

DECISION DELEGATED TO HEAD OF PLANNING**DECISION DELEGATED TO HEAD OF PLANNING**

Application No: H09-0108-25 **Applicant:** Mr & Mrs W Van Den Brande

Proposal: Conversion of barn to living accommodation, extension to link including replacement wall & parking upgrade

Location: Chestnut House North Pennyhill Holbeach

Terminal Date: 12th May 2025

Planning Policies**South East Lincolnshire Local Plan - Adopted: March 2019**

01	Spatial Strategy
02	Development Management
03	Design of New Development
04	Approach to Flood Risk
28	The Natural Environment
29	The Historic Environment
36	Vehicle and Cycle Parking
APPENDIX 6	Parking Standards

National Guidance**National Planning Policy Framework December 2024**

Section 9 - Promoting sustainable transport
Section 12 - Achieving well-designed places
Section 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
Section 16 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments
PARISH COUNCIL	0	1	0	0
WARD MEMBER	0	0	0	0
HIGHWAYS & SUDS SUPPORT	0	0	0	1
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER	0	0	0	1

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Proposal

This planning application is for the conversion of a barn to living accommodation, extension to link including replacement wall & parking upgrade at Chestnut House North, Pennyhill

The application includes the following proposals:

- Alteration to the principal elevation of the rear, C19th outbuilding to include ground to roof glazing, oriented in a 2 layer pattern, with 3 panels to ground floor, 2 panels to 1st floor.
- Alteration to existing link extension to allow for a half-mansard roof arrangement, in turn allowing for floor to ceiling glazing on the North Facing elevation.
- Erection of new brick boundary wall in place of the modern close-boarded fence to the northern boundary.
- Demolition of existing C20th open-sided agricultural building to rear end of plot, to be replaced with an uncovered gravel parking area, accessed via an opening with accommodating sliding gate in the northern boundary wall to be created.
- Erection of covered walkway on the rear elevation of the listed building.
- Internal alterations to link extension and outbuilding to allow for creation of 1st floor walkway and domestic spaces in the outbuilding.

Site Description

Chestnut House is a grade II listed building, split into two residences known as North and South. It should be noted that the site has historically been known as Penny Hill Farm House. Historic England describes the building like so:

"House. c. 1680, late C18, C20. Red brick. Slate roofs with brick coped gables, dogtooth eaves, 2 gable stacks and a large ridge stack with 3 tall angle shafts. 2 storeys and garret, battered on the south wing. 3 bay south front with a high plinth. Doorway to the right with a C20 gabled hood on slender supports and a plank door. Doorway flanked by single 2 light casements with 2 similar windows above, all with leaded lights. Left gable wall with a C20 4 light casement with a C20 3 light casement above and a slightly smaller C20 3 light casement in the garret; all with leaded lights and the latter with a brick moulded floating pediment and a small moulded brick oculus in the apex. To the rear is a 2 bay wing of 2 storeys with attic with a partially intact plinth and first floor flat band. Doorway to the right with a plank door. 4 light C20 casement to the left with leaded lights and segmental relieving arch. 3 light C20 casement above, also with leaded lights. 2 C20 gabled dormers with glazing bar sashes. Projecting to left is a late C18 2 storey bay with a single 3 light casement with leaded lights, to each storey. Single storey, 2 bay wing beyond with 2 light and a single light casements, both with leaded lights."

The house forms a part of a wider range of agricultural C20th agricultural buildings, as well as the C19th Granary Building (now a residence). The outbuilding to the rear is already connected to the main house, via the existing link extension, constructed in the late C20th. The outbuilding is of little contributive value and is a relatively typical example of its type with few distinctive character features.

The area is generally within a form of semi-rural ribbon development, with wide plots.

History

H09-0199-11

Internal works to strengthen kitchen roof. Approved on 21-04-11.

H09-0964-24

External alterations to include re-pointing & re-roof. Approved on 20-12-24.

H09-1080-24

Details of roofing felt/membrane (Condition 3 of H09-0964-24). Approved on 31-12-24.

Consultation Responses

LCC Historic Places Team

Having reviewed the application documents and the updated available Historic Environment information for this application, the proposal is unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains. Consequently, no further archaeological input is necessary for this application. It is not necessary to consult us on this application again, unless there are material changes to the proposals.

