

Application Reference Number:		2026/0254.	
Application Type:		Full (Regulation 3).	
Proposal Description:		Corten Steel visual marker/sculpture on Trans Pennine Trail (Amended Description).	
Location:		TPT Entrance, Park Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley.	
Applicant:		Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.	
Third-party representations:	None.	Parish:	
		Ward:	Worsbrough.

This application is being brought before members because the applicant is the Council and has been submitted as part of Barnsley Council's Community Enhancement Programme – Love Where You Live.

Summary:

The applicant is seeking planning permission for the installation of a Corten steel visual marker and sculpture on an area of vegetated land adjacent and to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail entrance off the west side of Park Road.

The principle of development is considered acceptable pursuant to paragraph 104 of the NPPF and Local Plan Policies GS1, GS2 and I2. The principle of development is attributed significant weight in favour of the proposal.

This proposal is considered acceptable regarding its impacts on visual amenity, highways and public rights of way, residential amenity, health and pollution control, and biodiversity and geodiversity and trees, pursuant to paragraphs 105 and 116 of the NPPF and Local Plan Policies D1, GS2, T4, GD1, POLL1, and BIO1, and is attributed significant and moderate weight in favour respectively.

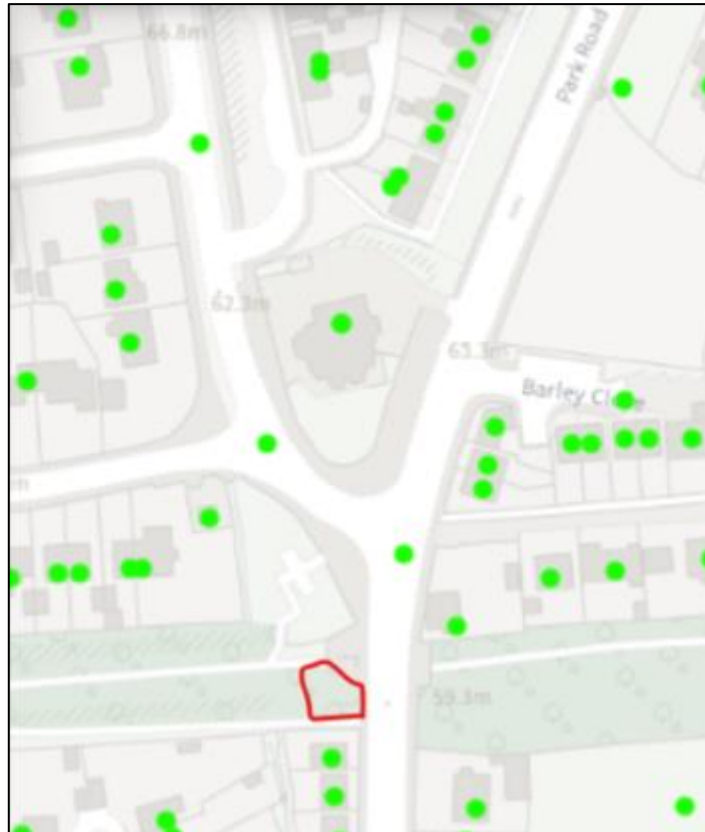
The proposed sculpture would occupy a low-quality area of vegetated land adjacent to the entrance of the Trans Pennine Trail that provides no significant contribution to the character of Park Road. It is considered the proposed sculpture would markedly improve the appearance of this land and would be a welcome addition to the street scene of Park Road that would provide a unique contribution to local distinctiveness and character, while also supporting and enhancing existing green spaces and public rights of way.

The proposal is therefore considered to be an acceptable and sustainable form of development in accordance with Section 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024).

Recommendation: **APPROVE subject to conditions.**

Site Description

This application relates to an area of vegetated land adjacent and to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail entrance off the west side of Park Road. Park Road forms part of an arterial route that connects Junction 36 of the M1 with Barnsley Town Centre. Worsbrough Mill and Reservoir are located to the south-west alongside Worsbrough Bridge Recreation Ground and Bowling Green and Pavillion. The immediate surrounding area is principally residential with a public house located to the north.



Planning History

There is no recent or relevant planning history associated with this development site.

Proposed Development

The applicant is seeking planning permission for the installation of a Corten steel visual marker and sculpture on an area of vegetated land adjacent and to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail entrance off the west side of Park Road.

The proposed sculpture would comprise a larger central element with an engraved design and poem supported by two smaller elements at each side with engraved lettering.

The proposed larger central element would measure approximately 0.6 metres (W) x 4.2 metres (H). The proposed elements at each side would measure approximately 0.3 metres (W) x 3.7 metres (H).

The proposed poem by Ian McMillan would read:

*Worsbrough is water, reflecting
In the reservoir's shining.
Drops like shifting jewels
In the great wheel's turning.*

*Worsbrough is milling, changing
Rhythms of growing; morning, evening
Feeding them that work hard earth
Time's cycle of sowing, harvesting*

*Worsbrough is mining, coal burning
Deep below the cage is lowering
Heat dragged from the face's dark
Remember the lost, the living*

*Worsbrough is people, all shaping
The future of this place. New thinking
As time's wheel has turned again
Towards tomorrow's sun rising.*

The proposed text to the side elements would read:

*"WORSBROUGH"; and
"WORSBROUGH IS PEOPLE, ALL SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THIS PLACE."*

The submitted documents show a second sculpture at Worsbrough Mill not under consideration, and a separate planning application would be required for this proposed development. An email was sent to the applicant on 29th April 2026 to this effect.



Relevant Policies

The Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires development proposals to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan for Barnsley consists of the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019).

The Local Plan review was approved at a full Council meeting held 24th November 2022. The review determined that the Local Plan remains fit for purpose and is adequately delivering on its objectives. This means, no updates to the Local Plan, in whole or in part, are to be carried out ahead of a further review, which is due to take place in 2027, or earlier, if circumstances require it.

The development site is allocated as urban fabric within the adopted Local Plan which has no specific allocation. The development site also forms part of the Trans Pennine Trail Worsbrough green space and is adjacent and to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail entrance – a public bridleway.

The following Local Plan policies are therefore relevant in this case:

- *Policy SD1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development.*
- *Policy GS1: Green Space.*
- *Policy GS2: Green Ways and Public Rights of Way.*
- *Policy D1: High Quality Design and Place Making.*
- *Policy GD1: General Development.*
- *Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection.*
- *Policy T4: New Development and Transport Safety.*
- *Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.*

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance

In December 2024, the Government published a revised NPPF which is the most recent revision of the original Framework, first published in 2012 and updated several times, providing the overarching planning framework for England. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The revised document has replaced the earlier planning policy statements, planning policy guidance and various policy letters and circulars, which are now cancelled.

Central to the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 10) and plans and decisions should apply this presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11). There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental; each of these aspects are mutually dependent. The following NPPF sections are relevant in this case:

- *Section 2: Achieving sustainable development.*
- *Section 4: Decision-making.*
- *Section 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities.*
- *Section 12: Achieving well designed places.*
- *Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.*

The National Design Guidance (2019) is a material consideration and sets out ten characteristics of well-designed places based on planning policy expectations. A written ministerial statement states that local planning authorities should take this guidance into account when taking decisions.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

In line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Barnsley has adopted twenty-eight Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) following the adoption of the Local Plan in January 2019. The following SPDs are relevant in this case:

- *Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Adopted March 2024).*
- *Parking (Adopted November 2019).*
- *Trees and Hedgerows (Adopted May 2019).*

The adopted SPDs should be treated as material considerations in decision making and are afforded full weight.

Representations

This planning application has been advertised in accordance with Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

Any neighbour sharing a boundary with the site has been sent written notification and the application has been advertised on the Council website.

A site notice was placed nearby which expired 11th May 2026.

No representations were received.

Consultations

Local Ward Councillors	<i>No comment(s) received.</i>
Forestry Officer	<i>Verbal comment(s) received.</i>
Highways Development Control	<i>No objection(s).</i>
Public Rights of Way	<i>No objection(s).</i>
Trans Pennine Trail	<i>No objection(s).</i>

Planning Assessment

For the purposes of considering the balance in this application, the following planning weight is referred to in this report using the following scale unless the NPPF establishes a specific weight:

- Substantial
- Considerable
- Significant
- Moderate
- Modest
- Limited
- Little or no

Principle of Development and Impact on Green Space

Paragraph 104 of the NPPF establishes that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or

better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Local Plan Policy GS1: Green Space establishes that proposals that result in the loss of green space, or land that was last used as green space, will not normally be allowed unless:

An assessment shows that there is too much of that green space in the area which it serves, and its loss would not affect the existing and potential green space needs of the borough; or

The proposal relates to small scale facilities needed to support or improve the proper function of the green space; or

An appropriate replacement green space of equivalent or improved quality, quantity and accessibility is provided which would outweigh the loss.

