

Yesterday we received an email from Mr Ben Lewis MRTPI, Director at Renplan Planning Consultants, asking us to update our comments to PINS with a further consultation response once we have had the opportunity to review the *Heritage and Setting Impact Assessment* prepared by Archaeology Wales (report no. 1854a, March 2020).

Such reports often only assess the potential visual impact of development on the setting of designated historic assets and we initially considered (08<sup>th</sup> September) that a desk-based assessment was also required in order to assess potential direct impact of the development on archaeological deposits and visual impact on the setting of non-designated historic assets. However, following a closer look at the Archaeology Wales report, we are satisfied that the historic environment has been sufficiently addressed.

This report concludes that two of the three areas of the proposed development will potentially have an adverse visual impact on the setting of several designated historic assets including the scheduled monuments (GM386 and GM513) on Graig Fawr. We advise that further consultation with Cadw is required over this issue.

Furthermore, the report considers that the proposed development of the solar farms and associated structures will undoubtedly impact upon the evidential and historical value of the site itself, by removing archaeological potential. It is suggested that this may be mitigated through implementing an appropriate level of archaeological recording, as occurred at the near-by Clawdd Du solar farm, where an archaeological condition was attached to consent. This comprised a geophysical survey before commencement of the development and an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks. We concur with these findings.

We have responded (17<sup>th</sup> September) to the planning application DNS/00427 in similar fashion and have recommended that an archaeological condition should be placed on planning consent, if forthcoming, in line with sections 6.1.23 and 6.1.27 of Planning Policy Wales (ed.10, 2018) and Sections 4.13 and 4.14 of TAN 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

Yours sincerely

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I am currently working from home and as such not contactable on the phone. If you need to get in touch, please email me and I will respond as quickly as possible.



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