

RHOOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, VALE OF GLAMORGAN: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT



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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

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SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by AECOM to prepare a Historic Environment Statement for the proposed development site of a new school on land south of Porthkerry Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan (roughly centred on ST 08855 74420). DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by AECOM to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (or Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment) for the proposed development site for a new school at Rhoose in the, Vale of Glamorgan (roughly centred on ST 06748 66304; Figure 1). The proposals are for a new primary school within a newly constructed residential area on the southeastern side of Rhoose.

Following information supplied by AECOM and a site visit, it was evident that the site area has been subject to considerable earthmoving and disturbance during the construction of the surrounding housing development by various contractors. Previous archaeological studies of the area had considered the archaeological potential of the school site itself to be low.

Due to previous disturbance the archaeological potential of the site is now considered negligible and therefore no further works relating to the historic environment will be necessary for the proposed school development.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gan AECOM i baratoi Datganiad Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar gyfer safle datblygu arfaethedig ysgol newydd ar dir i'r de o Heol Porthkerry, Y Rhws, Bro Morgannwg (wedi'i ganoli'n ar ST 08855 74420). Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gan AECOM i baratoi Asesiad Seiliedig ar Ddesg yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol (neu Asesiad Seiliedig ar Ddesg Archeolegol) ar gyfer y safle datblygu arfaethedig ar gyfer ysgol newydd yn Y Rhws ym Mro Morgannwg (wedi'i ganoli'n fras ar ST 06748 66304; Ffigur 1). Mae'r cynlluniau ar gyfer ysgol gynradd newydd o fewn ardal breswyl sydd newydd ei hadeiladu ar ochr dde-ddwyreiniol Y Rhws.

Yn dilyn gwybodaeth sy'n ddarparwyd gan AECOM ac ymweliad safle, roedd yn amlwg bod ardal y safle wedi bod yn destun cryn ddaeargryn ac aflonyddwch yn ystod y gwaith o adeiladu'r datblygiad tai o'i amgylch gan amrywiol gontractwyr. Roedd astudiaethau archeolegol blaenorol o'r ardal wedi ystyried bod potensial archeolegol safle'r ysgol ei hun yn isel.

Oherwydd aflonyddwch blaenorol, ystyrir bod potensial archeolegol y safle bellach yn ddibwys ac felly ni fydd angen gwneud unrhyw waith pellach yn ymwneud â'r amgylchedd hanesyddol ar gyfer y datblygiad ysgol arfaethedig.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by AECOM to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (or Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment) for the proposed development site for a new school at Rhose in the, Vale of Glamorgan (roughly centred on ST 06748 66304; Figure 1). The proposals are for a new primary school within a newly constructed residential area on the southeastern side of Rhose.

1.1.2 Following information supplied by AECOM and a site visit, it was evident that the site area has been subject to considerable earthmoving and disturbance during the construction of the surrounding housing development by various contractors. It was determined that a historic environment desk-based assessment was not required for this proposed school development, but a statement outlining the facts about the site area would be more useful to demonstrate that the Historic Environment has been considered as part of the proposals. Due to previous disturbance the archaeological potential of the site is considered negligible and therefore no further works relating to the historic environment are considered necessary for this development.

1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology

1.2.1 Although this report is more of a statement than a full desk-based assessment, much of the scope of the statement follows the Standard And Guidance For Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The standard is stated as:

Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of Conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.

1.2.2 This statement briefly addresses known designated archaeological sites within the site and its environs and information included within an Environmental Impact Assessment provided for the main residential area by Cotswold Archaeology in 2004. It assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present within the proposed development area based on this information and recent disturbance that has occurred to the site during the surrounding residential development.

1.2.3 The statement presents relevant information from a number of sources including:

- On-line National Monuments Record of Wales data held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (Coflein);
- Planning information available via the Vale of Glamorgan County Council website;

- Map regression exercise using earlier cartographic sources;
- Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Historic Landscapes, Historic Landscape Character Areas or Conservation Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, DAT, NRW);
- Site visit;
- Assessment of previous impacts to the site area and overall archaeological potential.

1.2.7 For the purposes of planning policy in Wales, the historic environment is defined as:

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed (Welsh Government 2017).

A historic asset is:

An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated (ibid).



Figure 1: Location Map for Rhose Primary School, Vale of Glamorgan – a red outline shows the area of proposed development

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2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The proposed school development site lies on the southeastern side of Rhose in the Vale of Glamorgan (roughly centred on ST 06748 66304; Figure 1). The proposed development covers an area of around 2.41ha.
- 2.2 The site lies to the south of Porthkerry Road, the main road leading into Rhose. New roads have been recently constructed for the new residential area surrounding the site, with completed housing between the school site and Porthkerry Road to the north, west and southwest. Additional housing is still being constructed to the southeast and south. The line of the railway runs along the southern side of the entire Porthkerry Road development area.
- 2.3 The school site lies on a south facing slope at around 50m OD at its northwestern corner down to 40m OD on its southern-most point.
- 2.4 The bedrock at the site is Porthkerry Member – Limestone and Mudstone inter-bedded sedimentary bedrock (British Geological Society website). No superficial deposits are recorded.

