

**7. LISTED BUILDING CONSENT – CONVERSION OF THE LARGE BARN TO ONE RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, CONVERSION OF THE SMALL BARN TO ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION / HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION TO CHESTNUT FARMHOUSE, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WORKS TO THE BARN AND HOUSE, CHANGE OF USE OF THE ASSOCIATED LAND TO RESIDENTIAL, WORKS OF HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING, CAR PARKING, AND OTHER WORKS INCIDENTAL TO THE APPLICATION PROPOSALS AT CHESTNUT CENTRE, SHEFFIELD ROAD, CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH, (NP/HPK/0420/0302 AM)**

**APPLICANT: MR AND MRS HEAP**

**Summary**

1. The Chestnut centre is located in open countryside on Sheffield road north east of Chapel-en-le-frith. The site is currently unoccupied but benefits from planning permission for use as a conservation and wildlife park open to the public.
2. This application proposes the conversion and alterations to the existing Grade II listed farmhouse and two former barns to create one ancillary / holiday dwelling and one market dwelling.
3. The application demonstrates that the development will conserve and enhance the significance of the listed farmhouse and barns.
4. We recommend that the application is granted consent subject to conditions.

**Site and Surroundings**

5. The Chestnut Centre is located in open countryside off Sheffield Road, 1.5km north east of Chapel-en-le-frith and 300m south of the hamlet around Ford Hall.
6. The centre is currently un-occupied but benefits from planning permission for use as a wildlife centre, which utilised the existing buildings, and the associated land for parking. The wildlife enclosures were located along a section of the river to the north and accessed along the historic drive associated with Ford Hall. The site is located within the designated Slackhall and Ford Hall Conservation Area.
7. The site includes three buildings; a Grade II listed former Quaker burial ground, historic gates, the access and part of the parking areas for the wildlife centre. The buildings include: Chestnut Farmhouse, a Grade II listed dwellinghouse located adjacent to the highway (the farmhouse); a two storey barn last used as an education centre with toilets and changing facilities (the large barn) and a smaller barn last used as an office (the small barn). The barns and gateposts are curtilage listed in respect of the farmhouse and Ford Hall respectively.
8. The nearest neighbouring property is Toll Barn Cottage, a Grade II listed dwellinghouse to the west of the site. Slacke Hall Farm, a Grade II listed farmhouse is located to the south of the site.

**Proposal**

9. The conversion of the large barn to a market dwelling. The conversion of the small barn to ancillary accommodation / holiday accommodation for the farmhouse. External and internal alterations to the buildings and landscaping.
10. The proposed works to the farmhouse include replacement external and internal doors, new floor finishes, replacement of handrails and balustrading to staircase, replacement of existing roof light, replacement kitchen, bathroom and soil vent pipe.
11. The small barn would be converted to ancillary accommodation / holiday accommodation to the farmhouse. This would comprise a kitchen and living room at ground floor and a single

bedroom at first floor. New timber windows and doors are proposed along with flue and soil vent pipe.

12. The large barn would be converted to a three-bedroom market dwelling. This would comprise three bedrooms and two bathrooms at first floor and living accommodation at ground floor. New timber window and doors are proposed along with flue and soil vent pipes. The existing roof lights would be removed and one additional window opening would be created to the north elevation.
13. Landscaping is proposed to create parking areas and gardens for the dwellings. An electric vehicle charging point is proposed for each dwelling.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the application be APPROVED subject to the following conditions or modifications.**

- 1. Statutory three year time limit for implementation.**
- 2. In accordance with specified amended plans.**
- 3. Agreement of external lighting scheme prior to installation.**
- 4. Notwithstanding approved plans, no permission is granted for roof light to farmhouse. The existing roof light shall not be replaced other than in accordance with revised plans showing a single conservation roof light which shall have first been submitted to and approved by the National Park Authority.**
- 5. Notwithstanding approved plans the window to elevation 04 of building C (opening C-W11 on drawing PL-234) shall not be installed other than in accordance with revised plans (including frame design, opening mechanism and obscure glazing) which shall have first been submitted to and approved by the National Park Authority.**
- 6. No works to expose the fireplace within the small barn shall be undertaken other than in accordance with a method statement, which shall have first been submitted to and approved in writing. Thereafter, full details of new fireplace and associated works to be agreed in writing.**
- 7. Minor design details including: window and door finishes and furniture; rainwater goods; soil vent pipes (to be internal); flues and vents and floor finishes.**

## **Key Issues**

- The impact of the proposed works upon the significance of the Grade II listed buildings and their setting.

