

BT Exchange, Barnstaple, Devon

(NGR SS 55552 33293)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

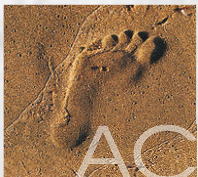
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Prepared by:  
Chris Caine

On behalf of:  
Western Power Distribution

Document No: ACD699/2/0

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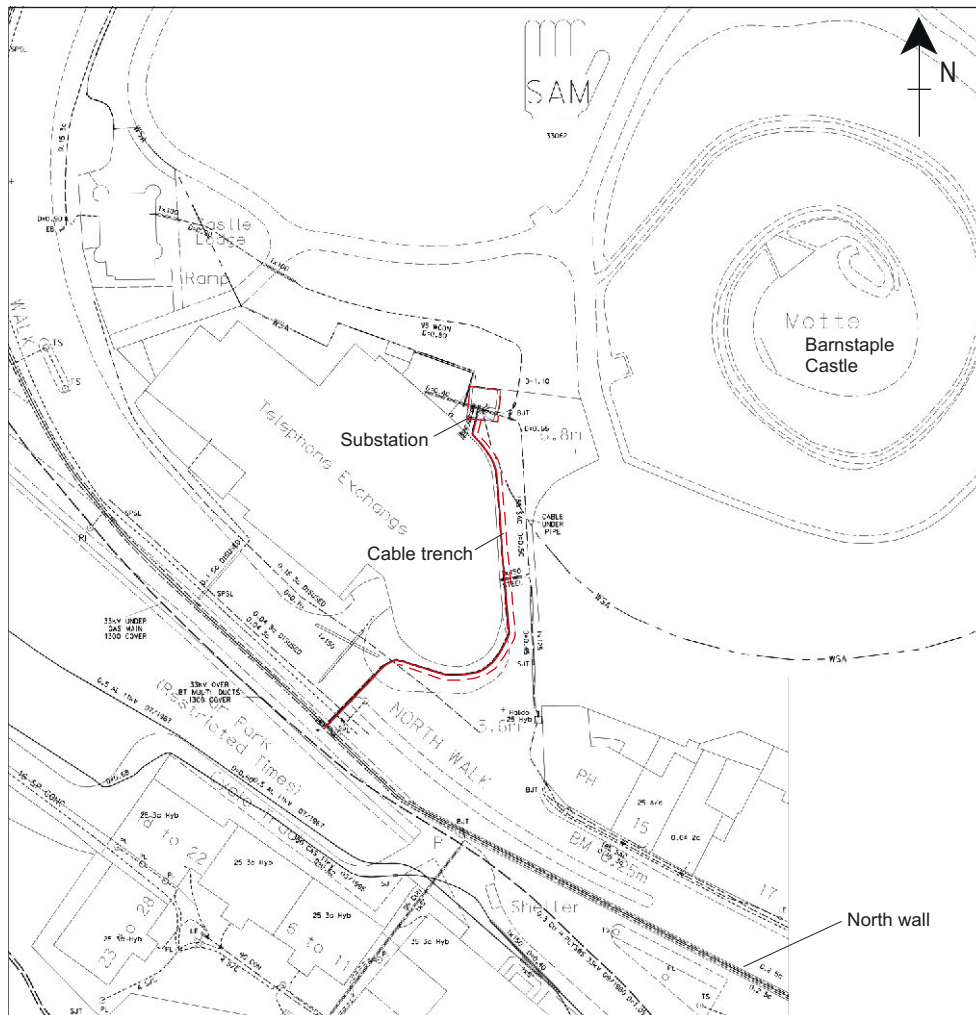


archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Barnstaple, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 55552 33293	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at the BT exchange, Barnstaple, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 287127	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Site Code:</b> ACD699	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 17th-18th of January and 6th of February 2017	
<p><b>Introduction</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology on land at the BT exchange, Barnstaple, Devon during groundworks associated with the construction of a substation and associated cable route. The site was located within the BT exchange car park and associated drive linking it to North Walk to the south (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). It was situated adjacent to Barnstaple Castle; a scheduled Norman motte and bailey (National Heritage List no. 1020922). The position of the substation was located to the west of the castle motte and outside of the scheduled area.</p> <p><b>Results</b> Monitored groundworks comprised the mixed hand and machine-excavation trenches for the substation and cable trench. The excavation for the substation measured approximately 3m long and 2.4m wide and was dug to a depth of 1.2m below existing levels (Plate 2). It was excavated onto a light brownish-red, clayey-sand re-deposited natural subsoil. This was overlain by dark grey sandy-loam (103) and light-yellowish-red clay probable levelling layers, which measured a total of 0.5m thick. These were sealed by gravel makeup for the existing tarmac car park surface.</p> <p>The cable trench measured 0.6m wide and was dug to a depth of 0.6m below existing levels (Plate 3). This was maintained within the upper portion of the deposit sequence described above.</p> <p>No archaeological features were exposed during the works.</p> <p><b>Finds by Charlotte Coles</b> A total of seven pieces of post-medieval pottery (162g) were recovered from layer 103. These are all 19th or early 20th century date and consist of a piece of 'willow pattern' Staffordshire ware transfer printed pottery, four pieces of industrial ware, and two pieces of North Devon gravel tempered pottery.</p> <p><b>Comments</b> The results from the monitoring of the groundworks have demonstrated that the depths of excavations were likely to have been maintained within layers of made ground or levelling, with these unlikely to have related to the adjacent castle. No finds were recovered from the lowest-exposed re-deposited natural subsoil layer, which was present from around 1.2m below existing levels, while the overlying deposit has been dated to the 19th to 20th century. The upper layer sequence is likely to have related to the construction of the BT exchange and associated current surfaces.</p> <p>This report represents the archive for the project. The paper and digital archive will be discarded.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Chris Caine, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> March 2017



0 50m  
Scale 1:1000@A4

Based on drawing provided by Western Power Distribution

PROJECT  
BT Exchange, Barnstaple, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site with monitored groundworks shown





Plate 1: General view of site looking north towards Barnstaple Castle



Plate 2: Showing substation trench. View to west (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Showing cable trench. View to south

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