

Heritage Statement

Beech Hill Farm, Billingley, Barnsley, S72 0HY

Introduction-

This heritage statement has been prepared to support the application for the masonry-built porch extension at Beech Hill Farm, Billingley. The planning Authority requires a heritage statement as the host dwelling is located at the fringe of the village's conservation area.

Billingley evolved as a small farming village around two main farms and formed from a small hamlet of workers cottages and farmhouses from the medieval period onwards. Billingley is marked on a historic map from 1610 as being within what was then known as the west riding of Yorkshire in the Wapentake of Staincross. Later, in 1804 Billingley was described as having 800 acres of land and the owners were listed as Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr Micclewait, Mr Denton and Mr Pigott. Over the next 100-150 years apart from some infill developments from time to time it's clear that the village changed little in stark contrast to the nearby villages of Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe and Bolton-on-Dearne which expanded significantly during the growth of the mining industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The most important buildings in the village are effectively those Protected by their listing on the statutory list. The listed buildings within the village's conservation area are Billingley Hall on Back Lane, Poplar Farmhouse on Chapel Lane and Manor House on High Street. The rest of the village is a mix of traditional and more contemporary residential properties.

Proposal-

Beech Hill Farm is a period farmhouse and an adjoining stone barn sympathetically converted into a fine residence in about 1988 providing spacious accommodation.

The proposal is to demolish the out of place timber-built porch that serves the primary door and replace this larger masonry-built porch that is visually more in keeping and relates to the aesthetics of the Billingley vernacular. The newly constructed porch will have no impact on parking arrangement and off-street parking will still be accommodated through the property's extensive driveway. Planning drawings have been provided to show how the building and roof configuration will emulate the existing property.

Conservation Area Impact-

The conservation area is a similar mix of residential properties from the more traditional manor houses, such as the previously mentioned and listed Billingley Hall and The Manor House and vernacular cottages to the more contemporary detached and semi detached houses and the block of sheltered accommodation at Well Lane Court to the south west of the village, along with the now converted former agricultural buildings that were vacated when the villages two main farms, New Grange Farm and Hall Farm relocated to more contemporary agricultural buildings to the North and South-East of the village respectively.

This proposal will be of no detriment to the local vernacular, if anything this proposal should be seen as an improvement to create a porch that is more in keeping with the local aesthetics.