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Eich cyfeirnod
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Ein cyfeirnod
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2 February 2017

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Dear Sir/ Madam

Proposed development at Kronospan Ltd, Chirk

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2016 inviting our comments on the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a proposed building extension to house a new melamine facing press and associated infrastructure at the above site.

We have considered the extent to which the proposed development affects those nationally important historic assets that form the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered historic parks, gardens and landscapes, and our assessment is given below. This assessment is provided without prejudice to the final decision by the Welsh Ministers.

Planning 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. PPW explains at paragraph 6.5.5 that 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. It goes on to note at paragraph 6.5.11 that where development proposals affect a listed building or its setting, the primary consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. In addition PPW explains at paragraph 6.5.26 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.

Cadw yw gwasanaeth amgylchedd hanesyddol Llywodraeth Cymru. Ein nod yw hyrwyddo gwaith cadwraeth ar gyfer amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru a gwerthfawrogiad ohono.

Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service. Our aim is to promote 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



Assessment

The proposed extension will be located inside the boundary of the existing Kronospan complex, and is of the same height as the building it will be attached to. A close loop extraction system will be erected over a central part of the building

The western end of the proposed extension is some 200m from the boundary of scheduled monument and world heritage site known as DE175 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal.

From the south, the existing building will block views to the extension from the canal and no view of the western end of the extension will be possible as the canal passes through a cutting at that point. From the north, the closest view from the canal to the proposed extension is some 400m away, and the extension will be across the Kronospan complex with a number of buildings and other structures partly screening it. In this view, the extension will appear as part of the original building, albeit slightly closer to the viewer. The much taller close loop extraction system will be more visible but many of the closer views from the canal are blocked, as discussed above. Where it is visible, the extraction system will be seen along with other similarly scaled parts of the plant.

In conclusion, we consider that the proposed development will have an impact on the setting of the scheduled monument by increasing the amount of modern industrial processes viewed from it. However, given that the proposed development is part of the existing Kronospan complex and the only part of the proposal that will be seen as an alteration will be the close loop extraction system it will only add a very slight additional impact to the setting of the scheduled monument compared to the current situation.

Whilst the proposed development lies within the world heritage site buffer zone, we consider that the structures are unlikely to significantly affect the overall appearance of the complex, the character of this area of the world heritage site buffer zone, any sense of place or arrival to the world heritage site or its Outstanding Universal Value. We consider that the proposed development will have a very slight impact on the setting of the World Heritage Site and therefore a very slight impact on its identified Outstanding Universal Values.

The grade I registered historic park and garden at Chirk Castle PGW(C) 63 is located approximately 600m to the west of the proposed development and there will therefore be no direct impact upon it. The only part of the proposed development that will be visible from the registered historic park will be the close loop extraction system and views of this will be restricted by the local topography and existing vegetation. Where it will be visible, it will be seen along with the other similarly scaled parts of the plant and will therefore add a further modern structure into these views. However, we consider that this will constitute at most a slight additional impact on the setting of the registered historic park and garden.

Yours sincerely

Nichola Davies
Diogelu a Pholisi/ Protection and Policy