In this instance, this proposal is for the installation of a Corten steel visual marker sculpture intended to complement the existing Trans Pennine Trail entrance and broader locality. This proposal would not result in the loss of any existing green space and is instead viewed as an enhancement to support or improve its proper function in accordance with Local Plan Policy GS1. The level of development proposed is also proportionate to the size of the green space and would support its primary use, and therefore, no financial contribution will be required in this instance, according with Local Plan Policies GS1, GS2 and I2.

Considering the above, the principle of development is considered acceptable subject to assessment of the following matters and is attributed significant weight in favour of the proposal.

Impact on Visual Amenity

A submitted Design and Access Statement states that the proposed sculpture has been created with local residents to continue the feeling of community empowerment and sense of belonging. It states the sculpture has been designed as an appropriate, context-sensitive addition to the landscape and it demonstrates that the installation would respond directly to local heritage, community identity, and the physical environment whilst ensuring that it will be capable of being safely accessed by all users.

The proposed sculpture is intended for a prominent public location within Worsbrough where it would enhance an already well-used pedestrian environment. The design would reflect themes associated with Worsbrough's agricultural, milling and mining heritage, and the strong presence of the reservoir, waterways and surrounding landscapes.

The proposed sculpture would be fabricated of Corten steel. It is stated that this material was chosen for its weather-resistant qualities and natural colouring which echoes industrial tones. It would enable long-term durability and a strong aesthetic relationship with the surrounding landscape.

The existing street scene and surrounding area material palette is somewhat varied and comprises stone and brickwork and render.

The proposed sculpture would adopt a slight profile and restrained height with a well-considered and high-quality design that would appropriately reflect Worsbrough's heritage. The organic warmth from the rich, earth and russet tones of the Corten steel would offer a grounding contrast to the immediate urban environment, and its weathered texture would complement natural elements within the street scene, including established tree lines that line the Trans Pennine Trail and that would offer a striking backdrop emphasising the contrast between industrial and natural elements.

The proposed sculpture would occupy a low-quality area of vegetated land adjacent to the entrance of the Trans Pennine Trail that provides no significant contribution to the character of Park Road. It is considered the proposed sculpture would markedly improve the appearance of this land and would be a welcome addition to the street scene of Park Road that would provide a unique contribution to local distinctiveness and character, while also supporting and enhancing existing green spaces and public rights of way. This proposal is therefore considered acceptable regarding its impact on visual amenity.

Considering the above, on balance, this is considered to weigh significantly in favour of the proposal.

This proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Placemaking and is considered acceptable regarding impacts on visual amenity.

Impact on Highways and Public Rights of Way

Paragraph 105 of the NPPF sets out that planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and accesses, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

Paragraph 116 of the NPPF sets out development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe following mitigation and considering all other reasonable future scenarios.

Local Plan Policy GS2: Green Ways and Public Rights of Way establishes that the Council will seek to protect Green Ways and Public Rights of Way from developments which may affect their character or function. In some instances, a new route or contributions to a new route, links to an existing route, or improvements to an existing route may be required.

The proposed sculpture would occupy a low-quality area of vegetated land adjacent to the entrance of the Trans Pennine Trail and will not adversely affect its character or function. The public bridleway would be maintained as exists. In this instance, this proposal is considered acceptable with respect of paragraph 105 of the NPPF and Local Plan Policy GS2. There would be no requirement for a new route or financial contributions to a new route, or links or improvements to an existing route.

Highways Development Control colleagues were consulted; and it was established that the proposal would be located away from nearby crossing signal heads and would not affect the visibility of drivers on Park Road or the intervisibility between pedestrians using the Trans Pennine Trail and drivers. It was set out that a Stage 1 and 2 Road Safety Audit (RSA) would be required prior to determinations. The RSA was submitted and Highways Development Control colleagues raised no objections to this proposal. The proposed development is therefore not considered to be prejudicial to highway safety.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh significantly in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with paragraphs 105 and 116 of the NPPF and Local Plan Policies GS2: Green Ways and Public Rights of Way and T4: New Development and Transport Safety and is considered acceptable regarding impacts on highway safety and public rights of way.

Impact on Residential Amenity, Health and Pollution Control

It is not considered that the proposed internal and external alterations would contribute to significant increased levels of overshadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy, or reduced outlook.

It is acknowledged that there could be some disruption and nuisance caused to people in the locality

during construction works. However, any potential impacts are anticipated to be temporary and could be controlled by conditions.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh moderately in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy GD1: General Development and Local Plan Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection and is considered acceptable regarding impacts on residential amenity, health and pollution control.

Impact on Biodiversity and Geodiversity and Tress

In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory from 12 February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) and means developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This proposal falls under one of the listed exemptions and is therefore not subject to BNG in this instance.

