

From: Mark Walters <Mark@cpat.org.uk>
Sent: 23 May 2016 13:10
To: planning_admin
Subject: P/2016/0453 Chirk Mill, Chirk, Wrexham - Level 2 Archaeological Survey
Attachments: Contractors List 2016.doc; Advice on Commissioning Archaeological Work.doc

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for the consultation on this application.

While much of this application appears to be sympathetic to the original structure and seeks to enhance recently blocked original openings the conversion of the former wheel pit and turbine housing, together with the removal of an original side wall to access the wheel room, will necessitate some removal and changes to original fabric, fixtures and fittings associated with the powering of former mill machinery. The existing and proposed drawings are at sketch level only and there appears to be no accompanying heritage impact statement precisely detailing what will be removed or altered by the new works.

It would appear that the main area of impact is the loss of the original side wall between the mill and the wheel pit together with alteration in the wheel pit room to accommodate a new floor, services and access. This may remove fabric and fixtures associated with the original function as a corn mill together with later 20th century fittings associated with power generation. We welcome the sympathetic retention and renovation of the turbine housing and this should be taken forward.

I would therefore recommend that the applicant is required to engage an archaeological contractor to complete the recording of the wall fabric which will be removed and the current form and layout of the wheel pit and turbine room, together with any associated original fabric or fittings which may be removed, in accordance with a Level 2 (English Heritage, Understanding Historic Buildings, 2016) specification and a suitable condition. The condition in this case would be:

Suggested planning condition to facilitate a programme of historic building recording, the equivalent of an English Heritage Level 3 building survey, in order to allow an adequate analytical record of the buildings to be made prior to alteration or demolition.

No development shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an English Heritage Level 3 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by the local planning authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The programme of building analysis and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: markwalters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason:

To allow an adequate analytical record of the building to be made, before it is altered or demolished, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

I have also attached a guidance note for the applicant explaining how to commission archaeological works and an advisory list of contractors who may wish to tender for the work. Please pass these documents onto the applicant so that they are fully informed about what is required.

Do contact me if you wish to discuss this advice further or require more information.

Kind regards

Mark Walters

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Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, SY21 7RR Registered Office as above. Company No 1212455, Charity No 508301. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation No 6.

Please note that I do not work Fridays

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