



Archaeoleg Morgannwg-Gwent

Heneb

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeology

Our ref: MTY0109/RD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

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

29th August 2025

Dear Sir

Re: Conversion of vacant chapel to 6 no. self contained flats
Brynhyfryd Chapel Thomas Street Treharris CF46 5AA
Pl.App.No.: P/25/0204

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.**

We commented on previous applications for this site (P/11/0189 and P/22/0326), most recently in our letter dated 24th January 2023, and our understanding of the archaeological resource remains unchanged.

We have consulted the information in the Historic Environment Record (HER), and note that Brynhyfryd 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.

Therefore, as previously, we recommend that a historic building survey is made prior to any work commencing. We would recommend 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. This will include a measured scale in the photographs and a directional plan. The exact scope and methodology will need to be detailed in an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

PLANNING SERVICES
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Heneb is the trading name of

THE TRUST FOR WELSH
ARCHAEOLOGY

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

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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
ARCHAEOLEGOL CYMRU

Canolfan Fusnes SA12,
Seaway Parade
Parc Ynni Baglan, Port
Talbot
SA12 7BR

01792 655208

planning@ggat.org.uk

www.heneb.org.uk

Cadeirydd / Chair: Dr Carol Bell

PSG / CEO: Richard Nicholls

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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 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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