

Archaeology Wales

Bute Park, Castle Street, Cardiff

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Sian Thomas BA MA


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
Archaeology Wales

Bute Park, Castle Street, Cardiff

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: Mitchell Bridges Ltd

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Position: Project Manager
Date: 13 June 2017

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June 2017

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Mitchell Bridges Ltd on land inside Bute Park, Castle Street, Cardiff which is centred on OS grid reference ST 17852 76466. 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 construction of a temporary footbridge inside the park.

The site is located within an area of archaeological potential within Bute Park, which is a Grade I Listed Park. Approximately 100 metres to the east of the excavation area lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Cardiff Castle (GM171), which is also the site of earlier Roman forts. Approximately 4.8 metres to the east is the Animal Wall, which is a Grade I Listed Building (LB21696), while 2.50 metres to the west is Western Lodge a Grade II Listed Building (LB21697)*

No archaeological features were encountered during the works.

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 Mitchell Bridges Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land inside Bute Park, Castle Street, Cardiff, which is centred on OS grid reference, ST 17852 76466, (Fig 1). This work relates to the construction of a temporary footbridge within the park.

The watching brief was requested by Julie Sas, Bute Park Manager. An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA 2015) and was designed to provide an approved methodology of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works (Appendix 3).

The watching brief took place on 23rd May 2017 under the supervision of Katie O'Connell and the project was managed by Rowena Hart MCIfA, both of Archaeology Wales..

Topography and Geology

The site is located within Bute Park, with the River Taff being 75m to the west and Cardiff Castle 150m to the east. The site comprises a flat, roughly triangular plot of land, bounded by the Animal Wall, which is located 4.80m to the south, with Castle Street just beyond this. Approximately 2.80m to the north is the Gallery, with Coopers Field stretching out beyond, while 2.50m to the west is Western Lodge. It lies approximately 9.80m AOD.

The site overlies the Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group. This group typically comprises red or green-grey mudstones and siltstones. The site is in close proximity to the current course of the River Taff and so the superficial geology comprises Tidal Flat deposits of clay, silt and sand. (BGS 2017).

Archaeological and Historical Background

Bute Park lies within the Registered Historic Landscape of Bute Park and River Taff Parklands, valued as Outstanding (CRDFFHL018). It is a Grade I listed Historic Garden (Gm 22 CDF) with part of the park being preserved within the Cathays Park conservation area. The park was laid out by Andrew Pettigrew in the 1870s, when it was still privately owned by the Marquis of Bute. The area of the park seems to have been an integral part of Cardiff's medieval urban landscape with the Castle to the east and the bridge to the west providing an access point to the city.

The earliest known occupation of the area surrounding the site dates to the Roman period, with four successive Roman forts, with the first of these being constructed during the conquest phase between A.D 50-70, known below Cardiff Castle. The occupation of the site appears to continue throughout the Roman period. An associated vicus settlement is also likely to have been present within the current park grounds.

Cardiff Castle, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gm 171), and was originally constructed on the orders of William the Conqueror in 1081. It became the administrative centre of the lordship of Glamorgan, and was altered a number of times through the medieval period. A Dominican friary, Blackfriars, was also established in the area of the park by the mid-13th century. The remains of Blackfriars are situated in the southern half of the park and are also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (GM173).

The Castle passed into the Bute Family by marriage from the Earl of Pembroke to Lord Windsor and in 1776 the first Marquis began a program of renovations to the Castle. This eventually included the construction of the Animal Wall to the south of the site and Western Lodge, to the west of the site. Both are Listed Buildings with the Animal Wall Grade I Listed while the Lodge is Grade II* Listed (LBs 21696 and 21697). The park was given over to the Corporation of Cardiff by the Marquis of Bute in September 1947 when the Bute family severed their ties to Cardiff and returned to Scotland.

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, the presence and nature of which could not be in advance of 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 (ClfA, 2014).

The excavation comprised an area of 5.90 metres in length, by 3.90 metres in width, with a maximum depth of 0.35 metres (Fig 2). It was carried out by removing the overburden by hand. 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 ClfA 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 dark black brown silty sand (003). This was confined to the western side of the trench and measured in excess of 3.90 x 1.70 x 0.25 metres (Plate 1 and 2). There were frequent inclusions of sub angular and rounded stones, poorly sorted. This deposit appears to have been deliberately laid down during previous groundworks in the area. The deposit produced a number of finds including sherds from a modern flower pot and a 2 pence coin minted in 1985. Overlying this, across the entire trench, was a mid red brown loamy clay deposit (Plate 2). This had a maximum depth of 0.13m and also appears to have been a deliberately deposited layer, likely associated with the previous ground works. This may well have derived from local soils and a sherd of nineteenth or twentieth century cream ware was recovered. This was then overlain by topsoil, with a maximum depth of 0.08m.