## **Relevant Planning History**

Pre-application advice has been sought prior to the submission of the application. We advised that in principle the conversion of the historic buildings was acceptable subject to a detailed design that conserved the significance of the buildings and the amenity of occupants.

The removal of the enclosures, ticket office and parking areas and replacement with a single market dwelling may be acceptable as the site is previously developed land. Any development would need to demonstrate significant enhancement in accordance with policy GSP2. A sub-terrain approach may be acceptable but care is needed to ensure a seamless approach with the topography and a design that minimised visual impact.

2007: Appeal against planning conditions imposed by the 2006 permission. Conditions 4 and 5 were deleted. These conditions sought to restrict total visitor numbers per annum and at any one time.

2006: Planning permission granted conditionally for change of use to conservation and wildlife park and formation of additional car parking area.

1989: Planning permission granted conditionally for otter breeding enclosures.

1988: Planning permission granted conditionally for erection of building to accommodate residential groups.

1986: Planning permission granted conditionally for erection of building and variation of conditions.

1984: Planning permission granted conditionally for falconry and country pursuits centre.

### **Consultations**

14. Parish Council: Request we carry out a site visit to fully assess the impact a new dwelling would have on the area especially the woodland and raise concerns regarding the proposed change of use of land to residential.

15. District Council: No response to date.

16. Highway Authority: The proposals will result in a substantial reduction in vehicle movements therefore there are no objections subject to planning conditions.

17. Historic England: No comment.

18. PDNPA Built Environment: Considers that the works are generally appropriate and will address issues with the existing buildings. Therefore, the proposed scheme is acceptable subject to minor amendments to address the detailed design.

19. PDNPA Archaeology: The proposals raise no archaeological concerns.

### **Representations**

20. Council for British Archaeology (CBA): Make the following comments:  
*“After assessing the application and examining the associated documentation the CBA is content that the proposed development will result in minimal harm to the significance of the Grade II Listed and curtilage listed buildings and their setting within the Conservation Area and the Peak District National Park. The CBA note that these proposals take many opportunities to better reveal the significance of the proposal site. The CBA is satisfied that the “great weight”, required by paragraph 193 of the NPPF, has been given to the buildings’ conservation and that “clear and convincing justification”, as required by paragraph 194 has been expressed for the proposed works in order to secure its sustainable future.*

*The CBA’s only recommendation is that the 1970s period of works be considered as a valid phase in the change and evolution of Chestnut Farm, and that all evidence of this period should not be removed.”*

Relevant Development Management Plan policies: DMC7

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

21. National Park designation is the highest level of landscape designation in the UK. The Environment Act 1995 sets out two statutory purposes for national parks in England and Wales: Which are; to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage

and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public. When national parks carry out these purposes they also have the duty to; seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Parks.

22. The latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 February 2019. The NPPF is a material consideration and carries particular weight where a development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out of date. In the National Park the development plan comprises the Authority's Core Strategy 2011 and policies of the Development Management Policies document 2019. Policies in the Development Plan provide a clear starting point consistent with the National Park's statutory purposes for the determination of this application.
23. In this case there is no conflict between our development plan policies and the NPPF Our development plan policies should therefore be afforded full weight in the determination of this application.
24. Paragraph 172 of the NPPF states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage should also be given great weight in National Parks.
25. Para 190 of the NPPF states that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
26. Para 192 of the NPPF states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:
  - a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
  - b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
  - c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.
27. Para 193 of the NPPF states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.
28. Para 194 of the NPPF states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:
  - a) grade II listed buildings, should be exceptional.
29. Substantial harm is very serious and is the greatest level of harm after total loss. Substantial harm will often lead to irreversible loss of significance to a point where the designation is likely to be compromised. All other harm falls under the umbrella of 'less than substantial harm', and it is important that this is not underestimated as harm that falls into this category can still be very damaging cumulatively or in its own right. Para 196 of the NPPF states that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of

a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

30. Para 199 of the NPPF states that Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

#### Core strategy policies

31. Our conservation policies reflect the approach taken in the NPPF. Policy L3 says that development must conserve and where appropriate enhance cultural heritage assets and their setting and that other than in exceptional circumstances, development will not be permitted where it is likely to cause harm.

