

Llandaff Cathedral Cardiff Wales

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Grontmij

on behalf of
Wales and West Utilities
Ltd

CA Project: 5318
CA Report: 15163

August 2015



Llandaff Cathedral
Cardiff
Wales

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Llandaff Cathedral
Location: Cardiff, Wales
NGR: ST 1550 7813
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 19-30 March 2015
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Cardiff Museum
Site Code: LLA 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with gas main replacement at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff.

A total of 17 trenches was excavated and a rough stone surface, possibly dating to the medieval and/or post-medieval periods was identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Grontmij, on behalf of Wales and West Utilities Ltd (WWU), at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, Wales (centred on NGR: ST 1550 7813; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The gas main replacement was carried out by WWU as a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive and Ofgem to update and rationalise the gas main network. Given the works had the potential to impact upon buried archaeological remains, Judith Doyle, Acting Archaeological Planning Manager, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) requested that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundwork activity along the identified gas main route.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Judith Doyle. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Judith Doyle including a site visit on 20 March 2015

The site

- 1.4 The gas main replacement works are located to the south-west of Llandaff Cathedral, between the Cathedral Green/High Street intersection to the Cathedral Green/Bridge Street intersection and associated lanes (WWU drawing ref. R-14-100036). The site lies at approximately 23.2m AOD, dropping downward to the north.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group Conglomerate (marginal Facies) of the Triassic Period (BGS 2015). The natural substrate, comprising red brown silty clay, was identified during the watching brief.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located within the Archaeologically Sensitive Area of Llandaff as defined within Supplementary Planning Guidance approved by Cardiff Council in July 2006

(Cardiff Council 2006, 5, Area 4). A history of the cathedral is provided on the Llandaff Cathedral website (Llandaff Cathedral 2015) and this is reproduced below:

- 2.2 *Llandaff Cathedral stands on one of the oldest Christian sites in Britain. In the sixth century St Dyfrig founded a community close to the ford where the Roman road crossed the river Taff. He was succeeded by St Teilo and then Teilo's nephew, St Euddogwy. These three Celtic Saints remain patron saints of the present Cathedral and are represented by the three mitres in the Cathedral badge. Nothing remains of the original church but a Celtic Cross that stood nearby can still be seen near the door of the Chapter House.*
- 2.3 *The present cathedral dates from 1107 when Bishop Urban, the first Bishop appointed by the Normans, instigated the building of a much larger church. The arch behind the High Altar was built at that time and the doorway that now leads to the St David (or Welsh Regiment) Chapel may have been the West door of Urban's church until it was moved to its new site when the Cathedral was extended and widened and a new West front built about 1220. This West front is judged by many to be one of the two or three most notable mediaeval works of art in Wales.*
- 2.4 *Later in the 13th century the Chapter House was built and also before the century ended the Lady Chapel which has largely escaped the damage and decay that the cathedral sustained over the following 700 years. In the 14th century came the replacement of the Norman windows by new ones in the Decorated style; then, before the end of the 15th Century came the building, by Jasper Tudor, of the North West tower as a new home for the Bells which had previously been housed in a detached Bell Tower, now ruined. This Bell Tower had been built two hundred years earlier at the top of a small hill which in pre-Norman times provided the original church and community that lived around it with security from the unwelcome attention of marauders sailing up the Bristol Channel little more than a mile away.*
- 2.5 *In 1734 restoration began in the popular style of the day but the "Italian Temple" which John Wood, the Bath architect, planned to construct in the fabric of the mediaeval cathedral was never quite completed and the original walls and pillars still remained. A hundred years later restoration was undertaken by J F Seddon and John Pritchard, including the South West tower and spire, completed in 1869, which replaced the early-12th century tower which collapsed in 1722. A great deal of the 19th century work inside the Cathedral perished when the building was heavily*

damaged and the roof destroyed in the 1939-45 War. Its restoration was then entrusted to George Pace.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising excavation of 17 trenches for the insertion of the new gas main into the existing gas main and connections to the adjacent properties (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Cardiff Museum.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 A total of 17 trenches was excavated, typically to a depth of 0.7m below the present ground level (bpgl). The natural geological substrate consisting of clay was revealed in all trenches at an average depth of 0.5m bpgl. This was overlain by made ground,



averaging 0.3m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of gravel/clay road make-up. This in turn sealed by up to 0.1m of tarmac.

