



CYFARTHFA CASTLE

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR NORTH, WEST AND SOUTH DRAINAGE WORKS

May 2025



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE APPLICATION

This submission is to be read in conjunction with the planning consent application Ref: PP-13637261. This submission is an extension of proposal Ref: PP-13637261.

This proposal has been prepared on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council to support their plans to prepare the site for essential future repair works to Cyfarthfa Castle, aimed at preventing further deterioration. A detailed assessment of the existing drainage system has revealed it to be in poor condition, inadequate for the building's long-term needs, and incapable of supporting the surface water drainage required for the tented scaffold necessary in subsequent phases of the repair works.

The primary purpose of this application is to extend the surface upgrades around the entire castle perimeter. This will meet the building's long-term drainage requirements, while also ensuring adequate drainage for the temporary roof necessary for the repair works. It will continue the separation of surface water drains from the combined system.

Input to this application has been gathered from Mann Williams (structural engineers), and Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council.

2.0 UNDERSTANDING

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION



Location plan showing Cyfarthfa Castle and Cyfarthfa Park, located in Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8RE.

Cyfarthfa Castle is a Grade I listed building situated on a low rise overlooking the former site of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, located on the north-western edge of Merthyr Tydfil. The Castle serves as the focal point of Cyfarthfa Park, a Grade II* registered historic landscape that spans 160 acres of mixed parkland. This landscape includes formal gardens surrounding the Castle, as well as lawned areas, landscaped play spaces, and woodland. Additional features of the park include the Canolfan visitor centre, café, and playground, located to the east of the Castle. Originally, the park served dual purposes: as the landscaped grounds for the Crawshay family and as a component of the water management system for the Ironworks. Following the sale of the Castle to the Council in the early 20th century, the park transitioned into municipal gardens for public enjoyment. Today, the site is also part of the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area.

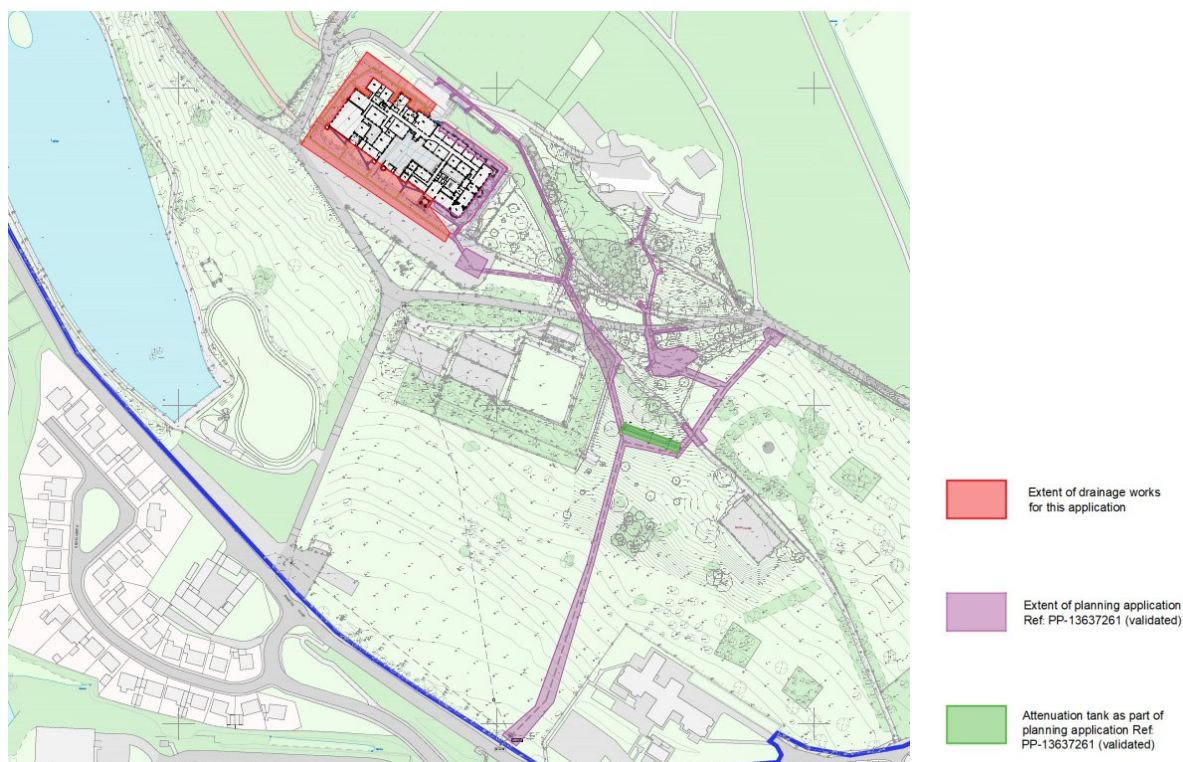
More information on the site's history and significance can be found in the accompanying Heritage Impact Statement.

2.2 SUMMARY OF CONDITION

A significant factor contributing to damp within Cyfarthfa Castle is the poor performance of the local stormwater drainage system and the inadequate management of surface water runoff from the surrounding area. The current drainage system is not suitable for modern flow rates and storm capacity.

3.0 PROPOSED WORKS

3.1 SUMMARY

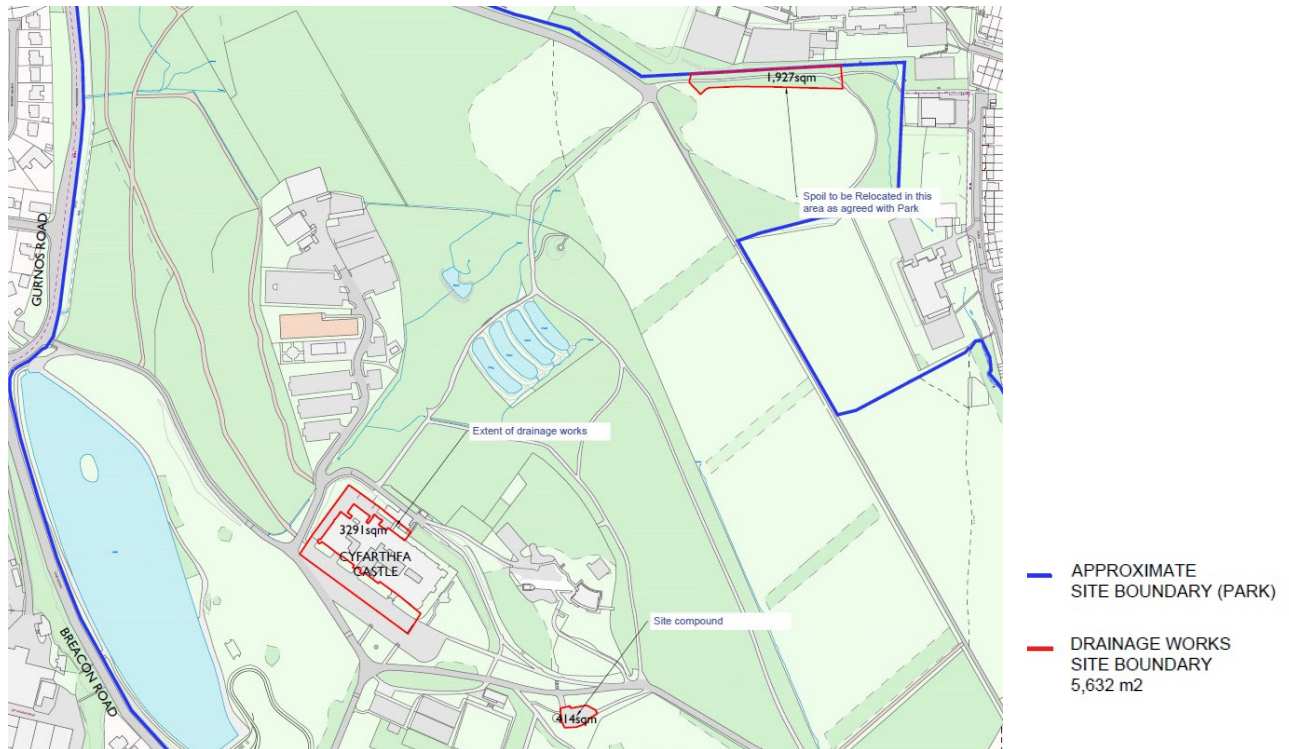


Proposed drainage strategy (not to scale). Refer to accompanying documents for further details. This is the full strategy around the castle showing the scope of drainage work covered by planning application Ref. PP-13637261 and the proposed development outlined in this application.

The proposal outlines a series of interventions aimed at improving drainage at Cyfarthfa Castle and Park. The proposal will reduce flooding and improve stormwater management by removing surface water from the combined sewer system and attenuating the surface water as it eventually discharges into the River Taff.

This project is critical to addressing ongoing water management issues, which have been causing significant deterioration to the Castle's fabric, particularly at basement level, due to heavy surface water runoff from the higher ground within the park.

The proposed works are detailed in the accompanying documents and include the installation of new drainage connections.



The key interventions include the installation of new gullies for future rainwater pipe connection and future slot drains, as well as the connection of existing rainwater pipes to the new below-ground drainage network.

More information about the proposal can be found in the accompanying Mann Williams report and proposed drawings.

3.2 SITE SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Archaeology

Cyfarthfa Castle and Park are located within Archaeologically Sensitive Area 1: Cyfarthfa Castle and Park.

The proposed drainage routes were determined on-site in collaboration with representatives from Cadw, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Mann Williams (Civil Engineers), and Purcell (Conservation Architects).

Further archaeological mitigation was undertaken in November 2024, with the excavation of four trial pits under a watching brief. No significant archaeological material was discovered, with the oldest finds consisting of domestic landfill from the early 20th century, including bottles and ceramics mixed with ash and cinder. These trial excavations have also confirmed that the underlying bedrock is at a suitable depth, allowing excavation for below-ground tanks to proceed with conventional machinery.

Where the proposals require the removal of small sections of the historic wall between the south terrace and the Castle, these sections will be carefully reinstated and restored to match the existing structure.