0424: BUXTON CRESCENT HOTEL AND SPA PROJECT HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY ADVERTISEMENT APPLICATION HPK/2013/012 ADVERTISEMENT CONSENT REF FCRI.18962 for ADVERTISING ON THE HOARDINGS TO THE FRONT OF THE CRESCENT, BUXTON

THE SITE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Buxton is the site of a thermal spring around which the Romans built a spa complex. Following the dark ages, the medieval period saw this spring being a place of cure by receiving the waters of St. Ann's Well. This also saw the building of the Hall at Buxton and following a fire the new Hall. This is the place where Mary Queen of Scots was held under house arrest on the instructions of Queen Elizabeth of England. And it is here next to the Spa Bath as depicted by Speed on his map of Derbyshire that the Hall and subsequently the New Hall (now known as the Old Hall) is located. Following the destruction of the temple to the spring on the instructions of Oliver Cromwell, the spring fell into a period of little use. However, with the Georgian fashion of Spa visiting, Buxton had a new life, starting with John Barker's new baths adjoining the Hall at Buxton which were constructed in 1712. Through the 18th Century and early 19th Century, a number of alterations were made to the baths culminating in a major re-design by Henry Currey between 1851 and 1856. At the same time, Henry Currey designed the new Thermal Baths which are outside our site.

The Crescent was built between 1779 and 1790 immediately to the east of the natural baths to form appropriate accommodation for those coming to take the waters. This was in an attempt to compete with the then fashionable spa bathing at Bath, the only other thermal spa in the country. It is evident that John Carr the Architect of the Crescents, who had designed this perfect semi-circular structure with fine elevations both to the front and the rear, would have instigated major re-designing of the baths, however, the only designs that have survived to this day by John Carr, appear to be of proposals done prier to the building of the Crescent. The Crescent was designed as an 18th Century leisure complex incorporating 2 or possibly 3 Hotels. The hotel was a very new form of building taking over from Inns as places of leisure and accommodation. It is significant that the difference between a Hotel and previous forms of accommodation was the inclusion of public 'assembly rooms'. Though many adaptations have occurred within the

Crescent to support the demands of bathroom facilities and catering, the fabric of the Crescent has remained substantially intact.

The final building within the site is the Pump Room designed by Henry Currey and opened by the 8th Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, on the 13th June 1894. The building is almost unaltered with the exception of the enclosure of the arcade at the front and the later removal of the two domes.

In 1937 the new baths were again re-constructed at a cost of £20,000 including a new Entrance Hall of red and white marble and a panelled oak rest room incorporated into the centre of the baths. The Natural Baths continued to be enjoyed until their eventual closure in 1972, when the new swimming bath behind the Opera House and Pavilion Gardens complex was opened by Princess Anne. Following the closure of the baths as public bathing in 1972 the only use that these buildings have had is as the Tourist Information Centre. Other parts of the Natural Baths have stood empty. The only use of the spa itself being the extraction of water for bottling, for the hospital site (in the original John Carr stables building) and to supply water to the modern swimming pool.

The pump room has in recent years had a number of uses including Micrarium (educational study exhibition of insects and microscopic life) and more recently as an art and crafts exhibition centre. The east part of the Crescent was taken over in the 1970's as council offices and public library, however, due to structural issues this was closed in approximately 1990. The west end, which was occupied by the St. Ann's Hotel, was compulsorily purchased in1992 by Highpeak Borough Council and with the aid of English Heritage and the Heritage memorial fund have undertaken extensive repairs on the extensive external envelope of the Crescent.

ENGLISH HERITAGE LISTINGS

THE CRESCENT
BUXTON
SK0573NE THE CRESCENT
616-1/3/83 The Crescent
25/01/51
(Formerly Listed as:
THE CRESCENT
St Anne's Hotel. Crescent Hotel.)
GV I

Hotel, Assembly Rooms and 5 lodging houses, later council premises, now vacant. 1780-88, addition c1803 with C19 and C20alterations. By John Carr of York for the 5th Duke of Devonshire, additions possibly by J White. Ashlar, brick and dressed stone with ashlar dressings and Westmorland slate roofs. Cruciform stone stacks.

STYLE: Neo-Classical. -
PLAN: crescent.

EXTERIOR: 3 storeys to front, 4 storeys to rear, and basements.

