

Application reference number	2025/0927
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Application Type	Listed Building Consent
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Proposal Description:	Removal of existing interpretation panels and replacement with new timber interpretation panels (Listed Building Consent).
Location:	Worsbrough Mill Museum, Worsbrough Mill Park Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 5LJ

Applicant	Ms Sally Elkington (Barnsley Council)
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Number of Third Party Reps	None	Parish:	N/A
		Ward:	Worsbrough

The application is being referred to Member Consultation due to it being a Council proposal on Council owned land.

Summary

This listed building consent application has been submitted by an officer of BMBC for the removal of existing interpretation panels and replacement with new timber interpretation panels.

The application relates to Worsbrough Mill Museum, a Grade II* listed building. The application site is designated under Green Belt and Greenspace.

The proposal is considered to be acceptable in policy terms. The proposed alterations are considered to provide an improved design and colour scheme and has taken a sympathetic approach which improves the historical character of the building.

Recommendation: Grant Listed Building Consent subject to conditions

Site Description

The application relates to a Worsbrough Mill Museum. The building itself is a Grade II* listed building, built in two phases: the original two-storey mill dating from the early 17th century, and a later 19th-century addition comprising a three-storey, four-bay extension. The listing covers the entire building, including the original milling equipment (interior), all of which are of considerable historical and architectural significance.

Site location plan



Relevant Site History

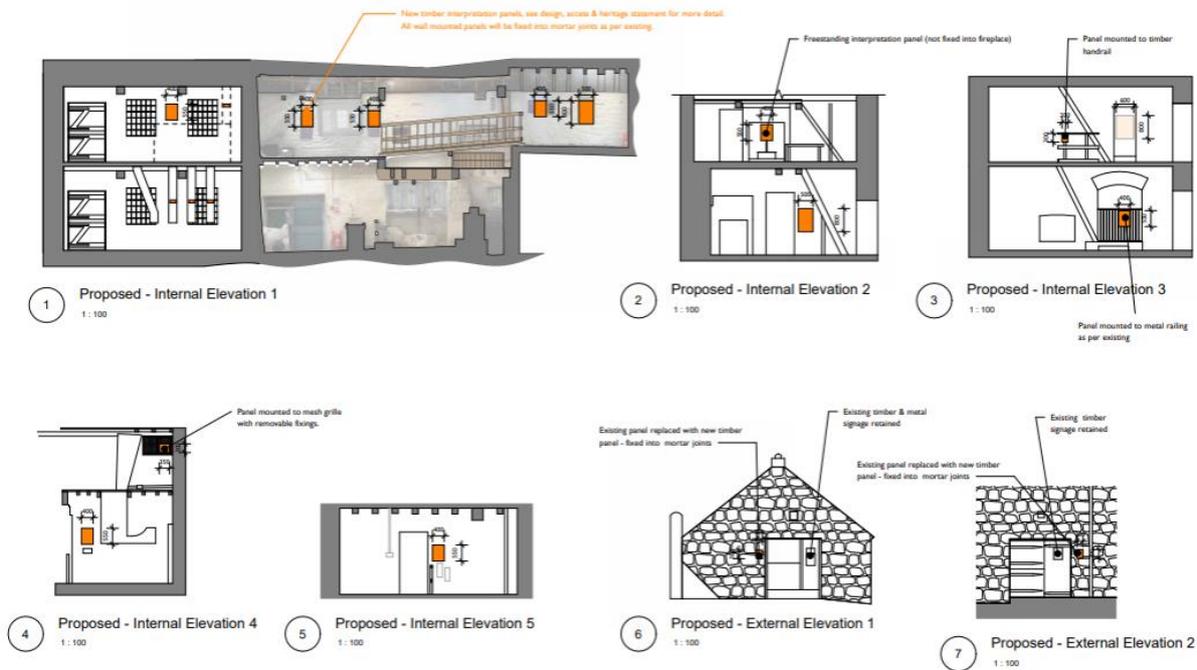
There is extensive planning history relating to Elsecar Heritage Centre, including:

Application Reference	Application description	Status
2022/0941	Removal of 20no trees, removal of overhanging branches from 13no trees which overhang, footpaths, driveways and parking areas, the pollarding of 8no trees, the crown lift of 2no trees to give 2.5m clearance above footpaths, the coppicing of 1no tree, the creation of 1no monolith habitat pole and the pruning to give signage clearance of 2no trees. Totalling works to 40 individual trees and 7 groups of trees within TPOs, 1/1953, 48/2009 and 1/2018 for the purposes of health and safety works.	Approve with Conditions
2024/0928	Listed building consent for the replacement of upright shaft of mill machinery and removal of three metal restraints which prohibit adjustment.	Approve with Conditions

2024/0929	Alterations to listed building to improve wheelchair accessibility including installation of flooring and replacement of ramps and handrails as well as associated works such as adjustment of the barriers near to the waterwheel and the installation of a moveable barrier/gate (Listed Building Consent)	Approve with Conditions
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Proposal

The proposal would involve replacing the existing interpretation panels with new timber interpretation panels. The existing panels are purple and feature details about the attractions within the museum. The proposed panels would be altered in size and would be timber themed.



<small>Notes: Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent existing physical conditions. Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work. All dimensions are in millimetres unless stated otherwise.</small>		<small>Project: Wardbrough Mill Client: Wardbrough Mill, Wardbrough, Barnsley Client Name: S70 SLJ Drawing Name: PLANNING</small>	<small>Drawing Title: Proposed Elevations Drawing No: 2025-001-201 Drawing ID: BM AS 1:100 Date: 08/19/2025</small>	WIGNALL & MOORE <small>ART & ARCHITECTURE</small>
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5. PRECEDENTS/MOCK UPS

The following precedents & mock ups demonstrate the materiality of the proposed panels.



Proposed interpretation panel mock-up



Proposed introduction panel mock-up



Examples of etched oak signage



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 statutory test in relation to listed buildings requires the decision maker to give special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest in possessions.

The Local Plan was adopted in January 2019 and is accompanied by seven masterplan frameworks which apply to the largest site allocations (housing, employment, and mixed-use sites). In addition, the Council has adopted a series of Supplementary Planning Documents

and Neighbourhood Plans which provide supporting guidance and specific local policies which are a material consideration in the decision-making process.

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 following Local Plan policies are relevant in this case:

- *Policy SD1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development.*
- *Policy GD1: General Development*
- *Policy D1: High quality design and place making.*
- *Policy HE1: The Historic Environment*
- *Policy HE3: Development Affecting Historic Buildings*
- *Policy GS1: Green Space*
- *Policy GB1: Protection of Green Belt*
- *Policy GB2: Replacement, extension and alteration of existing buildings in the Green Belt*

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 12: Achieving well designed places.*
- *Section 13: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic 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.

Consultations:

There is a statutory requirement for local planning authorities (LPA) to publicise applications for Listed Building Consent. The LPA should consider whether any application would affect the historical environment.

Historic England – confirmed they will not be providing advice and do not comment on the merits of the application.

Conservation Officer – No objections

Ward Councillors – No comments received

Representations

Neighbour notification letters were sent to 15 surrounding properties, the application was publicised by means of a press notice and a site notice (giving the public until 22nd November 2025 to comment).

No representations have been received.

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 the proposed works

The proposal to replace the existing interpretation panels with new timber interpretation panels is acceptable in principle subject to assessment of matters of detail below.

Design, Heritage and Visual Amenity

The application site is a Grade II* listed building at the Worsbrough Mill Museum. The existing panels which this application seeks to replace are not considered to be in keeping with the character of the building and can be improved to be more appropriate for a building of such historical importance.

The proposed replacement panels provide a more appropriate colour scheme which is in keeping with the character of the building and provide a more subtle design. The Proposed timber style panels would also match the styling of other architectural features within the wider site and overall improve the aesthetic of the historical environment.

The proposal has also been supported by the Conservation Officer.

Overall the proposal will preserve and enhance the character of this important Grande II* listed building which carries substantial weight in favour of the proposal

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Placemaking and is considered acceptable regarding visual amenity, Local Plan

Policy HE1: The Historic Environment and Local Plan Policy HE3: Development Affecting Historic Buildings

Greenspace and Green Belt

Although the site is designated with Greenspace and within the Green Belt, the proposed panels are exclusively internal and are therefore not considered to impact Greenspace or the Green Belt in any way.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy GS1: Green Space, Local Plan Policy GB1: Protection of Green Belt and Local Plan Policy GB2: Replacement, extension and alteration of existing buildings in the Green Belt

PLANNING BALANCE & CONCLUSION

Overall, the proposed works are considered to be acceptable. Consultees have either not commented or have supported the proposal. Substantial weight in favour of the proposal attaches to the heritage aspects of the proposal as the proposed works are considered to preserve and enhance the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building. Having balanced all material considerations, the proposal is considered to be in compliance with the development plan as a whole and the proposal is therefore, on balance, recommended for approval subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: Grant Listed Building Consent subject to conditions.

Justification

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

It has not been necessary to make contact with the applicant to request amendments to the proposal during the consideration of this application, as it was deemed acceptable.

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:

Proposed Elevations DwgNo:2025-001-201

Proposed Plans DwgNo:2025-001-101

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 and Local Plan Policy HE1 The Historic Environment.

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.