

## Dover Western Heights,

### Watching-brief report

Project Code: CWHD-WB-14

NGR: 1) 631275 140727 to 631296 140738  
2) 630945 140540 to 630958 140551  
3) 630988 140552  
4) 630939 140506

Report No: 2014/135

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Version	Prepared by	Position	Date	Approved by
01	K. Parfitt	Field Officer	October, 2014	P. Bennett (Director)

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**Frontispiece** Trenching in progress at Site 2 (Visitors Centre), looking north-east

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## **Dover Western Heights, September–October 2014**

### **Summary and introduction**

The great nineteenth-century artillery fortress occupying the summit of the Western Heights at Dover is of some considerable historical importance (e.g. Pattison *et al.* 2004) and is accordingly scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Monument No. 1020298). In late September 2014 telecommunications work was undertaken at various localities within the Scheduled Area. This was monitored by a member of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust but nothing of special archaeological significance was revealed. Details are set out below.

The works included excavations for the repair of blockages in existing telecommunication ducts, trenching for new underground ducts, and the installation of surface mounted cables on the bridge and Victorian gatehouse of the Citadel.

These operations provided some limited opportunity for further archaeological investigation of the below-ground archaeology of the Western Heights complex, supplementing the more extensive observations made in the area during water-pipe trenching in 2007–8 (Parfitt 2009). In 2014, limited excavations were observed at four separate localities; one adjacent to the medieval chapel of the Knights Templar (Site 1) and three in the general area of the Citadel (Sites 2–4). In detail, the sites were:

SITE 1 – Junction of Western Close and Citadel Road, adjacent to the medieval chapel

SITE 2 – Outside Visitor Centre, in front of Citadel main gate

SITE 3 – In road, junction of Citadel Heights and Citadel Road

SITE 4 – On summit of outer rampart of Citadel, south-east of main gatehouse

**SITE 1 – Junction of Western Close and Citadel Road, adjacent medieval  
Knights Templar chapel - REPORT SHEET**

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATES: 25/9/14, 8/10/14–10/10/14
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust		Individual: K. Parfitt
SITE NAME: Junction of Western Close and Citadel Road, Western Heights, Dover (Figs 1– 4)		CAT Report Number: 2014/135
CAT SITE CODE: CWHD-WB-14		Scheduled Ancient Monument Number: 1020298
NGR: 631275 140727 to 631296 140738		ELEVATION: c.103m OD
TOPOGRAPHY: Gentle north-east facing slope at the junction of Western Close and Citadel Road (Figs 2, 3 & 4)		NATURAL: Chalk (not exposed)
FORMER LAND-USE: Grass verge, road and pavement, (Figs 2, 3 & 4)	FUTURE LAND-USE: As previously; 25 metre section of cable duct replaced	
LAND-OWNER: Public Highway	TENANT: X	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Machine excavation of a narrow trench for a new telecom duct		
EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Fig. 4): Total length of trench dug, c.25.00m Width of excavated trench: 0.20m; depth, 0.0.45–0.95m		
NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Close observation of all excavation work		
GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE: A series of dump and levelling deposits dipping gently down to the north-east was revealed. These were largely sealed by modern road metalling, itself cut through by a previously recorded water main trench in 2007–8 (Parfitt 2009). At the north-eastern end, the trench cut into the roadside verge at the foot of the outer rampart of the fortress defences. The recorded soil sequence was slightly different here.  <i>Verge</i> Context 1 Modern topsoil; 0.24m thick, <i>over</i>  Context 2 Compact chalk rubble with natural flint nodules; dump deposit, 0.34m thick, <i>over</i>  Context 3 Stiff orange-brown clay with chalk & flint lumps; dump deposit, 0.19cm thick (continues under road), <i>over</i>		

Context **12** Compact chalk rubble with natural flint nodules; dump deposit, 0.22m (min.)

**Road**

Context **10** Tarmac road surface, two layers, 10–12cm thick total, *over*

Context **11** Compact cream-white rammed/puddled chalk with frequent chalk and flint lumps; road base, 12–27cm thick, *over*

Context **3** Stiff orange-brown clay with chalk & flint lumps; dump deposit, 0.10–50cm thick (continues under verge), *over*

Context **13** Compact chalk rubble with occasional flints; dump deposit, 12cm thick, *over*

Context **14** Stiff orange brown clay moderate chalk lumps and occasional flints; dump deposit, 28cm thick *over*

Context **15** Compact chalk rubble with occasional flints; dump deposit, 10cm (min).

**FINDS AND NOTES:**

The observations at Site 1 follow on from those made here in 2007–8, during the cutting of a new water pipe trench (Parfitt 2009). It was reconfirmed in 2014 that the original ground level in this area has been deliberately raised by more than one metre. The adjacent medieval round-nave chapel was not originally set into a deep terrace, as it appears today, this being the result of nineteenth-century earthmoving and landscaping of the surrounding area.

Citadel Road itself was first constructed somewhere around the middle of the nineteenth century, to give access to the Citadel. It does not appear on a map of 1813 (PRO: MR/1/1346), even though what is now known as Western Close was in existence by then. Branching off Western Close, the new Citadel Road was fairly certainly laid out at the same time as the new Main (Eastern) Gatehouse into the Citadel was erected, during the late 1850s (Parfitt 2009).

Of some archaeological interest in the present trench was the chalk and flint layer (**11**) now forming the bedding of the modern tarmac road. This is likely to represent the original Victorian road surface, or at least its sub-base.

No finds or other features of archaeological interest were revealed at Site 1.

**SITE 2 – Outside Visitor Centre, in front of Citadel main gate, Western Heights -  
REPORT SHEET**

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 26/9/14
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust	Individual: K. Parfitt	
SITE NAME: Outside Visitor Centre, in front of Citadel main gate, Western Heights, Dover (370m SW of Site 1; Figs 1–3 & 5)	CAT Report Number: 2014/135	
CAT SITE CODE: CWHD-WB-14	Scheduled Ancient Monument Number: 1020298	
NGR: 630945 140540 to 630958 140551	ELEVATION: <i>c.</i> 122m OD	
TOPOGRAPHY: Top of Western Heights chalk ridge (Fig. 1)	NATURAL: Chalk (Seaford Formation) and Clay-with-Flints	
FORMER LAND-USE: Road and pathway (Fig. 5)	FUTURE LAND-USE: As previously; section of cable duct replaced	
LAND-OWNER: Ministry of Justice	TENANT: Immigration Removal Centre	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Machine excavation of a narrow trench for a new telecom duct		
EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Fig. 5): Total length of trench dug, <i>c.</i> 17.00m Width of excavated trench: 0.20m; depth, 0.60–0.65m		
NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Close observation of all excavation work		
GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE:  Context <b>4</b> Modern tarmac; 0.12m thick, <i>over</i>  Context <b>5</b> Brick and concrete rubble with natural flint nodules; hard-core deposit, 0.25–0.30m thick, <i>over</i>  Contexts <b>6 &amp; 8</b> Disturbed chalk ( <b>6</b> ) and disturbed orange-brown clay ( <b>8</b> ), 0.07–0.14m thick, <i>over</i>  Contexts <b>7 &amp; 9</b> Natural chalk bedrock ( <b>7</b> ) containing a large natural solution pipe filled with Clay-with-Flints ( <b>9</b> ), 0.20m (min.) thick.		
FINDS AND NOTES: No finds of archaeological interest were revealed. Of passing note was the exposure of the top of a large natural solution pipe in the chalk. This appeared to be about 10.50m across and is likely to have been of considerable depth. Such features are common on the local chalklands around Dover.		

