

Dover Castle,

New sign posts

Watching brief report

Project Code: DCFP-WB-17

NGR: 632439 142025; 632545 141845 & 632496 141756

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01	K. Parfitt	Senior manager	August 2017	P. Bennett (Director)

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Summary

1. English Heritage is replacing the existing fingerpost signage across Dover Castle. This necessitated some ground disturbance within potentially archaeologically sensitive areas. Accordingly, a watching brief was arranged to monitor the works and record anything of significance revealed.
2. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by English Heritage (Porter 2017) and the fieldwork was undertaken by the writer for Canterbury Archaeological Trust on 17 and 18 August 2017.
3. The sites of three post-holes for the new fingerposts (Post-holes 1, 7 & 9) were identified as having some specific archaeological potential and the excavation works at each of these locations was carefully inspected. In each case the new sign was erected on precisely the same spot as its predecessor.
4. No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were discovered at any of the excavations, with the new post-holes entirely confined to the area of the hole dug for the original sign post.

DOVER CASTLE WATCHING BRIEF - SITE REPORT SHEET 1

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 17/08/17
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust		Individual: KP
SITE NAME: Dover Castle; Post-hole 1 SITE CODE: DCFP-WB-17		CAT Archive Number: 3942
NGR: 632439 142025		ELEVATION: 101.20m OD
TOPOGRAPHY: Bottom of earthwork, north-west of King's Gate barbican. Level area off East Norman Road.		NATURAL: (Not seen)
FORMER LAND-USE: Grassed area	FUTURE LAND-USE: Grassed area	
LAND-OWNER: English Heritage	TENANT: X	
<p>TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Hand excavation of a single post-hole for a replacement sign post. Situated on a level grassed area.</p>		
<p>EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Sizes): Post-hole diameter: 0.38m Post-hole depth: 0.50m</p>		
<p>NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Observation during hand excavation of the new post-hole by a workman.</p>		
<p>GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Turf and brown sandy loam with frequent brown flint pebbles, topsoil, 0.05m, <i>over</i> 2 Grey-white pebble concrete, packing of previous post hole, 0.45m (min.) 		
<p>FINDS AND NOTES: No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were revealed. No unauthorised damage to the Monument occurred.</p>		

DOVER CASTLE WATCHING BRIEF - SITE REPORT SHEET 2

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 17/08/17
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust		Individual: KP
SITE NAME: Dover Castle; Post-hole 7 CODE: DCFP-WB-17		CAT Archive Number: 3942
NGR: 632545 141845		ELEVATION: c. 108m OD
TOPOGRAPHY: Foot of earthwork c. 16m north of Colton's Gate. Steep grassed bank off Harold's Road.		NATURAL: (Not seen)
FORMER LAND-USE: Grassed bank	FUTURE LAND-USE: Grassed bank	
LAND-OWNER: English Heritage	TENANT: X	
<p>TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Hand excavation of a single post-hole for a replacement sign board. Situated on a sloping grassed area</p>		
<p>EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Sizes): Post-hole diameter: 0.40m Post-hole depth: 0.60m</p>		
<p>NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Observation during hand excavation of the new post-hole by a workman</p>		
<p>GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Turf and dark grey-brown loam with moderate chalk grit, topsoil, 0.15m, <i>over</i> 2 Grey-white pebble concrete, packing of previous post-hole, 0.45m (min.) 		
<p>FINDS AND NOTES: No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were revealed. No unauthorised damage to the Monument occurred.</p>		

DOVER CASTLE WATCHING BRIEF - SITE REPORT SHEET 3

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Dover	DATE: 18/08/17
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeol. Trust		Individual: KP
SITE NAME: Dover Castle; Post-hole 9		CAT Archive Number: 3942
CODE: DCFP-WB-17		
NGR: 632496 141756		ELEVATION: c. 86m
TOPOGRAPHY: South-west end of Mortimer's Cutting. Gently sloping ground at junction with Knight's Road.		NATURAL: (Not seen)
FORMER LAND-USE: Grassed area	FUTURE LAND-USE: Grassed area	
LAND-OWNER: English Heritage	TENANT: X	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: Hand excavation of a single post-hole for a replacement sign board. Situated on a gently sloping grassed area		
EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Sizes): Post-hole diameter: 0.40m Post-hole depth: 0.65m		
NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION: Observation during hand excavation of the new post-hole by a workman		
GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE: 1 Turf and dark brown loam with moderate small chalk pieces (contained a broken cast iron sash window weight – not retained), topsoil 0.20m, <i>over</i> 2 Grey-white pebble concrete, packing of previous post hole, 0.45m (min.)		
FINDS AND NOTES: No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were revealed. No unauthorised damage to the Monument occurred.		
FUTURE POTENTIAL OF DOVER CASTLE: Although Dover Castle represents a key monument of national importance, general landscaping works over the past two centuries have served to truncate significant archaeological deposits across many parts of the site. All future excavations should, nevertheless, be monitored since the depth and survival of archaeological deposits is not closely defined.		

