Somerset West and Taunton

[redacted]

Our Ref: E/0178/36/13
Your Ref:
Date: 21 August 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Planning Enforcement Notice relating to use of a building as permanent residential accommodation
Higher House Farm, Huntham, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6EF

The Somerset West and Taunton Council as local planning authority has decided (using delegated powers) that an Enforcement Notice be issued and served in respect of the above breach of planning control.

The use of the building represents a breach of the requirements of Condition 03 imposed on planning permission 36/19/0027, which states: *The property shall be used for holiday accommodation purposes only and shall not be occupied as a person's sole or main residence. The site owner or operator shall maintain an up to date register of the names and addresses of all occupiers of the property on the site and the duration of their stay and shall make this information available at all reasonable times to the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To prevent permanent occupation of the building.*

The Council has issued an Enforcement Notice accordingly, and is required to serve the owner and occupier of the land and anyone with an interest in the land with a copy of the Notice. I therefore enclose the following:

- A copy of the Enforcement Notice in duplicate.
- A copy of relevant provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (S171A, S171B, S172-S177)

In order to remedy the breach, the Enforcement Notice requires the carrying out of the following steps in order to remedy the breach which has occurred;

1. Comply with Condition 3 to planning permission ref 36/19/0027

There is a right of appeal against the Enforcement Notice to the Secretary of State which must be made in writing before the date specified in the Enforcement Notice as the date on which it takes effect. The grounds of appeal are explained in more detail in the Annex attached to the Enforcement Notice and the enclosed information sheet provides details on obtaining the appeal forms.

If an appeal is not made by 2 October 2020, the Enforcement Notice will take effect at that point, and the steps outlined in the Enforcement Notice must then be taken within the further period of three months.

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Miller
Planning Manager
Somerset West and Taunton Council

Tel: 0300 304 8000
Line opening hours 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday
Email: planning@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Important - This Communication Affects Your Property

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
(as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991)

Enforcement Notice: E/0178/36/13
Issued by: Somerset West and Taunton Council
("the Council")

1. **This Notice** is issued by the Council because it appears to them that there has been a breach of planning control, within Section 171A (1) (a) of the above Act, at the land described below. They consider that it is expedient to issue this Notice, having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan and to other material planning considerations. The Annex at the end of this Notice and the enclosures to which it refers contain important additional information.

2. **The Land To Which The Enforcement Notice Relates**
Land at Higher House Farm, Huntham, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6EF ("the Land") shown edged red on the plan annexed to this notice

3. **The Matters Which Appear To Constitute The Breach Of Planning Control**
The use of a barn on the Land (shown edged black on the plan annexed to this notice) as a permanent dwelling in breach of Condition 03 of planning permission reference 36/19/0027 which states
The property shall be used for holiday accommodation purposes only and shall not be occupied as a person's sole or main residence. The site owner or operator shall maintain an up to date register of the names and addresses of all occupiers of the property on the site and the duration of their stay and shall make this information available at all reasonable times to the Local Planning Authority.
Reason: To prevent permanent occupation of the building.

4. **Reasons For Issuing This Enforcement Notice**
It appears to the Council that the above breach of planning control has occurred within the last ten years.

The development results in a permanent residential dwelling in an isolated and sensitive rural location, dependent on the private car and has resulted in domestic curtilage and paraphernalia which harms the character and appearance of the surrounding rural area and is contrary to Policies DM2, CP8, CP1 and CP6 of the Core Strategy.

5. **What You Are Required To Do**
Comply with Condition 3 of planning permission ref 36/19/0027

6. **Time For Compliance**
Three months from the date on which this Enforcement Notice takes effect.

7. When This Enforcement Notice Takes Effect

This Enforcement Notice takes effect on 2 October 2020, unless an appeal is made against it beforehand.

Dated: 21 August 2020

Signed:



……

On behalf of:

Somerset West and Taunton Council,
Deane House
Belvedere Road
Taunton
TA1 1HE

Nominated Officer: Ms. Stacey Salter
Telephone Number: 01823 219502

ANNEX
Important - This Communication Affects Your Property
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
(as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991)

Enforcement Notice relating to
Land at Higher House Farm, Huntham, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6EF
("the Land")

This local planning authority, Somerset West and Taunton Council, has issued an Enforcement Notice relating to the Land and I now serve on you a copy of that Notice as you have an interest in the Land.

