



Glandŵr
Cymru

The Canal & River Trust in Wales

Monday 30 April 2018

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

Our Ref	CRTR-PLAN-2018-24635
Your Ref	P/2017/0699

Dear Mr Hughes,

Proposal: Amended Plans - Development of a log delivery and transfer system and building to house a replacement wood chipping and flaking system and demolition of existing debarking and chipping facilities

Location: Kronospan Ltd, Holyhead Road, Chirk

Waterway: Llangollen Canal

Thank you for your consultation.

Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales, cares for Wales' historic canals, made up of the Swansea, Llangollen, Montgomery and Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals. Our canals perform many different functions and are a haven for people and wildlife and a national treasure. We are a statutory consultee in the development management process.

Having reviewed the amended application consultation our substantive response under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012, as amended, is as follows:

Glandŵr Cymru previously provided comments in our letter dated 22nd September 2017 (our ref: CRTR-PLAN-2017-23106). In that response we raised principle concerns in terms of the impact on the character and appearance of the waterway corridor. We shall not reiterate the concerns again but refer the Council to this previous letter.

The scheme has been amended as set out within the planning statement addendum at paragraph 3.1.1; this includes the reduction in the scale and height of the development and the colour of the cladding. The reduction in the scale and height of the development is to be welcomed. The submitted viewpoints N and M (along the towpath) shows the impact of the proposed development would be reduced when viewed from the canal corridor from that previously proposed.

In terms of the colour, we welcome the colour study that has been undertaken by the applicant. It is understood that olive green is proposed for the building, whilst the crane arm would be goosewing grey. Clearly during the winter months, with no vegetation in leaf, the olive green

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may appear more prominent. It would have been useful to see the visualisation through the seasons to be able to fully assess the impact. The applicant proposes to leave the crane as goosewing grey, we would agree that it would be most appropriate to match the existing plant on the site which the crane arm would be viewed against. Indeed, it may be more appropriate to use the goosewing grey across the whole of the proposed development as this would give a consistent finish across the site (although it looks to be a different shade from the adjacent structures in the photo montage). We would ask the Council to satisfy itself in terms of the colour which would have the least impact on World Heritage Site. We would ask that the colour is conditioned as part of the consent and its ongoing maintenance.

It is noted at paragraph 3.1.2 of the planning statement that the applicant no longer intends to carry out planting along the canal to mitigate the visual impact as part of the proposal. The applicant does however intend to carry on discussions with Glandŵr Cymru in relation to the potential for future planting. We have previously provided comments on the Landscape Strategy to provide additional planting. It would appear that most of the planting sites identified are well away from the canal and as such Glandŵr Cymru have no comments on these, apart from that in general any additional native planting to screen views of the site would be beneficial to the World Heritage Site.

One of the areas labelled as 'area F' has been identified for screening where the railway runs close to the canal and there are views across to Kronospan from the canal. It looks like area F lies on land between the back edge of towpath and the railway. The scale of plan makes it hard to exactly determine land ownership boundaries but based on these details it looks like the proposed planting would be on railway land, not Glandŵr Cymru land. National Rail have only recently removed vegetation from this land and we doubt they would want the additional maintenance which they would need to commit to undertake. Whilst such planting would have ecological benefits to the canal corridor, Glandŵr Cymru would not be in favour of planting on the immediate back edge of the towpath due to longer term maintenance concerns.

Looking at the details there may be opportunities for planting on the offside of the canal on the old golf course site provided any screening is set a long way back from the canalside edge. This however would need to be discussed with relevant landowner.

For Glandŵr Cymru to effectively monitor our role as a statutory consultee, please send me a copy of the decision notice.

If you have any queries please contact me, my details are below.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bettany-Simmons (MRTPI)
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