



Historic England

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

Direct Dial:

Our ref: L01587278

3 February 2025

Dear Mr Jones

Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2021

STREET RECORD, ASHBY ROAD, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE Application No. P/24/2277/2

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 highly ornamental wrought iron screen and gates form part of the main canal that runs from east to west across the south front of the lawn to the south of the Hall.

Impact

The proposed works raise several important considerations regarding the quality and appropriateness of interventions. A sensitive approach to cleaning trials is essential, with an emphasis on preserving the historic integrity of the surface. Removing all paint layers through shotblasting may not be appropriate and requires justification, paint layers could provide valuable historic documentation. As such, any cleaning should be sensitive, involving the application of paint samples informed by detailed paint analysis.

Clarification is needed on the philosophy guiding the reforming of bent bars, some degree of imperfection, such as wonky bent bars, may be accepted, reflecting their history, However, should they cease to perform their function. It is vital to explore the compatibility, interface and appearance of mild steel with the existing wrought iron components. A clear justification for material choice and an exploration of potential issues regarding the long-term preservation of these elements are necessary.



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On the matter of missing features, such as finials, ovals and gates, a clear rationale should be provided for their reinstatement, and whether their absence affects the significance of the structure and garden. It is advisable to conserve and repair the elements as found unless there is compelling evidence to warrant a change. Reinstatement of the missing gates would appear to contribute to the significance in serving the functional role in the architectural narrative of the screens.

Confirmation on the stone selection and mortar is needed to ensure any repairs are compatible with the original material, we note references to other structures in the proposal which may relate to a separate proposal. We recommend the Local authority seeks conditions regarding the mortar and stone type, subject to approval of samples.

Policy

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

You may find the following published guidance helpful, available on our website; <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/metals-conservation>

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



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changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

Sara

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