
2021/1664

Mrs Rachael Copping

Erection of free standing visitor welcome and orientation sign to include property map

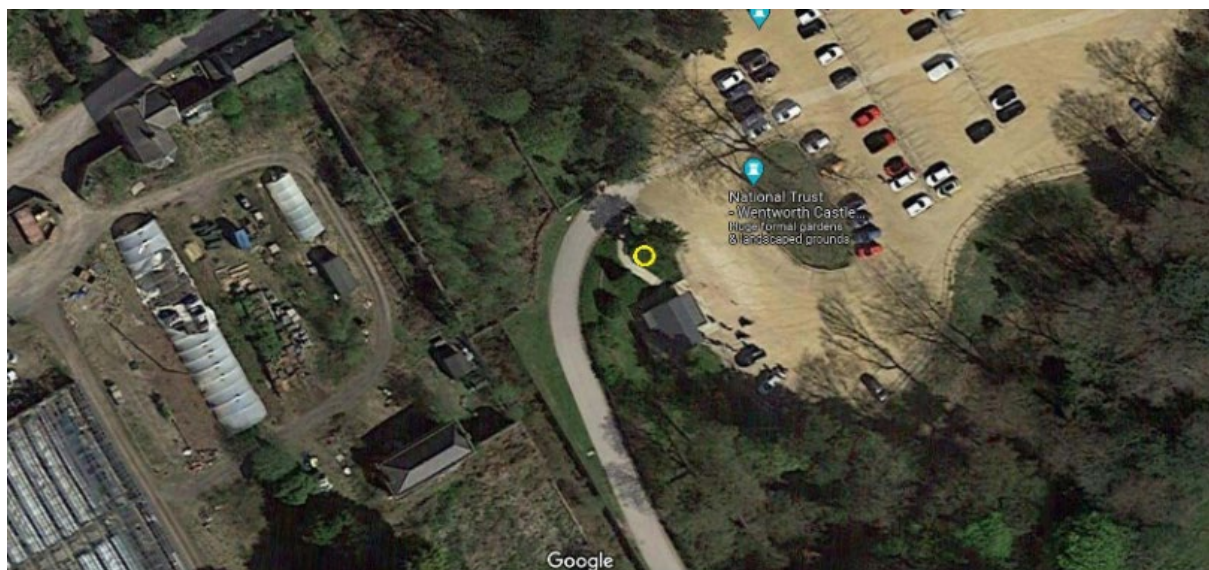
Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage, Wentworth Castle Gardens. Lowe Lane, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3ES

Site Location and Description

Wentworth Castle is located to the south of Lowe Lane, between Stainborough and Hood Green. It lies within the Green Belt, a designated Conservation Area 'Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park' and a Historic Park and Garden 'Wentworth Castle'. Wentworth Castle itself is listed Grade 1 and there are numerous Grade 2 listed out buildings and monuments within the grounds – the nearest of which to the site of the proposed sign is the former orangery within the walled garden.

The site of the proposed sign is located adjacent to the car park (and the recently constructed visitor reception building) and the pedestrian access from the car park to the main visitor centre buildings.

Google Earth snip of the application site with the car park to the east and the walled garden to the west, showing the siting of the proposed sign (yellow circle)