Holbeach Parish Council

Fully Support

LCC as Lead Local Highways and Flood Authority

No objections

Key Planning Considerations

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

- Principle of Development and Sustainability
- Heritage Impact
- Impact on Neighbouring Residents/Land Users/Land Uses
- Highway Safety and Parking
- Flooding Risk Considerations
- Biodiversity

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.

Furthermore, where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, this alongside the adopted Local Plan, forms part of the Development Plan for the District, and must be considered when assessing development proposals. In this instance, no relevant neighbourhood plans have been adopted.

Principle of Development

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.

The most sustainable locations for development are situated within the 'Sub-Regional Centres', followed by 'Main Service Centres'. Lower down the hierarchy in respect of sustainable development are areas of limited development opportunity including 'Minor Service Centres', with areas of development constraint comprising 'Other Service Centres and Settlements'. The countryside is at the bottom of the settlement hierarchy and represents the least sustainable location.

Policy 1 (Spatial Strategy) of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) indicates that within 'Minor 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. This policy goes on to detail that development within 'Minor Service Centres' will normally be limited to Allocated and Committed sites and infill.

The National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF) (December 2024) outlines, within Paragraph 61, that "To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay".

Para 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) also emphasises the importance that the contribution of small to medium sized sites can make in meeting the housing requirements. This states that "Small and medium sized sites can make an important contribution to meeting the housing requirement of an area, are essential for Small and Medium Enterprise housebuilders to deliver new homes, and are often built-out relatively quickly". This policy seeks to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of homes and advises that sites of all sizes make a contribution to the housing requirement of an area.

The application site in this instance is within Pennyhill, which for the purposes of the SELLP is considered to be in an open countryside setting, as detailed by Policy 1. In context of this, it is confirmed that development will be permitted that is necessary to such a location and/or where it can be demonstrated that it meets the sustainable development needs of the area in terms of economic, community or environmental benefits.

However, in this case, such an application is only for a householder development, comprising of the conversion to an ancillary use of existing structures and demolition of another. As such, this development is considered to be wholly within the standard principle of development for domestic ancillary works.

Heritage Impact

Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires the Local Planning Authority to have special regard to the desirability of preserving listed buildings, their setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which they possess.

Sections 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 require decision makers to have special regard to the desirability of preserving listed buildings or their settings or any features of special architectural or historic interest which they possess as well as the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas. Any adverse effect on a heritage asset, even if slight or minor, would not preserve the asset or its setting.

Furthermore, the importance of considering the impact of development on the significance of designated heritage assets is expressed in the National Planning Policy Framework (2024) (NPPF). The NPPF advises that development and alterations to designated assets and their settings can cause harm. These policies ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic buildings and environments. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance should be treated favourably.

Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024) 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".

Finally, Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) (SELLP) confirms that in order to respect South Holland's historical legacy all proposals shall conserve and enhance the character and appearance of designated heritage assets. Additionally, Section A of that policy confirms that proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will only be supported where they preserve or better reveal the significance of the Listed Building, and that proposals that seek to alter a listed building shall be granted where the LPA is satisfied that the proposal is in the interest of the building's preservation and does not involve alterations that are prejudicial to the special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building or its setting.

Taking the above into account, and assigning this site the appropriate assessment of significance, in this case, extreme weight must be given to the preservation and conservation of the asset. Given that the outbuilding is curtilage listed to the host property, and is of little character value outside of its use of vernacular materials and existence as part of an historic range of structures linked to the original host property, and that the link extension is a modern construction, it is deemed that the proposed alteration does not present any risk to the character of the listed asset. In consideration, it could be argued that the move to create a more modern contemporary visage to the link extension creates a greater sense of dichotomy between the old and the new, in effect allowing the valued host structure to stand in more distinction. Appropriate materials to be used shall be confirmed by means of strictly worded conditions.

Internal alterations proposed are minor, inclusive of a small opening to the 1st floor hallway on the Southern end of the property to allow access into the link extension, in addition to the minor stud wall subdivisions within the outbuilding structure. The internal layout of the outbuilding is deemed to not be of particular value to the character of the asset and the proposed works to the layout would be fully reversible if deemed necessary in the future.

The existing open sided agricultural building to the rear of the property is of no character value at all and is not considered to be curtilage listed. Therefore, its demolition is not considered to be of any harm to the character of the listed building or of the wider setting.

For these reasons, this application is deemed to meet the requirements of Policies 2, 3, and 29 of the SELLP in respect of design and heritage impact, as well as Section 16 of the NPPF.

Impact on Neighbouring Residents/Land Users/Land Uses

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.

In this instance, the proposal does not seek any dimensional alterations to any structure on this site in any way, which would affect the neighbouring residential property immediately to the south. The link extension is not due to be raised in maximum height, with the additional space gained from effectively creating an apex-to-eaves extension on the northern side of the roof pitch. Additionally, the application seeks the creation of no southern facing additional fenestration. As such, It is considered that the proposal does not therefore increase risks of overlooking or overshadowing to any adjacent land users.

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.

As this development is only a form of domestic householder alteration, the proposal is considered to have an exceptionally low risk of unduly affecting the local highways infrastructure, as the proposal only seeks the creation of a single additional bedroom. Reflective of this fact is that the LCC Highways authority have submitted a comment of no objection. Additionally, as stands, the proposal site has no dedicated off street parking. This application seeks to enhance the availability of on-site parking via the provision of a large drive space.

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).

Flooding Risk Considerations

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".

Paragraph 173 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) goes on to state that "A sequential risk-based approach should also be taken to individual applications in areas known to be at risk now or in future from any form of flooding", by following the steps set out within Section 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024).

Paragraph 174 goes on to state that, "Within this context the aim of the sequential test is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding from any source. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower risk of flooding", with the strategic flood risk assessment being the tool to demonstrate this.

Paragraph 175 details that "The sequential test should be used in areas known to be at risk now or in the future from any form of flooding, except in situations where a site-specific flood risk assessment demonstrates that no built development within the site boundary, including access or escape routes, land raising or other potentially vulnerable elements, would be located on an area that would be at risk of flooding from any source, now and in the future (having regard to potential changes in flood risk)".

If, following the application of the Sequential Test, it is not possible, consistent with wider sustainability objectives, for the development to be located in Zones with a lower probability of flooding, the Exceptions Test can be applied if appropriate.

The site lies within Flood Zones 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.

The SFRA indicates that whilst currently the site is not at risk of flood, in the 2115 assessment, the site is in a location of mixed low risk and 'danger to some' risk, and a predicted flood depth of between 0m - 0.5m.

However, it should be noted that this development is minor form of domestic extension, utilising the conversion of an existing building with floor levels equivalent to those featured in the main extant dwelling. Furthermore, all living accommodation in the conversion is situated at a 1st floor level, and 1st floor access to the main dwelling and therefore, further shelter space is fully viable.

Overall, when considering the development on balance, it is considered that given the mitigation measures detailed and recommended by condition, 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.

Biodiversity

Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021) requires developers to deliver a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain using standardized biodiversity units measured by statutory biodiversity metrics. This is often referred to as the mandatory requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain.

"Under the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain, subject to some exceptions, every grant of planning permission is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition that the biodiversity gain objective is met ("the biodiversity gain condition"). This objective is for development to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat. This increase can be achieved through onsite biodiversity gains, registered offsite biodiversity gains or statutory biodiversity credits".

The biodiversity gain condition is a pre-commencement condition. This relates to a condition that seeks, once planning permission has been granted, a Biodiversity Gain Plan that must be submitted and approved by the planning authority before commencement of the development, alongside the need to submit a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

The effect of Paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is that planning permission is deemed to have been granted subject to the "biodiversity gain condition". The effect of this "biodiversity gain condition" is that development granted by this notice must not begin unless:

- (a) a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and
- (b) the planning authority has approved the plan, or
- (c) the development is exempt from the biodiversity gain condition.

For applications that are submitted prior to the introduction of this requirement, the development would exempt from the mandatory 10% requirement and as such, the Biodiversity Gain Condition would not apply. However, this application was submitted following the introduction of this legislation. As such, unless comprising development that is exempt from this mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (10%), a condition would be required, as mandatorily set.

When taking the above into account, the development in this instance exempt from the statutory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.

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

For the reasons listed above this application is deemed to be in accordance with Policies 1, 2, 3, 4, 28, 29, 26 and Appendix 6 of the SELLP, in addition to Sections 12, 15 and 16 of the NPPF. Therefore, the recommendation is to approve.