

Mr Nick Young
Natural Resources Wales

By Email

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

Ebost
Email:

CD025

19 October 2023

0300 0256004

scheduledmonuments@gov.wales

Dear Nick Young,

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT
COED ALLT- FEDW CAMP (CD025)**

1. Introduction

1.1 Thank you for your application of 21 August 2023 to Cadw for scheduled monument consent for works to fallen trees at the above scheduled monument.

1.2 Cadw is a Department within the Welsh Government that undertakes the statutory functions of the Welsh Ministers in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

1.3 Each application for scheduled monument consent is considered on its own merits in accordance with *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* ([Conservation Principles](#)) and Annex A of *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* ([TAN 24](#)). In particular, TAN 24 explains that the main purpose of scheduling is to ensure the preservation of ancient monuments and, when considering an application for scheduled monument consent, 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 remains.

2 Assessment

2.1. Your application and supporting documentation has been assessed by our Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments who has recommended that conditional scheduled monument consent should be approved for (i) chipping of surface deadwood, tree-stumps and some raised root-plates using a low ground pressure tracked machine with a front-mounted mulching head, (ii) cutting and collection of vegetation using a low ground pressure machine, (iii) depositing the chipped material on site, and (iv) manual cutting and removal of woody material from earthworks. The reasons for the Inspector's conclusions are set out in **Annex A** of this letter.

2.2. I have carefully considered the impact of the proposed development on the scheduled monument and its setting in light of the advice that I have received from our Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments. I have no reason to disagree with the advice of our Regional Inspector and am satisfied that his recommendation is consistent with the objectives of Conservation Principles and TAN 24.

3. Decision

3.1. Accordingly, I hereby approve conditional scheduled monument consent for the proposed works as outlined in section 1.1.

3.2. In reaching this decision, I have taken into account the requirement of sections 3 and 5 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. I consider that this decision is in accordance with the Act's sustainable development principle through its contribution towards the Welsh Ministers' well-being objective of *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language*.

3.3. Any development control issues associated with wider development will be a matter for any application for planning permission. It is the responsibility of the applicant to establish whether any further approval or consents are required for the proposed development.

4. Conditions

4.1. The following conditions are intended to protect the monument from damage or significant alteration as set out in TAN 24: *The Historic Environment* and to ensure that details of the project are archived.

- a) The applicant shall provide Cadw with reasonable advance notice of commencement of works on site and will afford access at all reasonable times to any Cadw official or archaeologist nominated by Cadw to monitor progress of the works;
- b) The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the application form, plans and documents as listed below. No variations are permitted unless they have been authorised in advance in writing by Cadw;

Number	Document / plan	Reference Number (if applicable)	Date
1	SMC application form signed by Nick Young and dated 21/08/2023		21/08/2023
2	Coed Allt Fedw SAM Overview Map Aerial.docx		21/08/2023

- c) The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with a 'Method Statement' to be submitted in advance and formally approved in writing by Cadw before work commences. The 'Method Statement' shall be adhered to

throughout the project and any variations shall be approved by Cadw prior to works commencing;

d) The method Statement shall provide for:

	INFORMATION REQUIRED	Date when information required
1	Ingress and egress of machinery and vehicle movements to minimise ground disturbance, details for how the ground surface within the scheduled area will be protected, mulching, reduction of stumps to a height just above ground level, areas where chippings / mulch to be deposited.	Before work commences.

- e) Cadw shall be invited to attend a site meeting within the first 5 working days of commencement of the project to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation/building recording;
- f) That upon completion of the project the applicant shall produce a completion report including a description the works, plan, and an annotated photographic record detailing the site before and after works took place. The draft should be sent to Cadw in digital format for approval within 25 working days of the works being completed; and
- g) Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the works shall be retained *in situ* and reported to Cadw within two working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the site affected until provision has been made for retention and/or recording of the feature by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing in advance by Cadw.