- 5.2 In Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 the made ground was sealed by a probable former road surface, 3002, 4002, 5002, 6002 and 8002, respectively. This surface was 0.1m in thickness and comprised cobbles in red clay. It was overlain by the gravel/clay make-up layer for the modern road surface.
- 5.3 In Trench 7 the natural clay was cut by probable construction cut 7008. This was filled by an undated clay, 7007, which was in turn overlain by a probable stone surface, 7006 (Fig 3, section AA). The structural remains comprised a single layer of roughly dressed stone blocks in a lime mortar.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified limited archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.
- 6.2 Stratigraphic evidence suggests that the cobbled surface observed in Trenches 3-6 inclusive and 8 is likely to comprise the pre-modern precursor of the existing road. The structural remains identified in Trench 7 appear to represent the remains of a probable exterior surface, possibly associated with the Bishop's Castle (RCHMW ref. no 96079) located to the south-east. However no further interpretation is possible given the limited exposure of the remains.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.



8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
accessed 14 April 2015

Cardiff Council 2006 Supplementary Planning Guidance; Archaeologically Sensitive Areas

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, Wales; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Llandaff Cathedral 2015 <http://llandaffcathedral.org.uk> accessed 10 March 2015



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.05
1	1001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.2
1	1002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.25
1	1003	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
1	1004	Fill	1003	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
1	1005	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
2	2000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
2	2001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
2	2002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
2	2003	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
2	2004	Fill	2003	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
2	2005	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
3	3000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
3	3001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
3	3002	Layer		Possible former road surface	Cobbles in brown clay			0.15
3	3003	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
3	3004	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
3	3005	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
3	3006	Fill	3005	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
4	4000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
4	4001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
4	4002	Layer		Possible former road surface	Cobbles in brown clay			0.1
4	4003	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
4	4004	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.25
4	4005	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
4	4006	Fill	4005	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
5	5000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
5	5001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
5	5002	Layer		Possible former road surface	Cobbles in brown clay			0.1
5	5003	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
5	5004	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.25
5	5005	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
5	5006	Fill	5005	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
6	6000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
6	6001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
6	6002	Layer		Possible former road surface	Cobbles in brown clay			0.1
6	6003	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
6	6004	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.25

6	6005	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
6	6006	Fill	6005	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
7	7000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
7	7001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
7	7002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.5
7	7003	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
7	7004	Cut		Service trench			0.25	0.4
7	7005	Fill	7004	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.25	0.4
7	7006	Surface		?Surface	Stone ?surface	2.8	0.2	0.2
7	7007	Fill	7006	Fill of construction cut	Grey-red gravel clay	2.8	0.2	0.1
7	7008	Cut		Construction cut	NW/SE aligned	2.8	0.2	0.25
7	7009	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
7	7010	Fill	7009	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
8	8000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
8	8001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
8	8002	Layer		Possible former road surface	Cobbles in brown clay			0.1
8	8003	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.25
8	8004	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
8	8005	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
8	8006	Fill	8005	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
9	9000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
9	9001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
9	9002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
9	9003	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
9	9004	Fill	9003	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
9	9005	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
10	10000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
10	10001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
10	10002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
10	10003	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
10	10004	Fill	10003	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
10	10005	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.15
11	11000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
11	11001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
11	11002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
11	11003	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
11	11004	Fill	10003	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
11	11005	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
12	12000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.25
12	12001	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
12	12002	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
12	12003	Fill	12002	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
12	12004	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
13	13000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.25

