

From: Smith, Laura (Principal Heritage Officer) <Laura.Smith@newport.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 April 2025 17:21:52 UTC+01:00
To: "Foote, Adam (Principal Planning Officer)" <Adam.Foote@newport.gov.uk>
Subject: 25/0248 25/0249 Fourteen Locks

Hi Adam,

Thank you for consulting me on these applications for the Fourteen Locks site which propose the demolition of the existing visitor centre and construction of a modern replacement.

The site falls within the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area, and adjacent to the Scheduled Monument area. The important surviving-built structure of the canal is a striking landscape feature and has often been described as one of the most beautifully scenic waterways in the UK and hosts centuries old buildings and structures immersed in industrial history. The existing visitor centre is of late 20th century, and has little architectural or historic significance, contributing minimally to the character of the surrounding conservation area. The applications propose to demolish the existing structure, with justification within the HIA. This is deemed acceptable from a heritage perspective.

The proposed replacement visitor centre would be a contemporary structure located in a similar position to the existing. It would have a curved form with larger expanses of glazing facing on to the waterway. Timber is proposed as the main finish for external walls and roofing, with timber/aluminium framed windows and a brick soldier course. Solar panels are proposed which would be flush with the shingles and have a matte black finish to prevent glare. The overall design of the structure is supported, the use of natural materials and finishes would allow for a more eco-friendly, green aesthetic which blends well into the surrounding landscape. The proposed design is commonly seen in modern developments at nature reserves, so would fit the narrative well here. Previous advice regarding finishes has been taken on board and I would be in full support of the proposed development, subject to further details and material samples. The Heritage Impact Assessment justifies the works to an appropriate degree and demonstrates the positive heritage impact that the proposed development would have on the site.

The proposed hard and soft landscaping is considered acceptable and would improve the appearance of the site.

Overall, I am happy to support the applications with the following conditions:

Prior to the construction of the visitor centre, further details and a sample of the timber shingles shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall then take place in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area in accordance with section 160 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and policy CE7 of the Newport Local Development Plan.

Prior to the construction of the visitor centre, further details of all new fenestration, shown at a scale of at least 1:20, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall then take place in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area in accordance with section 160 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and policy CE7 of the Newport Local Development Plan.

Prior to their installation, cross sections of the solar panels shown at a scale of 1:10 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The panels shall be matte black. The work shall be completed in accordance with the details agreed.

Reason: To preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area in accordance with section 160 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and policy CE7 of the Newport Local Development Plan.

Prior to their installation, further details and a sample of external M&E vents shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall then take place in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area in accordance with section 160 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and policy CE7 of the Newport Local Development Plan.

Kind regards,

Laura Smith

Prif Swyddog Treftadaeth / Principal Heritage Officer

Swyddog Dirprwyedig (Adeiladau Rhestredig) / Delegated Officer (Listed Buildings)

Adfywio a Datblygu Economaidd / Regeneration and Economic Development

Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd / Newport City Council

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Please note: I may not always be reachable on this telephone number. Should you call and fail to get through, please contact me via email. I will aim to respond to all email enquiries by email unless alternative arrangements, such as a call via Microsoft Teams, are mutually agreed.

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