CHURCH COTTAGES, FARNHAM (SU 83834 46715) REPORT ON EXCAVATION

Introduction

A single five feet by six feet (1.53 x 1.83m) trench was laid out in the garden of Church Cottages adjoining the playground of St Andrew's Infants School. This trench was situated three feet four inches (1.02m) from the east wall and two feet six inches (0.76m) from the south-facing wall of the cottages (Fig 1).

The Excavation

Trench layers (with depths below ground surface):

- 1. Garden soil (0 0.30m)
- 2. Rubble brick/tile/mortar (c 0.30 0.48m)
- 3. Soil with fragments of brick, tile and flint (c = 0.48 0.51m)
- 4. Rubble similar to layer 2 (*c* 0.51 0.69m)
- 5. Clay/soil/limestone/flint mix (c 0.69 0.86m)
- 6. Yellow/orange gravel (*c* 0.86 1.53m)
- 7. Yellow (natural) sand (c 1.53 tested to a depth of 1.83m)

Part of a modern steep-sided ditch cut through the northern part of the trench from below the garden soil (layer 1) to a depth of four feet (c 1.2m). The layers of rubble exposed were probably connected with the construction of the existing cottages, which are mid-19th century in date.

Finds

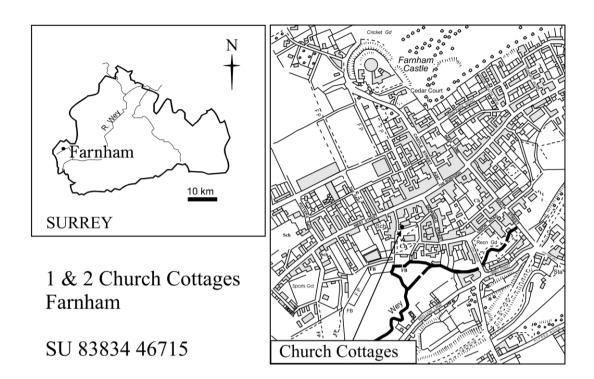
No finds were made other than broken bricks, tiles and 'willow pattern' type sherds. A substantial proportion of the tiles had the incompletely baked 'sandwich' layer effect. Nothing at all was found in or beneath the gravel layer except where the modern ditch had cut into it.

Conclusions

No evidence was found of any occupation earlier than 19th century in date and the lack of finds would seem to indicate that there was no settlement in the immediate area.

K D Graham Farnham Museum Society

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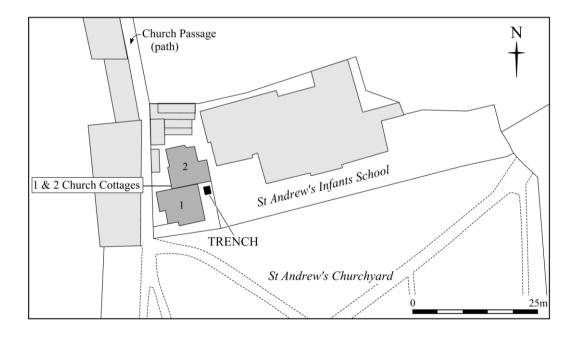


Fig 1 Location plan