

# **Greyfriars Place/Kingsway Gas Main Replacement Cardiff**

## Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*  
**Grontmij**

*on behalf of*

**Wales and West Utilities Limited**


CA Project: 4741  
CA Report: 14072

June 2014

# Greyfriars Place/Kingsway Gas Main Replacement Cardiff

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4741  
CA Report: 14072

prepared by	Sian Reynish, Project Supervisor and Peter Busby, Project Supervisor
date	19 June 2014
checked by	Ian Barnes, Project Manager
date	19 September 2014
approved by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	19 September 2014
issue	01

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- Fig. 3 Trench 4: section (1: 20) and photograph



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Greyfriars Road/Kingsway  
**Location:** Cardiff  
**NGR:** ST 1851 7665  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 3-17 February 2014  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with the National Museum  
**Site Code:** GPC 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the gas main replacement along of Greyfriars Road and Kingsway, Cardiff.

A stone wall with cement render was identified that ran parallel with Greyfriars Road.

No other 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 Wales and West Utilities Limited in the vicinity of Greyfriars Road and Kingsway, Cardiff (encompassing a series of gas mains centred at NGR: ST 1851 7665; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken at the request of Judith Doyle (Archaeological Planning Manager, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division (GGAT)), that an archaeological watching brief occur during the associated groundworks to update and rationalise the gas main network (a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive and Ofgem). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

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 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), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

1.3 The intrusive excavation required to facilitate the gas main replacement amounted to approximately 70m of trenching, occupying existing roadways/pavements within the city centre of Cardiff. The route lies at between 110m and 130m AOD.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group – Mudstone of the Triassic Period. Superficial deposits of Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits, Devensian - Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period were also noted (BGS 2014).

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 The route lies partially within the Archaeologically Sensitive Area of the city centre, as identified by the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (Cardiff Council 2006). The Archaeologically Sensitive Area encompasses a series of Roman forts (the earliest built around AD 55) more or less occupying the same site, with civilian settlement to the north and south.

- 1.6 The latest Roman fort layout appears to have been respected some 500 years later by the Norman castle (built around AD 1081). The Norman settlement is noted to have also occupied land to the south of the forts and castle, but also was linked to an extra mural suburb called Crockherbtown to the east, approximately along the line of the current Queen Street (to the south of the gas main replacement activity). Additionally, the priories of the Dominican Friars and Franciscan Friars also were established outside the walls of the town during the 13th century.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 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***

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of access pits for insertion of a new gas main within the existing gas main (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.10 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 National Museum Cardiff. No artefacts were retained.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 The trenches were mainly excavated within areas previously disturbed by the excavation of the existing gas main, extending minimally beyond the original service trench. A broadly similar stratigraphy was observed in all trenches. The existing gas service was cut into a clayey silt with modern inclusions (202, 303, 404), and was backfilled with a mixture of aggregate and re-deposited clayey silt from the original excavation of the service trench. This was capped with concrete in Trench 1. Sealing this was the modern surface (ether tarmac or paving slabs). Undisturbed natural substrate was not encountered in any of the trenches.
- 2.2 Within Trench 2 below the clayey silt make-up layer 202 an undated dark greyish brown clayey silt layer (205) was observed containing animal bone (not retrieved).
- 2.3 Along the southern edge of Trench 4 an undated, length of east/west wall (405) was observed which was roughly parallel with Greyfriars Road. The wall comprised 3 courses of various sized roughly shaped limestone blocks. Bonding material was not clearly visible as parts of the wall were obscured by a cement render.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential for Roman and Norman assets no archaeological remains of this date were identified within the area of observed groundworks. As natural geology was not seen during the watching brief it is possible that deposits of this date may survive below the level of the gas main.
- 3.2 The east/west wall seen in Trench 4 is difficult to interpret. However the concrete render on its northern face would seem to suggest that it is no earlier than 19th century in date. This suggests it may relate ether to the structures and buildings of Castle Gardens depicted on Ordnance Survey maps at this location between 1880 and 1920; or an early building or structure on the southern side of Greyfriars Road after c1920.



#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. 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) 201 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 28  
January 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Greyfriars Place/Kingsway Gas replacement, Cardiff: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Cardiff Council 2006 *Supplementary Planning Guidance: Archaeologically Sensitive Areas*

Maylan C.N. 1991 *Archaeological Trial Excavation at the Queen Street Centre, Cardiff*  
GGAT unpublished report.





## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		modern stone surface	stone blockwork pavement			0.06
1	101	Layer		bedding layer	cement bedding for stone blockwork			0.24
1	102	Fill	106	3rd fill of gas service	concrete capping for service			0.3
1	103	Fill	106	2nd fill of gas service	mid reddish brown scalplings and sand aggregate			0.8 to >1.2
1	104	Fill	possible water main/building foundation	backfill of water main/backfill of building foundation	mid-dark brownish grey clayey silt with modern brick, concrete, etc. located against existing building foundations		0.46	1.1
1	105	Layer		1st fill of gas service and make-up layer	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with modern brick rubble, concrete, metal etc. covers and is under gas main therefore is make-up deposit excavated from original service cut 106 and backfilled.			0.8/1.9
1	106	Cut		gas service	Construction cut for gas service not clearly seen.	9		c.1.9
2	200	Layer		pavement	modern paving slabs and stone blockwork			0.06
2	201	Layer		bedding layer	cement bedding for paving slabs and stone blockwork			0.2
2	202	Layer		make-up layer	dark brownish grey clayey silt with modern brick rubble and concrete			0.32
2	203	Cut		gas service	construction cut for gas service	>9.3	>0.55	0.97
2	204	Fill	203	fill of gas service	mid reddish brown scalplings and sand aggregate	>9.3	>0.55	0.97
2	205	Layer		possible subsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt with animal bone inclusions			0.62 to 0.9
2	206	Layer		road surface	tarmac			0.09
2	207	Layer		bedding layer	concrete bedding for tarmac			0.21
3	300	Layer		road surface	tarmac			0.28
3	301	Fill	306	fill of gas service	mid reddish brown scalplings and sand aggregate with large slabs of tarmac	>10	>0.6	0.78
3	302	Layer		bedding layer	mid reddish brown scalplings and brick fragments, bedding for tarmac			0.11
3	303	Layer		make-up layer	dark brownish grey clayey silt with modern brick rubble and concrete			0.67 to 0.84
3	304	Layer		pavement	modern paving slabs and stone blockwork			0.06
3	305	Layer		bedding layer	cement bedding for paving slabs and stone blockwork			0.16
3	306	Cut		gas service	construction cut for gas service	>10	>0.6	0.78
4	400	Layer		pavement	modern paving slabs and stone blockwork			0.06
4	401	Layer		bedding layer	cement bedding for paving slabs and stone blockwork			0.24
4	402	Fill	403	fill of gas service	mid reddish brown scalplings and sand aggregate	>4.7	>2.36	0.78
4	403	Cut		services	construction cut for various services (so many no individual cuts can be seen)	>4.7	>2.36	0.78

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
4	404	Layer		make-up layer	dark brownish grey clayey silt with modern brick rubble and concrete			0.78
4	405	Masonry		east/west wall	3 courses of various sized limestone blocks with a cement skim along face	>3.74		0.45



