

Archaeology Wales

Former Cardiff and Vale College, Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, Cardiff

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No. 1615

Archaeology Wales

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. on land at the former Cardiff and Vale College on Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, Cardiff (ST 23025 79960). The associated Planning Application No. is 15/02513/MJR.

The report details the results of an archaeological watching brief that took place to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the Cardiff and Vale College. The new site will include a new school building, sports fields and associated works.

The development area lies less than a mile to the north of the Wentloog Levels, a part of the Gwent Levels that have been designated an Outstanding Historic Landscape (HLW (Gt) 2). This area represents the largest and most significant example of a man-made landscape in Wales, with evidence of activity from the Bronze Age onwards.

The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument lies approximately 400m to the north of the development area. It is the site of Caer Castell Camp (GM216). Three Grade II Listed Buildings lie within a 1km radius of the development area. They are all farm houses dating to the sixteenth to early eighteenth centuries (Pill Du Farm, Pen Pil Farm and Longcross Farm).

No archaeological features were encountered during the works. This was in part due to the limited excavation, where infilling made up the northern part of the site and in situ demolition debris resulted in significant areas of modern made ground. The majority of the excavation was undertaken in the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

The watching brief complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014).

1. Introduction

Location and scope of work

Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the former Cardiff and Vale College, Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, Cardiff, centred on NGR ST 23025 79960 (Fig 1). The planning application number is 15/02513/MJR. This work relates to redevelopment that will include a new school building, sports fields and associated works.

An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and was designed to provide an approved methodology of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works.

Geophysical and evaluation work was previously undertaken in the fields adjacent to the development area and no archaeological features were noted (Terra Nova 2003, Brett 2003).

The watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology Wales from 25/07/2016 to 03/08/2016 under the supervision of Rhys Morgan, and the project was managed by Rowena Hart MCIfA.

Topography and Geology

The site of the former Cardiff and Vale College, Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, is a flat, urban parcel of land located on the north-eastern side of Trowbridge Road, at the eastern edge of Cardiff. Immediately south are the Wentloog Levels that lead down to the Severn Estuary.

The underlying geology on site is a deposit of Raglan Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock comprised of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone and formed approximately 419 to 424 million years ago during the Silurian Period (BGS 2017).

Archaeological and Historical Background

The development area lies in the Trowbridge area of eastern Cardiff less than a mile to the north of the Wentloog Levels. The Wentloog Levels are part of the Gwent Levels, which have been designated an Outstanding Historic Landscape (HLW (Gt) 2). This area represents the largest and most significant example of a man-made landscape in Wales. The Levels represent a landscape inundated by, and reclaimed from the sea for at least the last two thousand years. The area has distinctive drainage systems devised over successive periods of use.

The Levels have proven their potential for extensive, well-preserved, buried, waterlogged, archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits surviving from earlier landscapes (GGAT 2013). For a full historical background of the Levels see GGAT 2013.

The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument, Caer Castell Camp (GM216), lies approximately 400m to the north of the development area. Three Grade II Listed Buildings lie within a 1km radius of the development area. They are all farm houses dating to the sixteenth to early eighteenth centuries (Pill Du Farm, Pen Pil Farm and Longcross Farm).

2. Methodology

A watching brief complying with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) was undertaken during all intrusive ground work on the site.

The watching brief was undertaken to allow the preservation by record of any archaeological deposits revealed during the ground works. The watching brief also provides an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which

the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard (CIfA, 2014).

The majority of the site was subject to ground levels being increased, and so the watching brief was largely targeted on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). It comprised an area of approximately 30 x 70 metres with a maximum depth of 0.80 metres (Fig 2). It was carried out by removing the overburden by machine. The entire process was monitored by a suitably trained archaeologist. Sections and plans of the excavation were photographed using a 12MP digital camera. All the deposits encountered were recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. All features and deposits are described in accordance with CIfA conventions. A register of all contexts and photographs was also made.

3. Watching Brief Results

The basal deposit reached within the area of the trench was a natural, alluvial blue clay (Plate 1) appearing approximately 0.70 metres below the surface. It had a depth of 0.07 metres and dipped below the surface of the stripped area. Directly overlying this deposit across the entire trench was a light brown/red, clayey subsoil (102) (Plate 2). This deposit had a maximum depth of 0.34 metres. This was then overlain by a loose, light grey rubble (101), with a maximum depth of 0.36 metres (Plate 3). It contained frequent small, medium and large ceramic building material (CBM) components. This deposit appears to have been deliberately laid down during previous groundworks in the area. A layer of redeposited alluvial clay (103) with a maximum thickness of 0.38 metres, appeared roughly halfway down the MUGA area, occurring only in the north-western half and sandwiched between contexts (101) and (102) (Plate 3). It measured roughly 40 metres by 15 metres in extent.