Front has symmetrical 29 window semi-circular range culminating in 5 window facades at each end. Rusticated, round
arched arcade to ground floor has set back 27 round headed openings, with sets of steps in front of arches 2, 8, 11, 14, 16, 22 and 23 (from right to left). Central altered doorway and to left a 3-light opening, a window, a door, 2 windows, a doorway altered to a window, 2 windows, 2 blocked doors and 3 windows. To the right 2 windows, a door, 2 windows, a door, 5 windows, a door and a window. All the windows are glazing bar sashes and doorways have mostly 6 panel doors and fanlights. Above giant fluted Roman Doric pilasters with blind balustradeand full entablature, topped by balustrade with plain panels interspersed with shaped balusters, the central panel is carved with the Cavendish arms. First floor has 23 plain sashes and to the right 6 glazing bar sashes, with guilloche pattern plat band between floors, and second floor has 29 glazing bar sashes. 5 window facades at either end have similar articulation, set back ground floor facades have 4 round headed sashes each. Left return has similar articulation, 5-window range with blocked entrance at bay 1, first-floor windows blind and second-floor windows with glazing bar sashes. Right return has similar articulation, 7-window range, with 7 round headed sashes on the first floor and 7 blank panels above.

Rear facade of dressed stone, 4 storeys. Ground floor has tall round headed windows mostly blocked, and small square projections with stairs. First and second floors have boarded glazing bar sashes and third floor has smaller glazing bar sashes.

INTERIOR: of former St Ann's Hotel altered but some original features survive. The vaulted cellars serviced by central passageway are divided into secure rooms providing wine cellars and stores. These retain many original features, such as 4 planked doors with strapped hinges within pegged architraves, that have been refronted with panelled doors. There are 6-panel doors with low lock rails. Stone flag floors and a stone table survive. Window openings include 2 internal lunettes and an exterior window with chamfered mullion. To the right-hand, east, section many wooden doors retain top panels with bars for ventilation or vent holes. 2 fireplaces with stone jambs and lintels, 1 with narrow grate, the other larger. Ground floor has later ornate dining room addition to rear, with massive moulded beams upon double modillions in 5 rectangular panels. Folding shutters to windows. Later furnishings include Chinese style woven wallhangings. First floor has cast-iron balusters to stairs, with wreathed wooden handrail and columns to landing. Door glazed and engraved to upper panels, with fanlight and raised panels to spandrels, inornate doorcase with ovolo moulding, leads into Smoking Room. Drawing room also has entrance door with engraved glass to upper panels and overlight, in moulded surround with entablature. The ceiling has shallow relief plasterwork of interlocking scrolls with central roundel. The frieze is similar in style to the cyclamen or "whiplash" pattern. Ornatefireplace with overmantel. One fireplace removed at time of survey, elaborate over mantel mirror remaining. Former Great Hotel, later Crescent Hotel, has semi-circular staircase rising from right-hand entrance to first floor Assembly Room with canted corners. Coved ceiling with ornate Adam style plasterwork, also plaques to wall. Marble fireplaces with overmantels, coved decorated

alcoves, and ornate door cases, all with pediments either scrolled or triangular. The double panelled doors are round headed. Order of Corinthian columns and engaged pilasters. Adjoining the Assembly Room is the former card room (2x2) with panelled doors. The remaining houses and the hotel were designed as individual units, those to the hotel have linking curved central corridors on each floor. Each unit has 3 windows to the front and 5 windows to the rear with splayed internal walls following the curve of the Crescent. The units also have single flight return, cantilevered stone staircase with iron balustrade and wooden handrail. Most units contain some original decoration such as doors, doorcases and plasterwork, though many were modernized in the C19 and they retain interesting C19 fireplaces, plasterwork and panelling. Brick and stone vaulted cellars retain at least one later cooking range and slop stone sink. Balustrade to Great Stair by Thomas Smith of Chesterfield, and plasterwork to Assembly Room by James Henderson of York and carving by Thomas Waterworth of Doncaster.

The Crescent cost £38,601.18s.4d.

