



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR A
PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

Level II Building Recording Survey

Bethlehem Congregational Church, Blaenafon

Torfaen County Borough Council

Planning Application No: 15/P/00240

PREPARED BY: DR N PHILLIPS

07 March 2016



Summary

This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation for a program of alteration and construction to a listed building.

A planning application was submitted to Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) and as part of the planning process, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) advised the planning department that the proposed work at the site could likely impact on archaeological resources.

This document is the written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work, to be undertaken prior to the proposed barn conversions.

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Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by DR N. Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, in response to the proposed: Removal Of Pews, Construction Of Disabled Standard WC and Alteration Of Internal Window to Form New Entrance Doors And Screen: Bethlehem Congregational Church, Broad Street, Blaenafon Pl.App.No.:15/P/00240

The proposed alteration, construction and renovation work will involve changes to the standing fabric of the existing buildings, all of which may impact on any archaeological resources present.

Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) were advised in this matter by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) Archaeological Planning Services (APS):

No development to which this permission 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.

Reason: As the building is of significance the specified records are necessary to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

TOR0135/JBHD

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been compiled, based on information provided by (the client) and GGAT..

Location of the Site

The location of the site is central to the town of Blaenafon, Monmouthshire, off Broad Street NP4 9NE, NGR 325243, 208866.

Travelling west from Abergavenny along the A465, Heads of the Valley road, a long uphill climb through the Clydach Gorge opens to a roundabout at Brynmawr.

Take the first left on to the A467 and then the first left at the second roundabout and onto the B4248 to Blaenafon.

On entering the town, a 'T' junction with the B4246 leads right; past the garage and follow the road downhill to the bottom of the town and take the 7th left onto High Street followed by the 4th right onto Lion Street which leads to Broad Street.

Brief archaeological and historical background

Bethlehem Congregational Church, Broad Street, Blaenafon is a grade II, listed building, Cadw ID:15262; built in 1840 to a simple Classical Style complete with rendered Doric Columns.

It has a galleried interior with possible original furnishings.

The GGAT advisory document relates that the church is within the World Heritage Site and Landscape area HLCA001 characterised as:

Nineteenth century urban settlement associated with the development of the Blaenavon Ironworks and related extractive industries. Built environment predominantly characterised by industrial terraced housing and planned street pattern with associated civic buildings, chapels and commercial centre; important historic associations.

TOR0135/JBHD

Rational of the Project

There is a distinct possibility that the work may impact upon archaeological resources within the development area.

In accordance with this design brief, the aim of the proposed work will be to:



Elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of any potential archaeological remains, extant in the development area.

Provide an information base from which to formulate mitigation strategies, in the event of significant archaeological resources being impacted upon within the development area.

Provide a detailed record of the work to allow for a report to be produced.

Provide a detail record of the work; in the event of significant archaeological resources being discovered, to allow for publication in a suitable academic journal.

Allow for the development to be monitored.

The above will be realized through a sequence of the following objective strategies;

- Brief Documentary Research
- A Level II building survey

The sequence will allow for contingencies to be implemented should the need arise.

Documentary research:

Research will be undertaken to compile the historical background to the site from easily available sources.

The following may be contacted towards this end:

The Glamorgan Gwent Historic Environment Record (HER)
Cadw (Cardiff)
Public Record Office, Ebbw Vale
Current site data from the landowner

A Level 2 building survey

A full definition of building survey 'levels' can be found in the English Heritage Publication Understanding Historic Buildings A guide to good Recording Practice. But the relevant sections are provided below:

5.2 Level 2

This is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require any fuller record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and the interior will be viewed, described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.

Scope of the Work

The archaeology of the application site as a whole, in its wider local or regional context, will be considered, although the survey and watching brief will be confined to those areas which will be directly affected by the development or some aspect of it. Any remains of potential interest will be considered, whatever their date.

Procedures

The building survey

The survey procedure will be undertaken to record aspects of both the interior and exterior of the building as a whole.

Any structural features of interest will be recorded with descriptions.



Should such structures be of sufficient importance they will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20: where appropriate.

Photographic recording will be undertaken using a digital camera with 14 mg capability with images saved as RAW & jpeg files.

