

We respond to LRB-2024-40, a written submission by Jody Blake.

The dismissal of the appeal to the Scottish Government over Methven Castle steadings' demolition and redevelopment is disappointing. The Reporter's views are frustrating because the applicant lacks a "right of reply" to the report's errors and misunderstandings.

The inability to replace essential equipment has significantly impacted the Tenants' family farming business during a challenging agricultural transition. The buildings are considered liabilities and dangers to those around them. The notion of restoring them while meeting modern animal health and veterinary requirements is unrealistic and shows a lack of understanding of stock handling and farming practices.

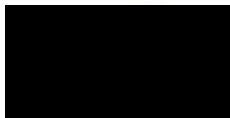
We can say with a high degree that the building will continue to decline, and will be a significant risk to the tenant, his family and the general public. There is no economic use for these buildings nor any economic viable alternative.

We clarified in applications and appeal statements:

- Temporary building use at another location is being taken back to facilitate a significant Perth Local Development Plan allocation at Almond Valley.
- The applicant explored options to retain the historic buildings but found none, so they'll inevitably degrade as no viable alternatives exist.
- The new farm building site is appropriate given the agricultural setting, designed and scaled to fit the area's character and meet today's farming needs.

It's important to highlight this to LRB members.

Kind regards



Jonathan Henson, Trustee
HC Pilkington Trust