



Chapter Fourteen

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

INTRODUCTION

14.1 This Chapter details the results of a desk based study to assess the archaeological potential of the site proposed for the Enviroparks development. The site comprises previously developed land and has undergone substantial re-grading work in the past. As such it is considered unlikely that any undisturbed below ground archaeological deposits will be present, however an initial baseline investigation has been undertaken and determines whether or not there is a requirement for further works.

METHODOLOGY USED

14.2 The Chapter aims to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any known or potential archaeological and cultural heritage resources within the vicinity. As such, the Chapter will:

- Identify and define the extent of known archaeological and cultural heritage resources within the study area;
- Establish, from existing evidence, the likely archaeological potential of the study area;
- Provide a preliminary assessment of the importance of the known archaeological and cultural heritage features;
- Assess the overall impact of the proposed development on any known or potential archaeological or cultural features; and
- As necessary, the Chapter will make recommendations on the need for (and scope of) further evaluation and mitigation.

BASELINE ANALYSIS

The Site

14.3 The proposed site for the Enviroparks operation is currently undeveloped. That said, the site is brownfield land and was historically an ordnance factory, between approximately 1940 and 1945. The site is understood to have been an engineering works, producing .303 cartridges and other metal based components. The site is located on a developed industrial estate, and the area has a significant industrial past, especially the iron and coal workings, the result of the areas rich mineral wealth. It is considered unlikely that significant, undisturbed finds of archaeological or cultural interest will be made.



14.4 As a site which is currently not in use, the proposed construction of the Enviroparks facility will cause significant disruption to the site landscape. The following activities associated with the construction of the proposed development could impact on known or potential archaeological or cultural features:

- Topsoil stripping;
- Excavation work for footings / piling;
- Pre-construction drainage works and fencing;
- Movement of heavy machinery; and
- Provision of services, drainage and cabling.

14.5 Cultural heritage consists of built features, historic landscapes and archaeology - the material remains of past ways of life - as well as less tangible aspects such as language, literature, music, religion, customs, crafts, art, folklore, place names and traditional ways of life. Areas of cultural heritage may include World Heritage Sites, historic parks or gardens, historic landscapes, nationally important archaeological remains, which are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other important archaeological remains, areas of archaeological evaluation, listed buildings and other buildings of architectural or historic importance.

Legislation

Statutory Legislation

14.6 The following table summarises the statutory legislation relating to the historic environment and relevant to this section.

Table 14.1: Statutory Protection for Archaeological and Heritage Sites

<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Key Issues</i>
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or near to a Scheduled Ancient Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	No works can be carried out in relation to a listed building without listed building consent. Designation of an area as a 'conservation area' introduces general controls over demolition and development within that area.
Treasure Act (1996)	The 1996 Act defines 'Treasure' as any object that is at least 10% gold or silver, associated coins or groups of coins which are over 300 years old, objects formerly classed as 'treasure trove' (i.e. deliberately deposited items with a high content of gold or silver) and any objects found in association with the above. Any find of 'Treasure' must be reported to the local Coroner.



Burial Act (1857)	Under Section 25 of the 1857 Act, it is a criminal offence to remove human remains from any place of burial without a Home Office licence.
Hedgerow Regulations (1997)	It is against the law to remove most countryside hedgerows without permission. A local authority can prohibit the removal of an 'important' hedgerow. The 1997 Regulations define the criteria for determining whether a hedgerow is important; these include historical and archaeological criteria.
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	The Act outlines the criteria for designating a military crash site. Certain activities are prohibited at protected sites, without the authority of the Ministry.

Non-Statutory Protection

14.7 The following table summarises the non-statutory protection relating to the historic environment and relevant to this chapter.

Table 14.2: Non-statutory Protection For Archaeological And Heritage Sites

<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Key Issues</i>
Planning Policy Wales	Defines the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes, although none are currently available for archeological or cultural heritage issues specifically.
Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales	The Register identifies important historic parks and gardens, which should then be considered by the local planning authority in planning decisions.
National Monuments Record	The Record identifies important sites and monuments which should then be considered by the local planning authority in planning decisions.

14.8 Details included in the Planning Policy Wales document⁽¹⁾, highlight the key planning principles and policy objectives in Welsh planning. The policy objectives which could impact on or which are appropriate to the archaeological and cultural heritage concerns include:

- Promoting resource-efficient settlement patterns that minimise land-take and urban sprawl, especially through preference for the re-use of suitable previously developed land and buildings, wherever possible avoiding development on greenfield sites. The development is to be situated on a brownfield site.
- Help to ensure the conservation of the historic environment and cultural heritage, acknowledging and fostering local diversity. The brownfield site proposed for



development has an industrial heritage. The site was cleared in the 1960s and no industrial artefacts are thought to be present.

