

James & Kate Wood
Praters Farm
Sherston
Wiltshire
SN16 0PS

Dear Wiltshire Council Planning Team,

Following the refusal of our previous Permission in Principle application, we took time to carefully reflect on the feedback received from Wiltshire Council, consultees and members of the local community.

Rather than appealing the previous decision, we chose to step back, seek specialist advice and reconsider the proposal in light of the concerns raised.

Following the previous application, I attended the Parish Council meeting to present the proposal and listen to the concerns raised. While views understandably differed, the discussion reinforced the importance of carefully considering the site's landscape setting, heritage context and relationship with the village.

That feedback formed part of our decision to commission independent planning, heritage and landscape specialists and bring forward a significantly revised proposal.

Over the past several months we have worked closely with LPC (Trull), Asset Heritage Consulting and WH Landscape to better understand the site's constraints and opportunities, and to ensure that any future development is appropriate for its setting.

As a result, the proposal has been substantially revised. The number of homes has been reduced from five to three, the developable area has been reduced, and the scheme has been shaped by the specialist advice contained within the supporting reports.

We were drawn to Sherston by everything that makes it such a special place to live: its history, strong sense of community, beautiful countryside and distinctive character. It is now the place our family calls home, where our children attend the village school, and where we hope to remain for many years to come.

Since moving to Praters Farm, we have spent over two years carefully restoring our Grade II listed home in close consultation with Wiltshire Council and specialist conservation advisers. Through that process we have developed a deep appreciation for the village's heritage and the responsibility that comes with being custodians of a historic building and its setting.

We remain committed to creating homes that feel they belong here. Our aim is not simply to build houses, but to create a small number of thoughtfully designed homes that are rooted in their surroundings, respect the character of Sherston and make a positive contribution to the village for generations to come.

Respecting history and setting

The homes would be modest in scale, no more than two storeys, and designed with the character of Sherston firmly in mind. Traditional materials such as Cotswold limestone, lime mortar and stone slate

would form the basis of the architecture, alongside carefully considered contemporary detailing where appropriate.

The mature trees, hedgerows and the contained landscape structure that define the site would remain an important part of its character, helping any future development sit comfortably within the existing village edge.

Sustainability for the future

We also want these homes to look forward as well as back.

Our ambition is to create highly energy-efficient homes that combine traditional craftsmanship with modern environmental performance. Through thoughtful design, high levels of insulation, renewable technologies and low-energy principles, we hope the homes can provide comfortable, healthy and sustainable places to live for generations to come.

What rural modern living means

For us, rural modern living is about more than building new homes.

It is about combining the character and craftsmanship of traditional Cotswold architecture with the comfort, efficiency and wellbeing that modern families need. It is about creating homes that feel rooted in their surroundings, that age gracefully and that make a positive contribution to both the village and the landscape.

We recognise that development in and around Sherston must be approached carefully and responsibly. We hope this revised proposal demonstrates that we have listened to the concerns raised previously, sought expert advice and worked hard to bring forward a significantly improved scheme.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the application.

Kind regards,

James & Kate Wood