

Archaeology Wales

Blaentillery Farm, Blaentillery Blaenau Gwent

Archaeological Evaluation



By
Stephen Porter


Report No. 1728


Archaeology Wales

Blaentillery Farm, Blaentillery Blaenau Gwent

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared For: Constantine Wind Energy

Edited by: Rowena Hart
Signed: 
Position: Regional Director
Date: 08/11/2018

Authorised by: Rowena Hart
Signed: 
Position: Regional Director
Date: 08/11/2018

By

Stephen Porter

Report No: 1728

November 2018

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Introduction | 2 |
| 2. Site description and archaeological background | 3 |
| 3. Aims and Objectives..... | 4 |
| 4. Methodology..... | 4 |
| 5. Evaluation results..... | 5 |
| 6. The finds..... | 6 |
| 7. Discussions and Conclusions..... | 6 |
| 8. Bibliography | 6 |

Appendix 1. Figures

Figure 1. Trench location

Appendix 2. Plates

Plate 1 - Trench 1, view from southwest

Plate 2 - Trench 2, view from northwest

Plate 3 - Representative section in Trench 2

Plate 4 - View of access road cutting from northeast

Plate 5 - East-facing section of access road cutting (Trench 3)

Appendix 3. Context Inventory

Appendix 4. Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-technical Summary

In June 2017 Archaeology Wales was commissioned to undertake a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation by Constantine Wind Energy at land at Blaentillery Farm Wind Farm, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development was centred at NGR SO 22383 07453. The associated Planning Application No. was C/2012/0377 as amended by CA/C/2014/0058.

This evaluation was designed to mitigate the earlier impact of a lack of watching brief during ground works associated with the wind farm project. The scheme allowed for an evaluation to be conducted by means of the excavation of two evaluation trenches positioned near to the turbine bases. In addition, the new access track cutting had clear sections visible which were cleaned and recorded to add to the understanding of the stratigraphy of the site and the potential for archaeology to have been disturbed during the ground works.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the work.

All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (ClfA 2014).

1. Introduction

In June 2017 Archaeology Wales was commissioned to undertake a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation by Constantine Wind Energy at land at Blaentillery Farm Wind Farm Project, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development was centred at NGR SO 22383 07453. The associated Planning Application No. was C/2012/0377 as amended by CA/C/2014/0058.

Archaeological advice was provided by the Heritage Officer at Blaenau Gwent and GGAT-PD to Constantine Wind Energy requesting an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken at the site of Blaentillery Farm Wind Farm Project. The evaluation was undertaken to mitigate the impact of a lack of watching brief during the main phase ground works.

A Written Scheme of Investigation for this work (Appendix 4) was agreed with the Heritage Officer at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and GGAT-PD, who recommended that an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area was undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The purpose of the proposed programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation was to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in Planning

Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

The field evaluation was carried out under the supervision of Dr Susan Stratton with archaeological assistance from Poppy Alexander, both of Archaeology Wales. The project was managed by Rowena Hart MCIfA.

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

2. Site description and archaeological background

2.1 Location, Topography and geology

Blaentillery Farm is located some 2.75km to the north-east of Abertillery and 1km east of the Afon Tillery.

The underlying geology is defined by Rhondda Member. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 308 to 315 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2018).

Archaeological and historical background

Blaentillery Farm is located some 2.75km to the north-east of Abertillery. The farm itself is recorded as a post-medieval farm with yard and outbuildings. This upland area is scattered with the remains of postmedieval structures relating to upland farming and associated dwellings. Hafods and farmhouses are commonplace. Some 1km to the north-west of the development area is the Post-medieval deserted rural settlement of Blaen y Cwm.

Industrial development during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries brought rapid growth to the area. Nearby towns such as Abertillery grew at an unprecedented rate. Communication links were improved into the area such as the small bridge over the Afon Tyleri that runs some 1km to the west of the development area. Nearby quarries, mines, collieries and levels are typical of the post-medieval period in these south Wales valley locations due to their near perfect geological locations.

Earlier land use is evidenced by two Medieval boundary mounds along Cefn Coch. Earlier, prehistoric evidence in the immediate area is sparse. A possible Bronze Age Round Barrow is located some 2.5km to the north-west of the development area.

3. Aims and Objectives

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation was to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features present within the development area.

