown concrete mortar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Layer; Pale yellow brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments, animal bone and charcoal flecking. 0.88m in thickness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Layer; Mid orange brown silty clay with frequent small stones and charcoal flecking. Unexcavated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Trench 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>Surface; Grey flagstone surface. 0.04m in thickness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Layer; Pale grey concrete bedding layer for 101. 0.04m in thickness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>Backfill of modern service trenches; Mid yellow brown gravelly silt. Excavated for 0.50m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>Fill of 205; pale yellow brown clay. Excavated for 0.50m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>Pipe trench cut; near vertical sides, base unexcavated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>Deposit; dark red brown gravelly silt with frequent angular stones (0.02-0.30m). Excavated for 0.60m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>Manhole; brick built inspection chamber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>Manhole; brick built inspection chamber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209</td>
<td>Backfill; red gravel covering water pipe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset

The site, showing location of observed groundworks

SCALE PROJECT NO. FIGURE TITLE
1:1000@A4 2118 2

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

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The groundworks

Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset

Trench 1
- Location of human skull found in section

Trench 2
- Modern cut for services
- Drainage pipe
- Live modern services

PRIEST'S HOUSE

SCALE: 1:50
PROJECT NO.: 2118
FIGURE NO.: 3