

**Watching Brief on building works in
Gardiner's Wing,
Farnham Castle**

May 2006



Archway exposed during works

David Graham and Michael Clements

Watching Brief on building works in Gardiner's Wing, Farnham Castle

May 2006

David Graham and Michael Clements

Introduction

In 2005 Listed Building Consent was granted for works in Gardiner's Wing, Farnham Castle (fig 1). The Wing was divided into several small rooms and the proposal was to remove a number of internal partition walls dating from the 1930s and later to create an open plan office space. The consent required an archaeological/historic buildings survey to be carried out during the course of the building works and this report is the result of that requirement.

The works were visited on two dates in May 2006 when most of the partition walling and associated plasterwork and ceiling boards had been removed and the 1930s kitchen range demolished.

Background

The *Victoria County History* (vol 2, 1905) contains a plan of Farnham Castle that clearly shows the survival, at that date, of very substantial medieval walls and arches in Gardiner's Wing (figs 1 and 2). In the 1930s, extensive buildings works were carried out in the Wing and elsewhere and were recorded by the Rev. Huband who took photographs and wrote a lengthy paper covering features, including medieval ovens, exposed by the work. The building works were very extensive and involved the removal of nearly all the medieval walling and one of the three arches within the Wing.

The Survey

It was decided, in view of the poor survival of the medieval fabric in this part of the Castle, to restrict the survey to photographs (fig 3) linked to a location plan (fig 2) and notes. The ceilings and particularly the joists forming the floor supports for the 18th century chapel above room C and D were also recorded with photographs and montages. No trenches were dug during the works so the degree of survival of any footings is unknown.

Photographs 1–11 show details of an arch that the *VCH* dates, not unreasonably, to the 12th century. It has, on the west face, a drip moulding, which may indicate that this side of the building was once exposed to the weather. No sign of any door hinges or jambs were noted but these may have been removed when the arch was partially blocked in the 1930s. The arch itself is at an angle of approximately 60° to the southern wall, which perhaps hints at either an awkward change of angle along this side of the bailey or at several phases of construction work in this part of the Castle or both.

Photographs 12–15 show the second surviving arch, which is much less substantial than the first and appears to be later – the *VCH* claiming a date in the 15th century. The third arch, recorded on the *VCH* plan, no longer exists, but its original location can be seen on fig 2.

Photograph 16 shows the north-east corner of the post Civil War extension to this part of the Castle. A number of reused blocks of medieval masonry can be seen above the window.

Photographs 19–23 and 25–29 show the floor joists of the Chapel that exists above rooms C and D. The floor of the Chapel is on several levels and this is reflected in the underlying woodwork which consists of a distinctly ad hoc arrangement of joists and small timbers.

Photographs 31, 32, 46 and 48 show the core of an ashlar wall, which is all that remains of the medieval wall demolished in the 1930s.

Photographs 33 and 34 show the partially demolished 1930s kitchen range with its associated horizontal flues and photos 49 and 50 provide evidence that rooms A and B formed the Servant's Hall at that time.

Photographs 35–44 show the ceiling/floor joists of rooms A and B the lower element of which is modern though the upper layer appears to be somewhat older – again possibly 18th century.

The remaining photographs show the steel girders used to strengthen the ceiling in room E in the 1930s.

Conclusion

Very little survives of the medieval fabric in this section of the Castle, but that which does, fits well with the evidence from the Rev Huband's notes and the plan in the *VCH*. No further work is recommended.

