



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Report

The Mill, Llandewi Skirrid

Watching brief

Planning Application No: DC/2010/00436.

Amendment DC/2013/00681



Prepared for:

Mr M Jones

By:

Dr N Phillips.



Summary

A planning application was submitted to Monmouth County Council (CCC) and as part of the planning process, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) advised the planning department that the proposed work at the site could likely impact on archaeological resources.

MCC in accordance with the guidance from GGAT imposed two conditions: a level II building survey and a watching brief.

Discussion with GGAT was able to confirm that the level II building survey condition had already been completed in July of 2012.

This document therefore is the report on the watching brief required by the second condition.

The watching brief was able to confirm that the groundwork excavated for the alterations and extension had no impact on any archaeological resources.

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Contents

Summary	1
Figures	3
Plates	3
Introduction	4
Site Location and Description	4
Geology and Topography	4
Brief archaeological and historical background	4
Aims and Objectives	5
Methodology	5
Data Presentation.....	5
Watching Brief Results	5
Finds	7
Discussion and Interpretation.....	7
Acknowledgements	7
Bibliography and References:	7



Figures

- 01 Site Location map
- 02 Trench Plan

Plates

- 1 Removal of soil to east of wheel pit
- 2 Removal of landfill for access to wheel pit
- 3 West section at south west corner of trench 1
- 4 Eastern trench 2 completed to 600mm
- 5 Detail of landfill
- 6 Overview of trenches 1,2 & 7 showing excavation to rear retaining wall, Fill evident top centre
- 7 West retaining wall with footings 1 & 2
- 8 Extent of bank removal
- 9 Extent of bank removal, final
- 10 Overview of bank removal
- 11 Trench 6 with 7 prepared
- 12 Overview of trench positions 6, 8 & 10



Introduction

This report has been prepared by Dr Neil Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, to record the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during a program of works: Alterations to dwelling with side and rear and side extension as an amendment to previous consent (2010/00436) the Mill, Mill Farm, Llandewi Skirrid NP7 8BL, (MON0955/GP), fig 01.

The original planning application (2010/00436) carried two conditions advised by GGAT, one requiring a level II building survey and the second an archaeological watching brief during alterations and ground works.

The first condition was completed in July 2012 and the document APAC Ltd. BS/Lws/11 deposited with Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) with two copies to the client and an archive deposited with Gwent Records office.

Receipt of the document BS/Lws/11, was confirmed with Neil Maylan during the discussions for the preparation of the design brief for this second condition.

The subsequent design brief was submitted to GGAT on 5th December 2013 and approved as fit for purpose.

Site Location and Description

The site at NGR SO 35253 15633, can be gained from the Abergavenny town centre by travelling north on the Hereford Rd and taking the first right after the old railway bridge onto Grosvenor Rd, the B4521, to Ross.

Continue past Maindiff Court Hospital and take the 2nd right after Wern du Camp site onto Elms Lane which leads to The Mill.

Geology and Topography

The solid geology of the site falls within the St Maugham's Formation Sandstone with a superficial deposits of Devensian Till; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/>

Brief archaeological and historical background

The former Corn Mill (RCAHMW NPRN 40058) at NGR SO 35253 15633: location map fig 01, is not a listed building.

Recent recording work from an earlier Planning Application condition: DC/2010/00436 resulted in a report which details the historical and archaeological background (BS/Lws/11 APAC. Ltd. 2012).

The report is available from the HER, Gwent Record Office and APAC Ltd.

In summary, the report revealed that the site was of interest in that the footprint of the original building; prior to recent work, was similar to that recorded on the 1881 Ordnance survey map.

Map progressions were interpreted to infer the sites abandonment by the early 20th century; however later mid century mapping suggests that the mill seems to have had a brief period of further use, possibly during the 2nd World War, which is backed up by local knowledge and some corroborating graffiti.

By the time of the building survey above, internally the building had been completely renovated whilst externally all that remained was the wheel in its wheel pit.

All traces of the '100 yard mill pond on 400 yard leat (including long tail-race' 'head about 18 ft. for overshot wheel)',(Coates & Tucker 1978) were gone.



Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record, within the resources available, any archaeological deposits uncovered during groundwork.

The watching brief also ensured that: in the event of archaeological resources of significance, being discovered and requiring treatment beyond the remit of the watching brief, that steps would be implemented to ensure that their treatment would be undertaken within the standards recommended by the IFA.

