

# PHILIP HUMPHREYS ARCHITECTS

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PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL BUILDING AND ACCESS TRACK,  
BRYN DERWEN MOTTE AND BAILEY, ABERMULE.

## STATEMENT

*August 2023*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This statement forms part of a planning application to construct an agricultural building and stone track at Bryn Derwen motte and bailey site in Abermule.

The work comes within the boundary of Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle, which is a scheduled ancient monument Ref. MG054. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted subject to conditions (see appendix 3)

The application is made up as follows :-

1. Drawing numbers 1073/23/1-3
2. Completed application form
3. Statement.

### **Setting**

The application site is located to the north of Brynderwen motte and bailey on high ground above the River Severn.

### **The Need**

An agricultural building is required to provide shelter for livestock grazing the land together with areas to store fodder and associated equipment.

### **Proposals**

It is proposed to locate the building on high ground to the north of the Motte and Bailey. This is the only available level ground which does not interfere with the mote and bailey and is not in the flood zone.

The building will have a steel portal frame with anthracite grey box profile roofing sheets and Yorkshire boarding to the external walls above 1200mm high concrete panels. The building will measure 9.14m x 18.4m with an eaves height of 4.88m and ridge height of 6.78m.

It is proposed to construct a track in crushed Criggion stone on Terram geotextile fabric from the new building to a new access onto the main road near Cae Brynderwen, which was granted planning permission in 2022 Ref. 22/1528/FUL. The access will be constructed in accordance with the approved drawings.

**Surface Water Drainage** :- All rainwater from the building will go to soakaways. The access track will be porous and self draining.

### **Ecology and Biodiversity**

A barn owl nesting box will be fixed to one of the trees in the north east corner of the site (see drawing 1073/23 /2).

## LISTING DESCRIPTION OF MOTTE AND BAILEY

**Entry Name:** Bryn-Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle

**Scheduled Date:**

**Source:** Cadw

**Source ID:** 3776

**Cadw Legacy ID:** MG054

**Schedule Class:** Defence

**Category:** Motte & Bailey

**Period:** Medieval

**County:** Powys

**Community:** Llandyssil (Llandysul)

**Built-Up Area:** Abermule

**Traditional County:** Montgomeryshire

### Description

The monument comprises the remains of a motte and bailey castle, a military stronghold built during the medieval period. A motte and bailey castle comprises a large conical or pyramidal mound of soil or stone (the motte) surrounded by, or adjacent to, one or more embanked enclosures (the bailey). Both may be surrounded by wet or dry ditches and could be further strengthened with palisades, revetments, and/or a tower on top of the motte.

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive organisation. The well-preserved monument forms an important element within the wider medieval context and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information 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.

# APPENDIX 1

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Aerial view of site



# APPENDIX 2



LOCATION PLAN

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979**  
**APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT**  
**MG054 Bryn Derwen Motte and Bailey Castle**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 I refer to your application of 28 February 2023 to Cadw for scheduled monument consent for works at the above scheduled monument.

The application for scheduled monument consent involves the construction of a Terram and crushed Criggion stone track leading from the consented new access at the southern corner of the field, around the eastern and northern edges of the scheduled area to a proposed agricultural building outside and to the north of the scheduled area

- 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 I have attached at Annex A the assessment of the application that has been undertaken by our Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments who has recommended that conditional scheduled monument consent should be approved for the works.
- 2.2 I have carefully considered the advice of our Regional Inspector and I have no reason to disagree with the assessment and am also satisfied that the recommendation to approve the works is consistent with the objectives of Conservation Principles and TAN24.

**3. Proposed Decision**

- 3.1 I am therefore minded to grant conditional scheduled monument consent for the proposed works, strictly in accordance with the application form dated 28 February 2023 and the accompanying documents.

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 It is the responsibility of the applicant to establish whether any further approval or consents are required for the proposed works.

