

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT**

**Green Park Street, Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot**

Prepared for:

Neath Port Talbot County Council

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Summary

This Specification details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the redevelopment of land at Green Park Street, Port Talbot between NGR SS 76055 89770 and SS 76254 89895. The associated Planning Application is P2015/0965.

The objective of the watching brief is to safeguard the potential archaeological resource through observation and recording during the course of the intrusive ground works associated with the scheme. The south-west extent of the development area lies on the site of the former Afan-Vale Tinplate Works, established in 1866 and closed in 1895.

This Specification document has been prepared by Rowena Hart (Project Manager) of Archaeology Wales Limited for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Specification

1. Planning background

This Specification details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the redevelopment of land at Green Park Road, Port Talbot between NGR SS 76055 89770 and SS 76254 89895 (Figure 1). The Planning Application Number is P2015/0965. GGAT – Curatorial Division provided advice to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council stating that the ground work associated with the scheme should be subject to an archaeological watching brief. This advice goes on to state that:

‘The southwestern portion of the proposed development is on the site of the former Afon Vale Tin Plate Works, with terraced housing to the northeast. The Tin Plate Works formed part of one of the world’s leading centres of tin plate production in the second half of the nineteenth century. The closure of the Afon Vale Works in the early 1890s marked the beginning of the decline of tin plate production in south Wales. Although the buildings were demolished in the early twentieth century, a recent field evaluation and excavation a short distance to the northwest has indicated the survival of substantial and significant structures that formed part of the Works at an approximate depth of 0.5m below the current ground surface. The archaeological investigations have indicated that significant landscaping has taken place, resulting in the presence of a substantial amount of made-ground and a similar depth of overburden is likely to extend into the current application area. Whilst the ground intrusion works necessary for the development are unlikely to reach such depths, the sections for the car parking, for example, indicate a depth of 0.3m, it is possible that the depth of surviving remains may not be consistent. As a result, archaeologically significant remains may be encountered during the course of the development.’

The location of the development lies between Green Park Road and the River Afan (Figure 1).

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2. Archaeological background

The south western extent of the development area lies partially on the site of the Afan-vale Tinplate Works. The works were opened in 1866 by Messrs Thomas Jenkins (resident proprietor), Edward Davies, Col.D.R.David Richards Jenkins, David Grey and Robert Morgan. In 1880-81 the works were registered under the name Port Talbot Tinplate Company Ltd. The works closed in 1895 and dismantled some four years later.

Recent excavation on the north-west side of green Park Road has revealed significant remains of the Afan-vale Tinplate works. Large structural elements were revealed below demolition rubble layers (Crawford forthcoming).

The north-east extent of the development is located on the site of the terraced housing on both Green Park Street and Pritchard Street.

3. Specification objectives

This specification document sets out a program of works to ensure that the archaeological watching brief will meet the standard required by *The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance For Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

The objective of the watching brief is to safeguard the potential archaeological resource through observation and recording during the course of the intrusive ground works associated with the ground investigation scheme.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork and an archive of all collected data will be produced and deposited with an appropriate receiving institution.

4. Timetable of works

4.1. Fieldwork

The fieldwork will be undertaken at the convenience of the client and to coincide with the main site contractor's programme. The work is proposed to start on 01/02/2016. Archaeology Wales will update Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust - Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD) with variations to this date.

4.2. Report delivery

The watching brief report will be submitted to NPTCBC and to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division (advisors to the Local Planning Authority,

henceforth GGAT-CD) within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

5. Fieldwork

5.1. Scope of development

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during all intrusive ground works. This will include, but not be limited to:

- Landscaping
- Ground levelling
- Car park ground work
- Excavation for shrubs, trees, hedges and other vegetation
- Excavation for steel bollards and fencing
- All other ground work

5.2. Methodology and contingency

All intrusive groundwork will be subject to an archaeological watching brief conducted to meet the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (4th ed. 2008).

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief must be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork shall not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between the client, their agent, main contractor, GGAT-CD and Archaeology Wales should be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a maximum of three days' uninterrupted access to each such area and for a team of up to two further archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, the client (of their agent) and GGAT Curatorial Division.

5.3. Recording

Archaeological recording will be undertaken to best current professional practice. Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system. Where necessary site drawings will be made at a suitable scale usually 1:20 in plan, and 1:10 in section. All significant contexts will be photographed in digital at a minimum of 12mp.

5.4. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001) will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

5.5. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

5.6. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with GGAT Curatorial, the client (or their agent) and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (3.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

5.7. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

5.7.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

6. Monitoring

AW will make its fieldwork available for monitoring by the client (and their appointed agents) and the Local Planning Authority. In both instances advance notice should be given. All site attendants should follow Health and Safety requirements. If site visit reports are made AW would be grateful to receive copies.

7. Post-fieldwork programme

7.1. Archive assessment

7.1.1. Site archive

An archive of archaeological site records will be prepared in accordance with *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) Appendix 3.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with the ICON and IFA Guidelines (*Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2007)). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds. Copies of the report and archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth and the *Regional HER*.

In addition, an archive of records made during the post-fieldwork phase will be prepared to the specifications in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (English Heritage, 1991) Appendix 6.

7.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A statement of the local, regional and national context of the remains

- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

7.2. Reports and archive deposition

7.2.1. Report to client

A report, comprising a synthesis of data gathered, will be submitted upon completion of the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, together with photographs and illustrations.

7.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of the report will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw, English Heritage or Historic Scotland.

7.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

7.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to the relevant national archaeological agency (Cadw, English Heritage or Historic Scotland).

7.2.5. Archive deposition

The research archive will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. The site archive will be deposited with an appropriate institution.

7.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

A copy of the archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

8. Staff

The project will be managed by Rowena Hart (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Louis Stafford (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT Curatorial and NPTCBC.

Additional Considerations

9. Health and Safety

9.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

9.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002).

10. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

11. Quality Control

11.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

11.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

12. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

13. References

Crawford, J, 2016, *Excavations at Afan-Vale Tinsplate Works*. GGAT Unpublished Report.

