Cotswold Archaeology

CSO Improvements
Mumbles
Swansea

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Welsh Water

CA Project: 4775
CA Report: 14073

July 2014

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CA Project: 4775
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	CSO Improvements
Location:	Mumbles, Swansea
NGR:	Between SS 61236 88043 and SS 61579 88113
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	14-20 February 2014
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth (written, drawn and photographic record).
Site Code:	MUM 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with improvements to a combined sewer overflow (CSO) system along the length of Queens Road, Gower Place and Dunns Lane, Mumbles, Swansea.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the request of Grontmij on behalf of Welsh Water at Queens Road, Gower Place and Dunns Lane (running between NGR: SS 61236 88043 at the west and SS 61579 88113 to the east; Fig. 1) and at Oystermouth (NGR: SS 61377 88191; Fig. 1), Mumbles, Swansea. Grontmij, on behalf of Welsh Water, undertook consultations with Dr Greig Parker, Archaeological Planning Officer at Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), with regard to the potential archaeological impact of the planned CSO improvement groundworks (hereafter the Trenching). Dr Parker recommended that an archaeological watching brief occur during the Trenching along the length of Queens Road, Gower Place and Dunns Lane. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the Trenching.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Dr Parker. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), 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 site

1.3 The Trenching largely followed the contiguous thoroughfares of Queens Road, Gower Place and Dunns Lane. The area within which the Trenching occurred is characterised by residential developments close to the shoreline of Swansea Bay.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the Trenching route is mapped as Bishopston Mudstone Formation, comprising mudstone siltstone and sandstone of the Jurassic period, with overlying superficial deposits of Devensian glaciofluvial sand and gravel (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

1.5 The Trenching route has not been subject to previous archaeological assessment. The following is therefore a summary of nearby public domain information as pertinent to the Trenching route.

1.6 Archaeological evidence has been recovered from within the West Cross/Mumbles area which demonstrates activity from the prehistoric, Roman and post medieval periods. Prehistoric remains include a Bronze Age barrow, located 1km north-west of the Trenching area (PRN 00465w). Upon excavation in 1969 structural features were recovered including a ring of postholes and a primary burial pit.

1.7 Tesserae, pottery and coins have been recovered at All Saints Church, approximately 100m south of Dunns Lane. The range of recovered material has been used to propose this as a site of a Roman villa (PRN 00466w).

1.8 Oystermouth Caslte (a Scheduled Monument (GM007) and Grade I Listed Building (LB1158), PRN 00471w) has been subject to a number of phases of archaeological fieldwork (including an evaluation (GGAT, 2009) and watching brief (Marvell, 1996) which have expanded the understanding of the castle itself, which was likely established in the early 12th century (RCAHMW 2000).

Archaeological objectives

1.8 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.

Methodology

1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during the Trenching (Fig. 2).

1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth.

2. RESULTS (FIG 2)

2.1 A broadly similar stratigraphy was observed in all areas of the Trenching. A possible subsoil comprising sandy silt containing modern china was recorded within Trenches 1 and 2, and a sandy silt subsoil was recorded within Trenches 4 and 5. These deposits were identified at an typical depth of 0.39m below present ground level (bpgl). A number of modern services were cut into these deposits. This was capped with concrete in Trench 2. Elsewhere, this was sealed by a stoney silty sand make-up layer for the tarmac road surface. Undisturbed natural substrate was not encountered in any of the trenches.

2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of Trenching. The absence is most likely attributable to the limited depth of the Trenching, which meant that no natural substrate was observed and very limited areas of subsoil which had not been subject to modern disturbances.

3.2 The final scope of the Trenching was less than originally consulted on with GGAT, the full quantum of groundworks note being required. Archaeological observations may be required on the remaining elements of groundworks should these proceed at a later date, and consultation with GGAT is recommended.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by

Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html accessed 18 February 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *CSO Improvement, Mumbles, Swansea: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GGAT, 2009 *Oystermouth Castle: Archaeological Field Evaluation* GGAT Report No. **2009/041**

Marvell, A.G., 1996 *Oystermouth Castle: Archaeological Watching Brief* GGAT Report No. **96/011**

RCAHMW, 2000 *Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan, Volume III, Part 1b: The Later Castles, from 1217 to the Present*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		road surface	tarmac			0.1	
1	101	Layer		levelling layer	dark brownish grey compact stoney silty sand, levelling for tarmac			0.16	
1	102	Layer		levelling layer	mid greyish brown compact stoney silty sand, levelling for tarmac			0.25	
1	103	Layer		possible subsoil	dark brownish grey sandy silt with sparse charcoal smears, sub-angular stones and white china inclusions			0.69	
1	104	Cut		service	construction cut for service not clearly seen	>0.61		1.1	
1	105	Fill	104	fill of service	dark brownish grey sandy silt, redeposited from original excavation of service	>0.61		1.1	
1	106	Cut		service	construction cut for service not clearly seen	>0.61	0.6	0.9	
1	107	Fill	106	fill of service	dark brownish grey sandy silt, redeposited from original excavation of service	>0.61	0.6	0.9	
2	200	Layer		road surface	tarmac			0.14	
2	201	Layer		levelling layer	mid greyish brown compact stoney silty sand, levelling for tarmac			0.2	
2	202	Layer		possible subsoil	dark brownish grey sandy silt with sparse charcoal smears and sub-angular stones			0.7	
2	203	Fill	205	2nd fill of service	concrete capping	>4.6	0.6	0.33	
2	204	Fill	205	1st fill of servive	mid brownish grey sandy silt, redeposited from original excavation of service	>4.6	0.6	0.13	
2	205	Cut		service	construction cut for electric service	>4.6	0.6	0.46	
2	206	Fill	207	fill of service	mid brownish grey sandy silt, redeposited from original excavation of service	>0.55		0.56	
2	207	Cut		service	construction cut for gas service not clearly seen	>0.55		0.56	
2	208	Fill	209	fill of service	mid brownish grey sandy silt, redeposited from original excavation of service	>0.55		0.86	
2	209	Cut		service	construction cut for water service not clearly seen	>0.55		0.86	
4	400	Layer		road surface	tarmac			0.1	
4	401	Layer		levelling layer	mid greyish brown compact stoney silty sand, levelling for tarmac			0.28	
4	402	Layer		possible subsoil	mid greyish brown sandy silt with sparse charcoal smears and sub-angular stones			0.73	
5	500	Layer		road surface	tarmac			0.12	
5	501	Layer		levelling layer	mid greyish brown compact stoney silty sand with brick fragments, levelling for tarmac			0.21	
5	502	Layer		possible subsoil	mid greyish brown sandy silt with sparse charcoal smears and sub-angular stones			0.79	
5	503	Cut		service	construction cut for gas service not clearly seen	>0.6		0.59	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot-date
5	504	Fill	503	fill of service	mid greyish brown sandy silt, redeposited from original excavation of service	>0.6		0.59	

0 1km

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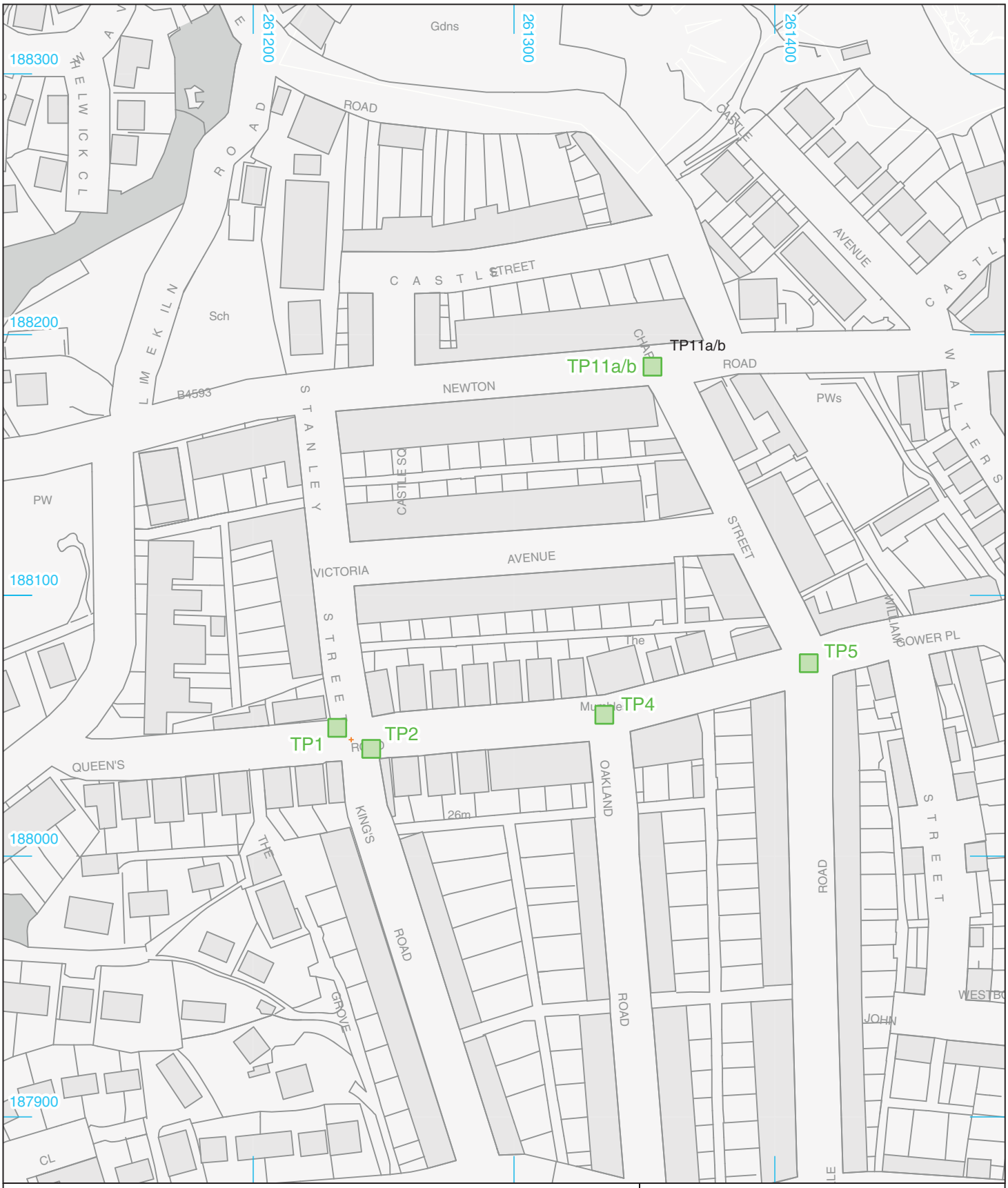
PROJECT TITLE

Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements
Mumbles, Swansea

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	**4775**	*DATE*	**10.7.14**	*FIGURE NO.*
DRAWN BY	**LM**	*REVISION*	**00**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**LM**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



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PROJECT TITLE

Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements
Mumbles, Swansea

FIGURE TITLE

Location of Test Pits

PROJECT NO.	**4775**	*DATE*	**10.7.14**	*FIGURE NO.*
DRAWN BY	**LM**	*REVISION*	**00**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**LM**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:2000**	