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Planning Services
Wrexham County Borough Council

By Email

Eich cyfeirnod Your reference	P/2026/0098
Ein cyfeirnod Our reference	
Dyddiad Date	19 March 2026
Llinell uniongyrchol Direct line	0300 0257894
Ebost Email:	Cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application – Construction of new path and associated landscaping, Chirk Castle, Chirk LL14 5AF

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

PGW(C)63(WRE) Chirk Castle

The proposed path is located inside the grade I registered Chirk Castle historic park and garden, registered for its outstanding landscape park, partly designed by William Emes, and its terraced and informal garden which includes remains from the medieval period onwards, all set in a fine elevated position.

The application is accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by Kathy Laws one of the National Trusts' archaeologists. The HIA explains the development of the historic park and garden concentrating on the area of the Drying Court where the new path will be created. It explains that the proposed path will replicate the line of a 19th century path, which may have already been disturbed by gardening activities. The proposal may reveal evidence of the original path, which will be mitigated by the reduction of the ground level being undertaken under archaeological supervision.

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We have no objection to this application.

Yours sincerely

Nick Segust
Case Officer
Historic Environment Inspectorate

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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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.