

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/26/0068

By email

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

planningDC@merthyr.gov.uk

Dyddiad
Date

22 April 2026

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – To resurface with tarmac the uplift track that currently serves Bike Park Wales, Gethin Woodland Centre, Abercanaid

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 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 park and garden listed in our assessment of the application below.

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

Assessment

This planning application is for the resurfacing of a tarmac track at Gethin Woodland Centre, Abercanaid.

Scheduled Monuments

GM222 Merthyr Common Round Cairns
GM236 Garn Las Earthwork
GM239 Gwersyll
GM287 Darren Fawr Round Cairns
GM288 Graig-y-Gilfach round cairn and earthwork
GM331 Ynys Fach Iron Furnaces
GM368 Ring Cairn South of Twyn Blaennant
GM401 Hut Circles & Enclosures on Buarth Maen
GM402 Carn Pentyle-Hir & Adjacent Round Cairn
GM425 Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks



GM460 Cwmdu Air Shaft & Fan
GM467 Cyfarthfa Canal Level
GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar
GM495 Cyfarthfa Tramroad Section at Heolgerrig
GM496 Deserted Iron Mining Village, Ffos-y-fran
GM572 Abercanaid haystack boiler
GM573 Merthyr Tramroad Tunnel (Trevithick's Tunnel)
GM586 Carn Castell y Meibion ring cairn
GM606 Vale of Neath railway cutting and tunnel portal
GM607 Cwm Pit and head of railway
GM608 Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat
GM609 Black Pins early ironstone workings
GM610 Cwm Glo Chapel
GM611 Cwm Glo pit and ironstone tip

Registered Park and Garden

PGW(Gm)69(MER) Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area

The above designated historic assets are located inside 3km of the proposed development, but intervening topography, buildings and vegetation block all views between them apart from scheduled monument GM586 Carn Castell y Meibion ring cairn. Consequently, the proposed development will have no impact on the settings of these designated historic assets other than GM586 Carn Castell y Meibion ring cairn.

The proposed development is located some 30m from scheduled monument GM586 Carn Castell y Meibion ring cairn. The applicants should be aware that in relation to any future planning application it is their responsibility to inform all contractors about the nature and extent of the scheduled area, and the restrictions which scheduling imposes. If any ground works, service trenches, works compounds, temporary storage etc. are planned to take place within the scheduled area, then the applicant should contact Cadw to ascertain whether scheduled monument consent will be required.

Scheduled monument GM586 Carn Castell y Meibion ring cairn comprises the remains of a ring cairn dating to the Bronze Age (c.2300 BC - 800 BC) and is situated within forestry on the saddle between Twyn Gwersyllfa to the north-west and Twyn Ddisgwylfa Fawr to the south-east. The well-preserved ring cairn is circular on plan and measures about 8m in diameter within a stony ring bank about 3m in thickness and up to 0.2m in height. The ring cairn has an irregular interior surface, thinly spread with stones; and there is a slight gap in the east side of the ring bank.

Bronze Age funerary and ritual monument are thought to have been located so that they had views to and from neighbouring funerary monument, prominent



natural features and associated settlement sites. Other potentially contemporary Bronze Age monuments are on the surrounding high ground, 600m to the north northwest is scheduled monument GM298 Graig-y-Gilfach round cairn and earthwork some 700m to the south scheduled monument GM287 Darren Fawr Round Cairns. Views linking all these cairns are significant. As ring cairns were generally positioned on a slope where activity within could be observed from above nearby the view towards the Carn Castell y Meibion ring cairn from the highest ground to the east of particular significance.

The proposed development is for the resurfacing of existing tracks within the forest / bike park to transport cyclists and bicycles up to the starting points of trails and for the provision of a new section of 'cut through' track some 250m long linking existing tracks on side of the saddle. Both the proposed and excising tracks will be surfaced to accommodate two lanes with 150mm-200mm of quarried stone followed by 50mm of a finer grade quarried stone and finished with a 60mm asphalt base course followed by a 40mm asphalt surface course.

Views to and from the cairn are currently blocked by a forest plantation. When the plantation is felled the proposed cut through route would be visible. However, its route is not within any of the identified significant views. As such whilst there may be some slight visual change in the view from the monument, this could have no more than a minor adverse effect on the way that the monument is experienced, understood and appreciated. Consequently, the proposed development will not have an unacceptably damaging effect upon the setting of scheduled monument GM586.

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.