#### Development management policies

32. DMC7 says that applications affecting a listed buildings should be determined in accordance with DMC5 and clearly demonstrate how the significance of the affected heritage assets will be preserved and why the proposed development is desirable or necessary. DMC7 C. and D set out specific types of alterations to listed buildings that will not be permitted.
33. In considering whether to listed building consent for the proposals, we are obliged to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest, which it possesses. We must give great weight to the desirability of conserving a designated heritage asset weighing against any public benefit where harm is less than substantial.

### **Assessment**

#### Impact of proposed works

34. The buildings are located in a group close to the junction and together form a historic farmstead formerly associated with Ford Hall. A heritage assessment has been prepared to inform the proposed works.
35. The proposals to the farmhouse are relatively minor in nature and the replacement of the existing doors and handrail / balustrading to the staircase will provide an enhancement to the building.
36. The application proposes a new two-pane roof light to the rear elevation. This would replace an existing roof light, which is unauthorised. There is no objection in principle to a new roof light in this position but the proposed two pane light is wide and has a horizontal form. A single pane conservation roof light is require and we would recommend that this detail is secured by planning condition along with other minor design details as recommended by our Conservation Officer.
37. The small barn would be converted to a single bedroom dwelling ancillary to the farmhouse. This building has been significantly altered internally and externally when it was converted to its current use as an office for the centre. The proposed works would introduce more appropriate window and door frames, remove timber wall lining and replace with lime plaster. The existing structural steel work would be removed with new timber purlins installed.
38. The proposed works would result in enhancement to the small barn subject to conditions to secure minor design details as recommended by our Conservation Officer. There is no objection to the use of the barn as ancillary accommodation or holiday accommodation given

its close relationship to the farmhouse. A planning condition would be necessary to secure occupancy would be necessary in accordance with policy DMR3.

39. The large barn would be converted to a three-bedroom market. This building has also been significantly altered internally and externally when it was converted to its current use as classrooms, changing rooms and toilets for the centre. The roof structure, floors and internal walls of the building are modern. The proposed works would introduce more appropriate window and door frames and remove the modern roof lights. The existing structural steel work would be removed with new timber purlins installed.
40. The proposed works would result in enhancement to the large barn subject to conditions to secure minor design details as recommended by our Conservation Officer. The long barn is very close to the farmhouse and therefore conditions are required to secure the amended plans, which ensure that occupants of the dwellings will not overlook each other or occupants of the neighbouring lodge.
41. The Council for British Archaeology request we consider retaining the steel roof structure in the barns as this represents the most recent chapter in the use of the buildings. We acknowledge that this structure does represent the conversion works that took place during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century; however, we consider that the steel structure significantly detracts from the character of the building and that it would be preferable to take the opportunity to install a more appropriate timber roof structure.
42. The farmhouse and small barn would be provided with a modest curtilage and four parking spaces adjacent to the access. Landscaping including new paving and tree and hedge planting is proposed.
43. The dwelling within the large barn would be provided with a curtilage in the former yard area. Two parking spaces are proposed accessed from the historic driveway. New tree and hedge planting is proposed. An area of land to the north of the proposed curtilage, formerly used as an outdoor seating area by the centre is proposed to be returned to the woodland with new tree and shrub planting carried out. There are no objections to the proposed landscaping which will conserve the setting of the buildings subject to the approval of details.
44. We therefore conclude that subject to conditions the proposed development will result in enhancement to the significance of the buildings and their setting. The development is therefore in accordance with policies L3 and DMC7.

## **Conclusion**

45. Subject to conditions, the proposed development would conserve and enhance the significance of the Grade II listed farmhouse, adjacent barns and their setting.
46. Therefore having taken into account all matters raised we consider that subject to conditions the proposed works will conserve and enhance the listed building and its setting. There are no other material considerations that indicate that consent should be refused. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions.

## **Human Rights**

47. Any human rights issues have been considered and addressed in the preparation of this report.

## **List of Background Papers** (not previously published)

None

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