5. Compliance

5.1. Where a condition requires approval or any contact with Cadw you are advised to contact Louise Mees by email scheduledmonuments@gov.wales.

5.2. When all work has been completed and the conditions have been discharged, please complete and return the 'completion notice' at **Annex B** to Cadw. Section 2(6) of the 1979 Act provides that non-compliance with a condition attached to a grant of scheduled monument consent shall be an offence.

5.3. By virtue of Section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within 5 years from the date of this letter, the consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless it is revoked in the meantime).

5.4. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bylaw, order or regulation other than Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any such approval or consent where necessary.

6. Mechanism for Challenge

6.1 Section 55 of the 1979 Act explains that if you are aggrieved by the decision given in this letter, you may challenge its validity by applying to the High Court within six weeks from the date of my decision. Furthermore, the legislation explains that the grounds on which an application may be made to the Court are;

- a) that my decision is not within the powers of the Act (i.e. that I have exceeded the powers available under the Act); and
- b) that any of the relevant requirements set out in the Act have not been complied with and that your interest has been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply.

The 'relevant requirements' mentioned above are defined in Section 55 of the 1979 Act and it is advisable to seek legal advice before taking any action.

6.2. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

6.3 Finally, please note that your personal data is managed in compliance with the [General Data Protection Regulations](#).

Yours sincerely,

Denise Harris
Casework Manager
under authority of the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, one of the Welsh Ministers

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT
COED ALLT-FEDW CAMP (CD025)
INSPECTOR'S ADVICE**

1. Policy Context

- 1.1 An application for scheduled monument consent (SMC) is considered on its own merits in accordance with *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* ([Conservation Principles](#)) and Annex A of *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN 24)*. [In particular, TAN 24 explains that the main purpose of scheduling is to ensure the preservation of ancient monuments and,](#) when considering an application for SMC, 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 remains. Therefore, applicants are expected to demonstrate that no practicable alternative route or location, avoiding the scheduled area, exists and that the need to undertake works outweighs the presumption in favour of the protection of the scheduled monument.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government's six principles for sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales are also used as a guide when considering applications for scheduled monument consent. These are:
- Historic assets will be managed to sustain their values.
 - Understanding the significance of historic assets is vital.
 - The historic environment is a shared resource.
 - Everyone will be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment.
 - Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent.
 - Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.

2. COED ALLT-FEDW CAMP (CD025)

- 2.1 The monument comprises the remains of a hillfort, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (c. 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). Hillforts are usually located on hilltops and surrounded by a single or multiple earthworks of massive proportions. Hillforts must have formed symbols of power within the landscape, while their function may have had as much to do with ostentation and display as defence. Coed Allt Fedw Camp occupies a ridge top position with the easiest approach from the west. It is an oval defended enclosure, measuring c.84m north-east to south-west by 56m. The ramparts are only clearly defined at the east and west ends and for a short distance at the west end of the north side; in these areas they reach up to 3m high externally. Elsewhere the steep natural slopes probably made large earthwork defences less necessary.

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail.

The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

Key views from the hillfort extend in an arc from NW through E to SW. When constructed it is likely that the fort was located to command views for defensive purposes and to be viewed from afar to dominate the local landscape.

The key values of this monument include the physical remains of the hillfort and high potential for buried remains (evidential value); the site illustrates prehistoric settlement (historical value); it is possible to move freely through the site, which is publicly accessible, and appreciate the form and function of the monument (communal/aesthetic value); and today the monument is a pleasant and tranquil place (communal/aesthetic value).

The most recent Cadw inspection of the monument was undertaken in 2021. At that time the monument and areas cleared of wind-blow (undertaken with SMC) were inspected by the Cadw FMW and NRW officer. The Cadw / NRW SM Management Plan was revised following the visit.

3. The Application

- 3.1 This application for scheduled monument consent involves (i) chipping of surface deadwood, tree-stumps and some raised root-plates using a low ground pressure tracked machine with a front-mounted mulching head, (ii) cutting and collection of vegetation using a low ground pressure machine, (iii) depositing the chipped material on site, and (iv) manual cutting and removal of woody material from earthworks.

4. Assessment

- 4.1 The applicant has submitted a carefully designed proposal for works produced in consultation with Cadw regional Field Monument Warden.
- 4.2 The proposed works have potential to affect the physical remains and appearance of the monument. The appearance of the monument will be improved by removing woody vegetation and debris from windblow. Spreading mulched material thinly over the ground surface will have a negligible effect on the form of the monument and will enable the area to be mown or grazed and managed in future as an open hilltop. In the long term this will improve the appearance of and accessibility to the monument.

- 4.3 The SMC application includes for 'stump grinding'. During a telephone call on 17/10/2023 the applicant confirmed to the IAM writing this advice that the correct term is 'stump lowering to just above ground level'. Careful use of low impact machinery will reduce the risk of causing vehicle damage to physical remains: any risk can be eliminated by ensuring that a method statement is supplied to and approved by Cadw and that NRW monitor the work.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 I recommend that the applicant is granted scheduled monument consent subject to the following conditions:

6. Proposed Conditions

- 6.1 The applicant shall provide Cadw with reasonable advance notice of commencement of works on site and will afford access at all reasonable times to any Cadw official or archaeologist nominated by Cadw to monitor progress of the works.
- 6.2 The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the application form, plans and documents as listed below. No variations are permitted unless they have been authorised in advance in writing by Cadw.

Number	Document / plan	Reference Number (if applicable)	Date
1	SMC application form signed by Nick Young and dated 21/08/2023		21/08/2023
2	Coed Allt Fedw SAM Overview Map Aerial.docx		21/08/2023

- 6.3 The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with a 'Method Statement' to be submitted in advance and formally approved in writing by Cadw before work commences. The 'Method Statement' shall be adhered to throughout the project and any variations shall be approved by Cadw prior to works commencing.
- 6.4 The Method Statement shall provide for:

	INFORMATION REQUIRED	Date when information required
1	Ingress and egress of machinery and vehicle movements to minimise ground disturbance, details for how the ground surface within the scheduled area will be protected, mulching, reduction of stumps to a height just above ground level, areas where chippings / mulch to be deposited.	Before work commences.

- 6.14 Cadw shall be invited to attend a site meeting within the first 5 working days of commencement of the project to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation/building recording.
- 6.15 That upon completion of the project the applicant will produce a completion report including a description the works, plan, and an annotated photographic record detailing the site before and after works took place. The draft should be sent to Cadw in digital format for approval within 25 working days of the works being completed.
- 6.16 Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the works shall be retained *in situ* and reported to Cadw within two working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the site affected until provision has been made for retention and/or recording of the feature by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing in advance by Cadw.

Name of Inspector: Louise Mees

Date: 17/10/2023

COMPLETION NOTICE**Name of Monument: COED ALLT- FEDW CAMP****Monument Number: CD025**

Conditions	Date	Signature
Notice of commencement		
The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the application form, plans and documents as listed.		
The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with a 'Method Statement' to be submitted in advance and formally approved in writing by Cadw before work commences.		
Cadw shall be invited to attend a site meeting within the first 5 working days of commencement of the project to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation/building recording.		
Completion of works on site		
That upon completion of the project the applicant will produce a completion report including a description the works, plan, and an annotated photographic record detailing the site before and after works took place. The draft should be sent to Cadw in digital format for approval within 25 working days of the works being completed.		
Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the works shall be retained in situ and reported to Cadw within two working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the site affected until provision has been made for retention and/or recording of the feature by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing in advance by Cadw.		

Applicant Name:

Signature:

When all work has been completed and the conditions have been discharged, please complete and return this completion notice to Cadw at scheduledmonuments@gov.wales