Methodology

Groundwork at the site entailed three periods of excavation 08th, 15th & 18th in January 2014 during which groundwork and alterations to the existing dwelling were completed.

Work on the first day, 8th January 2014 concerned the excavation of the east wall of the wheel pit in order to install a set of access steps to the pit.

Work on the 15th concentrated on removal of the bank to the rear of the property in order to clear a space for the extension.

The final work 18th consisted of the excavation of the footings for the extension.

All excavation was undertaken with a tracked mechanical digger.

During excavation, the stratigraphic record and initial contexts were noted, with a brief description given where appropriate.

Photographs were taken throughout the watching brief and recorded with a unique number in the appendix.

A full set of photographs are included in the archive and selected illustrative images appear in the plates accompanying this report.

There were no finds of any archaeological significance.

Data Presentation

Data referred to within the text is illustrated in Figures, and Plates with stratigraphic contexts in [].

Appendix I present a list and description of stratigraphic contexts revealed in the excavation.

Appendix II presents in spreadsheet format, details of all the photographs, including those not used in the text.

Watching Brief Results

Soils and ground conditions

The site conditions during the excavation were very poor due to extensive ground water a situation exacerbated by the almost continual rainfall of the preceding weeks.

All ground surfaces in the immediate area of excavation were covered with deep sticky mud and had to be spread with a mat of rubble to provide traction for the machines.

The majority of the trenches filled with water during excavation and the sides were unstable resulting in little opportunity for anything other than superficial recording.



The trench numbering relates to the sequence with which each was excavated and is included as an aid to the description.

Description

Wheel pit steps. 08/01/2014. (refer to fig 02) and appendices I & II

The excavation was limited to the east edge of the wheel pit where after the patio slabs [100] were lifted, the digger's bucket cut through sand bedding [101] and gravel [102], Plate 01, before reaching a disturbed deposit of

red sandy clay [103] with an assortment of landfill rubbish ranging from plastic bags to metal shopping baskets, Plate 02.

The landfill dates from the earlier work in 2002 by the present owner during consolidation work Plates 03 & 04 also included in the Building Survey: APAC Ltd DC/2010/00436.

Obviously, the wall shown at the back of the Plate 02 is of the same date.

Bank. 15/01/2014. (refer to fig 02) and appendices I & II

The second period of work concerned the removal of part of the bank to the west of the mill in order to accommodate the extension.

The bank used to separate the mill pond from the mill and supported a metal launder pipe feeding the mill wheel, (ibid.).

The pond was filled in during the later part of the 20th century and the bank against the west end of the mill was partially excavated during the 2002 in order to erect a retaining wall, Plates 05, 06 & 07).

The landfill [105] shown in the Plates 05, 06 & 07, was imported (*pers com*, Mr Jones), confirmed by the presence of various embossed bricks amongst the fill: PONTYPOOL BRICK CO, STAR NEWPORT, LITTLE MILL PONTYPOOL AND HOLT.

The undisturbed part of the bank had grass cover over a 160mm layer of orange/brown sandy soil [107] with occasional rounded stones Plate 08 & 09.

This overlay a 600mm layer of slightly darker sandy soil [108] with few stones before reaching, a more orange sandy clay with outcroppings of flat angular sandstone bedding [109].

Foundation trenches 16/01/2014. (refer to fig 02) and appendices I & II

Foundation trenches 1-5 situated between the known landfill [105] and the exposed bedding outcrop [109], were by necessity, quickly excavated and the footings poured.

The excavation of trenches 1-5 was undertaken in increasingly worsening weather where there was a danger of the bank collapsing which rendered any in-depth recording hazardous, Plate 10.

In order for the concrete to be poured, it was necessary to firm up the ground surface with imported crushed rubble, Plate 11, adding a new layer of deposit.

The final trenches 6 – 11 Plate 12, were dug in the order shown in fig 02, a sequence dictated by access for the mechanical digger.

All of the trenches had a fill consistent with [109] although the corner of trenches 6 & 8 reached a lower layer of orange clay/sand [110].

Trench 9 included part of the extension wall to the wheel pit which was removed carefully down ground level before excavation revealed a further instance of backfill resulting from the 2002 work.



Finds

Apart from landfill materials of various metals, plastics and brick deposited in 2002 the site produced no finds.

