



Archaeoleg Morgannwg-Gwent

Heneb

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeology

Our ref: NPT1167/RD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

Head of Planning
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
The Quays
Brunel Way
Baglan Energy Park
NEATH
SA11 2GG

10th July 2026

Dear Sir

Re: Demolition of existing rear school building, sections of walls, car port and other structures and development of new teaching block, revised vehicular access, car parking, landscaping, air source heat pump, air handling unit, sprinkler tank, pump house, cycle store, bin store, external lighting, retaining walls, boundary treatments, hard surfaces, canopies, drainage improvement works to enhance existing playing field and associated works

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Treges St Johns Terrace Neath Abbey Neath SA10 7ND

Pl.App.No.: P2026/0317

Thank you for consulting us about this application; consequently we have reviewed the detailed information contained on your website and can confirm that **the proposal requires archaeological mitigation.**

We have consulted information in the Historic Environment Record (HER) and note the proposal is located in an area of archaeological potential. The school is included as a 'small 19th century Junior school of single storey stone construction comprising two wings (with inscriptions "Boys" and "Girls") and unusual small square bell tower. Light stone window and door surrounds and quoins with slate roofs. Dated 1868. Included in the Neath Port Talbot list of Buildings of Local Importance and Designated Canal Structures (Neath Port Talbot Council)'. With the building proposed to be demolished depicted on the 4th edition OS map of 1940 and aerial photography dating to 1945.

Furthermore, adjacent to the proposal is the graveyard associated with the Church of St John which 'was built in 1849-50 to designs of architect R.C.Saunders, in Early Decorated Gothic style, of sandstone rubble with Bath stone ashlar dressings and slate roofs banded in two colours, with shouldered coped gables and cross finials. It comprises steep-gabled nave and lean-to aisles, aisles partly overlapping lower chancel, south porch, west bellcote and north vestry. Inside, walls are plastered, small high clerestory windows over four-bay arcades of steep chamfered arches on alternate octagonal and round ashlar columns, and a spindly exposed timber roof. Fittings include ornate marble font, pulpit and reredos, apparently of c.1870-80, in lavish coloured marbles, a First World War memorial chancel screen in oak, Perpendicular Gothic style in three bays, and a brass eagle lectern, later

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Cadeirydd / Chair: Dr Carol Bell

PSG / CEO: Richard Nicholls

Cwmni Cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag Elusen Gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth

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nineteenth century, on a cast-iron conical base. Stained glass includes works by (?) Clayton & Bell and Celtic Studios’.

Accordingly a Level 2 Building Recording (Archaeology Wales report no. 2463, dated March 2026) has been prepared, which is appropriate and consistent with our response to a pre-application consultation.

We also note the submission of a ‘Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording’ by Archaeology Wales (report no. 3279, dated April 2026) which details a methodology for the recording of all archaeological remains that survive in the application area, in order to mitigate potential damage/destruction during the course of the development. Specifically, the WSI documents a programme of a watching brief during all intrusive groundworks. The document meets current professional standards and presents both a coherent and appropriate mitigation strategy. It is also consistent with our response to the pre-application consultation.

To ensure adherence to the stated mitigation strategy we recommend that a condition should be attached to any consent granted by your Members and be worded in a manner similar to model condition 24 given in Welsh Government Circular 016/2014

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with that out-lined in “Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Treges, Neath Port Talbot” (Archaeology Wales Report no. 3279, dated April 2026).

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

We also recommend that a note should be attached to the planning consent explaining that:

The archaeological work must be undertaken to the appropriate Standard and Guidance set by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), (www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or an accredited Member.

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

Yours faithfully

R. Dunning

Rob Dunning BSc MCIfA
Archaeological Planning Officer

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