

DECISION DELEGATED TO HEAD OF PLANNING

Application No: H06-0303-25 **Applicant:** Mr & Mrs D Hart
Proposal: Proposed garage with storage above
Location: Norwood House Station Road Gedney
Terminal Date: 14th July 2025

Planning Policies

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan - Adopted: March 2019

01 Spatial Strategy
02 Development Management
03 Design of New Development
36 Vehicle and Cycle Parking
APPENDIX 6 Parking Standards

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework December 2024

Section - Promoting sustainable transport
Section 12 - Achieving well designed places

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments
PARISH COUNCIL	0	0	0	1
WARD MEMBER	0	0	0	0
HIGHWAYS & SUDS SUPPORT	0	0	0	1
SOUTH HOLLAND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	0	0	0	1

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Proposal

This is a householder application seeking permission for a proposed garage with storage above at Norwood House, Station Road, Gedney.

The proposal has been amended during the lifetime of the application. The amended plans form those in which the report, assessment and recommendation have been made.

The garage has a total height of 5300mm and is 2300mm to the eaves, it measures at 9500mm by 6300mm for the length and width. The upstairs would be used as a storage area whilst the ground floor would operate purely as a car port. It would be constructed from a timber frame with external timber cladding and a rosemary tile roof.

Site Description

The site lies outside the settlement boundaries of Gedney as outlined within the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019 (SELLP). The property is set back from the highway by around 20m with a large gravel driveway and grass area at the front of the property. There is a hedge running the full length of the boundary at the front of the property continuing around the sides and rear also. The dwelling is made of bricks with a tiled roof and white uPVC windows and doors, there is a small outbuilding at the rear of the property with works appearing to be started behind the house.

To the north of the house there is a warehouse with access to this via the road and a gate in the existing hedge.

History

H06-1150-21 - Change of use of agricultural land to domestic and erection of building to house and maintain private vehicle collection - Approved

H06-0671-23 - Proposed rear extension and loft conversion with dormer window - Approved

H06-0113-24 - First Floor Side Extension & Alterations - Approved

Consultation Responses

Gedney Parish Council

No objections.

Lincolnshire County Council Highways Authority

Recommendation: No objection

The proposal is for garage with storage above and it does not have an impact on the Public Highway or Surface Water Flood Risk.

As Lead Local Flood Authority, Lincolnshire County Council is required to provide a statutory planning consultation response regarding drainage and surface water flood risk on all Major applications. This application is classified as a Minor Application, and it is therefore the duty of the Local Planning Authority to consider the surface water flood risk and drainage proposals for this planning application.

No Objections

Having given due regard to the appropriate local and national planning policy guidance (in particular the National Planning Policy Framework), Lincolnshire County Council (as Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority) has concluded that the proposed development would not be expected to have an unacceptable impact upon highway safety or a severe residual cumulative impact upon the local highway network or increase surface water flood risk and therefore does not wish to object to this planning application.

South Holland Internal Drainage Board

Consent may be required under Byelaw 2, not currently required under Section 23 and is not applicable under Byelaw 10.

Key Planning Considerations

The main issues and considerations in this case are (but are not limited to):

- Principle of Development and Sustainability
- Layout, Design, and Impact on the Character of the Area
- Impact on Neighbouring Residents/Land Users/Land Uses
- Highway Safety and Parking

Evaluation

Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires that the Local Planning Authority makes decisions in accordance with the adopted Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

In this case, the adopted South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036, adopted March 2019, forms the development plan for the District, and is the basis for decision making in South Holland. The relevant development plan policies are detailed within the report above .

The policies and provisions set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (updated December 2024) are also a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, alongside adopted Supplementary Planning Documents.

Planning Considerations

Principle of Development and Sustainability

The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) sets out the settlement hierarchy in respect of delivering sustainable development that meets the social and economic needs of the area whilst protecting and enhancing the environment; in order to provide enough choice of land for housing to satisfy local housing need, whilst making more sustainable use of land and to minimise the loss of high-quality agricultural land by developing in sustainable locations and at appropriate densities.

Policy 1 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) sets out a spatial strategy for delivering sustainable development across South East Lincolnshire to 2036. Policy 1 (Spatial Strategy) expresses this sustainable framework of settlements, ranking the settlements deemed to be most sustainable in descending order.

Policy 1 (Spatial Strategy) of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) indicates that within Main Service Centres, development will be permitted that supports their role as a service centre for the settlement itself, helps sustain existing facilities or helps meet the service needs of other local communities.

