

Report



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Cathedral View, 95 Gabalfa Avenue, Gabalfa, Cardiff

Report By: James McNicoll-Norbury BA ACIfA
Issued by: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain BA Phd MCIfA
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Submitted to:
Holbrook Homes Ltd

Prepared by:
RSK ADAS Limited
11D Park House
Milton Park
Abingdon
OX14 4RS

Tel. no: 01235 355638

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Quality Assurance

ADAS Project Code	Accession Code	Local Authority HER No.	Planning Application Ref.	OASIS Reference No.	Site Code
<i>Cathedral View, Gabalfa, Cardiff</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>16/01779/MJR</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>CVG17</i>

Author	Checked	Approved
<i>James McNicoll-Norbury BA ACIfA</i>	<i>Diarmuid O Seaneachain BA PhD MCIfA</i>	<i>Diarmuid O Seaneachain BA PhD MCIfA</i>

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In September 2017 RSK ADAS Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for Holbrook Homes Ltd during groundworks at Cathedral View, 95 Gabalfa Avenue, Gabalfa, Wales (ST 15789 78726, Figure 1).

The archaeological monitoring recorded made ground deposits and backfill of existing service trenches up to 1.20 m deep as well as the bases of previous concrete footings across the Site. These modern deposits truncated archaeologically sterile natural substrate.

No deposits or artefacts associated with the canal or the dry docks that were shown to exist up to the 1950's on historic maps of the Site were recorded.

It is likely that the site was previously levelled and truncated following the closure of the canal which resulted in the removal of deposits associated with the canal and the dry dock up to a depth of at least 1.2m below present ground level. The archaeological monitoring indicates that there is highly unlikely to be any potential for archaeologically significant deposits or artefacts to survive across the site up to 1.2m below present ground level the depth of impact for the foundations of this development

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Holbrook Homes Ltd, and thanks are due in this regard. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury, and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

1 Introduction

Project Background

1.1.1 In September 2017 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Holbrook Homes Ltd at Cathedral View, 95 Gabalfa Avenue, Gabalfa, Cardiff. The proposed development involves the construction of twenty-two residential units and associated infrastructure on the site (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Planning permission was granted in July 2016 for the construction of twenty-two residential units and associated infrastructure on the site (Planning Ref: 16/01779/MJR). As part of the planning permission archaeological monitoring was required during the groundworks to address condition 24 attached to the planning permission which states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

1.1.3 RSK ADAS Ltd were instructed to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS 2017). The scope of the historic environment mitigation was agreed and approved in this WSI by the local planning authority prior to the start of construction on site.

1.1.4 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE): *Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), the *RSK Technical Manual* (RSK 2017) and the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological WSI/Project Design Notes and Guidance 2017.

1.1.5 In carrying out this work Holbrook Homes Ltd were compliant with condition 24 attached to the planning permission.

The Site, Location and Geology

1.1.6 The archaeological work comprised the monitoring of foundation trenches on the development site. The site is located in the Gabalfa area of Cardiff on a small parcel of land south of Gabalfa Avenue and to the north of Llanidloes Road. Cathedral View forms the eastern boundary of the

site and to the west of the site are residential and non-residential buildings and the River Taft is located 317 m to the south. The site was previously occupied by a single building that was demolished and the rubble removed prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches.

- 1.1.7 The underlying geology of the development area is recorded as mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (BGS 2017). Superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium formed up to 2 million years ago are also likely to be present across the Site (ibid 2017). The nearest borehole data to the Site records 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.42m of brown clay which in turn overlay 0.91m of sandy gravel (Borehole ST17NE333- Cathedral View, Old Peoples Home). Ground level across the site is generally 16.8 m Above Ordnance Datum.