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**PROJECT TITLE**

**Greyfriars Place, Kingsway Gas Main replacement, Cardiff**

**FIGURE TITLE**

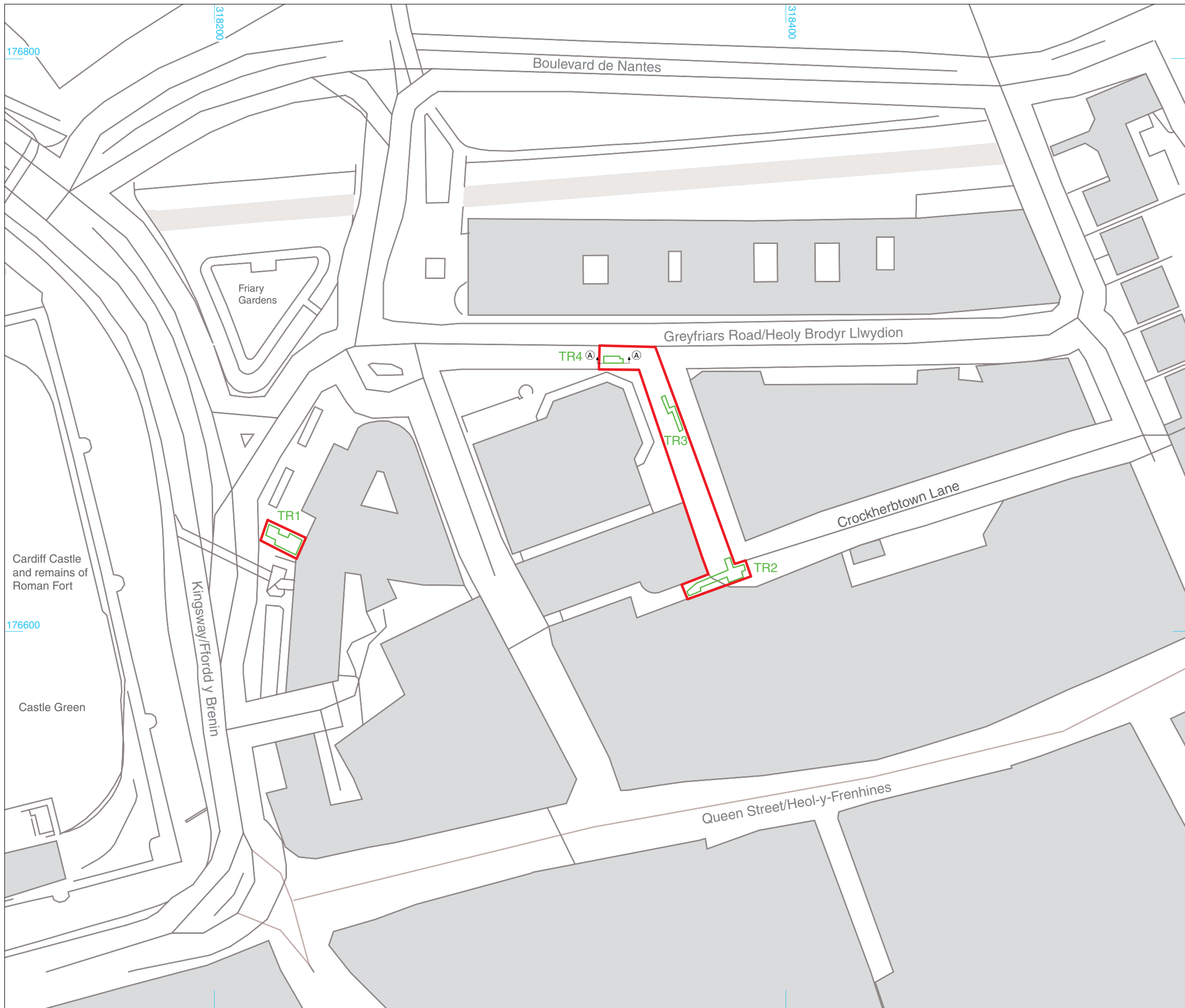
**Site location plan**

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**PROJECT NO.** 4741      **DATE** 3/03/2014  
**DRAWN BY** AO      **REVISION** 00  
**APPROVED BY** LM      **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**

**1**



- site boundary
- trench



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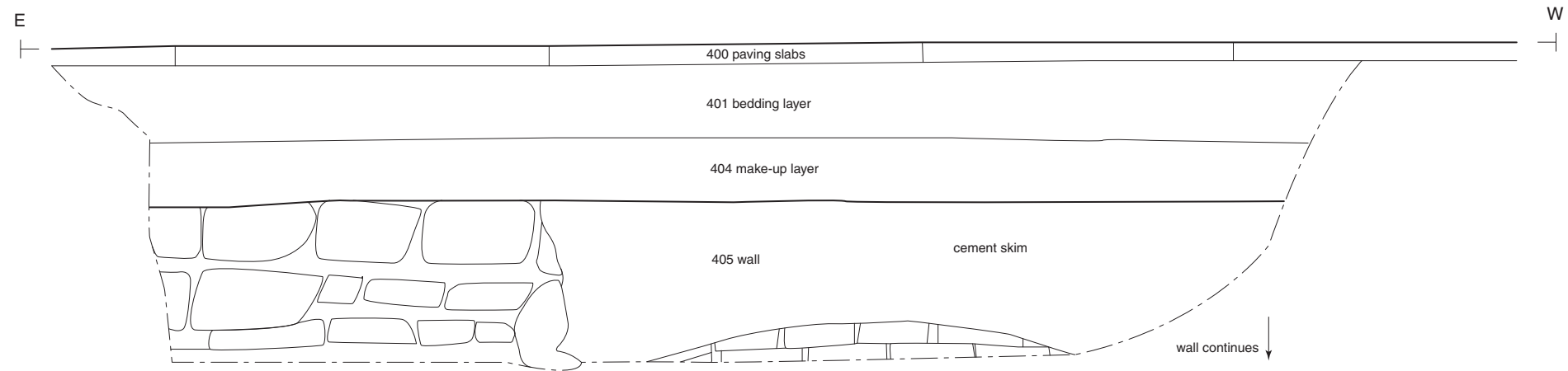
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Greyfriars Place, Kingsway Gas Main replacement, Cardiff

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of groundworks

PROJECT NO. 4741	DATE 3/03/2014	FIGURE NO. 2
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	
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Section AA



North facing section of trench 4 showing wall 405 (1m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 4: Section and photograph**

PROJECT NO. 4741	DATE 3/03/2014	FIGURE NO. 3
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APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:20	