

Planning Services
Wrexham CBC

By E-Mail

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/2024/0004

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

13 February 2024

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

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Ebost
Email:

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Widening of an existing road, removal of an existing hedge and creating a polytunnel flat platform at the Crematorium, Pentre Bychan.

Thank you for your letter 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 regard 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

DE137 Offa's Dyke: Pentre-Bychan Hall Section, extending 540m S from Bron-Wylfa

The application area is located immediately adjacent to scheduled monument DE137 Offa's Dyke: Pentre-Bychan Hall Section, extending 540m S from Bron-Wylfa.

Offa's Dyke is a boundary earthwork, consisting of a bank and ditch, believed to be of Early Medieval date running, with some gaps, for roughly 120km through the border area between modern Wales and England from Sedbury near Chepstow to Treuddyn in Flintshire. It is traditionally thought to have been built by the Mercian King Offa in the later 8th century, but recent excavations on a section near Chirk suggest that some sections may incorporate earlier earthworks. Whilst its exact function and original form are still the subject of debate Offa's Dyke is significant as the longest and one of the earliest surviving boundary monuments in Europe marking a nominal frontier between Saxon Mercia and Welsh kingdoms to the west. It represents one of the great engineering achievements of the pre-industrial age and the most dramatic built structure to survive from the early medieval (c410-1100)

period. Offa's Dyke is scheduled in multiple different sections on both sides of the present border. These display their own local physical characteristics but all share and contribute to the overall significance of the monument and have potential to enhance our knowledge of the monument as a whole. Significant views are towards the west looking towards the likely direction of any attack.

The application area is currently used as a garden nursery with a number of existing polytunnels. The proposed development will see the formation of a flat platform for a large polytunnel in an area where polytunnels are already located, along with the widening of the access road which will require the removal of a hedge. These changes will be visible from the scheduled monument but are not in the significant view and whilst they will cause a slight change to the views from Offa's Dyke, they will not alter the way that it is experienced, understood and appreciated. Consequently, the proposals will not have an impact on the setting of scheduled monument DE137.

Yours sincerely

Nick Segust

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.