REFERENCE

Porter, R., 2017 *Written Scheme of investigation for archaeological supervision and recording of ground works under a watching brief at Dover Castle, Kent* (EH July 2017).

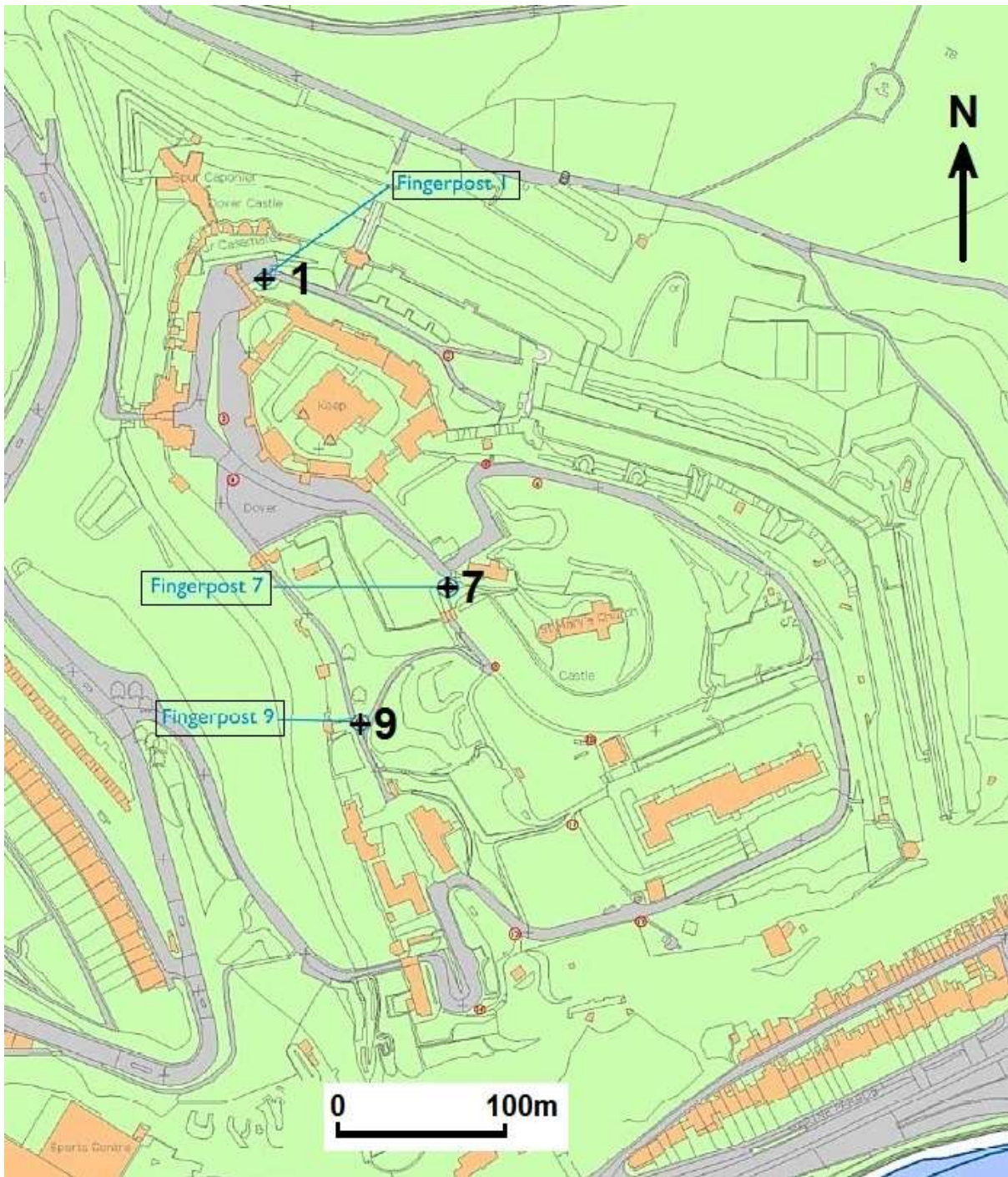


Fig. 1 General plan of Dover Castle showing location of inspected post-holes (PHs 1, 7 & 9)

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Fig. 2 General view of new post inserted into Post-hole 1, looking east



Fig. 3 Detailed view of Post-hole 7 after excavation, looking south



Fig. 4 General view of the site of Post-hole 9 before new post was installed, looking north



Fig. 5 Aerial view of Dover Castle showing position of new post-holes (PHs 1, 7 & 9) ©Google Earth