



**Gloucestershire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

*An archaeological evaluation  
on land at*  
HARTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, NEWPORT

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION  
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## Summary

*This document forms a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Hartridge High School, Hartridge Farm Road, Newport (OS NGR 335530 187760). It has been prepared at the request of Haydn Ames of Newport City Council. The evaluation is to be carried out prior to the determination of a planning application for development of the site. This project design has been produced in line with the requirements of the brief, issued by the Curatorial Division of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), to whom it will be submitted for approval. The project design will set out the background information for the site, which will inform the evaluation, explain the aims and methodology of fieldwork, and describe report production. Further details regarding, staffing and health and safety, are also included.*

## 1 Introduction

**1.1** The archaeological evaluation is required prior to the determination of a planning application (ref. 07/1590) for new school buildings and associated playing fields and infrastructure at Hartridge High School, as the site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area. Following a site meeting, between GCCAS, the Headmaster and Haydn Ames, and following discussions with Neil Maylan of GGAT, it was agreed that two further areas of proposed development should also be evaluated. Three of the proposed trenches which are outside of the proposed new school development would be moved onto the playing fields to the south of the school into an area proposed for housing. In addition to this, an area of the neighbouring school, Ysgol Gymrarg Casnewydd, which is to have new car parking facilities, will also be evaluated with a single small trench, where site conditions allow.

**1.2** The initial brief for archaeological evaluation issued by GGAT Curatorial required ten evaluation trenches each measuring 25m long by 2m wide to be excavated on land on and adjacent to the existing school buildings. Following a site visit which highlighted restrictions to the type of machinery that could be used for the evaluation, GGAT Curatorial agreed that the ten trenches will each measure a revised 25m long by 1.52m wide. A further smaller trench will also be excavated to the southwest of the main school site. A tracked mini-digger or JCB equipped with a **1.52m wide toothless ditching bucket** is to be used. The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations' produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

## 2 Location and description of the study area

**2.1** The site lies on the eastern side of Newport, centred on OS NGR 335530 187760. The site is partly occupied by school buildings and the remainder is under grass, covering an area of 11.23 hectares.

**2.2** A site visit was undertaken on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Service information for utilities was provided by the client, which identified the existence of a number of live services within the evaluation area. A CAT survey will be undertaken prior to excavation to confirm the presence of these services and the trenches will be positioned to avoid them.

## 3 Archaeological background

**3.1** Information regarding the historical and archaeological background of the study area and its immediate surroundings has been taken from the brief (GGAT Curatorial 2008). Further details, including the table of Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) entries, was provided by Glamorgan-Gwent Sites and Monuments Record.

**3.2** The proposed development area is situated on the intersection between the Old Red Sandstone and the alluvial marshes of the Caldicot Level. As such, it is a likely site for settlement in all periods, allowing the exploitation of the wooded hills, the good agricultural land of the lower slopes and the marshland of the Levels. The suitability of such geological interfaces as likely settlement sites is clearly demonstrated in the immediate area by the medieval settlements of Marshfield, Coedkernew and Rumney, as well as the Roman sites situated at the LG factory and St Mellons.

**3.3** Recent archaeological evaluation work nearby has shown evidence of medieval land use; the medieval grange of Pwll Pan (Grangia de Pulpen, 14<sup>th</sup> century), a possession of Llantarnam, lies south of the application area. The grange buildings included a chapel. Burials are also recorded from the wider area and

are thought to relate to Roman occupation of the area. However, no artefacts of features representing such occupation have so far been recognised within the boundary of the application area.