The work aimed to reveal the presence or absence of an archaeological resource, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work included an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aimed to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

4. Methodology

The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work satisfied herself that all constraints to ground works had been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

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

Two (15m x 1.2m) trenches were machine-excavated at the planned locations (Figure 1). The exact positioning of the trenches was defined taking into consideration the position of any extant services or other obstructions that came to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches were agreed with the Heritage Officer at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and GGAT-PD prior to the commencement of works. In addition, a significant length of the new access track route cutting had clear sections visible which were cleaned and recorded to add to the understanding of the stratigraphy of the site.

The evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) were excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas were subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features was undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features were fully excavated, larger discrete features were half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features were sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and

to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved.

5. Evaluation results

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was 15m in length and 1.2m in width. It was aligned NW-SE and was excavated to a depth of 0.75m.

The natural substrate (103) was found at a depth of 0.4m below ground level. It consisted of a mid brownish grey silt with inclusions of frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Deposit (103) was overlaid by the subsoil (102).

Deposit (102) was encountered 0.25m below ground level. It was characterised as a mid reddish brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent small sub-angular stones. This deposit was overlaid by the topsoil (101).

The topsoil (101) was 0.25m thick and was defined as mid greyish brown loam with frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular stones. No finds or archaeological features were recovered from Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Plate 2 and 3)

Trench 2 was 15m in length and 1.2m in width. It was aligned NW-SE and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m.

The natural substrate (203) was encountered at a depth of 0.43m below ground level. It consisted of a mid brownish grey silt with inclusions of frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Deposit (203) was overlaid by the subsoil (202).

Subsoil (202) was encountered 0.25m below ground level. It was characterised as a mid reddish brown sandy gravel. This deposit was overlaid by the topsoil (201).

The topsoil (201) was 0.25m thick and was defined as light greyish brown loam with frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular stones. No finds or archaeological features were recovered from Trench 2.

Access track cutting (Plates 4 and 5)

The access track cutting was 80m in length. It was aligned NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth exceeding 1m and gradually shallowed to meet the higher ground. The new access track route cutting still had clear sections visible which were cleaned and recorded.

The natural substrate (303) was encountered at a depth of 0.32m below ground level. It consisted of a light brownish yellow silt with inclusions of frequent medium-sized sub-angular stones. Deposit (303) was overlaid by the subsoil (302).

Subsoil (302) was encountered at 0.22m below ground level. It was characterised as a light brownish yellow silt with inclusions of occasional small sub-rounded stones. This deposit was overlaid by the topsoil (301).

The topsoil (301) was 0.22m thick and was defined as dark yellowish grey silty loam with occasional small angular and sub-angular stones. No finds or archaeological features were recovered from the access track cutting.

6. The finds

No finds were recovered from the evaluation.

7. Discussions and Conclusions

Two (15m x 1.2m) trenches were machine-excavated within the planned development area (Figure 1). In addition, a significant length of the new access track route cutting (80m) had clear sections visible which were cleaned and recorded to add to the understanding of the stratigraphy of the site. These produced topsoil and subsoil profiles of the site.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified by the evaluation. This result reduces the likelihood that the previous ground works associated with the turbines and access route would have disturbed archaeological features or deposits.

8. Bibliography

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- English Heritage, 2002. Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology.
- English Heritage, 2006. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).

- British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:
www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

Appendix 1: Figures

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from southwest.



Plate 2: Trench 2, view from northwest.



Plate 3: Representative section in Trench 2



Plate 4: View of access road cutting from northeast.



