



Historic England

Ms Helen Willows  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
PO Box 634  
Barnsley  
South Yorkshire  
S70 9GG

Direct Dial: 01904 601957

Our ref: L01601344

12 December 2025

Dear Ms Willows

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

**NORTHERN COLLEGE, LOWE LANE, STAINBOROUGH, BARNSELY, S75 3ET**  
**Application No. 2025/0995**

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2025 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-18th century landscape design.

The Long Gallery is characterised by its tall ceilings which in of themselves are relatively simple in appearance. This is then enhanced by more decorative plaster schemes and fine fixtures/fittings at lower levels. Therefore the volume of the space and the lower level decorative features contribute highly to the significance of this room.

Large parts of the original fabric are cracking/failing due to the historic laths being close together. Part of this ceiling has already been replaced/repared using plasterboard and the seams between these panels are visible from below which does detract from the aesthetic values of the ceiling when viewed from below.



37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP

Telephone 01904 601948  
HistoricEngland.org.uk

*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*



## Impact

The proposal would cause a small amount of harm to the significance of the listed building through diminished evidential values through the introduction of a new fibrous plaster ceiling beneath the historic fabric.

## 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 were possible securing its optimum viable use.

## Position

The justification for these works is that the historic plaster is constructed using laths which are too close together which is posing a risk of plaster failure and consequentially harm to more significant fabric below as well as to people in the room.

The proposal seeks to replicate what is quite a simple ceiling by battening off by around 30mm and introducing a fibrous plaster ceiling beneath. The proposal would preserve the historic fabric in situ allowing for the potential that a more permanent solution could be found for this historic fabric in the future.

Normally where a new leaf, and consequentially a void, is created this can raise concerns around moisture control and the potential for unintended consequences. The Applicant has undertaken a condensation/moisture survey which has demonstrated that there is a very low risk that the proposed intervention would cause issues with condensation and moisture build up.

Given the complications surrounding the repair of the historic plaster in situ the proposal the proposal is considered to be justified in terms of need for the work and would allow future custodians to address the historic fabric directly should new



37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP

Telephone 01904 601948  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



techniques be developed.

Overall, the proposal to introduce a new fibrous plaster ceiling beneath historic fabric would cause a small amount of harm to the significance. The proposal would help to secure the historic fabric whilst regularising the appearance of the ceiling when viewed from below. It would also remove the unsightly plasterboard repairs. Therefore, Historic England does not object to the proposals as designed.

### **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.

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

E-mail: [Alexander.Harrison@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:Alexander.Harrison@historicengland.org.uk)



37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP

Telephone 01904 601948  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)