13	13001	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
13	13002	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.15
13	13003	Layer		Modern path				0.3
13	13004	Layer		Path bedding	Concrete			0.15
13	13005	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
13	13006	Fill	13005	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
14	14000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.15
14	14001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
14	14002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.3
14	14003	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.15
14	14004	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
14	14005	Fill	14004	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
15	15000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.2
15	15001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.2
15	15002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.25
15	15003	Layer		Natural	Red clay			0.25
15	15004	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
15	15005	Fill	15004	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
16	16000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.15
16	16001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.1
16	16002	Layer		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.35
16	16003	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a
16	16004	Cut		Service trench			0.6	0.6
16	16005	Fill	16004	Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
17	17000	Layer		Road	Tarmac			0.1
17	17001	Layer		Road bed	Red-grey clay gravel			0.15
17	17002	Layer						0.3
17	17003	Cut		Made ground	Red-brown clay and gravel			0.25
17	17004	Fill		Service trench			0.6	0.6
17	17005	Layer		Fill of service trench	Light red gravel and clay		0.6	0.6
17	17006	Wall		Wall	Modern retaining wall			0.5
17	17007	Layer		Natural	Red clay			n/a

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PROJECT TITLE

Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, Wales

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY JB PROJECT NO. 5318
 CHECKED BY JB DATE 01-04-2015
 APPROVED BY LECC SCALE@A4 1:20,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- Scheduled Monument
- Ⓐ section location



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PROJECT TITLE
 Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, Wales

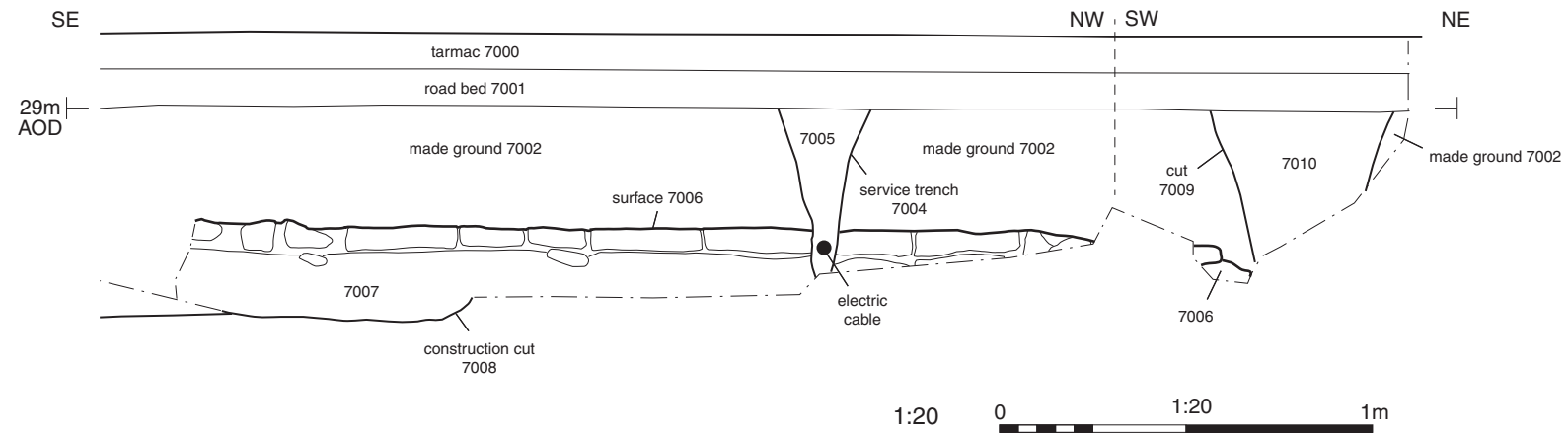
FIGURE TITLE
 The site showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY JB	PROJECT NO. 5318	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY JB	DATE 01-04-2015	2
APPROVED BY LECC	SCALE@A3 1:500	

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Section AA



Trench 7, looking south-west (scale 1m)