



Our ref: VOG1458/CG

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

4th February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Demolition of school, development of 34 dwellings and associated works;
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge.
Pl.App.No: 2018/01408**

Thank you for consulting us on this application; we have consulted the detailed information contained on your website including the report on archaeology and heritage prepared by EDP Ltd (report dated October 2019) and that report which you forwarded to us prepared by Scourfield Consultancy (report dated June 2019). We have identified that **the proposal will require archaeological mitigation.**

Information in the Historic Environment Record, curated by this Trust, shows that a "skeleton was found with a knife in the grounds of the girls high school, Cowbridge. The bronze knife (or dagger), which was damaged, is described as having a plain ogival blade with bevelled edges and angular butt. The latter retains the semi-lunar markings of the handle and two of its three rivet-holes, with one rivet. Wheeler describes it as being typical of the Beaker period." These archaeological remains are of bronze age date and a funerary and ritual type. Whilst the construction of the current school will have had an adverse effect on any archaeological material, there remains the possibility that similar remains to that noted above may be encountered during the course of any development. This potential is demonstrated in the discovery of the skeleton and associated dagger noted above, which was made following the construction of the school.

The Scourfield (2019) report presents a detailed account of the girls schools history and highlights the cultural and architectural significance of the school buildings within Cowbridge and more widely in the context of the history of education in the UK. In light of the Scourfield Report we do not concur with the assessment made in the EDP report (October 2019) that the girls schools buildings are a "low value historic asset". The school buildings are of historic significance and it would be prudent to give due consideration to the preservation of the buildings. In any event, should the buildings be preserved or otherwise, we recommend a record should be made of the buildings given their significance and this work can be undertaken at predetermination stage alongside any evaluation work.

Following consideration of the above, **we would recommend an archaeological evaluation and building recording be conducted prior to any determination of this application.** The evaluation shall consist of the excavation of trial trenching,

The Glamorgan-Gwent
Archaeological Trust
Limited

Heathfield House
Heathfield
Swansea
SA1 6EL

Tel: (01792)655208
Fax: (01792)474469
www.ggat.org.uk

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the results of the evaluation will provide more information regarding the archaeological resource of the development area and may result in further work, or the retention of areas as open space, thus preserving any remains in-situ. This is consistent with our response to the LDP (our ref. VOG1061).

In order to create a record of this structure in its current form we strongly recommend that a survey is made prior to work commencing. We would recommend that this takes the form of a level III survey as set out in "Understanding Historic Buildings : A Guide to Good Recording Practice", Historic England, 2016.

A list of archaeological contractors who have indicated their availability to work in Wales is available from <http://www.archaeologists.net/ro>

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

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Claudine Gerrard.

Claudine Gerrard BSc MPhil MCIfA
Archaeological Planning Officer