



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

Watching Brief

LAND ADJACENT, COLLIERS WAY
TONYPANDY

WB/TYY/13



Prepared for:

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By:

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Cover Photograph: DSC03393 Spreading the spoil heap for inspection.

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1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document comprises a watching brief report for a program of archaeological work undertaken on land adjacent to the Welsh Water Works, Colliers Way Trealaw, Rhondda.

The development of concern was the construction of soak-aways and drainage for the development of an industrial unit during which ground disturbance had taken place and an assessment of the spoil produced during previous work.

A planning application was submitted to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RTCBC) 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.

(RTCBC) in accordance with the guidance from GGAT imposed a condition requiring a program of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.

Dr N Phillips from A.P.A.C. Ltd accepted the contract and this document comprises the report resulting from the watching brief.

No archaeological resources of significance were found.

2 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 to construct develop an industrial unit on land adjacent to Welsh Water Works at Colliers Way, Trealaw, Rhondda.

The client, Mr C Middle, having submitted a planning application to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council; (pl.app.no 10/0864/10); was granted Approval of Planning Permission, with conditions; one of which required that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.

RCT0103/JBHD

The archaeological work for this report involved the examination of the spoil already disturbed at the site and any excavation of two soak-aways and a drainage trench.

A design brief outlining a watching brief, WSI:WB/TYY/13 was compiled, and approved as 'fit for purpose', N. Maylan GGAT.

The watching brief was undertaken during ground disturbance for footings and services; in order to record or mitigate against, any impact on archaeological resources present.

3 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The location of the site NGR: 299430 192770, can be gained from the A4058, Pontypridd to Treorchy Rd, fig 01. When travelling NW from the Pontypridd direction, take the 3rd left at the roundabout which is Colliers Way.



4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology of the area falls within the Upper Carboniferous period, Westphalian D, giving a stratigraphy of coal, sandstone, mudstone, ironstone: 'Pennant series', whilst the site has an overlying superficial deposit of Till Devensian-Diamicton, (BGS online).

The topography of the location is in a steep sided valley between the Llwynypia and Birth-weunydd Mountains.

The Afon Rhondda Fawr forms the eastern boundary of the site whilst the A4119 demarcates the western one. The ground would appear to be made up and derived from past industrial use.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site was deemed to be of potential archaeological interest in that it lies just to the north of Ynyscrug Motte marked on the 1880 ordnance survey and the focus of a watching brief carried out by Monmouth Archaeology in 2004.

The Monmouth Archaeology watching brief concluded that the 12th century fortification had been severely damaged during the construction of the Taff Vale Railway in 1855 with further damage being done in the 1980s during major road construction of the A4058 (Clarke & Bray 2004).

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

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

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

7 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

Groundwork at the site entailed a single period of excavation on the 1st February 2013.

The excavation was undertaken with a tracked mechanical digger.

Three trenches were excavated in relation to the present storage shed and the spoil from the construction of the shed; which had been deposited to the north, was spread and levelled for investigation.

8 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Soils and ground conditions

The site and weather conditions during the excavation were good although ground spoil was very wet from previous heavy rain and snow thaw.

The ground is substantially made up and associated with previous use during Victorian coal mining as railway sidings and later disturbed in the 20th century during road construction and engineering for Welsh Water which confirms the findings of Monmouth Archaeology in 2004.

There does appear to be a suggestion that the portion of the site the north of the present shed may have been spared the 20th century ground disturbance, but even so, the ground is still made up from industrially derived fill.



Description

Trench 1

The first trench; a soak-away, was excavated just west of the 'T' roadway, fig 02, through an area of waste ground covered with grass and discarded building materials.

The trench measured some 2m x 1.5m and reached a maximum depth of 1.75m, Plate 01.

Plate 02 shows a make up of various deposits of land fill from the grey sandy rubble fill at the top, through orange chippings on 'Terram' to coarse grey rubble, fine reddish rubble and finally a boulder bottom in dark grey silt.

On the far wall of the trench at about 600mm is a plastic land drain.

The trench revealed no significant artefacts other than occasional bits of clothing, a few bits of industrial metal and polythene sheeting. The latter in evidence from the bottom of the trench.

Trench 2

The second trench was excavated to the north of the 'T' roadway in the area of gravel, fig 02. This trench was similar in size to 1 but reached a depth of only 1.3m as required in the plans.

The sequence of land fill was identical to that of 1 with the exception of no land drain.

Trench 3

The 3rd trench was that of the drainage channel from the north east corner of the shed to the soak-aways. The trench measured some 600mm deep and about 1m wide.

The northern 10m of the trench, from the corner of the building to the front consisted of a black sandy soil with a few bits of glass and brick and plastic, Plate 04, however the deposit sequence changed abruptly after that, replaced by the same fill as seen in trenches 1 & 2.

The abrupt change can be seen in Plates 05 & 06.

Spoil

The spoil area consisted of a bank or bund along the fence line of the enclosed field to the north of the storage shed, fig 02.

Part of the bank can be seen to the left in Plate 07 and the right in Plate 08.

The spoil had been derived from earlier work at the site as well as the recent construction of the storage shed.

A watching brief was conducted during the spreading of the spoil and followed up by a walkover of the levelled ground to look for any finds.

No finds of any archaeological significance were found and Plates 09, 10 & 11 show some instances of modern debris contained within the spoil.

9 FINDS

No finds of any archaeological significance were observed. What recognisable debris that were present consisted of a few cans, confectionary wrapper fragments, assorted bits of metal and packaging straps, polythene sheets, terram, discarded clothing and a few 20th century bottles and shards of clear glass.



10 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

As a general observation: the site has been levelled in relatively recent times using land fill probably derived from industrial use.

One anomaly did arise in that the area to the east, and presumably north of the shed would appear to have been undisturbed by the more recent land fill activities, However, the sparse bits of glass and brick would tend to suggest that its origin is not that much older.

At no point during the excavation were any archaeological deposits of significance encountered.

11 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Allan and Neil: site supervisor and driver, for their assistance during the work

