



Dear Wiltshire Council Planning Team,

We moved to Sherston almost two years ago and, like many before us, we instantly fell in love with the village. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and plan to live here, next to the development, for years to come. The history, the community, the high street, the surrounding countryside - it felt like the kind of place where a family could put down roots. But like many others we soon realised that suitable housing here is limited, both in availability and in standard. Friends at the school say the same thing. There is demand for homes that meet the needs of families today without losing touch with the character of the village.

Since moving here, we have spent the past two years carefully restoring our Grade II Listed home at Praters Farm. We have worked closely with conservation specialists and the council to bring it back to life with respect for its heritage, materials, and setting. That process has deepened our appreciation for the village's architectural history and strengthened our commitment to preserving what makes Sherston special.

Sherston has always been a place that balances tradition with progress, with a thriving sense of community. From its Saxon origins to the present day, the village has continually adapted while holding onto its distinctive Cotswold identity. It is home to many listed buildings and fine architecture that give it a distinctive character. We want this project to be part of that story:

Respecting history and setting

The homes will be modest in scale, no more than two storeys, and built using traditional materials that belong to Sherston - Cotswold limestone, lime mortar & stone slate, with timber detailing where appropriate. The mature trees and hedgerows that enclose the site will remain, so the development feels part of the existing village edge rather than an intrusion into the landscape.

Sustainability for the future

We want to go beyond minimum standards. These homes will be designed to achieve high energy efficiency and low carbon use, with high levels of insulation, passive solar gain, and renewable technologies built in from the outset. We will explore Passivhaus principles so that the development sets a positive example for what rural housing can achieve.

What rural modern living means

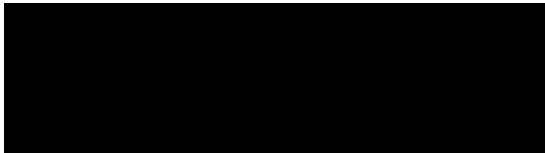
For us, rural modern living is about more than just houses. It means combining the character and craft of traditional Cotswold design with the comfort, efficiency and wellbeing that families today need. It is about homes that feel part of the place, that age gracefully, and that leave a positive lasting impression on the community and the landscape.

This is not a speculative scheme. We are not profit-driven developers. It is a family-led vision, shaped by our life in Sherston, our belief in high-quality design, and our wish to make a meaningful contribution to the village. The project is being designed by award-winning Matthew Wood Architects, recognised for his work on listed and conservation buildings across the country. Matthew also lives in Wiltshire with his family, bringing both professional expertise and a personal understanding of the county to the scheme.

If the principle of development is supported, we would love to work with neighbours and the wider community to help shape the detailed design and layout so it truly feels part of Sherston. We also remain open to engaging further with the Neighbourhood Plan process if an opportunity allows.

Our hope is that this becomes an example of how small, design-led rural development can strengthen a village community, support local families, and leave a lasting positive mark on both landscape and heritage.

Kind Regards,



James & Kate Wood