Plate 5: East-facing section of access road cutting

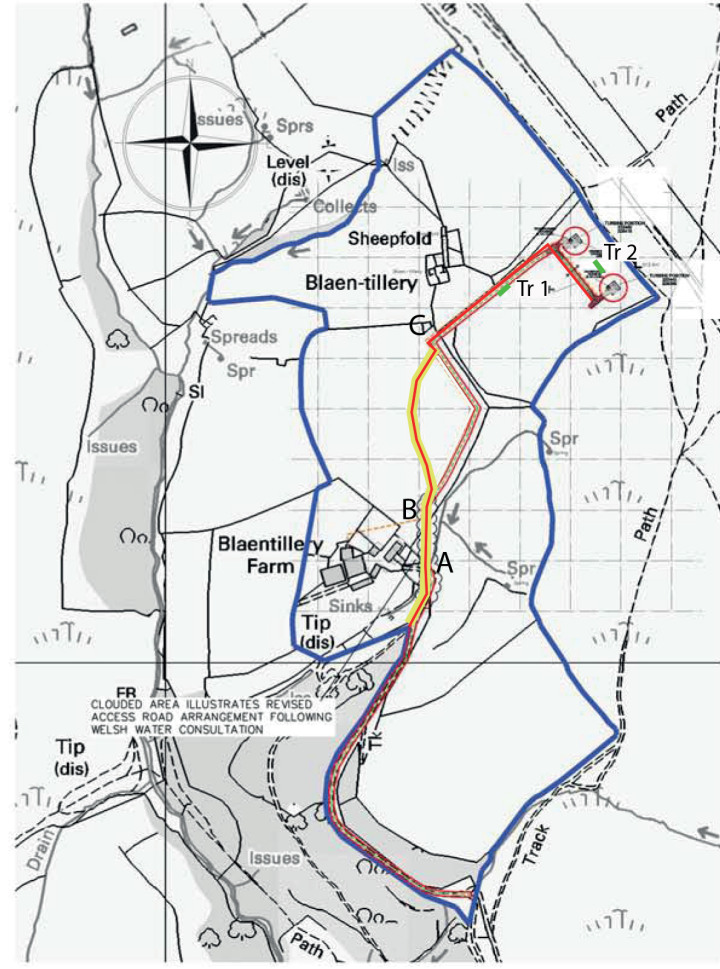
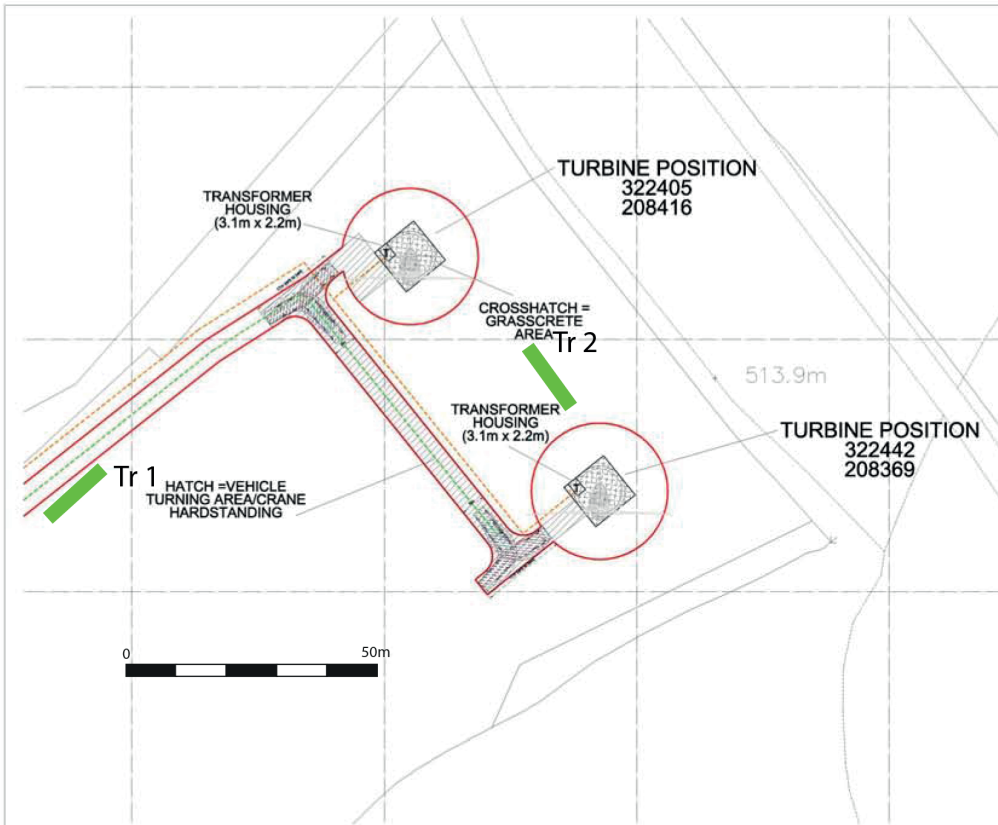
Appendix 3: Context Inventory