**SITE 3 – In road, junction of Citadel Heights and Citadel Road  
- REPORT SHEET**

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 27/9/14
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust	Individual: K. Parfitt	
SITE NAME: Junction of Citadel Heights and Citadel Road, Western Heights, Dover (30m E of Site 2; Figs 1– 3 & 5)  CAT SITE CODE: CWHD-WB-14	CAT Report Number: 2014/135  Scheduled Ancient Monument Number: 1020298	
NGR: 630988 140552	ELEVATION: <i>c.</i> 119m OD	
TOPOGRAPHY: In road, at junction of Citadel Heights and Citadel Road (Fig. 5)	NATURAL: Chalk (not exposed)	
FORMER LAND-USE: Road	FUTURE LAND-USE: As previously; cable duct repaired	
LAND-OWNER: Public Highway	TENANT: X	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Machine removal of tarmac and re-excavation of backfilled water pipe trench to allow repair of telecom duct.		
EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Fig. 5):  A small pit, about 0.75m square, was excavated to a depth of 0.70m		
NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Observation of excavated pit		
GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE:  i) Modern tarmac; 0.12m thick, <i>over</i>  ii) Mixed 'Type 1' sub-base and yellow sand, at least 0.58m thick; backfilling of water-pipe trench dug in 2007–8.		
FINDS AND NOTES: No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed.		



**SITE 4 – On summit of outer rampart of Citadel, south-east of main gatehouse - REPORT SHEET**

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 29/9/14
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust	Individual: K. Parfitt	
SITE NAME: On outer rampart of Citadel, south-east of main gatehouse, Western Heights, Dover (35m S of Site 2; Figs 1–3 & 5)  CAT SITE CODE: CWHD-WB-14	CAT Report Number: 2014/135  Scheduled Ancient Monument Number: 1020298	
NGR: 630939 140506	ELEVATION: <i>c.</i> 127m OD	
TOPOGRAPHY: Top of man-made rampart (Fig. 2–3)	NATURAL: N/A	
FORMER LAND-USE: Earthen rampart of fortress	FUTURE LAND-USE: As previously; cable duct inserted	
LAND-OWNER: Ministry of Justice	TENANT: Immigration Removal Centre	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Hand excavation of a small trench to allow insertion of new telecom duct.		
EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Fig. 5):  A small trench, about 0.60m x 0.35m, was excavated to a depth of 0.60m		
NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Observation of excavated trench		
GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE:  i) Modern turf; 0.05m thick, <i>over</i>  ii) Mixed grey-brown clay loam with moderate amounts of small chalk and occasional yellow and red brick fragments, at least 0.55m thick; probably backfilling of earlier service trench.		
FINDS AND NOTES: No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed.		

## CONCLUSIONS

### GENERAL NOTES:

No finds or features of specific archaeological interest were revealed during the course of the 2014 work.

The natural geology was recorded only at Site 2, buried at a shallow depth outside the main entrance to the Citadel.

No unauthorised damage to the Scheduled Ancient Monument occurred.

No further study of the recorded information is presently required.

