



Heritage Statement

Client: Mr and Mrs Catling

Site: Proposed replacement porch, Lilac Cottage, Cotherstone, Co. Durham.

INTRODUCTION

This application is submitted for the proposed enlarged replacement porch to the west of Lilac Cottage in the village of Cotherstone.

The site is within the Cotherstone Conservation Area and the North Pennines AONB.

Heritage Notes

The village of Cotherstone lies in Teesdale at the point the River Balder joins with the Tees and is upstream from Barnard Castle by approximately 4km. Cotherstone is set around the village green and has a small network of lanes and passageways leading away from it. Many of the older houses still seen in the village were farmhouses and cottages, built in the 17th and early 18th centuries.

Above the village lies Cotherstone Moor where some of the earliest remains in the area have been found. The moor is particularly noted for the prehistoric rock carvings known as cup and ring marks. These were probably carved in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age, and may have had some religious meaning. A number of these decorated rocks can be found around Goldsborough Rigg where a Bronze Age ring cairn can also be found.

The arrival of the Romans in the 1st century AD appears to have little effect on life in Teesdale. No notable roads ran through the area and the nearest

Roman fort would have been at Greta Bridge approximately 10km to the south east. The name of the village itself is Old English - it was first recorded as Cudrestone in the Domesday Book, and is thought to mean 'Cuthere's farmstead'. Beyond the place name little survives. A fragment of an 8th or 9th century stone cross was found built into a barn at Thwaite Hall, however its origin is unknown and it may have come from elsewhere.

The village became more important in the medieval period when a castle was built around 1090. This was one of a line of castles marking the entrance to Teesdale. The remains of the earth mound can still be seen. Part of the surrounding countryside was used as a deerpark, although this was turned back into farmland in 1626.

Cotherstone and its moor remained a quiet rural area, which was relatively unchanged, even at the introduction of a small coalmine. As lead mining arrived in the area, much of the activity took place further up the dale however a small lead mine was established on Cotherstone Moor, and the remains of the hushes and leats can still be seen. Other important remains that can be seen in the area include the ruins of Balder Mill, which was probably built in the 17th or early 18th century. Unfortunately, the nearby manor house has now disappeared. Many of the older houses in Cotherstone were typical stone farmhouses, however with the arrival of the mines and the growth of industry further downstream, a number of large houses were built by 19th century industrialists. When the railway arrived in 1868 the village expanded and several rows of terraced houses and larger Victorian and Edwardian houses were constructed and are still evident today. The railway line which ran as far as Middleton in Teesdale was eventually closed as part of the Beeching cuts on rural lines. The bed of the railway line can still be seen and is used as a public footpath.

Proposed Work

The proposed porch will replace an existing stone and timber one which is in some disrepair as can be seen in the photographs below. The new porch will be slightly larger and, due to shape and size, will have a flat roof rather than a pitched one. Construction will be a sill height stone wall with uPVC double glazed elements above. While the new porch is to the rear of Lilac Cottage, it fronts onto a public right of way.

CONCLUSION

Following the appraisal of the site and its context within the Cotherstone area, we feel that all measures have been undertaken to inform a detailed, sympathetic design process. It is considered that an appropriate design solution has been achieved and the opportunities and constraints have been identified which impact on and influence, the proposed scheme.

The result of this is a proposal for a modest replacement porch on the site. Consideration has been given to the nearby buildings in the locale, and the resultant proposal will not affect the visual aspect due to its positioning away from the centre of the village.