A service trench (Plate 4) was also monitored for approximately 25m aligned SE-NW and positioned to the NE of the MUGA area. The trench measured an average of 1.5m in width with an average depth of 1.8m. The stratigraphy encountered was a thick deposit of clay/subsoil (102) measuring c.1.5m in depth overlain by a mixed grey rubble deposit (101).

4. Finds

No artefacts were recovered from any of the contexts recorded during the course of the excavation.

5. Conclusion

No archaeological features were revealed during the course of works on the site. No archaeological features were encountered during the works. This was in part due to the

limited excavation, where infilling made up the northern part of the site and in situ demolition debris resulted in significant areas of modern made ground.

It is also possible that there is buried archaeology below the alluvial clay, at a depth beyond that reached during the ground works.

6. Bibliography

Brett, M (2003) *Trowbridge Mawr Cardiff: Archaeological Evaluation*. Cotswold Archaeology

CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Unpublished Guidance accessible at www.archaeologists.net)

GGAT (2013) *Tabb's Gout, Rhymney Great Wharf, Cardiff/Newport: an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. GGAT Unpublished Report No.2013/013

NERC (2016) British Geological Survey Maps (accessed at www.bgs.ac.uk)

Terra Nova (2003) *Geoarchaeological Investigation at St Mellons, Cardiff*

Appendix 1: Context Register

<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (below current ground level)</i>
101	Deposit	Hardcore made ground	0.00m – 0.36m
102	Layer	Subsoil	0.36m – 0.70m
103	Deposit	Re-deposited natural	0.38m deep between (101) and (102) in NW
104	Deposit	Alluvial clay	0.70m – 0.83m