4. Finds

A small number of artefacts were recovered from each of the contexts recorded during the course of the excavation (Appendix 1). Topsoil (001) produced a single sherd of post medieval pottery, which is a basal angle of a large jar or similar vessel. Deposit (002) contained two sherds of pottery, a rim fragment from a cream ware bowl and a small fragment from a coarse ware vessel. The surfaces had eroded off this and no distinguishing features remain to aid with identification.

Six sherds from a modern flower pot were recovered from deposit (003), including two base sherds which had been stamped. Two other pottery sherds, both body sherds, were also recovered, which were from two separate vessels. These are both coarse ware fabrics, with one sherd having a dark red slip preserved on the outer surface. Three animal bones were recovered from this deposit. These are a femur, a left humerus and a left tibia, all of which appear to be rabbit bones, possibly from the same individual.

Three metal objects were also recovered from (003). One is an iron nail, while the other two are copper alloy. There are a short section of copper alloy pipe and a 2 pence piece, minted in 1985.

5. Conclusion

No archaeological features were revealed during the course of works on the site. A small number of artefacts were recovered during the excavation, which are all contemporary with the modern use of Bute Park.

6. Bibliography

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

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

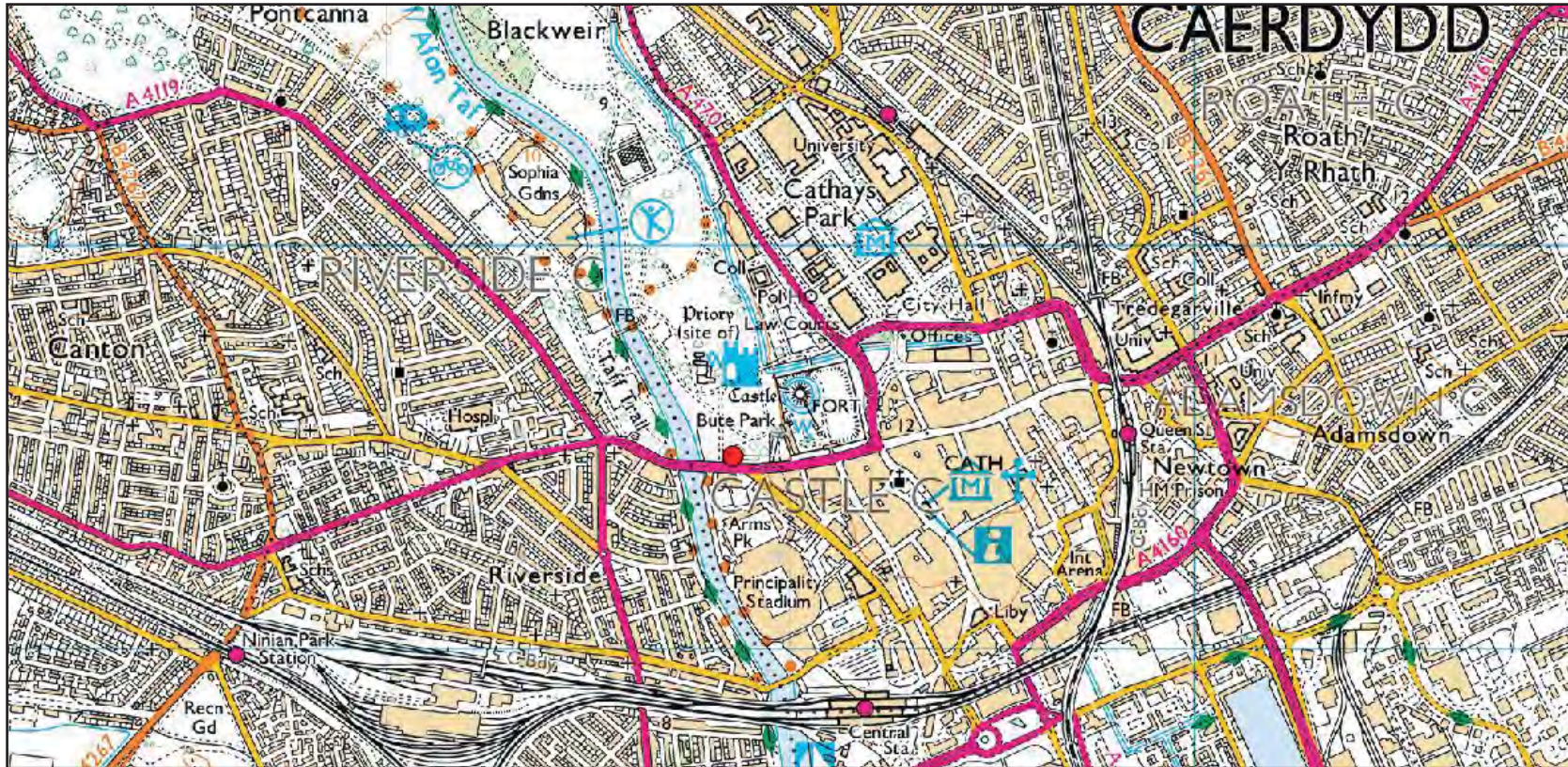


Figure 1. Site location marked by red dot.

