

David Hart
The National Trust

By email

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

Ebost
Email:

CM208

8 March 2024

0300 0256004

scheduledmonuments@gov.wales

Dear David Hart,

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT
DOLAUCOTHI GOLD MINES (CM208)**

1. Introduction

1.1 Thank you for your application of 6 December 2024 to Cadw for scheduled monument consent for Dolaucothi Riverwalk Access Work 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 Dolaucothi Riverwalk Access Work. 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 shall 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 Dai Hart and dated 06/12/2023		06/12/2023
2	Dolaucothi Riverwalk Access Work - 233250289_13881412_3098505		06/12/2023
3	Work in scheduled monument area - Dolaucothi		24/01/2023
4	Bill of Quantities - 233250289_13881412_3098539		06/12/2023

- 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	Removal of existing path surface (if using machinery only a toothless digger bucket is permitted), details of site compound (to be located beyond the scheduled area, how all vehicle movements will avoid the scheduled area beyond the existing path, for the drain excavation work to be undertaken by hand, and for like for like materials to be installed.	Before work commences in the scheduled area.

- e) That only like for like works are undertaken. Any alterations to the existing arrangements and materials, beyond those included in the application for SMC, require approval from Cadw in advance of the works being undertaken;
- f) No works, including site clearance, shall commence until Cadw has been informed in writing of the name of an appropriately qualified archaeologist operating to ClfA published standards and guidance¹ who is to be present to undertake a watching brief for any works or operation occurring within the scheduled area. No work shall commence until Cadw has confirmed in writing that the proposed archaeologist is acceptable;
- g) A digital copy of the draft watching brief report shall be submitted to Cadw for approval 8 weeks of the archaeological fieldwork being completed²;
- h) A digital copy of the approved watching brief report shall be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record of Wales to be incorporated into these public records³, and the applicant shall inform Cadw when this has been completed;
- i) Cadw shall be invited 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;
- j) That upon completion of the project the applicant shall produce a completion report including an annotated photographic record detailing the site before, during and after works took place and including final versions of plans and

¹ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa> .

² Cadw will retain a copy of the watching brief report for our records.

³ Cadw requires formal confirmation of report deposit to discharge condition.

elevations as built. The draft should be sent to Cadw in digital format for approval within 25 working days of the works being completed; and

- k) 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
DOLAUCOTHI GOLD MINES (CM208)**

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. Dolaucothi Gold Mines (CM208)

2.1 CM208 Dolaucothi Gold Mines

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Monument:

The monument consists of the remains of a gold mine, dating initially to the Roman period (1st to 4th century AD), but with further phases of activity, of which those in the later 19th and early 20th century are best attested. The main focus of the mines lies in and around a saddle on the northern slopes of a range of hills running north-east to south-west, known as Allt Ogofau to the south-west of the mines and Allt Cwmhenog to the north-east. The most obvious feature here is a large opencast working, within which the various

features of the present day visitor centre are housed. This opencast is likely to be of Roman date and was originally at least 10m deeper than at present, with passages leading into underground workings at its base. Further opencast workings, trenches and adits are visible at various points along the hills to either side of the main opencast, running altogether for a total of about 1km. The early workings were fed with water by at least one and probably more aqueducts, the main one of which ran 11km down the Cothi valley from Pwll Uffern Cothi (scheduled as CM200). Various features around the mine area have been postulated as related to the use of this water for different mining and processing activities. The most obvious are two tanks at the lower end of the main aqueduct, which lie to the east of the Caio road; the waste water would have flowed away southwards from here. Crushed material which probably relates to early exploitation extends widely across the floodplain to the north-west of the workings, and the 'Carreg Pumsaint', a rectangular stone with hollows along its sides, is likely to have been used in the crushing process.

The modern phases of mining were focused below and to the east of the main opencast, with adits driven into the hillside at two points (later linked by a vertical internal shaft) and underground workings leading off a shaft in the main opencast area. Three different foci of processing were used; the earliest lay on the hillside to the east of the main opencast, the second in the south-eastern corner of the opencast itself, while that used in the final phase in the 1930s was constructed on the hillside to the south, near Pen-lan-wen, and reached by an incline from the shaft area. Tailings from this phase were deposited to the south of the workings and would have drained to the south-east.

2.2 The heritage values of these areas are summarised below:

Evidential value:

Dolaucothi Gold Mines is the only known example of a Roman gold mine in Britain. These nationally unique remains are also of international significance.

Historic Value:

A well-preserved example of a Roman gold mining complex associated with the Roman fort, documented by the Romans, which demonstrates Roman technology and the impact of the Roman conquest on Wales. Subsequent modern phases of mining in the 19th and 20th centuries reflects the viability of the mine, ownership, and academic interest.

Aesthetic Value:

The unique and well preserved below ground features and above ground industrial landscape enable visitors to understand and appreciate Roman and modern mining activity at the site.

Communal Value:

The monument, located within a publicly accessible National Trust property, is well visited by the local community and tourists. Dolaucothi Gold Mines is a popular destination and brings economic benefits to the local community.

3. The Application

- 3.1 This application for scheduled monument consent includes (i) Dolaucothi Riverwalk Access Work - renew surfacing of existing path network between the Gold Mines car park to the walled garden area of Dolaucothi Farm: lift existing drainage pipes, resetting and back filling.
- 3.2 The applicant (Dai Hart, National Trust) has provided maps showing the locations of the area to be worked upon and a bill of quantities. In advance of submission of the application I (IAM Louise Mees) attended a site meeting to inspect the Dolaucothi Riverwalk Access Work.

4. Assessment

- 4.1 The applicant proposes to renew the surface of the existing path network between the Gold Mines car park and the walled garden area of Dolaucothi Farm. The work includes lifting existing drainage pipes, resetting and back filling. The proposed works are mainly located beyond the scheduled area. Section A of the path, c. 30m long, and drain 1 are located within the NE corner of the scheduled area of Dolaucothi Gold Mines. The proposed works will affect modern surfaces, materials, and previously disturbed areas where the existing path and drain have been installed.
- 4.2 It is unlikely that the works will affect physical remains (evidential values) of the monument. The work involves maintenance of existing paths and drains, therefore not changing aesthetic values. The work will maintain public access and thus benefit communal values.
- 4.3 The slight risk that inadvertent damage could potentially affect archaeological remains can be averted by attaching conditions to the consent for using a toothless digger bucket, for the drain excavation work to be undertaken by hand, a watching brief and stop clause.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 I recommend that SMC is granted for the above listed works according 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.

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1	SMC application form signed by Dai Hart and dated 06/12/2023		06/12/2023
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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	Removal of existing path surface (if using machinery only a toothless digger bucket is permitted), details of site compound (to be located beyond the scheduled area, how all vehicle movements will avoid the scheduled area beyond the existing path, for the drain excavation work to be undertaken by hand, and for like for like materials to be installed.	Before work commences in the scheduled area.

6.5 That only like for like works are undertaken. Any alterations to the existing arrangements and materials, beyond those included in the application for SMC, require approval from Cadw in advance of the works being undertaken.

6.6 No works, including site clearance, shall commence until Cadw has been informed in writing of the name of an appropriately qualified archaeologist operating to ClfA published standards and guidance⁴ who is to be present to undertake a watching brief for any works or operation occurring within the scheduled area. No work shall commence until Cadw has confirmed in writing that the proposed archaeologist is acceptable.

6.7 A digital copy of the draft watching brief report shall be submitted to Cadw for approval 8 weeks of the archaeological fieldwork being completed⁵.

⁴ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa> .

⁵ Cadw will retain a copy of the watching brief report for our records.

- 6.8 A digital copy of the approved watching brief report shall be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record of Wales to be incorporated into these public records⁶, and the applicant shall inform Cadw when this has been completed.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 That upon completion of the project the applicant will produce a completion report including an annotated photographic record detailing the site before, during and after works took place and including final versions of plans and elevations as built. The draft should be sent to Cadw in digital format for approval within 25 working days of the works being completed.
- 6.11 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: 07/03/2024

⁶ Cadw requires formal confirmation of report deposit to discharge condition.

COMPLETION NOTICE**Name of Monument: DOLAUCOTHI GOLD MINES****Monument Number: CM208**

Conditions	Date	Signature
Notice of commencement of works		
Cadw shall be invited attend a site meeting within the first 5 working days of commencement of the project		
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.		
That only like for like works are undertaken.		
No works, including site clearance, shall commence until Cadw has been informed in writing of the name of an appropriately qualified archaeologist operating to ClfA published standards and guidance		
A digital copy of the draft watching brief report shall be submitted to Cadw for approval 8 weeks of the archaeological fieldwork being completed		
A digital copy of the approved watching brief report shall be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record of Wales to be incorporated into these public records		

That upon completion of the project the applicant shall produce a completion report		
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		

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