



Archaeoleg Morgannwg-Gwent

Heneb

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeology

Our ref: MTY0289/RD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

Head of Planning
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Unit 5
Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 4TQ

13th August 2025

Dear Sir

Re: Installation of surface water drainage around the perimeter of the castle with associated manholes and gullies
Cyfarthfa Castle Cyfarthfa Park Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8RE
Pl.App.No.: P/25/0178

Thank you for consulting us about this application; consequently we have reviewed the detailed information contained on your website and can confirm that **the proposal requires archaeological mitigation.**

Information in the Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the application area is located in an area of archaeological potential. Cyfarthfa Castle is a Grade I Listed Building (Cadw ref. 11396), built in 1824-5 for ironmaster William Crawshay II. It is a large country house in the Picturesque castle style, rectangular in shape with an almost symmetrical entrance and garden fronts meeting at a circular corner tower. The proposal is within the Cyfarthfa Castle Registered Park and Garden (PGW (Gm) 1). 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. An early drawing of the house (1820s) shows a natural landscape around the house, with none of the formality that was to follow. However, by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1873) the park had assumed its present layout. Early 20th century photographs of the ironworks and park show a well-wooded, mature landscape park in a rural setting, apart from the ironworks. The park is roughly oval in shape, elongated north-south, with the highest ground in the middle. The park contains a range of landscape and ornamental features, both original and post-1910.

We note the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment by Purcell (issue 03, dated May 2025) which note the results of a watching brief during test pits excavated in November 2024 (Heneb report no. 2024/051, dated November 2024). Whilst the test pits only modern deposits, including industrial waste and domestic landfill, there were located away from the current application with the closest being to the north of the bowling green pavilion. As

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Cadeirydd / Chair: Dr Carol Bell

PSG / CEO: Richard Nicholls

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such there remains the possibility of encountering archaeologically significant remains during the requisite groundworks.

As such it is our recommendation that a condition requiring the applicant to submit a detailed written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work to protect the archaeological resource should be attached to any consent granted by your Members. This is consistent with similar applications in the vicinity.

We envisage that this programme of work would take the form of a watching brief during the groundworks required for the development, with detailed contingency arrangements including the provision of sufficient time and resources to ensure that any archaeological features or finds that are located are properly investigated and recorded; it should include provision for any sampling that may prove necessary, post-excavation recording and assessment and reporting and possible publication of the results. To ensure adherence to the recommendations we recommend that the condition should be worded in a manner similar to model condition 24 given in Welsh Government Circular 016/2014

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.

Reason: *To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.*

We also recommend that a note should be attached to the planning consent explaining that:

The archaeological work must be undertaken to the appropriate Standard and Guidance set by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), (www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or an accredited Member.

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

Yours faithfully

R. Dunning

Rob Dunning BSc MCIfA
Archaeological Planning Officer

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