

Junction 38, Margam Neath Port Talbot

*Written Scheme of Investigation for a Heritage Desk-
Based Assessment*



CA Project: CR0811

CA Report: CR0811_1

August 2021



Land at Junction 38, Margam Neath Port Talbot

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date	August 2021
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date	August 2021
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signed	
date	August 2021
issue	1

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in August 2021 by Cotswold Archaeology, a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This WSI sets out a scope and methodology for a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment of land at Junction 38, Margam, Neath Port Talbot (Fig. 1; NGR: centred on 279276, 186261). The WSI will be submitted to Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), in order to seek agreement on the contents prior to completing the assessment.
- 1.2. The Site is proposed for development of a new metal processing facility and is being subject to a full Environmental Statement (ES) Assessment. The scoping report has been submitted to the Council for review. This WSI sets out the proposed scope of the Heritage Desk-Based Assessment which will form the basis of the ES assessment in regard to archaeology and heritage.
- 1.3. This assessment is being prepared in order to determine the archaeological potential of the Site to identify any mitigation measure needed, and to assess the impact of the proposed development on the surrounding heritage resource.



Fig. 1: Site location

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Site lies on the edge of the broad Margam inter-tidal zone. During the prehistoric and Roman periods there would have been periods of marine transgression and regression, and intermittent land stabilisation. Archaeological works elsewhere in the inter-tidal zone have identified sealed land surfaces within the alluvial sequence, represented by lenses of inter-leaved peat which formed during such periods of stabilisation and plant colonisation. These deposits may occasionally be associated with evidence of early settlement and exploitation of the environment and may on occasion provide palaeoenvironmental information.
- 2.2. The modern course of the A48 to the east of the Site may potentially represent the course of the Roman road, which indicates a potential for Roman-British remains.
- 2.3. The Site likely lay in the area of the ownership of Margam Abbey in the medieval period, probably farmed from Morfa Mawr Grange. The monastery undertook extensive reclamation of the inter-tidal zone, although many parts remained within a salt marsh environment into the 20th century. The extent of the monastic precinct at Margam Abbey is no longer extant, with a post-medieval House and 18th/19th century parkland obscuring the south and west of the former medieval complex.

Objectives

- 2.4. This assessment will fully assess the known and potential historic assets within the Site and study area, their survival and significance. The objectives of the desk-based assessment will be:
- To identify and gather information on designated and non-designated heritage assets recorded within the Site and study area (including the results of any previous archaeological works within the Site), and to determine the possible impact of the proposed development upon that significance;
 - To assess the potential for the presence of currently unrecorded heritage assets of archaeological interest within the Site, to consider their likely significance (where sufficient information allows), and to determine the possible impact of the proposed development upon that significance;
 - To assess the value and setting of designated heritage assets within the study area and identify any effects to the significance of these assets as a result of the proposed development.

- 2.5. The assessment will address all elements of the historic environment, including below-ground archaeological remains, the setting of heritage assets and the historic landscape.

3. KEY HERITAGE POLICY AND GUIDANCE

Data collection, analysis and presentation

- 3.1. This content, aims and method set out in this WSI have been guided by the following key documents:

- Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government Edition 10, 2018);
- TAN24 (Welsh Government 2017);
- Conservation Principles (Cadw 2011);
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA 2020)
- Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017); and
- Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales
- The 'Guidance for the Submission of data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records' produced by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts (2018)

4. METHODOLOGY

Desk-Based Assessment

- 4.1. The desk-based research and sources will be based upon the 'Standard and Guidance for historic environment assessments' produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2020). Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA, and the project will be managed and technically coordinated by a Member of the Institute.
- 4.2. At the time of production of this WSI (August 2021) there are numerous health and safety restrictions to data sources and survey in place due to the on-going Coronavirus pandemic. Data repositories are currently open, although often operating at reduced accessed, although it is noted that this may be subject to change depending on the state of the ongoing pandemic. It is proposed that research and survey elements that can be carried out safely in accordance with current government guidelines are completed.

4.3. The archaeological assessment will utilise a study area of a maximum of 2km measured from the boundary of the Site. Data will be collated from published and archive sources of archaeological, historical, geographical, topographical and environmental information relevant to the area of the development using the following sources:

- Cadw information on Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Landscapes, and Registered Parks and Gardens;
- The GGAT Historic Environment Records for details of previously completed archaeological works in the vicinity and recorded heritage assets;
- West Glamorgan Archives Service in Swansea (for historic mapping and documentary sources)
- LANDMAP information on Historic Landscape Character;
- Relevant published and unpublished archaeological and historical accounts;
- Available geo-technical data for the Site;
- National Monuments Record of Wales information on archaeological monuments and events (held by the RCAHMW);
- Historic Aerial photographs; and
- Site inspection.

4.4. Any limitations resulting from archival closures etc. will be identified within the assessment and can be addressed during further assessment at a later stage, if required.

Value of historic assets

4.5. The value of historic assets is best defined by the Cadw guidance Conservation Principles (2011), which describes value as a combination of evidential value; historical value; aesthetic value; and communal value.

4.6. Evidential value derives from those elements of an historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric.

4.7. Historical value may derive from particular aspects of past ways of life, or association with notable families, persons, events or movements – it embodies the connection between past events and society with the present.

- 4.8. Aesthetic value derives from the sensory and intellectual stimulation drawn from an historic asset. It may include its physical form, and how it lies within its setting. It may also be the result of design, or an unplanned outcome of a process of events.
- 4.9. Communal value derives from the meanings that an historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. It may be commemorative or symbolic and relate to issues of identity or collective memory.

The setting of historic assets

- 4.10. This assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the approach outlined in the Welsh Government's publication 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017). This publication provides guidance on setting and development management, including the assessment of the implications of proposed Development. It reiterates that 'the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral'. In accordance with the guidance, the extent of the setting of a heritage asset is not fixed and can evolve periodically.
- 4.11. All historic assets have a setting, and features of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to significance and may affect the appreciation of the asset. They can remain neutral. The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations, but can also comprise other elements which contribute to the ways in which a historic asset is experienced, including factors such as noise, vibrations, dust or other pollutants; spatial associations; the rarity of comparable survivals of setting, and associative relationships between historic assets.
- 4.12. The methodology for the assessment of the setting of historic assets employed by Cotswold Archaeology has been informed by this guidance, which has been widely adopted by local planning authorities in Wales. A stepped approach is recommended for assessing the implications of development proposals.
- 4.13. The first step is to consider the site context, and whether, from a heritage point of view, there are other reasonable alternatives that should be preferred for development. In addition, this step identifies the historic assets affected, and the aspects of their settings which would be affected by the proposed Development.

4.14. Step 2 is to assess whether, how, and to what degree, these settings make a positive contribution to the significance of the historic asset(s), i.e. 'what matters and why'. This includes a consideration of the key attributes of the historic asset itself, and then considers:

- The physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other historic assets; and
- The way in which the asset is appreciated.

4.15. Step 3 (where appropriate) is to assess the effect of the proposed Development on the significance of historic assets through consideration of the key attributes of the proposed Development in terms of its:

- Location and siting;
- Form and appearance;
- Additional effects; and
- Permanence.

4.16. Step 4 is to maximise enhancement and minimise harm, and Step 5 refers to making and documenting the decision and monitoring outcomes.

4.17. At a minimum the following assets will be assessed:

- Margam Mountain, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscapes,
- Margam Park Registered Park
- Margam Park Conservation Area
- Listed buildings within 2km. A particular focus of assessment, will be those at Margam Park, including Margam Castle, the ruined Abbey, the church and other buildings. The listed Margam Crematorium, to the south of the application site, will also be a particular focus
- Scheduled Monuments within 2km, including Mynydd y Castell Camp; Half Moon Camp; and Ergyd Isaf Round Barrows
- Non designated building of Ty'n-y-caeau (Historic Environment Record Ref 09515w) lies outside of the application site, immediately to its east.

4.18. These designated assets are shown on Fig. 2

5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

This project will be under the management of Richard Morton, Principal Heritage Consultant, Cotswold Archaeology. The assessment will be undertaken, and the subsequent report produced by a Cotswold Archaeology Heritage Consultant. The data collation, analysis and assessment report should take approximately three weeks to compile.

6. ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

- 6.1. The information collated will initially be assembled into a workable database, cross-referenced to the original sources. The assessment report will begin with a non-technical summary both in English and Welsh, in accordance with Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (WAT 2018), outlining in plain language the principal reasons for the work, its aims and main results. The introduction will then set out the circumstances leading to the commission of the report, any restrictions on reporting or access to relevant records, size, surface geology and topography of the study area. Any variation from the methodologies set out in this project specification will be detailed and explained within the methodology section of the report.
- 6.2. The historical development of the Site (within its wider landscape context) will be discussed with reference to recorded heritage assets; and the potential for currently unrecorded archaeological remains will be assessed. Historical maps will be reviewed to identify previous land use and the impacts thereof upon the buried archaeological resource.
- 6.3. A comprehensive list of sources consulted, with full bibliographic details, will be provided at the back of the report. Supporting illustrative material will include maps of recorded heritage assets within the study area, the location of nearby designated heritage assets, and reproductions of historic maps and other secondary sources where appropriate.
- 6.4. The assessment will be supported with illustrative material, including at least one figure showing known or potential heritage assets within or affecting the proposed scheme. Where possible, areas of greater or lesser potential will be defined.

Detailed Scope of Report Contents

- 6.5. The report will contain the following information:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Description of proposed development
- Planning background, including aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Site topography and geology
- Archaeological and historic background
- Cartographic background
- Settings Assessment
- Conclusions
- References and bibliography

7. ARCHIVING

- 7.1. Following the submission of the final report, the report will be deposited within the archive at the National Museum for Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, as well as lodged with the GGAT for inclusion within the HER and the RCAHMW. This report will be deposited in lines with the following guidance: the 2017 '*National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales*'; the 2013 '*RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*'; and the 2018 '*Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*'.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 8.1. CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, and CA Health, Safety and Welfare Policy (2010).

9. INSURANCES

- 9.1. CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000. No claims have been made or are pending against these policies in the last three years.

10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 10.1. CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019) and the Code of

Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (ClfA 2008). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the ClfA.

- 10.2. CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

11. REFERENCES

- Cadw 2011 Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2017 Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment.
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*.
- National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2017 The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales
- RCAHMW 2013 RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives
- Welsh Government 2017 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN24)
- Welsh Government 2017 Setting of Historic Assets in Wales
- Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018 Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)
- Welsh Government 2018 Planning Policy Wales Edition 10

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