Cadw

Llywodraeth Cymru
Parc Busnes Rhydycar
Merthyr Tudful
CF48 1UZ
cadw.llyw.cymru

Welsh Government
Rhydycar Business Park
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ
cadw.gov.wales

Planning Services
Wrexham County Borough Council

By Email

Eich cyfeirnod Your reference	P/2026/0054
Ein cyfeirnod Our reference	
Dyddiad Date	12 March 2026
Llinell uniongyrchol Direct line	0300 0257894
Ebost Email:	Cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Installation of two 132kV circuits and two fibre cables between the existing SPEN Legacy to Oswestry 132kV wood pole overhead line and the Kronospan 132kV substation.

Thank you for your letter inviting our comments on the information submitted for the above planning application.

Advice

This response is based on the advice provided by Cadw's Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer.

Having carefully considered the information provided, we have no objection to the proposed development in regards 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 an Annex A.

Assessment

Scheduled Monuments
DE175 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

Registered Parks and Gardens:
PGW(C)15(WRE) Brynkinalt

World Heritage Sites:
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

The application is accompanied by a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) produced by Heritage Archaeology. This has considered the impact of the proposed development on the settings of scheduled monument DE175 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. It has concluded that it will have no impact on the setting of scheduled monument

DE175 or the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site. We concur with this conclusion.

The proposed development will have a direct impact on the grade II* registered Brynkinalt historic park and garden. Brynkinalt is registered for its historic interest as a large, picturesque landscape park, laid out in the nineteenth century and providing the setting to the house and its gardens. The grounds incorporate an unusual tunnel to the kitchen garden. Brynkinalt also has historical associations with the Trevor family.

The assessment explains that the proposed development includes two Horizontal Directional Drills (HDD) at Brynkinalt, one to take the cables below the A5 and the other to avoid any direct impacts to the walled kitchen garden tunnel. The compound and pit locations required for the HDD are located to the west and east of the A5.

To the west, the compound and pits will be in the layby on Colliery Road. There will be a short term, temporary impact during the construction period which will be fully reversed following reinstatement of the site.

To the east, the compound and pit is on agricultural land with good parkland character and adjacent woodland. The cable route is close to the woodland; no tree removal is proposed. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment recommends Arboricultural mitigation measures and notes the potential requirement to remove two sycamores. If replacement planting is required, species choice must reflect the historic character of the parkland. The assessment predicts a temporary minor adverse effect as a result of the HDD pit to the east of the A5.

The HDD pits for the kitchen garden tunnel crossing will be within the existing highway. The tunnel and the stone wall on the north side of the road will not be impacted by the proposal. The HEDBA recommends additional safeguarding measures, including signage and a toolbox talk, to explain the heritage values of the roadside wall and tunnel to ensure avoidance of physical impacts to these important features of the park. We concur with these recommendations and conclusions.

Yours sincerely

Nick Segust
Case Officer
Historic Environment Inspectorate

Cadw

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.

PPWgov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/planning-policy-wales-edition-12.pdfexplains 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.