



Emailed to: development.control3@cumberland.gov.uk

24 March 2026

Dear Christopher Harrison,

Site: Florence Arts Centre, Florence Mine, Egremont, CA22 2NR

Reference: 4/26/2059/0F1

The Twentieth Century Society is the National Amenity Society charged with the protection and appreciation of post-1914 heritage. The Society is acknowledged in national planning guidance as the key organisation concerned with the modern period and is a constituent member of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies (JCNAS).

Thank you for consulting the Society on the above planning application for the *renovation to the exterior of the building including new cladding/fenestration works, new entrance doors, windows, extension to rear, new access road/footpath, associated car parking and hard and soft landscaping.*

Mining of haematite iron ore began at the site in the early 1900s, however the current pit head opened in 1947. The remaining structures include the headframe and heapstead, the winding engine, fan house, compressor, workshops and the ore processing plant. The pit head buildings were Grade II-listed in 2018.

Florence Mine is believed to have been the last iron mine to close in Europe and was last worked in 2007. Florence Mine in West Cumbria is one of the best surviving mining sites nationally. It is noted by Historic England as being the best surviving example of an iron mining pit head in England, retaining a full suite of building complete with nearly all its machinery and equipment.

The site is now home to an arts centre which provides workshop areas, theatre space, storage and an art gallery. The building which houses the arts centre was formerly the administration space for the mine housing offices and shower rooms.

The Society welcomes plans to restore the pithead of the mine, and the development of the arts centre will help to secure its future by attracting more visitors and funding.

The Twentieth Century Society is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no 05330664

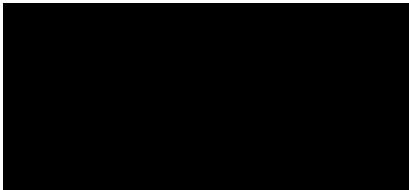
Registered office: 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
Registered Charity no 1110244

The proposed changes will have little adverse impact on the listed structures of the Florence mine, and are limited to the administration building on the site which is already in use as an arts centre. We defer to the conservation officer on the detailed plans of the proposals.

We hope that these comments are of use to you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch for any further information. We would be happy to be involved in discussions about the possible future use of the building.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Mark



Head of Casework

The Twentieth Century Society
70 Cowcross Street
London, EC1M 6EJ



Remit: The Twentieth Century Society was founded in 1979 and is the national amenity society concerned with the protection, appreciation, and study of post-1914 architecture, townscape and design. The Society is acknowledged in national planning guidance as the key organisation concerned with the modern period and is a constituent member of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies. Under the procedures set out in the *Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications – Notification to Historic England and National Amenity Societies and the Secretary of State (England) Direction 2021*, all English local planning authorities must inform the Twentieth Century Society when an application for listed building consent involving partial or total demolition is received, and they must notify us of the decisions taken on these applications.