



14th April 2019
Factual Revisions made 25th 2019

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT INCLUDING WALKOVER SURVEY FOR A
ZIP WORLD DEVELOPMENT AT
RHIGOS MOUNTAIN AND TOWER COLLIERY,
RHONDDA CYNON TAFF**

1. Introduction

1.1 Cadnant Planning of 1 Connaught House, Riverside Business Park Benarth Road, Conwy, LL32 8UB have commissioned Trysor on behalf of their clients to undertake an historic environment desk-based assessment with a walkover survey for a proposed Zip World development between Rhigos Mountain and Tower Colliery, Rhondda Cynon Taff, centred on SN9197003590.

2. The proposed development

2.1 It is proposed that three zipwires for recreational purposes on located from the top of the Rhigos mountain east-northeastwards down towards the site of the former Tower Colliery, to the west of the A4061 between Hirwaun and Blaenrhondda.

2.2 The scheme comprises three zipwires:

Zipwire A, 191 metres long, and dropping 22 metres from approximately SN9124003260 to SN9143003196 on the top of the Rhigos.

Zipwire B, 932 metres long and dropping 157 metres from approximately SN9143003196 on the top of the Rhigos down to SN9215003720 across the Llyn Fawr.

Zipwire C, 624 metres long and dropping 34 metres from approximately SN922100380 to SN9282003960 from ground to the northeast of Llyn Fawr, close to the end of Zipwire B, down to SN9282003960.

2.2.1 Parking and reception services in portacabins would be provided at the Tower Colliery site, to the north and west of the extant buildings. Extant buildings would be fenced off for safety reasons. Participants would be taken by Zip World from the Tower Colliery site to the top of the Rhigos via the A4061 and then a private track which has been upgraded for most of its route as part of windfarm/forestry infrastructure. Short sections of access track need to be created between existing tracks and the departure/landing platforms. After Zipwire C participants will return to the Tower Colliery via an existing track and a short section of new boardwalk to the existing track by the Tower Colliery.

3. Planning context of the proposed development

3.1 A pre- application consultation has been undertaken.

3.2 The consultation was commented on by a Planning Officer at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust who recommended a desk-based assessment be undertaken.

4. Objective of the Specification

4.1 The objective of this specification is to specify the method to be used for a desk-based assessment including a walk over survey in order to identify and assess impact, both direct and indirect on the historic environment and historic assets, from the proposed development and future management recommendations.

4.2 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (CIfA, 2017) and Cadw's Setting of Historic Assets (Cadw, 2017) were used to write this Written Scheme of Investigation.

5. Nature of the Archaeological Resource.

5.1 The development site lies on the top and north side of Rhigos Mountain, approximately 1.25 kilometres south of the village of Rhigos, Rhondda Cynon Taff.

5.1.1 The geology in the area comprises sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous Period dating to between 308 million and 315 million years ago. These include formations of the Middle and Upper Coal Measures including mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. Where recorded the bedrock is overlain by glacial till deposited by ice and meltwater during the last Ice Age.

5.1.2 The top of the Rhigos Mountain gives way to a steep scarp slope to the north with a prominent glacial cirque in which Craig y Llyn sits. The lower slopes are covered with boulder clay and patches of peat.

5.2 The Planning Officer at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust outlined the archaeological resource as;

"... consulted the information held in the Historic Environment Record, which notes that there are many archaeological and historic environment features in the area of the proposal, from a variety of different periods. The impact of the proposal on these, and on the adjoining Rhondda Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest, needs to be addressed in the first instance by means of a desk-based assessment."

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning file reference : RCT0483