Measurements will be taken, where appropriate, with a Leica, Disto and related to the floor plan supplied by the by the client's architect.

A report will be produced, fully representative of information gathered from implementation of the Level II survey.

Once completed, a copy of the report will be submitted to the TCBC Planning for their approval and a further copy will be sent to GGAT. Notes of any confidentiality imposed by the client will be included.

The report may be consulted to mitigate the further development.

Analysis and Reports

Within three months of the completion of the fieldwork, a fully illustrated reports will be submitted to the client, TCBC (planning), and GGAT Historic Environment Record.

Each report will contain the following elements:-

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the study area.
- A statement of the project aims.
- The archaeological/historical background of the evaluation area, indicating past and present land use, accompanied by relevant maps, plans and photographs.
- A location plan and gazetteer of areas/sites of known or potential archaeological significance within the project area.
- Survey plans at appropriate scales.
- Other maps, plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate.
- An interpretation of the results with a statement of the significance of any identified archaeological features/sites on a local, regional and national scale.
- An identification of any research implications arising from the work.
- A bibliography of sources consulted and a supplementary bibliography of any sources identified but not available for consultation.
- An index to the project archive and a statement of its location/proposed repository.
- A summary report on the evaluation will be published in a suitable local journal, with a record note presented to the appropriate national period journal(s).

Archive

The completed archive will be deposited in the Gwent Records Office with the original copy retained by A.P.A.C. Ltd.

The project archives will consist of all original records, artefacts, ecofacts/samples and all documentation that relates to the building survey

Copies of the Design Brief and any relevant correspondence will be included.

The archives will be prepared according to the Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage, Second Edition, (1991) so the records will be fully ordered and indexed.

The archive will comply with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (Archaeology Section) Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (1990) the Society of Museum Archaeologists Towards An Accessible Archive (1995) and to the reasonable requirements of the designated Museum.

The archives will be deposited within twelve months of the completion of the evaluation and with the agreement of the landowner.



A synopsis of the project will be submitted to CBA Wales.

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A.P.A.C. Ltd hereby gives permission for the monitoring authority to use any documentation directly relating to the project as described in this Project Design.

Health & Safety:

The Project Team will operate in accordance with the health and safety procedures as set out in:-

- The Health and Safety Work Act (1974) and related legislation.
- The Standing Conference of Archaeology Unit Managers Health and Safety Manual 2002).
- The Council for British Archaeology Handbook no. 6, Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork (1989).
- In accordance with the CDM Regulation, The Project Team will prepare a Risk Assessment in relation to the archaeological works prior to the commencement of the evaluation.

All necessary protective clothing and equipment will be used.

A First-Aid kit and Accident Book will be kept on site at all times, with a Health and Safety file.

APAC. Ltd has current Public Liability (924765101 CHC) and Professional Indemnity (RKK865819/1126) Insurance with Towergate

Project monitoring:

A.P.A.C. Ltd., understands that the project may require monitoring involvement. As a matter of courtesy, a copy of this written scheme of investigation will be sent to the monitoring authority (GGAT).

Project Management

Dr Neil Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, will manage the project.

Dr N. Phillips has been active in archaeology since 1997, completing his 1st degree in 1999 followed by a research Phd in 2004. Dr Phillips started and has been director of A.P.A.C. Ltd since 2004. A.P.A.C. Ltd is an archaeological consultancy specialising in landscape archaeology and survey work. Currently at AIFA standard he is about to apply for an upgrade to MIFA. Steve Clarke MIFA of Monmouth Archaeology has agreed to cover him in this regard if the need arises. Dr Phillips interests lie locally with the medieval period and industrial period although he has been involved in international Palaeolithic projects both in the UK as well as Europe and Africa. Scibd currently carries a range of archaeological projects completed by APAC Ltd (search APAC. Ltd or Dr N Phillips).

Resources:

- Project Director: Dr Neil Phillips. (Director; preparation of report text).



