

Our ref: VOG1359/JB

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

Head of Planning and Transportation  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Dock Office  
Barry Docks  
BARRY  
CF63 4RT

10<sup>th</sup> January 2017

FAO Steven Rennie

Dear Sir

**Re: Residential Development Of Up To 300 Units And Associated Work,  
Including The Provision Of Public Open Space And Strategic Access  
Points**

**Land off Cowbridge Road, St Athan**

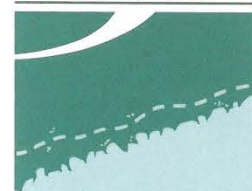
**Pl.App.No.: 2016/01427/OUT**

Thank you for consulting us in respect of this planning application; consequently we have consulted the detailed information contained on your website. **The proposal will require mitigation.**

You will recall that a geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation has been undertaken at this site. The geophysical survey revealed buried archaeological features, which on evaluation have proved to be significant. One is a circular rock cut ditch with no internal features, and the second is a barrow enclosed by two ring ditches, and which contains post holes and funerary remains which are tentatively dated to the Bronze Age. These discoveries are consistent with other archaeological resources recently found within a 1.5km radius of this site, and is part of an emerging picture of human activity in the Vale of Glamorgan in prehistory. It is likely that these remains are of regional significance.

The evaluation report (Worcester Archaeology, Report Reference 2384, dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016) details the findings of the evaluation. Thirty trenches were excavated across the site. These were targeted on details revealed in the geophysical survey. The correlation between the geophysical data and the findings of the evaluation was good. The detail of the nature of the two circular features was confirmed as stated above. The excavations also found a number of gullies and a shallow ditch running across the site as well as evidence of quarrying activity. The artifact assemblage included worked flint which is stylistically dated to the Mesolithic period, and ceramics left in situ which are of Bronze Age date.

The accompanying information shows that the two ring ditch features are to be excluded from the built area and will remain as public space within the development. We welcome this strategy to protect the archaeological resource. A method statement about the ongoing management of the buried archaeological resource once the construction work is complete would also be useful. Clearly the potential for buried archaeological resource outside of the areas explored by the evaluation remains, and for this reason we recommend



Archaeological  
Planning



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Glamorgan-Gwent  
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Limited

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that a condition is applied to any consent given in order to mitigate this possibility. Therefore it is our recommendation that a condition requiring the applicant to submit a detailed written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work to protect the archaeological resource should be attached to any consent granted by your Members.

We envisage that this programme of work would take the form of a watching brief during all groundworks required for the development (services, foundations, road schemes, landscaping and planting, etc), including the provision of an archaeology management plan for the protection of the known archaeological resource over the life time of the construction of the development. The written scheme should also include sufficient provision in terms of time and resources to ensure that any previous undiscovered archaeological features or finds that are located are properly investigated and recorded; it should include provision for any sampling that may prove necessary, post-excavation recording and assessment and reporting and possible publication of the results. To ensure adherence to the recommendations we recommend that the condition should be worded in a manner similar to model condition 24 given in Welsh Government Circular 016/2014

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.*

*Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.*

We also recommend that a note should be attached to the planning consent explaining that:

*The archaeological work must be undertaken to the appropriate Standard and Guidance set by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), ([www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa](http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa)) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation ([www.archaeologists.net/ro](http://www.archaeologists.net/ro)) or an accredited Member.*

If you require further assistance or information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Janet Bailey MA, BSc (Hons)  
Archaeological Planning Officer