

Our ref: RCT0269/CG

CURATORIAL DIVISION

Group Director Environmental Services  
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council  
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29<sup>th</sup> October 2013

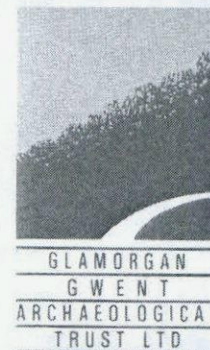
Dear Sir

**Re: Proposed Change Of Use to convert Chapel to dwelling: Horeb Chapel,  
Horeb Terrace, Llwydcoed.**  
**Pl.App.No.: 13/0986/10.**

Thank you for contacting us in regard to this application, we have subsequently consulted the detailed information contained on your website, **the proposals will require mitigation**. You will recall that in June 2012 we recommended that Horeb Chapel be subject to a programme of building recording in response to an earlier application for conversion, our ref; RCT0269/JBHD, your ref; 12/0370/10.

Information contained in the Historic Environment Record shows that Horeb Independent Chapel was built in 1859, enlarged 1867, and modified again in 1902. The chapel is built in a mixture of styles, having a Sub-Classical facade with a hipped box plan and a mixture of round and segmentally arched windows. There is a large hall or Sunday school to the rear of chapel, entered by descending stairs from the rear of chapel, as the chapel is built on slope. Horeb was renovated in 1933. The building is an important part of both the local history and local streetscene, having formed a place of worship in the area for 160 years and giving its name to the street, and it is necessary to mitigate its conversion. It is our professional opinion that a record should be made that includes information on the sequential construction of the building, details of its architectural features and a history of its development, prior to the undertaking of the current development. There is no indication that the conversion works would adversely impact on buried archaeological remains, and we note that the conversion will preserve the structure in the streetscene; there are no other recorded archaeological features shown on the Historic Environment Record and we therefore do not have any objections to the granting of the application on archaeological grounds.

It was and remains our opinion that the standing building is of historic importance by virtue of its architecture, history and cultural significance within the area; therefore, a qualified building historian should make a full record of the structure both by the means of a drawn and photographic record, prior to any works being undertaken. We envisage this survey to be undertaken to a Level II (*English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' 2006*). The completed record should then be deposited in a suitable repository, such as the Glamorgan Archives or the Historic Environment Record to enable access by future historians.



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In order to ensure that the work is undertaken we recommend that a condition based on the model suggested by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers in their document Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings should be attached to any planning consent granted by your Members. This condition is worded: -

*No site works shall be undertaken until the implementation of an appropriate programme of building recording and analysis has been agreed with the local planning authority, to be carried out by a specialist acceptable to the local planning authority and in accordance with an agreed written specification.*

The justification for the imposition of the condition would therefore be: -

*As the buildings are of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate the impact of the development.*

A list of archaeological contractors who have indicated their availability to work in Wales is available from <http://www.archaeologists.net/ROsearch> and another list is available from [www.bajr.org/RACSmapp/default.asp](http://www.bajr.org/RACSmapp/default.asp). Information on how to meet the requirements of the condition from our website [http://www.ggat.org.uk/aps/english/archaeological\\_planningmain.html](http://www.ggat.org.uk/aps/english/archaeological_planningmain.html).

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

Yours faithfully

*Claudine Gerrard.*

Claudine Gerrard  
Archaeological Planning Officer