| Context | Description | Comments | Relationships |
|---------|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| (101) | Layer | Topsoil in Trench 1; mid greyish brown loam with frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular stones. Measured 0.25m thick. | Over (102) |
| (102) | Layer | Subsoil in Trench 1; mid reddish brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent small sub-angular stones. Measured 0.15m thick. | Under (101) Over (103) |
| (103) | Layer | Natural substrate in Trench 1; mid brownish grey silt with inclusions of frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Located at a depth of 0.4m from ground level. | Under (102) |
| (201) | Layer | Topsoil in Trench 2; light greyish brown loam with frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular stones. Measured 0.25m thick. | Over (202) |
| (202) | Layer | Subsoil in Trench 2; mid reddish brown sandy gravel. Measured 0.15m thick. | Under (201) Over (203) |
| (203) | Layer | Natural substrate in Trench 2: mid brownish grey silt with inclusions of frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Located at a depth of 0.43m from ground level. | Under (203) |
| (301) | Layer | Topsoil in Trench 3; dark yellowish grey silty loam with occasional small angular and sub-angular stones. Measured 0.22m thick. | Over (302) |
| (302) | Layer | Subsoil in Trench 2; light brownish yellow silt with inclusions of occasional small sub-rounded stones. Measured 0.1m thick. | Under (301) Over (303) |
| (303) | Layer | Natural substrate in Trench 3; light brownish yellow silt with inclusions of frequent medium-sized sub-angular stones. Located at a depth of 0.32m from ground level. | Under (302) |

Appendix 4: Written Scheme of Investigation

Archaeology *Wales*

APPENDIX I: **Figures**



Do not scale this drawing. Architects to be notified of discrepancies in figured dimensions. Contractors must check all dimensions from site.

A - Fill c.3.0m
A-B - Cut c.21.m
B-C - Cut 0.35m

| No | Description | Prep | Auth | Date |
|----|---|------|------|----------|
| 10 | 'Transformer Housing' text note added | GH | MDA | 03.04.14 |
| 9 | Access road amended in line with Welsh Water Consultation | GH | MDA | 18.04.13 |
| 8 | Ownership boundary updated | GH | MDA | 22.01.13 |
| 7 | Crane loading and access road section added | GH | MDA | 01.11.12 |
| 6 | Planners' comments incorporated | GH | MDA | 30.10.12 |
| 5 | Dev Boundary revised to reflect LA's requirements | GH | MDA | 18.10.12 |
| 4 | Updated to follow legal drawing | GH | MDA | 11.10.12 |
| 3 | Updated to follow legal drawing | GH | MDA | 11.10.12 |
| 2 | Shadow zone updated | GH | MDA | 02.10.12 |
| 1 | Site ownership boundary finalised | GH | MDA | 30.08.12 |

Drawing Status:
PLANNING APPLICATION

Client:
MDA RENEWABLES

Project:
**TWO PROPOSED WIND TURBINES
BLAENTILLERY FARM,
BLAENTILLERY**

Drawing Title:
**SITE LOCATION PLAN/
PROPOSED SITE PLAN**

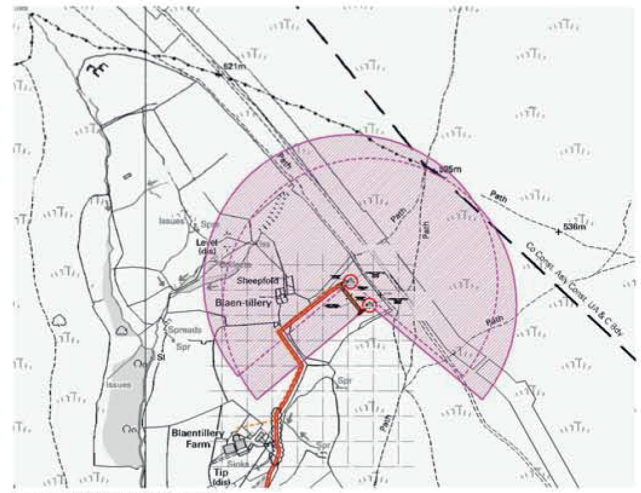


Figure 1. Site location and details of work

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX II:

Plates

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from southwest.



Plate 2: Trench 2, view from northwest.



Plate 3: Representative section in Trench 2



Plate 4: View of access road cutting from northeast.



