

Our ref: VOG1359/RD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

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

18th July 2017

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 about this application; consequently we have reviewed the detailed information contained on your website and can confirm that **the proposal has an archaeological restraint.**

As you may remember we previously commented on this application in our letter dated 10th January 2017, when we recommended a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work, and our understanding of the archaeological resource of the area remains unchanged.

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 17th 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. However, as noted previously, **the planting of trees in the buffer zone should be avoided** as their roots can cause significant damage to archaeological remains in the long term.



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As previously, 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 the groundworks required for the development, with detailed contingency arrangements including the provision of sufficient time and resources to ensure that any 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 have any questions or require further advice on this matter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Rob Dunning BSc MCifA  
Archaeological Planning Officer