



Historic E

Ms Helen Willows  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
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Direct Dial: 01904 601957

Our ref: L01600370

24 December 2025

Dear Ms Willows

## **Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2021**

**NORTHERN COLLEGE, LOWE LANE, STAINBOROUGH, BARNLSLEY, S75 3ET**  
**Application No. 2025/0947**

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2025 regarding further information on the above application for listed building consent. On the basis of this information, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

### **Summary**

Historic England previously provided comment on 21/11/2025 which for clarity this advice has been restated below. We thank you for reconsulting us however at this stage the plans do not appear to have changed specifically relating to the proposed lighting scheme on the Baroque wing. Historic England has spoken with the Applicant since and it was clarified that this forms part of a wayfinding/fire escape strategy. We would reiterate the conclusions from the previous letter where we recommended that alternative lighting solutions were explored to reduce the visual impact upon what is an exceptionally significant elevation.

### **Historic England Advice**

#### Significance

The significance of Wentworth Castle lies largely with its aesthetic values. It is considered one of, if not the, finest country house in the north of England. The distinct architectural styles reflect the visions of successive generations of the Earls of Stafford including the Baroque, Palladian and English Country Garden.

Beyond the incredibly impressive aesthetic values of the castle itself, the grounds surrounding the castle contribute to its setting and are consequently Registered in their own right at GI due to being a complex and well surviving early-to-mid-18th century



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landscape design.

## Impact

The proposals will likely have some visual and physical impact upon the significance of the listed building. The CCTV units and most of the lighting will have a relatively low impact due to their size, specification and location.

However, certain elements of the lighting proposal may have a greater visual impact upon the significance particularly the G-EM column mounted heads on the Baroque Wing east elevation. It is a fine, symmetrical elevation and the proposed G-EM lighting would be located asymmetrically next to the main doorway and therefore visually impact upon this element of the building's significance. The installation of column mounted lighting would also inherently have a visual impact irrespective of its positioning.

## Policy

Paragraph 212 of the NPPF states that, irrespective of the level of harm caused to the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be awarded to its conservation.

As per paragraph 213 of the NPPF where any amount of harm would be caused to the significance of a designated heritage asset this requires clear and convincing justification for the harm caused.

Paragraph 215 states that where a proposal would cause less than substantial harm this harm should be weighed against the perceived public benefits of the scheme and where possible securing its optimum viable use.

## Position

Overall, the renewal of CCTV and lighting across several buildings at the Northern College raises few concerns however we would seek clarification for the need/justification for the G-EM lighting proposed on the Baroque Wing east elevation and whether a less visually impactful lighting solution could be found.

If no amended lighting scheme is forthcoming and the application is determined in its present form we would ask that our concerns are registered relating specifically to the lighting scheme proposed at the Baroque wing.

## **Recommendation**

Historic England has concerns regarding the application on heritage grounds.



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We consider that the issues and safeguards outlined in our advice need to be addressed in order for the application to meet the requirements of paragraphs 212, 213 and 215 of the NPPF.

In determining this application you should bear in mind the statutory duty of section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to have special regard to the desirability of preserving listed buildings or their setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which they possess.

Your authority should take these representations into account and seek amendments, safeguards or further information as set out in our advice. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Alexander Harrison**

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