#### 4. Proposed Conditions

4.1 The following proposed conditions are intended to protect the monument from damage or significant alteration as set out in *TAN 24: The Historic Environment* and 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 forms, 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 Abbie Barrett and dated 28/02/2023		28/02/2023
2	Site plan		04/04/2023
3	Site plan showing line of track		07/07/2023
4	E mail dated 07/06/2023 from Abbie Barrett confirming track width and construction		07/07/2023

- c) That Cadw's regional Field monument Warden ([Fiona.grant@gov.wales](mailto:Fiona.grant@gov.wales)) or Inspector ([will.davies@gov.wales](mailto:will.davies@gov.wales)) shall be invited to a pre-start meeting to mark out the maximum extent of the track on the ground in order to avoid incidental damage to any upstanding earthworks. No works are to commence on site until the route has been marked out;
- d) That upon completion of the project the applicant shall produce a brief digital photographic record of the affected areas of the site before and after construction works for Cadw's records. A digital copy of the record shall be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust [Historic Environment Record – Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust \(cpat.org.uk\)](http://HistoricEnvironmentRecord-Clwyd-PowysArchaeologicalTrust.cpat.org.uk) to be incorporated into this public record<sup>1</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> Cadw requires formal confirmation of report deposit to discharge this condition

- e) The applicant shall ensure that all on-site contractors and staff are made fully aware that the area of works forms part of a Scheduled Monument that is protected from damage under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979 (as amended by the Historic Environment Wales Act, 2016). The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that the contractor does not undertake any work affecting the Scheduled Area other than those works covered by this consent and that the contractor adheres to all conditions specified within this consent.

## 5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Where a condition requires approval or any contact with Cadw you are advised to contact Will Davies by email [scheduledmonuments@gov.wales](mailto:scheduledmonuments@gov.wales).
- 5.2 Please complete and return the form at Annex B within 28 days of the date of this letter. If you accept the proposed conditions, I will arrange to issue the final decision but please note that work must not start until you have received the final decision **and complied with the pre-commencement condition**. Otherwise, you will be in contravention of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- 5.3 If you object to one or more of the proposed conditions, please return the form at Annex B providing reasons for your objection. We will then contact you with details of the next steps. For example, this could involve us arranging for your case to be considered by the Planning Inspectorate either at a public local inquiry, a hearing or by way of an exchange of written representations.
- 5.4 Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.
- 5.5 Finally, please note that your personal data is managed in compliance with the [General Data Protection Regulations](#).

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Smith  
Casework Manager  
under authority of the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip, one of the Welsh Ministers

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979  
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT**

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**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. MG054 Bryn Derwen Motte and Bailey Castle**

2.1 The remains of an earth and timber castle on a level terrace above the south bank of the Severn, the large raised, embanked earthwork enclosure being assumed to represent the bailey of an apparently large, dug-away motte to the NE, of which a stretch of scheduled counterscarp bank survives. Low earthworks over a large area of level ground towards the road to the south-west may indicate the site of a second bailey in line, or associated settlement remains. The whole of the scheduled area is located within a single pasture field extending down to the level of the river, the location of the presumed former motte now lying in a different landholding. It is mostly evenly grazed but with areas of dense scrub developing on the slopes above the river. SMC was given with a watching brief

condition in 2022 for the construction of a safer access gate to the field at the southern corner of the scheduled area, outside of the slight earthwork of the possible bailey.

### 3. The Application

- 3.1 This application for scheduled monument consent involves the construction of a Terram and crushed Criggion stone track leading from the consented (but not yet built) new access at the southern corner of the field, around the eastern and northern edges of the scheduled area to a proposed agricultural building outside and to the north of the scheduled area. This will be built up over the existing ground surface and not dug in. The owner will also remove all invasive scrub and vegetation from the monument itself. The proposed building will be a sheep / lambing shed, allowing for fodder storage and will be determined by the Local Planning Authority, Cadw being a statutory consultee on potential impacts on the setting of the monument.

### 4. Assessment

- 4.1 The proposed works have been assessed according to their potential impact on the Heritage Values (*historic, evidential, aesthetic, communal*) of the monument, as set out in Conservation Principles (Cadw 2011).

The track will be a maximum of 3.7m in width (e mail doc. 4) and will be entirely raised above the existing ground surface on a protective layer of Terram. It's line will hug the border of the field away from upstanding earthworks and along the fringes of the scheduled area and unlikely to have a significant impact on any buried archaeology and the **evidential value** of the monument. It will however cut across the denuded junction between the main upstanding enclosure and a stretch of bank extending from it to the north-east into a neighbouring property, which is assumed to be associated with the former motte. While this section of track will not affect buried archaeology it will create a visual separation between the bank and the main earthworks, which will add to the overall aesthetic impact of the track on the monument and its immediate setting. The track will serve the proposed new upstanding shed to the north, which will have its own impact on the setting of the monument, although this will need to be assessed through the planning process due to its location outside of the scheduled area. The applicant has been aware that the structure should be located as far from the scheduled area as possible to reduce such impacts.

The introduction of the track itself will have a visual impact on the monument as a new feature within the field it but will be of a common agricultural type, following the topography of the site and running immediately alongside modern boundary fences, that to the north over 1.5m high and of semi-industrial appearance. The division between the enclosure and the bank to the north-east has already been established by the existing property boundary. In my view the track will therefore have a minor to moderate impact on the **aesthetic value** of the monument as it will be peripheral to and will not significantly affect the layout of the earthworks, or the overall experience of the site. Visual impacts will be offset by proposed improvements elsewhere on the site through the removal of encroaching scrub and damaging saplings from the earthworks, enabling them to be more easily viewed.

The applicant allows the field / monument to be used by locals and the village school as an outdoor space. The proposed works will therefore also have some **communal benefits** by making the earthworks more visible and aiding its continued management by grazing.

## 5. Recommendation

5.1 I recommend that scheduled monument consent is given, 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 Abbie Barrett and dated 28/02/2023		28/02/2023
2	Site plan		04/04/2023
3	Site plan showing line of track		07/07/2023
4	E mail dated 07/06/2023 from Abbie Barrett confirming track width and construction		07/07/2023

6.3 That Cadw's regional Field Monument Warden ([fiona.grant@gov.wales](mailto:fiona.grant@gov.wales) ) or Inspector ([will.davies@gov.wales](mailto:will.davies@gov.wales)) will be invited to a pre-start meeting to mark out the maximum extent of the track on the ground in order to avoid incidental damage to any upstanding earthworks. No works are to commence on site until the route has been marked out.

6.4 That upon completion of the project the applicant will produce a brief digital photographic record of the affected areas of the site before and after construction works for Cadw's records. A digital copy of the record shall be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record at the Clwyd-Powys

Archaeological Trust [Historic Environment Record – Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust \(cpat.org.uk\)](https://cpat.org.uk) to be incorporated into this public record<sup>2</sup>.

6.5 The applicant shall ensure that all on-site contractors and staff are made fully aware that the area of works forms part of a Scheduled Monument that is protected from damage under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979 (as amended by the Historic Environment Wales Act, 2016). The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that the contractor does not undertake any work affecting the Scheduled Area other than those works covered by this consent and that the contractor adheres to all conditions specified within this consent;

Name of Inspector: Will Davies

Date: 31/05/2023

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<sup>2</sup> Cadw requires formal confirmation of report deposit to discharge this condition

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979  
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT  
MG054 Bryn Derwen Motte and Bailey Castle**

\*1. I confirm that I / my client(s) **accept the proposed decision** in the letter dated 9 June 2023.

\*2. I confirm that I / my client(s) **object to the proposed decision** in the letter dated 9 June 2023.

\* Delete as Applicable

*[Please provide reasons for your objection]*

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Signature.....

(Applicant/Agent)

Print Name.....

Date.....

[scheduledmonuments@gov.wales](mailto:scheduledmonuments@gov.wales)