



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR A
PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

Level II Building Recording Survey

St Illtyds church, Cefnpennar, Mountain ash.

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Planning Application No: 16/0216/10

PREPARED BY: MR A. O. PHILLIPS

24 March 2016

Checked Dr N Phillips

28 March 2017



Summary

This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation for a program of works concerning the partial demolition, external and external alterations and provisions for access as part of a change of use for the former church to residential.

A planning application was submitted to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and as part of the planning process, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) advised the planning department that the proposed work at the site could likely impact on archaeological resources.

This document is the written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work, to be undertaken prior to the commencement of any development to the church and its associated buildings.

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Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Mr A. O. Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, in response to the proposed: conversion of church to residential dwelling including new access, external alterations and part demolition St Illtyd's Church, Ton-Coch Terrace, Cefnpennar, Mountain Ash Pl.App.No.: 16/0216/10.

The proposed alterations, and demolition work will involve changes to the standing fabric of the existing buildings, all of which may impact on any archaeological resources present.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) were advised in this matter by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) Archaeological Planning Services (APS):

No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority

Reason: As the building is of significance the specified records are necessary to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

RCTO429/RD

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been compiled, based on information provided by (the client) and GGAT.

Location of the Site

The location of the church is in the village of Cefnpennar, CF45-4DT, NGR: 303784 200546.

The site occupies land at around 270m on the north eastern side of the Cynon Valley.

Travelling south from Merthyr Tydfil, take the A470 towards Pontypridd and take the third exit onto the A4059 at the roundabout just before Abercynon.

Follow the A4059 some 4 miles through Mountain Ash and opposite Cwm Cynon Hospital (*Ysbyty Cwm Cynon*), take a right turn onto Mill Rd.

At the 'T' junction turn left and then take the next left leading to Cefnpennar, The Avenue and eventually after 0.6miles the former St Illtyd's Church.

Brief archaeological and historical background

In 1870-72, Cefnpennar is described as a hamlet in Aberdare parish, Glamorgan; on the river Cynon. (*Vision of Britain*)

The village came into existence to provide housing and associated buildings for the developing coal mining infrastructure in the 19th century.

The GGAT advisory document noted information from the Historic Environment Record, (HER) stating:

that St Illtyds Church was built in 1894 at a cost of £900, and has 240 sittings. There is also an attached reading room. A review of historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the area notes that the structure is depicted on the 2nd edition map of 1900 and the 3rd edition map of 1919 with a similar footprint to the current building. The mapping also depicts the hall and toilets scheduled for demolition.

RCTO429/RD



The Christian chapel is thought to have been built through funding from donations of the local populace, for a place of worship.

The numbers of worshipers dropped in modern times making the chapel unsustainable. This led to its close approximately four years ago, (*information from the design and access statement, RCTCB PlApp: 16/0216/10.*)

Rational of the Project

There is a distinct possibility that the work may impact upon archaeological resources within the development area. In accordance with this design brief, the aim of the proposed work will be to:

Elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of any potential archaeological remains, extant in the development area.

Provide an information base from which to formulate mitigation strategies, in the event of significant archaeological resources being impacted upon within the development area.

Provide a detailed record of the work to allow for a report to be produced.

Provide a detail record of the work; in the event of significant archaeological resources being discovered, to allow for publication in a suitable academic journal.

Allow for the development to be monitored.

The above will be realized through a sequence of the following objective strategies;

- Brief Documentary Research
- A Level II building survey

The sequence will allow for contingencies to be implemented should the need arise.

Documentary research:

Research will be undertaken to compile the historical background to the site from easily available sources.

The following may be contacted towards this end:

The Glamorgan Gwent Historic Environment Record (HER)
Cadw (Cardiff)
Public Record Office, Ebbw
Vale Current site data from
the landowner
Internet resources

A Level 2 building survey

A full definition of building survey 'levels' can be found in the English Heritage Publication Understanding Historic Buildings A guide to good Recording Practice. But the relevant sections are provided below:

5.2 Level 2

This is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require any fuller record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and the interior will be viewed, described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.



Scope of the Work

The archaeology of the application site as a whole, in its wider local or regional context, will be considered, although the survey and watching brief will be confined to those areas which will be directly affected by the development or some aspect of it. Any remains of potential interest will be considered, whatever their date.

Procedures

The building survey

The survey procedure will be undertaken to record aspects of both the interior and exterior of the building as a whole.

Any structural features of interest will be recorded with descriptions.

Should such structures be of sufficient importance they will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20: where appropriate.

