



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

24th July 2020

FAO: David Cross

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Erection of detached dwelling, garage and associated access/driveway.
Land to the South of Evieon, Maes Meyrick, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil
Pl.App.No.: P/20/0138**

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 may recall our letter dated 17th July 2019 in response to an earlier application at the site (Pl.App.No. P/19/0157, Our ref: MTY0262/HB), in which we recommended archaeological mitigation. Our understanding of the archaeological resource of the area remains the same and consequently, our response is unchanged and is reiterated below.

Information in the Historic Environment Record, curated by this Trust, shows that the application area is situated within the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Historic Landscape (HLW (MGI) 2), specifically the Heolgerrig and Pen-yr-Heolgerrig Character Area (HLCA068), as defined within the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*. The application area also includes two recorded archaeological sites. Firstly, depicted on Historic Ordnance Survey mapping is an incline, connecting the extensive waste tips located to the west to the older main Cyfarthfa plateau. Secondly, to the immediate south of the incline is Cottage site Upper Cwm Glo, which is shown on the 1850 Tithe map of the Parish of Merthyr Tydfil and its footprint is also depicted on the Historic Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1881 to 1919, although the building appears to be on a different alignment to that shown on the Tithe map. An older cottage may have been extended or rebuilt after the construction of the incline in the later 19th century. It is also recorded by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Post-medieval dwelling, supposedly an ale-house.

The application is for the erection of a detached dwelling, garage and associated access/driveway. We note from the application's Topographical Survey (Drawing No.: HEOLG/01) and Proposed Site Plan (Drawing No.: 603.005) that the ruins of a house are depicted. It is of our opinion that the cottage is of historic interest and consequently, we recommend that the ruins of the house should be recorded, prior to any works commencing, in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource. Furthermore, it is considered likely due to the location of the site and evidence from the historic mapping of the immediate area, that archaeological remains and features,

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especially in association with the reputed earlier cottage, may be encountered during the proposed groundworks.

Therefore, we recommend that two conditions should be attached to any consent to ensure appropriate mitigation.

Firstly, in order to preserve the building by record we strongly recommend that a building survey is made prior to works commencing. We would recommend that this takes the form of a survey as set out in “*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*”, Historic England, 2016.

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.

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), (www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or an MCIfA level accredited Member.

Secondly, it is our recommendation that a condition requiring the applicant to submit a detailed written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work to protect the archaeological resource should be attached to any consent granted by your Members.

We envisage that this programme of work would take the form of an archaeological watching brief during all associated groundworks required for the development, with detailed contingency arrangements, including the provision of sufficient time and resources to ensure that any archaeological features or finds that are located are properly investigated and recorded; it should include provision for any sampling that may prove necessary, post-excavation recording and assessment and reporting and possible publication of the results.

To ensure adherence to the recommendations we recommend that the condition should be worded in a manner similar to model condition 24 given in Welsh Government Circular 016/2014:

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No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

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), (www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or an MCIfA level accredited Member.

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

Yours faithfully,

Hannah Bowden BA MSc
Archaeological Planning Officer

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