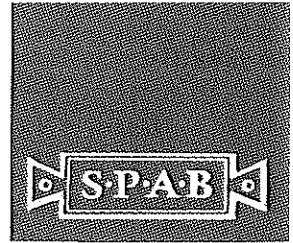


THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS
37 Spital Square London E1 6DY Telephone 020 7377 1644 info@spab.org.uk



Mr Adrian Dowd
Ribble Valley Borough Council
By email

Our ref: LS/23748/SPAB/13
Application ref: 3/2013/0029

12th February 2013

Dear Mr Dowd,

HESKETH END FARM, CHIPPING

Thank you for your recent notification letter regarding the recent proposal to rebuild the partially collapsed barn which forms part of the grade II group and which is adjacent to the grade I house. It was very useful to talk with you on the phone about the case history and understand some more of the background situation. The images which you have emailed were also very revealing of the situation.

This application raises serious conservation questions, not least of which is the validity of such a reconstruction following such major demolition to a heritage asset. It was really quite shocking to see how little of the building is left, and how thoroughly the rubble has been cleared away. We hope that this case will be examined carefully within your council at the highest level to avoid such a situation arising again in the future.

Having examined the documents supplied, we acknowledge the group value of the farm buildings, and are satisfied that the context of the group should be maintained if at all possible. However, the SPAB are very uncomfortable with the proposed approach to rebuilding, as this is effectively producing a 'fake'. We therefore object to the current proposals and urge the applicant to reconsider their approach to this building.

Authenticity is to be valued highly, and enclosing a steel frame and blockwork walls with a random rubble cladding is far from being a traditional approach to building, and should be discouraged. We can see no structural or technical merit in this approach, as the stone walls can be built of sufficient thickness to support a basic timber roof truss, as they were in the first instance. The wall survives in enough extent in places to give a good guide as to the thickness, and there should be ample stone from what was used originally to achieve effective results.

It would be advisable to have an archaeologist on hand to help identify particular stones and give guidance as to their probable position. Equally, it would be a useful exercise to find as many old photographs of the area as possible to give a guide to openings, doorways, quoinstones etc.

An experienced conservation-minded stonemason should be employed who is comfortable working with lime mortar. Full details and advice on building with lime can be found either on our website (www.spab.org.uk), or by ringing our experienced advisors on the SPAB Technical Advice Line (0207 456 0916 Mon-Thurs 9.30-12.30) who will be happy to help with your conservation and building related queries.

We hope these comments will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Lucy Stewart
RIBA AABC
Northeastern Caseworker

Jane Tucker

From: Adrian Dowd
Sent: 13 February 2013 11:33
To: Jane Tucker
Subject: FW: SPAB Response - 23748 - Hesketh End Farm, Chipping, Ribble Valley

Attachments: 23748 Chipping Hesketh End Farm 130205.pdf



23748 Chipping
Hesketh End Far...

-----Original Message-----

From: Lucy Stewart [mailto:lucys@spab.org.uk]
Sent: 12 February 2013 15:49
To: Adrian Dowd
Cc: John Macholc
Subject: SPAB Response - 23748 - Hesketh End Farm, Chipping, Ribble Valley

Dear Adrian,

Very many thanks for the photographs you sent through of Heskethe End Farm barns- it does seem to be rather thoroughly 'tidied up'! A great shame.

I hope that this letter can put a mark down within the council for a proper investigation into how this situation arose, as the demolition does seem very extreme even if the safety of the footpath users was the original concern.

Do let me know if there are any amended drawings in due course,

Kind regards,
Lucy

--
Lucy Stewart AABC

SPAB Northern Officer
Normal working day: Tuesday
Email: lucys@spab.org.uk

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Founded in 1877. A charitable company limited by guarantee.
We advise. We educate. We campaign.

Place of registration: England and Wales.
Registered office: 37 Spital Square London E1 6DY
Telephone: 020 7377 1644
Email: info@spab.org.uk Website: www.spab.org.uk Company No. 5743962 Charity No. 111 3753 Scottish Charity No. SC 039244 VAT No. 577 4276 02

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Founded in 1877. A charitable company limited by guarantee.
We advise. We educate. We campaign.

Place of registration: England and Wales.
Registered office: 37 Spital Square London E1 6DY
Telephone: 020 7377 1644
Email: info@spab.org.uk Website: www.spab.org.uk Follow us on Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/SPAB1877> Company No. 5743962 Charity No. 111 3753 Scottish Charity No. SC 039244 VAT No. 577 4276 02