



Archaeoleg Morgannwg-Gwent

Heneb

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeology

Our ref: MTY0292/HB

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

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

28th April 2026

FAO: Rebecca Owens

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Erection of single storey extension, timber screen and patio with canopy at
The Rose Retreat Spa, Cyfarthfa Park, Merthyr Tydfil
Pl.App.No.: P/26/0041**

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 will require archaeological mitigation.**

We have reviewed the information held in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), which shows that the application area is situated in the designated Grade II* Cyfarthfa Castle Registered Historic Park and Garden. It is noted as a Victorian park, converted from private to public park, and formal gardens, with its main phases of construction ranging from 1825-70s (Cadw Ref.: PGW(Gm)1(MER)). As the proposal is located within a Registered Park and Garden, it is recommended that Cadw and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust should also be consulted over any potential impacts and regarding any requirements for a Heritage Impact Assessment. The application is also situated in both the Archaeologically Sensitive Area and Conservation Area, and within the Historic Landscape of Merthyr Tydfil, specifically within the Historic Landscape Character Area of Cyfarthfa Castle and Park (HLCA013). The description of the Character Area notes that *"Cyfarthfa Castle was built in the second quarter of the 19th century as the home of the Crawshays, owners of the Cyfarthfa Iron Works. It was initially provided with an informal park in the Romantic style, but this had developed into a more formal layout by the late 19th century. The park, now recognised as a nationally important one, is now the largest open space in Merthyr Tydfil. The castle now combines the functions of school and museum. It remains an important example of an ironmaster's residence."*

There are no sites recorded within the proposed development area. However, a review of the historic Ordnance Survey maps, shows the area as open land with no features on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (dated 1875). Further development of the Park is evident on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1904), along with the addition of structures within the immediate surrounding areas. The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map (1919) shows the

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PSG / CEO: Richard Nicholls

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footprint of a lodge within the area of the existing garden. The HER also shows that prehistoric, Roman and industrial finds and deposits have been encountered during relatively recent archaeological works within the Historic Park and Garden. Therefore, there is potential for earlier remains and features to be encountered during any ground disturbing works.

The application is for the erection of single storey extension, timber screen and patio with canopy. We note the submitted plans, which include proposed services within the extension. Whilst the area has undergone previous alterations and landscaping, the extent of ground disturbance is currently unknown. Therefore, based on the current information in the HER, it is considered that there is potential in encountering archaeological remains, and features associated with the lodge and/or earlier use of Cyfarthfa Park, during any ground disturbing works in the area.

Therefore, in order to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource 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.

We envisage that this programme of work will take the form of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (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), [CIfA regulations, standards and guidance](#) | [CIfA](#) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a [CIfA Registered Organisation](#) or a [MCIfA level accredited Member](#) | [CIfA](#)

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

Yours faithfully,

H. Bowden

Hannah Bowden BA (Hons) MSc MCIfA
Stewardship Officer

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