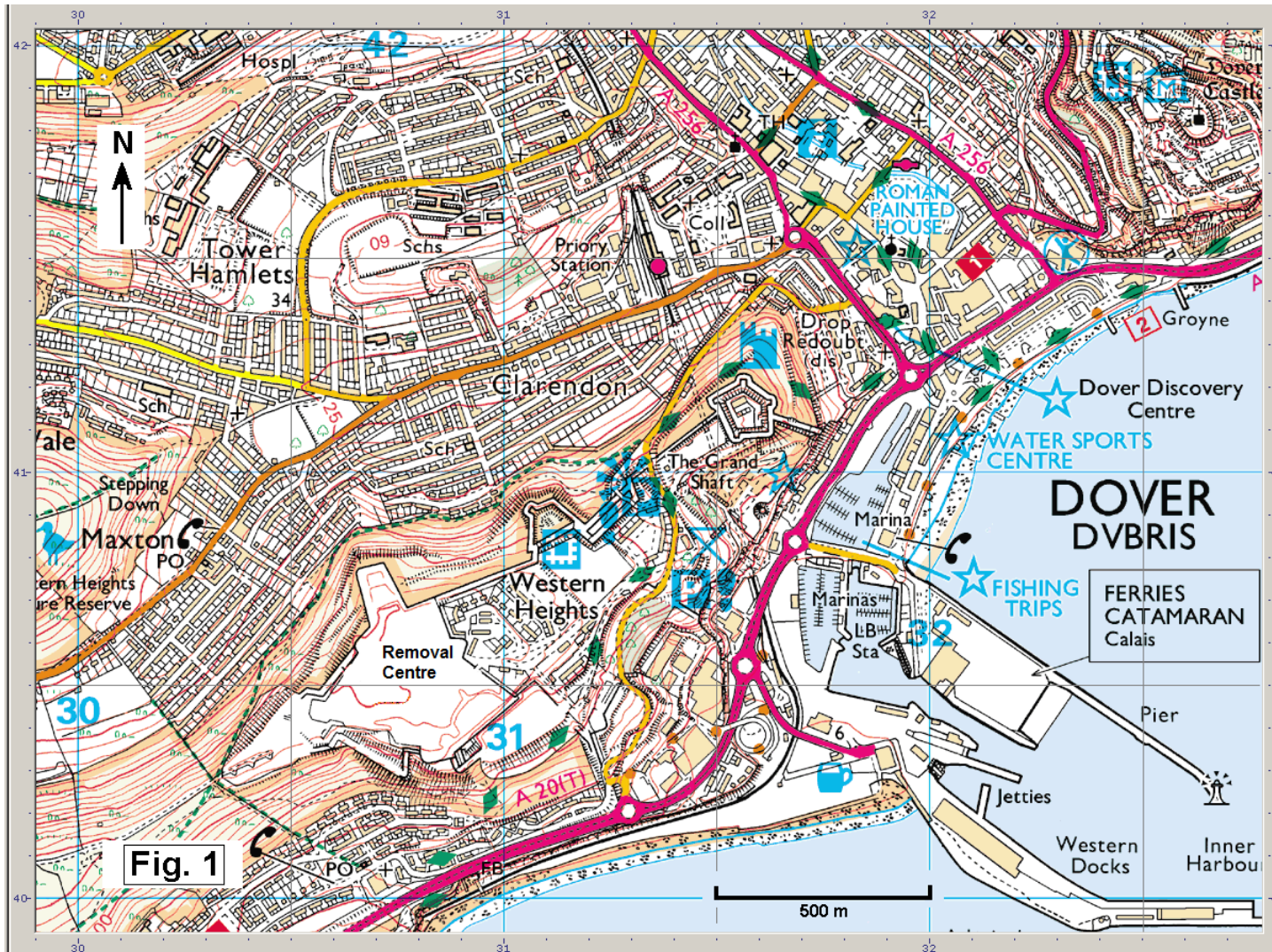
### FUTURE POTENTIAL OF AREA:

The complex of fortifications on the Western Heights at Dover represent a key site for the study of nineteenth-century military engineering. Every opportunity to investigate sub-surface remains should be fully taken-up. The potential for primary features relating to the late eighteenth-century defences here, as well as earlier, pre-fortress remains should not be overlooked.

