

Chief Planning Officer  
Ryedale District Council  
Ryedale House  
Malton  
YO17 0HH

Chairman: Mr W Worsley

Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference: 3.1

Your Reference: 05/0122/FUL

Date: 13 January 2006

Dear Sir

**Change of use and partial re-building of watermill to form educational resource centre to include installation of new waterwheel etc, Howsham Mill**

I am responding as AONB Officer on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee to your consultation regarding the above proposal.

This application involves the restoration and conversion for re-use of the water mill at Howsham, including the installation of features to generate renewable electricity.

I would wish to make the following observations:

- Howsham Mill is noted in the AONB Management Plan as a Cultural Heritage Local Priority Site, being a Listed Building on the At Risk register and part of the Listed Howsham Hall Park. The building has been in a parlous condition for many years and is in danger of total collapse and loss.
- The AONB Committee was pleased when the building was transferred to new owners, who appeared keen to carry out restoration work. The Committee has been very keen to help the applicants with this work, providing funding for projects such as tree clearance work and emergency stabilisation/re-pointing. Substantial funding has also been provided via the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund, to improve access and interpretation on the site and more significantly to fund the restoration of the sluice, mill pond and waterwheel.
- In funding these works, the Committee has always recognised that the Mill would need a viable use in order to make the restoration economic. The proposed educational resource and bunking facilities fit perfectly with the ethos of sustainable development and are therefore very much welcomed by the Committee. We have also recognised that the funding we have been making available was very much an initial step in the process towards full restoration of the building, which is likely to need funding from the larger national grant-giving bodies.

In conclusion, my Committee feels that this project provides an excellent opportunity to restore a Listed Building within a nationally important Parkland landscape and would therefore offer its **FULL SUPPORT** to the application.

Yours sincerely

P B JACKSON  
AONB Officer  
Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee