

Ground adjacent to the Stone Hut, Dover Castle

Watching-brief report

Project Code: SHDC-WB-15

NGR: 632515 141674

Report No: 2015/128

Archive No: 3578

August, 2015

Document Record

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Version	Prepared by	Position	Date	Approved by
01	K. Parfitt	Field Officer	August 2015	P. Bennett (Director)

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STONE HUT, DOVER CASTLE - SITE REPORT SHEET

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 10/8/15
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Arch. Trust		Individual: K. Parfitt
SITE NAME: Ground adjacent to the Stone Hut, Dover Castle (Figs 1 & 2)		CAT Archive Number: 3758
CAT SITE CODE: SHDC-WB-15		Schedule Ancient Monument No: 1019075
NGR: 632515 141674		ELEVATION: <i>c.</i> 74m OD
TOPOGRAPHY: Artificially levelled area		NATURAL: Chalk (not exposed)
FORMER LAND-USE: Grassed area outside buildings	FUTURE LAND-USE: As before	
LAND-OWNER: English Heritage	TENANT: X	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Small hand excavation to expose a broken water pipe (Plate I).		
EXTENT OF EXCAVATION: Size of excavation: Rectangular pit; 1.25m (N-S) x 0.80m (E-W) Depth: 0.95m		
NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Close observation of all excavation work		
GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE (as seen in west face of pit):		
<p>1 Disturbed dark grey-gritty loam with some brick and flint rubble; 0.35m thick, <i>over</i></p> <p>2 Laid flint surface (described below), 0.15m thick <i>over</i></p> <p>3 Light grey-brown clay containing moderate amounts of small brown flint pebbles and small chalk fragments, 0.45m thick (minimum).</p>		
NOTES:		
<p>The bulk of the excavation was through (waterlogged) previous trench fill over a modern plastic water pipe buried at a depth of 0.95m. In the western face of the excavated pit, however, some stratified deposits were exposed (Contexts 2 and 3, see above). These extended into the pit for a distance of about 0.15m and were left untouched (Plate I).</p> <p>Buried at a depth of about 0.35m was a clear surface, probably part of an earlier path or yard (Context 2). In detail, this consisted of a 0.10m thick base layer of large flint cobbles and nodules set in a black loam. The flints were surfaced with a 0.05m</p>		

thick layer of compacted black loam containing very frequent small brown flint pebbles (= pea shingle; ave. dia. of stones, 5–10mm). Based on nineteenth-century map evidence (Appendix, figs 3 and 4), this surface seems mostly likely to relate to the former Coal Yard (hence its black colour?).

The flint surface rested upon a dump deposit of clay (Context **3**; full thickness not exposed).

FINDS

No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

FUTURE POTENTIAL OF AREA:

The immediate area appears to be heavily cut about by numerous live services. It seems probable, however, that occasional small islands of stratified deposits still survive between the various service trenches. Further examination of the area would be worthwhile as and when any opportunities arise.

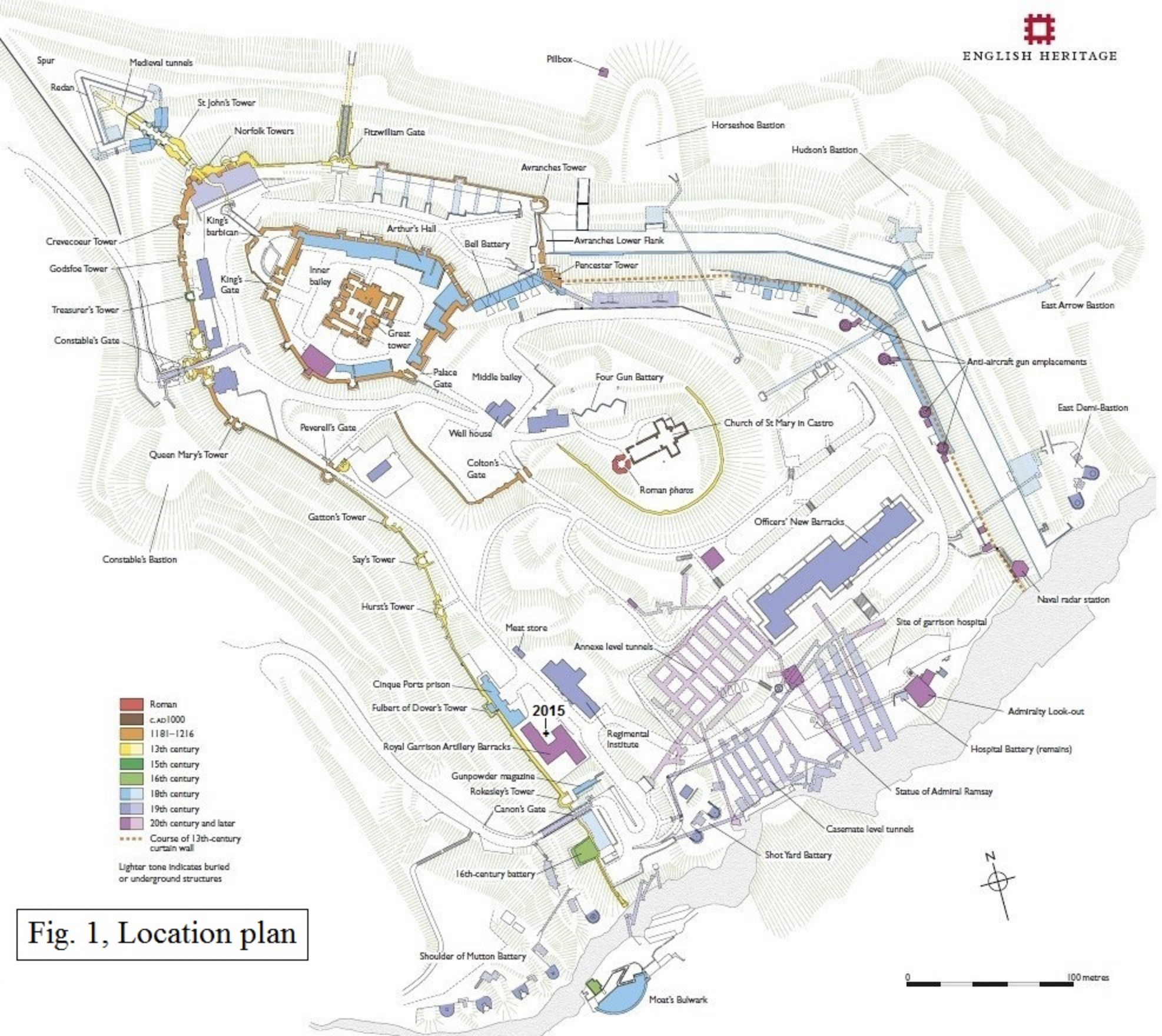


Fig. 1, Location plan

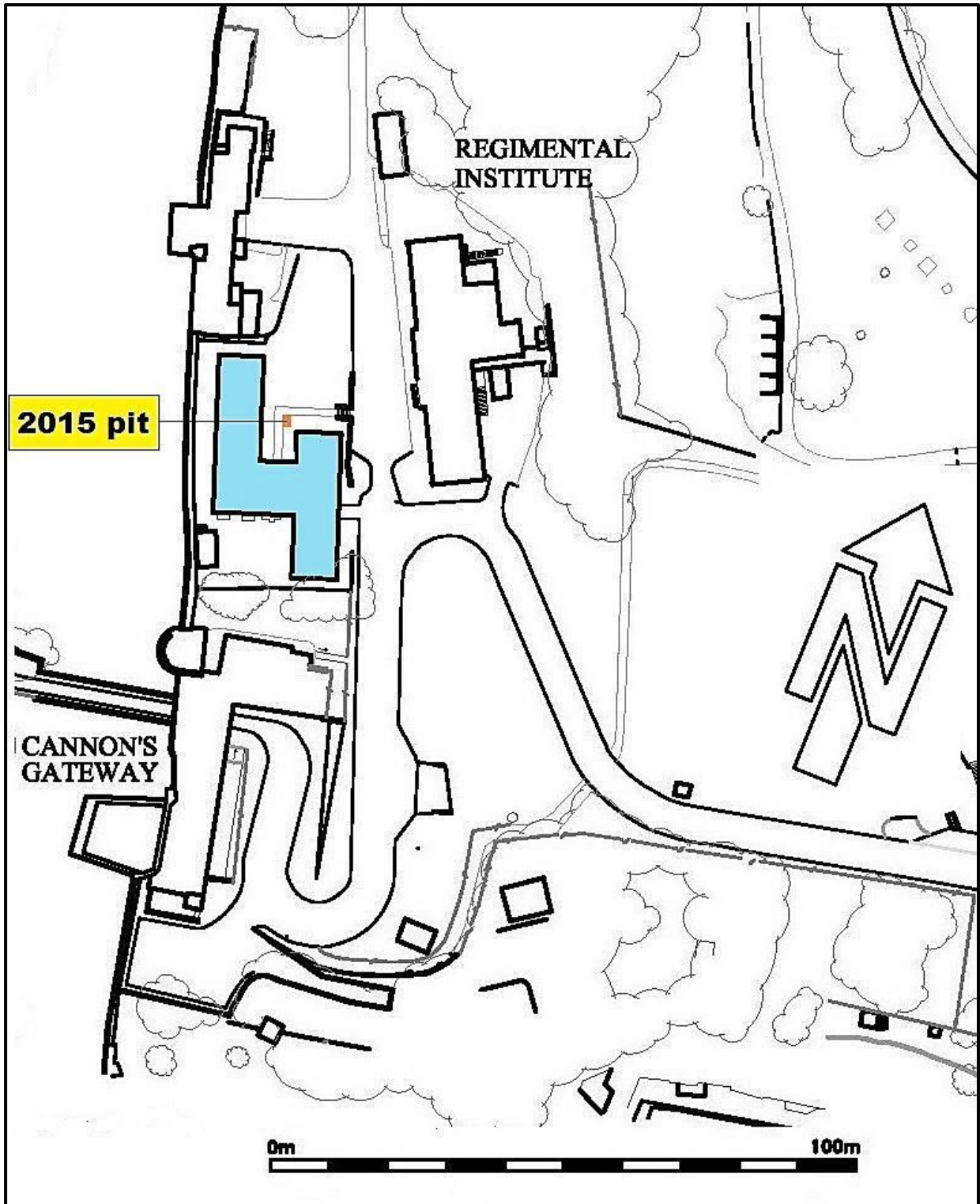


Fig. 2 Detailed location plan of the 2015 pit



Plate I General view of the excavated pit looking south. The dark ledge on the right-hand (west) side is a laid flint surface (Context 2)

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological
supervision and recording of ground works under a
watching brief

**Dover Castle,
Dover, Kent**

TR 32641 41807

August 2015



ENGLISH HERITAGE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Dover Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (National Heritage List for England no.1019075; RSM no. 30281) in the guardianship of English Heritage.
- 1.2 English Heritage is going to repair mains water services to the north of the Stone Hut, following pooling of water at ground level. This will necessitate a level of ground disturbance within potentially archaeologically sensitive areas. Archaeological attendance under a watching brief is required for the proposed works in order to monitor them, record any features or finds encountered during the works and to draw the attention of interested parties to any significant archaeological deposits or features uncovered during the works.
- 1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by English Heritage, and provides the basis for the conduct of the archaeological watching brief and subsequent mitigation and analysis, if necessary.

2. Archaeological and historical background

- 2.1 The leak is occurring in the southwest corner of the castle, at NGR TR3251741673. This location is to the north of the Stone Hut and southwest of the Cinque Ports Prison.
- 2.2 Early plans show this part of the castle as open ground and devoid of buildings until the 18th century, with the exception of a structure attached to Fulbert de Dover's Tower which was the predecessor of the house at the heart of the Cinque Ports Prison (see figure 1).¹ The national emergency of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars meant that Dover Castle was armed and garrisoned during this period and witnessed an expansion of military buildings into previously under-developed areas. This included the location of the leak.
- 2.3 An Ordnance plan of 1806 (figure 2) in the National Archives shows the arrangement in the early 19th century, by which time the existing magazine to the south of the Stone Hut had been constructed, the prison had been extended to include an exercise yard and, on the site of the Stone Hut two Royal Artillery stables had been constructed.²
- 2.4 An Ordnance drawing of 1815 drawing noted that the western stable was due to be sold and a drawing of 11 November 1855 by George Arnold shows that the western stable had been demolished by this date and the eastern stable used as a store. By 1884, the east stable was being used as a gun carriage shed and the land to the west, where the leak is located, was being used as a coal yard, defined by boundary walls (figure 3).³

¹ See, for example, British Library Cotton Augusts I.ii, f9 (a view of Dover of c.1575).

² NA, MR I 845.

³ NA WO 78/2451.

- 2.5 The general area was radically altered by the construction of the Stone Hut in 1912. This was built as Royal Coastal Artillery barracks, and its construction required the demolition of the remaining gun carriage shed and the exercise yard to the south of the prison. The precise change in ground levels associated with this work is difficult to determine but notes by Sir Charles Peers on the section of western curtain wall exposed by the works suggests that ground disturbance may have been substantial.
- 2.6 The Stone Hut was converted to its current use as an archaeological store in the 1970s, and it was at this point that the mains water services were introduced in their current configuration. There is no record of archaeological attendance during this work. The water pipe follows the path leading to the Stone Hut. The leak is occurring in the vicinity of the elbow at the right angle of the path.
- 2.7. *Potential Impact of the Works on Evidential Value*
Investigations will require excavation to a depth of c. 1m along previously-dug, existing services alignments. There is no documented record of archaeological attendance during the installation of the services. Although the archaeological potential of the area will have been locally eroded by the provision of the existing infrastructure, there is potential for disturbance of unstratified deposits during excavation and, possibly, observation of the section of the original service trench.

3. Proposed mitigation

- 3.1 Ground disturbance associated with the excavation will be hand-excavated to a depth of c. 1m, will follow existing services alignments and will be undertaken under the supervision of an attendant archaeologist..

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Attendance

- 4.1 Archaeological attendance under a watching brief will be carried out on the works outlined above. The purpose of the watching brief will be to preserve by record the presence and nature of archaeological deposits encountered during the works, and to signal to interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of archaeological material for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support treatment to a proper and satisfactory standard.
- 4.2 Ensure that only previously disturbed ground is opened-up during the works.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the procedures laid down in *Management of Research Projects in the historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN3: Archaeological Excavation 2008*.

- 4.2 The site grid is to be accurately tied into the National Grid, preferably by theodolite and located on the 1:1250 map of the area.
- 5.3 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features are to be drawn at an appropriate scale. All plans are to be accurately tied into the site grid.
- 5.4 All archaeological deposits and features should be recorded on drawn plans at 1:20 scale, recorded in writing on context sheets and photographed.
- 5.5 All artefacts and samples recovered during the evaluation are the property of English Heritage. Finds should be collected and stored by context, with adequate labelling and packaging.
- 5.6 Finds with particular importance for dating or of an intrinsic interest should be recorded by grid reference and height related to Ordnance Datum within context.
- 5.7 Any finds of human remains should be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If excavation is necessary, it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations.
- 5.8 The site-archive should be prepared in accordance with *Deposition of Archaeological Archives with the English Heritage Collections Team* (Version 4, May 2011). (A copy of the document is attached to this WSI.)
- 5.9 All fieldwork and subsequent reporting should be conducted by an archaeologist of recognised competence, suitably experienced in work of this character. Archaeological contractors will be required to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 5.10 The monitoring archaeologist should confirm, before site work begins, that an agreement that provides for the full implementation of the approved programme of archaeological work, including provision for post-excavation analysis, publication and archiving of the site, has been signed by the relevant parties.
- 5.11 In observing ground excavations on the site the monitoring archaeologist shall inform the contractor as soon as reasonably possible where he / she believes that archaeological features, deposits or structures have been exposed during the course of ground excavations, that will require identification, cleaning, investigation and recording.
- 5.12 Consistent with the requirements of this brief, the monitoring archaeologist shall carry out necessary identification, cleaning, recording and investigation with due consideration to the contractor's work programme and with regard to their desire to proceed with ground excavations and other building works without undue delay.

6. Reporting

6.1 Within four weeks of the completion of on-site works a separate report detailing the results of the watching brief should be prepared containing the following:

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion
- Index and location of archive
- References and bibliography
- Copy of project design

6.2 Hard copies of all reports issued should be sent to:

- Roy Porter, Territory Properties Curator (South), English Heritage, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford GU1 3EH (3 copies);
- Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford GU1 3EH
- the Kent Historic Environment Record

6.3 In addition, electronic copies in a digital format (Word document or .pdf) with both black and white and colour illustrations are to be supplied to the Territory Properties Curator for copying and distribution.

6.4 The fieldwork contractor will submit an entry to OASIS (On-line Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion. A digital project report will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service by the contractor upon completion.

7. Archive Deposition

7.1 The site archive and all artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited with English Heritage at the regional curatorial store (Stone Hut, Dover Castle, Dover, Kent) within one month of the completion of the final report. Contact should be made with Joanne Gray, Curator, Dover Castle (joanne.gray@english-heritage.org.uk; 01304 241892) to arrange deposition of the archive.

8. Monitoring

7.1 English Heritage will monitor progress. Depending upon the circumstances, English Heritage may also recommend that specific specialists visit the site.

Samantha Stones
Assistant Properties Curator (South), 4 August 2015

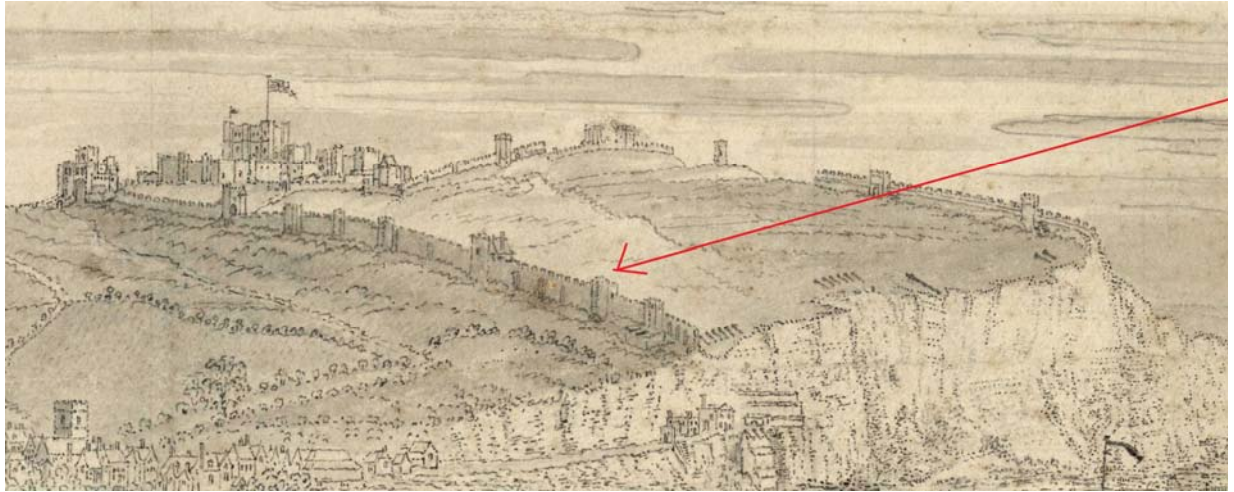


Figure 1. Detail from Buck brothers' view of Dover, showing the castle. Note open character of southern half of the castle. The arrow points to the area where the Stone Hut was later built in 1912.

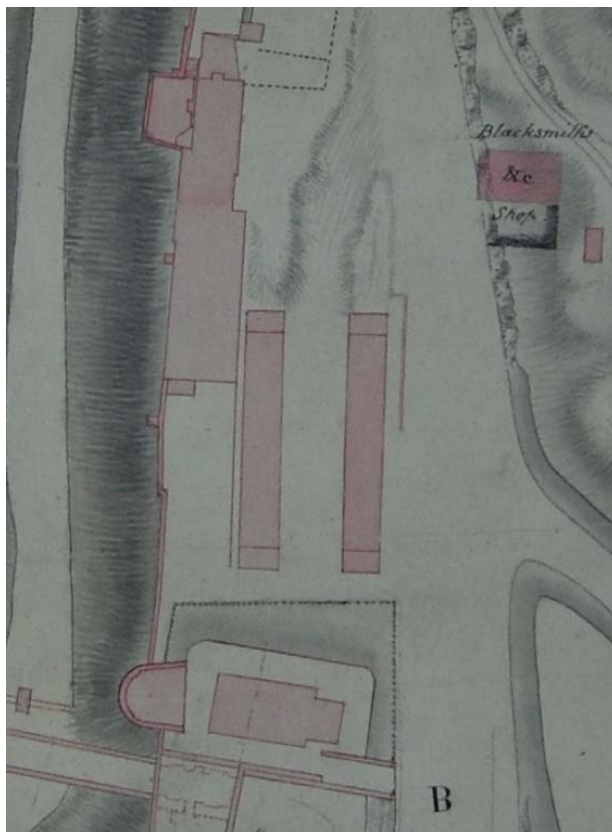


Figure 2. Detail from plan of 1806, showing the two stables running north-south, the magazine to the south and the Cinque Ports Prison built against the curtain wall. (NA MR I 845, 1806.)

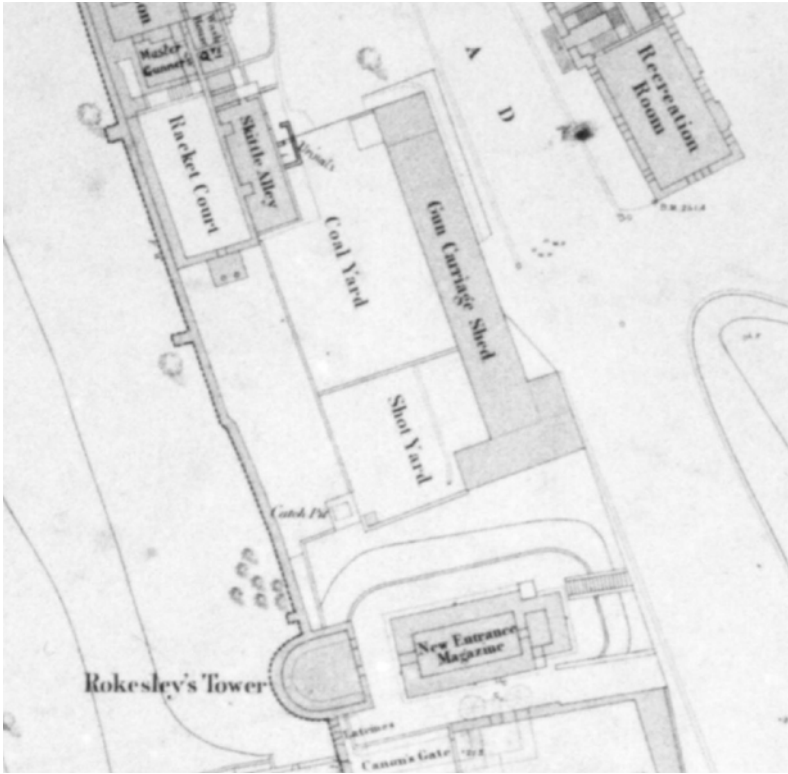
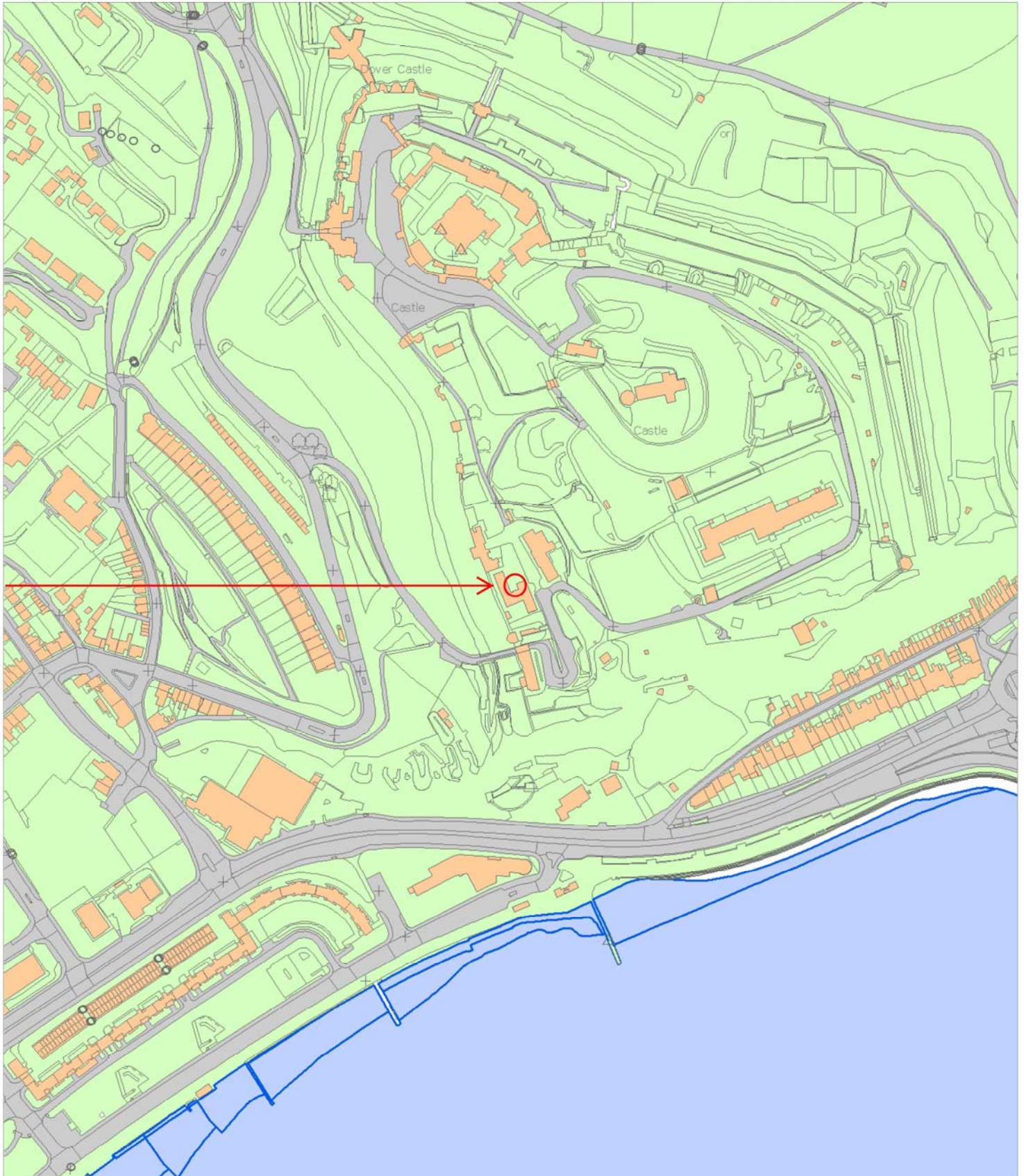


Figure 3. Detail from War Office plan of 1884, showing the east stable used as a gun carriage shed, and coal and shot yards established on the site of the demolished west stable. (NA WO 78/2451.)



Figure 4. Modern plan of the Stone Hut, with footprint of demolished stables marked in red and north and south boundaries of coal yard in yellow. The blue rectangle marks the approximate position of the water leak.

WebGIS Map



Map Scale 1:4,015

Map Centre 632514,141667

Date

04/08/2015

Dover Castle. General location plan showing area of leak.



Historic England

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

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