The application site in this instance is in the open countryside as detailed by Policy 1. Regardless of such, the proposal solely relates to the erection of a garage on existing and established residential land and therefore, the principle of such development is considered to be appropriate, comprising an appropriate form of development for the location.

As such, the proposal is considered to be acceptable with the requirements of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) when viewed in principle. This is subject to the assessment against site specific criteria; including (but are not limited to) the impact of the proposal on the character or appearance of the area, impact on the residential amenities of neighbouring occupiers, and impact on highway safety, which are discussed in turn as follows.

Layout, Design and Consideration of the Character and Appearance of the Area

Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) specifically relates to 'Achieving well-designed places' and details that the "creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve" and as such, it is generally accepted that good design plays a key role towards sustainable development.

Paragraph 135, contained within Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), states that new development should function well and add to the overall quality of the area (beyond the short term and over the lifetime of the development) and should be visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate landscaping. This goes on to establish that it is important that new development should be of the highest quality to enhance and reinforce good design characteristics, and that decisions must have regard towards the impact that the proposed development would have on local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting such as topography, street patterns, building lines, boundary treatment and through scale and massing.

Development proposals should also ensure that developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users, among other considerations.

Likewise, Policy 2 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) outlines sustainable development considerations for development proposals, providing a framework for an operational policy to be used in assessing the sustainable development attributes of all development proposals. Furthermore, Policy 3 accords with the provisions of Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), in that it requires development to comprise good design; identifying issues that should be considered when preparing schemes so that development sits comfortably with, and adds positively to, its historically-designated or undesignated townscape or landscape surroundings.

These policies accord with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) and require that design which is inappropriate to the local area, or which fails to maximise opportunities for improving the character and quality of an area, will not be acceptable.

Proposals for new development would therefore require the aforementioned considerations to be adequately assessed and designed, including the siting, design and scale to be respectful of surrounding development and ensure that the character of the area is not compromised.

Whilst the sizing of the garage is not necessarily an issue in this instance, with a further existing building to the east being of a notable scale, the initial submission was considered to be unacceptable, due to its location and siting, coupled with its scale, resulting in an appearance that would appear unacceptable and harmful. Due to the openness of the plot with a clear approach when travelling southbound along Station Road, the proposed garage would have been clearly visible from some distance.

Whilst the visibility of the plot is not altered in its current form, a revised scheme has been submitted during the course of this application following correspondence between the case officer and agent. Fundamentally, this was due to the initial scheme not being wholly acceptable from a design/character perspective.

Previously, the height sat around 5800mm and featured large dormer windows and an external stair case. Given the siting, openness, scale and design, there were concerns over the visibility of the garage when approaching the site from the main road.

The amended scheme sees the height reduced to 5300mm and both the dormer windows and external stair case removed. Not only does this allow the garage to appear more subservient and domestic in appearance, it also ensures that the proposal has been reduced to appear more suitable and acceptable in this area.

To further benefit the proposal, a new 1.8m high laurel hedge has been proposed along the northern boundary to the site. Although this is only 1.8m in height, it would reduce the visibility of the garage in some capacity and partly conceal it from view when approaching. Due to the layout of the site, the garage has limited places where it could be located making it only sufficient in front of the house. Despite this, it should not result in any unacceptable harm particularly due to properties further down the road featuring building which are clearly visible from the highway along Station Road.

Taking account of the design, scale and nature of the development, as detailed above, the proposal is considered to be acceptable. The proposal would not cause an adverse impact to the character or appearance of the area and would therefore be in accordance with Policies 2 and 3 of the South

East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) and Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024).

Impact on Residential Amenity/Land Users

Paragraph 135 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) states that development should create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

Policies 2 and 3 of South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) sets out that residential amenity and the relationship to existing development and land uses is a main consideration when making planning decisions.

Due to the rurality of the dwelling, it is separated from the nearest residential clusters by some distance. To the south, the nearest property is just under 100m away where as to the north there is a distance of over 200m. This means that there would be no material amenity harm through overlooking or overshadowing following the construction of the garage should it be approved. Naturally, the garage is not a habitable room so overlooking is not something that could necessarily be considered. In any case, the only windows face to the south with an aforementioned distance of 100m in this direction.

As detailed above, the scale and design of the proposal is considered to be such that there would be no significant or unacceptable impact on the residential amenities of the occupiers of adjacent properties or land users, when also taking account of the conditions recommended. As such, the proposal is considered to accord with the provisions of the Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), and Policies 2 and 3 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019).

Highway Safety and Parking

Section 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) specifically relates to 'Promoting sustainable transport'. Paragraph 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) advises that "development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network, following mitigation, would be severe, taking into account all reasonable future scenarios".