### 3.4 Table of SMR sites in immediate vicinity of site

Location	Site Name	Description
1.1km west	Not known	Discovery c.1910 in quarry to south of farm, of cremations with associated material culture (late 1st/early 2nd century coinage, pendant, beads, rings and a spear-head). Burial to the north of farm may represent extended period of use for cemetery.
1.6km northwest	Porth Sini Cran	Stone coffin containing a skeleton encased in lead. Gilded alabaster statue of St Michael weighing the devil against a soul, found near the coffin, may have belonged to a tomb.
700m southeast	LLanwern Golf Course	A coin described as a 'first brass' of Vespasian, probably 71 AD, was found during construction of 'new road in connection with Llanwern Garden Village'.
1.2km east	Not Known	A collection of pot sherds of medieval and post-medieval date.
1.7m north	Belmont	Roman bronze key.
1.3m east	Llanwern	Topsoil disturbance around church revealed a quantity of potsherds. Post-medieval pottery includes North Devon gravel-tempered wares and red fabric wares possibly from Gwehelog, Usk. Also a few sherds of medieval pottery, both plain and glazed.
1km east	LLanwern	Fragments of Roman tile found, including roof tile.
1.4km east	LLanwern	Fragments of pottery ranging in date from the C13/14th-C18th found during the course of ditch clearing.
600m southeast	Llanwern Golf Course	At least six burials found to northeast of Llanwen Station during construction of 'new road in connection with Llanwern Garden Village'. At intervals of 5ft to 15ft all in rock-cut graves with heads to the north; in open stone cists, associated with iron nails 2"-3" long.
1.5km northeast	Coed Rhedyn Enclosure	North-south orientated linear feature with small square enclosure identified on aerial photos.
1.7km northeast	Langstone AP Features	Three rectilinear parchmarks in villa-like arrangement identified on aerial photos.
100m south	Pwl Pan	Lordship of Pwlpan figures in a boundary description dated 1677 and in another dated 29 May 1655. The manor house of Pwlpan is shown as extant in the 14th Century.

## 4 Purpose of the evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation will be "to gain information about the archaeological resource ... including its presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality, in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context, leading to: the formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or the formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may affect adversely such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research." (IFA 2001 – page 2).

## 5 Methodology

### 5.1 Summary and trench location

A total of 250m of archaeological evaluation trenching (1.52m wide) has been agreed within the proposed development area, to meet the requirements of the project brief. Ten 25m trenches are required and the proposed positions of these trenches are shown on Figure 1. Three of these trenches will be positioned in the southern portion of the school playing field, to evaluate an area proposed for housing. It is proposed to excavate an additional eleventh trench to the southwest of the main school site to evaluate an area of the neighbouring school, Ysgol Gymrarg Casnewydd, which is to have new car parking facilities (see Figure 1).

The dimensions of this trench are likely to be greatly reduced due to limitations imposed by the current car park layout. The final locations of all trenches may be altered on site to account for the presence of services or other obstacles.

## **5.2 Excavation procedures**

**5.2.1** All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin within the trenches will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to the maximum safe depth. The mechanical excavator employed in the removal of topsoil will normally remove spits of no more than 0.30m in depth, moving along the trench. Successive spits will be similarly removed until the first significant horizon is reached. That level will be cleaned in plan using a wide blade, toothless ditching bucket. All machine work will be carried out under close archaeological supervision and will cease immediately if significant evidence is revealed. The machine will not be used to cut arbitrary trial trenches down to natural deposits without regard to the archaeological stratification. Following clearance, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section. In archaeological evaluations the objective is to define rather than totally remove deposits. Full excavation will therefore be confined to the least significant remains, which may allow underlying stratigraphy and features to be exposed and recorded. Within significant levels, partial excavation, half-sectioning, the recovery of dating evidence, sampling and the cleaning and recording of structures will be preferred to full excavation.

**5.2.2** Any finds of human remains will also be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal is essential and appropriate it can only take place under appropriate environmental health regulations, in compliance with the Burial Act 1857 and the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981. Notice will also be given to the local planning authority.

**5.2.3** All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect finds from theft.

**5.2.4** Work will be carried out to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Archaeology Service is an Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Archaeological Organisation (IFA RAO 42).

## **6 Recording**

**6.1** A unique site code, HHN 08, will be allocated.

**6.2** A site location plan based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (OS 2005) will be prepared.

**6.3** All archaeological deposits will be recorded on pro-forma context sheets. A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on plastic drawing film, at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Single context and multi-context plans will be produced as appropriate. Multi-context plans will only be considered where the interpretation of stratigraphy is not compromised by this method of recording. The OD height of all archaeological strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. Upon completion of each evaluation trench, one long section, and further sections, including half-sections of individual layers or features, will be drawn as appropriate.

**6.4** If the site complexity is such as to justify its use, the Harris matrix stratification diagram will be employed to record stratigraphic relationships. This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the evaluation.

**6.5** A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. It will include black and white prints and colour digital images, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation.

## **7 Treatment of finds and samples**

**7.1** Different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. Sample size will take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur.

**7.2** A high priority will be given to the sampling of deposits where organic materials may be preserved. Organic samples will be subject to the appropriate specialist analysis.

**7.3** Finds retrieval policy will be in line with that required in the brief.

## **8 Report production and archive**

**8.1** The written, drawn and photographic record will be ordered and catalogued. Finds will be washed marked and quantified. Specialist advice and reports will be obtained on the collected finds and environmental material where appropriate.

**8.2** A report of the results of the evaluation will be drawn up for submission to the local planning authority. The report will contain a summary of the archaeological sequence in each trench, conclusions on the significance of the archaeology of the site and recommendations in line with the aims of the evaluation as outlined at 4 above.

**8.3** A summary of the results of the work, even if negative, will be submitted to the County SMR and for publication in the appropriate academic journals.

**8.4** The archive will conform to standards defined in the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 5.4 and Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991). It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent.

**8.5** The Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service ("GCCAS") will retain copyright and ownership of all written, drawn, photographic and other materials produced by GCCAS staff ("the Documentary Archive"). The Documentary Archive will be deposited with the appropriate local museum for long term storage.

**8.6** Finds and other materials removed from the site ("the Finds Archive") remain the property of the landowner. GCCAS recommends that the Finds Archive should be donated to the appropriate local museum.

## **9 Other details**

### **9.1 Insurance**

The Archaeology Service is covered by Gloucestershire County Council professional indemnity insurance to £1,000,000 and public liability insurance to £25,000,000.

### **9.2 Health and Safety**

#### **9.2.1 General provisions**

All relevant health and safety legislation and regulations will be followed. General safe practice provisions outlined in *Gloucestershire County Council, Archaeological Fieldwork, Health and Safety Policy, Procedures and Generic Risk Assessments* will be adhered to. No personnel are to work in deep unsupported excavations. Archaeological trenches will be backfilled upon completion. Spoil will be stored at a safe distance from trench edges.

#### **9.2.2 Site specific provisions**

**9.2.2.1** A risk assessment was completed by GCCAS as part of the initial site visit and is attached to the written scheme of investigation. It should be read in conjunction with this document.

**9.2.2.2** The location of all known live services has been provided by the client and service information has also been requested from utility companies. All trenches will be subject to a CAT scan before excavation in order to locate unknown electrical and metallic underground services and pipes. No trenches will be excavated where services or drains are known to be present.

**9.2.2.3.** Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (hard hats, hi-visibility jackets and safety boots) will be worn at all times.

**9.2.2.4** No trenches will be left open overnight. During excavation, temporary fencing will be used to secure trenches if necessary.

**9.2.2.5** Due to security issues, no vehicles or mechanical excavators will remain on site overnight.

### **9.3 Staffing**

**9.3.1** The project will be managed by Paul Nichols, Project Officer. The site work will be directed and the report produced by Edmund Stratford, Assistant Project Officer of the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service, assisted by Senior Site Assistants.

#### **9.3.2 External specialists used in the past and likely to be consulted as necessary:**

Animal bone	Ian Baxter, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland
Coins	Peter Guest, Cardiff University
Conservation	Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff University
Ecofactual data	Julie Jones, Bristol
Human skeletal remains	Dr. Charlotte Roberts, University of Durham
Pottery (post-RB)	Dr. Alan Vince, Lincoln
Pottery (Roman)	Dr. Jane Timby, Minchinhampton
Pottery (prehistoric)	Dr. Elaine L. Morris, University of Southampton
Slag	Lynne Keys, Camden, London
Small find ID	Hilary Cool, West Bridgford, Nottingham

### **9.4 Access**

Reasonable access to the site will be given to representatives of the local planning authority, who may wish to be satisfied through site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted to appropriate professional standards and in accordance with the agreements made.

## **10 References**

GGAT Division	Curatorial	2008	<i>Land at Hartridge Comprehensive School, Hartridge Farm Road, Hartridge.</i> Brief for Archaeological Evaluation.
IFA		2001	<i>Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations</i> , Institute of Field Archaeologists. London.
Nichols, P		2008	<i>A Proposed Archaeological Evaluation of land at Hartridge High School, Newport. Written Scheme of Investigation (draft).</i> GCCAS typescript.
OS		2005	Ordnance Survey Digital Data held on County Council GIS

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**Data Protection Act 1998** Information regarding the contact details of the landowner and other individuals is collected for the administration of archaeological projects by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service. It may be passed to others who are involved in the project. It will also be passed to the appropriate registered museums as part of the archive resulting from the archaeological project. If you have a query or concern regarding this, please contact the Archaeology Service on Gloucester 01452 425681.