14.9 The proposed development is sited over the boundary of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. The Brecon Beacons area is a National Park, containing Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation. The statutory purposes of National Parks are to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities. National Park Authorities have been set up to pursue these purposes, and public bodies and other relevant authorities have a statutory duty to have regard of this, whether activities lie within or outside the designated areas.

14.10 The proposal includes the development of an industrial site, the land has previously been developed. The potential impact on the landscape and visual qualities of the local area are considered in the landscape and visual assessment (Chapter 12). The building design has been produced to a very high standard and will use high quality building materials, which will assist in minimising the potential impact on the natural beauty of the local area, particularly when considering the area to the north of the site, which lies within the National Park.

14.11 The retention of natural and maturing features such as the tree line to the north of the site, coupled with additional landscaping and planting will afford some protection when looking south across the site from the reservoir. The conscientious design of the site will soften the view from the north when compared to the older existing units around the Hirwaun Industrial Estate, and enables Enviroparks to contribute to the cultural heritage of the future, where good design is fully incorporated with the needs of the development application.

14.12 The Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy from January 2007⁽²⁾ includes Strategic Policy SP 10 relating to the built heritage of the area:

'The rich heritage and identity of Rhondda Cynon Taf will be preserved and enhanced by the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they will not cause unacceptable harm to the following:-

- a) Listed Buildings and their setting;*
- b) Conservation Areas and their setting;*
- c) Local distinctiveness of settlements;*
- d) Townscape character;*
- e) Setting of settlements; and*
- g) Historic and cultural features of acknowledged importance.*

The Council will seek to implement enhancement schemes for Conservation Areas to improve the character, quality and appearance of these areas.'

14.13 The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Unitary Development Plan⁽³⁾ includes a statement of aims, which include the requirement to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park. This is included in the following policies:

Part 1 Policy 3: Cultural Heritage



Development will only be permitted where there is no unacceptable impact on the Park's cultural heritage. Wherever appropriate, development proposals will be required to demonstrate that provision has been made for the protection, enhancement and positive management of cultural heritage.

Policy G3: Development in the National Park

All proposals for development or change of use of land or buildings in the National Park must comply with the following criteria, where they are relevant to the proposal:

i) the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on, nor detract from or prevent the enjoyment of, the special qualities, natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;

Policy Q10: Nationally Important Archaeological Remains

Development proposals which would have an unacceptable impact on the remains or the settings of an archaeological site of national importance, whether scheduled or not, will not be permitted.

Policy Q11: Sites of Archaeological Importance

Development proposals which would have a significant adverse effect on historic landscapes, sites and features of archaeological interest or of local cultural importance and their settings will only be permitted where:

- i) archaeological remains can be protected in situ by appropriate design and siting; or*
- ii) in the opinion of the NPA, the benefits of the proposals outweigh any adverse effects.*

Policy Q12: Archaeological Evaluation

Where important archaeological remains are known to exist or may exist within an area for archaeological evaluation, the NPA will require the archaeological implications of development proposals to be evaluated before planning applications are determined. Planning permission will not be granted where the NPA deems such evaluation to be inadequate.

14.14 Additionally, clear and unequivocal guidance on design will assist applicants and the National Park Authority in achieving high quality developments in the National Park. For the purpose of this guidance, design is taken to mean the relationships between all elements of the built and natural environment including:

- the relationship of buildings to their urban or rural landscape context, to the environment, to biodiversity and to cultural heritage.



Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Features

14.15 Information has been obtained from both Cadw (the Welsh Assembly Government's historic environment division) and the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), as to the likely presence of archaeological artefacts or cultural heritage features at the site which would require consideration.

14.16 Cadw responded that, based on the mapping supplied, which highlighted the proposed site and identified its general location within the industrial estate, no designated historic assets fall within the area of interest. Cadw noted that they only hold records on designated sites such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Listed Buildings; Registered Parks and Gardens; World Heritage Sites and Historic Landscapes, and advised that the regional Archaeological Trust (GGAT) be approached to provide information on non-designated archaeological/historical sites in and around the Hirwaun area.

14.17 GGAT were contacted and confirmed that the Historic Environment Record showed a number prehistoric cairns in the wider area, although no known sites within the proposed development area. The proposed development site was confirmed as the site of the former Royal Ordnance Factory built in the 1940's, although this had been effectively removed from the site over subsequent years, leaving little trace, and the installation of the herringbone drainage system would effectively leave little likelihood for the survival of any other archaeological or historical features.

14.18 GGAT concluded therefore, that should proposals for the development of this site be submitted they would be unlikely to recommend that there is a requirement for any archaeological condition be attached to any consent granted nor would there be a need for an archaeological input into an ES/EIA.

14.19 The Cynon Culture website (www.cynonculture.co.uk) provides some detail of the history of Hirwaun, famous during the 18th and 19th century for its ironworks. Hirwaun dates prior to that however, with Hirwaun Common existing before the invasion of the Normans.

The Battle of Hirwaun 1086

14.20 In 1086, Rhys ap Tewdwr the allegedly last King of South Wales, had a grievance with Iestyn ap Gwrgant who was Lord of Glamorgan. The dispute was over the ownership of counties of South Wales. Iestyn's nephew Einion ap Callwyn had friends in the court of King William II, and by summoning the help of an army from the King, significantly outnumbered the army of Rhys ap Tewdwr.

14.21 The battle started at Aberdare, ending up on Hirwaun Common and involving a tremendous loss of life. Rhys ap Tewdwr's army was driven to the upper reaches of Rhigos/Penderyn, where there are still vestiges of this great conflict in such places as Cwm Cadlan and Bodwigiad. In the Cadlan Valley there are numerous mounds or carneddau and several of these are reputed to be memorials of the men who fell in the battle e.g. Carn y Frydwr (Battle Cairn) & Maes y Gwaed (Field of Blood). On the Rhigos side, and originally passing through the proposed development site, there is a brook called 'Nant-yr-Ochain' which tradition tells, is associated with the groans of men mortally wounded in battle. The brook was diverted at some point in the early 1970s when the railway was removed and the A465 and Fifth Avenue were developed. The battle went against Rhys, who was compelled to flee.



Detailed Listings

14.22 The Historic Wales Website (<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/NMW/start.jsp>) presents historic environment information held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), the National Museum of Wales and Cadw. The portal allows the simultaneous searching of hundreds of thousands of records relating to archaeological monuments, historic buildings and artefacts held by different organisations across Wales. A search was undertaken of the area in the vicinity of the proposed development, and the results are presented in Appendix 1. The nearest recorded finds / listings are within the Hirwaun Industrial Estate, however they are not located on or in the immediate vicinity of the site and thus the proposed development will have no impact on them.

Historical Sites

14.23 The nearest historical attraction sites of interest have been viewed on the Cadw website (www.cadw.wales.gov.uk). However as none were within 20 km of the proposed development, there will be no significant impact on these sites.

Conservation Areas

14.24 Conservation areas were created by the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 and are '*areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*'. Rhondda Cynon Taf has sixteen conservation areas and the Brecon Beacons National Park has five. The conservation areas of the two authorities are detailed below, however there are no conservation areas in the vicinity of the proposed development, the nearest being in Aberdare, approximately 6 km away.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Conservation Areas:

- Aberdare Town Centre
- Blaenrhondda
- Broadway, Treforest
- Castle Square, Treforest
- Glan-y-Llyn, Taffs Well
- Grnagwen, Pontypridd
- Llanharan
- Llanharry
- Llantrisant
- Llanwonno
- Miskin
- Old Park Terrace, Treforest
- Pontyprodd Town Centre, Pontyprodd
- Taff, Pontyprodd
- Talygan House and Grounds
- Troedrihwtrwyn

Brecon Beacons Conservation Areas:

- Brecon
- Crickhowell
- Llangattock
- Crickhowell and Llangattock
- Talgarth



14.25 The proposed development will not impact on any of the conservation areas listed.

PREDICTION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

14.26 Potential impacts from the proposed development on archaeological or cultural heritage features or Designated sites can be assessed against the following significance matrix:

Table 14.3 Significance Matrix for Impacts on the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Proposed Development Area

<i>Significance</i>	<i>Description of Impact</i>
High	Severe and non-recoverable damage or destruction of the site or feature
Medium	Potential changes to the site or feature may result in an appreciable reduction in our ability to understand the resource or its historical context.
Low	A slight change may occur to the site or feature and may result in a small reduction in our ability to understand the resource or its historical context.
Negligible	Features are present in the local area, however the potential impact from the development will lead to no material change or damage.
Undetermined	The presence or otherwise of a feature and the likely impact of the development has not been confirmed. Further investigation is required.

14.27 The lack of any likely archaeological or historical features on or around the site, and the distance of the proposed development from any significant features of interest, indicate that the potential impact of the proposed development on the cultural heritage of the Hirwaun or Brecon Beacons area will be **negligible**. It is considered that no listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields or Conservation Areas would be directly affected by the proposed scheme.

MITIGATION

14.28 The results of the desk-based study suggest that no specific mitigation measures are required in order to protect the cultural heritage of the area from the effects of the proposed development, although care will be taken during construction works and any finds of potential archaeological or cultural interest will be reported to CADW / GGAT. On the identification of such a find, work in the area will cease until advice is obtained from the relevant body.

EVALUATION OF RESIDUAL EFFECTS

14.29 There are no residual impacts for consideration.



REFERENCES

1. Planning Policy Wales. March 2002. Welsh Assembly Government. ISBN 0 7504 2854 6.
2. Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan. Preferred Strategy; January 2007
3. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Authority Approved Unitary Development Plan; March 2007