

IS A CAR PARK NEEDED HERE?

No. There is no evidence for it.

In the planning application, no analysis of existing parking provision or projected future need is given. However the Berwick Civic Society's recent survey suggests past projections have been overestimated, and with clearer signage, existing car parks can meet peak demand. Empty land near Walkergate has been suggested as an alternative, but the Civic Society doubts this is even needed.

For those visiting Tweedmouth's businesses, there is parking under the New Bridge, along Main Street, and elsewhere.

TOWARDS A BETTER PLAN

How might this unique site be developed?

Retaining the trees and workshop, the area could be landscaped to provide a riverside walkway with seating to watch the river and its wildlife, and the salmon netting when it takes place.

Wilson's Workshop could perhaps become a visitor centre. Given the site's proximity to the last commercial salmon netting business on the Tweed, the Gardo Fishery, it has been suggested that the building could house a small museum dedicated to salmon fishing.

A sculpture park might also be appropriate to reflect the long history of sculpture in the area and the lingering presence of a stone angel from the Wilson days.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please visit our web site below and sign and share our petition. If you can, please also object at NCC's web site linked from our site, or you can go to

publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications
and search for 24/O2489/CCD.



www.berwick-heritage.co.uk
change.org/tweedmouthcarpark



Tweedmouth's heritage is in danger.

Precious views by Berwick Old Bridge will be ruined.

A rare Victorian workshop will be demolished, and trees felled.

Traffic and pollution will increase.

**SAY NO TO THIS
DESTRUCTIVE PLAN.**

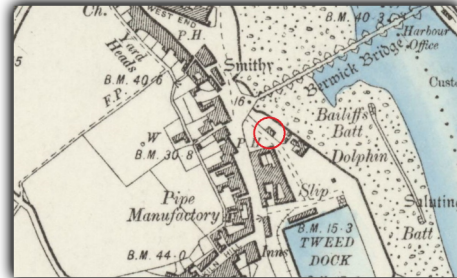
THE OLD SCULPTURE YARD

Over 150 years of history

Where is the site at risk?

It's at the Tweedmouth end of Berwick's Old Bridge on reclaimed land. This 1899 map of the area shows that Wilson's Workshop was already established there.

The NCC's plan (24/02489/CCD) is to clear the whole site and build a 41-bay car park.



What went on here?

This is where John Wilson and his father William had their monumental sculpture business, displaying their wares in the yard from the 1850s. In 1986, J. Wilson & Son were taken over by Robertson Memorials, who left in 2022. Before the 1850s it was a boat-builder's yard, where naval ships were constructed. There are also ties to the local salmon fishing industry.

Why is this area important to Tweedmouth and Berwick?

The site is a vital green space overlooking the Tweed, and can be seen from the Old Bridge and the Quay Walls. It is part of the Tweedmouth Conservation Area and is crucial to the historic setting of the Old Bridge, as well as potentially providing a valuable recreational resource for visitors and residents. It acts as a buffer zone between the Old Bridge and the modern, bland buildings of the dock, and Wilson's Workshop offers a glimpse into Tweedmouth's past.

Why would the plan be so damaging?

Demolishing the Victorian workshop and changing the peaceful nature of this site would mutilate the conservation area and reduce biodiversity by an estimated 26%. The car park would ruin iconic views to and from Tweedmouth, increase traffic, and degrade Berwick's heritage appeal.



With its total devastation of the area, the plan would prohibit any future use of the trees and building to create a peaceful, historic space for the community and visitors.

WILSON'S WORKSHOP

Part of Tweedmouth's Victorian Heritage

What is this building ?

A timber-clad, wood-framed workshop and show room built between 1860 and 1899, for John Wilson and Son, monumental sculptors. It may also have been used by John's father, William Wilson, notable local sculpture and architect. William Wilson's work can be seen in Wilson Terrace in Spittal and above doorways around town.



Why is it so special?

Informal lightweight buildings of this type were once quite common but comparatively few remain as they are easily swept away. This building is a relatively rare survival of considerable charm. It is a valuable addition to this part of the river's edge and, like the fishing shiels along the river, is a reminder of older ways of working.

The building is also important in distracting the eye from the adjacent modern warehouse and reflecting the scale and age of the town's built environment. A 2008 conservation area appraisal observes:

"Shapes often reflect each other across the sub-area boundaries, with three built forms being crucial to linking the dock to the town – the unassuming timber shed at the visually exposed south west edge of the dock links pleasingly with the built edge on the opposite side of Dock Road."

When the sculpture yard was a flower garden

The yard was at one time a riot of colour. In May 1911, the Berwickshire News carried a piece on John Wilson's son William:

"The premises at Bridge End, Tweedmouth, are quite a noteworthy feature of the resources of the district, inasmuch as they not only form the headquarters of an especially old established business, but have been laid out in a very attractive manner. Being a keen and successful gardener, [Mr Wilson] has laid out his yard with rich plots of flowers, so that the corner by the Tweedmouth end of the Old Border Bridge presents a beautiful surrounding for the exhibition of his craft. At present the yard is fragrant with wall-flowers and narcissi, in the centre of which stands a neat specimen of fountain work."