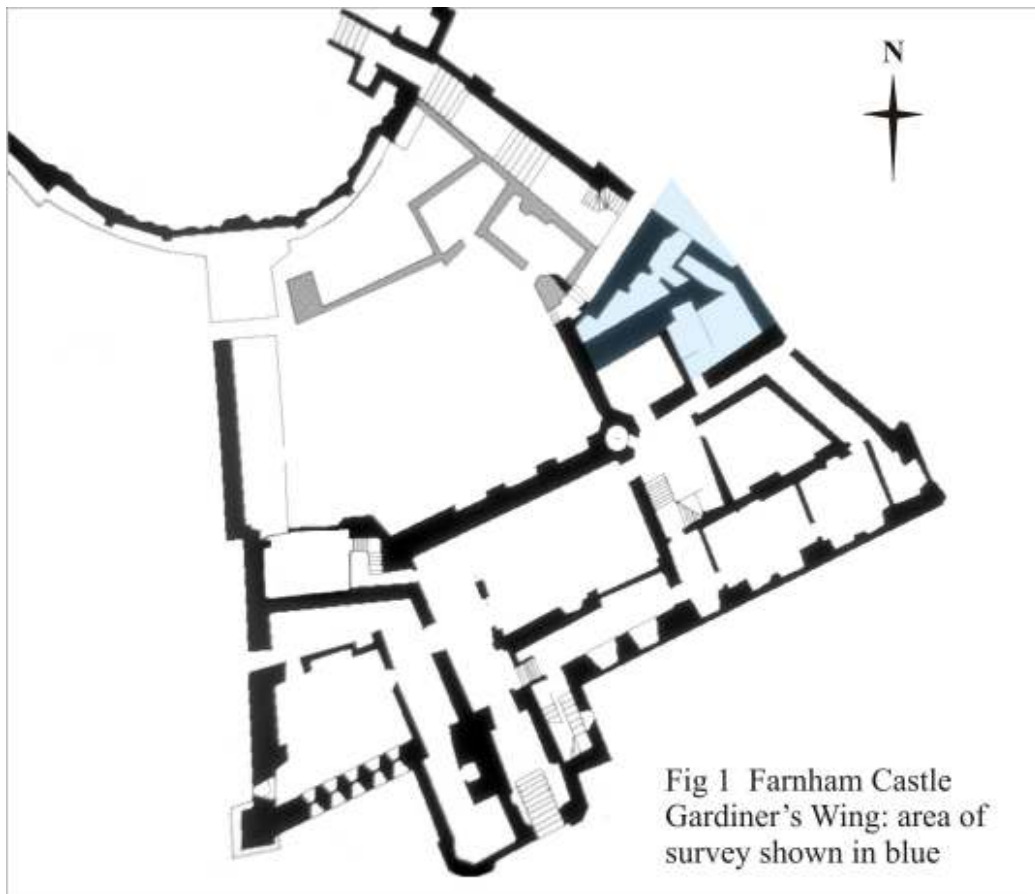


Fig 2 Farnham Castle, Gardiner's Wing
 Survey by D Graham and M Clements
 May 2006

Key to photographs

- (20) Photograph of ceiling/underside of arch
- (14) Photograph of wall
- Medieval walling shown on *VCH* plan but removed in 1930s

