

I am writing to add my support to the objections to this planning application. In my view, the proposal would be a significant loss of heritage and impact adversely on the green belt.

First, the loss of this cottage would impact adversely and inappropriately on the visual setting of the green belt in this much-loved part of the Mayfield valley. This is not a sensitive redevelopment and upgrading of a cottage with character but the complete demolition and replacement with a modernistic house.

Whilst the design of the new building might be impressive, it does not justify the loss of Bennet Cottage. No doubt the design could be transposed to another site without such loss to the Mayfield valley environment.

Secondly, this cottage is significant because it is one of the few remaining cruck house constructions.

In 1916, at a time when many cruck buildings were still to be observed in Sheffield, C F Innocent wrote, "there is considerable variety in the shapes of crucks in the Sheffield district and it is unusual to find all the crucks exactly alike in the same building." Since then, very many of these buildings have been lost. The variety Mr Innocent refers to suggests that any cruck-based building now remaining is likely to be unique and should be preserved as a rare example, in spite of any development it has gone through over time.

Historic England's decision not to list the building should not mean that the heritage importance has been determined. Quite the opposite: had the building been listed, then planning permission should have been refused. However, it does not follow from Historic England's decision that the heritage is unimportant. It should be safeguarded by planning controls instead.

Even with the crucks themselves being removed does not alter the fact the cottage is one of original cruck construction. Historic England acknowledges that the crucks appear to have been removed in the relatively recent past and certainly since 1961. I do not feel it would be right to give the property developer

the benefit of the doubt if he is unable to account for most significant part of this historic cottage, the crucks.

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