

Our Ref: MTY0258/JBHD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING



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Planning

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

20th April 2019

FAO: David Cross

Dear Sir

Re: Provision of 36 Camping Pods and 5 Chalets, Erection of Shower/Toilet Block and Creation of Play and Picnic Areas. Construction of New Parking Area (141 Spaces) with Overflow Carpark (85 Spaces), Together With a Trail Maintenance Yard, New Highway Access Routes, Ground Profile Works, Drainage, Infrastructure and Landscape Works:
Bike Park Wales, Gethin Woodland Centre, Abercanaid.
Pl.App.No.: P/19/0073.

We identified a historic environment issue regarding this application, from your weekly planning list. Consequently, we have consulted the information on your website and the information in the Historic Environment Record. **The proposal has an archaeological restraint.**

The information in the Historic Environment Record shows that the application area is located in the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance, specifically within Character Area HLCA072: Waunwyllt, Pen y Lan and Graig Gethin. This is characterised as *Agricultural landscape of dispersed post-medieval settlement associated with upland sheep farming; irregular evolved field pattern of drystone walled-enclosures largely hidden in forestry; Ancient Woodland and 20th century forestry; extractive landscape associated with the steam coal trade.* The current proposals form a different nature to the existing, and will be larger in scale.

The historic environment was not scoped in to the pre-planning consultation for the Environmental Statement, nor were we, as the archaeological advisors to your Members, consulted at that stage. There is nothing in the supporting documents to show that the historic environment issue of the proposal, regarding the impact on the Registered Landscape, has been recognised or addressed by the applicant. This aspect of the historic environment is a material consideration in the determination of any planning application, as detailed in Planning Policy Wales, Edition 10, 2018 in Paragraph 6.6.19.

It is therefore our opinion that as the proposal is within the Waunwyllt, Pen y Lan and Graig Gethin character area, that an Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of a Development on a Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL2) should be produced.

The Glamorgan-Gwent
Archaeological Trust
Limited

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This work will need to provide information in accordance with the Welsh Government's *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process* (Cadw 2007).

The impact of the development on the Registered Landscape will be a material consideration in the determination of the current planning application. Consequently, this should be deferred until the assessment has been submitted to your Members.

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 our Policy to recommend that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or an accredited MCIfA Member.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Judith Doyle BA MBA MCIfA
Archaeological Planning Officer