



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

22nd April 2020

Archaeological
Planning

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Remediation and demolition of the site known as Cowbridge Sheep Market, The Butts, Cowbridge, including removal of asbestos materials, demolition of former public conveniences, livestock sheds, auction pens, weighing and loading areas and market office building. To break up and crush existing concrete bases and hardstanding, grading area, on completion leaving flat for public parking
Cowbridge Sheep Market, The Butts, Cowbridge
Pl.App.No.: 2020/00385/CAC

We noted this application when we reviewed your weekly planning list; consequently we have consulted the detailed information contained on your website and have identified that **the proposal will require archaeological mitigation.**

Cowbridge has origins as a Roman military settlement, occupied from the 2nd to 4th centuries; and later developed as a walled and planned town from the mid-13th century. The application area is located to the immediate west of the medieval town walls and defences and is situated to the south of Westgate, which follows the course of the Roman and medieval main road through Cowbridge. Roman activity has been encountered, to the north and south of the main road, including human remains. Information in the Historic Environment Record, curated by this Trust, notes that an archaeological evaluation was undertaken directly opposite the proposed application area in 2019 by Cardiff Archaeological Consultants, which provided information on the archaeological resource of medieval and Post-medieval Cowbridge (Report No. 2019-07). Two trenches were opened in which the upper fills of the Town Ditch were identified and dated to the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

The application is for the demolition of the Cowbridge Sheep Market, which is comprised of former public conveniences, livestock sheds, auction pens, weighing and loading areas and the market office building. We note from the application's submitted Heritage Impact Statement that the buildings proposed to be demolished do not have any period or historic features and are of a modern build. However, we also note that the proposed development includes groundworks and a review of the historic Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1877 to 1919, show that there are earlier structures depicted within the application area.

Furthermore, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken within the proposed application area itself in 2015 by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, during geotechnical testing and ground intrusive works in order to determine the extent of the modern cattle shed foundations (GGAT Report No. 2015/081). Two boreholes, seven window slots and two trial trenches were excavated. The results showed that the depth of the carpark surface varied across the site from approximately 0.1m to 0.3m. The watching

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brief report concluded that whilst given the limited nature of the excavations undertaken at the site, it was not surprising that no substantial structures or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered. However, medieval and Post-medieval finds were encountered and this in conjunction with the known Roman and medieval activity within the immediate area, suggests that it is likely that any future groundworks may encounter archaeological remains.

As a result, we recommend that a condition requiring the applicant to submit a 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 an archaeological watching brief during the associated 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) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or a MCIfA level accredited Member.

If you have any questions or require further advice on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Bowden BA MSc
Archaeological Planning Officer

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