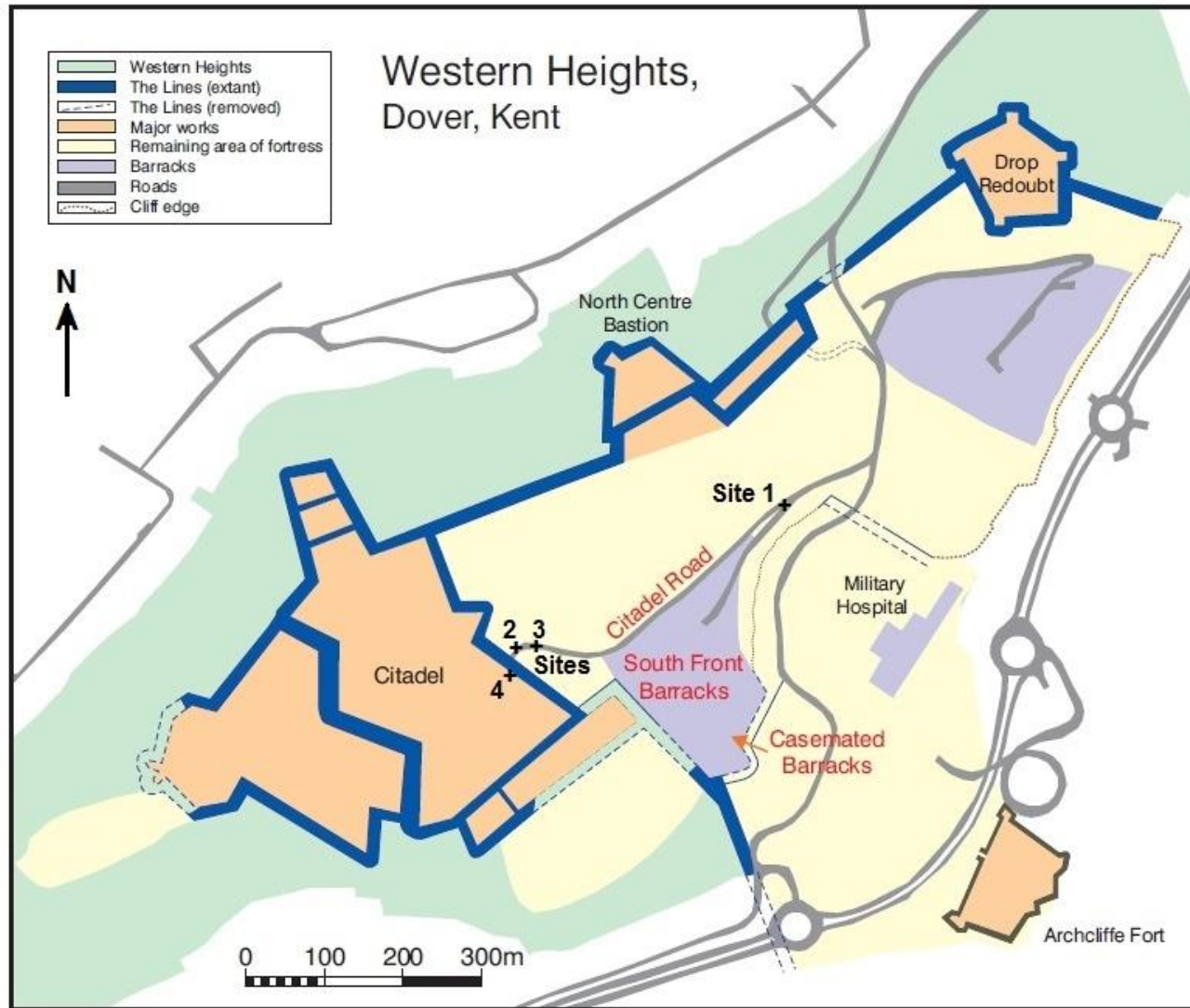
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Parfitt, K., 2009 *Dover Western Heights, Water Upgrade, 2007-8, Watching-brief Report* (CAT archive report).

Pattison, P., Menuge, A., and Williams, A., 2004 *The Western Heights Dover, Kent (No. 2: The Citadel)* (English Heritage Survey Report, revised 2004).



