



Archaeoleg Morgannwg-Gwent

Heneb

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeology

Our ref: MTY0291/RD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

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

30th June 2026

Dear Sir

Re: Erection of drive-thru restaurant (Class A3) with associated parking, servicing, landscaping and engineering works
Cyfarthfa Retail Park North Swansea Road Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1HY
Pl.App.No.: P/26/0115

Thank you for consulting us about this application; consequently we have reviewed the detailed information contained on your website and can confirm that **the proposal requires archaeological mitigation.**

Information in the Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the application area is located in an area of archaeological potential and we note the submission of an 'Archaeology and Heritage Assessment' by EDP (report no. edp9527_r001b, dated March 2026). Previous archaeological work on the site has identified significant remains associated with Cyfarthfa Ironworks which was founded in 1765 and became the largest in the world in 1806. The evaluation trenches and subsequent archaeological excavation recorded large-scale, complex industrial structures. Specifically, in the area of the current application, the remains of a smithy building were identified between c.1.88m and 2.1m below ground level. Historic mapping also indicates tramroad infrastructure in the area.

However, the work has also identified significant depths of overburden and levelling material. We also note the intention to utilise raft foundations with requisite excavations of approximately 1m in depth which will likely minimise any potential impact on the archaeological resource. As such, the Assessment indicates that an archaeological watching brief during the construction phase might be appropriate.

We concur with such mitigation and 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 a watching brief during all groundworks required for the development, with detailed contingency arrangements including the provision of sufficient time and resources to ensure that any archaeological

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Cadeirydd / Chair: Dr Carol Bell

PSG / CEO: Richard Nicholls

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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

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 accredited Member.

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

Yours faithfully

R. Dunning

Rob Dunning BSc MCIfA
Archaeological Planning Officer

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