

Our Ref: HM372

28th January, 2025

Consultation Response for Felling Licence Application – Stradey Estate (FLA 215 24-25)

Dear Karen Bradburn,

Thank you for consulting us regarding the felling licence application for Stradey Estate. Having reviewed the Historic Environment Record (HER) and other sources against the plans provided, we advise the following:

Recommendation

We recommend that a felling licence is issued with the condition that **felling operations do not commence until Heneb – The Trust for Welsh Archaeology (Heritage Management Dyfed region) has been consulted and a site visit has been undertaken.**

Reasons for Recommendation

1. **Features Within and Beyond the RHPG:**
 - The application area includes both the registered historic park and garden (RHPG) and adjacent areas.
 - The woodland contains features associated with the RHPG, including pools, weirs, and cascades along the Afon Dulais, which are integral to the historic landscape.
2. **Potential Unrecorded Features:**
 - Our review of the LiDAR data has identified several anomalies within the application area that may be of archaeological origin and have not yet been recorded.
3. **Defended Enclosure:**
 - We would like to assess the area around the defended enclosure to better understand its archaeological sensitivity.



Given the complexity and significance of the historic environment in this location, a site visit would enable us to better understand these features and ensure appropriate protection measures are in place.

Additional Comments

We note the following assurances from the agent, which we welcome as positive steps to safeguard historic features:

- Relevant historic features will be included in the operational plan, marked on the ground, and excluded from the operational area where practical. These measures will be communicated to all personnel on-site.
- Features will be avoided for the storing or stacking of timber and machinery parking.
- Trees will be felled away from features and extracted using low-impact methods (tractor/trailer), with only established extraction routes used.
- Chainsaws will be used where safe, with Ash trees felled using tree shears or a small harvester. No traction aids will be used, and no machinery will cross the features identified.

Attachments

For your reference, I have included:

- A **gazetteer** of known historic sites within the application area.
- A **site map** illustrating the location of these assets.

We hope these recommendations provide clarity and ensure the safeguarding of the historic assets within and beyond the RHPG. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further discussion or information is required.

Best Regards,

Charlie Enright

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