

DARTMOUTH CASTLE, DEVON

(NGR SX 88629 50274)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Dartmouth Castle Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List
no. 1014610)

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
English Heritage

Document No: ACD1388/2/0

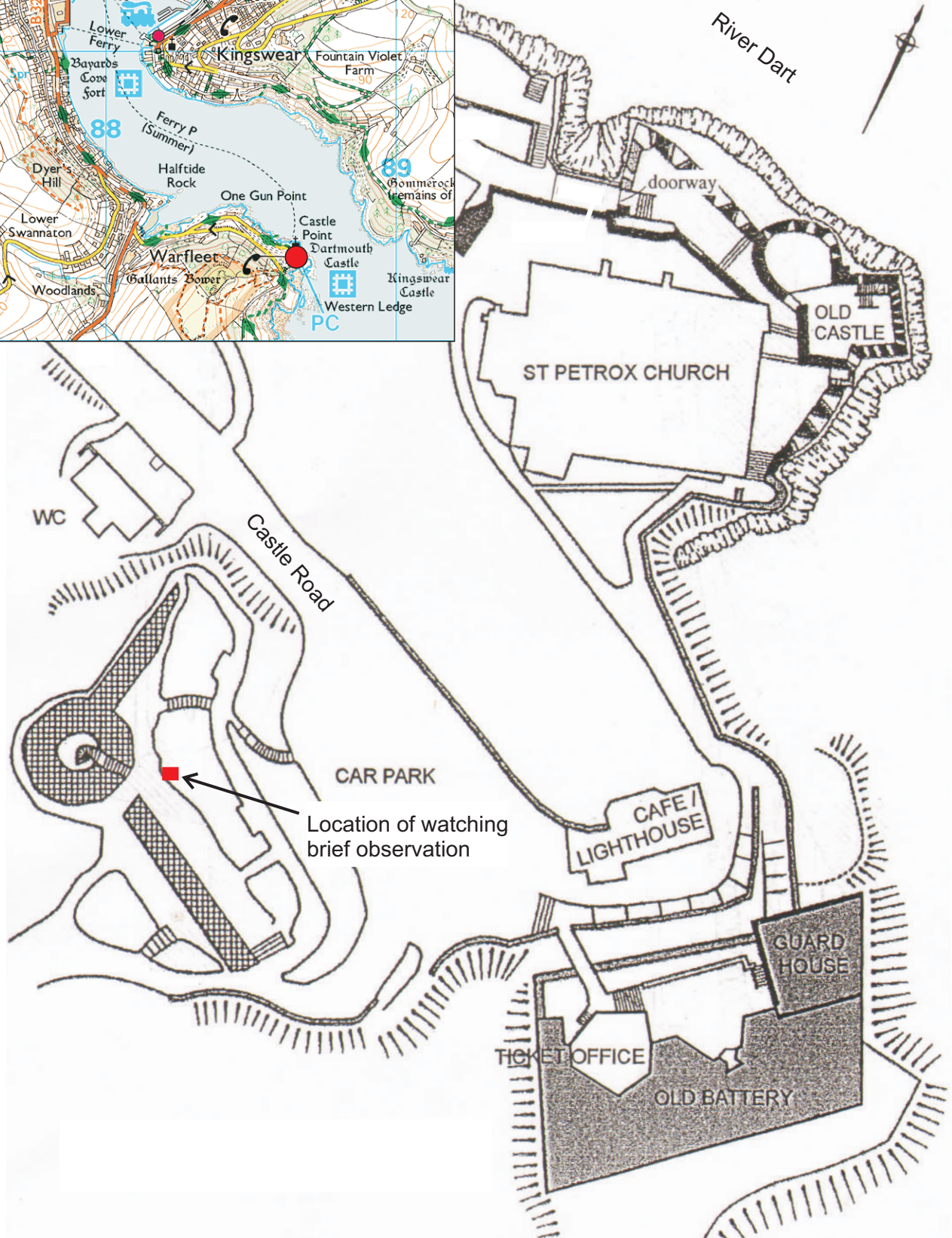
Date: June 2016



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Dartmouth, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 88636 50273	Number:
Subject: Dartmouth Castle, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief		Photo attached? Yes
Scheduled Monument no: 1014610	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 254056	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1388	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 17th May 2016	
<p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during the installation of a new visitor signboard at Dartmouth Castle, Dartmouth, Devon. The new signboard was located within the Hawley's Fortalice part of the castle which was established in the 14th century.</p> <p>The archaeological works were carried out by AC archaeology in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, and were commissioned by English Heritage.</p> <p>Dartmouth Castle is located to the east of the town of Dartmouth on a promontory on the south side of the River Dart where this waterway meets the English Channel. The castle gun tower and later battery were situated above the foreshore at a height of between 5m and 10m aOD, with Hawley's Fortalice located on raised ground to the south at around 25m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Devonian Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Dartmouth Group (British Geological Survey online viewer).</p> <p>The Castle is a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List no. 1014610), with the structural remains of Hawley's Fortalice being Grade I Listed (National Heritage List no. 1197563); the later gun battery being Grade II* Listed (National Heritage List no. 1297087).</p> <p>The installation site of the new signboard was located approximately 3.8m to the north-northeast of a breach in the curtain wall of Hawley's Fortalice on a grass verge adjacent to a footpath approximately 2.6m east-southeast of a covered seating area adjacent to the remaining tower of the fortalice (Fig. 1)</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>Monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of a posthole, which was carried out by hand. This measured approximately 0.35m square and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m (Plates 1-2)</p> <p>Topsoil, which comprised a mid greyish brown silty loam with frequent angular slate inclusions, was exposed to a depth of 0.4m below the existing ground surface, and continued below the base of the excavation. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the groundworks carried out for the new signboard installation, and no finds were recovered.</p> <p><i>Comments</i></p> <p>The location of the posthole placed it inside of the fortalice, but this area has been heavily landscaped for paths and planting. It is also suspected to be the location of a house built by the Carew family in the 16th century and probably ruined by the Civil War siege of 1646 (Brian Davison, 2000, <i>Dartmouth Castle</i>). The excavation of the posthole was confined to the topsoil and did not expose any archaeological features, deposits or finds.</p> <p>In line with the WSI this report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Christopher Blatchford, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 14 June 2016



0 25m
Scale 1:500@A4

PROJECT
Dartmouth Castle, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site and
watching brief observation



Plate 1: Location of signboard posthole, looking southeast



Plate 2: Completed posthole, looking southwest (scale 1m)

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