

From: Mark Walters <mark.walters@cpat.org.uk>
Sent: 14 January 2019 13:08
To: planning
Subject: P/2018/1063 Land west of Bryn Isa, Vicarage Lane, Gresford - Pre-determination Archaeological Evaluation
Attachments: Contractors Information.cleaned.doc

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Dear Sir or Madam

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

Information retained within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this application may lie in an area of high archaeological sensitivity.

The development plot includes one archaeological record: PRN 54689 – a Roman period lead figurine found by a metal detectorist in 2011. The figurine may indicate the presence of a relatively high status building such as a villa or temple, or possibly an industrial site, in the immediate area which is currently unrecorded.

The proposed development will disturb any such remains surviving here, but from present knowledge it is impossible to estimate how damaging this might be, and thus to frame an appropriate archaeological response. The planning authority appears to have insufficient information about this archaeological resource, or the applicant's intended treatment of it, to make a balanced decision. As archaeology is a material consideration here I would advise that this application is not determined until this resource has been properly evaluated.

Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10, Nov 2018), TAN 24: the Historic Environment (May 2017) suggest that planning authorities should require applicants to supply a suitable archaeological assessment in support of an application where a potential impact to archaeological remains is identified.

In this case we would initially recommend that the whole application area is assessed for sub-surface archaeology using geophysical survey techniques. If a Roman period site is present in the form of structures these should show up in the geophysics results and we can progress from there with appropriate mitigation.

The applicant will need to engage a geophysical specialist and we have attached an information sheet listing sources of contractors.

The geophysical survey will consist of the following:

Geophysical Survey

A magnetometer survey will be completed across the whole of the application area. The geophysical specialist will be expected to choose the most appropriate equipment and methodology for the survey based on the ground conditions and superficial geology at the survey site. The survey will take place within a pre-defined survey grid which has been tied into the OS national grid and local topographic features to survey grade accuracy (+/- 0.1m) using a total station or survey grade GPS. The sampling interval will be at 0.25m on traverses 1m apart. All results

will be presented in a report with full analysis and interpretation of appropriately filtered data. All raw and published data will be retained within the archive and submitted to the HER and NMR along with a high resolution digital copy of the final report.

In carrying out this survey contractors should adhere to the guidance set out in:

- EAC, Guidelines for the use of Geophysics in Archaeology, 2016
- Historic England, 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- ClfA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) October 2018

The developer will need to engage an archaeological contractor to complete this work in accordance with the above brief.

In response the archaeological contractor will need to supply a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) along with their cost estimate.

The written scheme of investigation will need to be approved by me before work can commence on site.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss the above advice or require any more information.

Kind regards

Mark Walters

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Please note that I do not work Fridays

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