Plate 5: East-facing section of access road cutting

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX III
Context Inventory

Appendix 3: Context Inventory

| Context | Description | Comments | Relationships |
|---------|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| (101) | Layer | Topsoil in Trench 1; mid greyish brown loam with frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular stones. Measured 0.25m thick. | Over (102) |
| (102) | Layer | Subsoil in Trench 1; mid reddish brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent small sub-angular stones. Measured 0.15m thick. | Under (101) Over (103) |
| (103) | Layer | Natural substrate in Trench 1; mid brownish grey silt with inclusions of frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Located at a depth of 0.4m from ground level. | Under (102) |
| (201) | Layer | Topsoil in Trench 2; light greyish brown loam with frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular stones. Measured 0.25m thick. | Over (202) |
| (202) | Layer | Subsoil in Trench 2; mid reddish brown sandy gravel. Measured 0.15m thick. | Under (201) Over (203) |
| (203) | Layer | Natural substrate in Trench 2: mid brownish grey silt with inclusions of frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Located at a depth of 0.43m from ground level. | Under (203) |
| (301) | Layer | Topsoil in Trench 3; dark yellowish grey silty loam with occasional small angular and sub-angular stones. Measured 0.22m thick. | Over (302) |
| (302) | Layer | Subsoil in Trench 2; light brownish yellow silt with inclusions of occasional small sub-rounded stones. Measured 0.1m thick. | Under (301) Over (303) |
| (303) | Layer | Natural substrate in Trench 3; light brownish yellow silt with inclusions of frequent medium-sized sub-angular stones. Located at a depth of 0.32m from ground level. | Under (302) |

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX IV
Written Scheme of Investigation

Written Scheme of Investigation

For an Archaeological Evaluation:

Blaentillery Farm Wind Turbine Project,
Cwmtillery, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent

Prepared for:

MDA Renewables

Project No: 2334

June 2017

Archaeology Wales Limited
The Reading Room, Town Hall
Great Oak Street, Llanidloes
Powys - SY18 6BN
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk



NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A recommendation for an Archaeological Evaluation has been made by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust – Archaeological Planning Service (GGAT-APS) and the Heritage Officer at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) at land at Blaentillery Farm Wind Farm Project, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development is centred at NGR SO 22383 07453.

This evaluation is designed to mitigate the earlier impact of a lack of watching brief during ground works associated with the wind farm project. The scheme allows for an evaluation to be conducted by means of the excavation of six evaluation trenches. A total of five trenches will measure 10m x 1.8m and a single trench will measure 15m x 1.8m. The trenches will be positioned along the access track and in close proximity to the turbine bases.

This Written Scheme of Investigation outlines the details of an archaeological field evaluation commissioned by MDA Renewables and prepared by Archaeology Wales.

All work will be carried out to the professional standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

1. Introduction

Archaeological advice has been provided by the Heritage Officer at Blaenau Gwent and GGAT -APS to MDA Renewables requesting an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken at the site of Blaentillery Farm Wind Farm Project, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development is centred at NGR SO 22383 07453. The evaluation is to be undertaken to mitigate the impact of a lack of watching brief during the main phase ground works.

Archaeology Wales has been commissioned by MDA Renewables to prepare an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (henceforth – WSI) for submission to the Local Planning Authority, which will provide the framework for the archaeological evaluation.

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

All work will conform to *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research* (CIfA 2011).

The project will be managed by Rowena Hart, with site work undertaken by Andrew Shobbrook, Supervisor, Archaeology Wales.

Health and Safety advice and site inspections will be undertaken by AW's Health and Safety Officer, Mr Keith Foster, of Powys Safety Solutions.

2 Site description and archaeological background

Blaentillery Farm is located some 2.75km to the north-east of Abertillery. The farm itself is recorded as a post-medieval farm with yard and outbuildings on the Historic Environment Record (06475g). This upland area is scattered with the remains of post-medieval structures relating to upland farming and associated dwellings. Hafods and farmhouses (06479g, 06473g, 06474g, 06482g) are commonplace. Some 1km to the north-west of the development area is the Post-medieval deserted rural settlement of Blaen y Cwm (06480g).

Industrial development during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries brought rapid growth to the area. Nearby towns such as Abertillery grew at an unprecedented rate. Communication links were improved into the area such as the small bridge over the Afon Tyleri (0880g) that runs some 1km to the west of the development area. Nearby quarries (03439g, 06982g and 07001g), mines (06563g), collieries (03430g and 03434g) and levels (03437g) are typical of the post-medieval period in these south Wales valley locations due to their near perfect geological locations.

