

Written Scheme of Investigation
for an
Archaeological Photographic Survey
at
Plas Grono Farm, Erddig, Wrexham

Prepared For:
Project No: 2996

Planning application Number – P/2020/0742

April 2022



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Summary

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological photographic survey to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at the request of Jon Edstall.

The photographic survey will conform to the standard laid out in Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings' guidelines (2016). It will be undertaken prior to the commencement of works associated with the change of use of a 19th century barn into ancillary residential accommodation and office space at Plas Grono Farm, Erddig, Wrexham, LL13 0YR (centred on NGR SJ 31544 48076). The associated planning application number is P/2020/0742.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the chartered institute for archaeologists (2020).

1 Introduction and Planning Background

1.1.1 This WSI details the methodology for a programme of archaeological photographic survey to be undertaken in association with the proposed change of use of a 19th century barn into ancillary residential accommodation and office space at Plas Grono Farm, Erddig, Wrexham, LL13 0YR (centred on NGR SJ 31544 48076) (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A condition recommendation has been made by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust - Development Control (CPAT-DC), as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, in response to the planning application (Application number P/2020/0742) recommending that a photographic survey is undertaken on the existing buildings to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The condition recommendation states:

Development shall not begin until an appropriate photographic survey, (equivalent to an Historic England Level 1 Photographic Survey - Understanding Historic Buildings, 2016, 5.5, p.27) of the existing buildings has been carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority. The photographic survey will be completed by an archaeological contractor. The resulting digital photographs should be forwarded on appropriate digital media to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP. Email: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670/552045). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the photographs should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP for inclusion in the regional Historic

Environment Record and an archive copy should be lodged with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW.

Reason: To secure a full photographic record of the original buildings prior to alteration, conversion or demolition.

- 1.1.3 The purpose of the photographic survey is to provide the local planning authority with an adequate record of the building's current form and layout and sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales Revised Edition. 11, Section 6.1 (2021) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the affected building are fully investigated and recorded if they are to be disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.
- 1.1.4 This WSI has been prepared by Rhiannon Philp BSc MA PhD of Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of (henceforth – the client).
- 1.1.5 The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with CPAT-DC, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.1.6 All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2 Site Description

- 2.1.1 The site is located at Plas Grono Farm located c.3km to the southwest of the centre of Wrexham and c.500m to the southeast of Rhostyllen. The A483 runs to the southwest of the site and the historic Erddig Estate is situated 1km to the east.
- 2.1.2 The building is part of a 19th century barn complex attached to Plas Grono Farm. The barns lie directly to the south of the main farmhouse and are accessed via track from Colliery Road to the southwest.
- 2.1.3 The barn to be converted is rectangular in plan with two storeys (Hughes 2020). There is a large open fronted opening in the front wall as well as three timber doors and three windows. A further window and blocked doorway are present on the rear elevation (Figure 2).

3 Historical Background

- 3.1.1 As highlighted by the Development Control Archaeologist from CPAT-DC, the barn to be converted is recorded on the Historic Environment Record as part of PRN 18017, which encompasses the entire 19th century barn complex associated with Plas Grono Farm. The Development Control Archaeologist states that the complex:

“...currently retains an original layout, fabric and associated architectural features that are of local architectural and historical interest. Some of these features will inevitably be lost or altered in the modernisation process.”

- 3.1.2 The farm is visible on the Tithe map entitled: Map of the township of Eclusham Below in the parish of Wrexham and County of Denbigh, dating to 1839.
- 3.1.3 Cadw records show that the site lies directly to the east of the Grade II listed buildings associated with Bersham Colliery, which was established in 1869 before being adapted and re-built in the 1930's and 1950's, and closing in 1986 (Cadw 1995).
- 3.1.4 The Erddig Estate to the east of the site was established in the 17th century by Joshua Edisbury and then altered by subsequent owners in the 18th century. The house is a Grade I listed house (LB: 1533) and the surrounding gardens are a Grade I listed Registered Historic Park and Garden (Cadw 2022).

4 Objectives

- 4.1.1 This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the photographic survey will meet the standard required by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (2020) and according to Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide To Good Recording Practice (2016).
- 4.1.2 The primary objective of the photographic survey will be to provide a comprehensive visual record, by means of high-resolution digital photography, of the exterior and interior of the building with significant features noted and recorded, as per the Historic England Photographic Survey guidance (2016), so that a permanent record survives prior to demolition or renovation.

5 Timetable of Works

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 The programme of photographic survey be undertaken prior to the commencement of works associated with the proposed development. Archaeology Wales will update CPAT-DC with the exact date.