Discussion and Interpretation

The stratigraphy of the site was very straightforward a sequence of natural deposition cut only by a know period of previous work which resulted in backfill with imported landfill.

The work covered by this watching brief had no impact on any archaeological resources

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Lee and Andy for their careful and efficient handling of the work.

Bibliography and References:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
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| | Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief. The Mill, Llandewi Skirrid. Planning Application: DC/2013/00681 |
| Coates, S.D., & Tucker, D.G., 1978 | Water mills of the Monnow Valley and Trothy. Monmouth District Museum Service. |
| English Heritage | Management of Archaeological Projects (1991). |
| MCC | House holder Application for planning permission for works or extension to a dwelling PL.APP.NO:2013/00681 |
| | Design and Access Statement for Alterations to Dwelling with Side and Rear Extension as Ammendment to Previous Consent at Little Mill, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, Mon for Mr & Mrs Morgan Jones. 12 Aug 2013. |
| | 230755 North Elevation.
230774 Existing plans and elevations.
230830 Existing Site Plan
230719 Location Plan |
| | (Williamson Association., June 2010.) |
| | Existing Block Plan |



GGAT

MON0955/CG Proposed Extensions & External Works: The Mill, Mill Farm, Llandewi Skirrid. PL.APP.NO:DC/2010/01155. 28th Jan 2010.

MON0955/JBHD Proposed Extensions & External Works: The Mill, Mill Farm, Llandewi Skirrid. PL.APP.NO:DC/2010/00436. 30th June 2010.

MON0955/GP Alterations to dwelling with the side extension as amendment to previous consent (2010/00436), The Mill, Mill Farm, Llandewi Skirrid. PL.APP.NO:DC/2013/00681. 17th Sept 2013.

Institute of
Archaeologists.

Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. 2013.

Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology. 2008.

Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. 2013.

Powell Architecture

Plans & Drawings:

Alterations and Extension to Little Mill, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, NP7 8BL Existing Plans Elevations and location Plan. PA/MJ/01 17/06/13

Alterations and Extension to Little Mill, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, NP7 8BL Proposed Plans Elevations and location Plan. PA/MJ/02 17/06/13

Alterations and Extension to Little Mill, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, NP7 8BL Existing & Proposed Block Plans. PA/MJ/03 08/08/13

Neil Phillips, AIFA.

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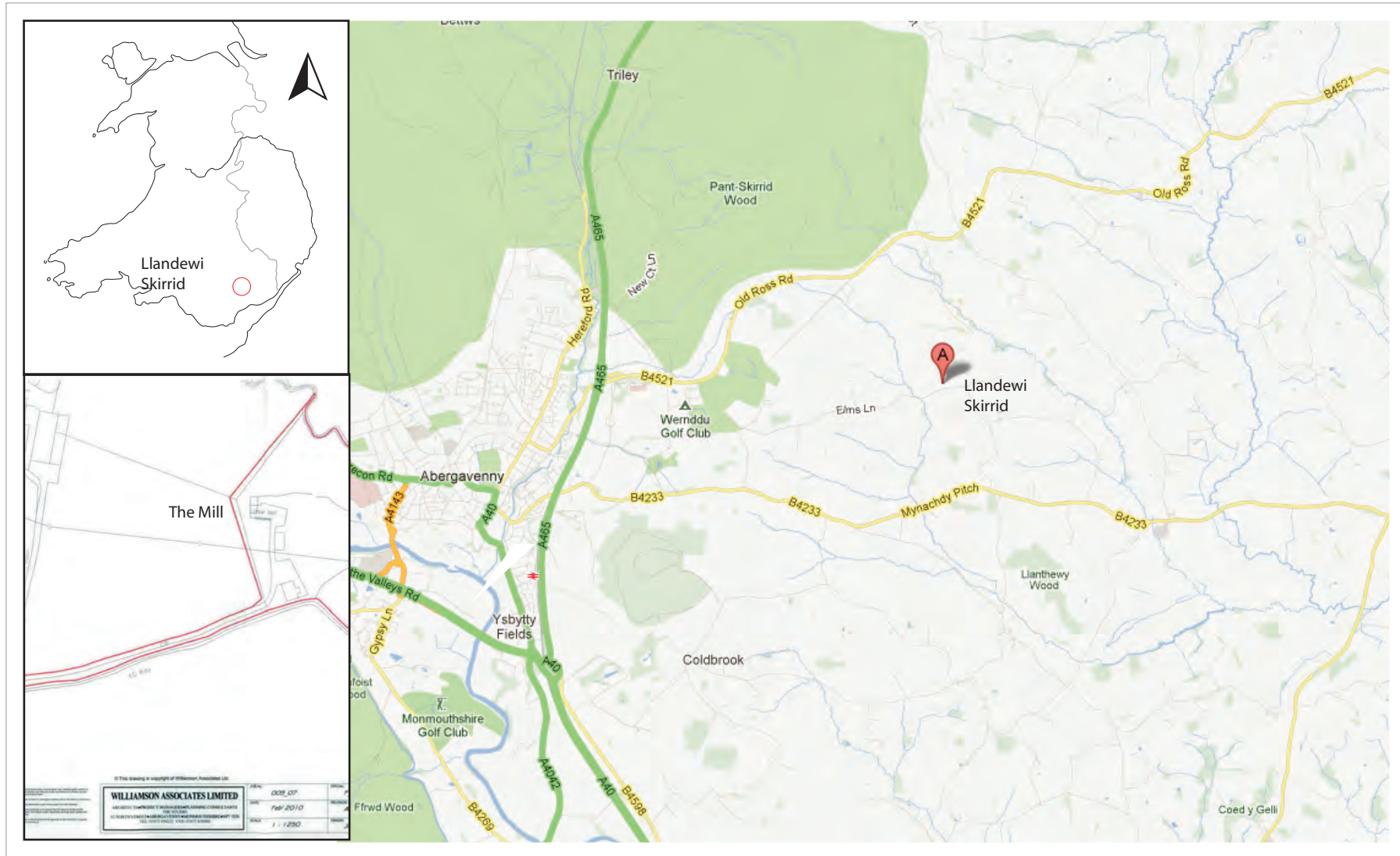


Fig 01: Location

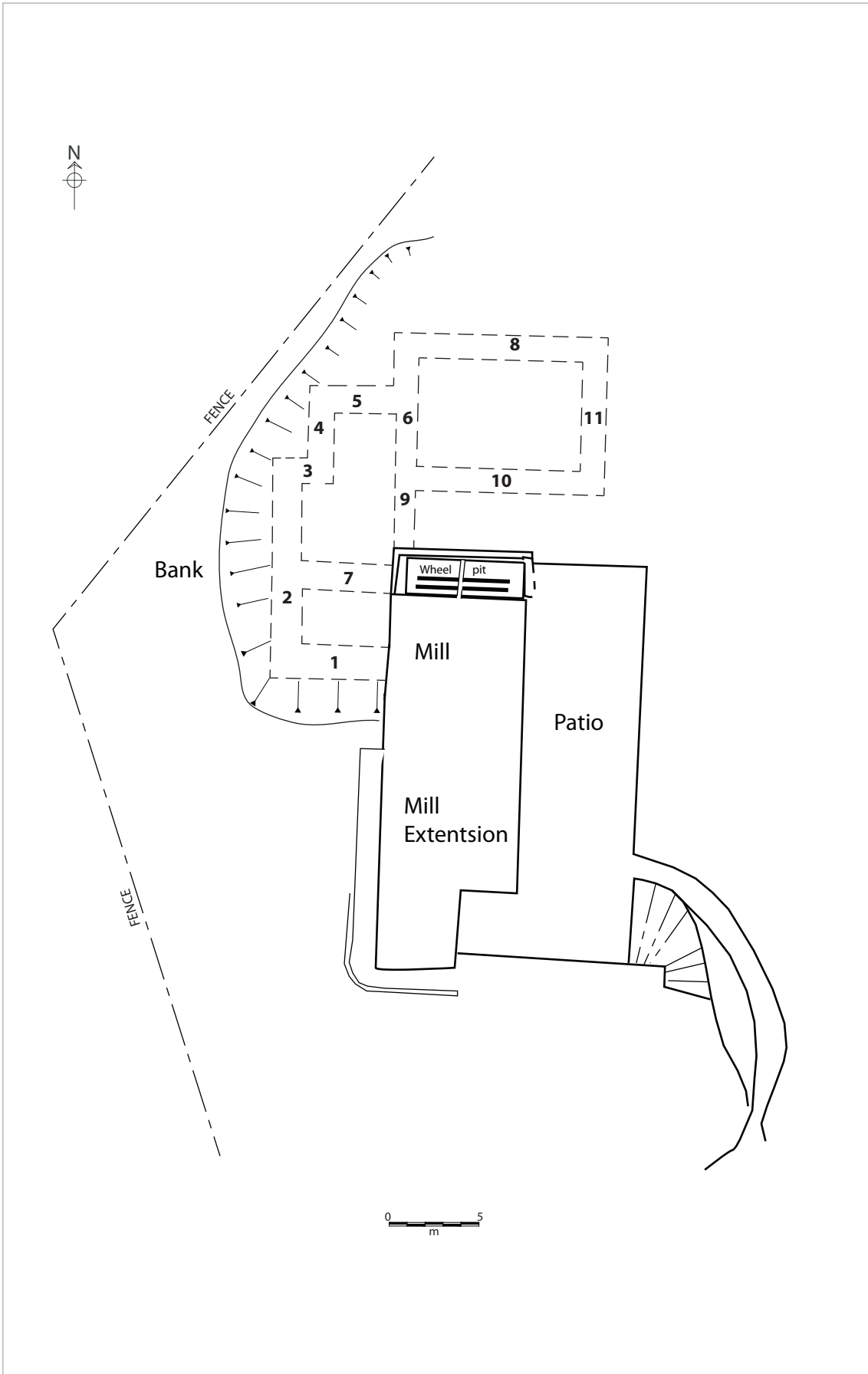


Fig 02: Trench Plan



Plate 01: Removal of soil to east of wheel pit



Plate 02: Removal of land for access to wheel pit





Plate 03: Wheel race 2002



Plate 04: Wheel race 2002





Plate 05: Detail of landfill



Plate 06: Overview of trenches 1,2 & 7 showing excavation to rear retaining wall, Fill evident top centre



Plate 07: West retaining wall with footings 1 & 2



Plate 08: Extent of bank removal



Plate 09: Extent of bank removal, final



Plate 10: Overview of bank removal



Plate 11: Trench 6 with 7 prepared



Plate 12: Overview of trench positions
6, 8 & 10



Site: The Mill, Llandewi Skirrid		Grid Ref: 335253 215633	Site No: WB/Lws/13	Alternate No:	
CONTEXT	AREA	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	FINDS	PHOTOGRAPHS
100	Front East	Patio	Patio Slabs		DSC06028, DSC06029, DSC06172, DSC06177, DSC06180, DSC06181,
101	Front East	bedding	Loose bedding sand		DSC06028, DSC06029,
102	Front East	bedding	Gravel		DSC06028, DSC06029,
103	Front East	Landfill	Imported landfill with bits of iron, plastic bags, branches and rubble		DSC06028, DSC06029, DSC06179,
104	Front East	cut			
105	Bank		Landfill, bricks, stone plastic sheeting etc		DSC06093, DSC06100, DSC06103, DSC06170, DSC06177, DSC06181, DSC06184, DSC06186,
106	Bank	cut			
107	Bank	deposit	Grass over orange/brown sandy soil with occasional rounded stones		DSC06026, DSC06093, DSC06094, DSC06095, DSC06101, DSC06102, DSC06103, DSC06014, DSC06170, DSC06171, DSC06173, DSC06175, DSC06176, DSC06177, DSC06181, DSC06182, DSC06184, DSC06185, DSC06186,
108	Bank	deposit	Darker, orange/brown sandy soil with fewer stones		DSC06093, DSC06094, DSC06101, DSC06102, DSC06103, DSC06014, DSC06170, DSC06171, DSC06173, DSC06175, DSC06176, DSC06177, DSC06181, DSC06182, DSC06184, DSC06185, DSC06186,
109	Bank	deposit	Orange sandy clay with occurrences of flat angular sandstone bedding		DSC06093, DSC06094, DSC06101, DSC06102, DSC06103, DSC06014, DSC06170, DSC06171, DSC06172, DSC06173, DSC06174, DSC06175, DSC06176, DSC06177, DSC06180, DSC06181, DSC06182, DSC06183, DSC06184, DSC06185, DSC06186,
110	Trench	deposit	Orange clay/sand		DSC06175, DSC06176, DSC06180, DSC06181,
111	Wheel pit	Wall	Wall at west end of wheel pit		DSC06026, DSC06093, DSC06171, DSC06177, DSC06178, DSC06181, DSC06182,

