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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

For an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment at

Land adjacent to Maes Ffynnon, Church Road, Roch, Pembrokeshire SA62 6BQ

Prepared for:
RLH Architectural

Project No: 3046

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Summary

This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Desk Based Assessment associated with the proposed construction of c 52 residential units, including detached and semidetached units, access road and associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Maes Ffynnon, Church Road, Roch, Pembrokeshire SA62 6BQ.

1. Introduction

1.1.1. This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) associated with the proposed construction of c 52 residential units, including detached and semidetached units, access road and associated infrastructure at land adjacent to Maes Ffynnon, Church Road, Roch, Pembrokeshire SA62 6BQ - NGR SM 87483 21258.

1.1.2. Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management (DAT-DM) recommended the production of a DBA during pre-application response noting that

The proposed development site is located close to the core of the medieval settlement of Roch, which is centred around Roch Castle (PRN 2803) and Roch Parish Church (PRN 2804), which date to at least the 12th century. In 2014 an archaeological watching brief was carried out during construction work in Church Road, Roch (DAT Archaeological Services, report no. 2014/17), which identified features consistent with medieval settlement. The report concluded that more evidence of settlement surely lies beneath the gardens of the modern urban spread, and the very few undeveloped areas in the village. The site of Lady Well (PRN 12,143), a medieval holy well, is recorded within the proposed development boundary.

As this is a relatively large site with potential for buried archaeology, should this proposal proceed to the planning process, we recommend that an archaeological desk-based assessment should be undertaken.

1.1.3. This Specification has been prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA, Project Manager for Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of RLH Architectural. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during a DBA.

1.1.4. The purpose of the proposed Desk Based Assessment is to provide DAT-DM with the information they are likely to request in respect of the

proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (Ed.11). The work is to highlight and assess the impact if any archaeology on/surrounding the proposed site. An archaeological consultant is to provide specialist advice upon any potential impact.

- 1.1.5. All work will conform to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CIfA, 2020) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2. Site Description

- 2.1.1. The proposed development is located northwest of Roch, a village situated c 9.5km northwest of Haverford West. The proposed site measures 25.55 hectares and it is currently defined by a marshy area to the southeast, and by large irregular fields. The site is bounded to the south by a track running off Pilgrim's Way, by a residential area and sewage station to the east, by open countryside to the north, and by a residential area, including a school to the west (Figure 1,3).
- 2.1.2. The underlying geology is defined by the Lingula Flags Formation formed during the Cambrian Period. No superficial soils are recorded (BGS 2022).

2.2. Site Specific Objectives

- 2.2.1. The primary objective of the DBA will be to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the historic environment by means of a detailed desk-based study and site visit. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies. The aim will be to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.
- 2.2.2. The work will include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.
- 2.2.3. This DBA will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. The information could then be

used to determine further archaeological investigation or appropriate mitigation strategies for any archaeological remains within the area to be implemented prior to or during the proposed development. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

3. The Proposed Archaeological Work

3.1.1. The proposed archaeological work relates to the whole of the site, i.e. all of the application area.

3.1.2. The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

3.2. Method Statement for a Detailed Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1. The assessment will consider the following:

- a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area. It will involve the following areas of research:
 1. Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the regional HER at the DAT-DM, within a 1km buffer zone around the proposed development area.
 2. Collation and assessment of the impact on all Designated archaeological sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks & Gardens, landscapes, Conservation Areas) within 2.5km buffer zone around the proposed development area.
 3. Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
 4. Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence. This will include visits to Central Register of Air Photography for Wales, in Cardiff.
 5. Assessment of relevant archive records held at the County Archives, and as appropriate, site files held by RCAHMMW
 6. Records held by the developer e.g. bore logs, geological/geomorphological information, aerial photographs, maps, plans.

7. Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. All editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, Tithe and early estate maps (as available).
 8. Place name evidence.
 9. Internet sourced satellite imagery and Lidar imagery as available.
 10. Assessment of the records held at the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
 11. Historic documents (e.g. Charters, registers, estate papers).
- b) The significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk-based study.
 - c) The history of the site, based on the areas of research outlined above.
 - d) The potential impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological importance (this will constitute a brief assessment, rather than a formal assessment such as that detailed in the Design Manual of Roads and Bridges).
 - e) The potential for further archaeological remains to be present, which have not been identified in pre-existing archaeological records.
 - f) The potential for further work, with recommendations if requested and where appropriate for a suitable investigative and/or mitigation methodology.
- 3.2.2. The site visit will be a visual walked search of the accessible development area. The ground surface will be visually inspected for all earthworks, structures and finds. The location of any environmental archaeological deposits, or areas which may have a potential for such deposits, will also be taken into account along with the visible archaeology.
- 3.2.3. All located sites or finds will be accurately fixed by means of GPS. Each individual find or site location will have an accurate NGR reference attached. Where a close cluster of related features is identified a single NGR for the centre of the cluster will be used, and each constituent feature separately described in the text.
- 3.2.4. The character, function, condition, vulnerability, potential dating and relationship to other features of each identified site or find will be described fully. The importance of the site or find will be assessed in terms of local, regional or national significance.
- 3.2.5. Digital photographs, including scales, will be taken using cameras with

resolutions of 10 mega pixels or above.

3.2.6. The site visit will also assess the visual impact of the proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological importance. Photographs will be taken from the proposed development to help illustrate and assess this visual impact and Designated sites within the study area will also be visited with photographs taken towards the proposed development to help illustrate and assess this visual impact on these sites.

3.3. Method Statement for the Production of an Illustrated Report and the Deposition of the Site Archive

3.3.1. A report will be produced which synthesizes the results of stages 1 and 2 and thereby assesses the total archaeological resource within the development area.

3.3.2. The results will be presented in a report and will be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The report will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (2018). The historical development of the site will be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.

3.3.3. Within the report an attempt will be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites will be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).

3.3.4. All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps will be included and be fully referenced.

3.3.5. The report will specifically include the following:

- a copy of the design brief (if applicable)
- a location plan
- all identified sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the proposal site
- a gazetteer of all located sites

3.3.6. Copies of the report will be sent to the client and to DAT for inclusion in

the HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format.

3.4. The Site Archive

- 3.4.1. A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited with the National Monuments Records, held and maintained by the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth, on completion of the report. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017' (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017). The digital archive will be deposited with the NMR.
- 3.4.2. Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than six months after completion of the work.
- 3.4.3. Other significant digital data generated by the survey (i.e. AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

4. Resources & Timetable

4.1. Standards

- 4.1.1. The DBA will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice. All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA.

4.2. Staff

- 4.2.1. The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Irene Garcia Rovira-project manager, AW (MCIfA).

4.3. Timetable of archaeological works

- 4.3.1. The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client and is likely to commence imminently.

4.4. Insurance

- 4.4.1. AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can

be supplied on request.

4.5. Arbitration

4.5.1. Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

4.6. Health and safety

4.6.1. 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 AW.

5. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment.*

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2017. *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales*

Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018. *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs).*

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:
www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html
(accessed 20/10/2022)

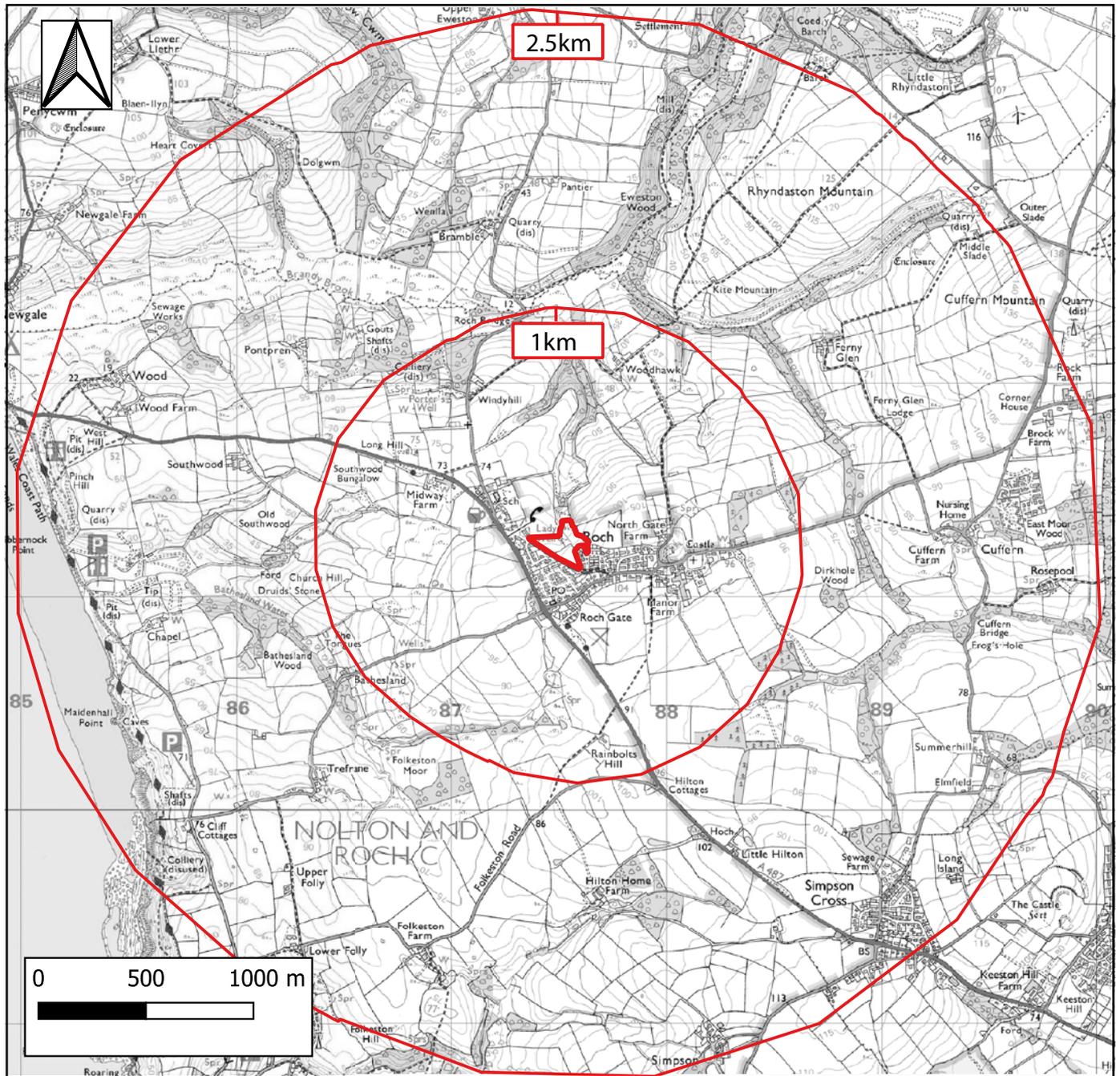


Figure 2. Applied search areas.

