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English Heritage  
37 Tanner Row  
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Your Ref UID 172569  
Our Ref

30 March 2011



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

Dear Nick

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990  
BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST  
Redcar Library, Coatham Road, Redcar, Redcar & Cleveland, Cleveland**

With reference to the English Heritage adviser's report dated 9 March 2011 regarding the request that the above building be considered for inclusion in the statutory list, I am now in a position to advise you of the Minister for Tourism and Heritage's decision.

The Minister has completed his consideration of all the evidence, including taking into account advice from English Heritage and the representations of others, and has decided that Redcar Library is not of sufficient architectural or historic interest to merit listing protection under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

The Minister acknowledges the advice of English Heritage which recommends that the building merits listing for, among other attributes, the significance of its architects ABK, its historical interest in its forward looking design brief, the use of steel in its design and some of its surviving furniture.

The Minister is not persuaded however that the building's architectural design, decoration or craftsmanship is of special interest. In arriving at his decision the Minister noted evidence that the roof structure, despite delivering daylight at a constant level throughout the interior spaces, has failed to keep out rainwater, requiring constant attention throughout its lifespan and resulting in changes to the roof structure which have compromised the building's interest. The problems with the roof structure demonstrate an inherent flaw in the building's design and construction method and materials which impacts on its architectural interest.

The ambition of the architects and those who commissioned the building to create a new type of library to engage the local community is important in understanding the building's history but the Minister is not persuaded in this case that it is sufficient to demonstrate special interest.



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He has also noted the information presented regarding alterations to the building including the demolition of the covered way, partial removal of the sunken garden, introduction of glazed screens and doors impairing the fluidity between library and cafe areas, the sub-division of the open concourse and installation of security screens and fencing around the entrances to the library. He considers that these alterations have had the cumulative effect of diminishing the building's special interest.

In conclusion, the Minister acknowledges the arguments presented on both sides of this case. However, on balance, he believes that Redcar Library does not reach the level of historic or architectural interest required to be added to the statutory list.

Yours sincerely

  
Heritage Protection Branch