Site: The Mill, Llandewi Skirrid		Grid Ref: 335253 215633		Site No: WB/Lws/13		Alternate No:	
Photo no	Date	Camera	Size	Area	View	Description	Plate
DSC06026	08/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Patio	W	Overview of site prior to excavation	
DSC06027	08/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	Patio	E	Wheel pit	
DSC06028	08/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Patio	S	Removal of soil to east of wheel pit	PL 01
DSC06029	08/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	Patio	W	Removal of landfill for access to wheel pit	PL 02
DSC06093	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Patio	S	Overview of bank excavation of previous land fill	
DSC06094	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	SW	Initial removal of undisturbed bank	
DSC06095	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	N	Continued removal of bank	
DSC06096	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank		PONTYPOOL BRICK Co, Land fill	
DSC06097	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank		STAR NEWPORT, Land fill	
DSC06098	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank		LITTLE MILL PONTYPOOL, Landfill	
DSC06099	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank		HOLT, Landfill	
DSC06100	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	S	Detail of landfill	PL 05
DSC06101	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	S	Extent of bank removal	PL 08
DSC06102	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	S	Extent of bank removal some bedding rock	
DSC06103	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	SE	Overview of bank removal	PL 10
DSC06104	15/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Bank	S	Extent of bank removal, final	PL 09
DSC06170	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	1&2	S	West retaining wall with footings 1 & 2	PL 07
DSC06171	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	1-6	S	Trenches 1,2,3,4,5&6	
DSC06172	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	6&7	SW	Trench 6 with 7 prepared	PL 11
DSC06173	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	2-6	W	Trenches 2-6 showing makeup of surface rubble over natural sandy clay	
DSC06174	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	7	W	Detail of lateral deposit in trench 7 before flooding	
DSC06175	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	8	W	View along trench 8 showing natural deposit before flooding	
DSC06176	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	6&8	E	Long view along trench 8 showing natural deposit before flooding	
DSC06177	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	1-4&9	S	Wheel pit wall being removed and the initial excavation of trench 9	
DSC06178	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	9	S	Detail of the wheel pit wall	PL 13
DSC06179	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	2448x3264	9	N	Excavation of trench 9	PL 14
DSC06180	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	6,8&10	SE	Overview of trench positions 6, 8 & 10	PL 12
DSC06181	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	1-11	S	Overview of all trenches	
DSC06182	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	8&10	W	Overview of trenches 8&10	
DSC06183	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	10	E	Levelling trench 10	
DSC06184	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	1-10	NE	Overview of trenches and rear excavation to modern retaining wall. Flooding shown	
DSC06185	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	2-6,8&10	E	Overview of trenches with scale rods	
DSC06186	18/01/2014	DSC-F828	3264x2448	1,2 & 7	SE	Overview of trenches 1,2 & 7 showing excavation to rear retaining wall, Fill evident top centre	PL 06

Appendix II

Digital photograph list

Photographs belonging to owner Mr M Jones and used in Building Survey DC/2010/00436

5	c.2002	Scan	300DPI	External	W	Wheel race
6	c.2002	Scan	300DPI	External	W	Wheel race

PL 03

PL 04



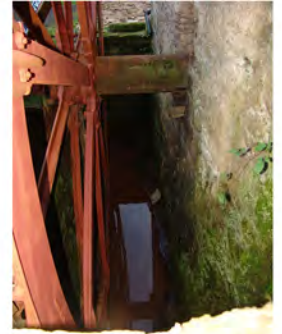
05Mill race 3.jpg



06Mill race 1.jpg



DSC06026.jpg



DSC06027.jpg



DSC06028.jpg



DSC06029.jpg



DSC06093.jpg



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DSC06103.jpg



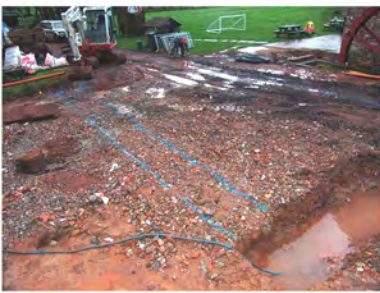
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DSC06183.jpg



DSC06184.jpg



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