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# Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Accession No: PLYMG.2013.26  
Ref: 102400.03  
February 2014



**Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe  
Devon**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## Quality Assurance

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\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe Devon

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### Contents

Summary .....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project background .....	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
<b>2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 Designated sites.....	1
2.2 The Royal Citadel.....	2
<b>3 METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Aims and objectives .....	3
3.2 Fieldwork methodology .....	3
3.3 Health and safety .....	4
3.4 Best practice .....	4
<b>4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6 CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 STORAGE AND CURATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
7.1 Museum .....	4
7.2 Archive.....	4
7.3 Copyright.....	5
7.4 Security copy.....	5
<b>8 REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
8.1 Bibliography .....	5
<b>9 APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
9.1 Appendix 1: OASIS form .....	6

### Figures

- Figure 1: Location of Site and watching brief  
Front cover: Route through North Sally Port  
Back cover: Working shot of Site



# **Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe Devon**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by SSE Contracting Ltd (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable at the Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon (NGR 248100 053874).

The development comprised the installation of a 100m Low Voltage (LV) cable trench partially within, and to the immediate east of the Royal Citadel. The Royal Citadel is a Scheduled Monument (SM 1012943) comprising a mid-17th century bastioned artillery defence and incorporating a late 16th century artillery fort and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage requested an archaeological watching brief is maintained during any excavations undertaken.

No archaeological features or deposits were found. The watching brief was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.



# **Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe Devon**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by SSE Contracting Ltd. and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Alan Forster in this regard.

The watching brief was undertaken by Jonny Martin. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations by Linda Coleman. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



# Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe Devon

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by SSE Contracting Ltd (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable at the Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 248100 053874, hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The development comprised the installation of a Low Voltage (LV) cable for approximately 100m partially within, and to the immediate east of the Royal Citadel. The Royal Citadel is a Scheduled Monument (SM 1012943) comprising a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century bastioned artillery defence, incorporating a late 16<sup>th</sup> century artillery fort and an 18<sup>th</sup> century statue. The Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage requested an archaeological watching brief was maintained during any excavations.
- 1.1.3 A continuous archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations within or in close vicinity of the Scheduled Monument.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is positioned on the southern side of the city centre, on the eastern part of Plymouth Hoe, overlooking the strategically important entrance to the Cattewater in Plymouth Sound, on the south-west coast of Devon. It is bounded to the north by Lambhay Hill, to the west by Hoe Road and to the south by Madeira Road.
- 1.2.2 The Hoe is formed by a ridge of limestone which runs across the southern edge of the city, in places forming a substantial cliff along the waterfront. The topography of the area is characterised by a long north-facing slope rising from the line of Notte Street at its northern edge, cresting to a relatively flat ridge.
- 1.2.3 The Site within the Royal Citadel lies on relatively level ground at an elevation of c. 29m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) before dropping down to 25m aOD to the east.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site is shown as Plymouth Limestone Formation.

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Designated sites

- 2.1.1 The Royal Citadel is a Scheduled Monument (List Entry 1012943) and several buildings within the walls are listed, including the Royal Citadel Junior Ranks Club and Main



Barracks building to the immediate west. Both are Grade II listed (List Entries 1067146 and 1067147 respectively) and late 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The detailed information on the Royal Citadel below is taken from the English Heritage scheduling document with due acknowledgement.

2.1.2 The Site is within the Hoe Conservation Area.

## **2.2 The Royal Citadel**

2.2.1 The Royal Citadel on the Hoe is one of the most important landmarks in Plymouth, dominating the view from the sea and representing the extensive military history of Plymouth. The monument includes a late 16<sup>th</sup> century artillery fort, superseded by and partially incorporated into, a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century bastioned artillery defence, with associated outworks.

2.2.2 Historical sources provide the context of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century artillery fort, indicating its construction between 1592-1598 was in response to a perceived threat of attack by sea from the Spanish. Situated at the east end of the Hoe, it protected the entrance to the important sheltered anchorage of the Cattewater and the harbour in Sutton Pool. Contemporary plans show this fort consisted of two parts; a triangular fort with two bastions pointing to the north and west to defend against landward attack from the Hoe, and the lower fort containing the main armament in ramparts of earth and stone, called bulwarks, along the shore. The stone walls were approximately 4m high, and 1.4m thick at the base, accompanied by an outer ditch 6m wide. The main fort contained the captain's lodgings, barracks, a storehouse, stables, guardhouse, powder house and the medieval Chapel of St Katherine on the Hoe, an important landmark for shipping. Parts of this fort have been revealed by partial excavation.

2.2.3 The late 16<sup>th</sup> century artillery fort was partially incorporated into the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Citadel, constructed between 1665 – 1675. The Citadel was constructed following a report commissioned by Charles II in 1661 on the defences in the west, due to a potential threat from the Dutch. The report identified shortcomings in the defences of the existing fort, which was adapted to incorporate as much as possible of the earlier fort and to maintain defence of the Cattewater while it was being built. The resulting Citadel was constructed as a six-bastioned walled fortification.

