

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS:

SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT

Trawscoed Mansion, Trawscoed, Ceredigion

Prepared for:

Lord S Edwards

Project No: 1053

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This specification details the proposal for an archaeological field evaluation at Trawscoed Mansion, Trawscoed, Ceredigion. It has been prepared by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd for Lord S Edwards, who plans to develop the site. The proposed archaeological work consists of a brief documentary search, an intrusive field evaluation, archiving and reporting.

1. Introduction

The proposed development is at Trawscoed Mansion, Trawscoed, Ceredigion (Henceforth – the site), NGR: SN 66922 73002. The development proposal has been submitted by Lord S Edwards. The local planning authority is Ceredigion County Council (Henceforth - CCC) and the relevant planning application numbers are A081191, A081192, A081188LB.

This specification has been prepared by Mark Houlston (MIFA), Unit Director, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (Henceforth - CAP) at the request of Lord S Edwards. It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by CAP during an archaeological field evaluation of the site prior to the determination of the planning application.

The purpose of the proposed archaeological field evaluation is to provide CCC with the information that they have requested from Lord S Edwards, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy WALES, March 2002, Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

The details set out in this specification follow a Brief prepared by the Curatorial Section of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT-HM), who act as archaeological advisers to CCC. CCC have recommended that a Brief Desk Top Study and strategic Trial Trenching are undertaken.

Cambrian Archaeological Projects is an organisation registered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA). All work will be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

The proposed development lies on land adjacent to, and southwest of, Trawscoed Mansion, Trawscoed, Ceredigion. The site lies in close proximity to significant archaeological sites, in particular a scheduled Roman fort (CD119), constructed by the Roman army in the late 1st century A.D. Archaeological work elsewhere in Wales has demonstrated that these military installations are usually accompanied by significant external constructions, including road systems, annexes, civilian settlement (vici), bath buildings and burials. Cremation and inhumation burials could have lined the roads leading out from the main gateways. The application site lies about 200m from the fort.

In addition, the proposed development lies within a nationally important Garden, as contained in the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in Wales. Trawscoed garden is Grade II listed, dating back in origin to the 17th century.

The site also lies in close proximity to listed buildings and ornamental features.

3 Site specific objectives

The primary objectives of the work will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, all archaeological features which may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

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

The work will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation in situ will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record (excavation) will be recommended.

4 The proposed archaeological work

The proposed archaeological work relates to the whole of the site, i.e. all of the application area.

The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

- Brief desk top analysis (Stage 1)
- Strategic field evaluation (Stage 2)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3).

5 Method statement for desk top analysis (Stage 1)

Prior to the start of the field evaluation, an examination will be made of all readily available written, cartographic, pictorial and oral sources.

Sufficient documentary research will be undertaken to inform the rationale, siting and processes of the field evaluation and to place the results of the work in their historic context.

6 Method statement for Strategic field evaluation (Stage 2)

Preliminary work

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths.

The agreed evaluation areas will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is anticipated that three, 2.0m wide, trenches, one 75m long and two 15m long, will be excavated (see the attached plan). The exact positioning of the trench will depend on the position of any extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with DAT-HM prior to the commencement of works.

Evaluation

The evaluation areas will initially be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by machine. All mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a toothless bucket. All areas will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. In each area the excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. In each area sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation must conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring or stepped trenching will be discussed with DAT-HM.

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

Written, drawn and photographic records (b&w, 35mm colour slides and digital) of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 5 mega pixels or above.

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

Monitoring

DAT-HM will be contacted approximately two weeks prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

DAT-HM will be provided with notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment no less than 5 working days prior to the commencement of the work.

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

Representatives of DAT-HM will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until DAT-HM has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. DAT-HM will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

Artifacts

Archaeological artifacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artifacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum or other suitable depository.

All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be related to the contexts from which they were derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

The evaluation will carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision-making process regarding mitigation strategies.

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

A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work.

The requirements for the conservation of artefacts will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

Environmental and technological samples

Samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. These will be retained for processing. The level of post-excavation processing will be dependent on the results of the field evaluation and following discussion with an environmental specialist and DAT-HM.

Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. If required, the project manager should arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The assessment of potential should consider the guidelines set out in the English Heritage publication 'Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology' March 2002.

The requirements for the conservation of samples will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

Human remains

Human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected when discovered. No further

investigation will be permitted and DAT-HM and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

7 Method statement the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3).

Preparatory

Immediately following completion of the evaluation a catalogue of all artifactual material found will be quantified and significant finds sketched. Pottery will be analysed to the standard outlined in Draft *Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives* as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

Report preparation

The report will contain the following:

- A fully representative description of the information gained from Stages 1-2 above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results. This will be presented in Welsh to meet any Welsh language policy requirements.
- At least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography, as well as the position of all excavated areas.
- Suitably selected plans and sections of significant archaeological features. All plans and sections should be related to Ordnance Datum.
- Written descriptions of all features and deposits excavated and their considered interpretation.
- A summary report on the artefactual and ecofactual assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals or specialists.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the archaeological remains identified.
- An impact assessment, with mitigation proposals, of the proposed development on the archaeological resource can be considered and presented for consideration. This could include the mapped archaeological potential of the site in relation to the proposed development.

Once completed, a draft copy of the report will be submitted to Lord S Edwards. Subsequently, following the agreement of Lord S Edwards, it will be submitted to DAT-HM for approval. Copies of the approved report will be sent to Lord S Edwards, DAT-HM, and for deposition in the Regional Historic Environment Record.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal (eg *Archaeology in Wales*) no later than one year after the completion of the work. No report will be published without the authorisation of Lord S Edwards.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited within an appropriate local museum or other suitable depository on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeological Projects Two, Appendix 3' (English Heritage 1991).

Arrangements will be made with the local museum before work starts. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than twelve months after completion of the work.

8 Resources and timetable

Standards

The field evaluation will be undertaken by CAP staff using current best practice.

CAP is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation and all work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified CAP staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Chris Smith.

Equipment

The project will use existing Cambrian Archaeological Projects equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The field evaluation will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

Two members of staff will be on site at all times. At least two days will be spent cutting, cleaning and recording the evaluation trench. Up to one further days will be spent excavating and recording features, depending on the how much, if any, archaeological features survive.

Insurance

Cambrian Archaeological Projects 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 Cambrian Archaeological Projects.

If CAP has sole possession of the site, CAP will produce a detailed Risk Assessment, for approval by the client, before any site work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, CAP employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.