

From: Mark Walters <mark.walters@cpat.org.uk>
Sent: 23 August 2021 15:28
To: planning
Cc: Bryn Bolton
Subject: [DKIM:INVALID] P/2021/0793 FORMER AIR PRODUCTS SITE LLANGOLLEN ROAD
ACREFAIR - Further information required

Dear Bryn

Thank you for the consultation on this application.

As mentioned in the accompanying archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey 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.

The current DBA is poor with regard to accurately locating the surviving archaeology that it describes (eg. where precisely are the furnace arches shown in Fig 18 and 19 ?). It seems that west has been substituted for east in a number of places in the text and features which are further south and outside the development boundary are not clearly separated in the text from features which are inside the red boundary. The test pits and machine scrape area which are shown in photographs (Figs 14,15,16,17) are not accurately located on any plan. Overall, it is very difficult to assess the impact of the development on the features described in this report.

The DBA mentions in the conclusions (page 20) that impacts might be reduced by the current ground levels being raised across the site with between 0.60 and 1m of inert fill being brought in. It also mentions in the conclusions that the use of a shallow foundation design, presumably into the raised ground level deposits, will further help to mitigate impacts. However, the information supplied with the application mentions none of these intentions in the plans or supplementary information and we therefore have no idea whether the mitigation suggested will be viable, or even precisely what we are trying to mitigate and where !

The DBA needs to be looked at again with regard to the issues mentioned above and we need clarification in the form of design plans with elevations in relation to the present ground surface which show how the ground levels will be raised, where they will be raised, and the design of the new foundations which will sit on this raised ground level. This information will be critical to deciding how much archaeological intervention is required here either at the pre-determination stage, or as a condition of consent.

From my point of view the area of potentially highest archaeological sensitivity is the location of the former blast furnaces demolished at the southeast corner of the development site in the area of building plots 12,13,14 and the open space/suds attenuation area. Any ground disturbance here has the potential to reveal significant archaeology related to the earliest furnaces on the site and their associated surrounding buildings.

I look forward to receiving clarification of the DBA content and the supplementary plans showing how ground levels will be raised, and foundations inserted, in relation to the present ground surface levels.

Kind regards

Mark Walters

Mark Walters
Development Control Archaeologist / Swydddog Rheoli Datblygiad

Ffôn / Tel: 01938 553670/552035 Mobile: 07736 163148

E-bost / E-mail: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys, Y Swyddfeydd, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP,
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Please note that I do not work Fridays

From: Cerys Jones <Cerys.Jones@wrexham.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 August 2021 15:02

To: Mark Walters <mark.walters@cpat.org.uk>

Subject: Consultation Letter P 2021 0793

Cerys Jones

Cynorthwydd Cymorth Busnes / Business Support Assistant
Cynllunio a Rheoleiddio / Planning and Regulatory



 01978 298741

 Neuadd y Dref, Wrecsam, LL11 1AY

 Guildhall, Wrexham, LL11 1AY

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