

H/26/100878 – 5 Abbey Hill, Netley Abbey, SO31 5FB.

Context.

Situated toward the western end of the Netley Abbey Conservation Area, in the generally more open part with woodland behind and both woodland and open grassland in front down to the coast, this property is one in a row of about ten buildings looking out over Southampton Water.

The whole of this part of the Netley Abbey Conservation Area, which in addition to some listed buildings nearby also contains a number of Ancient Monuments. The closest listed buildings are Bradgate Manor behind to the north and the Castle to the south with its two lodges, east and west. A little further east is the parish Church of Edward the Confessor.

In addition to being listed the castle also incorporates at the south-eastern end the Ancient Monument of one King Henry VIII's forts. To the north-east of this and to the east of the site is the Ancient Monument of Netley Abbey with further ones including the eastern and western aqueducts feeding it from behind.

The Proposal.

As this row of houses from 5 to 9 is subject to an Article 4 Direction regarding their roof finish, chimneys, brickwork, doors and windows together with boundary walls and railings, the proposed change to solar slates incorporated into the front elevation of the roof, is subject to permission.

The use of solar slates is proposed here which look infinitely better than the usual solar panels fitted over the existing finish, however the make proposed, even on the sales brochures is not an exact colour match to the natural slates that must surround the installation and one would expect these examples to have been the best possible match.

The second aspect of this application concerns another side and rear extension to be in matching brick with a flat roof to increase the ground floor area and resolve the poor quality of the 1979 extension and removing the alien rear gable.

The original house is most probably built of 'Beaulieu Whites' which have not been produced for many years and were only in small quantities originally anyway. They were seen as being above and better than the normal indigenous red brick, so giving a feeling of being rather superior.

Conclusion.

No objection to the use of solar slates but they do need to match the surrounding slates which the submitted make does not appear to do, alternative manufacturer may be needed – samples essential. Matching brickwork for the rear extension is acceptable but again subject to sample approval and good to see the alien rear gable removed.

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