



**G R MERCHANT LTD**  
ARCHITECTURAL & PLANNING CONSULTANTS

4 Wrights Mews  
12A Park Road, Holbeach  
Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE12 7EE  
Telephone: 01406 490800  
E-Mail: gr.merchant@btconnect.com  
Web: www.grmerchantltd.com

**Our ref: 4310-24**

**ERECTION OF SELF-BUILD DWELLING & GARAGE  
REAR OF STEEPLE HOUSE  
STOCKWELL GATE  
WHAPLODE  
SPALDING  
LINCS  
PE12 6UE**

**FOR**

**S. ATKINS**



**PLANNING, DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT**

VAT No: 552 6200 69  
Registered in England No: 05667107

Registered Address: Bank House, Broad Street, Spalding. PE11 1TB

This application is to acquire Planning Permission for a single self-build dwelling to the rear of Steeplegate House, Stockwell Gate, Whaplode, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 6UE.

## **SITE & SURROUNDINGS**

This statement is to accompany a Planning Application for the development of a single self-build dwelling located on the rear paddock to the West of Steeplegate House.

The site is currently a grassed paddock and has a mixture of mature trees and hedges including fruit trees.

To the East of the site is an existing access which will serve both the host dwelling Steeplegate House and the proposed self-build dwelling. The existing access is to the required width of 4.1m. The site has open field views to the West of the site and will not impact on our views from neighbouring properties.

The site forms an extension to the recent developments namely:-

H23-0970-22 & H23-0797-23

H23-0984-23

H23-0247-24

H23-0267-24 (Back land, Adjacent to the Site)

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL**

The proposal is to provide a single dwelling and garage to the land to the West of Steeplegate House located along Stockwell Gate, Whaplode.

This application demonstrates how the dwelling successfully and appropriately will be located on the site. Layout plans are provided to support this application. The plan shows the access will be using an existing access to the paddock.

The existing access and frontage will be retained with the development along with the hedges and trees along all boundaries. This will enable the original street scene to be retained.

The dwelling is to be self-build / custom build dwellings and be designed, built and lived in by a person on the self-build register only. A Section 106 Agreement is to be entered into before permission is granted.

## **CONSIDERATION OF POLICY POSITION**

### **National Policy**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies and how they should be applied in England. It identifies the policies which contribute to sustainable development across the country, noting the economic, social and environmental objectives. The NPPF identifies that planning legislation is in place to ensure that planning decisions 'made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise'.

The NPPF emphasises the national government's commitment to delivering a step change in the provision of housing to meet the country's needs. Paragraph 59 of the NPPF highlights the importance it attaches to the delivery of new housing:

'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'.

The updated NPPF recognises the important contribution that smaller and medium sized sites in delivering housing numbers, with these sites generally being easier to deliver more quickly, meeting needs at the localised level more efficiently. The NPPF identifies that an important way in which local planning authorities can enable the delivery of these small or medium size sites is by supporting 'the development of windfall sites through their policies and decisions – giving great weight to the benefits of using suitable sites within existing settlements for homes'.

The NPPF also states in respect of rural communities that,

'To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby'.

### **Local Policy**

The local development plan consists of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2019 (SELLP) which covers the administrative areas of Boston Borough and South Holland District. Tydd St Mary is classed as a Minor Service Centre, therefore 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. Development will normally be limited at Allocated and Committed site and infill.

Policy 1 of the SELLP sets out the spatial strategy confirming that development will be permitted within the settlements providing a proposal supports the designated role of the settlement boundaries will be approved provided it is necessary in its location and/or it can be demonstrated that it meets the sustainable development needs of the area.

The application site is outside the settlement boundary but is located along the line of the boundary and is classed as an infill site within the centre of two other service centres and settlements.

The provision of a single dwelling would make a positive contribution to the housing supply of Whaplode and would support the role of the village in the settlement hierarchy. Small sites such as this one, are beneficial to the housing supply, due to them being comparatively more quickly to come forward and be delivered.

Policy 2 relates to Development Management and sets out a 'framework for an operational policy to be used in assessing the sustainable development attributes of all development proposals'. This policy is applied to all planning applications assessed across the Local Plan area and includes considerations of the impact of proposals on the character and appearance of the area. Policy 3 relates to the design of the new development and adding to the creation of a sense of place.

