

NCC-032254-18 Mattersey Priory Planning

Regarding Mattersey Priory re the following:

1. The change in access to this listed ruin - I have driven my car down for years, how can this be stopped now.
2. Disabled and general lack of access to the site.
3. Recent public information that this is a private site and "discouragement" to visit the site.
4. Removal of the brown sign pointing to the site.
5. How much it cost the council to maintain this site.

I very much suspect the changes are due to the new owners new business to hold wedding on the site as advertised on Facebook

6. Has planning permission be sought for a change of use.

Thank you.

Dear Requester,

Further to your recent Freedom of Information request. Nottinghamshire County Council do not hold or manage the site and would need to refer you to English Heritage as owners and promoters of this local attraction and important historical site.

However in an aid to help you with your request the following is information we have been able to identify;

The following is an extract from the Highway Network Management Plan which is the policy document associated with the highway service and its provision standards. You will see from this that whilst we would support this location as a bona-fide attraction, any signage and maintenance of such would be with the owner (English Heritage).

Tourism signing (Brown Signs)

Tourism signing will be considered to bona-fide tourist attractions and facilities.

Nottinghamshire County Council supports and encourages tourism within the County as a means to encourage economic growth and improve the health and wellbeing of its residents.

General Principles

a) Brown tourism signs will be approved to direct visitors to tourist destinations as defined from time to time by national guidance.

b) Applicants will pay the cost of a sign and its siting unless those costs can be offered by the Council.

c) If Highways Agency approval is needed for the signage, the costs of the Highways Agency will be met by the Applicant.

d) Applications will be presumed to be granted unless there are substantial reasons for refusal. Such reasons will include the needs of traffic management, including proximity to trunk roads and visibility from A classified roads. Any refusals will require Committee approval.

Timescales

All applications will be processed and signs erected or refused within 6 months of the original application. Whilst many applications will be processed significantly quicker, 6 months will allow all necessary consultations with other agencies or councils to be completed.

Costs

The applicant will pay the cost of the sign and its siting and be responsible for all future maintenance costs including repair or replacement of damaged signs caused by vandalism or theft. Payment will be required in advance of any work being undertaken but after approval has been given.

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/licences-permits/brown-tourist-signs>

English Heritage. The Priory is advertised on their website and the following is made clear regarding access:

Access: There is no vehicle access to the site so please park in the village and then walk or cycle a mile down Abbey Road (bridleway). Access from the top of Abbey Road to the priory is through a privately-owned field and by permission of the landowner. Entry into the field is via a stile and there may be animals grazing in it.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/mattersey-priory/>

It our understanding that Mattersey Priory is managed (If not owned/long term leased?) by English Heritage, though the land around it is private, including the adjacent farm. There is a right of way right up to the farm itself, though this is not shown as extending right up to the priory ruins.

Presumably English Heritage have some form of access to the site arranged with the landowner if this is required.

The site itself is recorded on the HER as a Scheduled Monument. The Scheduled area includes the priory ruins and the adjacent Listed Farm. Any planning issues should therefore have been past Historic England for SM Consent as well as Bassetlaw.

We trust this resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

In addition to this and for future reference Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIRs and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see

link)<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

Alison Fletcher
Complaints, Information & Mediation Officer
Chief Executive's Department
Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall