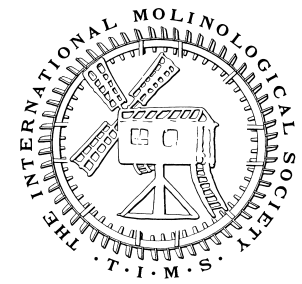


The International Molinological Society

... fostering worldwide interest and understanding of wind- water- animal- and human-powered mills ...



Willem D. van Bergen
Präsident

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To whomever it may concern

Subject: Consultation on draft local plan; Site3, (opposite Berkswell Windmill)

Dear Lady, dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the The International Molinological Society (TIMS) to express our extreme concern over the plans to build houses and flats close to Berkswell Windmill in Windmill Lane, Balsall Common a grade 2* listed building.

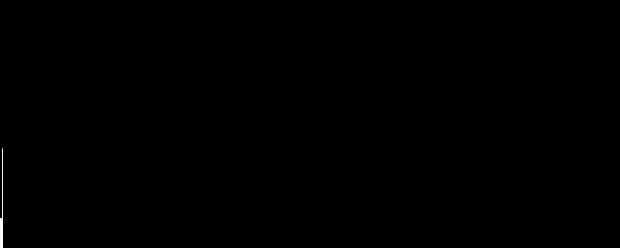
In 2017 members of our organisation from counties all around the world visited Berkswell Windmill as it was the best example of a windmill in the Midlands area of the UK still capable of working with its original 18th century machinery. The importance of this windmill is recognised by its listed status and by molinologist around the world.

The proposed development which involves building near the windmill would significantly affect the mill in two ways:

1. The characteristic view of the mill over the fields would be lost forever. Windmills obviously were built in open places, to catch the wind, and a windmill surrounded by houses is as much a nonsense as a seaside pier on dry land. The importance of the setting of a historic building has now been incorporated into Historic England guidelines regarding the acceptable development of land.
2. The flow of air to the mill would be fatally damaged. This is especially so since the wind most frequently blows from the south-west, where the development is proposed. The mill is open to visitors once a month in the summer and at various other occasions and if the wind is strong enough on those occasions and sometimes at other times, the sails are set to turn, and it is a truly thrilling sight, which would no longer be possible if the wind were blocked.


We urge you therefore not to choose the site opposite the windmill for redevelopment.

Regards,


Willem van Bergen
President

TIMS has been active since 1965 and is the only international organisation dedicated to the study of mills

President / Vorsitzender / Président:
Secretary / Geschäftsführer / Secrétaire Général:

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