

DISCOVERY OF FIREPLACE AT FARNHAM CASTLE, 1991

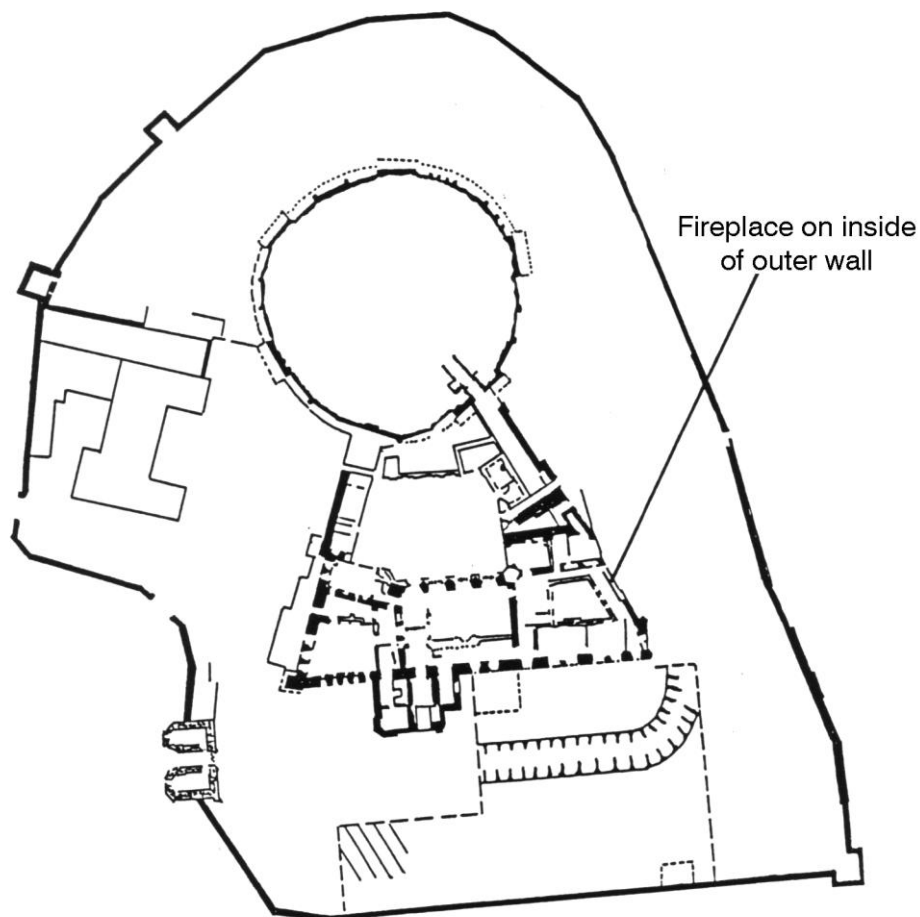
In autumn 1991 maintenance staff at the Castle were engaged on removing old plaster from a wall, when they exposed a previously unrecorded stone fireplace. Philip Brooks was informed of the find and he in turn asked me to accompany him to look at the feature.

The fireplace had been built on the inner face of the outer wall of the bailey, to the east of the small courtyard that lies in the south-east corner of the bailey (see plan). This section of the walling, consists of a mix of re-used clunch blocks and bricks of 17th/18th century date and bonds to the north and south onto earlier stone masonry. The wall, therefore, has the appearance of being a partial rebuild of the original bailey wall, perhaps repairing damage inflicted during the Civil War period.

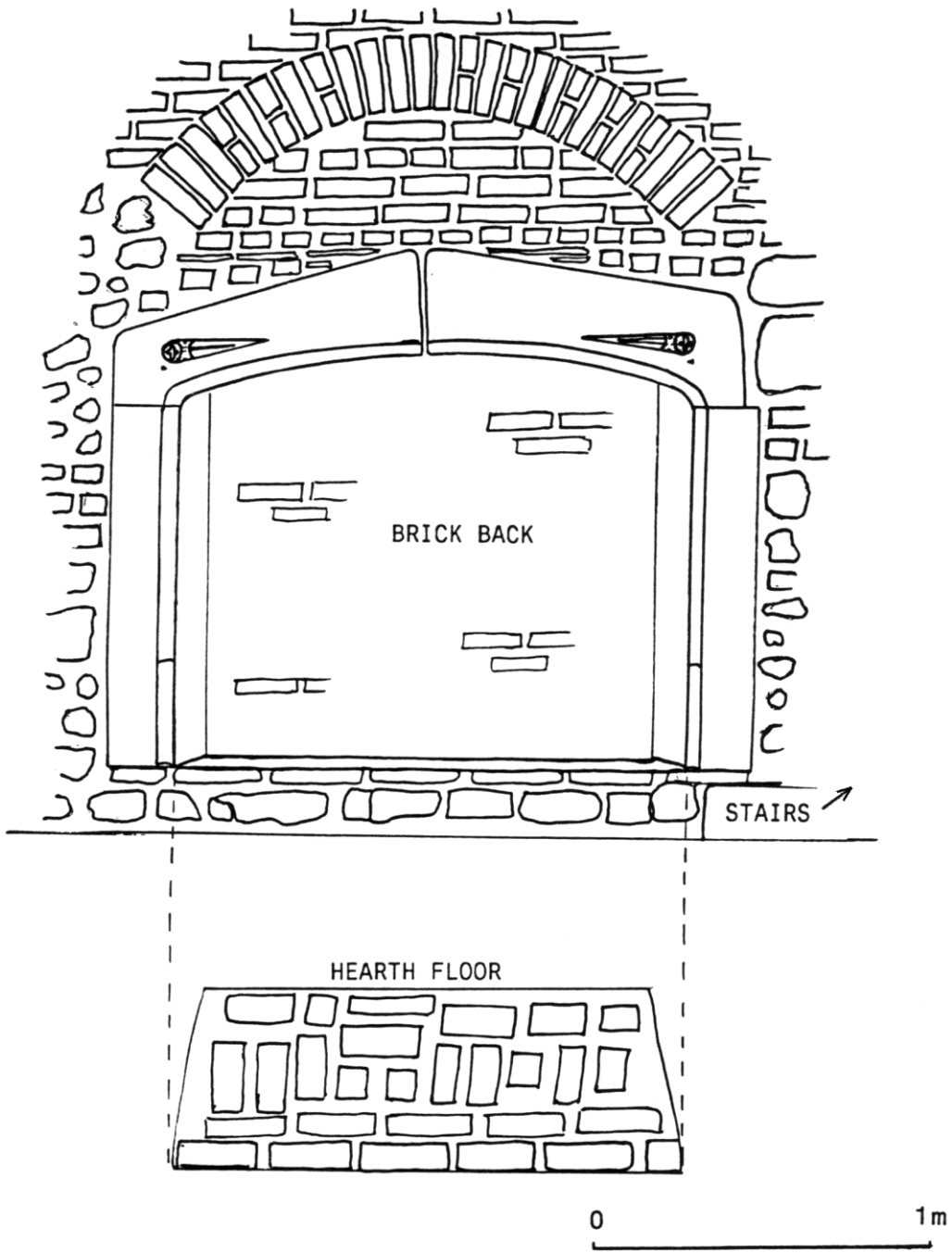
The fireplace itself seems to be of 16th century date and was certainly not in its original position, as the stones had been crudely recut to fit them into their present site. The fireplace, presumably originally came from elsewhere in the Castle – similar examples can be seen on the inside wall of the Keep above the Gatehouse.

The Castle authorities intend to leave the fireplace exposed when the wall is re-plastered.

David Graham



Plan of Farnham Castle



Enlarged detail