

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

for an Archaeological Watching Brief to be undertaken on

Land off Rivulet Road, Wrexham

Former Wrexham Gasworks site

Prepared for:

Anwyl Construction Company Ltd

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1. Introduction

1.1 This WSI, prepared by Pat Frost, Castlering Archaeology, outlines the appropriate archaeological monitoring to be maintained during ground disturbing works in association with the development on land off Rivulet Road, Wrexham, the former site of Wrexham Gasworks site.

1.2 The archaeological condition was considered to be an appropriate response to planning application No. P/2009/0909, following consultation with the former Wrexham Borough Archaeology Service and Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, the present archaeological advisers to Wrexham County Borough Council's planning department.

1.3 Conditions 31 and 32 of the planning permission state that 'a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of development, written notice of the name of a suitably qualified archaeological contractor shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'. In April 2012, Anwyl Construction Company Ltd contracted Castlering Archaeology to undertake the recommended programme of archaeological work as detailed in this document.

1.4 The WSI has been submitted to Mark Walters, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, archaeological adviser to Wrexham County Borough Council's planning department.

2. Aims

The aim of the proposed programme of archaeological work is to secure

- the preservation by record of any archaeological remains or artefacts that are encountered during the development;
- the recording and assessment of suitable palaeoenvironmental deposits associated with archaeological features where these are encountered during groundworks
- the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site
- the production of a report documenting the results of the watching brief

3. Methodology

3.1 The watching brief will be undertaken using proven archaeological techniques, which comply with Guidelines and Codes of Conduct set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA); in particular the *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised October 2008). The assessment follows the Welsh Office *Planning Policy Guidance Wales* (July 2010); *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* (December 1996) and *Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* together with English Heritage's 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (1991, MAP2).

3.3 The fieldwork will comprise the monitoring of all ground excavation work associated with the development. The archaeology will be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation, using pro-forma context sheets and register, scale plans and sections. Plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50; sections at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, related to Ordnance Datum and / or published boundaries and a photographic record will be made.

3.4 All spoil removed during groundworks will be scanned visually and using a metal detector to recover small finds. Any significant finds recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale

3.5 Any archaeological objects and artefacts recovered during the course of the evaluation will be cleaned, suitably labeled and related to the contexts from which they derived where possible. Following an appropriate collection and discard policy, the artefacts will be treated and stored appropriately prior to any deposition, following negotiations with the landowner. Suitable treatment will be similarly accorded to any environmental samples, industrial waste and faunal remains, which may be considered appropriate.

Constraints

3.6 In the event of significant archaeological features, structures or deposits being encountered, provision will be made for their investigation and full recording prior to removal or disturbance. If necessary, arrangements will be made for excavation work to be interrupted for a reasonable period in order that a satisfactory record might be made following consultation with the developer, CPAT and the main contractor.

3.7 In the event of human remains being encountered all relevant statutory and Home Office requirements and Environmental Health regulations will be fully complied with.

4. Post-Fieldwork Programme

4.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork, an illustrated and bound report will be prepared in A4 format together with a full copy in pdf format on CD Rom. The report will include as a minimum:

- Synopsis / non-technical summary
- statement of objectives and background to the project
- summary of methodology
- a full written description of the results of all elements of the project
- finds reports as necessary
- plan and section drawings to scale, as appropriate
- photographic illustration, as appropriate
- conclusion
- list of all sources consulted
- Archive statement
- copy of the WSI

4.2 An appropriate number of copies of the report will be produced for the client and the Curatorial Section of CPAT within one month of the completion of the field work on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period, following completion of the fieldwork.

4.3 A short summary of the results of the project will be submitted for inclusion in the next edition of CBA Wales for publication in the relevant section of the annual 'Archaeological Notes'.

5. Post-Excavation Requirements

The precise post-excavation requirements in terms of finds analysis cannot be determined until completion of the on-site investigations.

6. Archive Format and Deposition

6.1 The site archive will be included as appendices in the report. It will comprise a copy of the report and all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the assessment. Data recovered during the fieldwork will be quantified, ordered and indexed and stored according to the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC, 1990), and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992).

6.2 The archive will be deposited within twelve months of the completion of the fieldwork, subject to the agreement of the site owner regarding any finds. The contractor is aware that responsibility for obtaining the site owner's permission for deposition of finds lies with the contractor. Should permission be refused a comprehensive record of the finds will be completed.

7. Resources and Programming

The watching brief, report preparation and archive deposition will be undertaken by the Contractor, who is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MIfA). General health and safety procedures will be adhered to throughout the project. Castlering Archaeology operates within the recommendations detailed in *The Health and Safety Manual of the Standing Conference of Unit Managers* (SCAUM 1991) and the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*. The Contractor is an affiliated member of CBA and holds Insurance for Public and Employees Liability with Towergate Risk Solutions, recommended by CBA.

8. Sources

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*. London

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 1997, *Code of conduct* (revised edition)

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 2001, *Health and Safety Manual*. Poole

The Treasure Act (1997)

The Burial Act (1857)

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 2002, *Planning Policy Guidance Wales*

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 1996, *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*

Welsh Office Planning Guidance, 1998, *Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment*