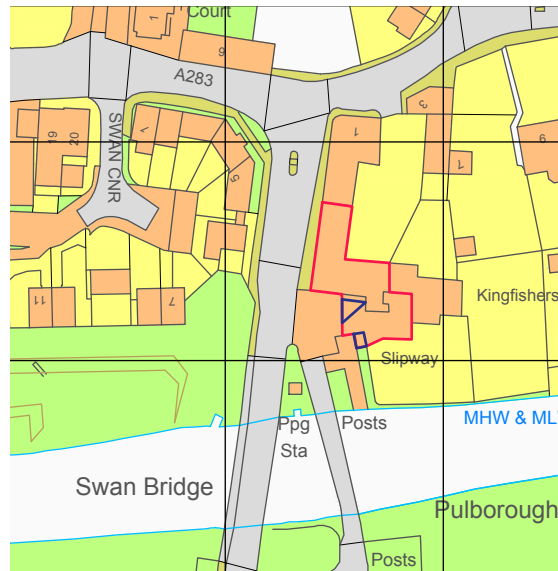


Heritage Statement

Installation of Two Timber Pergolas and a 4-Foot Timber Boundary Fence
(Retrospective) at Macklins @ The Riverside, Swan Bridge, Pulborough RH20 2BJ



1. Introduction

This Heritage Statement supports the retrospective planning application for the installation of two timber pergolas and a 4-foot timber boundary fence at Macklins @ The Riverside. The purpose of this statement is to provide a full schedule of the works undertaken, describe the construction methods and materials used, explain the design reasoning and the mitigation measures incorporated into the project, and assess the impact on the surrounding conservation area and the setting of nearby heritage assets.

This statement has been prepared in response to the Council's request for information relating to the heritage sensitivity of the site and its relationship with the adjacent Grade II listed Old Cornstore.

2. Heritage Context and Surrounding Assets

Macklins @ The Riverside is located in a historically significant area adjacent to Swan Bridge, next to the Old Cornstore, which is a Grade II listed building. The wider setting forms part of the established riverside character of Pulborough.

Key heritage features surrounding the site include:

- The Old Cornstore – Grade II listed
- Swan Bridge – historically significant structure
- Traditional riverside vernacular buildings

- The broader conservation area context, characterised by modest timber structures, natural finishes, and riverside views

The area is visually prominent to pedestrians, river users and road users, and it is therefore important that additions remain modest and sympathetic in appearance.

3. Historic Background

Historically, the riverside around Swan Bridge has contained small-scale commercial and agricultural structures connected with the milling and storage functions of the Old Cornstore. Simple timber structures such as open shelters, posts, boundary fencing and lightweight outbuildings have long formed part of the local character.

Natural, unpainted timber has traditionally been used in this environment due to its durability, low visual impact and ability to weather naturally into the landscape. The pergolas and fencing continue this established pattern of visually recessive and functional timber structures.

4. Schedule of Works (Retrospective)

The retrospective works consist of the following:

1. Installation of two timber pergolas
 - Constructed from natural, unpainted timber posts and beams
 - Open-frame design providing partial shelter to outdoor seating areas
 - Positioned to avoid interruption of views towards the listed Old Cornstore and the river
2. Installation of a 4-foot timber boundary fence
 - Constructed from vertical timber boards and timber posts
 - Timber left unpainted to ensure a natural and sympathetic appearance
 - Provides a clear division between customer seating and the adjacent road, improving safety

No trees were removed, no engineered foundations were installed, and no alterations were made to ground levels.

5. Construction Methods and Materials

All works were carried out using traditional and appropriate construction methods:

- Timber pergola frames made from unpainted softwood
- Posts set into small hand-dug post holes causing minimal ground disturbance
- No concrete footings or intrusive excavation
- Timber fencing constructed using simple fixings consistent with rural and riverside settings
- Timber left unpainted so the structures can weather naturally and blend into the landscape

All elements are fully reversible and do not impose any permanent alteration on the site or its heritage setting.

6. Mitigation Measures to Protect Heritage Setting

Several design measures were used to ensure the works remain appropriate to the heritage context.

6.1 Visual Recessiveness

Unpainted timber ensures that the pergolas and fencing blend into the landscape and do not detract from the listed Old Cornstore.

6.2 Scale and Massing

The pergolas are modest in height, open-sided and visually lightweight. The fence is limited to 4 feet in height so that views across the site remain uninterrupted.

6.3 Alignment with Historic Character

Lightweight timber structures are historically typical of this riverside environment. The works follow this pattern and do not introduce modern or visually intrusive materials.

6.4 Safety Enhancement

The boundary fence provides a clear and safe separation between customer seating and the adjacent road, improving safety while maintaining the open and informal character of the riverside.

6.5 Reversibility

All components can be removed without harm to historic fabric or the underlying ground.

7. Assessment of Material Suitability and Heritage Impact

The unpainted timber used for the pergolas and fence is appropriate to the setting and consistent with the materials historically present along the riverside. The lightweight and open design of the pergolas prevents any sense of enclosure or visual dominance, and the fence remains deliberately modest in height and form.

The works do not obstruct views of the Old Cornstore or the river, nor do they compete with the listed building in scale or appearance. The structures preserve the open, informal and vernacular qualities that define this part of the conservation area.

The development has no harmful impact on the significance or setting of nearby heritage assets. The works are considered neutral in heritage terms and may be viewed as a modest improvement to site functionality and customer safety.

8. Conclusion

The retrospective installation of two timber pergolas and a 4-foot timber boundary fence at Macklins @ The Riverside has been carried out in a manner consistent with the historic character of the area. The works respect the setting of the Old Cornstore and the wider conservation area through the use of natural materials, modest proportions and traditional construction methods.

The developments do not harm the significance of nearby heritage assets and maintain the visual and historic character of the riverside setting. The proposal complies with the relevant sections of the

National Planning Policy Framework and local heritage policies, and it is considered acceptable in heritage terms.