Cerys Jones

From: Kevin Hughes
Sent: 20 May 2016 12:44
To: planning_admin
Subject: FW: P/2016/0358 Outline Planning Application for Underground Gas Pipeline to Maelor Gas Works, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham - Pre-determination Archaeological Evaluation

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From: Mark Walters [mailto:Mark@cpat.org.uk]
Sent: 12 May 2016 09:08
To: planning_admin; Kevin Hughes
Subject: P/2016/0358 Outline Planning Application for Underground Gas Pipeline to Maelor Gas Works, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham - Pre-determination Archaeological Evaluation

Dear Kevin

Thank you for the consultation on the above application.

In December 2014 (see email dated 16/12/14) we advised the Atkins heritage consultant that the information supplied in the Cultural Heritage section of the ES did not fully address the pre-medieval and sub-surface potential of the gas connection corridor, or the area of pasture fields on which the new power station would be built. We note that in subsequent discussions with you the Atkins consultants said they would contact CPAT to discuss the way forward, this was not done. We advised pre-determination geophysical survey of the pipeline corridor and pasture fields beneath the new power station with additional investigation and mitigation to follow as necessary. Unfortunately, over the intervening 16 months nothing has been done to address this, which is unacceptable given the length of time available to complete the evaluation in support of the application. The LPA therefore has insufficient information regarding the true potential of the archaeological resource, and the impact upon that resource, to be able to properly determine this application in accordance with WO Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology, paras 13 and 14; Planning Policy Wales (Edn. 8, 2016), Chapter 6: Conserving the Historic Environment, para 6.5.2 and Wrexham UDP Policy EC11.

We would therefore advise again that the information requested in December 2014 is supplied as part of a pre-determination evaluation so that any pre-medieval and sub-surface archaeological constraints, which may affect the layout and construction of the gas connection, can be identified and mitigated for as necessary.

The evaluation would consist of:

Geophysical Survey of the gas connection route using magnetometry techniques (preferably caesium vapor technology) to include the full width of the construction corridor, any easements and any alternative routes.

Targeted investigative trenching of significant geophysical anomalies to characterise and date the features.

Geoarchaeological investigation of alluvial deposition and potential palaeo-environmental sequences in the River Clywedog floodplain at the positions where the directional drilling access holes will be located. We advise using a geoarchaeological specialist to provide information on appropriate sampling strategies and we normally use Dr Martin Bates (University of Wales, St Davids University, Lampeter) who is a floodplain and marine sediment specialist in Wales.

Information resulting from this evaluation should then be presented in support of the application with a suggested mitigation framework. Any additional archaeological work resulting from the agreed mitigation would be completed as a condition of consent.

The archaeological contractor will need to provide a written scheme of investigation addressing the above requirements, which will be approved by this office before works can commence.

Kind regards

Mark Walters

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Please note that I do not work Fridays

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