



Project Specification

‘Caeronnen Farm Wind Turbine, Cwmsychbant, Llanybydder, Ceredigion.’

“Construction of a single wind turbine base, access track and service trench”.

Planning Ref:
A150160

Listed Building Consent:
N/A

Prepared for:
Mr Roy Rees, (Gwynt y Gaer)
Pantyrnnon,
Cwmsychbant,
Ceredigion.

On behalf of:

Date: 12/01/2016

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This project specification details the intended programme of archaeological works to be undertaken during the groundwork for the erection of a proposed single wind turbine on land near Caeronnen Farm, Cwmsychbant, Ceredigion, centered on OS grid reference SN 4840 4530.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This project specification details the intended programme of archaeological works to be undertaken during the groundwork for the erection of a proposed single wind turbine, with associated hard-standing, access track and service trench on land near to Caeronnen Farm, Cwmsychbant, Ceredigion, centered on OS grid reference SN 4840 4530.
- 1.2 This specification has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones of Heritage Recording Services Wales (henceforth HRS Wales).

2 Site Location & Description

- 2.1 The proposed wind turbine is to be positioned in an open field in an upland area at a height of approximately 265m AOD. The turbine location is at NGR: SN 4840 4530, approximately 3.7km northwest of the town of Llanybydder, and approximately 1km west of the village of Llanwenog in the county of Ceredigion.

3 Planning Background

- 3.1 Following submission of a planning application (Ref: A150160) detailing the development proposals to Ceredigion County Council (henceforth CCC) on 2nd March 2015, full planning permission was granted by CCC on 12th December 2015, with condition 21 stipulating that:

“The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.” **Reason:** To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development.

- 3.2 HRS Wales were commissioned by Mr Roy Rees to undertake the archaeological watching brief.

4 Historical & Archaeological Background

- 4.1 In October 2015 HRS Wales undertook a archaeological appraisal (HRS Wales Rpt No. 136) for the proposed single wind turbine on land near to Caeronnen Farm, Cwmsychbant, Ceredigion
- 4.2 The appraisal and site visit identified no direct physical impact from the proposals on any known heritage assets. However, the report concluded that, due to the fact there is an Iron Age Defended Enclosure close to the site (*Clawdd Buarth Defended Enclosure* – PRN: 8215), only 520m to the east-south-east and the fact that HER records have revealed that the immediate landscape may also have been party to a battle in the 10th century, it was advised that any groundwork undertaken for the proposed development i.e the turbine foundation, access track and service cable trench, is undertaken under an archaeological watching brief condition.

5 Development Proposals

- 5.1 The proposed location of the wind turbine will require a temporary access track across fields accessed from the public highway, using existing agricultural access, over privately owned

land. The route will be via an existing track and then temporary tracking will be laid over the fields to reach the turbine location.

The concrete turbine foundation will measure approximately 9.1m x 9.1m x 2m and will be installed within a 2/3 day period using a small tracked excavator. Following excavation, reinforced steel lattice work will be installed, which will be followed by the pouring of concrete into the foundation area. A concrete up-stand would be cast on top of the slab, to which the turbine tower would later be bolted. Approximately 150 cubic meters of concrete will be required.

A proposed service cable trench from the turbine will run parallel to the proposed access track and then connected to the National Grid.

6. Aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief

6.1 The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the ClfA (2014) are:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

6.2 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

6.3 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

7 Methodology

General

7.1 The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice in January/February 2016.

7.2 All work will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014).

Detailed

7.3 All proposed groundwork will be undertaken under close and constant archaeological supervision.

7.4 If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed material in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent and nature of the material and for a degree of excavation and recording to take place.

7.5 All archaeological deposits or features that are identified will be cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and

excavate all features to the satisfaction of the regional archaeological trust, Dyfed Archaeological Trust (henceforth DAT). Full excavation and recording of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.

Contingency Arrangements

- 7.6 In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site will be temporarily suspended. This will allow a period of consultation with the client, the regional archaeological trust, the council and any potential specialists.
- 7.7 Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and the Local Planning Authority.
- 7.8 The methodology and timescale of additional archaeological work to investigate such features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme, the feature will be made secure thus allowing the site programme to continue.

Recording

- 7.9 Recording will be carried out using HRS Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 7.10 Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- 7.11 All features identified will be tied in to the both the OS National Grid and all local site and ground plans.
- 7.12 Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14 mega-pixel DSLR camera, with photographs stored in both RAW and JPEG formats. Should significant remains be identified that require comprehensive excavation, photographs may also be appropriated in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

Artefacts

- 7.13 Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the work will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.
- 7.14 All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and the Environment Agency, DAT and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.
- 7.15 Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator.

Human remains

- 7.16 In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, DAT and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

Environmental and technological samples

- 7.17 Samples will be taken where necessary if significant deposits are located and these samples will be assessed and analysed by a suitable specialist, if deemed necessary.

Specialists

- 7.18 In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within HRS Wales itself or from an external source.

8 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

- 8.1 After agreement with the client, arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

- 8.2 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MAP 2, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

- 8.3 The results will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:
- Non-technical summary.
 - Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found.
 - Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
 - Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
 - An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development.
 - Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains.
 - A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Monitoring

- 8.4 Any changes to this project specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT for approval on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.5 Representatives of DAT will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. DAT will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

Archive Format & Deposition

- 8.6 The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.
- 8.7 The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the offices of DAT with the finds being deposited with the appropriate local museum. HRS Wales will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.
- 8.8 The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

9 Resources and timetable

Standards

- 9.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice.
- 9.2 All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA.

Staff

- 9.3 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified HRS Wales staff. In this instance Richard Scott Jones will be managing the project.

Equipment

- 9.4 The project will use existing HRS Wales equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

- 9.5 It is anticipated that the ground work for the development will start in January/February 2016.

Health and safety

- 9.6 All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of HRS Wales.

Insurance

- 9.7 HRS Wales presently holds Public Liability Insurance up to £5,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance up to £250,000.



Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA)

Date: 12th January 2016