2.2.4 Within the Citadel fortifications, several buildings survive from the original 17<sup>th</sup> century internal layout, or incorporate 17<sup>th</sup> century features. These include the guardhouse, the Great Store and the Governor's and Lieutenant-Governor's houses. Other former internal buildings of the original layout are known from documentary sources and early depictions of the Citadel, but no above-ground remains survive. There were three terraces of two-storied accommodation for soldiers, and a three-storied accommodation block for officers, demolished in the 1890s. The powder house of the 16<sup>th</sup> century fort was repaired and continued in use in the Citadel. A medieval chapel dedicated to St Katherine was also situated on the Hoe; this chapel was demolished soon after the building of the Citadel and a new one was built in its present position; this may have happened by 1677 or possibly not until 1688.

2.2.5 Further improvements and repairs were undertaken in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to the fortifications, and continued in 1745 when the guardhouse was rebuilt. With the increasing threat of war with France, additional alterations in the 1750s focused on the area of the lower fort.



- 2.2.6 During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Citadel declined in importance as a fortress but was still important as a barracks. The later alterations to the fortifications and the construction of buildings within the Citadel in the Victorian period reflect this change of emphasis. Indeed, during World War II and possibly from as early as 1910, the Citadel had a training role. Major alterations and internal refurbishment of many of the buildings was undertaken in the 1980s to update the barracks to meet changing military requirements. The importance of the Citadel is recognised in the Scheduling of the ramparts, curtain walls and associated elements.
- 2.2.7 A number of the buildings within the Citadel are recognised as being of historic significance in their own right and are afforded the protection of Listed Building status.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should such remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2014), this is summarised below:
- 3.2.2 An archaeological presence was maintained during the excavation work for a LV cable where it was within or in the vicinity of the Scheduled Monument. The watching brief was maintained throughout initial excavations and was concluded when it was clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed has been exhausted.
- 3.2.3 A record was made of the on-site conditions and progress of groundworks using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* record sheets.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.5 Monitored works were referenced to the OS mapping.
- 3.2.6 A unique code **102400** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.



### **3.3 Health and safety**

- 3.3.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

### **3.4 Best practice**

- 3.4.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

- 4.1.1 The excavated cable trench measured up to 0.5m wide, 0.8m deep and approximately 100m in length, with the upper portion consisting of tarmac overlying hardcore. Beneath the hardcore, modern made ground deposits were recorded and comprised a matrix of gravel and stony fill in which other modern services were noted. No archaeological deposits or features were found.

## **5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

- 5.1.1 No artefactual material was found during the watching brief.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were found during the course of the watching brief.

## **7 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **7.1 Museum**

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project currently under the accession code **PLYMG.2013.26**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **7.2 Archive**

- 7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

### 7.3 Copyright

- 7.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 7.3.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report

### 7.4 Security copy

- 7.4.1 In line with current best practice (Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of a PDF/A file; PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

## 8 REFERENCES

### 8.1 Bibliography

ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

British Geological Survey information available at:  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html>

Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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SMA, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Wessex Archaeology, 2014, *Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, ref 102400.01



## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1: OASIS form

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-171066**

#### Project details

Project name	Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by SSE Contracting Ltd (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable at the Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon (NGR 248100 053874). The Royal Citadel is a Scheduled Monument (SM 1012943) comprising a mid-17th century bastioned artillery defence and incorporating a late 16th century artillery fort. The watching brief was undertaken between the 20th to the 28th January 2014, no archaeological features or deposits were found.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2014 End: 28-01-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	102400 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	PLYMG.2013.26 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DEVON PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon
Postcode	PL1 2NU
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SX 248100 053874 49.9222949898 -4.4409286805 49 55 20 N 004 26 27 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.00m Max: 29.00m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
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Project brief originator English Heritage  
Project design originator Wessex Archaeology  
Project director/manager Sue Farr  
Project supervisor J Martin  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

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### Project archives


Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Plymouth City Museum  
Digital Archive ID PLYMG.2013.26  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Plymouth City Museum  
Paper Archive ID PLYMG.2013.26  
Paper Media available "Diary", "Report"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Royal Citadel, Plymouth Hoe, Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Brennan, N.  
Other bibliographic details report number 102400  
Date 2014  
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology  
Place of issue or publication Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury  
Description A4 bound client report



	<p>— Watching brief area</p> <p>▭ Scheduled Monument</p>		<p>Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449.          Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2012.          This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>	
	Date:	19/02/14	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:25 000 & 1:500 @ A4	Illustrator:	LJC
Path:		Y:\PROJECTS\102400\Drawing Office\Report figs\WB\2014_02_19\102400_wb.dwg		

Location of Site and watching brief

Figure 1



# wessex archaeology

salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



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