The statement and drawings demonstrate a single dwelling with the existing large garden can be accommodated on this site. The application site, sitting between an existing dwelling, means it can be designed to fit with the local context and be in keeping with the character and appearance with the local area. The host dwelling, Steeplegate House, will not lose any garden or parking space with this development.

Issues of residential amenity is considered at this stage therefore due to the nature of the site, in terms of plot widths, the frontage onto the road and sufficient overall plot size and separation to neighbouring properties means that this dwelling can be designed to limit any impact on occupiers of neighbouring properties.

It is therefore proposed that single detached dwelling can be designed to respect the requirements of Policy 2 and Policy 3 in respect of visual and residential amenity.

**Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015  
(as amended by the Housing and Planning Act 2016)**

The Council will support proposals for self-build and custom-build housing in suitable locations.

The government wishes to increase opportunities for people to build or commission their own homes and in doing so increase the role that these play in boosting the overall supply of new homes. This policy responds to that challenge and seeks to increase the amount of

self-build and custom-build housing in the area. The council has a legal duty to give suitable development permission to enough suitable serviced plots of land to meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding. 'Self-build' is housing usually built in full by its final owners/occupiers. In both instances, owners/occupiers are expected to have significant influence over the final design of their home. Owners / occupiers can be individuals or associations of individuals. A 'serviced plot of land' is land that can be connected to basic infrastructure. Each item is defined in the Housing and Planning Act Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act and associated guidance.

To increase diversification in the housing market, for custom-build housing schemes, the council will encourage developers to offer the widest range of customisation options possible. As minimum however, owners/occupiers of custom-build housing should be able to influence the design / appearance of the external envelope of their homes and choose their own room dimensions and layout.

Provision of self and custom-build housing opportunities will be controlled through conditions and/or Section 106 legal agreements as necessary.

This site suits a self / custom house build site especially with its location and the reasons given from the Bettinson family.

Applications have recently been approved for a self / custom build dwellings outside the development boundary under references:  
H23-0970-22 and H23-0797-23.

## **BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABILITY**

This development boosts to keep the biodiversity of the site by retaining all trees and hedges along the boundaries and the fruit trees in the middle. No other boundary treatments, or fencing need to be erected for this development.

The development will also allow for bird and bat boxes to be fitted to the dwelling and also a owl box to the North Western corner.

An individual rainwater harvesting tank will be installed to collect the rainwater to enable the owners to wash their cars and water their gardens.

## **ACCESS & PARKING**

There is good visibility onto Stockwell Gate from the application site. Both the host dwelling and proposed dwelling will access and egress from the shared drive in forward gear.

Policy 36 and Appendix 6 of the SELLP relates to parking standards. Policy 2 requires 2 spaces for dwellings with up to 3 bedrooms and 3 spaces for dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms. It also requires 1 cycle space within each residential plot. The indicative layout shows how the site can accommodate a turning head to ensure vehicles can enter and leave the site in forward gear and an appropriate level of parking.

## **DRAINAGE/FLOOD RISK/SERVICES**

Policy 4 of the SELLP addresses flood risk. The site is identified on the Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps as being in Flood Zone 3, a flood risk assessment is therefore submitted with this application. It is not considered that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on surrounding properties.

The dwelling will be connected to mains foul sewer which runs through the site and the intention is to install a rainwater harvesting system before a soakaway runoff is created in the garden.

Services are readily available in the local area, in terms of an electricity and water.

## **CONTAMINATION**

There is no record of potentially contaminative land uses on this site.

## **CONCLUSION**

This planning application for a single self-build dwelling would provide a positive benefit to the housing supply for South Holland District Council and would support the role of Whaplode.

Previous planning decisions at both local authority and appeal level have been identified that infills plots in built up areas can play a role in providing sustainable development in rural areas, supporting neighbouring and nearby settlements.

The site can be positively designed to respect the character and appearance of the built form around it as well as the amenities of neighbouring residential properties. This is demonstrated in the application plans provided. The site is not subject to flood risk constraints nor is it anticipated there will be any contamination issues.