Elis Roberts

From: planning
Sent: 23 September 2024 12:21
To: Elis Roberts
Subject: FW: FAO: Nick Atkinson RE: P/2024/1440 at Air Products Site, Acrefair
Attachments: Heneb Clwyd-Powys September 2024 - AMaR.pdf; Heneb Clwyd-Powys September 2024 - Excavation Brief.pdf; Heneb Clwyd-Powys September 2024 - Registered Contractors.pdf

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From: Neil Bayliss <Neil.Bayliss@heneb.org.uk>
Sent: 23 September 2024 11:43
To: planning <planning@wrexham.gov.uk>
Subject: FAO: Nick Atkinson RE: P/2024/1440 at Air Products Site, Acrefair

Good afternoon, Nick,

Thank you for the consultation paperwork relating to the above outline proposals.

Information retained within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this application falls in an area of high archaeological sensitivity. The site was formerly occupied by the Acrefair Iron Works and the British Iron Company Iron Works, and the site has been the focus of industrial activity since at least 1817. The site is surrounded by other industrial sites including former coke works, brick and tile works and collieries. The site was formerly crossed by the Llangollen Railway and accessed via multiple mineral railways taking raw materials into the site and cast products out to market.

A prior desktop assessment and radar survey of the site has confirmed the above history, and the radar survey also indicated that sub-surface preservation of the various structural phases of development of the iron works are well preserved. The key areas of archaeological interest include the early blast furnace site and its surrounding buildings in the northern half of the site together with the later 19th century expansion of the iron works further to the south. The survey also noted the historic mine shafts, which are also mentioned, and mitigated for in the development DAS statement.

The blast furnace site will be located beneath dwellings in the northern part of the development area and the 19th century expansion buildings will be located to the south in the area of residential development. Both areas will therefore be impacted by the development to varying degrees depending on the nature of the initial ground preparation, construction and landscaping works.

Consequently, we would recommend that the two key areas of archaeological sensitivity within the development site are the subject of an appropriate archaeological investigation as a condition of consent including prior stripping of these areas under archaeological control with subsequent mapping of features revealed and excavation of all areas where a direct construction impact will occur.

I have attached a suitable investigation condition which will allow this work to commence. The applicant will need to obtain a professional archaeological contractor to complete this work in accordance with a curatorial design brief which can be obtained from this office on request.

It should also be noted that on the southern boundary of the south site there are preserved 19th century industrial kilns built into the slope. These remains should be fully consolidated, restored and interpreted within the scheme along with information derived from the excavation of the iron works.

Scheme of Investigation/ Excavation/Survey

Suggested planning condition to facilitate a scheme of archaeological investigation / excavation as a condition of consent.

No development shall take place within the application area 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 in writing by the Planning Authority.

The archaeological programme of work will be undertaken and completed in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Planning Authority and the Planning Archaeologist, Heneb: Clwyd Powys Archaeology (The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP) (neil.bayliss@heneb.org.uk or mark.walters@heneb.org.uk).

After approval by the Planning Authority all project data must be submitted and approved for inclusion in the Heneb: Clwyd Powys Archaeology Historic Environment Record. The full digital archive must also be submitted and approved for inclusion within the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW or the Archaeology Data Service, ADS.

Reason: To secure preservation by record of all archaeological remains which will be impacted by the development.

I have attached documents for the Investigation Excavation and Archaeological Monitoring and Reciording and guidance on sources of archaeological contractors who may wish to tender for this work.

The chosen archaeological contractor will need to submit a project design/written scheme of investigation (WSI) document to me for approval before they can commence works on site. Please contact me again if you wish to discuss this advice or require more information.

Kind regards,

Neil Bayliss