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

- 2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
- *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- *To record and analyse any archaeological remains that were revealed during the course of the works;*
- *The specific aim of the fieldwork will be to identify and record any buried archaeological remains or artefacts associated with the Post-medieval Glamorgan Canal Company dry dock or the Glamorgan Canal surviving within the Site boundary.*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales (Archaeoleg 2017);*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

- 4.1.1 The groundworks comprised the excavation foundation trenches on the site of Cathedral View, 95 Gabalfa Avenue, Gabalfa, Cardiff (ST 15591 78820).
- 4.1.2 There are sixty-one designated heritage assets recorded by Cadw within 1 km of the development. These heritage assets include three Scheduled Monuments, two Grade I Listed Buildings, two Grade II* Listed Buildings and fifty-four Grade II Listed Buildings (ADAS 2017). None of these designated heritage assets were impacted by the development.
- 4.1.3 There are two Architectural Conservation Areas recorded within 1 km of the Site and two Registered Parks and Gardens recorded over 900 m from the site. These were not harmed by the development.
- 4.1.4 The Historic Environment Record provided by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust HER (GGAT 2017) contains One hundred and three records for previously recorded heritage assets within 1 km of the Site. The large majority of these are located over 500 m to the south of the site around Cardiff Cathedral and the remains of the old Bishop's Palace.
- 4.1.5 The route of the former Glamorganshire Canal (PRN 01682s) is recorded to have run through the site prior to its closure in 1942. Further heritage assets are recorded as findspots of a Neolithic leaf arrowhead (PRN 00823s) and a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (PRN 01445s) and a gold spiral ring (PRN 01441s) of Prehistoric date within 750 m of the site. The Medieval Llystalybont Grange (PRN 00738s), which was part of Margam Abbey, was previously located 486 m to the east of the Site.
- 4.1.6 North Road, which is located 1.5km to the east of the Site, is thought to follow the route of a former Roman road. This Roman road is believed to have linked Cardiff to Brecon Gaer and Castell Collen in Powys. Much of this Roman road is presumed to follow modern roads and trackways as no cropmark or earthwork evidence has yet been identified in Glamorgan (ADAS 2017).
- 4.1.7 Historic mapping analysis indicates that the Glamorganshire Canal and dry dock, which were depicted as in use between 1880 and the 1940's, passed through the Site. The Glamorganshire Canal was originally constructed between 1790 and 1794 and ran from Merthyr Tydfil to Cardiff. It was constructed so that iron produced at the heads of the valleys could be transported south

to the city docks. However, as the railway network grew the canal could not compete commercially by 1886. The canal was finally closed to commercial transport in 1942 (Pontytown 2017; ADAS 2017).

- 4.1.8 Following the closure of the canal in 1942 the canal was likely backfilled for the subsequent construction of Gabalfa Avenue shown on the 1951-1952 OS map. Later historic maps show Residential development had also been constructed along the line of the former Glamorgan Canal (Old Maps 2017). Online historical aerial photographs from the last sixty years show that Gabalfa Avenue has been a residential area since the 1950's (Getmapping 2017).

5 Methodology

Introduction

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (ADAS 2017). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to excavate the foundation trenches within the watching brief area.
- 5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014* and *Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Project Design and Guidance 2017*.

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 5.1.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

Post-Excavation Analysis

- 5.1.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was required.

Archives and Deposition

- 5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with an approved local museum. A paper archive will be deposited at Cardiff Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which will be confirmed by the Cardiff Museum.

ADAS Project Team

- 5.1.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Moore. The report was written by James McNicoll-Norbury. The illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by James McNicoll-Norbury. The project was managed for ADAS by James McNicoll-Norbury.

6 Results

- 6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 6.1.2 The watching brief was carried out over the foundation trenches for the development which had the potential to impact on any buried remains relating to the Glamorganshire Canal within the site (Figure 2; Plates 1 - 8). The ground works consisted of the digging of the foundation trenches using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed 0.6 m wide bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The works were completed over five days (Thursday 7th to Wednesday 13th September 2017). The weather generally consisted of a mixture sunshine and rain (Plates 1 - 8).