12 Bibliography and references

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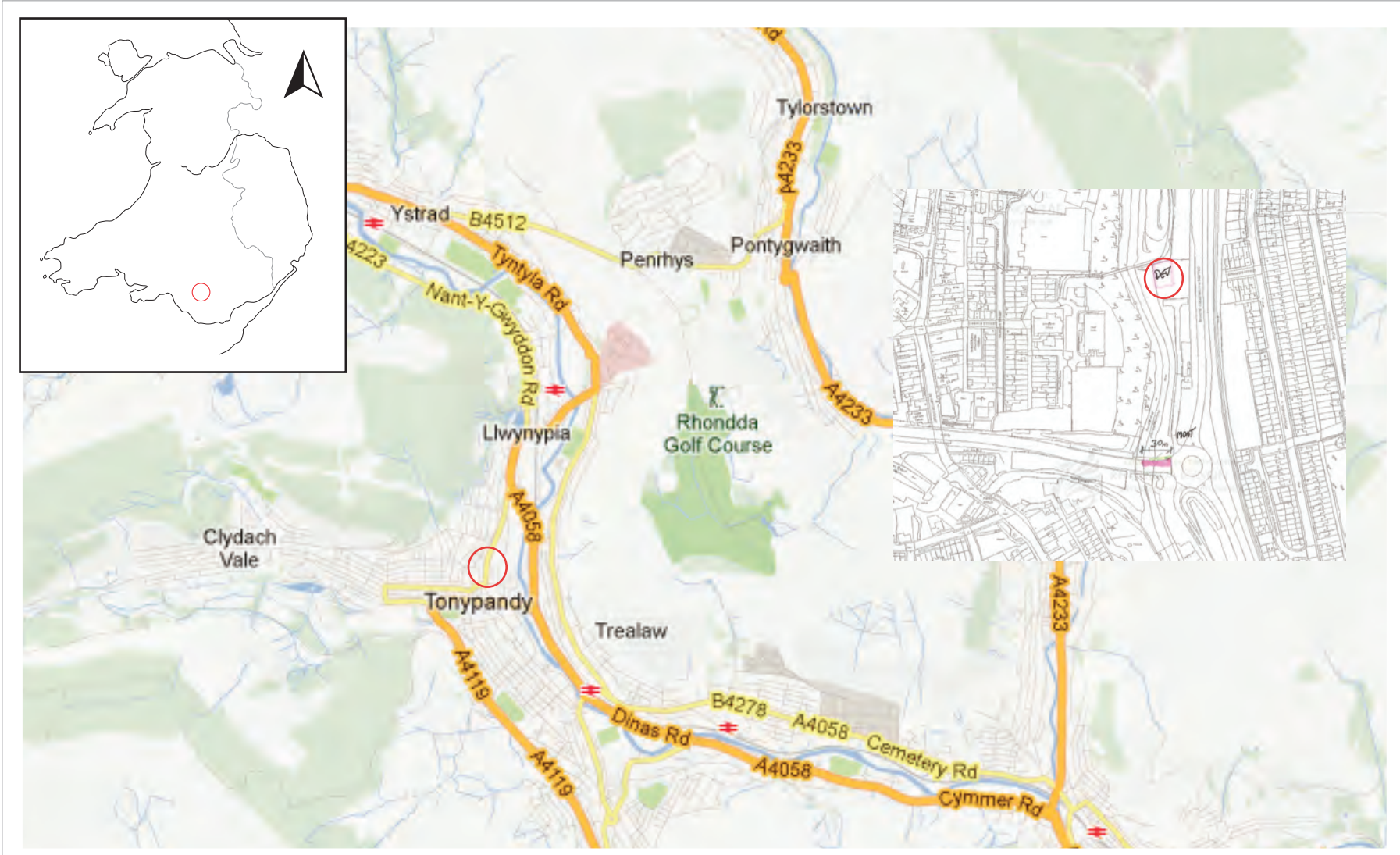
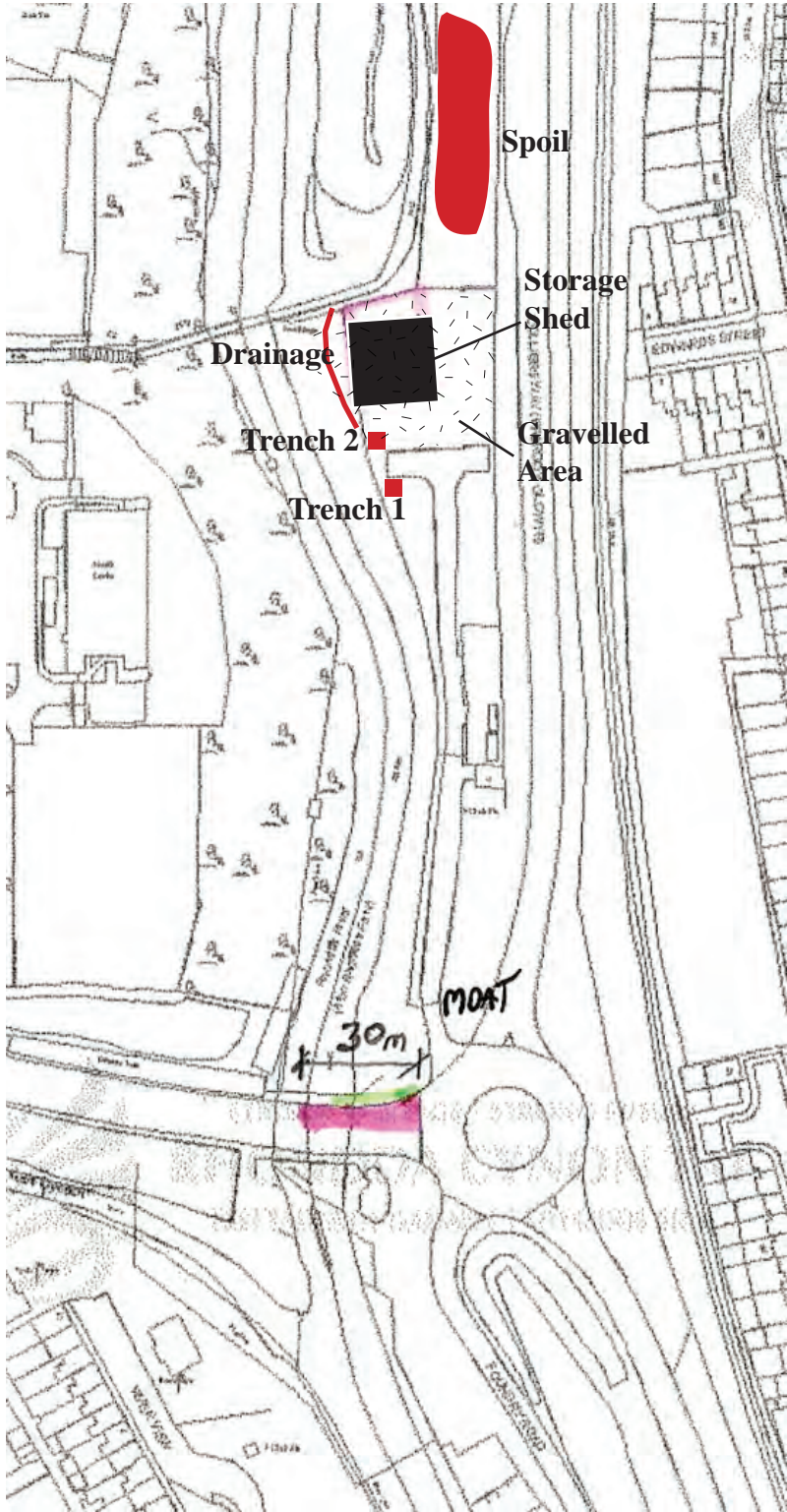


Fig 01: Location



adapted from site plan supplied by client

Fig 02: Site Plan





Plate 01: Soak-away 1. Various layers of land II and drain



Plate 02: Soak-away 1. Various layers of land II





Plate 03: Soak-away 2. Various layers of land II



Plate 04: North end of TR3. Black clay/sand. (plastics, glass and brick)



Plate 05: Overview of TR3, southern end, Cut line on left side of trench



Plate 06: Overview of TR3, northern end





Plate 07: View over spoil area



Plate 08: View over spoil area



Plate 09: Detail of spoil (plastics)



Plate 10: Detail of spoil (metal)



Plate 11: Detail of spoil (metal, plastic, foam and brick)

Land adjacent to Colliers Way
Tonypandy.WB/TYY/13

Appendix III



Digital Photographic Record

Photo No	Date	Camera	Size	Area	View	Description	
DSC03388	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	2448x3264	TR1	E	Soak-away 1. Various layers of landfill	Plate 02
DSC03389	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	2448x3264	TR1	N	Soak-away 1. Various layers of landfill and drain	Plate 01
DSC03390	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	2448x3264	TR2	W	Soak-away 2. Various layers of landfill	Plate 03
DSC03391	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Spoil	N	View over spoil area	Plate 07
DSC03392	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	2448x3264	Spoil	S	View over spoil area	Plate 08
DSC03394	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Spoil	S	Long view over spoil area taken from foot bridge	
DSC03394	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Spoil		Detail of spoil (plastics)	Plate 09
DSC03395	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Spoil		Detail of spoil (metal)	Plate 10
DSC03396	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Spoil		Detail of spoil (metal, plastic, foam and brick)	Plate 11
DSC03397	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	Spoil	N	View over spoil area 2	
DSC03398	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	TR3	W	North end of TR3. Black clay/sand. (plastics, glass and brick)	Plate 04
DSC03399	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	TR3	S	Mid section TR3. (Brick, gravel and large boulders towards southern end)	
DSC03400	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	2448x3264	TR3	N	Overview of TR3, northern end	Plate 06
DSC03401	01/02/2013	DSC-F828	3264x2448	TR3	S	Overview of TR3, southern end, Cut line on left side of trench	Plate 05