

Planning
Wrexham County Council

Sent by email

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/2024/0309

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

22 May 2024

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

0300 025 6007

Ebost
Email:

cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir / Madam

Temporary change of use of land from agriculture to tourist/visitor, Land Adjacent to Car Park, Chirk Castle, Chirk LL14 5AF

Thank you for your letter of 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. Our assessment of the application is listed below.

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

Assessment

Scheduled Monuments

DE198 Offa's Dyke: Chirk Park Section extending 340m NE of Home Farm

Registered Parks and Gardens:

PGW(C)63(WRE) Chirk Castle

World Heritage Site

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

The application area is located inside the boundaries of the grade 1 registered Chirk Castle historic park and garden, some 130m west of scheduled monument DE198 Offa's Dyke: Chirk Park Section extending 340m NE of Home Farm and on the identified buffer zone of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. These designated historic assets are acknowledged in the supporting documents to the application.

The area proposed for temporary use lies adjacent to the visitor car park. It will be used for the Summer of Play, in which straw bales will be placed to resemble a castle structure, as described in the supporting Planning Statement. It is intended to construct a temporary fence during the use of the land and all installations will be removed by the end of the Summer of Play use.



The Planning Statement also confirms that no trees, or any root protection area, are located within the proposal area. Therefore, trees of historic significance to the RHPG will be unaffected. There is however a copse of mature trees nearby which screens the proposed temporary play area in views to and from Chirk Castle and whilst it will be visible from the scheduled monument, it will be screened by existing vegetation and seen over the existing car park. As such it will have an adverse impact on the registered historic park and garden and the setting of the scheduled monument, but this will only be for a short period before it is removed. Consequently, in our opinion, any effect on the identified designated historic assets will not be long-term and Cadw will not object subject to all the temporary works being removed at the end of the temporary consent

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Smith
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.