There is an area of trees and vegetation located to the west of the proposed location of the proposed sculpture.

Verbal discussions held with the Council's Forestry Officer determined that there would unlikely be significant impacts on this area of trees and vegetation. The proposed sculpture would be positioned away from the established tree line and would adopt a relatively shallow foundation which could be excavated by hand to limit the extent of any potential impacts, if required. The trees are also owned by the Council, and therefore, any works required would be an internal matter to be agreed between relevant parties.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh moderately in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and is considered acceptable regarding impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity and trees.

Planning Balance and Conclusion

In accordance with the provision of paragraph 11 of the NPPF (2024), the proposal is considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The applicant is seeking planning permission for the installation of a Corten steel visual marker and sculpture on an area of vegetated land adjacent and to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail entrance off the west side of Park Road.

The principle of development is considered acceptable pursuant to paragraph 104 of the NPPF and Local Plan Policies GS1, GS2 and I2. The principle of development is attributed significant weight in favour of the proposal.

This proposal is considered acceptable regarding its impacts on visual amenity, highways and public rights of way, residential amenity, health and pollution control, and biodiversity and geodiversity and trees, pursuant to paragraphs 105 and 116 of the NPPF and Local Plan Policies D1, GS2, T4, GD1, POLL1, and BIO1, and is attributed significant and moderate weight in favour respectively.

The proposed sculpture would occupy a low-quality area of vegetated land adjacent to the entrance of the Trans Pennine Trail that provides no significant contribution to the character of Park Road. It is considered the proposed sculpture would markedly improve the appearance of this land and would be a welcome addition to the street scene of Park Road that would provide a unique contribution to local distinctiveness and character, while also supporting and enhancing existing green spaces and public rights of way.

For the reasons given above, and taking all other matters into consideration, this proposal complies with the relevant local and national planning policies and guidance.

Planning permission should therefore be granted subject to necessary conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve subject to conditions.

Justification

Statement of compliance with Article 35 of the Town and Country Development Management Procedure Order 2015.

In dealing with the application, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has worked with the applicant to find solutions to the following issues that arose whilst dealing with the planning application:

- *To clarify the proposals under consideration.*
- *To provide a Road Safety Audit in accordance with comments from Highways Development Control colleagues.*

Due regard has been given to Article 8 and Protocol 1 of Article 1 of the European Convention for Human Rights Act 1998 when considering representations, the determination of the application and the resulting recommendation. It is considered that the recommendation will not interfere with the applicant's and/or any objector's right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

Conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In order to comply with the provision of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2. The development hereby approved shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the amended plans:

Location Plan.

J-26051-010 Structural Details Sheet 8.

Stage 1 and 2 Road Safety Audit ref. SA 5468 rev. 2 produced by Waterman Aspen dated June 2026 and received 12th June 2026.

Together We Rise Connected Worsbrough Sculpture Details received 29th April 2026.

and specifications as approved unless required by any other conditions in this permission.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and in accordance with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Place Making.

3. The external materials shall match those specified by the approved documents listed above.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and in accordance with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Place Making.

4. Construction or demolition-related activity shall only take place between the hours of 08:00am – 18:00pm Monday to Fridays, 09:00am – 14:00pm Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Reason: To reduce or remove adverse impacts on health and the quality of life, especially for people living and/or working nearby, in accordance with Local Plan Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection.

Informative(s):

1. The granting of planning permission does not in any way infer that consent of the landowner is given. Therefore, the consent of all relevant landowners is required before proceeding with any development, including that of the Council as landowner.

If it should transpire that the applicant does not own any of the land included in this consent, then it is the responsibility of the applicant to seek all necessary consents and approvals of the landowner.

2. It is recommended that measures are taken to prevent a nuisance/ or effect the quality of life of local residents. Please note that the Council's Pollution Control Team have a legal duty to investigate any complaints about noise, smoke or dust. No waste should be burnt. If a statutory nuisance is found to exist, they must serve an Abatement Notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Failure to comply with the requirements of an Abatement Notice may result in a fine of up to £20,000 upon conviction in Magistrates' Court. It is therefore recommended that you give serious consideration to the steps that may be required to prevent a noise, dust or smoke nuisance from being created.
3. The applicant/contractor should note that to deposit mud/debris on the public highway, or anything which may cause a nuisance or possible danger to road users, is an offence under provisions of the Highways Act 1980.

4. The submitted documents show a second sculpture at Worsbrough Mill not under consideration, and a separate planning application would be required for this proposed development. An email was sent to the applicant on 29th April 2026 to this effect.