

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Barnataple, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 55938 33157	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at 49 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, Devon during groundwork associated with the conversion of offices and stores to four flats		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 60762	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-242629	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BBT16	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Darren Mayne of Woodward Smith Architects (the Agent) on behalf of Richard Stanbury (the Clients), during groundwork associated with the conversion of offices and stores to four flats at 49 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 in accordance with a Project Design drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team and Collette Hall, North Devon Council Conservation Officer.</p> <p>Barnstaple, in the deanery and hundred of Braunton is located on the confluence of the rivers Taw and Yeo (Lysons 1822). It is one of the oldest boroughs in England, having been chartered as a burgh in 930. Its place-name is derived from the Old English <i>bearde</i> meaning 'a battle axe' and <i>stapol</i> meaning 'a pillar'. This form of place-name is a 'totem-pole' name, referring to a religious or administrative meeting place. From the 10<sup>th</sup> century it had a mint and has ostensibly always been an important market town (Watts 2004). The proposed development is located within the Barnstaple Conservation Area. It abuts and is adjacent to, predominantly late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Grade II Listed buildings, including; No.46 (1385035) to the north, No.50 (1385036) to the east, No.54 (1385037) to the south and No.80 (1385051) to the west, among others. The site lies in the historic core of Barnstaple, and therefore the groundworks associated with this development may expose artefactual deposits associated with the medieval and later settlement of this area of Barnstaple. No.49 is currently a 'Warrens Bakery' and the site was ostensibly a working butchers and 'pasty' shop with elements of a shop front window-shelf and service doors at the east end of the north elevation. (Bibliography: Watts, V. 2004: <i>The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names</i>. Cambridge University Press; Lysons, D. &amp; Lysons, S. 1822: <i>Magna Britania</i>. Vol. 6. London).</p> <p>An area c.8m×6.80m across what was a storage room and the floor of the rear storage room (c.6.80m×3.40m) was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator and by hand to the developments formation level, which was c.0.32m below the original floor level. The larger area was reduced by 0.33m to the top of a 4" thick concrete floor (106) across the southern half of the room and rubble-soil debris (104) across the north half of the site. Concrete (106) was overlain by a linoleum floor and modern builders rubble, c.0.16m thick (105). Made-ground (104) on the north half of the site was overlain by Concrete (103), 0.06m thick, which was in-turn overlaid with brick building rubble, (102), 0.12m thick; and then the entire area (north and south) was overlaid by a screed, (101), 0.09m thick, a plastic membrane and then finally concrete floor (100) 0.06m thick. In the smaller, rear store room the entire floor was reduced by c.0.15m and at either end of the room by c.0.30m along c.1.10m wide trenches. A thin screed (0.03m thick), (107), was removed that overlaid a cement brick floor cut with drainage grooves, 0.06m thick, (108) which was bedded onto a thin layer of light brown-yellow, loose sand, which overlaid a dark yellow-brown, friable cilty sand with clay, earthy made-ground, (109), 0.21m+ thick. In the north-west corner of the room, beside the entrance, Made-ground (109) overlaid Cobbled floor (110), a patch c.1m×0.5m across was exposed, which will be preserved <i>in-situ</i>. Cobbled floor (110) contained brick fragments and lime mortar and sand inclusions. A 0.25m wide and 0.20m deep service trench that contained no features was excavated through the rear store. Other than the cobbled surface no archaeological features were present.</p> <p>The lowest exposed surface in the larger store room, Made-ground (104) contained White Refined Earthen Ware. In the smaller rear store room, Made-ground (109) contained small brick and tile fragments, lime mortar and charcoal flecks and small fragments of animal bone. All finds were discarded on site.</p> <p>A sufficient depth was not reached to expose natural geology or significant archaeological features. However, given the level of made-ground and only partial survival of a recorded cobbled floor surface, it seems probably that earlier features or deposits have been truncated by modern/post-medieval developments. A concrete raft will preserve the underlying strata <i>in-situ</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J. Bampton	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 07/02/2018	

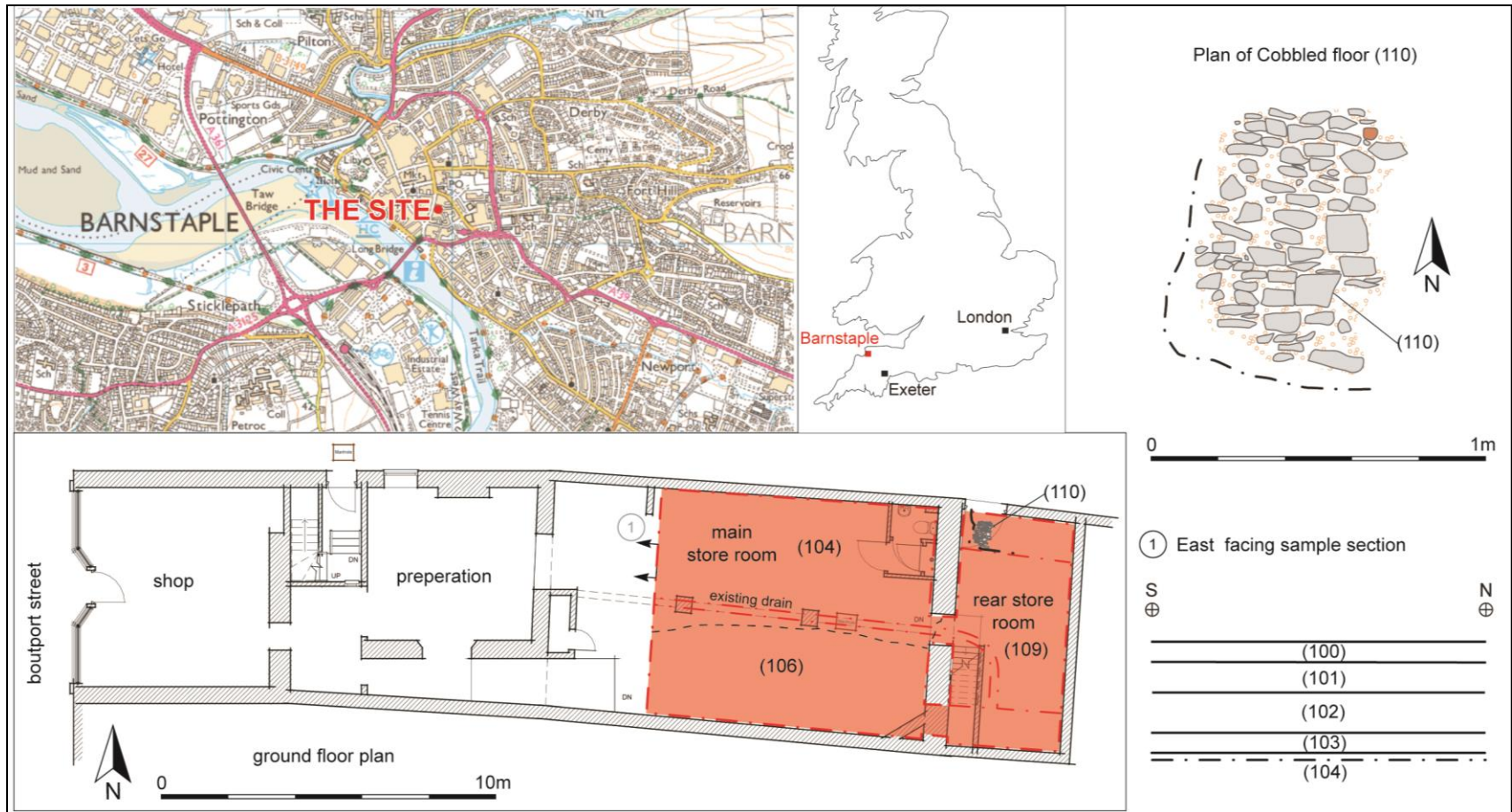


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN, SECTION DRAWING AND PLAN OF COBBLED FLOOR (110).





FIGURE 2: EXCAVATED PART OF THE MAIN STORE ROOM, SHOWING CENTRAL SERVICE; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SERVICE TRENCH THROUGH LAYER (109); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

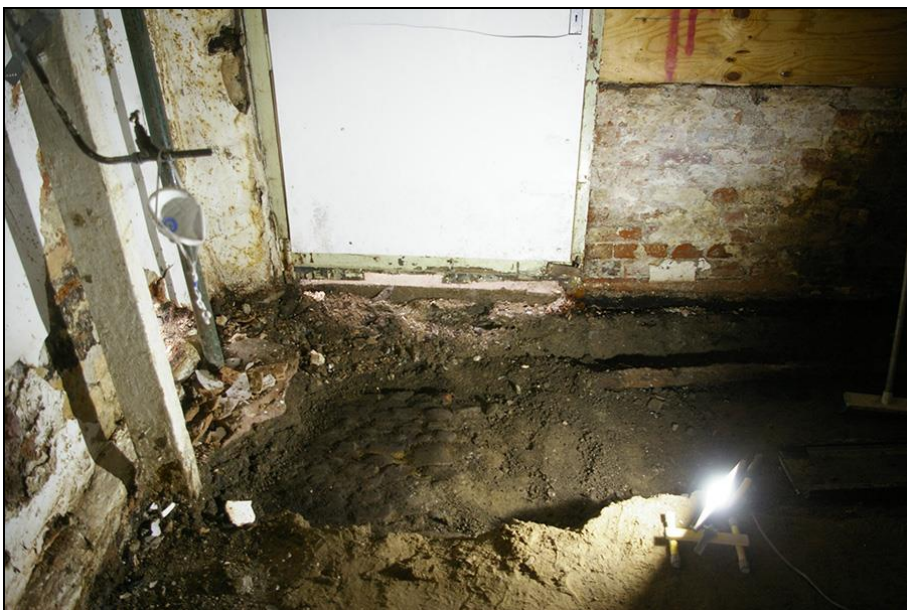


FIGURE 4: COBBLED FLOOR (110) IN RELATION TO ENTRANCE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).