HERITAGE STATEMENT

Home Farm and The Dairy House Mill Road Arundel BN18 9PA

Home Farm and The Dairy House (Plate 1) form part of a group of listed buildings situated on the site of the old water mill the West side of Mill Road, between Arundel Castle to the South and Swanbourne Lake to the North. The group also includes the pump house, bridge and pool retaining walls. The buildings and structures are Grade 2 listed.

Plate 1 The Dairy House from the South

The Arundel Castle archive holds some drawings for the Dairy House, which show the house in its original form. These drawings are dated 1845/6 and evidence suggests that the building was completed in 1846.

The architect for the project was Robert Abraham who was architect for the estate from 1815 till his death.
The Dairy House is shown on the drawings, to be laid out with steps down to formal gardens to the South, with a large ornamental fountain (Plate 2) and symmetrical geometric paths and planting.
The fountain still exists and it is the intention of the estate to carry out renovation work to it.

Plate 2 The ornamental fountain and overgrown formal garden from The Dairy House
The Hanger and Arundel Castle in the background.

The principle entrance to the house is shown from the original Mill Lane – to the west of The Dairy House. The lane provided an under cliff route, known as the Hanger, between the Castle and the farm, and although the lane still exists it has become overgrown, and the route has been replaced by the existing Mill Road.
It is understood that Queen Victoria visited the Dairy in 1846 walking from the castle via the Hanger walk to the Dairy House where tea was taken.

The Dairy House is in two storeys, constructed in flint walling, using unusually large nodular flints –referred to as freak size- which are galleted.
Plinths, quoins, copings, chimneys and dressings are in Pulborough stone.
The gabled roof is in natural slate – thought to be welsh slate- with stone parapets and copings.

The drawings indicate that some of the ground floor rooms of the dairy house were originally intended for use in conjunction with preparation of dairy produce rather than as a dwelling, whilst the upper floor drawing (The Chamber Plan) indicates the first floor rooms as bedrooms. During the 1970,s the house was altered to become a residence for the Wildfowl Trust warden.

The Dairy house is linked to the octagonal ornamental dairy building by a vaulted portico, which suggests that the two building were used in conjunction to prepare the dairy produce needs for the adjacent castle kitchens.

The farm buildings adjacent to The Dairy House are typical estate farm buildings of the era, and comprise single storey range of cattle shelters and milking stalls. The buildings are in coursed pebble flint work with stone features and slate roofs. Indications are that the farm buildings were constructed at the same time as The Dairy House.

Plate 2 The Farm Buildings and Pump House from the North

It appears that little alteration or extension to the original house or farm buildings has taken place in the past. However, the earlier installation of double ‘garage’ type doors in the North Elevation of the Dairy House (Plate 4) is thought to be an alteration which is not all together in keeping, and it is

considered that the proposed works will address this and reinstate this part of the building back to its original form.

Plate 4 Double doors in the North elevation East end

A Historical Support Statement prepared by the Norfolk Estate Archivist is also submitted in support of the planning application.

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