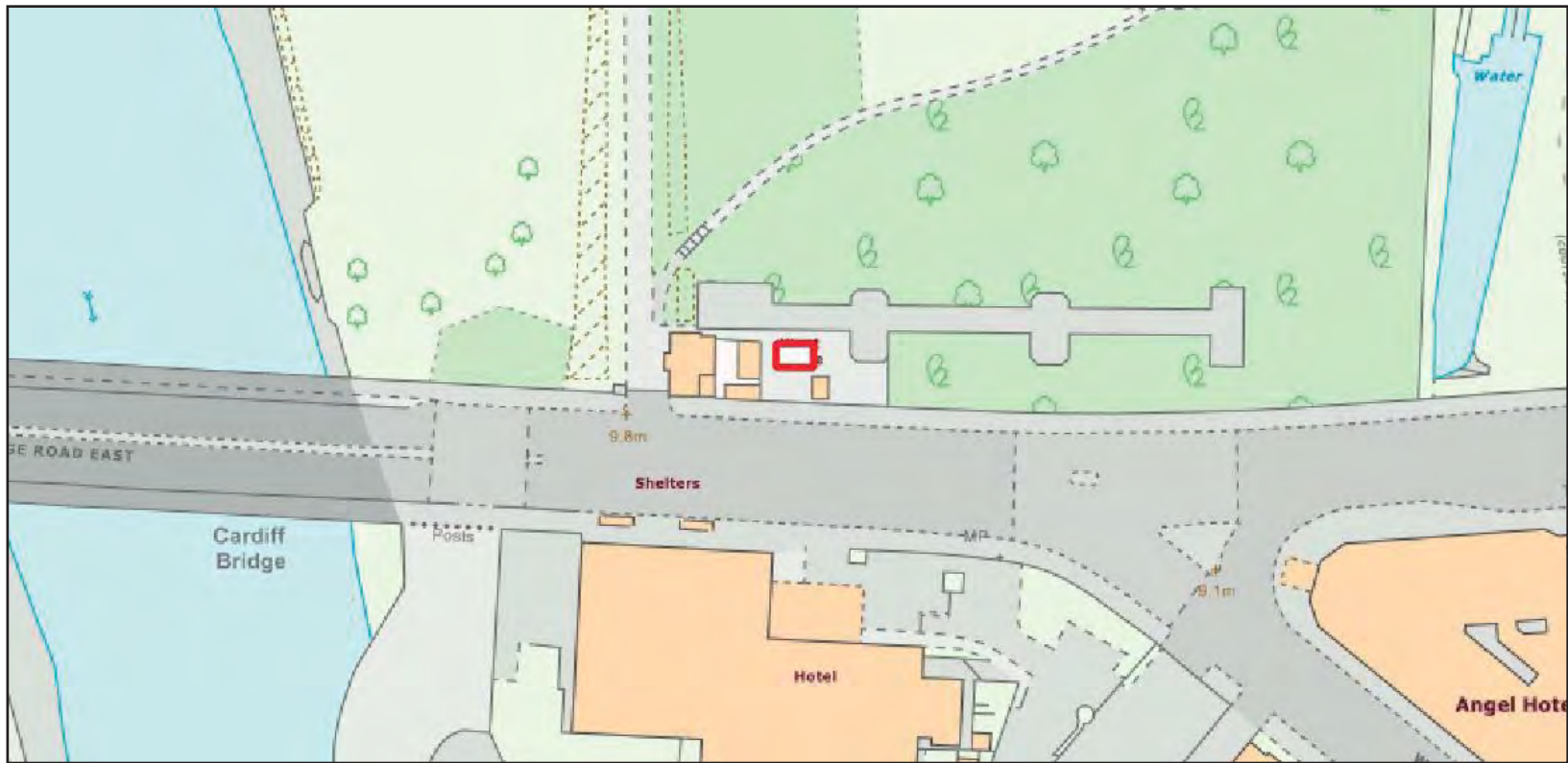


Figure 2. Location of excavation (red outline).



Plate 1: View west across the trench, showing contexts (001), (002) and (003).

Plate 2: East facing section, showing contexts (001), (002) and (003).

