From: Richard Small <richard.small@adur-worthing.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 March 2024 11:39:27 UTC+00:00
To: "Jo Morin" <jo.morin@adur-worthing.gov.uk>
Subject: Forest barn

Hi Jo,

Please note, the absence of any particular heritage asset from the local list does not necessarily mean that it has no heritage value, simply that it has yet to be formally identified.

In some cases, local planning authorities may also identify non-designated heritage assets as part of the decision-making process on planning applications PPG Guidance on Historic Environment.

Forest Barn, a former farm building, is faced in flint with brick detailing. There is some evidence of blocked openings within the flint work. An arched multi-casement window in the west elevation may be an earlier opening. To the south there was until recently a long late-C19 single-storey range constructed of flint, brick and timber; almost the entire roof over this range had been lost for some time. There was also an attached flint boundary wall to the north of the property, which has now unfortunately been removed.

The former farm building, currently known as Forest Barn, stands within a site which was formerly part of the Castle Goring Estate. Castle Goring (Grade I-listed, National Heritage List for England entry 1025839) was designed for Sir Bysshe Shelley, grandfather of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in the 1790s. The Forest Barn farm building was constructed around the late C18 to early C19 and by the late 1830s, it had come to form the south-west corner a group of farm buildings arranged around a central yard, referred to on historic maps alternatively as Forest Barn and Forest Farm. By the late C19, a further long range had been attached to the south of the south-west corner farm building. It
has been suggested the farm building may have functioned as a granary or stabling, with labourer accommodation on an upper floor, as suggested by the arched west-end window. By the 1970s most of the buildings around the farmyard had been demolished, including the associated cottage. The
south-west corner farm building was the only part of the group to be retained, along with the attached south range. In the 1980s the farm building, described at the time as a derelict barn, was granted permission for conversion to a two-storey detached dwelling. In 2005 a grouping of six dwellings (Castle Goring Mews) were built on the land to the west.

Architectural interest:
The simple architectural form, with traditional flintwork and brick quoining, dating from the early nineteenth century..
Historic interest:
This building was originally part of a larger group of farm buildings, built on the Castle Goring estate. Continued in agricultural use until residential conversion in the 1980s.

Group value:
The historic association with Castle Goring estate adds to significance in a local context to raise its level of architectural and historic interest.

Forest Barn was identified as a non-designated heritage asset as part of the previously refused planning permission process. ECE are clearly aware of the Council's decision.

Castle Goring Mews was designed in the form of a courtyard surrounded by a series of barn type buildings set adjacent to Forest Barn. At the time Castle Goring Conservation Area formed a tight area set around Castle Goring and the orignal estate buildings close by. In 2016 the conservation area was reviewed by the South Downs National Park and extended to include landscape areas to the south. The boundary was set adjacent to Castle Goring Mews, but didn't include this development or Forest Barn as they were outside the boundary of the national park.

The SDNP Castle Goring Conservation appraisal describes the historic significance of the area:

Castle Goring was a working and farmed estate and this is reflected in the presence of a number of working buildings, mostly now converted to residential use, including the walled garden (Grade II listed), stables, granary, a sawmill, and brickyard and, along with the landscape around, the whole forms a historic assemblage which is greater than the sum of its parts.

Despite not residing in the National Park and being located outside the Castle Goring Conservation Area, Forest Barn has been identified as another of the estate working buildings converted to residential use.

The retention of Forest Barn helps maintain the setting of the Castle Goring Conservation Area, although the proposed extensions will harm the original form of Forest Barn whilst rebuilding of the single storey 19th century range would be a more sympathetic approach to gaining additional accommodation.

Kind regards
Richard
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