YOUR RIGHT OF APPEAL

You can appeal against this Notice, but any appeal must be received, or posted in time to be received, by the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State before 2 October 2020. An information sheet published by the Planning Inspectorate gives details of how to make an appeal and is available at;

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/enfinfosheet.pdf

Under Section 174 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) you may appeal on one or more of the following grounds:-

(a) that, in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by the matters stated in the Notice, planning permission ought to be granted or, as the case may be, the condition or limitation concerned ought to be discharged;

(b) that those matters have not occurred;

(c) that those matters (if they occurred) do not constitute a breach of planning control;

(d) that, at the date when the Notice was issued, no enforcement action could be taken in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters

(e) that copies of the Enforcement Notice were not served as required by Section 172;

(f) that the steps required by the Notice to be taken, or the activities required by the notice to cease, exceed what is necessary to remedy any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters or, as the case may be, to remedy any injury to amenity which has been caused by any such breach;

(g) that any period specified in the Notice in accordance with Section 173(9) falls short of what should reasonably be allowed.

Not all of these grounds may be relevant to you.

If you appeal under Ground (a) of Section 174(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 this is the equivalent of applying for planning permission for the development alleged in the Notice and you will have to pay a fee of £924.00. You should pay the fee to Somerset West and Taunton Council. Joint appellants need only pay one fee.

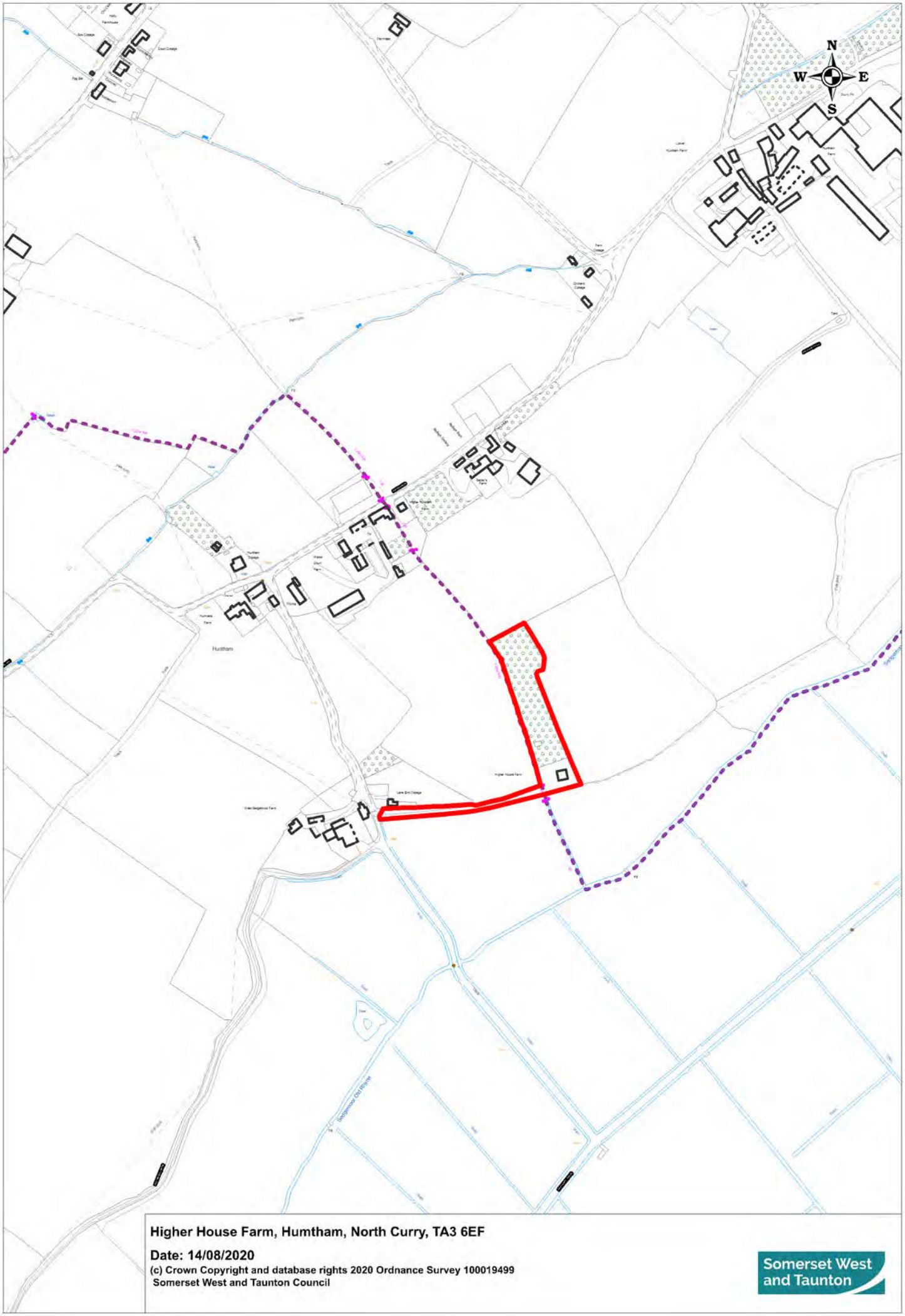
If you decide to appeal, when you submit it, you should state in writing the ground(s) on which you are appealing against the Enforcement Notice and you should state briefly the facts on which you intend to rely in support of each of those grounds. If you do not do this when you make your appeal the Secretary of State will send you a notice requiring you to do so within 14 days.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT APPEAL

If you do not appeal against this Enforcement Notice, it will take effect on the date specified in Paragraph 7 of the Notice and you must then ensure that the required steps for complying with it, for which you may be held responsible, are taken within the period specified in Paragraph 6 of the Notice. Failure to comply with an Enforcement Notice which has taken effect can result in prosecution and/or remedial action by the Council.

Parties on whom the Enforcement Notice has been served:-





Higher House Farm, Humtham, North Curry, TA3 6EF

Date: 14/08/2020

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Somerset West and Taunton Council

Somerset West and Taunton

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Part VII

Enforcement – (Amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, s 4)

171A Expressions used in connection with enforcement

(1) For the purposes of this Act–

(a) carrying out development without the required planning permission; or

(b) failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted,

constitutes a breach of planning control.

(2) For the purposes of this Act–

(a) the issue of an enforcement notice (defined in section 172);

(aa) the issue of an enforcement warning notice (defined in section 173ZA); or

(b) the service of a breach of condition notice (defined in section 187A),

constitutes taking enforcement action.

(3) In this Part "planning permission" includes permission under Part III of the 1947 Act, of the 1962 Act or of the 1971 Act.

171B Time limits

(1) Where there has been a breach of planning control consisting in the carrying out without planning permission of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of four years beginning with the date on which the operations were substantially completed.

(2) Where there has been a breach of planning control consisting in the change of use of any building to use as a single dwellinghouse, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of four years beginning with the date of the breach.

(2A) There is no restriction on when enforcement action may be taken in relation to a breach of planning control in respect of relevant demolition (within the meaning of section 196D).

(3) In the case of any other breach of planning control, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of ten years beginning with the date of the breach.

(4) The preceding subsections do not prevent–

(a) the service of a breach of condition notice in respect of any breach of planning control if an enforcement notice in respect of the breach is in effect; or

(b) taking further enforcement action in respect of any breach of planning control if, during the period of four years ending with that action being taken, the local planning authority have taken or purported to take enforcement action in respect of that breach.

171BA Time limits in cases involving concealment

(1) Where it appears to the local planning authority that there may have been a breach of planning control in respect of any land in England, the authority may apply to a magistrates' court for an order under this subsection (a "planning enforcement order") in relation to that apparent breach of planning control.

(2) If a magistrates' court makes a planning enforcement order in relation to an apparent breach of planning control, the local planning authority may take enforcement action in respect of–

(a) the apparent breach, or

(b) any of the matters constituting the apparent breach,

at any time in the enforcement year.

(3) "The enforcement year" for a planning enforcement order is the year that begins at the end of 22 days beginning with the day on which the court's decision to make the order is given, but this is subject to subsection (4).

(4) If an application under section 111(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (statement of case for opinion of High Court) is made in respect of a planning enforcement order, the enforcement year for the order is the year beginning with the day on which the proceedings arising from that application are finally determined or withdrawn.

(5) Subsection (2)–

(a) applies whether or not the time limits under section 171B have expired, and

(b) does not prevent the taking of enforcement action after the end of the enforcement year but within those time limits.

Enforcement notices

172 Issue of enforcement notice

(1) The local planning authority may issue a notice (in this Act referred to as an "enforcement notice") where it appears to them–

(a) that there has been a breach of planning control; and

(b) that it is expedient to issue the notice, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and to any other material considerations.

(2) A copy of an enforcement notice shall be served–

(a) on the owner and on the occupier of the land to which it relates; and

(b) on any other person having an interest in the land, being an interest which, in the opinion of the authority, is materially affected by the notice.

(3) The service of the notice shall take place—

(a) not more than twenty-eight days after its date of issue; and

(b) not less than twenty-eight days before the date specified in it as the date on which it is to take effect.

173 Contents and effect of notice

(1) An enforcement notice shall state—

(a) the matters which appear to the local planning authority to constitute the breach of planning control; and

(b) the paragraph of section 171A(1) within which, in the opinion of the authority, the breach falls.

(2) A notice complies with subsection (1)(a) if it enables any person on whom a copy of it is served to know what those matters are.

(3) An enforcement notice shall specify the steps which the authority require to be taken, or the activities which the authority require to cease, in order to achieve, wholly or partly, any of the following purposes.

(4) Those purposes are—

(a) remedying the breach by making any development comply with the terms (including conditions and limitations) of any planning permission which has been granted in respect of the land, by discontinuing any use of the land or by restoring the land to its condition before the breach took place; or

(b) remedying any injury to amenity which has been caused by the breach.

(5) An enforcement notice may, for example, require—

(a) the alteration or removal of any buildings or works;

(b) the carrying out of any building or other operations;

(c) any activity on the land not to be carried on except to the extent specified in the notice; or

(d) the contour of a deposit of refuse or waste materials on land to be modified by altering the gradient or gradients of its sides.

(6) Where an enforcement notice is issued in respect of a breach of planning control consisting of demolition of a building, the notice may require the construction of a building (in this section referred to as a "replacement building") which, subject to subsection (7), is as similar as possible to the demolished building.

(7) A replacement building--

(a) must comply with any requirement imposed by any enactment applicable to the construction of buildings;

(b) may differ from the demolished building in any respect which, if the demolished building had been altered in that respect, would not have constituted a breach of planning control;

(c) must comply with any regulations made for the purposes of this subsection (including regulations modifying paragraphs (a) and (b)).

(8) An enforcement notice shall specify the date on which it is to take effect and, subject to sections 175(4) and 289(4A), shall take effect on that date.

(9) An enforcement notice shall specify the period at the end of which any steps are required to have been taken or any activities are required to have ceased and may specify different periods for different steps or activities; and, where different periods apply to different steps or activities, references in this Part to the period for compliance with an enforcement notice, in relation to any step or activity, are to the period at the end of which the step is required to have been taken or the activity is required to have ceased.

(10) An enforcement notice shall specify such additional matters as may be prescribed, and regulations may require every copy of an enforcement notice served under section 172 to be accompanied by an explanatory note giving prescribed information as to the right of appeal under section 174.

(11) Where–

(a) an enforcement notice in respect of any breach of planning control could have required any buildings or works to be removed or any activity to cease, but does not do so; and

(b) all the requirements of the notice have been complied with,

then, so far as the notice did not so require, planning permission shall be treated as having been granted by virtue of section 73A in respect of development consisting of the construction of the buildings or works or, as the case may be, the carrying out of the activities.

(12) Where–

(a) an enforcement notice requires the construction of a replacement building; and

(b) all the requirements of the notice with respect to that construction have been complied with,

planning permission shall be treated as having been granted by virtue of section 73A in respect of development consisting of that construction.

173A Variation and withdrawal of enforcement notices

(1) The local planning authority may–

(a) withdraw an enforcement notice issued by them; or

(b) waive or relax any requirement of such a notice and, in particular, may extend any period specified in accordance with section 173(9).

(2) The powers conferred by subsection (1) may be exercised whether or not the notice has taken effect.

(3) The local planning authority shall, immediately after exercising the powers conferred by subsection (1), give notice of the exercise to every person who has been served with a copy of the enforcement notice or would, if the notice were re-issued, be served with a copy of it.

(4) The withdrawal of an enforcement notice does not affect the power of the local planning authority to issue a further enforcement notice.

174 Appeal against enforcement notice

(1) A person having an interest in the land to which an enforcement notice relates or a relevant occupier may appeal to the Secretary of State against the notice, whether or not a copy of it has been served on him.

(2) An appeal may be brought on any of the following grounds–

(a) that, in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by the matters stated in the notice, planning permission ought to be granted or, as the case may be, the condition or limitation concerned ought to be discharged;

(b) that those matters have not occurred;

(c) that those matters (if they occurred) do not constitute a breach of planning control;

(d) that, at the date when the notice was issued, no enforcement action could be taken in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters;

(e) that copies of the enforcement notice were not served as required by section 172;

(f) that the steps required by the notice to be taken, or the activities required by the notice to cease, exceed what is necessary to remedy any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters or, as the case may be, to remedy any injury to amenity which has been caused by any such breach;

(g) that any period specified in the notice in accordance with section 173(9) falls short of what should reasonably be allowed.

(2A) An appeal may not be brought on the ground specified in subsection (2)(a) if–

(a) the land to which the enforcement notice relates is in England, and

(b) the enforcement notice was issued at a time–

(i) after the making of a related application for planning permission, but

(ii) before the end of the period applicable under section 78(2) in the case of that application.

(2B) An application for planning permission for the development of any land is, for the purposes of subsection (2A), related to an enforcement notice if granting planning permission for the development would involve granting planning permission in respect of the matters specified in the enforcement notice as constituting a breach of planning control.]

(2C) Where any breach of planning control constituted by the matters stated in the notice relates to relevant demolition (within the meaning of section 196D), an appeal may also be brought on the grounds that--

(a) the relevant demolition was urgently necessary in the interests of safety or health;

(b) It was not practicable to secure safety or health by works of repair or works for affording temporary support or shelter; and

(c) the relevant demolition was the minimum measure necessary.

(3) An appeal under this section shall be made. . .–

(a) by giving written notice of the appeal to the Secretary of State before the date specified in the enforcement notice as the date on which it is to take effect; or

(b) by sending such notice to him in a properly addressed and pre-paid letter posted to him at such time that, in the ordinary course of post, it would be delivered to him before that date[; or

(c) by sending such notice to him using electronic communications at such time that, in the ordinary course of transmission, it would be delivered to him before that date.

(4) A person who gives notice under subsection (3) shall submit to the Secretary of State, either when giving the notice or within the prescribed time, a statement in writing–

(a) specifying the grounds on which he is appealing against the enforcement notice; and

(b) giving such further information as may be prescribed.

(5) If, where more than one ground is specified in that statement, the appellant does not give information required under subsection (4)(b) in relation to each of those grounds within the prescribed time, the Secretary of State may determine the appeal without considering any ground as to which the appellant has failed to give such information within that time.

(6) In this section "relevant occupier" means a person who–

(a) on the date on which the enforcement notice is issued occupies the land to which the notice relates by virtue of a licence . . . ; and

(b) continues so to occupy the land when the appeal is brought.

175 Appeals: supplementary provisions

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations prescribe the procedure which is to be followed on appeals under section 174 and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of this subsection, may–

(a) require the local planning authority to submit, within such time as may be prescribed, a statement indicating the submissions which they propose to put forward on the appeal;

(b) specify the matters to be included in such a statement;

(c) require the authority or the appellant to give such notice of such an appeal as may be prescribed;

(d) require the authority to send to the Secretary of State, within such period from the date of the bringing of the appeal as may be prescribed, a copy of the enforcement notice and a list of the persons served with copies of it.

(2) The notice to be prescribed under subsection (1)(c) shall be such notice as in the opinion of the Secretary of State is likely to bring the appeal to the attention of persons in the locality in which the land to which the enforcement notice relates is situated.

(3) Subject to section 176(4), the Secretary of State shall, if either the appellant or the local planning authority so desire, give each of them an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose.

(3A) Subsection (3) does not apply to an appeal against an enforcement notice issued by a local planning authority in England.

(3B) Subsection (3) does not apply to an appeal against an enforcement notice issued by a local planning authority in Wales.

(4) Where an appeal is brought under section 174 the enforcement notice shall [subject to any order under section 289(4A)] be of no effect pending the final determination or the withdrawal of the appeal.

(5) Where any person has appealed to the Secretary of State against an enforcement notice, no person shall be entitled, in any other proceedings instituted after the making of the appeal, to claim that the notice was not duly served on the person who appealed.

(6) Schedule 6 applies to appeals under section 174, including appeals under that section as applied by regulations under any other provisions of this Act.

(7) Subsection (5) of section 250 of the Local Government Act 1972 (which authorises a Minister holding an inquiry under that section to make orders with respect to the costs of the parties) shall apply in relation to any proceedings [in England] before the Secretary of State on an appeal under section 174 as if those proceedings were an inquiry held by the Secretary of State under section 250.

176 General provisions relating to determination of appeals

(1) On an appeal under section 174 the Secretary of State may—

(a) correct any defect, error or misdescription in the enforcement notice; or

(b) vary the terms of the enforcement notice,

if he is satisfied that the correction or variation will not cause injustice to the appellant or the local planning authority.

(2) Where the Secretary of State determines to allow the appeal, he may quash the notice.

(2A) The Secretary of State shall give any directions necessary to give effect to his determination on the appeal.]

(3) The Secretary of State—

(a) may dismiss an appeal if the appellant fails to comply with section 174(4) within the prescribed time; and

(b) may allow an appeal and quash the enforcement notice if the local planning authority fail to comply with any requirement of regulations made by virtue of paragraph (a), (b), or (d) of section 175(1) within the prescribed period.

(4) If [section 175(3) would otherwise apply and] the Secretary of State proposes to dismiss an appeal under paragraph (a) of subsection (3) [of this section] or to allow an appeal and quash the enforcement notice under paragraph (b) of that subsection, he need not comply with section 175(3).

(5) Where it would otherwise be a ground for determining an appeal under section 174 in favour of the appellant that a person required to be served with a copy of the enforcement notice was not served, the Secretary of State may disregard that fact if neither the appellant nor that person has been substantially prejudiced by the failure to serve him.

177 Grant or modification of planning permission on appeals against enforcement notices

(1) On the determination of an appeal under section 174, the Secretary of State may–

[(a) grant planning permission in respect of the matters stated in the enforcement notice as constituting a breach of planning control, whether in relation to the whole or any part of those matters or in relation to the whole or any part of the land to which the notice relates;]

(b) discharge any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission was granted;

[(c) determine whether, on the date on which the appeal was made, any existing use of the land was lawful, any operations which had been carried out in, on, over or under the land were lawful or any matter constituting a failure to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission was granted was lawful and, if so, issue a certificate under section 191.

(1A) The provisions of sections 191 to 194 mentioned in subsection (1B) shall apply for the purposes of subsection (1)(c) as they apply for the purposes of section 191, but as if–

(a) any reference to an application for a certificate were a reference to the appeal and any reference to the date of such an application were a reference to the date on which the appeal is made; and

(b) references to the local planning authority were references to the Secretary of State.

(1B) Those provisions are: sections 191(5) to (7), 193(4) (so far as it relates to the form of the certificate), (6) and (7) and 194.

(1C) *If the land to which the enforcement notice relates is in England, subsection* [Subsection] (1)(a) applies only if the statement under section 174(4) specifies the ground mentioned in section 174(2)(a).]

(2) In considering whether to grant planning permission under subsection (1), the Secretary of State shall have regard to the provisions of the development plan, so far as material to the subject matter of the enforcement notice, and to any other material considerations.

(3) The planning permission that may be granted under subsection (1) is any planning permission that might be granted on an application under Part III.

(4) Where under subsection (1) the Secretary of State discharges a condition or limitation, he may substitute another condition or limitation for it, whether more or less onerous.

(5) *Where an appeal against an enforcement notice is brought under section 174 and–*

(a) the land to which the enforcement notice relates is in Wales, or

(b) that land is in England and [Where–

(a) an appeal against an enforcement notice is brought under section 174, and

(b)] the statement under section 174(4) specifies the ground mentioned in section 174(2)(a),

the appellant] shall be deemed to have made an application for planning permission [in respect of the matters stated in the enforcement notice as constituting a breach of planning control.

(5A) Where–

(a) the statement under subsection (4) of section 174 specifies the ground mentioned in subsection (2)(a) of that section;

(b) any fee is payable under regulations made by virtue of section 303 in respect of the application deemed to be made by virtue of the appeal; and

(c) the Secretary of State gives notice in writing to the appellant specifying the period within which the fee must be paid,

then, if that fee is not paid within that period, the appeal, so far as brought on that ground, and the application shall lapse at the end of that period.

(6) Any planning permission granted under subsection (1) on an appeal shall be treated as granted on the application deemed to have been made by the appellant.

