

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Barnstaple, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 5559 3323	Number:
Subject: 17 Castle Street – a Listed building application for damp improvement works & installation of gas pipe associated with heating improvements		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 55377	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-148864	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number: BCS13	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 31.01.14	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of David Wellings of North Devon Homes Ltd (the Client) during groundworks in advance of damp improvement works at 17 Castle Street, Barnstaple, Devon. The work was carried out by S Walls in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI - SWARCHBCS13/1) approved by S. Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The development lies within the historic core of Barnstaple, and within an area of archaeological potential, particularly for evidence of Medieval activity. 17 Castle Street itself is a Grade II Listed building, which appears to be of early 19th century origin, although several of the buildings along this road (e.g. Number 25) are of probable 17th century origin, with significant and or total late 18th – Early 19th century remodelling.</p> <p>The area of the porch and the hallway of Number 17 were excavated by hand to a depth of 0.15-0.3m (see Figure 1). The present tiled floor (c.0.04m) overlay a concrete base which was broken up and removed (c.0.08m thick) this in turn overlay a gritty greyish-yellow sandy-silt with occasional brick and timber fragments (>50mm dia.). The formation level was set within this deposit of rubble. The footings of the walls to the hallway corridor were partially revealed, and seem to be constructed of 19th century red brick with a hard grey lime mortar bond.</p> <p>Within the entrance porch the level had been reduced by slightly more (0.30m) exposing the mixed brick and stone footings of two dwarf walls set against the east and west elevations of the porch. The eastern wall had been partially truncated by the insertion of a gas main entering the porch from the street. Presumably these footings formerly supported a timber floor, although they may simply represent a wider footing to the walls of the porch (and hallway?)</p> <p>Two sherds of White refined earthenware were recovered from the rubble layer and discarded.</p>		
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.		
Recorder: S. Walls	Date sent to HER: 06.02.14	

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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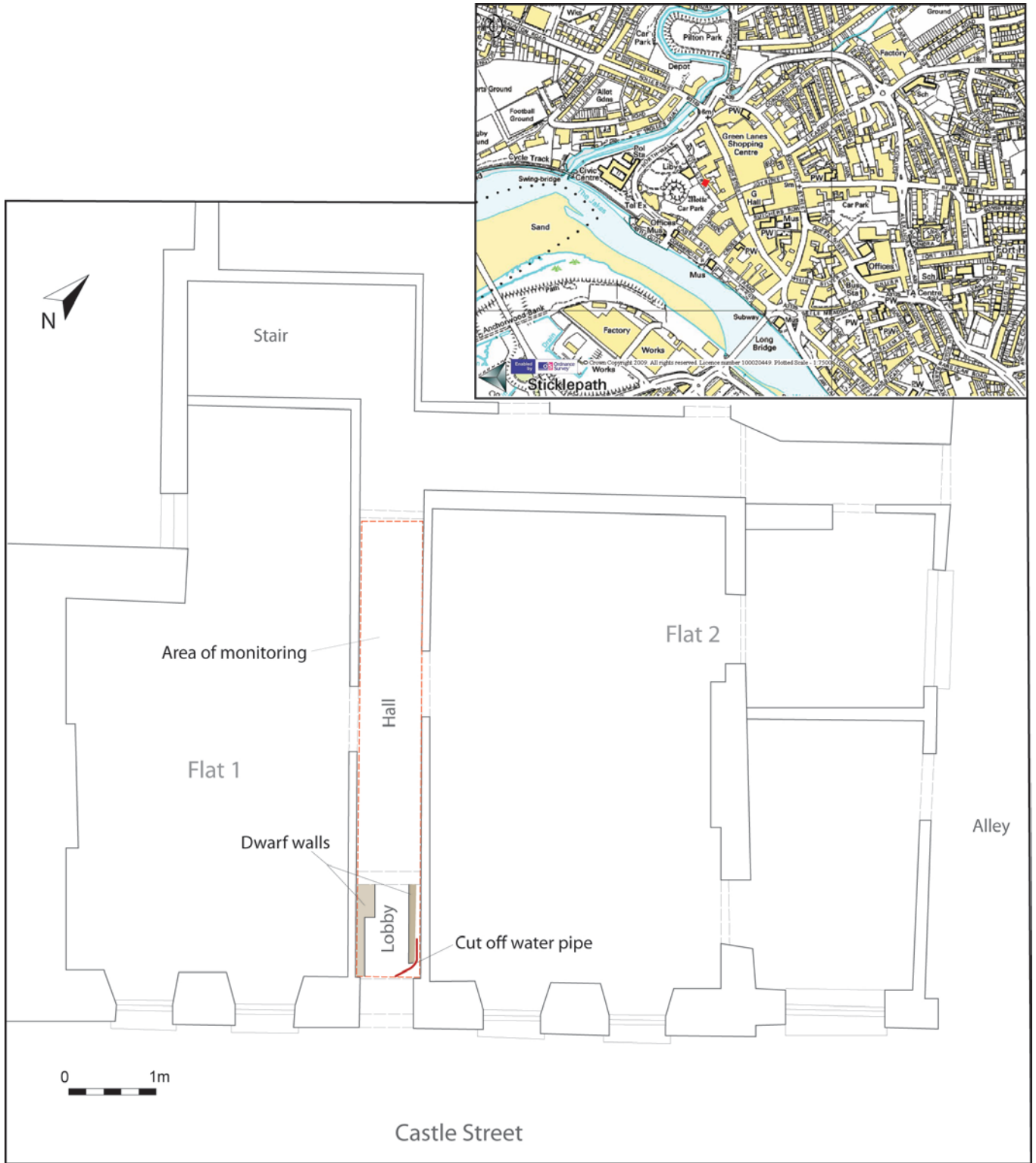


Figure 1: Site Plan and location.



Figure 2: Shot of the lobby showing the water pipe and lines of footings, from the northwest with flash (1m scale).



Figure 3: Shot of the finished level in the hall, from the northwest with flash (1m scale).