

Farnham Castle, Farnham, Surrey

County Monument No 12848

**Archaeological report on a pipeline trench along the west side of
Waynefflete's Tower and holes drilled through the southern wall of the
kitchen/dining room**



David Graham

Introduction

Waynefflete's Tower is a substantial 15th century brick structure positioned at the west end of the hall on the south side of the bailey at Farnham Castle (fig 1 and cover). On 4 October 2006 (letter ref HSD 9/2/8573) the Secretary of State gave consent to Farnham Castle Briefings Ltd to dig a trench to take heating pipes from a point south of the cellar door on the west side of the tower and then northwards before being run vertically up the outside of the kitchen/dining room wall (figs 1 and 2) and passing into the building through a pair of holes to be drilled through the wall. An archaeological condition was attached to the Scheduled Monument Consent and this report covers the result of that element of the project.

The Drilling Works

The first holes to be drilled were through the lower half of a partially bricked up slit window (fig 3), the upper part of which shows above ground level (as a square grating, fig 4: B) to the south of the cellar door. The two holes, which were drilled from inside the cellar, revealed nothing unexpected – the cores consisting of brick and mortar.

The holes drilled through the kitchen/dining room wall produced cores consisting of fragments of clunch set in a sandy mortar. The cores were extracted in short sections which fell to pieces fairly rapidly and it was therefore not possible to observe any internal structure to the wall, other than to say that it appears to be of typical ashlar construction. Examination of the voids failed to show any structure either, as the drilling had left a uniform coating of hardened white slurry coating the inside of the holes.

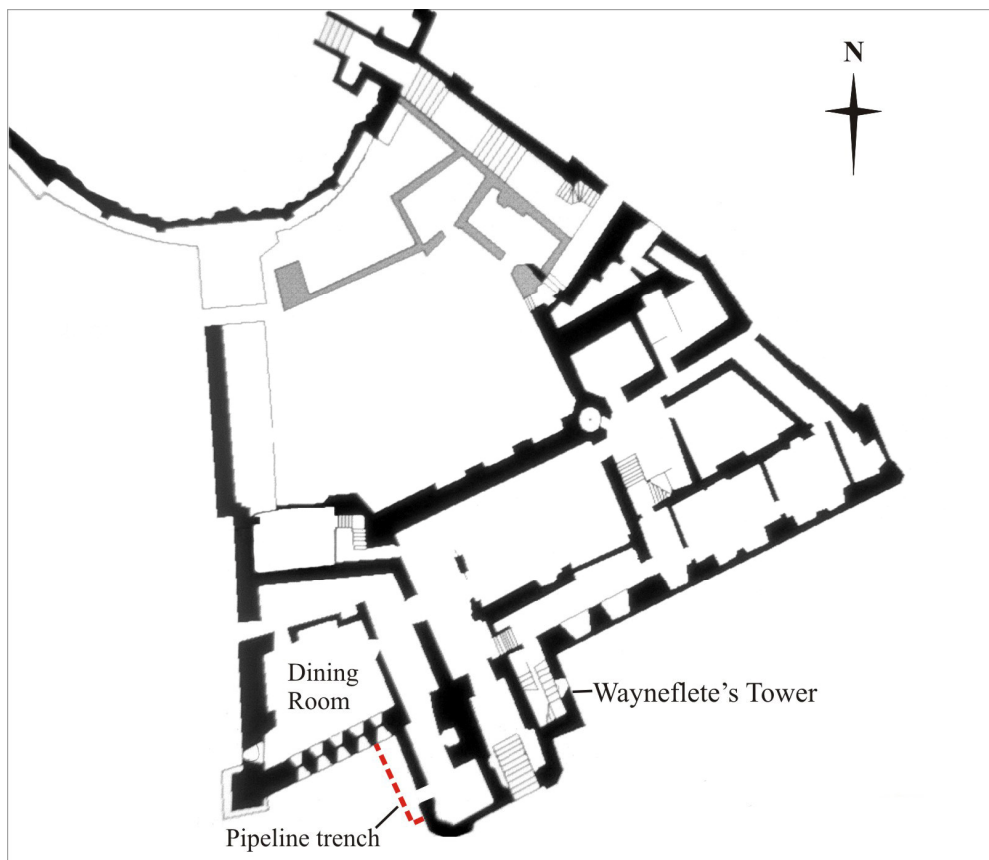


Fig 1 Location of pipeline trench.

The Trench

A few weeks later a trench was machine dug straight out from the kitchen/dining room wall and parallel to the west side of Waynelete's Tower, finally turning at right angles to meet the cellar window (figs 1 and 2). The trench was 0.52m deep and crossed a number of pre-existing pipes, the cuts of which had already disturbed the stratigraphy. The section consisted of a layer of gravel in front of the cellar door and redeposited soil elsewhere. The only finds were of a few fragments of relatively late clay pipe stems. The base of the trench however had exposed the top of an underlying darker soil layer, the surface of which produced oyster shells, one sherd of green glazed ware and fragments of brick of similar dimensions and fabric to those visible in the Tower itself.

Conclusions

The low height of the cellar door and the fact that the cellar window is now partially underground and that the two upper stairs in the cellar are a different height to the lower steps and appear to have been added to them, coupled with the evidence from the trench all point to the ground level around the Tower having been raised by about 0.50m at some stage (fig 3).



Fig 2 Pipeline trench



Fig 3 View of cellar stairs and partially blocked window (B on fig 3). Suggested level of OGS marked by dashed line running from base of window.



Fig 4 External view of cellar door. A: probable blocked window; B: upper third of partially blocked cellar window.

Examination of the brickwork above the cellar door suggests that a window similar to others in the Tower had been inserted into the 15th century brickwork as the diaper patterning has been cut both vertically and horizontally in this area (fig 4: A). At a later date, this window must have been removed, the opening blocked up and subsequently the existing cellar door inserted, as the brickwork above the door consists of two rows of headers in contrast to the headers and stretchers above (fig 4). At the same time, it seems likely that the brick barrel vault inside the base of the Tower was partially demolished to allow for the insertion of the cellar door and steps (fig 3). The evidence then points to a later raising of the external ground level by about 0.50m.

The insertion of the heating pipes has done little material damage, but any future excavation in excess of *c* 0.50m below the present ground surface is likely to disturb archaeologically significant deposits.

David Graham
6 November 2006