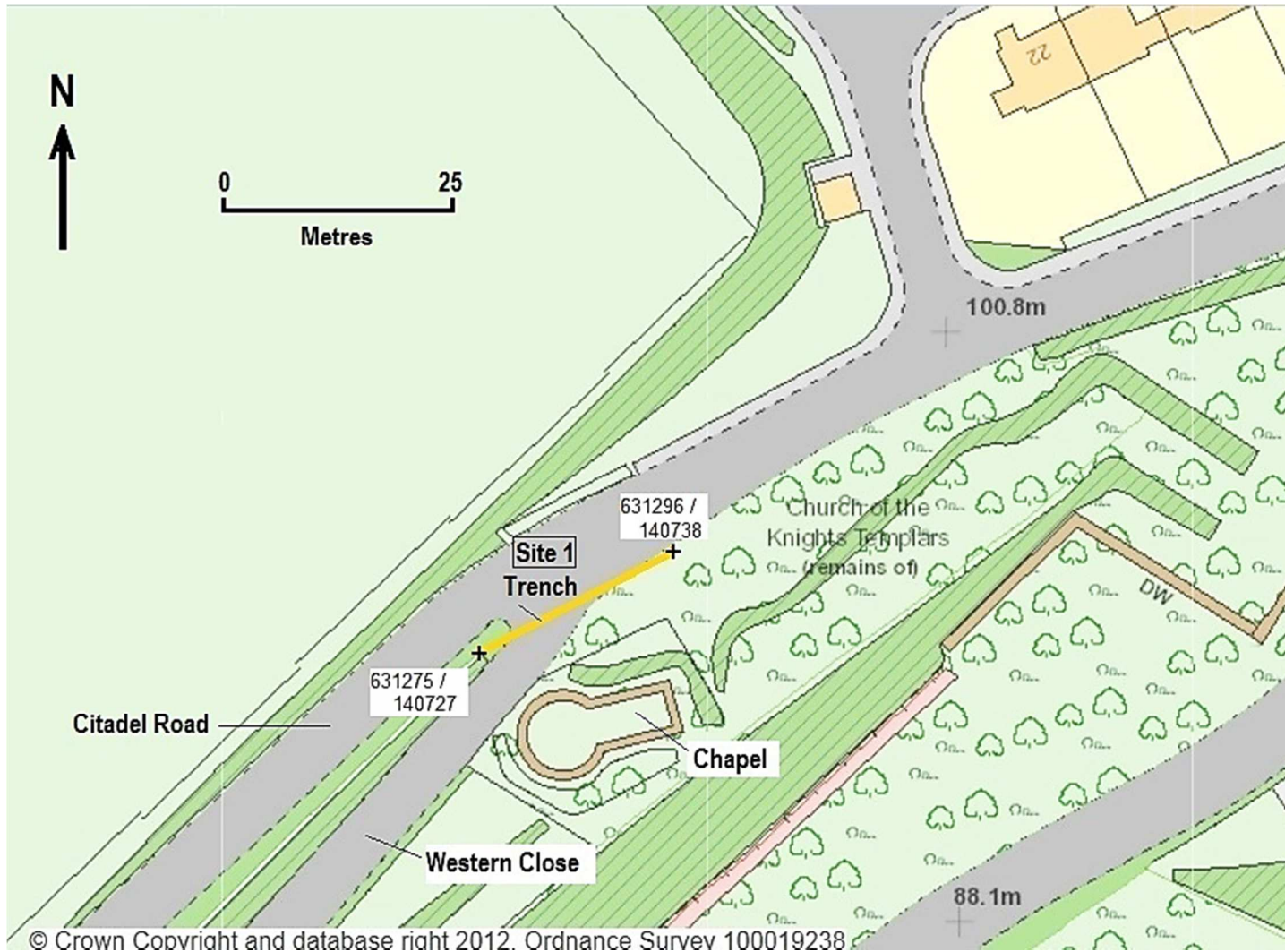
**Fig. 1** General location map of the Western Heights (Based on the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, ©Crown Copyright Licence No. AL100021009)