Foundation Trenches

- 6.1.3 The foundation trenches which were monitored were excavated along the southern and eastern edges of the site. They were up to 1.2 m in depth and were up to 0.70 m wide (Figure 2)

Trench 1

- 6.1.4 Trench 1 was aligned SE-NW and measured up to 35.0m in total length. The latest layer of the stratigraphic sequence of this trench comprised a layer of modern demolition rubble (100) 0.20 m thick which overlay a layer of compact grey brown silt containing occasional stones (101). The compact grey silt layer (101) was up to 0.40 m thick and overlay the backfill of a modern service trench (102). The cut of this service trench (103) measured 1.10 m wide and had a depth of 1.20 m. Two layers of concrete (104 and 106) were recorded at separate locations at the eastern end of Trench 1. These concrete layers measured 1.20 m in width and each had a thickness of 0.20 m. The concrete covered yellow brown aggregate deposits (105 and 107) measuring up to 0.10 m thick.
- 6.1.5 These modern deposits cut a layer of brown silty clay (108) measuring up to 0.60 m thick, which in turn overlay the natural substrate consisting of gravels and silt (109).

Trench 2

- 6.1.6 Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE and measured up to 36.0 m in length. The latest layer of the stratigraphic sequence of this trench comprised a layer of modern demolition rubble (200) up to 0.20 m thick which overlay a layer of compact grey brown silt containing occasional stones (204) measuring up to 0.25 m thick. On the western edge of the trench the base of concrete footings (201) measuring 1.20 m in width and 0.18 m thick along with a 0.10 m thick layer of sand and gravel (202) were recorded. The cut of these footings (203) was recorded to truncate layer (204).
- 6.1.7 The layer of grey brown silt (204) in turn was recorded to overlay a layer of brown silt with stones (205) up to 0.70 m thick which in turn overlay natural substrate of gravels and silt (206) at the base of Trench 2.
- 6.1.8 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from Trench 2.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The archaeological monitoring recorded made ground deposits, modern service trenches and the bases of concrete footings across the Site to a depth of 1.20 m.
- 7.1.2 No deposits or artefacts which could be associated with the post-medieval Glamorgan Canal or Glamorgan Canal Company dry dock (Figure 2) were observed during the archaeological monitoring. It was considered that the potential for the remainder of the Site to contain Post-medieval remains associated with the canal to be negligible. The archaeological monitoring was therefore discontinued following consultation with the Local Authority Archaeologist.
- 7.1.3 It is likely that the site was previously levelled and truncated following the closure of the canal which resulted in the removal of deposits associated with the canal and the dry dock up to a depth of at least 1.2m below present ground level. The archaeological monitoring indicates that there is highly unlikely to be any potential for archaeologically significant deposits or artefacts to survive across the site up to 1.2m below present ground level the depth of impact for the foundations of this development.
- 7.1.4 In carrying out this work Holbrook Homes Ltd were compliant with condition 24 attached to the planning permission.

8 References

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Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth below modern ground level (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	Demolition rubble	35.0	0.70	0.20	Modern
1	101	Layer	Grey brown silt with small stones	35.0	0.70	0.38	N/A
1	102	Fill	Compact orange brown silty clay	0.70	1.10	0.62	Modern
1	103	Cut	Cut of Service Pipe	0.70	1.10	1.20	Modern
1	104	Cut	Concrete	0.70	1.20	0.20	Modern
1	105	Layer	Yellow brown sands	0.70	1.20	0.10	Modern
1	106	Layer	Concrete	0.70	1.20	0.20	Modern
1	107	Layer	Yellow brown gravels	0.70	1.20	0.10	Modern
1	108	Layer	Brown silty clay	35.0	0.70	0.62	N/A
1	109	Layer	Yellow brown gravels and stone	35.0	0.70	1.20	N/A
2	200	Layer	Demolition rubble	36.0	0.70	0.20	Modern
2	201	Layer	Concrete	1.20	0.18	0.05	Modern
2	202	Layer	Light brown sands	1.20	0.10	0.15	Modern
2	203	Cut	Cut of footing	1.20	0.70	0.20	Modern
2	204	Layer	Dark grey silt	1.20	0.0	0.25	N/A
2	205	Layer	Brown silty clay	36.0	0.70	0.70	N/A
2	206	Layer	Yellow brown gravels and stone	36.0	0.70	1.20	N/A

Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.



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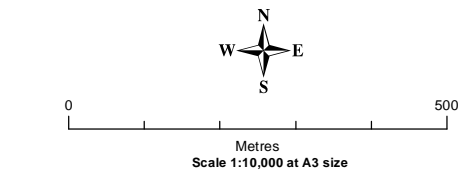
Cathedral View, 95 Gabalfa Avenue
Gabalfa, Cardiff

Figure 1: Site Location

■ Site Location

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 06.11.2017

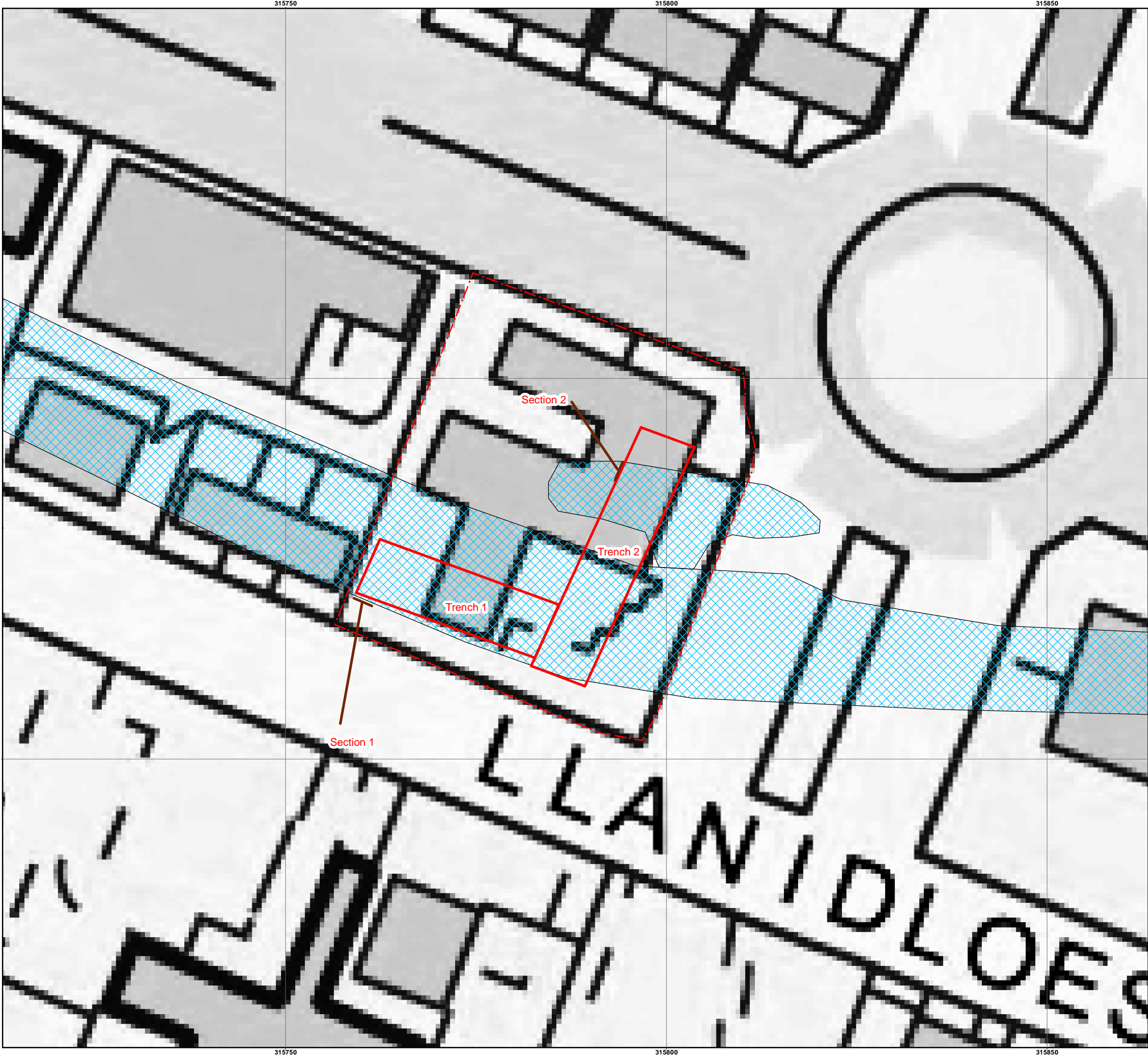
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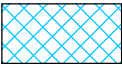




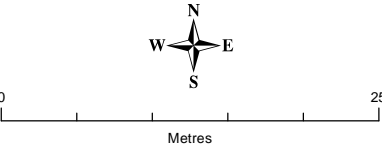
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Cathedral View, 95 Gabalfa Avenue
Gabalfa, Cardiff

Figure 2: Monitored Trenches

-  Site Boundary
-  Foundation Trenches
-  Location of the Glamorgan Canal and Dry Dock from 1942 OS County series Map of Glamorganshire

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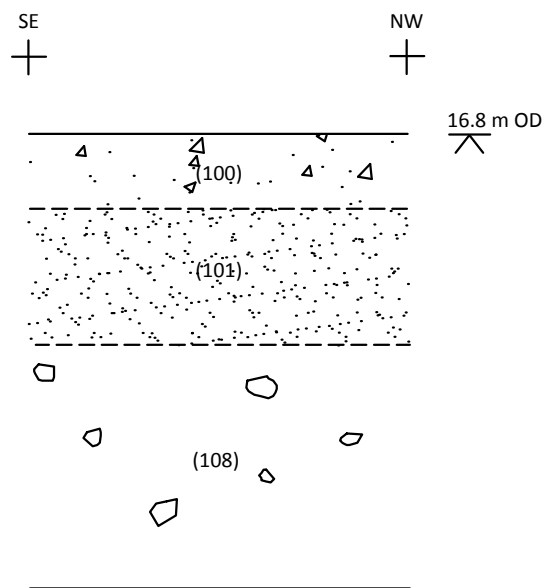
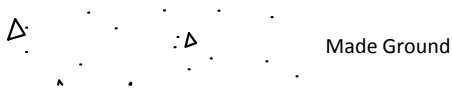
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Figure 3: Representative Sections

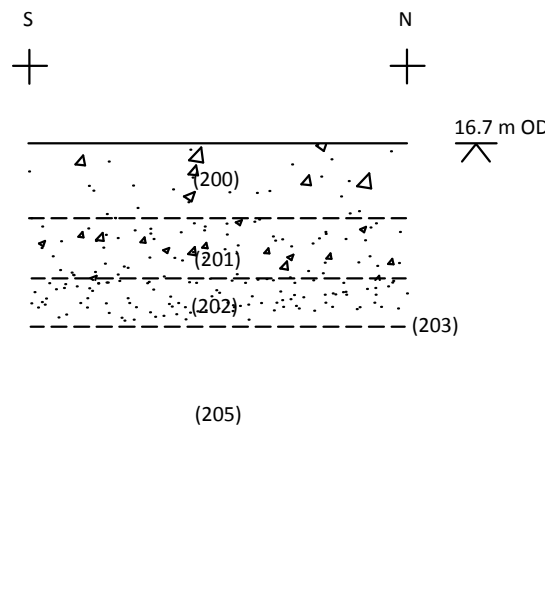
Legend



Section 1: North east facing
section of Trench 1



Plate 1: North east facing
section of Trench 1

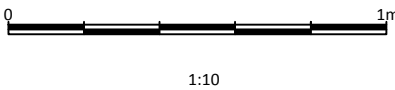


Section 2: East facing section
of Trench 2



Plate 2: East facing section
of Trench 2 and concrete base (201)

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Checked by: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 07.11.2017



Plates



Plate 1: North east facing section of Trench 1.



Plate 2: East facing section of Trench 2 and concrete base (201).



Plate 3: General shot of excavated Trench 1, looking south-west.



Plate 4: General shot of excavated Trenches 1 and 2, looking south-east.



Plate 5: General shot of service trench (103) in Trench 1, looking north-west.



Plate 6: View of west facing section of Trench 2, looking east.