



Head of Planning
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Unit 5
Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
MERTHYR TYDFIL
CF48 4TQ

24th January 2023

FAO: David Cross

Dear Sir

**Re: Conversion of Chapel into 8 Flats with Associated Refurbishment Works,
Demolition of Rear Vestry Annexe and Creation of Dedicated Car Parking Area:
Brynhfryd Chapel, Thomas Street, Treharris.
Pl.App.No.: P/22/0326.**

We noted this application when we reviewed your weekly planning list; consequently we have consulted the detailed information contained on your website and identified that **the proposal will require archaeological mitigation.**

You will recall from our response of September 2011 to the submission of P/11/0189 that the chapel dates from 1882 and was built in the Romanesque style. The chapel forms an important part of the town's cultural heritage and records show the building retains internal and external features. The preservation in the landscape of the structure is important in order to maintain the historic landscape of Treharris; we do not oppose the plans and therefore we do not have any objections to the granting of consent to the application on archaeological grounds.

However, any alterations to the building have the possibility of removing or obscuring key architectural or functional features of the building. It is therefore our opinion that a complete record of the structures both by the means of a drawn and photographic record, prior to any works commencing on site is made. The chapel is an important element in the socio-cultural life of the area, and in the visual street scene. The proposal will involve significant internal changes to the structure.

It remains the case that therefore in order to preserve this structure by record we strongly recommend that a **Level 2** survey (Historic England 2016, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*) is made prior to work commencing, with a measured scale in the photographs and a directional plan indicating these views. To ensure that work is carried out in a suitable manner, we therefore suggest that a condition worded in a manner similar to model condition 73 given in Welsh Government Circular 016/2014 is attached to any consent that is granted in response to the current application. This condition is worded:-

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

The justification for the imposition of the condition would therefore be: -

Reason: As the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact.

Glamorgan-Gwent
Archaeological Trust
Limited
Ymddiriedolaeth
Archeolegol
Morgannwg-Gwent

SA12 Business Centre
Seaway Parade
Baglan Energy Park
Port Talbot
SA12 7BR

Tel: (01792)655208
www.ggat.org.uk

Registered Office: As above
Registered in Wales
No.1276976

A company limited by guarantee
without share capital

Registered charity
No.505609



We also recommend that a note should be attached to the planning consent explaining that:

The archaeological work must be undertaken to the appropriate Standard and Guidance set by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), [CIfA regulations, standards and guidance | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation or a MCIfA level accredited Member [Looking for an archaeologist? | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#).

If you have any questions or require further advice on this matter please do not hesitate to contact us

Yours faithfully

Judith Doyle

Judith Doyle BA MBA FSA MCIfA
Stewardship Officer