Earlier evidence of land use is evidenced by two Medieval boundary mounds along Cefn Coch (06469g, 06470g and 06471g).

There is little known prehistoric evidence in the immediate location of the development. A possible Bronze Age Round Barrow (06926g) is located some 2.5km to the north-west of the development area.

3 Site specific objectives

The primary objective of the evaluation will be to reveal and understand the nature and extent of the archaeological resource of the site. Preliminary background research will be undertaken, the purpose being to inform the interpretation of potential features encountered during the fieldwork. The results of the evaluation will describe the likely impact of the previous ground works undertaken without a watching brief.

The archaeological evaluation by means of six trenches will include the investigation of a sufficient sample of archaeological features, artefacts and ecofacts to properly assess the potential of the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance in order to inform future planning decisions and mitigation strategies where required.

The Archaeological Planning Service of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust will be advised in advance of the start of the work to allow them access to the site. They will also be advised if archaeological features are encountered and the methodology of excavation will be discussed with them.

The results of the work will ultimately be disseminated by means of a grey-literature report and published in a recognised regional or national archaeological journal as appropriate and the information thereby placed into the public domain.

The site archive will be lodged in an agreed format and to an agreed timetable (see Section 10).

4 The proposed archaeological work

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:

- Evaluation trenching (Stage 1)
- The production of an Evaluation Report (Stage 2)
- Analysis and publication, if required, and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3).

5 Method statement for Evaluation Trenching (Stage 1)

5.1 Environmental Considerations

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. Advice will be sought with regard to pumping standing water from the trench if this issue arises (5.5 below).

5.2 Machine excavation

The six trenches will be excavated as shown in Figures 2. The trenches have been located to best test the area. Investigation of historical mapping did not provide any guidance to the best location of these to test mapped features and as a result they are evenly distributed with multiple alignments to increase the chance of revealing archaeological features, should they exist within the area. Should any trenches require an adjustment of their position due to ground conditions GGAT-APS will be contacted for approval.

A total of five trenches will measure 1.8x10m and a single trench will measure 1.8x15m. The trenches will be machine excavated under close archaeological supervision and direction using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket.

The trenches will be set out using a GEOMAX GPS Smart Rover. The trenches will then be excavated by machine until the uppermost archaeological horizon is reached. If there is an absence of archaeology within the trench the natural horizons will be excavated until it is certain that the deposits encountered are natural.

Where necessary evaluation trenches will be securely fenced with Herras type fence panels.

All spoil will be stored a minimum of 3m from the edge of each trench.

If, at any time during the period of hand excavation, soil movement is detected around the sides or at the base of the trench, then the team will immediately stop work and retire to a safe distance from the trench. AW's Health & Safety Officer will be called in to inspect the site.

5.3 Hand Excavation

The bases of all machine excavated areas will be inspected to confirm the presence or

absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds. Where any of these are present the trench will be hand cleaned by trowel or other suitable tool to determine their nature and extent. An appropriate level of investigation of features will be undertaken to best understand the archaeology encountered and will be agreed with GGAT-APS where necessary. This investigation is likely to include 50% excavation of discrete features (eg. pits) and 25% of linear features (eg. ditches).

If significant/complex archaeological remains are encountered, excavation will stop and BGCBC Heritage Officer and their agents and GGAT-APS will be consulted regarding the appropriate course of action to take. A site meeting will be called if required.

5.4 Recording

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

Written, drawn and photographic records (high resolution digital TIFF) 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 14 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.

All site recording will meet the professional standards laid down by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*.

5.5 Pumping

A submersible pump will be used if ground water enters the trench. The methodology used to remove water from the site will follow the rules set out in 'environmental considerations' (6.1) above.

5.6 Monitoring

GGAT-APS and BGCBC Heritage Officer will be contacted approximately one week prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to GGAT-APS and BGCBC Heritage Officer for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of GGAT-APS and BGCBC Heritage Officer 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 GGAT-APS and BGCBC Heritage Officer has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance in writing. The client and GGAT-APS along with BGCBC Heritage Officer will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

5.7 Artefacts

Artefacts will be carefully removed using appropriate equipment, for example plastic or wooden tools will be used for delicate objects such as wood or leather. Larger, *in situ*, objects may be left in the ground if it is certain that later excavation will be required.

On site conservation/stabilisation measures will be sufficient to deal with artefacts recovered from anaerobically preserved conditions.

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned, where appropriate, and labelled using an accession number which will be obtained from the receiving museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum (National Museum and Galleries in Wales).

5.8 Environmental, palaeoenvironmental, and technological samples

All features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. Column samples, bulk samples and samples for micromorphological analysis will be taken where appropriate. Deposits containing carbon will be sampled for possible use in C14 dating.

The project manager in charge will arrange for a palaeoenvironmental archaeologist to be present during the evaluation. He/she will take samples, as appropriate, and make an initial appraisal of the deposits from which these came and their potential for further study.

If required, the project manager will arrange for other suitably qualified specialists to visit the site, so as to obtain a better understanding of the deposits from which the relevant artefacts, ecofacts or samples were retrieved.

The AW Environmental Specialist is Wendy J. Carruthers and the AW Palaeoenvironmental Specialist is Dr Martin Bates. Other specialists will be called upon depending on the nature of materials requiring examination. In the case of the palaeoenvironmental and micromorphological specialists, they will also assist with the sampling.

5.9 Human remains

Human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation will be permitted and GGAT-APS, BGCBC Heritage Officer and the local Coroner will be informed. If excavation is essential it will take place under license and to the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

6 Method statement for the production of Evaluation Report (Stage 2)

6.1 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 | Dr Phil Mills (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) |

6.2 Specialist reports

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

6.3 Assessment report

The report will include the following:

- A fully representative description of the information gained from the Evaluation above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- 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 report on the artefactual, ecofactual, technological and palaeoenvironmental assemblage retrieved. This will be a full report if no further work is to be undertaken. However, it will include recommendations for any further study of these assemblages that may be required. Furthermore, the reports will include recommendations for further sampling, should excavation be required.
- 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. This will include the mapped archaeological potential of the site in relation to the proposed development.

Production of the report will conform to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006).

Copies of the report will be sent to the client, GGAT-APS, BGCBC Heritage Officer and for inclusion in the regional HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

If further work is not recommended a summary report will be submitted for publication to a suitable local or national journal (eg Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work. The project will be archived to the standards specified in Section 7.

7 Method statement for deposition of the site archive (Stage 3)

The site archive

A site archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited within an appropriate local museum on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006) and 'Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer And Curation' (Brown 2007).

Arrangements will be made with National Museum and Galleries of Wales or alternative before site work starts. Deposition information will be relayed to the HER and the NMR.

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 six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales.

8 Resources and timetable

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.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. The project will be managed by Rowena Hart MCIfA and site work conducted and supervised by Andrew Shobbrook (CVs are available upon request).

Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client and GGAT-APS and the BGCBC Heritage Officer will be informed of this date.

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.

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 (revised March 2016). AW is registered with Acclaim and Constructionline.

AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment before any work is undertaken.

Arbitration

Any dispute or difference arising out of a contract in relation to this work should be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists applying at the date of agreement.

References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation

English Heritage, 2006, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (re issue 2015).

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX V
Amendment to WSI

Amendment to proposed evaluation at Blaentillery Farm

Following a site visit to Blaentillery farm on the 16th April 2018 to inspect the area prior to undertaking the evaluation it was noted that a significant length of the new access track route cutting still had clear sections visible. We would suggest that cleaning and recording these sections would be more beneficial in understanding the stratigraphy than excavation new trenches into ground that does not need to be disturbed. This would replace the requirement for trenches 1, 2 and 3.

In addition, the location proposed for Trench 5 is not feasible as there are too many fences in the same location. It would be better to lengthen trench 4 and move it north-eastward slightly.

Figure 1 shows the original proposal and figure 2 shows the amended proposal.



Plate 1. View of east-facing section near to proposed Trench 1 (section c1.2m in height)



Plate 2. East facing section near to proposed Trench 2 (section c.1.2m height)



Plate 3. East-facing section near to proposed Trench 3 (section c.1m height)



Plate 4. East-facing section between proposed Trench 3 and 4 (section c.0.4m height)



Plate 5. View to the south

Archaeology Wales

Archaeology Wales Limited

The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Company Directors: Mark Houston MCIFA & Jill Houston

Company Registered No. 7440770 (England & Wales)

Registered Office: Morgan Griffiths LLP, Cross Chambers

9 High Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2NY