3 DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 2KM

- 3.1 The nearest scheduled monument is The Bulwarks Camp an Iron Age hillfort located to the south of Porthkerry some 1.6km southeast of the school site. Impacts on the setting of the scheduled monument will have been addressed in the previous environmental statements. The fact that the residential development surrounding the school has been approved indicates that any setting or visual impacts upon the scheduled monument were not considered significant, or mitigation has been proposed to minimise any such impacts.
- 3.2 There are three listed buildings nearer the centre of Rhose to the northwest, including the existing Rhose Primary School which is a grade II listed building. A number of other listed buildings lie in a cluster north of The Bulwarks Camp at Lower Porthkerry. As for scheduled monuments, these lie at a distance away from the school site and those to the northeast would have no intervisibility due to the existing built environment, including the new residential development. Those to the southwest lie on the far side of the southwestern runway of Cardiff International Airport and are unlikely to be intervisible with the site area due to the presence of existing residential developments west of the school site. Again setting issues would have been considered in more detail in the residential development planning applications, which have been approved.
- 3.3 There are no Registered Historic landscapes within 2km of the proposed school site.
- 3.4 The Rhose Conservation Area lies directly to the northwest of the development area. Residential development, including the new developments, shield the school site from any intervisibility with the conservation area. Again any impacts on it setting would have been considered in the approved planning applications for the overall development area.

4 SITE BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 4.1 The entire residential development area has been subject to a number of previous archaeological studies and some fieldwork. The first reports for the site were prepared in 2004 when the site area between Porthkerry Road and the Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line to the south was put forward for large scale residential development.
- 4.2 In 2008 Cotswold Archaeology prepared a Cultural Heritage chapter for an Environmental Impact Assessment collated by White Young Green for proposed residential development of the area on behalf of The National Assembly of Wales, Bellway Plc and Persimmon Homes (Land to the North of the Railway Line, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan - 2008). This did not identify anything of archaeological significance within the proposed development area, including the school site although one record of a possible rectangular feature was noted on the Historic Environment Record but was not seen on-site.
- 4.3 As part of the above work a geophysical survey was undertaken on the site in 2005 by Stratascan Ltd. This included surveying sample areas across the full development site, but did not include any areas within the proposed school site itself. The survey did note that there were areas of modern disturbance on the eastern side of the site area (Upper Farm, Rhose, The Vale of Glamorgan: Magnetic Susceptibility and Magnetometer Survey by Archaeological Surveys for Cotswold Archaeology undertaken in December 2005).
- 4.4 A further historic environment baseline report was prepared for the development area, including the school site by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) in 2014. This updated the report by Cotswold Archaeology. It confirmed in its conclusions that the site area had no known archaeological remains within its boundary (excluding the site mentioned above which does not lie within the proposed school area). The report concluded that although the development proposals would impact upon archaeological remains that might be present, the potential for such remains was considered low. The site area lies southeast of the medieval centre of Rhose and has probably been used as agricultural land since this time if not before. The most likely area to contain archaeology was determined to be in the northwestern part of the residential development nearest Rhose (Land to the North of the railway Line (West), Rhose – Archaeological and Heritage Baseline by EDP on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Plc, dated May 2014 – Report No: EDP2127_03a).
- 4.5 A written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief within the northwestern part of the residential site area was prepared by AC Archaeology in 2015 including an area of earthwork survey to the west of the school site and three areas of hedgerow recording. (Land to the North of the Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan : Project design for archaeological recording and a watching brief by AC Archaeology document reference ACD1191/1/1 dated August 2015). It is presumed that all of these works have been completed as the residential development is evidently so far advanced. No further archaeological works were proposed within the area of the school.
- 4.6 A review of available aerial photographs via Google Earth and Bing maps was undertaken to determine the present state of the development area. The earliest photograph dates from December 1945 and shows the development area as agricultural fields with no archaeological remains visible. The site area remains as fields until 2016, again with no archaeological remains visible. The most recent aerial photograph dates

from June 2018 and shows the entire area as having been stripped with development already completed to the northeast of the school site and underway to the west. A surfaced parking area is located in the northeastern part of the school site.



Figure 2: Aerial image of the site area from Google maps with the school site area overlaid in red (image supplied by AECOM)

- 4.7 Based on the evidence from the aerial photographs a brief site visit was undertaken on the 7th July 2019 to determine the present state of the site area. It was clear that most of the residential development has been completed and that the site for the proposed Rhoose Primary School remains fenced off and undeveloped. It was also clear from the site visit and aerial photographs that the entire site area has been topsoil stripped and tracked over, as well as having been used for storage of materials including stone chippings. Vegetation is starting to grow back, as the area remains undeveloped but this was patchy and sparse growing through the rough underlying surface.



Photo 1: View across the fenced school development area, viewing southeast



Photo 2: View east across northern part of proposed school development site showing contractor parking area on its northeastern side



Photo 3: View south across western side of area showing former vehicle route around perimeter of school site

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5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Prior to the recent works undertaken for the overall residential development the area was agricultural land separated into a number of fields. It is likely to have been ploughed since at least the medieval period, forming part of the open field system of the village. Any below-ground archaeological remains, if present, would have been disturbed to some extent through ploughing with the ground surface gradually being more and more denuded as the plough passed over the ground surface.
- 5.1.2 The proposed school development site has been subject to previous topsoil stripping as well as other ground disturbance through the laying of vehicle routes for plant traffic and parking areas for site contractors. The ground surface appears to be barren, with only some sparse vegetation growing after the topsoil strip. It has evidently been driven over and seems to have been used for storage of materials for the surrounding residential developments. It is possible some landscaping has occurred, but the extent of this is not known.
- 5.1.3 Based on this previous disturbance it is considered most unlikely that any significant archaeological deposits would survive within the proposed school development area.
- 5.1.4 From the previous archaeological studies undertaken in the area the archaeological potential of the proposed school development area was already considered to have low archaeological potential, and based on previous disturbance the potential could now be considered negligible.
- 5.1.5 Based on the previous impacts to the school development site and its negligible archaeological potential, no further archaeological works would be required at the site. This has been confirmed with the Archaeological Planning section of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority.

7 SOURCES

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Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report

