

Heritage Statement

To support planning application August 2021

Introduction

This statement is written in support of the householder application for minor alterations and extensions to Sun Villa Cottage and outbuildings, at Sunny Corner, in Cusgarne. The site lies on the boundary of the Gwennap Mining District of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS). The following statement is written in response to

- Policy 24 of the Cornwall Local Plan,
- Chapter 16 of the NPPF,
- the Cornish Mining WHS Management Plan 2020 – 2025,
- the Cornish Mining WHS SPD 2017.

A summary of the WHS and its outstanding universal value can be found on the UNESCO website;

“Much of the landscape of Cornwall and West Devon was transformed in the 18th and early 19th centuries as a result of the rapid growth of pioneering copper and tin mining. Its deep underground mines, engine houses, foundries, new towns, smallholdings, ports and harbours, and their ancillary industries together reflect prolific innovation which, in the early 19th century, enabled the region to produce two-thirds of the world’s supply of copper. The substantial remains are a testimony to the contribution Cornwall and West Devon made to the Industrial Revolution in the rest of Britain and to the fundamental influence the area had on the mining world at large. Cornish technology embodied in engines, engine houses and mining equipment was exported around the world. Cornwall and West Devon were the heartland from which mining technology rapidly spread.”

UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215>

Existing Building

The Cottage at Sun Villa dates back to approximately 1820.

The building is of stone construction, with a traditional pitched roof, using timber rafters and slate roof coverings. The original form of the house was a two-up, two-down with a central staircase. Later additions to cottage have provided additional accommodation to suit modern day requirements of kitchen and bathroom facilities. This section has a lower pitched, sloping roof and a narrower room plan than the main building.

Assessment of Proposal

It is considered that the proposal will enhance the overall appearance of the cottage and site at Sun Villa, by removing the out-dated, low quality designed, and poorly constructed front conservatory and outbuildings to the side of the cottage. The design of the new extensions is in proportion and is well-balanced with the existing principal elevation, facing south onto the road. The use of render, timber, slate and glass will provide a high-quality finish and the openings have been considered in relation to the existing window openings on the cottage, creating a well-composed overall façade.

The new porch and side extensions will create a positive contribution to the local character, by not replicating or being pastiche in their nature, but offering a modest, contemporary design that compliments the existing stone cottage.

There are no changes proposed to the sites boundaries or other elements, and therefore the overall setting of the cottage within the WHS will remain unchanged.