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STAFFORDSHIRE moorlands DISTRICT COUNCIL
ACHIEVING · EXCELLENCE

Conservation Response.

Date: 07/08/2023.

File/Application ref: DET/2023/0018.

Case Officer: Chris Johnston.

Proposal: 'Application to determine is prior approval is required for a proposal change of use of agricultural buildings to one dwellinghouse (use Class C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion'.

Site Address: Weatherworth Manor Farm, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Staffordshire, ST13 7HA.

Dear Chris,

Weatherworth Manor Farm lies within very close proximity to Cliffhead Farm. Cliffhead is seen on maps dated 1887 to the west which does have monument status as a Historic Farmstead; MST17187.

Some original and or smaller buildings at Weatherworth may have historically been associated with Cliffhead in some form, as there are no other buildings of this farmstead layout in the vicinity, in this map edition.

Weatherworth Manor Farm appears to remain a farmstead miniature, (or collection of ancillary structures subject to further investigation), on Historic Maps dated 1898 and later on those dated 1923. There was little to no change at this location during this period.

Nans Croft Farm a little way to the south also having monument status on the Gateway with the very early buildings also seen on maps dated 1887. MST20967.

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From a heritage perspective I would expect to see some photographs of the structure concerned and included in the photographs, some context. The site plan appears to echo the footprint of this structure from the 1898 map edition.

Irregular and basic fenestration focused at one elevation and the although briefly described material palette of 'natural stone', 'plain tiled roof' indicates to me this building potentially has some heritage values associated with a vernacular Moorlands farmstead. Whether that be in relation to Cliffhead as briefly considered above, or not.

Similarly, works thought of as to 'thermally upgrade' the structure also indicates this building is of age and consequently I would encourage the inclusion of the advice from a Conservation Accredited individual or company to support this project to ensure the longevity of the buildings fabric. Vernacular structures such as this were by their nature not designed to be lived in. Building operations reasonably necessary for a conversion project therefore should be capable of adaption to suit.

The plans at this stage conceptualise a proliferation of generic rooflights and extensive glazing to one gable end. Neither of which at this stage subject to further investigation I feel are sensitive to the identity of a humble Moorlands farmstead or vernacular barn.

As above I would encourage some photographs and further details of the structure in order for me to decipher its heritage potential, and relationship to its respective collection of farm buildings on site and elsewhere if relevant.

Regards,

Miss E Holland.
Principal Conservation Officer.