5.2 Report Delivery

- 5.2.1 The report will be submitted to the client and to CPAT-DC within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6 Details of Work

- 6.1.1 The photographic survey will be undertaken by a suitably experienced building recording archaeologist who will be able to 'read' the structure and record the

important details. The record will abide with Historic England (2016) and CPAT-DC guidelines regarding the implementation of the survey. It will:

- Provide a basic understanding of the form, function and any phasing of the standing building,
- Provide a photographic record of the historic elements of the building, prior to any construction work taking place.

6.1.2 The photographic record will include the following:

- All photographs will be given a unique number to be used for identification. This unique number will be used in the labelling of digital images.
- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size, shape and immediate setting.
- Where individual elevations include complex historical information, views will, where appropriate, be taken at right-angles to the plane of the elevation.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the buildings design, development and use, with scale where appropriate.
- A photographic register detailing the photo number, the location and direction of each view, and the composition of the shot.
- Photograph locations and directions of view will be marked on plans of each building photographed
- Photographs will be of archive quality (minimum 12 megapixel)
- Photographs, where appropriate (i.e. not general shots) will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale.
- Photographs will be adequately lit and not blurry.

6.1.3 The written record will consist of:

- The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference.
- A note of any statutory designation (that is, listing, scheduling, Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, conservation area), where applicable. Non-statutory designations (local lists) may also be added.

- The date when the record was made, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and the location of any archive material.
- A summary statement. This account will describe the buildings type and purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s), so far as these are apparent from a superficial inspection.

6.1.4 The drawn record will consist of:

- A plan showing the location and direction of view of each photograph. A separate plan will be provided of all floors affected by the proposed development.
- Standard drawing conventions will be used, as depicted in Historic England (2016) Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice pp.35-40

7 Monitoring

- 7.1.1 CPAT-DC will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological survey works, and subsequently once the work is underway.
- 7.1.2 Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT-DC for approval on behalf of planning authority.
- 7.1.3 Representatives of CPAT-DC will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the building recording.

8 Archive and Reporting Programme

- 8.1.1 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the national monuments record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014) and National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (2019).
- 8.1.2 A copy of the photographic survey will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. The original high resolution camera files will be submitted on appropriate digital media.
- 8.1.3 Once the photographic survey has been approved by the Local Planning Authority, the applicant will send a copy of the original high resolution camera files and all additional plans and information on a CD, DVD or USB stick to Mark Walters, Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP. A copy will also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Gary Duckers, at the same address. This is in order for the photographs to be entered into the Regional Historic Environment Record and so that the Development Control Archaeologist can confirm that the photo survey has been completed in accordance with the condition.

- 8.1.4 The Local Planning Authority will be informed when the photographic survey has been sent to the Regional Archaeological Trust. The submission of the photographic survey to the Regional Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record is one of the requirements of the planning condition and the condition cannot be discharged until this step is complete.

8.2 Summary Reports for Publication

- 8.2.1 Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.3 Notification of Important Remains

- 8.3.1 Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.4 Archive Deposition

- 8.4.1 The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant local authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.
- 8.4.2 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.
- 8.4.3 A full data management plan for this project can be found in Appendix I. Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.
- 8.4.4 Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to CPAT. The project will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (2018).

9 Staff

- 9.1.1 The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Archaeology Wales staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of CPAT-DC and the client.

10 Health and Safety

10.1 Risk Assessment

- 10.1.1 Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal health and safety risk assessment in accordance with The Management of Health

and Safety Regulations 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2 Other Guidelines

- 10.2.1 AW will adhere to best practice with regard to health and safety in archaeology as set out in the Fame (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) Health and Safety Manual Health And Safety In Field Archaeology (2002).

11 Community Engagement and Outreach

- 11.1.1 Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the survey work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media. This will be discussed with and in agreement with the client. The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.
- 11.1.2 Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12 Insurance

- 12.1.1 AW is fully insured for this type of work and holds insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13 Quality Control

13.1 Professional Standards

- 13.1.1 AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the Chartered Institute For Archaeologists. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute For Archaeologists' Code of conduct, code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology and the standard and guidance for archaeological building investigation and recording currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the chartered institute for archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these codes and standards during their employment.

13.2 Project Tracking

- 13.2.1 The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14 Arbitration

- 14.1.1 Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme For The Institute For Archaeologists applying at the date of the agreement.

15 References

Cadw 1995. Full Report for Listed Buildings: Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices. LB: 15826.

Cadw 2022. Registered Historic Park and Garden: Erddig. PGW(C)62(WRE).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance For The Archaeological Investigation And Recording Of Standing Buildings Or Structures.

English Heritage, 2015. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).

Historic England, 2016. Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice

Hughes, G. P. 2020. Report on the Condition of Structure of Barns at Plas Grono Farm, Erddig, Wrexham, LL130YR.

