

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/26/0115

By email

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Planning.DC@merthyr.gov.uk

Dyddiad
Date

5 June 2026

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

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Ebost
Email:

cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Drive-thru restaurant with associated parking, servicing, landscaping and engineering works, Cyfarthfa Retail Park, North Swansea Road, Merthyr Tydfil

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 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

Scheduled Monuments

GM331 Ynys Fach Iron Furnaces
GM424 Pont y Cafnau Tramroad Bridge
GM425 Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks
GM478 Gurnos Quarry Tramroad & Leat
GM479 Tai Mawr Leat for Cyfarthfa Iron Works
GM486 Iron Canal Bridge from Rhydycar
GM495 Cyfarthfa Tramroad Section at Heolgerrig
GM611 Cwm Glo pit and ironstone tip

Registered Park and Garden



PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle (grade II*)

The above designated historic assets are located inside 1km of the proposed development

The proposed development is accompanied by an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment produced by EDP. This report assesses the impact of the proposed development on designated historic assets.

The report assesses that the development application area forms part of the setting of scheduled monument GM425 Remains of Blast Furnace but in the present has no visible features indicating its historic associations and this connection is now intangible without the review of historic documentation and information boards in the area. Consequently, any contribution to the overall significance of monument derived from its wider relationship with the application site is considered to be negligible at the most.

The report 's assessment is also that the application area forms part of the setting of the grade II* registered park and garden PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle. The Castle was constructed to allow the Ironmaster to oversee the ironworks. However, in the present this view is screened by mature tree growth within the registered park and garden, and the only available views are glimpses of the scheduled ironworks furnace bank from the south-western portion of the park and from within parts of the parkland, the application area itself is screened. As the landscape has also been substantially altered by modern development and is now defined by modern built form, particularly the Cyfarthfa Retail Park, the report considers the contribution to significance made by these views no more than very minor.

Overall, the report concludes that the effect of the proposed development on these designated historic assets will be neutral. We concur with this conclusion: the proposed development will not have any significant effect on the way that either scheduled monument GM425 Remains of Blast Furnace or the grade II* registered park and garden PGW(Gm)1(MER) Cyfarthfa Castle is experienced, understood and appreciated and will not have an unacceptably damaging effect upon the settings of either or on any of the other above designated historic assets.

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.