



Historic England

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Mr Adrian Dowd
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Planning Department, Council Offices
Church Walk
CLITHEROE
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

Direct Dial: 0161 242 1416

Our ref: P00502212

Dear Mr Dowd

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015 & T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
STONYHURST, AVENUE ROAD, HURST GREEN, LANCASHIRE, BB7 9PZ
Application No 3/2016/0167**

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2016 notifying us of the application for planning permission relating to the above site. We do not wish to comment in detail, but offer the following general observations.

Historic England Advice

Stonyhurst College is a Roman Catholic independent school which was founded in 1593 and established itself at Stonyhurst in 1794. Formally the ancient seat of the Shireburn family, the 16th century Elizabethan courtyard house was granted to the Society of Jesuits in the 1802. The complex as a whole is one of architectural splendour and is set within extensive landscaped grounds which are a rare survivor of late 17th /early 18th century gardens. The formal 18th century landscape includes canals, avenues and gardens, all of which was overlaid on a medieval deer park, vestiges of which are still evident. The grounds then underwent further redesigns in the 19th century, with existing woodland areas being expand upon and new woodlands being planted.

The whole site is of particular interest due to the continued catholic ownership over a prolonged period of time. The estate is also a multi-phased complex of buildings and facilities a number of which have been specifically constructed for educational use. These buildings include St Mary's, a seminary which was constructed in 1830 and was used to train Jesuit Priests. The range of recreational facilities which have also need added over the course of the sites history includes handball and tennis courts built in the 19th century and a more recent all-weather pitch and new gym.

The importance of the Stonyhurst College as a whole is recognised by the range and number of high grade designations found on the site Stonyhurst College Old Quadrangle is Grade I listed, as is the Church of St Peter, whilst the surrounding



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landscape is a grade II* listed registered historic park and garden. St Mary's itself is also a grade II listed building and the likely impact of the proposals on this structure will need to be considered by the local authorities own expert advice.

It is proposed to construct two tarmac tennis courts on the site of an area which is currently a mix of grass land and an existing car park and lies adjacent to an existing all weather pitch. Approval is also sort for the erection of an inflatable dome, which would be used to cover the tennis course during the less seasonable periods of the year and which would be deflated once the dry weather arrives. An additional part of the proposal is to reconfigure the existing car park and provide to coach lay-bys alongside the courts.

Having reviewed the proposals we are in agreement that the location of the proposed tennis courts does represent the most sensitive of the five options outlined as part of the Heritage Statement, which was submitted in support of the application (NPPF 128). This is because the dome would not been seen in any of the principle views of the grade I listed buildings, being sheltered from view by a tree belt and the general arrangement of the complex. We would also concur with the conclusions in this document that the previous development which has occurred in this part of the registered historic park and garden, has changed its character and somewhat lessened the contribution it makes to the wider significance of the landscape as a whole. It is also felt to be of benefit to group the modern sports facilities in one area, confining the likely impact to an isolated area of lesser significance.

As such, we have reached the conclusion that the tennis courts and car parking facility with coach lay-by's, could be accommodated with little to no impact on the high grade designated heritage assets within our consideration. The more evident dome does have the potential to have a greater level of impact, but this is still believed to be limited and viewed as less than substantial harm, in line with paragraph 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework. We therefore raise no objection to the application.

Recommendation

We would urge you to address the above issues, and recommend that the application should be determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance, and on the basis of your specialist conservation advice. It is not necessary for us to be consulted again. However, if you would like further advice, please contact us to explain your request.



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Yours sincerely

Marie Smallwood

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

E-mail: marie.smallwood@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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