

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/26/0041

By email

Ein cyfeirnod
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Date

25 March 2026

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Single storey extension, timber screen and patio with canopy, The Rose Retreat Spa, Cyfarthfa Park, Merthyr Tydfil

Thank you for your letter of 4 March inviting our comments on the information submitted for the above planning application.

Advice

This response is based on the advice provided by Cadw's Inspector of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.

We consider that the application is inadequately documented and we recommend that additional information is required to enable a balanced decision to be taken against Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 24 Historic Environment and associated guidance. Full details of the additional information that is required are explained in the below assessment.

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

Assessment**Registered Park and Garden****PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle**

This application is for a proposed extension, timber screen and patio with canopy at Rose Retreat Spa, Cyfarthfa Park, Merthyr Tydfil. The proposed development is located within the grade II* registered historic park and garden at Cyfarthfa Castle. The site is registered for the survival of much of the park and gardens of Cyfarthfa Castle, the most historically important ironmaster's home in Wales, built and developed immediately next to the ironworks by members of the Crawshay family.

The large gothic Victorian 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. Cyfarthfa Castle (Cadw LB:11396) is surrounded by Victorian parkland, converted from private to public park, with formal gardens. By 1873 the park had assumed its present layout. It became a public park in 1910.

The proposed development site, which is currently a small garden associated with the current spa building, is situated at one of the historic entrances to the public park and within the boundary of the registered historic park and garden.

Although the supporting documents refer to the registered historic park and garden, the application is not supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment and the impact of the proposed development on this designated historic asset has not been assessed. This will be a material consideration in the determination of this application, and we therefore advise that a Heritage Impact Assessment is prepared. This document should follow the methodology set out in Cadw guidance *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*. The advice given in Cadw guidance *Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks & Gardens in Wales* may also be helpful.

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](#) 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.