



Mr Bradley Sargeson
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
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Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: P01607769

15 May 2026

Dear Mr Sargeson

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**MONK BRETTON PRIORY BMBC ASSET ID A00866, ABBEY LANE, LUNDWOOD,
BARNSELY
Application No. 2026/0318**

Thank you for your letter of regarding further information on the above application for planning permission. On the basis of this information, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

**Historic England Advice
Significance**

Monk Bretton Priory is of high archaeological and historic significance as the remains of a major medieval monastic house founded around 1154 as the Priory of St Mary Magdalen for monks of the Order of Cluny, later becoming Benedictine in 1281. Its foundation, continental links with La Charité-sur-Loire, and later institutional history illustrate the development of monastic life in medieval Yorkshire and the wider European connections of English religious houses. The site also has strong evidential value for understanding the organisation, economy and daily life of a medieval priory before its post Dissolution reuse.

The surviving remains preserve the plan of a substantial monastic complex, including the church, cloister, west and east ranges, refectory, kitchens, reredorter, guest house, infirmary and gatehouse. Although much of the site survives as low masonry defining the plan, key structures such as the west range and gatehouse stand to a greater height, while architectural details including late 13th century refectory windows and a fireplace in the former prior's lodging demonstrate the quality and status of the buildings. These remains provide important evidence for the architectural development of the priory from the 12th to 15th centuries, including later rebuilding and adaptation. The site is also significant for the survival of functional infrastructure, particularly the well preserved drainage system associated with the reredorter, which was flushed by



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water controlled through a penstock and supplied from the priory mill. This adds considerable archaeological interest because it illustrates the practical engineering, water management and sanitation arrangements of the monastic community.

Together, the standing remains, buried archaeology and associated water management features make Monk Bretton Priory an important and legible example of a medieval religious house, with strong potential to inform understanding of monastic planning, technology and post-medieval change.

Impact

The proposals have the potential to result in a small amount of harm to the significance of the monument. The heritage benefits that will result from long term stabilisation and interpretation of the remains are considered to outweigh these impacts.

Position

Historic England undertook extensive preapplication consultation with English Heritage Trust who sought to minimise harm at every opportunity. As such any concerns raised have subsequently been addressed and we are supportive of the currently presented scheme.

The proposals will require Scheduled Monument Consent and Historic England have also been consulted by English Heritage Trust on this process.

Recommendation

Historic England supports the application on heritage grounds.

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

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

Andrew Burn

Development Advice Team Leader

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