



Historic England

Mr Robert Hope  
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Direct Dial: 0161 2421442

Our ref: P01355530

5 February 2021

Dear Mr Hope

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

**BROADGATE, RIVERSIDE AND RIVERSIDE ROAD PRESTON  
Application No. LCC/2021/0002**

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

The proposed flood defences will run along the north side of the River Ribble, and will have an impact on a number of heritage assets. Of these, three are considered to fall within the remit of Historic England.

Avenham Park and Miller Park were laid out in 1861 and 1864 respectively, to the design of the prominent landscape designer Edward Miller. Their mixture of formal and informal layout, reinforced by a number of attractive structures, including decorative gates and obelisks, gives the two parks an aesthetically pleasing character.

The two parks occupy the northern bank of the River Ribble, and their interrelationship with the river makes an important contribution to their significance. Their significance also derives from their historic interest, as they are early examples of municipal parks, and they contribute to our understanding of Victorian responses to leisure and recreation. This understanding is particularly strong because their historic design and intent is still clearly legible, in part due to restoration works in the twenty-first century

Further along the river, Penwortham Bridge is an attractive sandstone structure, dated to 1759. Part of this visual interest derives from the aesthetically pleasing character of the sandstone, but it also derives from irregularity of the size of its arches and from its



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low height, meaning that it skims across the water. The bridge also has considerable historic interest, as one of a group of historic crossing points across the River Ribble, which are located in close proximity to each other.

Both Miller Park and Avenham Park are registered at grade II\*. Penwortham Bridge is designated as both a Scheduled Monument and a listed building, listed at grade II.

## Impact

The proposed flood defences would terminate at the south-western edge of Miller Park, and would involve the creation of flood gates within the railway arches. This would have a minor impact on the entrance into the registered park and garden from this direction.

It would also separate the smaller spur of Miller Park located to the west of the railway, from the main body of the park to the east. However, the railway line already disconnects this area of the park and garden from the rest, and the works would not be discernible within the majority of the heritage asset. As such, any impact would be negligible.

The works would also be located in close proximity to Penwortham Bridge. While this is not inherently objectionable, it is not immediately clear exactly how the defences will interact with the Scheduled Monument. In particular, there would appear to be some discrepancy as to whether the works will stop short of the bridge, abut it, or tie into it.

## Policy

National policy relating to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment is articulated in section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework. These policies state that assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance (para.184) and that when considering the impact of a proposed development, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (para.193).

## Position

Historic England has no specific objection to the application on heritage grounds, and would not identify that the works would result in a no greater than negligible impact on the significance of Miller Park or Avenham Park.

However, the exact nature of the impact of the works on Penwortham Bridge is not clear. We would therefore request greater clarity in regard to this element of the works, and would recommend that the planning authority request specific details prior to the determination of the application. This will allow us to assess whether Scheduled Monument Consent would be required.



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## Recommendation

Historic England would not raise an objection to the proposals. However, we would raise minor concerns that the impact on the scheduled bridge has not been clearly illustrated, and would therefore require further specific information to alleviate this concern.

Your authority should take these representations into account and seek the further information requested in our advice. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us.

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

**Richard Broadhead**

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

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