Applicants submitted photo showing the siting of the proposed sign



Site History

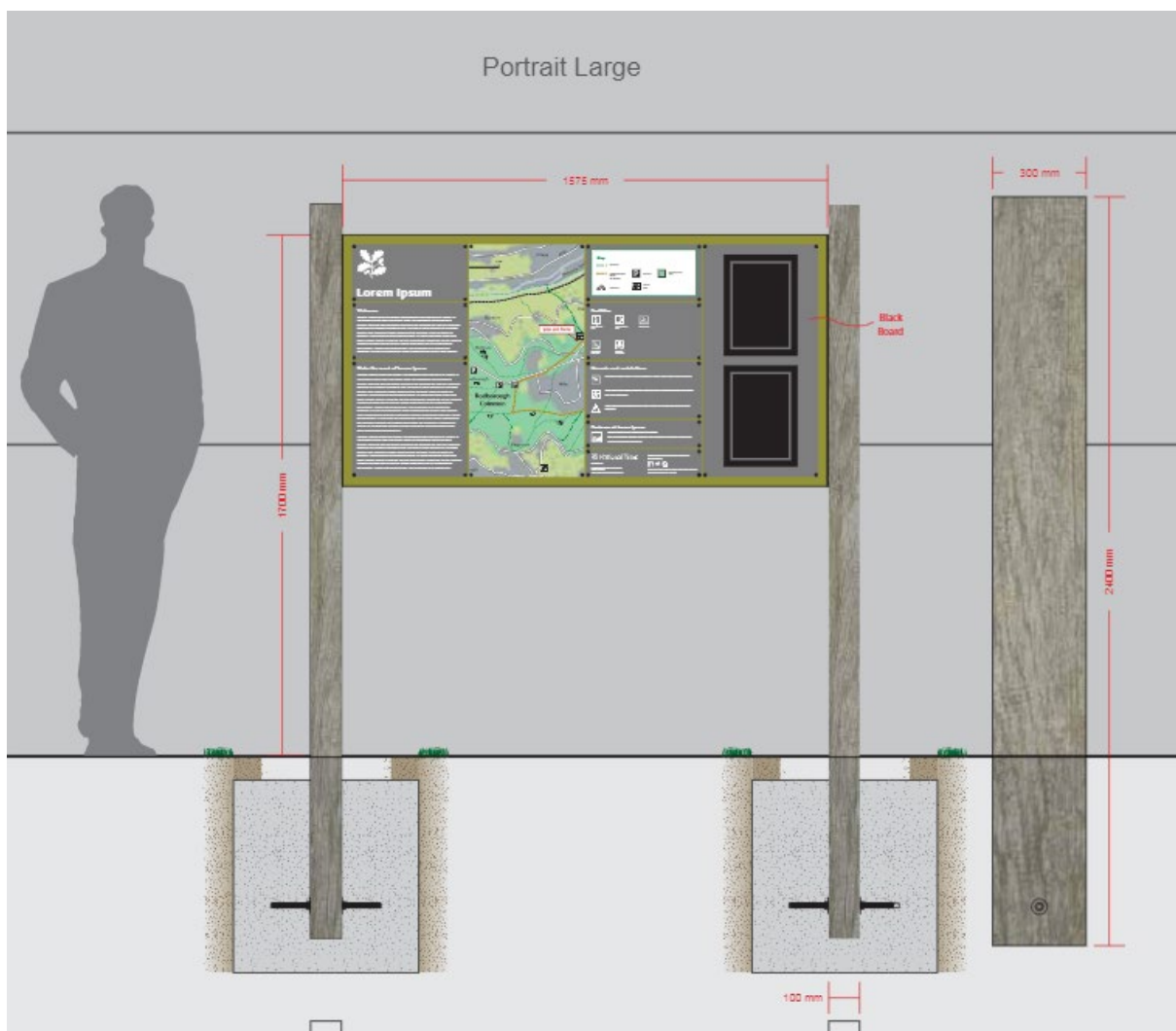
There is a complex site history relating to the use of the site as a visitor attraction, the most relevant of which is:

2018/1565 – new visitor centre

2019/0715 – various non illuminated signs

Proposed Development

Permission is sought to display one non-illuminated timber sign measuring 1.575m x 0.82m on 2.4m high wooden posts, sunk such that they will appear 1.8m above ground level.



In response to the Conservation Officers comments, the applicant has submitted an assessment from their archaeologist which concludes that the modest holes do not appear to represent any sort of risk to an identifiable archaeological resource. Therefore, they do not harm or impact the heritage significance of the site or its setting and would not be recommending any further archaeological involvement would be needed.

Policy Context

Decisions on applications for advertisement consent are not determined under the S38/6 presumption in favour of the development plan. However, development plan policies are a material consideration, and will inform consideration of the two principal issues of public safety and amenity

Local Plan

The site is allocated as urban fabric within the Local Plan Proposals Maps where the following policies are relevant:

Policy GD1 General Development – sets a range of criteria to be applied to all proposals for development, including:

- no significant adverse effect on the living conditions and residential amenity of existing and future residents.

Policy D1 High Quality Design and Place Making - indicates that we will positively encourage developments which will help in the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of Barnsley's historic environment and will support proposals which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets.

Policy E5 Promoting Tourism and encouraging Cultural Provision – we will promote and encourage the growth and development of cultural provision; safeguard and sustain existing cultural provision; promote the existing cultural provision and tourism offer; and encourage the growth of the tourism sector. Major new tourist and cultural facilities will be focused on existing centres where possible and tourist related development in rural areas will be proved and encouraged to support and diversify the local economy subject to Policy E6

Policy T4 New development and Transport Safety – expects new development to be designed and built to provide safe secure and convenient access and to not cause or add to problems of highway safety or efficiency.

Policy HE1 The Historic Environment – indicates that we will positively encourage developments which will help in the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of Barnsley's historic environment and will support proposals which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets.

Policy HE4 Developments affecting Historic Areas or Landscapes – Proposals that are within or likely to affect the setting and heritage significance of a Registered Park or Garden will be expected to respect the special interest and views of the area and its setting and take account of an respect important landscape elements.

Policy GB1 Protection of Green Belt – indicates that the Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with national planning policy.

NPPF

These policies reflect the purpose of achieving sustainable development set out in the NPPF and in particular (in relation to this proposal) the economic, social and environmental objectives. They also reflect the advice in paragraphs 126 (general design considerations) and para 134 (which states that permission should be refused for development of poor design).

NPPF paragraph 136 states that advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking into account cumulative impacts.

NPPF paras 194, 195, 199 and 200 provide guidance on identification of and the weight to be given to heritage significance; and on determining planning applications which may affect heritage significance.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD):

Advertisements SPD – offers guidance to anyone seeking to display an outdoor advertisement and in particular cautions against cluttered advertising and excessive illumination.

Consultations

Conservation Officer – The main issue to be considered from a heritage perspective in the determination of this Planning Permission application is: -

- Whether or not the proposal would harm the heritage significance or impact on the setting of a designated asset or other asset of demonstrable heritage significance

This proposal involves the installation of an orientation and information sign close to the visitor car park and adjacent the Visitor Reception Building (VRB) to the east of the walled garden. The immediate setting and site were considered as part of previous apps 2018/1562 and 1565 for the VRB which included some trenching for data / power connection. I mention this because at the time archaeology was a consideration (due to trenching) and a number of documents setting out the potential were provided (as was an extensive heritage statement looking at the value of the setting). I think it is unlikely there will be any harm from the installation of the posts for the signage as the area of disturbance is so small. However, I would suggest some input from SYAS might be prudent due to the potential for archaeology in this area. In terms of the setting, we are within the Grade I parkland, but I feel this is an area that has already undergone quite a bit of change due to the car park and VRB installation. As such this is an already altered part of the landscape and I think it's reasonable to expect orientation and information signage here also. Consequently, I would suggest the sign will have a minimal impact in terms of the setting and will not be harmful to the heritage significance of the parkland.

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service - A watching brief was conducted on works in this area as part of the previous applications. Previously unknown archaeological features were identified during the works. To the north, approximately 60m, near the entrance to the walled garden, the base of a dry stone wall was recorded. Closer to the application area, another early post-medieval stone wall was recorded as the site of the visitor of centre was excavated. These show that previously unrecorded features may exist in this area. However, I agree with the applicant that the size of the area to be impacted is very small. The potential harm arising to previously unknown archaeological features from two small post holes is not great and would

not cause substantial harm to the significance of any features. The scale of works proposed is such that a formal watching brief is not needed in this instance. However, in the unlikely event that the post holes encounter a feature, it would be sufficient for the National Trusts archaeologist to record the feature and pass the information on to SYAS.

Historic England – On the basis of the information available to date we do not wish to offer any comments. We suggest that you seek the views of your specialist conservation and archaeological advisers, as relevant.

Stainborough PC – Confirmed that they do not have any comments.

Ward Councillors – no comments

Representations

The application has been advertised via letters direct to neighbours, press and site notices which were displayed from 19 January – 9 February; no representations have been received.

Assessment

Principle of Development

Advertisements are acceptable where they would not be harmful to amenity, by virtue of size, position, location or proliferation and level of illumination; and where the proposal would not be prejudicial to public safety.

Design, Heritage and Visual Amenity

The proposed sign will have a minimal impact in terms of the setting of heritage assets, will not be harmful to the heritage significance of the parkland and is necessary in order to help direct visitors around this large site. It will enhance the visitor experience and not detract from the historic and sensitive nature of the site. It is also located well away from any residential dwellings such that it would not impact on them.

The excavations associated with the sign posts are limited. The potential harm arising to previously unknown archaeological features from two small post holes is not great and would not cause substantial harm to the significance of any features. Accordingly, on the basis of the advice from SYAS a note is recommended advising that if any features are discovered on digging the post holes, details should be recorded and passed to SYAS.

The proposed sign does not impact on the Green Belt, is not harmful to the significance or setting of heritage assets and is of a high quality. As such the proposal is acceptable in terms of its impact and is in compliance with Local Plan Policies GD1, D1, HE1, HE4 and GB1.

Highway Safety

The proposed sign is located at some considerable distance from and does not adversely impact upon the highway. It is concluded that the proposed signs would not be prejudicial to public highway safety.

Recommendation

Grant subject to conditions: