



Ms Louise Bearcroft  
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Planning, Investment and Regeneration Service  
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Our ref: L01587685

10 February 2025

Dear Ms Bearcroft

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

### **BRIDGE (MDL1/24), JACK LANE, HANGING HEATON, DEWSBURY, WEST YORKSHIRE**

**Application No. 2025/90117**

Thank you for your letter of 23 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**

We have been involved in pre-application discussions, alongside Kirklees Council, throughout the development of the TRU between Dewsbury and Leeds.

#### **Significance**

Jack Lane Underbridge (MDL1/24) is an important historic structure on the historic TransPennine Route (TRU) and continues to contribute to the operational railway network. It is an original and little altered 1840s underbridge constructed during the Heroic Age (1841-50) of railway building on what is not one of the main railway lines in the north of England. It was designed by the notable Scottish engineer Thomas Grainger, who worked extensively in England and Scotland.

Jack Lane Underbridge is a good example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cast iron underbridge, that is imposing in scale and displays craftsmanship in its construction and detailing. It reflects engineering practice of the time in utilising cast-iron shallow-arched girders.

The bridge has group value with the other Listed structures designed by Grainger on the Leeds, Dewsbury & Manchester Railway line. It was designated a Grade II Listed building in March 2018.

#### **Impact**

The works will involve permanent alterations to bridge as a result of the removal and



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replacement of the existing early 20<sup>th</sup> century deck. We consider that the replacement of the bridge deck will retain the ability to appreciate the existing underbridge's historic appearance and character, whilst also ensuring its optimum viable use as an operational railway structure.

In examining the level of harm from the proposals on the significance of Jack Lane underbridge, we agree with the Heritage Statement that this would be less than substantial harm under National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, para 215).

We welcome the methodology statement and materials details that have been supplied in support of the application. We are pleased to see that the pilaster capitals at the top of the pilasters on all four sides will be retained and the existing corner cill under the deck on all four corners are to re-use existing masonry. Also, we welcome the confirmation that pointing mortar will be undertaken in Lime mortar NHL5, to match existing.

We agree with the proposal to undertake Historic Building recording to a Level 3 standard, as defined in Section 5.2 of this WSI, in line with our guidance on recording within Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice working.

### **Position**

We understand that the works are required as part of the wider TRU scheme. We consider that the harmful impacts on the significance of the listed bridge have been minimised and mitigated as far as reasonably possible.

### **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 207, 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



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Historic England

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