1 km

Figure 1: Site Location

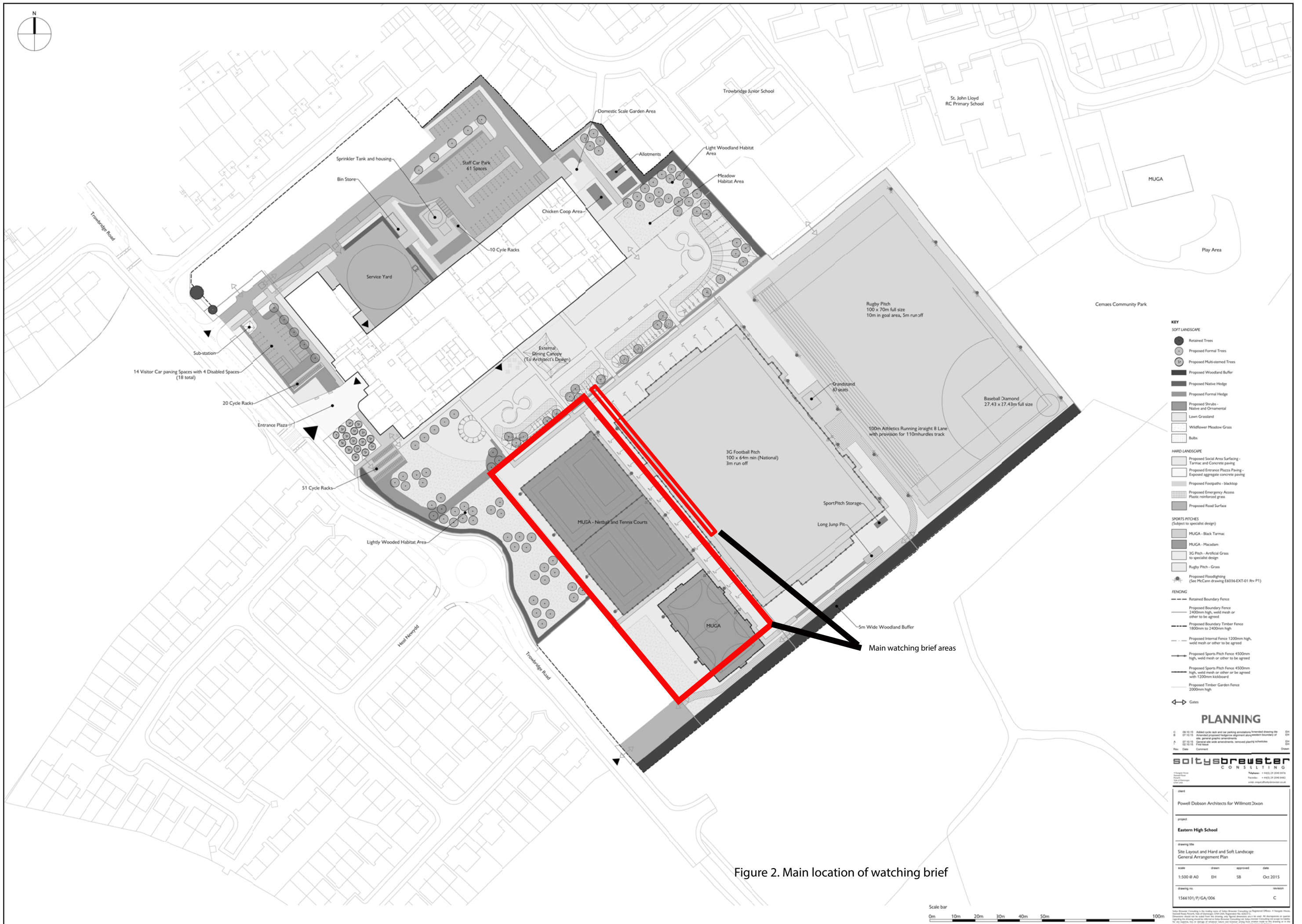


Figure 2. Main location of watching brief



Plate 1: View to south-west over MUGA area

Plate 2: Northwest facing representative section of MUGA area, (101) and (102)



Plate 3: Southwest facing section displaying start of context (103)

Plate 4: View to northwest showing service trench

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT**

**Former Cardiff and Vale College
Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, Cardiff**

Prepared for:

Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd

May 2016

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Figure 1. Showing development area

Summary

This Specification details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the ground works associated with the redevelopment of the Cardiff and Vale College. The redevelopment will include a new school building, sports fields and associated works. The planning application number is 15/02513/MJR.

The objective of the watching brief is to safeguard the potential archaeological resource through observation and recording during the course of the intrusive ground works associated with the scheme. The site lies close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Caer Castell Camp and is situated in close proximity to the archaeologically rich Wentloog Level.

This Specification document has been prepared by Rowena Hart (Project Manager) of Archaeology Wales Limited for Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Specification

1. Planning background

This Specification details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the ground works associated with the redevelopment of the Cardiff and Vale College, Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, Cardiff (Figure 1). The planning application number is 15/02513/MJR. The site is centred on NGR ST 23025 79960. The site lies close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Caer Castell Camp and is situated in close proximity to the archaeologically rich Wentloog Level.

The new site will include a new school building, sports pitches and associated works (Figure 1).

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2. Archaeological background

The development area lies in the Trowbridge area of eastern Cardiff less than a mile to the north of the Wentloog Levels. The Wentloog Level is part of the Gwent Levels which have been designated an Outstanding Historic Landscape (HLW (Gt) 2). This area represents the largest and most significant example of a man made landscape in Wales. The Levels represent a landscape inundated by, and reclaimed from the sea for at least the last two thousand years. The area has distinctive drainage systems devised over successive periods of use. The Levels have proven and the potential for extensive, well-preserved, buried, waterlogged, archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits surviving from earlier landscapes (Cadw and ICOMOS 1998, GGAT 2005, GGAT 2013).

Known occupation of the Levels can be traced to the Bronze Age where animal hoof prints (PRN 05713g), Bronze Age roundhouses (01983s) and post settings, flint, bone and discreet pottery scatters, mainly situated toward the southwest of the defence works area have been found (Allen 1996). Fieldwork has also identified several Prehistoric timber structures thought to be the remains of fish traps or temporary shelters (GGAT 2004b, 10-11). These features are closely associated with the upper surface of the peat layer, which is an important marker for the Prehistoric period (GGAT 2013).

The landscape represents significant and sustained efforts from at least the Roman period to drain the low lying land and to provide some protection from the sea with respect to particularly high tides, storms and rising sea-levels. The present sea wall, without which the sea would submerge the present landscape, is probably a late medieval feature, constructed to deal with a rise in the sea level in that period (GGAT 2013). Evidence of Roman occupation is provided largely by finds including coins (Boon 1980) and pottery in the area. Further evidence of Romano-British deposits, including an industrial feature, was discovered eroding from the mudcliff face together with finds of pottery during the initial assessment and the first phase of a watching brief (GGAT 2004a).

The evidence for occupation during the early-medieval period is not well understood. It is likely that Peterstone Wentlooge and Rumney was part of the pre-Norman cantref known as Gwynllwg (Courtney 2008). There was certainly occupation during this period attested by written documents and some finds assemblages, but the nature and extent is unclear. It is possible that a late Roman or early-medieval inundation covered much of the previously utilised coastal zone (Nayling and McGrail 2004).

The Post-medieval landscape has remained dominated by agriculture, with pasture forming the majority of the fields. Modern intrusion onto the Wentlooge Level includes the construction of the Capital Business Park and the expansions of Rumney and Trowbridge. The extant landscape is typical of piecemeal medieval reclamation. A setting back of the sea wall at Newton, to the west of the proposed development area, in the late 16th century, is one of the few such occurrences to be documented. The wall that was constructed (now abandoned) is of great importance and has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (02321.0s/Gm 474).

For a full historical background of the Levels see GGAT 2013.

The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument lies approximately 400m to the north of the development area. It is the site of Caer Castell Camp (GM216). Three Grade II Listed Buildings lie within a 1km radius of the development area. They are all farm houses dating to the sixteenth to early eighteenth centuries (Pill Du Farm, Pen Pil Farm and Longcross Farm).

Geophysical and evaluation work has been carried out in the fields adjacent to the development area and no archaeological features were noted (Terra Nova 2003, Brett 2003).

3. Specification objectives

This specification document sets out a program of works to ensure that the archaeological watching brief will meet the standard required by *The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance For Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

The objective of the watching brief is to safeguard the potential archaeological resource through observation and recording during the course of the intrusive ground works associated with the ground investigation scheme.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork and an archive of all collected data will be produced and deposited with an appropriate receiving institution.

4. Timetable of works

4.1. Fieldwork

The fieldwork will be undertaken at the convenience of the client and to coincide with the main site contractor's programme. The work is proposed to start during the second week of June 2016. Archaeology Wales will update Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust - Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD) with an exact date once confirmed.

4.2. Report delivery

The watching brief report will be submitted to Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd and to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division (advisors to the Local Planning Authority, henceforth GGAT-CD) within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

5. Fieldwork

5.1. Scope of development

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during all intrusive ground works. Figure 1 shows the layout of the redeveloped site. The watching brief will monitor the following excavation activities:

- New excavation
- Excavation for foundations
- Excavation for drainage including attenuation
- Service trench excavation
- Excavation associated with sports pitches
- Excavation associated with car park and service roads
- Ground levelling/landscaping

- All other ground work

5.2. Methodology and contingency

All intrusive groundwork will be subject to an archaeological watching brief conducted to meet the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2014).

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief must be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork shall not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between the client, their agent, main contractor, GGAT-CD and Archaeology Wales should be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for additional days of uninterrupted access to each such area with an appropriately sized team to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, the client (of their agent) and GGAT Curatorial Division.

5.3. Recording

Archaeological recording will be undertaken to best current professional practice. Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system. Where necessary site drawings will be made at a suitable scale usually 1:20 in plan, and 1:10 in section. All significant contexts will be photographed in digital at a minimum of 12mp.

5.4. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

5.5. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

5.6. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with GGAT Curatorial, the client (or their agent) and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (5.2 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

5.7. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)

Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

5.7.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

6. Monitoring

AW will make its fieldwork available for monitoring by the client (and their appointed agents) and the Local Planning Authority. In both instances advance notice should be given. All site attendants should follow Health and Safety requirements. If site visit reports are made AW would be grateful to receive copies.

7. Post-fieldwork programme

7.1. Archive assessment

7.1.1. Site archive

An archive of archaeological site records will be prepared in accordance with *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) Appendix 3.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with the ICON and IFA Guidelines (*Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2007)). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds. Copies of the report and archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth and the *Regional HER*.

In addition, an archive of records made during the post-fieldwork phase will be prepared to the specifications in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (English Heritage, 1991) Appendix 6.

7.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

7.2. Reports and archive deposition

7.2.1. Report to client

A report, comprising a synthesis of data gathered, will be submitted upon completion of the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, together with photographs and illustrations.

7.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of the report will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw, English Heritage or Historic Scotland.

7.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

7.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to the relevant national archaeological agency (Cadw, English Heritage or Historic Scotland).

7.2.5. Archive deposition

The research archive will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. The site archive will be deposited with an appropriate institution.

7.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

A copy of the archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

8. Staff

The project will be managed by Rowena Hart (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Once timescales are confirmed the name of the watching brief archaeologist will be sent to GGAT Curatorial Division and Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.

Additional Considerations

9. Health and Safety

9.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

9.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002).

10. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

11. Quality Control

11.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

11.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

12. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

13. References

Brett, M, 2003, *Trowbridge Mawr Cardiff: Archaeological Evaluation*. Cotswolds Archaeology

GGAT, 2013, *Tabb's Gout, Rhymney Great Wharf, Cardiff/Newport: an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. GGAT Unpublished Report No.2013/013

Terra Nova, 2003, *Geoarchaeological Investigation at St Mellons, Cardiff*.

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