



Historic England

Mr Martin Jones  
Charnwood Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Southfield Road  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 2TX

Direct Dial:

Our ref: L01587280

3 February 2025

Dear Mr Jones

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

#### **STREET RECORD, ASHBY ROAD, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE Application No. P/24/2261/2**

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 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

Garendon Park is one of the earliest Arcadian landscapes in the country. Conceived and executed by owner Sir Ambrose Phillipps, it was a pioneer landscape that helped establish a style that rapidly gained popularity across the Western world. The Triumphal Arch is thought to be the first of its kind built as a parkland feature.

##### Impact

The proposed works to address the repairs needs of the Arch welcome. The conservation and repair strategy for the Arch is not explicitly stated but it is evidently one of 'conserve as found'. Water ingress on account of blocked and or otherwise defective internally draining rainwater goods has evidently been a problem for very many years. The lack of access for inspection and maintenance purposes has resulted in repair needs going unchecked for a considerable period. The application includes to introduce rainwater (overflow) chutes which will act as an early warning in the event of future blockages; this is sensible and to be encouraged.

Proposals do not address the current lack of internal access for inspection and maintenance purposes. The Arch was accessed historically via two door openings in external masonry. These were blocked with stone some years ago and there is currently no ready means of accessing the structure's interior; access is possible via a dilapidated roof hatch but this is far from ideal and relies on having appropriate access to the roof. The proposed work for which consent is sought includes to take down the



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stone blocking to enable access for repairs and to reinstate stonework upon completion. Access for inspection, repairs and maintenance would reasonably be improved upon. Reinstalling both doorways would sensibly be provided to allow for future inspections and repair. It is appreciated that security is currently an issue so the choice of materials, security measures and timing of the work would need careful thought. It is generally the case that antisocial behaviour reduces where there is more activity so antisocial behaviour may decline when there are more people living locally.

The specification identifies that the repair of the frieze panel and decorative capitals are to undertaken by a stone conservator. The requirements for repairs are vague. We suggest that an ICON registered or SPAB Fellow Conservator assess and report upon the requirements for repair and consolidation of decorative features in the first instance and that repairs are subsequently undertake by a similarly qualified and experienced stone conservator.

#### Policy and Guidance

We refer you to section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraphs 207 and 208

#### Position

Whilst Historic England welcomes measures aimed at conserving the Listed Buildings of Garendon Park, the submission of these three applications (P/24/2261/2, P/24/2259/2, and P/24/2277/2) should not be regarded as fully addressing the priorities outlined in the 2014 Conservation Management Plan in relation to planning consent. The Local Planning Authority will need to assess the full scope of works required under the S106 agreement associated with planning application P/14/1833/2.

Additionally, the Local Planning Authority may wish to consider provisions following repairs for future inspection and maintenance provision.

#### **Recommendation**

Historic England has concerns regarding the application on heritage grounds. 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 207 and 208 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.



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Yours sincerely

Sara

**Sara Willhoit**  
Landscape Architect  
E-mail:



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