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Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P/2017/0416

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

NS

Dyddiad
Date

29 June 2017

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Replacement of existing wood chip facility, Kronospan Ltd, Holyhead road, Chirk, Wrexham

Thank you for your letter of 9 June 2017 inviting our comments on the above mentioned planning application.

Advice

Having carefully considered the information provided with this planning application, we have no objections to the impact of the proposed development on the scheduled monument DE175 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site Registered and Chirk Castle Historic Park and Garden. Our assessment of the application is given below.

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 circular guidance.

Mae'r Gwasanaeth Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Llywodraeth Cymru (Cadw) yn hyrwyddo gwaith cadwraeth ar gyfer amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru a gwerthfawrogiad ohono.

The Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw) promotes the conservation and appreciation of Wales's historic environment.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



PPW explains that the conservation of archaeological remains is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not. Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings 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 an adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a significantly damaging effect upon its setting.

Paragraph 17 of Circular 60/96, Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology, elaborates by explaining that there is a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains. PPW also explains that local authorities should protect parks and gardens and their settings included in the first part of the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest 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.

Assessment

The application area is in close proximity to the scheduled monument DE175 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal. However in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development the canal passes through a tunnel and a deep embankment which means that most views of the existing complex are blocked. Where the proposed development will be visible it will be seen as part of the existing complex and any additional plumes of steam will also be viewed as part of the existing processes. As such we consider that the proposed development will have a very slight adverse impact on the setting of scheduled monument DE175, however, this will not be significant.

The application area is also located some 540, east of the Registered Chirk Castle Historic Park and Garden. Intervening vegetation blocks or significantly screens most views of the existing complex. Where the proposed development will be visible, it will be seen as part of the existing complex and any additional plumes of steam will also be viewed as part of the existing processes. As such we consider that the proposed development will have a very slight adverse impact on the setting of the Registered Chirk Castle Historic Park and Garden, however, this will not be significant.

The application area is located in the essential setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. Intervening vegetation block or significantly screen most views of the existing complex from inside the World Heritage and where the proposed development will be visible it will be seen as part of the existing complex and any additional plumes of steam will also be viewed as part of the existing processes. The Kronospan complex is more visible from the higher ground in the western part of the world heritage site buffer zone. However, similarly to the direct views from the World Heritage Site, the proposed development and resultant possesses will be seen as a small addition to the existing situation. As such we consider that the proposed development will have a very slight impact on the outstanding universal values of the world heritage site.

Yours faithfully

Nick Segust
Diogelu a Pholisi/ Protection and Policy

