



Glandŵr Cymru
Canal & River Trust in Wales

Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
16 Lord Street
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Your Ref P/2022/1080

Our Ref CRTR-PLAN-2024-41000
CRTR-PLAN-2023-40129
CRTR-PLAN-2023-39544
CRTR-PLAN-2023-37982

Thursday 7 March 2024

Dear Gwyn Humphreys,

Proposal: Amended Plans - Construction of new access road, lorry park, weighbridge and building, car park, facilities block, roundwood storage areas, 132 KV Substation and ancillary works

Location: Kronospan Ltd, Holyhead Road, Chirk

Waterway: Llangollen Canal

Thank you for your consultation.

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 76 miles of canals in Wales. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of Wales. The Trust is known as Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales and we are a statutory consultee in the Development Management process.

Glandŵr Cymru previously provided comments on this application and we would ask that the further comments below are read in conjunction with these previous comments.

We have reviewed your consultation, and this is our substantive response (as required by the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended)). Glandŵr Cymru as a statutory consultee has **no new concerns in relation to the development or its potential impact on the Llangollen Canal.**

Woodland Management Plan

As previously advised, we have been in discussion with the applicant in relation to a proposed woodland management plan for the tree stock which Glandŵr Cymru own along the canal corridor in the vicinity of the site. It is understood that the intention is for a final woodland management plan to be secured via a planning obligation. If Glandŵr Cymru are required to be a signatory to an agreement, we would expect all our legal costs to be met in full. As set out within the document the costs and funding mechanism have not yet been established or agreed.

On further review of the draft Woodland Management document there are a few minor points to raise/clarify:

Canal & River Trust Planning Team

Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port South Pier Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4FW
T: 0151 355 5017 E: nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: canalrivertrust.org.uk

- Within the document we should be referred to as either 'Glandŵr Cymru' or 'the Trust', not as CRT. Where we are referred to in full we are Canal & River Trust (with an ampersand not 'and')
- Paragraph 4.2.2 – notes that regular surveys will be carried out by a 'chartered arboriculturist'. This should just be 'arboriculturist' and we would also require the word 'regular' to be removed. Generally, the Trust carry out a tree survey every 2 years to identify high priority trees which will be actioned the following winter. The next planned survey is Summer 2025.
- Section 4.3 and within the document there are several references to the 'Chartered Ecologist.' We would suggest this wording is changed to the 'Ecologist,' as not all our ecologists have chartered status.
- Paragraph 5.2.20 - regarding arisings remaining onsite. As the works are mainly on a cutting arisings would normally be removed offsite, as our engineers generally do not permit them to stay onsite at embankments and cuttings as they can hinder inspection.
- Paragraph 6.1.1 instead of an annual site inspection to review, we consider this should be every two years to better align with the tree survey frequency and likely works that would be taking place on the site.

We note that additional off-site landscape planting is shown on drawing 3046-01-ENG-04, this planting would be along the offside of the canal. Based on the plan it would appear that the planting is offset from the edge of the canal. It would be important that any new planting here is offset from the canal edge by a minimum of 5m. The species mix is considered to be acceptable. We would however not recommend the planting of Salix (Willow) species or Alnus (Alder) in close proximity to the canal due to the invasive nature of their root systems and the potential for damage to the canal infrastructure. These species should be planted at least 10m from the edge of the canal.

Conservation Management Plan

Glandŵr Cymru have not been engaged in the preparation of this document and quite rightly it is a matter for Cadw to be satisfied that this document is satisfactory and sufficiently robust. We have no comments to make on the document and would defer to Cadw.

Table of Issues

We note the response to consultation table that has been provided and in terms of the matters attributed to Glandŵr Cymru, we have reviewed these and note that no actions or matters related to our concerns are outstanding.

For us to monitor effectively our role as a statutory consultee, please send me a copy of the decision notice and the requirements of any planning obligation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Bettany-Simmons MRTPI
Area Planner

Tim.Bettany-Simmons@canalrivertrust.org.uk
07342 057926

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>

Canal & River Trust Planning Team

Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port South Pier Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4FW
T: 0151 355 5017 E: nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: canalrivertrust.org.uk