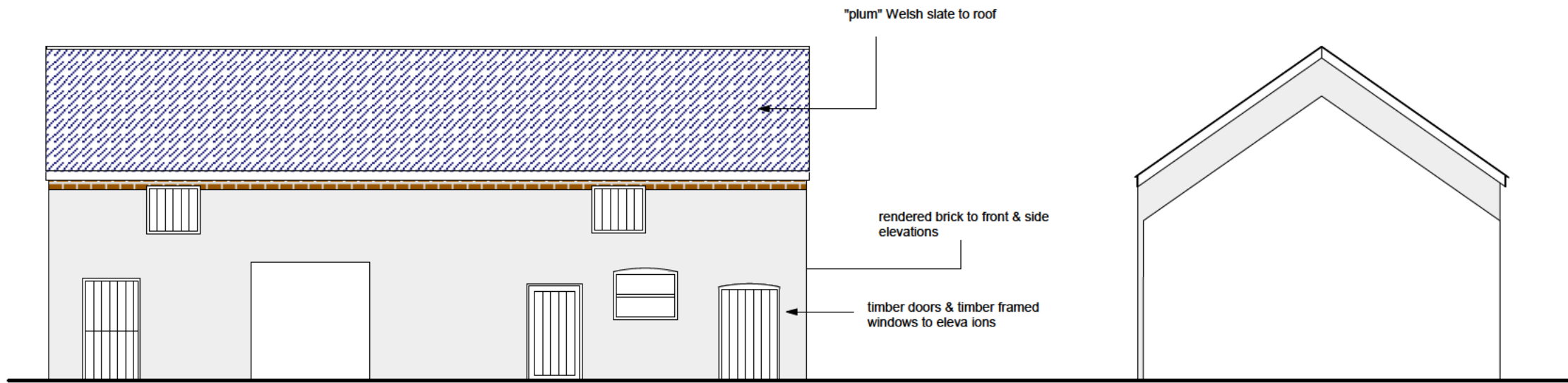
National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2019. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales

Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)