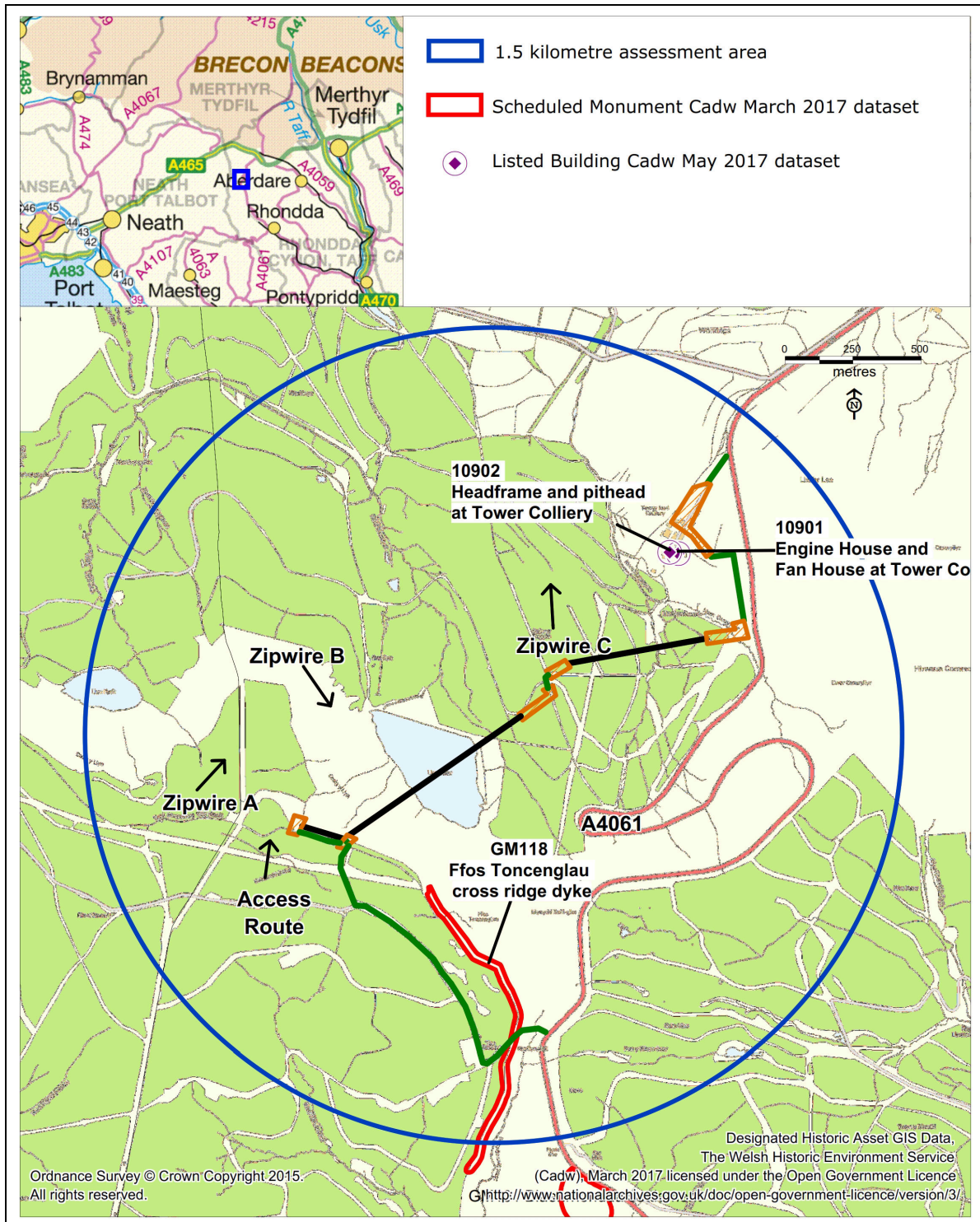


Figure 1: The approximate location of the components of the development and the proposed 1.5 kilometre radius assessment area.

6. Scope of Work

6.1 All currently recorded historic assets within a 1.5 kilometre radius circle centred on SN9197003590 will be included in the project database, see Figure 1.

6.2 A walkover survey of the access routes, departure stages, landing platform and reception area will be undertaken to record any previously unrecorded historic assets, see Figure 1. The walkover survey will be informed by documentary searches, including map regression and consultation of aerial photographs and LiDAR where available.

6.3 The significance of the historic assets recorded in the project database from stages 6.1 and 6.2 will be assessed according to Cadw guidelines (Cadw, 2010 & Cadw 2017).

6.4 The potential impact on the historic assets recorded in the project database will be assessed.

6.5 Utilising the understanding of the historic environment gained during the project the potential for unknown buried features in the development area will be assessed.