(7) In relation to a grant of planning permission or a determination under subsection (1) the Secretary of State's decision shall be final.

(8) For the purposes of section 69 the Secretary of State's decision shall be treated as having been given by him in dealing with an application for planning permission made to the local planning authority.

The Planning Inspectorate

Appeal Decision

by Gareth Symons BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Decision date: 10 February 2021

Appeal Ref: APP/W3330/C/20/3260489
Higher House Farm, Huntham, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6EF

- The appeal is made under section 174 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.
- The appeal is made by [redacted] gainst an enforcement notice issued by Somerset West and Ta
- The enforcement notice was issued on 21 August 2020.
- The breach of planning control alleged in the notice is failure to comply with condition No 03 of a planning permission Ref: 36/19/0027 granted on 6 November 2019.
- The development to which the permission relates is "Variation of condition 3 (holiday use) of permission 36/07/0016". The condition in question is No 03 which states that: *The property shall be used for holiday accommodation purposes only and shall not be occupied as a person's sole or main residence. The site owner or operator shall maintain an up to date register of the names and addresses of all occupiers of the property on the site for the duration of their stay and shall make this information available at all reasonable times to the Local Planning Authority*. The notice alleges that the condition has not been complied with because the barn is being used as a permanent dwelling.
- The requirements of the notice are: Comply with Condition 3 of planning permission ref 36/19/0027.
- The period for compliance with the requirements is: Three months.
- The appeal is proceeding on the grounds set out in section 174(2)(b) and (g) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended.

Decision

1. It is directed that the Enforcement Notice (EN) is varied by deleting "Three months" from under section 6 and replacing that with "Nine months". Subject to this variation, the appeal is dismissed and the EN is upheld.

Procedural Matters

2. Prior to determining the appeal, I sought the views of the appellant and the Council about not needing to visit the appeal site. This is because there are no planning merits to consider and both sides had submitted sufficient evidence for me to consider the points in dispute under the two grounds of appeal pleaded. No objections were raised to this approach. I am satisfied that no prejudice has been caused by not visiting the site.

3. Under the two grounds of appeal pleaded, I cannot have regard to any matters of planning merit such as whether the building is well suited to holiday accommodation and if the holiday occupancy condition should be lifted. I also cannot consider exempting the appellant from the restrictions of the condition.

I shall though consider the time given to comply with the EN under the ground (g) appeal below.

The ground (b) appeal

4. An appeal on this ground is based on the claim that the matter stated in the EN has not occurred. In this case, the appellant needs to show, on the balance of probability, that the holiday occupancy condition has not been breached. Despite the details about persons who have holidayed at the property, there is countering very strong evidence from persons with first hand local knowledge writing in support of the appeal, and the Parish Council, which refers to concerns that the appellant would be evicted from her home. The Council also state that all postal correspondence is sent to the address at Higher House Farm, the appellant's GP is local, and she is registered to vote locally.

5. I acknowledge that for health reasons and the coronavirus pandemic travel restrictions, the appellant's normal lifestyle of moving around the UK and abroad have not been possible. However, the balance of the evidence clearly shows that when the EN was issued, and for what appears to be a prolonged period, the appellant was living at the dwelling and was not there for holiday purposes. Planning condition on planning permission ref: 36/19/0027 restricts the property to be used for holiday accommodation purposes only.

6. Given the above, there is no alternative other than to find that the condition has been breached. Consequently, the ground (b) appeal cannot succeed.

The ground (g) appeal

7. I acknowledge from the Council's point of view that there is an enforcement history related to the occupancy of the appeal property and it was considered expedient to take enforcement action. However, at the time of my decision the coronavirus pandemic is still having a serious adverse effect on people's normal lives and the ability to travel, and even contemplate holidays. Moreover, there is the appellant's age and health to take into account.

8. In ordinary times a three months compliance period would be reasonable. However, in these extraordinary times, there is a very strong case for extending the compliance period to nine months. That would strike the right balance between bringing the breach of planning control to an end, but also allow the appellant the time needed to plan for hopefully some normality from personal and business perspectives later this year. That nine months would run from the date of this decision.

9. To this extent the ground (g) appeal succeeds.

Conclusion

10. For the reasons given above, I conclude that the appeal should not succeed. I shall uphold the EN with a variation.

Gareth Symons

INSPECTOR