Photographic recording will be undertaken using a digital camera with 14 mg capability with images saved as RAW & jpeg files.

Measurements will be taken, where appropriate, with a Leica, Disto and related to the floor plan supplied by the by the client's architect.

A report will be produced, fully representative of information gathered from implementation of the Level II survey.

Once completed, a copy of the report will be submitted to the RCTCBC Planning for their approval and a further copy will be sent to GGAT: Notes of any confidentiality imposed by the client will be included.

The report may be consulted to mitigate the further development.

Analysis and Reports

Within three months of the completion of the fieldwork, a fully illustrated report will be submitted to the client, RCTCBC (planning), and GGAT Historic Environment Record.

Each report will contain the following elements:-

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the study area.
- A statement of the project aims.
- The archaeological/historical background of the evaluation area, indicating past and present land use, accompanied by relevant maps, plans and photographs.
- A location plan and gazetteer of areas/sites of known or potential archaeological significance within the project area.
- Survey plans at appropriate scales.
- Other maps, plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate.
- An interpretation of the results with a statement of the significance of any identified archaeological features/sites on a local, regional and national scale.
- An identification of any research implications arising from the work.
- A bibliography of sources consulted and a supplementary bibliography of any sources identified but not available for consultation.
- An index to the project archive and a statement of its location/proposed repository.
- A summary report on the evaluation will be published in a suitable local journal, with a record note presented to the appropriate national period journal(s).



Archive

The completed archives will be deposited in the Gwent Records Office and RCAHMW with the original copy retained by A.P.A.C. Ltd.

The project archives will consist of all original records, artefacts, ecofacts/samples and all documentation that relates to the building survey

Copies of the Design Brief and any relevant correspondence will be included.

The archives will be prepared according to the Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage, Second Edition, (1991) so the records will be fully ordered and indexed.

The archive will comply with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (Archaeology Section) Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (1990) the Society of Museum Archaeologists Towards An Accessible Archive (1995) and to the reasonable requirements of the designated Museum.

The archives will be deposited within twelve months of the completion of the evaluation and with the agreement of the landowner.

A synopsis of the project will be submitted to CBA Wales.

Health & Safety:

The Project Team will operate in accordance with the health and safety procedures as set out in:-

- The Health and Safety Work Act (1974) and related legislation.
- The Standing Conference of Archaeology Unit Managers Health and Safety Manual 2002).
- The Council for British Archaeology Handbook no. 6, Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork (1989).
- In accordance with the CDM Regulation, The Project Team will prepare a Risk Assessment in relation to the archaeological works prior to the commencement of the evaluation.

All necessary protective clothing and equipment will be used.

A First-Aid kit and Accident Book will be kept on site at all times, with a Health and Safety file.

Project Management

Dr Neil Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, will manage the project.

Dr N. Phillips has been active in archaeology since 1997, completing his 1st degree in 1999 followed by a research Phd in 2004.

A.P.A.C. Ltd is an archaeological consultancy specialising in landscape archaeology and survey work.

Dr Phillips interests lie locally with the medieval period and industrial period although he has been involved in international Palaeolithic projects both in the UK as well as Europe and Africa.

Scibd currently carries a range of archaeological projects completed by APAC Ltd (search APAC. Ltd or Dr N Phillips).

APAC. Ltd has current Public Liability (924765101 CHC) and Professional Indemnity (RKK865819/1126) Insurance with Towergate



Bibliography and References:

English Heritage

Management of Archaeological Projects (1991).

Understanding Historic Buildings *A guide to good Recording Practice. 2006*

Chartered Institute of
Archaeologists.

Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the
regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
2014.

Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation,
conservation and research of archaeological materials. 2014.

Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and
recording of standing buildings and structures, 2014

GGAT

REF No: RCT0429/RD. Re: Conversion of church to residential dwelling
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Church, Ton-Coch Terrace, Cefnpennar, Mountain Ash Pl.App.No.:
16/0216/10

Vision of Britain

“John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales”
<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/23264>

Rhondda Cynon Taff County
Borough Council

Planning No: 16/0216/10.

Design & access statement

Planning No: 16/0216/10

Rhondda Cynon Taff County
Borough Council

Planning No: 16/0216/10
current site plan

DRW N0: SIC/LK/PL01a

31/01/16

The Society of Museum
Archaeologists

Towards An Accessible Archive (1995)

United Kingdom
Institute for
Conservation.
(Archaeology Section)

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term
Storage (1990)

Online resources

<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>
<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/23264>



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