

Neath Port Talbot Council

By email

planning@npt.gov.ukEich cyfeirnod
Your reference

P2026/0410

Ein cyfeirnod
Our referenceDyddiad
Date

2 July 2026

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

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Ebost
Email:Cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Proposed biomass gasification Combined Heat and Power (CHP) waste-to-hydrogen production facility
LOCATION: Abernant Colliery, Pontardawe, SA8 4SX

Thank you for your letter of 22 June 2026 asking for Cadw's view on the likely impact of the proposed development described above on the environment and whether or not Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required.

Cadw, as the Welsh Government's historic environment service, has assessed the characteristics of this proposed development and its location within the historic environment. In particular, the likely impact on designated or registered historic assets of national importance. In assessing if the likely impact of the development is significant Cadw has considered the extent to which the proposals affect those nationally important historic assets that form the historic environment, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered historic parks, gardens and landscapes.

These views are provided without prejudice to the Welsh Government's consideration of the matter, should it come before it formally for determination.

This response is based on the advice provided by Cadw's Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer.

Advice

Cadw does not consider that the effect, on the historic environment as a whole, will be significant enough to warrant an EIA.

Assessment

Our records show that the following historic assets are potentially affected by the proposal.

Scheduled Monuments

CM332 Bancbryn post-medieval llost farmstead
CM333 Bancbryn cairn cemetery
CM334 Bancbryn platform cairn
CM335 Bancbryn cairn cemetery [east]
GM078 Carn Llechart Stone Circle
GM480 Burial Chamber Nr Carn Llechart
GM612 Mynydd y Garth Cairn

Listed Buildings

23081	Saron Old Chapel	II
23088	Capel Y Tabernacl	II*
23090	Front wall, railings and gates to Capel Y Tabernacl	II
80987	Circular pigsty at Pen-yr-esgym	II
	Bridge over Lower Clydach below Glynmeithrim	
81058	Uchaf	II

This advice is given in response to a request for a screening opinion as to the need or not for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be prepared for a biomass gasification facility at Abernant Colliery, Pontardawe.

The request for a screening opinion is accompanied by a report produced by Sol Environment. This work explains the proposed development which covers an area of some 2.5ha and introduces new buildings and structures with buildings up to 12m in height and a small flue stack that will be less than 25m in height. It considers that in regard to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, the site has little or no identified cultural heritage value. There are no Scheduled Monuments nearby that could be affected by the proposed development: However, we disagree with this statement.

Historic mapping shows that a number of structures associated with the Abernant Colliery were located in the application area and it is not known if these have been cleared from the site. There is therefore a possibility that undesignated historic assets are located inside the development area.

The above designated historic assets are located inside 3km of the proposed development. Whilst there will be no direct impact on designated historic assets and it is likely that the topography of the area surrounding the proposed development will block views of it from them, it is noted that the 25m high flue stack will produce emissions which are likely to be visible. This visual effect could have an adverse impact on the settings of these designated historic assets.

The information given above is sufficient for Cadw to conclude that the proposed development could have an adverse impact on buried archaeological features and on the settings of designated historic assets.

These effects however are unlikely to be of such significance to require an EIA to be prepared but will need to be considered when any planning application for the proposed development is submitted. It is therefore recommended that any planning application for the proposed development should be accompanied by a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment prepared to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, which should include an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the settings of designated historic assets identified above.

Yours sincerely

Laura Cooper
Historic Environment Inspectorate / Arolygiaeth yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol