

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/25/0178

By email

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

LC

Dyddiad
Date

29 August 2025

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Installation of surface water drainage around the perimeter of the castle with associated manholes and gullies, Cyfarthfa Castle, Cyfarthfa Park, Merthyr Tydfil

Thank you for your letter of 11 August inviting our comments on the information submitted for the above planning application.

This response is based on the advice provided by Cadw's Historic Environment Planning Officer.

Advice

Having carefully considered the information provided, we have no objection to the proposed development in regards to the scheduled monuments or registered historic parks and gardens listed in our assessment of the application below.

The national policy and Cadw's role in planning are set out in Annex A.

Assessment

Scheduled Monuments

BR145 Nant Crew Inscribed Stone (now in Cefn Coed Church)
GM028 Morlais Castle
GM331 Ynys Fach Iron Furnaces
GM424 Pont y Cafnau Tramroad Bridge
GM425 Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks
GM467 Cyfarthfa Canal Level
GM478 Gurnos Quarry Tramroad & Leat
GM479 Tai Mawr Leat for Cyfarthfa Iron Works
GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar
GM495 Cyfarthfa Tramroad Section at Heolgerrig
GM563 Morlais Hill ring cairn





GM594 Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle section
GM610 Cwm Glo Chapel
GM611 Cwm Glo pit and ironstone tip

Registered Parks and Gardens

PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle
PGW(Gm)70(MER) Cefn Coed Cemetery & Jewish Burial Ground

This planning application is for the Installation of surface water drainage at Cyfarthfa Castle, Cyfarthfa Park, Merthyr Tydfil.

The above designated historic assets are located inside 2km of the proposed development, but intervening topography, buildings and vegetation block all views between them apart from registered park and garden PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle in which the proposal is located. Consequently, the proposed development will have no impact on the settings of these designated historic assets other than PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle.

PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle

The proposals are located within the grade II* registered historic park and garden at Cyfarthfa Castle, registered for the survival of much of the park and gardens of Cyfarthfa Castle, built and developed immediately next to the ironworks by members of the Crawshay family. The large mansion was built as a mock castle by Robert Lugar for the ironmaster William Crawshay in 1825. The park and gardens are of great historic interest not only as the landscape setting for the Romantic mansion but also for their proximity and usefulness to the ironworks (Cadw ref: GM425) which in their day were considered to add great sublimity to its landscape setting.

The supporting documents explain that Cyfarthfa Castle is suffering from water ingress throughout the structure. A 2022 condition survey recommended a tented scaffold be erected to prevent further water ingress. A drainage solution is required to allow for the controlled discharge of water from the scaffold and to address ongoing water management issues in the immediate vicinity of the castle.

The proposals seek to install new gullies and drainage channels around the perimeter of the castle, which will involve excavation around the perimeter of the building. Heneb must therefore be consulted on this application to provide advice on archaeological mitigation.

To facilitate connections between the existing rainwater goods and the new drainage, the proposals require the temporary removal of three areas of the historic retaining wall to the south of the castle. However, appropriate mitigation is proposed as explained in the supporting Heritage Impact Assessment by Purcell. The stone wall will be photographed prior to any works taking place and the stones will be numbered to ensure they are placed back in their original positions on completion of the works.





The supporting plans also demonstrate that where areas of lawn will be disturbed by the new drainage routes, new sections of lawn will be installed.

Overall, the HIA concludes that the proposals will be beneficial to Cyfarthfa Castle and its grounds, and we agree with this conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Cooper
Historic Environment Inspectorate / Arolygiaeth yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol



Annex A

Our role

Our statutory role in the planning process is to provide the local planning authority with an assessment concerned with the likely impact that the proposal will have on scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, registered historic landscapes where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and development likely to have an impact on the outstanding universal value of a World Heritage Site. We do not provide an assessment of the likely impact of the development on listed buildings or conservation areas, as these are matters for the local authority.

It is for the local planning authority to weigh our assessment against all the other material considerations in determining whether to approve planning permission.

National Policy

Applications for planning permission are considered in light of the Welsh Government's land use planning policy and guidance contained in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Technical Advice Notes and related guidance.

PPW [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-12) explains that it is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.

The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not. Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance)

[Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment](#) elaborates by explaining that when considering development proposals that affect scheduled monuments or other nationally important archaeological remains, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ, i.e. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or would have a significant adverse impact causing harm within the setting of the remains.

Historic Parks and Gardens

PPW also explains that local authorities should value, protect, conserve and enhance the special interests of parks and gardens and their settings included on the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales and that the effect of a proposed development on a registered park or garden or its setting should be a material consideration in the





determination of a planning application.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government