SITE LOCATION PLAN
AREA 2 HA
SCALE 1:1250 on A4
CENTRE COORDINATES: 331544, 348076

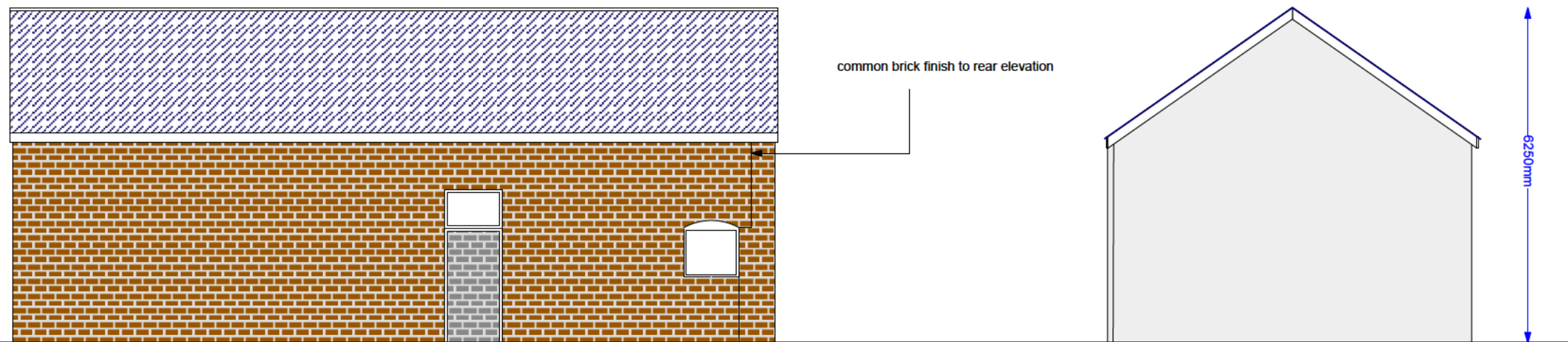


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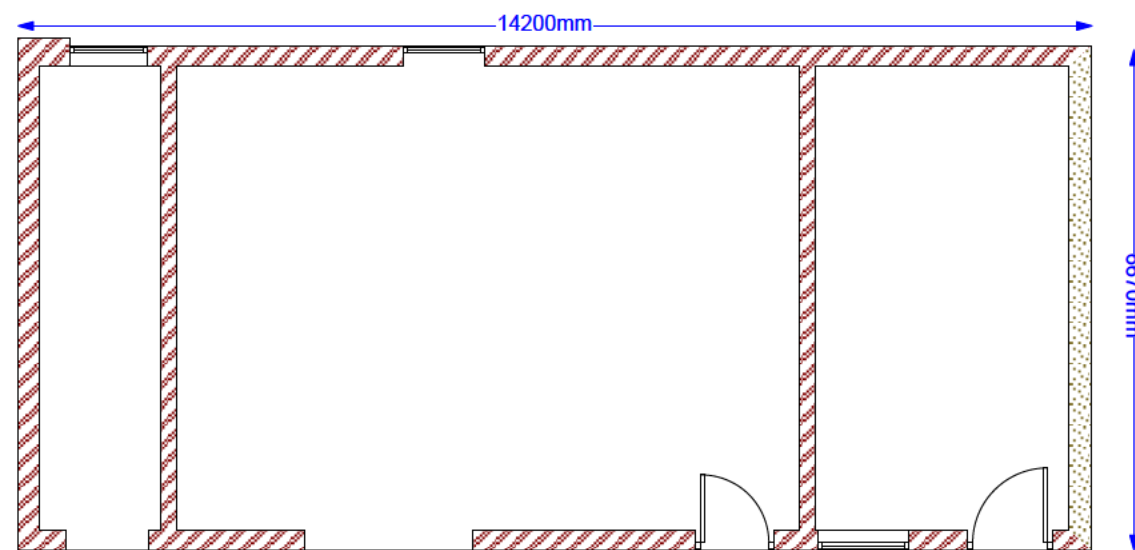
FRONT ELEVATION

LHS ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION

RHS ELEVATION



PLAN

Mr. P. Gray,
Plas Grono Farm,
Erddig

Existing Barn

Dwg No. G23/1

Rev.

Scale 1/100 @ A3

Date May 2020

Drawn by:

JNLDESIGN
Tel: 07792 595 480

Appendix 1 – Data Management Plan

Project Name and ID
2996 - Archaeological Photographic Survey at Plas Grono Farm, Erddig, Wrexham PGF/22/BR
Project description
Archaeological photographic survey on a 19 th century barn at Plas Grono Farm, Erddig, Wrexham, LL13 0YR - NGR SJ 31544 48076. The purpose of the photographic survey is to provide a comprehensive visual record, by means of high-resolution digital photography, of the exterior and interior of the building with significant features noted and recorded prior to the conversion of the barn to ancillary residential accommodation and office space.
Funder of client
Jon Edstall
Project Manager
Irene Garcia Rovira – AW project manager irene@arch-wales.co.uk
Principal investigator and contact
Same as above
Date DPM created and subsequent amendments
Created on 20.04.22
Related Data Management policies
Project Brief, ClfA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (ADS and RCAHMW) or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

Data type
.PDF: final report, WSI, all the paper archive generated onsite, photo direction plans. .JPEG: Digital photographs
How will data be generated?
Project Brief will determine the nature of data collection. The project brief has been produced taking into consideration guidance offered by ClfA, and by relevant repositories. For this project the majority of the data will consist of archive quality digital photographs taken using high-resolution digital photography at a minimum of 12 megapixels.

Data generated during the photographic survey will be regularly updated to the server and stored within well-defined folders. The folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project. The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance.

Further documentation accompanying the resulting archive

Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future.

The archive will be associated to metadata summary which outlines details of all data types, quantities and all archive components

Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology. These details are checked and taken into consideration prior the start of the project.

Data protection

We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy. Sensitive data is never retained in the project folder.

Copyright permission is sought from all specialists and other providers outside the organisation. Data sharing is also subjected to license agreements.

Storage

The project manager is responsible to the regular inspection of the data produced and stored in the server. The data produced is uploaded regularly as a way of backing up the information. Time and resources are given to the site staff to be able to back up the data.

Data retention

The DMP will be updated in light of the findings. This process will also inform any possible future project designs and further work associated with the project. The data selection plan will take into consideration the research agenda for Wales and any other local frameworks.

At the deposition stage, the DMP will be finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders.

The project results will be included in the Historic Environment Record.

Long term preservation plan

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, which is a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.
Data repository and costs
The digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Estimated cost for deposition with ADS have also been included in the project budget.
Data sharing and accessibility
A summary of the project will be provided for the museum and digital archive repositories once the work begins. Regular updates will be carried out to fit the emerging needs of the project. The documents expected for this project include a WSI and photographic survey report. The final report is expected to be completed within 3 months of the completion of fieldwork. Should the project require follow up work, then the report may take up to twelve months to be submitted A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record and any data which they request can also be provided directly.
DMP responsibility
The Project Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP Data capture, metadata production and data quality are the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager. Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team. Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by the project manager Data archiving is undertaken by the Archives Officer, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.