

Our ref: MTY0280/MJ

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

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

10th November 2023

Dear Sir

Re: Demolition of extension, repairs, alterations
Treharris Library Perrott Street Treharris
Pl.App.No.: P/23/0233

Thank you for notifying us of this application; consequently we have reviewed the detailed information contained on your website. **The proposal will require archaeological mitigation.**

Information in the regional Historic Environment Record, curated by this Trust, shows that Treharris Public Library is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw Ref: 80909), and designated as a *smaller Edwardian public building retaining original external and interior character and detail*. The library 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.

Therefore, we recommend that a historic building survey is made prior to any work commencing. We previously recommended that this takes the form of a **Level 2** Survey as set out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and to an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

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

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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

Mike Jones

Mike Jones BA
Assistant Stewardship Officer