(The Buildings of England: Pevsner N: Derbyshire:
Harmondsworth: 1953-1986: 113; Hall I: Georgian Buxton: Chapel-en-le-Frith: 1984-: 40; Leach John: The Book Of Buxton: Leicester: 1987-: 124; Georgian Group Journal: Hall I: The Cresent, Buxton: 1992-: 40-55).
Listing NGR: SK0580673572

THE PUMP ROOM

BUXTON
SK0573NE THE CRESCENT
616-1/3/81 (South side)
25/01/51 Pump Room
GV II

Marked on the OS map as St Ann's Well.
Pump room, later micrarium now pump room. 1894, domes removed 1912, converted late C20. By H Currey. Ashlar with ashlar dressings. Flat roof.
PLAN: T-plan.
EXTERIOR: single storey. Street front, 7 windows arranged 1:5:1. Central section has Tuscan Doric pilasters with entablature inscribed ST ANN'S WELL and balustrade, 5 round moulded arches with keystones and moulded imposts each with a single 2-light window with fanlight. Either side single slightly projecting rusticated square pavilions with pediments, each has a round moulded arch with keystone and moulded imposts containing C20 double doors and overlight. Similar articulation to side and rear facades of pavilions. Returns have 2 windows between rusticated piers with round moulded arches with keystones and moulded imposts containing 2-light windows with fanlights. Rear has curved wall with moulded parapet and 5 casement windows with a central 3-light window flanked by single light windows and flanked by 2-light windows.

INTERIOR: retains open hall and many original features, such as the shallow tri-partite coved

ceiling, plastered beams withdecoration, marble pillars, plaster roundels, tiled floors, Art Nouveau glass, panelled doors with oval overlights. The pump or well reputed to survive in situ, in sunken basement to the rear of building.

(The Buildings of England: Pevsner N: Derbyshire:
Harmondsworth: 1953-1986: 116).
Listing NGR: SK0581573522

THE NATURAL BATHS

BUXTON
SK0573NE THE CRESCENT
616-1/3/76 (South West side)
25/01/51 Natural Mineral Baths
GV II

Natural mineral baths, until recently tourist information centre.
1851-53, altered 1923-24. By Henry Currey. Ashlar gritstone with ashlar dressings and Welsh slate and part glazed roof.

EXTERIOR: single storey. Street front, 5 windows arranged 1:3:1. Projecting central section has rusticated pilasters and between set back rusticated round arches topped with entablature and parapet inscribed NATURAL MINERAL BATHS. Central round headed doorway with double panel doors and fanlight, flanked by single round headed windows. Set back wings have pilasters and between set back rusticated round arches topped with entablature and balustrade, each has a single round headed window. All windows have early C20 glazing.

INTERIOR: retains original layout. The entrance leads into foyer, to right central hall with stained glass roof light and rooms radiating off. To left of entrance access to source of the spa water. Also from foyer is access to tiled corridor with 2 baths leading off, male and female, both tiled and the latter bath rounded to end with 7 cast-iron columns with guilloche railing acting as supports to glazed skylight above.Changing rooms, one a communal room with wooden partitions and 3 small sunken individual baths are served by a pair of cubicles to each. A doorway, now blocked, once connected with the Old Hall.

(The Buildings of England: Pevsner N: Derbyshire:
Harmondsworth: 1953-1986: 116; The Derbyshire Heritage series:
Bower A: The Water Cure: Derby. Hall and Sons: 1985-: 12).
Listing NGR: SK0575673501

DESIGN PROPOSAL

The Application is concerned with the impact of advertising [in the form of boards provided by professional consultants, contractors, funding organisations including HLF and English Heritage,

the freeholders of the buildings (Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council) and the developers and operators for the project. Furthermore, there will be boards displaying information to the public on the nature of the project] on the hoardings to the Listed Historic Buildings of the Crescent and Spa Hotel site during the period of the construction works. The boards are 120cm x 30cm, the smaller of the approved signs of professional site boards. There are 39 of these. The boards are grouped in three vertically and separated by larger boards with information for public benefit regarding the works being undertaken and the history of the buildings. The hoardings are painted a neutral light grey colour and the boards mentioned above screwed to these.

JUSTIFICATION

These hoardings and their associated 'professional boards' and information displays enhance what is otherwise a very dull, although essential, set of hoardings. They are an essential way of including and informing the local community and visitors of the significance of the works in progress.

MITIGATION

The hoardings which are for the purposes of protecting the public from the dangers of site works and to secure the site are only in place for the duration of the works to the Crescent, Pump Room and Natural Baths. As such the advertising on the hoardings is consequently also temporary.

April 2013