

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/23/0261

By email

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

15 November 2023

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

0300 0256004

Ebost
Email:

cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Replace existing timber windows with new timber windows at 5 Chapel Row, Georgetown, Merthyr Tydfil

Thank you for your letter of 9 November 2023 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

GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydyar

Registered Parks and Gardens

PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle

This planning application is for new timber windows at 5 Chapel Row, Georgetown, Merthyr Tydfil.

The above designated historic assets are located inside 500m of the proposed development, but intervening topography, buildings and vegetation block all views between the and registered park and garden PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle. Consequently, the proposed development will have no impact on the settings of PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle.

The proposed development is located some 8m to the east of the scheduled area of



scheduled monument GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar. The applicants should be aware that 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 GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar consists of the remains of a bridge, dating to the post-medieval period. It is the only one surviving of a series of five cast iron girder bridges built in or near Merthyr Tydfil from the early 1790s, amongst the earliest cast iron bridges in the world. The bridges were probably designed by Watkin George, the chief engineer of Cyfarthfa Ironworks who built Pont-y-cafnau iron bridge in 1793. The Rhydycar iron bridge was constructed to cross the Glamorganshire Canal, operational at Merthyr early in 1792, technically revolutionary in being girder rather than arch bridges. The bridge has a pair of 7.3m span single-casting girders, which form both the beams and the parapets. These are rectangular trusses, divided by a triangular framework of struts linking to an integral segmental arch. The beams are fixed to cast iron bearers at each corner. Bosses moulded into the lower beams below each vertical strut carry five fish bellied crossbeams.

The proposed development is for the 'like for like' replacement of timber windows in a grade II listed building (No. 11413 No. 5 Chapel Row). The Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar is no longer in its original location and is instead preserved, reconstructed across a former canal lock outside the Joseph Parry Birthplace Museum. The proposed alterations to the listed building will therefore have no effect on the monument's original setting. As the external appearance of the listed building will not alter significantly there will also be no effect either on the way that the monument it is currently experienced, understood, and appreciated in its conservation setting.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Harris
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-11.pdf](#) 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.