



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF

Abbey Tintern Furnace Site

Tintern, Monmouthshire

Client: Wye Valley AONB

A.P.A.C. SPECIFICATION FOR WATCHING BRIEF:

Abbey Tintern Furnace Site

Tintern, Monmouthshire

Summary

On the 2nd of July 2007, Dr N Phillips of A.P.A.C. Ltd was contacted by Sue Middleton of Wye Valley AONB, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Abbey Tintern Furnace Site, Tintern, Monmouthshire. The watching brief was to concentrate on the initial investigation work at the site; to assess the possibility of work to the original drainage structures connecting the furnace floor area to the race passing under the Devauden Tintern road.

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To carry out an archaeological watching brief to the standards laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guideline for Watching Briefs.
- 1.2 This will entail a programme of observation and investigation in the specified area during ground works and to produce an archive report of the same.

2. Scope of the work

- 2.1 The archaeology of the development site as a whole will be considered, when any archaeology exposed is examined.
- 2.2 All remains of potential interest will be recorded and finds retained, regardless of date.

3. Methodology and Contingency Arrangements

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the watching brief a study will be made into any existing information pertaining to the area of the site.
- 3.2 This information will be obtained from appropriate sources.
- 3.3 If archaeological features are discovered, work will cease in the immediate area until the archaeologist has been able to fully inspect the feature and determine its importance.
- 3.4 If in the opinion of the archaeologist, the archaeological feature can be rapidly recorded to the required standard in accordance with the watching brief guidelines this will be done.
- 3.5 If the archaeologist determines that the archaeological feature requires more investigation, and recording than he can undertake as part of the watching brief, both the client and Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, (GGAT), will be informed and an 'on-site' meeting arranged as soon as possible. Until the meeting has taken place no work will be undertaken in the vicinity of the archaeological feature.
- 3.6 The meeting will determine what works are required to be undertaken to ensure that the archaeological feature is fully "preserved by record." In most cases a detailed project design for this work will be prepared and submitted to the client prior to the commencement of the agreed work.
- 3.7 In the event of artefactual remains of archaeological importance being recovered, resulting from ground works at the site, GGAT will be informed.

- 3.8 In consultation with the archaeological advisors from GGAT, a decision can be made, as to steps necessary for conservation or investigation of such artefacts, which may involve specialist procedures or services.
- 3.9 In the event of such procedures or services arising from ground works, relevant parties will be contacted by the contractor, A.P.A.C. Ltd and arrangements made for necessary post ex-work.
- 3.7 Such specialist procedures or services may incur charges that will be borne by the developer.

4. Recording

- 4.1 Recording of archaeological contexts will be undertaken using a continuous numbered context system on pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.2 Written and drawn records will be kept; plans (other than site location) will be drawn to a scale of 1:20. The photographic record will consist of digital images to 8 megapixels taken throughout the project.
- 4.3 Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- 4.4 All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be closely related to the contexts from which they originated. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three dimensionally where possible.
- 4.5 Although it is not expected that human remains will be found on the site, any occurrence will be dealt with by initially leaving in-situ and if removal is necessary, the appropriate Home Office permission obtained.
- 4.6 Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled.
- 4.7 Although the requirements for conservation of artefacts are unpredictable we will undertake to ensure that the minimum standards are achieved as in the UK Institute of Conservation's "Guidelines for the treatment of Finds from Archaeological Sites".

5. Post-Excavation

- 5.1 A catalogue by context of all artefactual material recovered will be included with quantification by weight or sherd count where appropriate.
- 5.2 Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in 'Draft Guidelines for the preparation of Pottery Archives' as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in 'The Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work'.
- 5.3 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (English Heritage 1991),

6 The Report

- 6.1 The report will be fully representative of information gathered from implementation of sections 4, 5 and 6, even if the evidence is negative.
- 6.2 The report will contain at least one location plan showing the site in relation to local topography as well as the area in which work is undertaken.
- 6.3 The report will include all drawn sections and plans, with reference to those of archaeological significance.
- 6.4 A summary report on the artefactual assemblage and an assessment of potential for further study will be prepared by suitably qualified individuals and included in the report.

- 6.5 Once completed, a copy of the report will be submitted to the client for their approval. Notes of any confidentiality imposed by the client will be included.
- 6.6 A summary of the work will be submitted to 'Archaeology in Wales' no later than one year after completion of the work.
- 6.7 The contractors will arrange with the client an agreement for the deposition of the completed archive. This will be confirmed in the final report.

7 The Contractor

- 7.1 The work will be undertaken by the contractor A.P.A.C. under the direction of Dr Neil Phillips. The contractor has experience and a proven track record in archaeological excavation and assessment work.
- 7.2 A.P.A.C., as archaeological contractor, will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- 7.3 The copyright for this report shall remain with the A.P.A.C.