Bibliography and References:

- English Heritage Management of Archaeological Projects (1991).
- Understanding Historic Buildings *A guide to good Recording Practice. 2006*
- Chartered Institute of Archaeologists.
- Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology. 2014.
- Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. 2014.
- Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures, 2014
- GGAT Removal Of Pews, Construction Of Disabled Standard WC and Alteration Of Internal Window to Form New Entrance Doors And Screen: Bethlehem Congregational Church, Broad Street, Blaenafon Pl.App.No.:15/P/00240
- Torfaen County Borough Council Approval of Listed Building Consent 15/P/00240.
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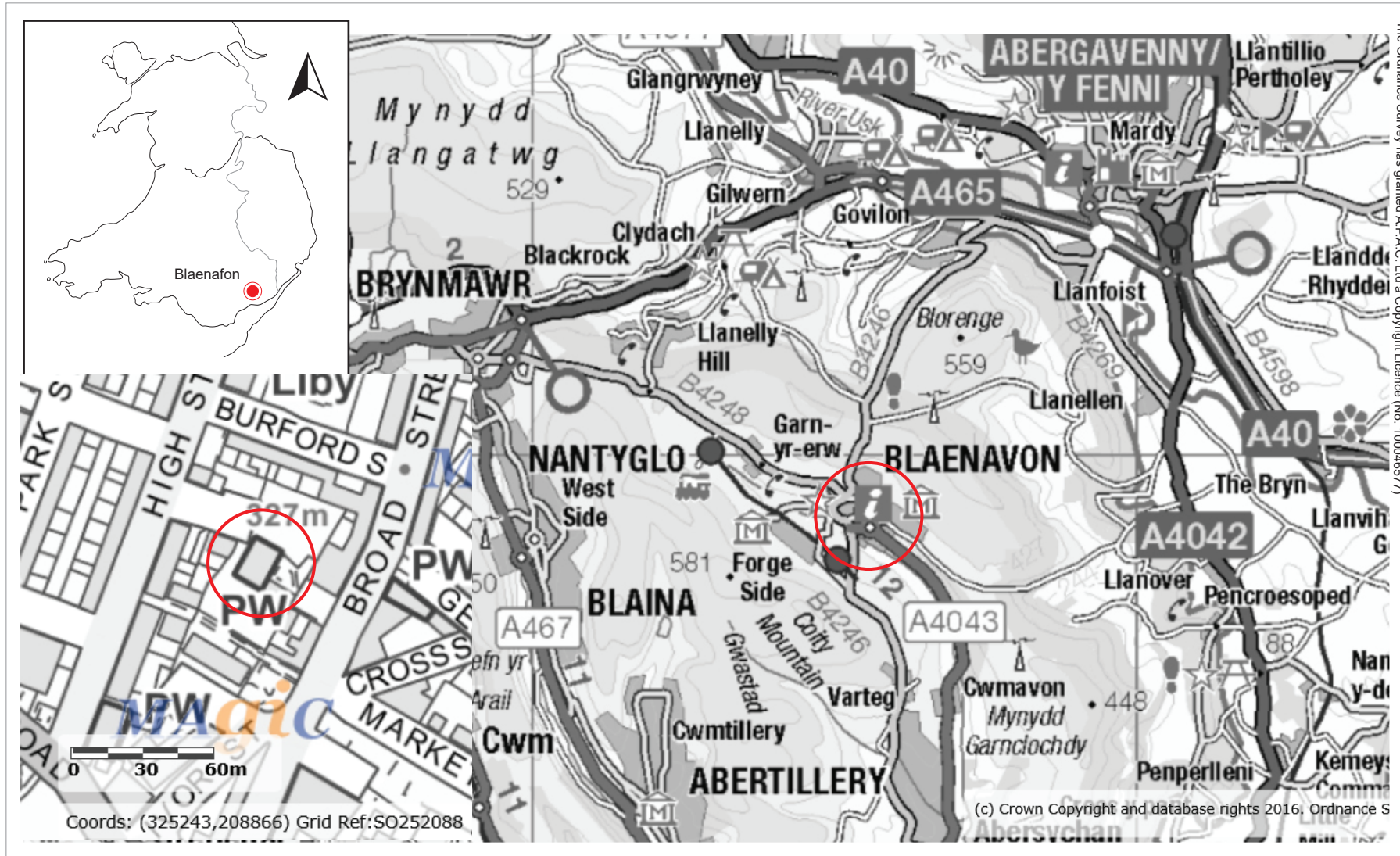


Fig 01: Location