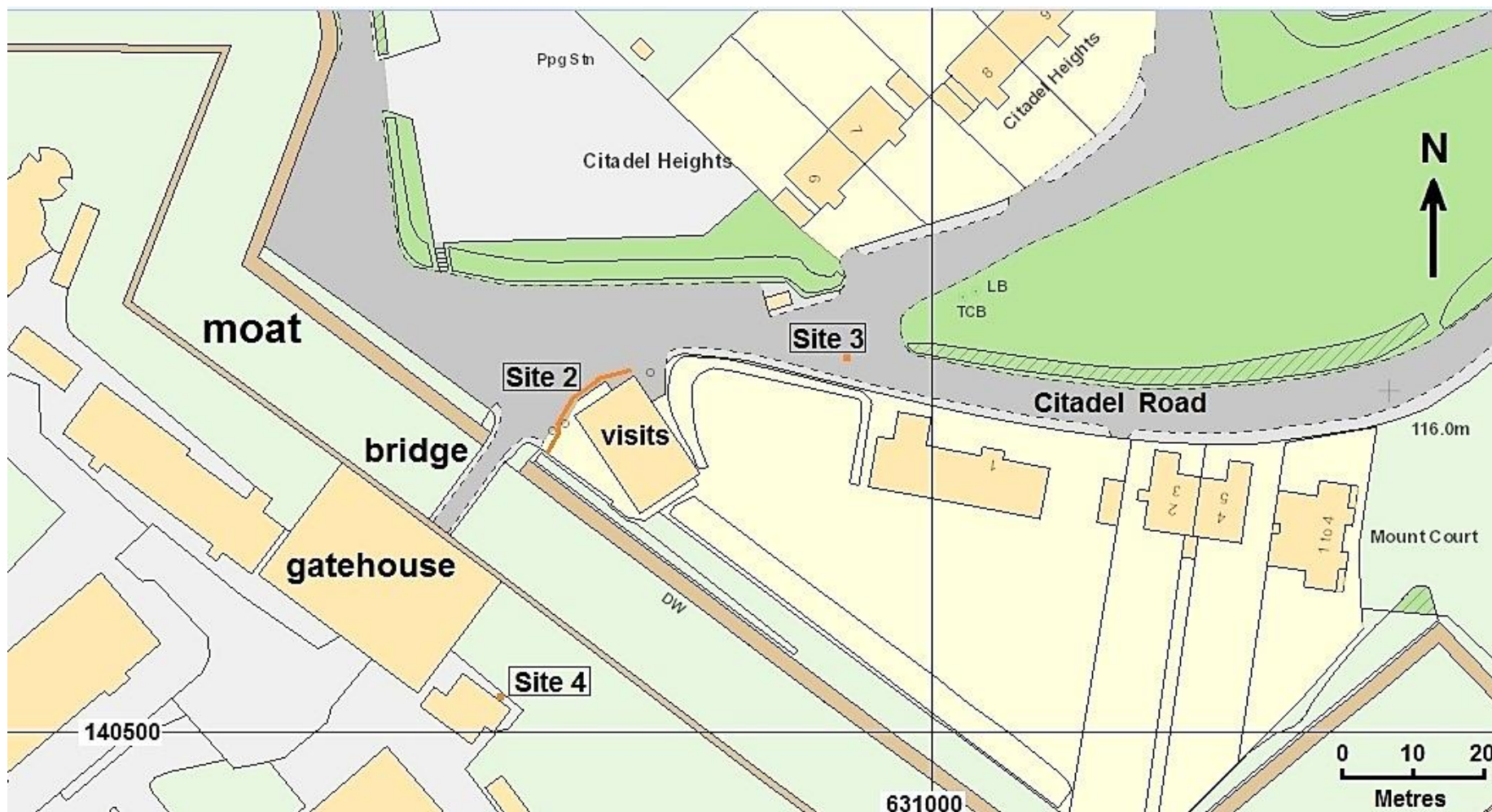
**Fig. 2** General plan of the Western Heights fortress showing location of investigated Sites 1–4 ©English Heritage



**Fig. 3** Aerial view of the Western Heights fortress showing location of investigated Sites 1–4 ©Google Earth 2008



**Fig. 4** Plan showing location of Site 1 adjacent to medieval chapel (Based on Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, ©Crown Copyright Licence No. AL100021009)



**Fig. 5** Plan showing location of Sites 2, 3 and 4 in area of the Citadel (*Based on the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, ©Crown Copyright Licence No. AL100021009*)