7. Methodology

7.1 The following components of the historic environment will be considered, where relevant;

- a. Scheduled Monuments and their settings.
- b. Listed buildings and their settings.
- c. Registered Parks and Gardens and their essential settings.
- d. World Heritage Sites
- e. Conservation Areas
- f. Previously recorded non-designated historic assets and their settings,
- g. Buildings identified as of Local Importance where such buildings have been identified
- h. Newly identified historic assets, and their settings
- i. Historic Landscapes, and their characterisation
- j. Hedgerows and field patterns
- k. Ancient woodland
- l. Place-name evidence
- m. Cumulative impacts
- n. Any agri-environmental interests or requirements
- o. Potential for buried archaeological
- p. Potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence

7.2 The following data sources will be consulted as a minimum:

- Rhondda Cynon Taff Historic Environment Record
- Cadw
- RCAHMW
- Historic Ordnance Survey maps
- Other historic maps including parish tithe map

- Aerial photographs
- Documentary sources
- Published journals
- LiDAR if available

7.3 The site visit will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CIfA, 2017). The site visit will consist of a walkover survey to identify and record any previously unrecorded features in the vicinity of the proposed development, including any field boundaries. It will also assess the condition of known historic assets.

7.3.1 A rapid record of all historic assets will be made, including a written description on pro-forma record sheets. A handheld GPS will be used to record locations and to record linear features and the perimeter of extensive historic assets.

7.3.2 Colour digital photographs will be taken, using a 16M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken, including direction and locations. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

7.4 All data will be entered into a project database, conforming to MIDAS heritage standards. Once the dataset of existing and new data has been created, the significance of all identified historic assets will be assessed, considering their evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values (Cadw, 2010) and their setting (Cadw, 2017). This will include current condition and existing impacts.

7.5 An assessment will be made of the potential impact of the development on all historic assets, looking at direct physical, indirect physical, and visual impacts. This will include impact on the setting of the historic assets in line with Cadw guidance and the resulting impact on significance (Cadw, 2017) where appropriate.

7.6 Elevation profiles, in conjunction with photos from the site visit and aerial photos, will be used assess to intervisibility, views and impact on setting where appropriate.

8. Reporting

8.1 A written report will be submitted to the client to inform the current planning application. The report will include;

- a. bilingual event summary for submission to the HER
- b. contents list
- b. a non-technical summary
- c. an introduction
- d. aims and objectives of the assessment
- e. methodology
- f. a site location plan
- g. details of the proposed development
- g. a bibliography
- h. a gazetteer of all historic assets included in the assessment giving significance and impact, with descriptions.
- j. an assessment of the value and significance of each historic asset taking into account their condition and existing impacts
- k. an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the historic assets of the study area – impacts will be assessed whether negative or positive, direct or indirect and will include the impact on the setting of nationally important historic assets.
- l. statement of the local and regional context of the historic assets identified as have being impacted on by the development.
- m. statement on reliability of resources used during assessment.
- n. potential for buried archaeological features within the development plot
- o. mitigation statements to minimise or mitigate negative impacts, or to enhance significance.

8.2 The report will be guided by the requirements of Annexe 2 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (CIfA, 2017)*. Copies of the report will be provided to the client and the Local Planning Authority. A copy will be sent to the Regional Historic Environment Record.

9. Health & Safety

9.1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in advance of any field visit in accordance with their health and safety policy.

10. Dissemination

10.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, if appropriate. A pdf copy of the report will be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) in line with current guidance, as well as with the archive to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

11. Archive

11.1 The archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA, 2014b) and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (NPAAW, 2017). This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW, 2015).

12. Public Benefit and Outreach

12.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales), if appropriate.

12.2 The results of the work will be deposited in the NMR making it publicly accessible. The report will also be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) making it publicly accessible. This will be in line with recent guidance from The Welsh Archaeological Trusts (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018).

12.3 The purpose of the work and the history of the site will be discussed with the client and others in order to widen understanding of why the work is important and broaden appreciation for the historic environment.

13. Resources to be used

13.1 Jenny Hall, BSC, MCIfA and Paul Sambrook, BA, PGCE, MCIfA of Trysor will undertake the desk-based assessment and field walking. During the field visit and field walking they will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kit. Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

14. Qualification of personnel

14.1 Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

14.2 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland field survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, watching briefs and evaluations as well heritage interpretation and community-based projects.

14.3 Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MCIfA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety



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of work including upland field survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, watching briefs and evaluations as well as community-based, non-intrusive projects and community heritage interpretation.

15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

15.1 Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

16.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2019/668. The Event Record PRN is GGAT HER PRN E006188.

17. Sources

Cadw, 2010, *Conservation Principles*

Cadw, 2017, *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), updated January 2017, *Standard and Guidance for an Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*.

RCAHMW, 2015, *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*

<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/heritagemanagement/submissionofdatatohers.pdf>

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor,
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