



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

Our ref: L01603127

4 February 2026

Dear Ms Willows

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

**NORTHERN COLLEGE, LOWE LANE, STAINBOROUGH, BARNSELY, S75 3ET**  
**Application No. 2026/0001**

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2026 regarding the above application for listed building consent. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

#### **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-18<sup>th</sup> century landscape design.

The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century college buildings possess some significance in their own right as they help tell the story of the heritage asset's role as an educational facility however they do not possess high aesthetic significance values.

##### Impact

The proposals seek the demolition of the former college buildings. It is considered that there would be a small amount of harm caused by losing the fabric which demonstrates the evolution of Wentworth Castle's role as an educational facility. However, it is also considered that visually there is a small heritage benefit due to the extant buildings detracting from the setting of the Castle and to the wider Registered



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Park and Garden.

### Policy

212. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

213. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification.

215. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

### Position

Overall, it is considered that there are benefits to the removal of the former college buildings which detract from the significance of Wentworth Castle via its setting and directly to the significance of the registered park and garden.

It is acknowledged that there would be a small amount of harm due to the loss buildings which tell the story of Wentworth Castle's role as a educational facility which we would urge the local authority to weigh against the perceived heritage benefits of the buildings' removal and consider a condition for their recording should their demolition be granted consent.

### **Recommendation**

Historic England has no objection to the application on heritage grounds.

We consider that the application meets the requirements of the NPPF, in particular paragraph numbers 212, 213, and 215.

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.



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Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the application. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us. Please advise us of the decision in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Alexander Harrison**

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

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