Appendix I: Finds Inventory

Context	Description		Post Medieval		Animal Bone		Metal		Metal		Comments
							Copper Alloy		Iron		
			Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	1	20							
002	Deposit	Deliberately laid deposit.	2	8							
003	Deposit	Deliberately laid deposit.	8	164	3	6	2	104	1	19	Copper Alloy objects are a 2 pence coin and a section of copper pipe. Animal bones are thought to be rabbit.
Grand Total			11	192	3		2	104	1	19	

Appendix II: Context Inventory

Context	Description		Relationship
001	Deposit	Topsoil - dark black brown sandy loam. 0.08m thick.	Overlies (002).
002	Deposit	Mid red brown loamy sand, 0.15m thick. Deliberately laid deposit.	Underlies (001) and overlies (003).
003	Deposit	Dark black brown silty sand, in excess of 0.25m thick. Deliberate deposit.	Underlies (002).

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

WATCHING BRIEF

AT

TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE, BUTE PARK,

CASTLE STREET, CARDIFF

Prepared for:

Mitchell Bridges Ltd

Project No: 2524

May 2017



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Figure 1. Bute Park Tower Base

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a watching brief to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Mitchell Bridges Ltd.

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during ground works associated with a temporary foot bridge excavation inside Bute Park, Castle Street, Cardiff and centred on NGR ST 17852 76466.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken in association with a temporary footbridge excavation inside Bute Park, Castle Street, Cardiff and centred on NGR ST 17852 76466.

The ground work lies in an area of archaeological potential, within Bute Park which is a Grade I Listed Park). The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Cardiff Castle and earlier Roman forts are located some 100m to the east of the groundwork location.

This WSI has been prepared by Rowena Hart MCIfA, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW).

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site is rectangular and located 2.55m to the east of Pettigrew Tea Rooms and 4.8m inside (north of) the Animal Wall, itself a Grade I Listed Building.

The underlying geology in the area comprises sedimentary mudstone bedrock of the Mercia Mudstone Group. The superficial geology comprises Tidal Flat deposits of clay, silt and sand. (BGS 2017).

3. Archaeological background

Bute Park is listed on the Cadw/ICOMOS register of historic parks and gardens as a Grade 1 historic landscape. It is a listed historic garden (Gm 22 CDF) (Grade I) with part of the park being preserved as a conservation area. The area of the park seems to have been an integral part of Cardiff's medieval urban landscape with the castle to the east and the bridge to the west providing an access point to the city. A Roman 'vicus' settlement is also likely to have been present within the current park grounds as Cardiff Castle is also the site of four successive Roman forts, the first fort

being established c.50-70AD. The castle, bounding the east side of the park, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gm 171). A Dominican friary was also established in the area by the mid 13th century. The remains of the Blackfriars are situated in the southern half of the park, but its walls, consolidated in the 19th century, are in a very poor state of repair. This site is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Gm 173). The park originally formed the grounds of the Castle which had passed into the Bute Family by marriage from the Earl of Pembroke to Lord Windsor. In 1776 the first Marquis decided renovations on the castle were in order. The park was open to the public from 1783 to 1863, when privileges were withdrawn to protect the privacy of the Bute family as Cardiff's population grew rapidly. The park was given over to the Corporation of Cardiff by the Marquis of Bute in September 1947 when the Bute family severed their ties to Cardiff and returned to Scotland. Map research has shown that the River Taff altered its course a number of times, and was even re-directed. Much of the northern part of the park is on ground reclaimed from the river. The park, in its current state, was laid out as part of the pleasure gardens of Cardiff Castle in the 19th century and remains a good example of Victorian landscape design. A nursery complex lies halfway along the park. Bute Park is a unique city centre "green lung" providing a large open space within the massively urbanised cityscape of Cardiff.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014)*.

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of watching brief work will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start on 23 May 2017.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Mitchell Bridges Ltd within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014).

The ground work will include the hand excavation of a base for a temporary pedestrian bridge. The excavation will include an area of c. 1.8m x 2.7m with a depth c.300mm. The rest of the base will comprise fill works. The location of this base cannot be altered due to the precise nature of the bridge to be installed.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will 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, a suitably appointed and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for time and resources 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 and a suitably appointed curator.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. 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.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. 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).

6.5. 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 Archaeologist's *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with a suitably appointed curator, the client and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. 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)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

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

7. Monitoring

As this work does not require planning permission there is no formal curator in place to monitor the work. In the event

Representatives of a curator appointed by Cardiff City Council (Bute Park) will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the fieldwork

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. 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.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the work, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and the regional HER upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. 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.

8.2.4. 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 Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

8.2.6. 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.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Rowena Hart (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Katie O'Connell (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. 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.

10.2. 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)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. 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.

13. Quality Control

13.1. 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.

13.2. 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.

14. 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.

Archaeology Wales

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