

Specification

For an Archaeological Appraisal:

Gwndwn Mawr, Station Rd, Bynea, Llanelli

Prepared for:

Carmarthenshire County Council

Project No: 2248

10th June 2014

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigations details the proposal for an Archaeological Appraisal associated with a proposed housing development at Gwndwn Mawr, Station Road, Bynea, Carmarthenshire. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for the Lewis Partnership on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council.

1. Introduction

The proposed development comprises plans for the construction of a housing development at Gwndwn Mawr, Station Road, Bynea (Henceforth – the site). Information relating to the development has been supplied by the Lewis Partnership, Llanelli. The applicant is Carmarthenshire County Council. The local planning authority is Carmarthenshire County Council and the planning reference number is S/30050.

This Specification has been prepared by Dr Iestyn Jones, Project Officer, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during an Archaeological Appraisal of the site.

The purpose of the proposed work is to provide Carmarthenshire County Council with the information they have requested in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy WALES, February 2014, Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

The details set out in this Specification follow a generic brief prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Historic Management (DAT-HM). DAT-HM, in its capacity as archaeological adviser to Ceredigion County Council, has recommended that an Archaeological Appraisal is undertaken.

The Appraisal is not a full desk-based assessment of the potential historic environment resource, as defined by the Standard and Guidance of the IfA. Rather, it is a more rapid piece of work involving readily available information to assess historic environment potential. This work will inform whether further assessment or evaluation will be required as part of the planning process.

All work will conform to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (IfA 2011) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

The application site (centred on NGR SS 5492 9930; 13m AOD; Fig. 1) is approximately 200m by 70m and comprises several small fields and mature hedgerows located on the west side of Station Road and north of Cwmfelin Road, Bynea (Fig. 2). Bynea village, located some 1.5km from the Loughor estuary and 4km east of Llanelli town centre, was until the twentieth century located primarily within an agricultural area. The later growth of steel works and coalmines nearby attracted settlement associated with these industries.

3 Site specific objectives

The key objective of the Archaeological Appraisal will be to provide a rapid and informed answer to the question of whether there is a historic environment dimension that needs to be considered as part of the planning process, and whether this requirement should be clarified through further assessment or investigation.

The appraisal will consider the potential of all aspects of the historic environment, as defined below, no matter what form or period, including the potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits.

4 The proposed archaeological work

The proposed archaeological work relates to the whole of the site, i.e. all of the application area, and will also consider the potential for historic assets outside this area, the significance of which may extend into the immediate search area.

The resulting report will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to protect historic environment interests and allow for informed decisions to be made in the on-going planning processes. This work will include the following key elements which should be carried out in the following order:

- Consult and interrogate the Regional Historic Environment Record including the detailed further information files and other readily available sources of information, including the National Monuments Record and early O.S and Tithe maps, aerial photographs, etc. (Stage 1)
- A site visit to assess the presence/absence and condition of historic assets and their potential. (Stage 2)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3)

5 Consult and interrogate the HER (Stage 1)

The report will consider the following aspects of the historic environment, which are given as a checklist. Comment on the potential significance of each significant aspect in relation to the proposed development will be provided. Where further consideration of an aspect is required, this will be clearly stated and reasons given.

Aspects

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments {SAMs} and their settings.
- Non-scheduled ancient monuments and their settings.
- Listed buildings and their settings.
- Non statutory Buildings of Local Importance, where this information is readily available and relevant to the proposed development.
- Registered Parks and Gardens and their essential settings.
- Registered Historic Landscapes
- Non-registered historic landscapes
- Buried archaeological potential
- Palaeoenvironmental potential

- Hedgerows and field patterns
- Ancient woodland
- Cumulative impacts, e.g. wind turbines in close proximity, which will require a separate study.
- Newly identified sites of historic importance
- Any Tir Gofal interests or requirements

[For some of these aspects the advice of Cadw, The RCAHMMW or CCW may be required]

Searches

Only readily available material will be consulted. It is assumed that all the relevant material is contained in the HER held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. However, data held by other organisations will be consulted if appropriate. Advice will be sought from DAT-HM if such consultations are believed to be required.

6 The Site Visit (Stage 2)

A rapid walk-over survey will be undertaken to consider the condition of known assets and identify any previously unknown assets.

Previously unrecorded assets will be quickly recorded using photography with limited description. Where it is considered that more detailed recording is required this will be stated in the report and reasons given.

Drawings will comprise measured and sketch plans and elevations at appropriate scales as appropriate. Photographs will be taken in high-resolution digital photography with the camera set to take TIFF format images with a resolution greater than eight megapixels. Written records will be made as appropriate.

7 The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3)

The report, submitted to the planning authority, will consider the following:

- The report will be fully representative of the information gained from Stages 1-2 above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the appraisal results.
- The report will contain at least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography.
- The report will list all the sources consulted.
- Where necessary, the report will also contain suitably selected plans and sections of significant archaeological features. All plans and sections will be related to Ordnance Datum.
- Written descriptions of all archaeological features observed during the site visit will be included.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the historic assets identified will be included. Where appropriate, this will include consideration of the national Research Agenda.
- An assessment of the relative value or significance of each recognised historic asset.

- An impact appraisal of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource will be presented for consideration.

Once completed, a copy of the report will be submitted to Carmarthen County Council, and to the LPA for the consideration of their archaeological advisers. A further copy of the report will be provided to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for deposition within the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER). Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

Where appropriate, a summary report on any new significant archaeological discovery should be submitted for publication to a national journal (e.g. Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, AW will aim to deposit a copy of the report and the project archive in an appropriate repository not later than six months after completion of the work.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) and the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, AW will aim to deposit a copy of the report and the project archive in an appropriate repository not later than six months after completion of the work.

8 Monitoring

DAT-HM is the historic environment advisor to the Planning Authority and will monitor the work on their behalf to ensure compliance with planning requirements.

Any changes to the specification that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to the DAT-HM for the approval of the Planning Authority.

9 Resources and timetable

Standards

The Appraisal will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IfA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be by Iestyn Jones

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

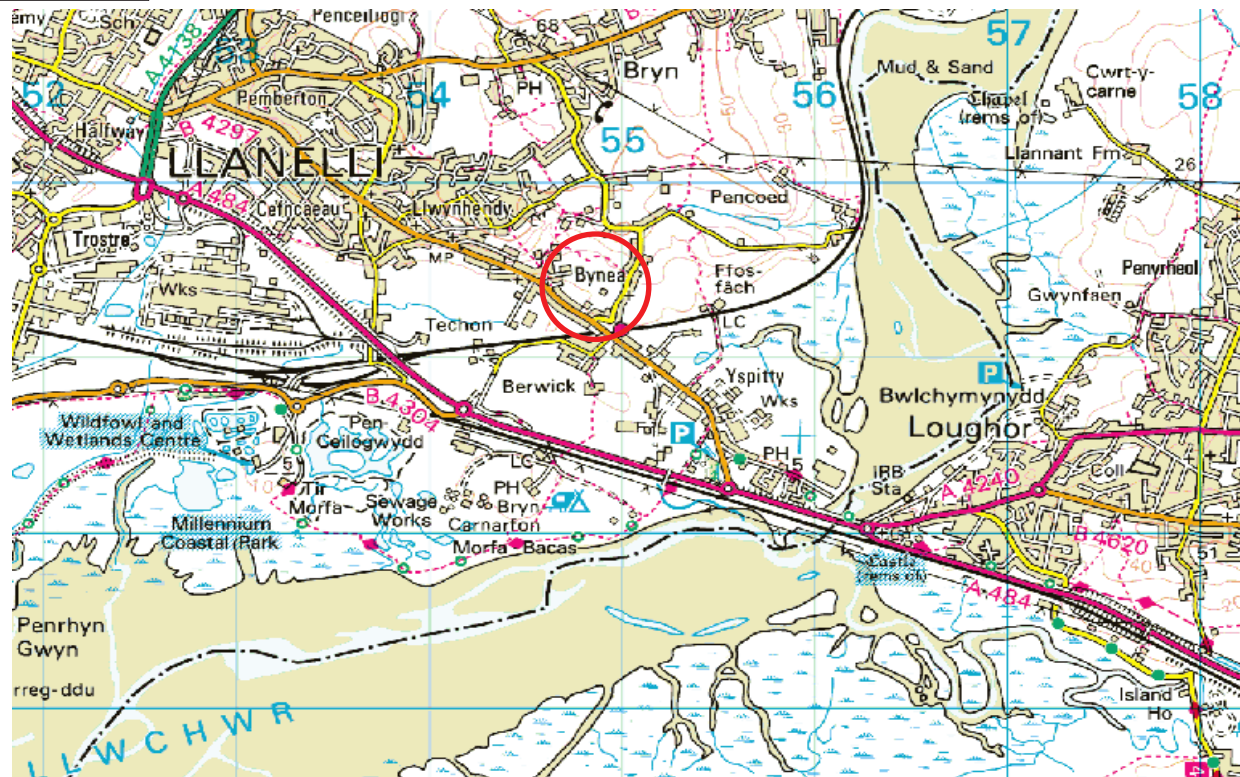
The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974*, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.



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Fig. 1
Location of
site



Fig. 2

Proposed Site
boundary