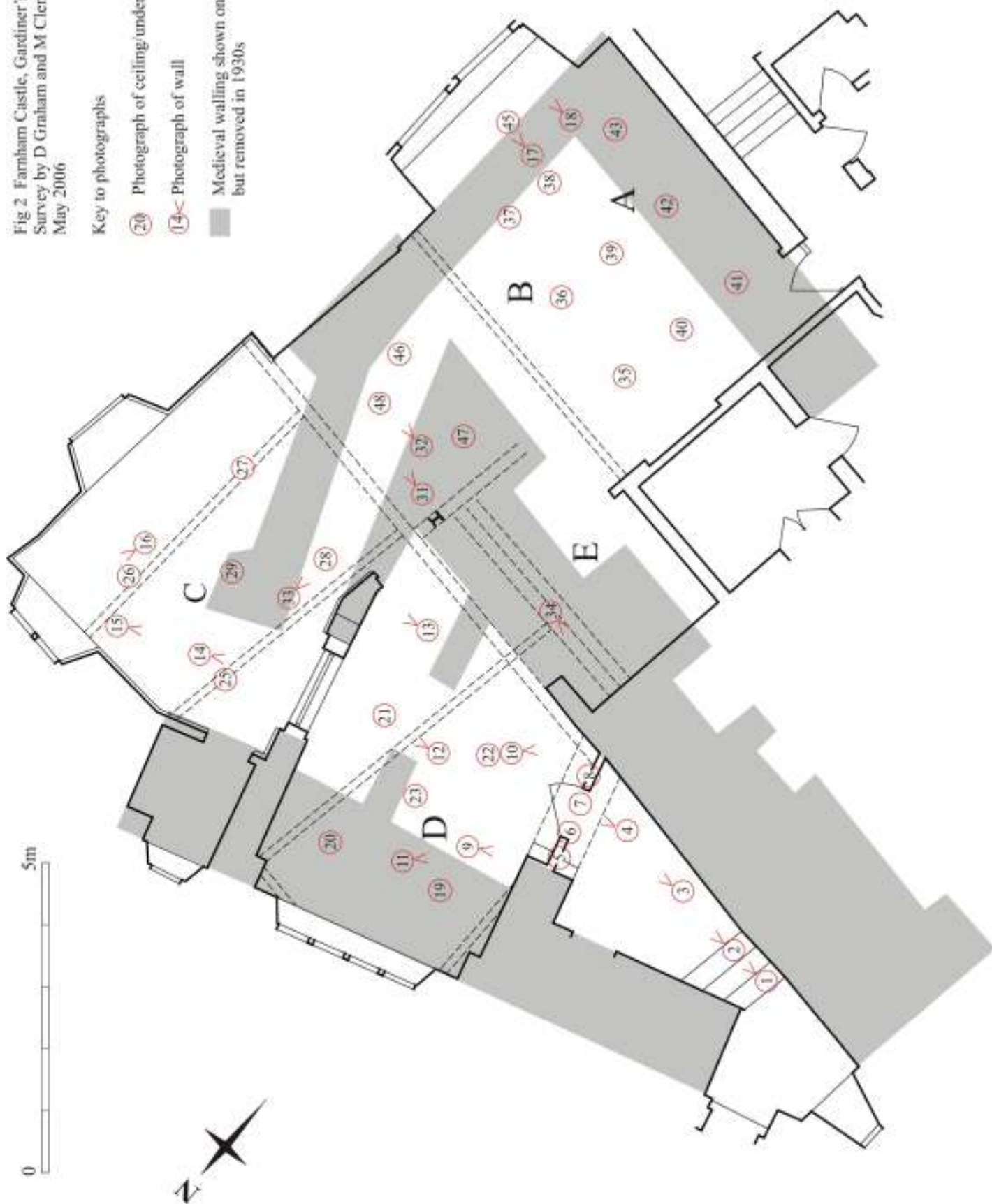


Fig 3 Farnham Castle, Gardiner's Wing: Key to photographs

1. View of 12th/13th century arch from west
2. View of same arch with scale before removal of partition infill
3. Closer view of same arch showing drip moulding
4. Overall view of underside of same arch
5. Underside of north wall of arch
6. Underside of northern springing of arch
7. Underside of apex of arch
8. Underside of southern springing of arch
9. View of north side of arch from east
10. View of south side of arch from east
11. Overall view of arch from east
12. Overall view of 15th? century arch from west
13. View of surviving section of masonry walling to south of arch
14. View of same arch from east
15. Overall view of same arch from east showing 1930s infill
16. View of corner of post-medieval extension (Room C) showing reused medieval masonry over window
17. View of centre section of joists in window Room AB
18. View of south section of same joists
19. View of ceiling joists north west section Room D (floor of chapel)
20. View of ceiling joists north east section Room D
21. View of ceiling joists south east section Room D
22. View of ceiling joists south west section room D
23. View of ceiling joists centre of Room D
24. Photo montage of ceiling of Room D
25. View of ceiling joists north west section Room C (floor of chapel)
26. View of ceiling joists north east section Room C
27. View of ceiling joists south east section Room C
28. View of ceiling joists south west section Room C
29. View of ceiling joists centre of Room C
30. Photo montage of ceiling of Room C
31. View of core of remains of medieval ashlar walling Room E
32. Closer view of same walling
33. View of partially demolished 1930s kitchen range
34. View of flue vents for above kitchen range Room E
35. View of ceiling joists north west section of Room AB
36. View of ceiling joists north centre section of Room AB
37. View of ceiling joists north east section of Room AB
38. View of ceiling joists east centre section of Room AB
39. View of ceiling joists centre section of Room AB
40. View of ceiling joists west centre section of Room AB
41. View of ceiling joists south west section of Room AB
42. View of ceiling joists south centre section of Room AB
43. View of ceiling joists south west section of Room AB
44. Photo montage of ceiling of Room AB
45. Detail of joists between Room AB and eastern window
46. Detail of 1930s steelwork in roof of Room E
47. Detail of 1930s steelwork in Room E showing remnants of medieval walling
48. As above
49. Note on rear of 1930s wooden fire surround from Room AB reading *Farnham Castle Servant's Hall Bishop's residence*
50. Similar note on second section of surround



FC1



FC2



FC3



FC4



FC5



FC6



FC7



FC8



FC9



FC10



FC11



FC12



FC13



FC14



FC15



FC16



FC17



FC18



FC19



FC20



FC21



FC22



FC23



FC24 Room D ceiling



FC25



FC26



FC27



FC28



FC29



FC30 Room C ceiling



FC31



FC32



FC33



FC34



FC35



FC36



FC37



FC38



FC39



FC40



FC41



FC42



FC43



FC44 Rooms A & B ceiling



FC45



FC46



FC47



FC48



FC49



FC50