In respect of highway matters, Policy 2 details that proposals requiring planning permission for development will be permitted provided that sustainable development considerations are met, specifically in relation to access and vehicle generation. Policy 3 details that development proposals will demonstrate how accessibility by a choice of travel modes including the provision of public transport, public rights of way and cycle ways will be secured, where they are relevant to the proposal.

Further, Policy 36, to be read in conjunction with Appendix 6, of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019), sets out minimum vehicle parking standards and requires at least two spaces for dwellings of up to three bedrooms and three spaces for dwellings with four or more bedrooms.

The garage would provide space as a car port on the ground floor for at least three vehicle spaces. This would not necessarily increase the spaces for parking but would provide additional storage opportunities for the residents. There are no concerns raised by Lincolnshire County Council Highways regarding the development nor are there any concerns surrounding the ability to accord to Appendix 6.

The proposal would therefore be acceptable and would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on highway safety in accordance with Policies 2, 3 and 36 the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019), and Section 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024).

Flood Risk

Section 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) explains that "Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development

away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere".

This goes on to state, within Paragraph 172, that all plans "should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development - taking into account all sources of flood risk and the current and future impacts of climate change - so as to avoid, where possible, flood risk to people and property. They should do this, and manage any residual risk, by: a) applying the sequential test and then, if necessary, the exception test as set out below".

It is important to note that whilst minor developments such as householders must meet the requirements for site-specific flood risk assessments, they should not be subject to the sequential test, nor the exception test, as outlined in Paragraph 176 and to be read in conjunction with footnote 62.

The site lies within Flood Zones 3 of the Environment Agency's Flood Maps. These have been created as a tool to raise awareness of flood risk with the public and partner organisations, such as Local Authorities, Emergency Services and Drainage Authorities. The Maps do not take into account any flood defences.

The South East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides an overview of how flood risk has been considered in shaping the proposals of the Local Plan; including the spatial strategy and the assessment of housing and employment sites. Policy 4 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) is clear in that "Development proposed within an area at risk of flooding (Flood Zones 2 and 3 of the Environment Agency's flood map or at risk during a breach or overtopping scenario as shown on the flood hazard and depths maps in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) will be permitted" in instances where specific criteria is met.

It is worth noting that large parts of the district of South Holland lie within Flood Zone 3. It is therefore necessary to use the refined flood risk information (Hazard and Depth maps) within the South East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2017) as a basis to apply the sequential test.

Despite the property being within Flood Zone 3 and Danger for Some and borders a no hazard zone within the SFRA, as the application is purely for a residential garage to an existing residential property; there would not be any significant harm raised and it would not materially increase the flood risk for the site and surrounding area in a harmful way.

Overall, when considering the development on balance, it is considered that the proposal accords with Policies 2, 3 and 4 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) and the intentions of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) in this regard.

Planning Balance

As detailed above, Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires that the Local Planning Authority makes decisions in accordance with the adopted Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The proposal represents inappropriate development outside the defined settlement boundary. The development does not harm the amenity of nearby residents and provides adequate parking. Notwithstanding this, the development hereby proposed materially harms the character and appearance of the locality and as a whole does not conform with the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) when viewed as a whole.

In this instance, this is a material consideration that weighs against the proposal and as such, the planning balance is not in favour of the development.

Additional Considerations

Public Sector Equality Duty

In making this decision the Authority must have regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equalities Act. This means that the Council must have due regard to the need (in

discharging its functions) to:

A. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act

B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This may include removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the special needs of those with a protected characteristic; encouraging participation in public life (or other areas where they are underrepresented) of people with a protected characteristic(s).

C. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The PSED must be considered as a relevant factor in making this decision but does not impose a duty to achieve the outcomes in s.149. It is only one factor that needs to be considered, and may be balanced against other relevant factors.

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case will have a disproportionately adverse impact on a protected characteristic.

Human Rights

In making a decision, the Authority should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as South Holland District Council to act in a manner that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Authority is referred specifically to Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property).

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case interferes with local residents' right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general public interest and the recommendation is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

Conclusion

Taking the above considerations into account, the proposal is considered to be in accordance with Policies 1 and 4 and 36 (including Appendix 6) of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019). Due to the concerns raised surrounding the conflicting nature with Policies 2 and 3 from a character/design point of view, this is a significant factor that indicates against the proposal and outweighs the consideration to not be in favour of the proposal.

Recommendation

Based on the assessment detailed above, it is recommended that the proposal should be approved under Delegated Authority.