



Furzemill Pond, Margam Park
Heritage Impact Assessment Statement

**Prepared
For
HR Wallingford**

by

**The
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
(GGAT Projects)**

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**Furzemill Pond, Margam Park, Neath Port Talbot:
Heritage Impact Assessment**

Heritage Impact Assessment Statement

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Heritage Impact Assessment Statement

1. *Introduction*

1.1 This Statement has been prepared as a separate document to the Heritage Impact Assessment.

1.2 It must be read in conjunction with the detailed Heritage Impact Assessment, which is the primary document and provides core advice on the heritage issues; That report sets out the history and significance of Furzemill Pond and places it in context. It considers the current proposals and evaluates the heritage impact that these would have and, where appropriate, identifies potential mitigation.

1.3 The Assessment and the Statement support an application for work on Furzemill Pond within the Registered Historic Park and Garden (Gm) 52 (NEP) of Margam Park

1.4 The proposed works consist of removal of current water management features which are in a state of disrepair and their replacement with new features which will also increase the efficiency of water management for the pond.

The development objective is therefore to ensure the replacement structures are required to ensure the integrity of the reservoir embankment and thus safety of the structure is maintained.

1.5 HR Wallingford have been appointed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to deliver the design and works programme for the necessary works.

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2. Summary of Significance

2.1 The Heritage assets are fully described in the accompanying Heritage Impact Assessment (GGAT report no. 2019/053, October 2019).

2.2 The significance of Furzemill pond as a heritage asset is derived from its presence as a feature since at least 1814 and from its group value, which is enhanced by inclusion within the Registered Park and Garden, the value of the resource, is necessarily assessed as of National significance and therefore Furzemill Pond is necessarily a National Asset. However, it is clear from the presence of the concrete dam forming the western bank of the pond, and the presence of modern concrete pipes adjacent to both structures 1 and 2 that the pond has been re-modelled from its original form. This does not detract from the heritage value of the pond and its place within the wider landscape overall but does reduce its inherent heritage value as a discrete feature and should be a material factor in determining the effect of any development of Structures 1 and 2.

3. Summary of proposed works

3.1 The following construction works are proposed;

- **Structure 1**
 - Removal of the existing masonry overflow spillway,
 - New Reinforced Concrete spillway to be constructed, replacing the existing spillway – RC to be clad with masonry facing on exposed faces (existing spillway masonry stone to be reused where possible)
- **Structure 2**
 - 12” overflow pipe to be removed and replaced with new RC box culvert and RC headwalls – RC to be clad with masonry facing on exposed faces
- Ground to be reinstated to existing levels around both structures.

The development objective is therefore to ensure the replacement structures are required to ensure the integrity of the reservoir embankment and thus safety of the structure is maintained.

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4. Access

4.1 Where works to a non-residential building are proposed, (normally in the case of a Listed Building or similar) the guidance requires a consideration of Access to form part of the Heritage Impact Statement. As the Pond is within a Registered park that is open to the public, some consideration to access has been given, as outlined below.

4.2 It is expected that restrictions on public access will be appropriate to the works and in line with safety requirements. It is possible that the works may require sections of the pathway adjacent to the pond to be temporarily closed.

4.3 After the works have been completed no further access associated with the works would be required and the works would have no impact on the current arrangements for mobility impaired access to and on the pathway around the pond.

4.4 The Park can be very busy in the summer months so it is expected that works would be programmed accordingly to minimise public integration. Measures should also be taken to minimise access to the works by animals resident in the park, such as deer who were noted as being able to wander freely in the vicinity of Structures 1 and 2.

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5. Summary

5.1 This Heritage Impact Statement acknowledges that the scheme will further change some of the historic assets.

5.2 The Assessment report identifies the need for the proposed works, mitigation to be undertaken, and identifies and provides an analysis of heritage impacts.

5.3 The addition of a concrete dam to the pond, as well as alterations to accommodate the existing water management features demonstrate that the pond has a high capacity for change. It is the pond itself which contains the heritage significance and not necessarily the features within the pond.

5.4 Given the need for maintenance to ensure the continued structural integrity and survival of the heritage asset, it is considered that the proposed repair and modification works, with suitable heritage conservation construction methodologies in place, would likely have a negligible to low direct heritage impact.

5.5 Overall, these heritage impacts could be considered as moderate to potentially highly beneficial, as the works would help ensure the long term survival of the pond within the Registered Historic Park and Garden.

5.6 Any indirect visual impacts of the proposed works, in relation to key views are considered to be minor during the construction works and negligible following completion.

5.7 Mitigation has been recommended in the form the provision of a WSI (GGAT report no 2019/048, October 2019) to set out necessary recording of the assets affected; and provide for a watching brief on any works which disturb their fabric and on ground disturbance work.