

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/25/0044

By email

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

LC

Dyddiad
Date

6 March 2025

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

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E-bost
Email:cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Application – Solar Farm and associated equipment and cabling
at Pen Y Dre High School, Goitre Lane, Gurnos**

Thank you for your letter of 26 February inviting our comments on the information submitted for the above planning application.

Advice

Having carefully considered the information provided, we have no objection to the proposed development in regards to the scheduled monuments or registered historic parks and gardens listed in our assessment of the application below.

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

Assessment**Scheduled Monuments**

BR118 Cae Burdydd Castle
BR145 Nant Crew Inscribed Stone (now in Cefn Coed Church)
GM028 Morlais Castle
GM331 Ynys Fach Iron Furnaces
GM424 Pont y Cafnau Tramroad Bridge
GM425 Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks
GM467 Cyfarthfa Canal Level
GM478 Gurnos Quarry Tramroad & Leat
GM479 Tai Mawr Leat for Cyfarthfa Iron Works
GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar
GM494 Sarn Howell Pond and Watercourses
GM495 Cyfarthfa Tramroad Section at Heolgerrig
GM496 Deserted Iron Mining Village, Ffos-y-fran
GM518 Enclosure East of Nant Cwm Moel



GM554 Iron Ore Scours and Patch Workings at Winch Fawr, Merthyr Tydfil
GM563 Morlais Hill ring cairn
GM573 Merthyr Tramroad Tunnel (Trevithick's Tunnel)
GM594 Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle section
GM599 Cefn Cil-sanws, cairn on SW side of
GM600 Cefn Cil-sanws defended enclosure
GM608 Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat
GM609 Black Pins early ironstone workings
GM610 Cwm Glo Chapel
GM611 Cwm Glo pit and ironstone tip

Registered Parks and Gardens

PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle
PGW(Gm)70(MER) Cefn Coed Cemetery & Jewish Burial Ground

This planning application is for a solar farm, cabling and associated works on land at Pen-Y-Dre High School, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 9BY.

The above designated historic assets are located inside 3km of the proposed development.

The application is accompanied by an Archaeological and Heritage Desk-based Assessment produced by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. This report contains an assessment of the effect of the proposed development on the settings of designated historic assets. In this it considers a 1km study area from the development boundary application to be appropriate. Within this area are two designated historic assets: scheduled monument GM594 Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle section, located 800m to the north of the application area and registered park and garden PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle, located some 690m to the southwest.

In relation to GM594 Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle section, the report identifies that there is no intervisibility between the proposed development and the monument and that the application area makes no contribution to the monument's significance. In relation to PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle, the report identifies there are incidental views of the registered park and garden from the application site. These views are assessed as being of areas of undesigned woodland that do not contribute significantly to the historic value or integrity of the park. The application site is considered to make no contribution to the monument's significance.

The report's conclusion is there will no effect on the settings of these designated historic assets. We agree with the report methodology and its conclusion; the proposed development will not have an unacceptably damaging effect upon the settings of scheduled monument GM595 or registered park and garden PGW(Gm)1(MER) nor will it have any effect on the settings of any of the other above designated historic assets.



Yours sincerely,

Laura Cooper
Historic Environment Branch

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.