

F/24/97518 – 5 Netley Cliff, Victoria Road, Netley Abbey, SO31 5JZ.

Context.

The whole of the Netley Abbey foreshore faces due southwest so is at precisely 90 degrees to the prevailing winds, which will enhance the wave action across Southampton Water from Hythe and it's relatively flat hinterland, only rising to some 40m above sea level.

This level of exposure is resulting in the rate of erosion witnessed in the photographs accompanying this application, which will obviously require swift action to limit both the physical and financial loss currently being endured.

The site is outside of and south of the southern end of the Netley Abbey Conservation Area originally designated in 1981 and last reviewed in 2010. The closest listed building is that of the Prince Consort public house on the other side of Victoria Road a little to the north of this site.

The Proposal.

While a number of the properties along the Netley foreshore have employed gabions, this one is different in having a sheet pile defence system which one would think is a more permanent solution but evidently does not last forever and is softened by the planting overhanging the top.

Logic suggests that the solution here is more of the same, as proposed by the application, and sensibly a bit higher to both match that of the sailing club to the south again and cope with the rising sea level caused by the warming climate change scenario. As this is at the foot of a bank it will not be a problem, as is the replacement which will also retain the trees to provide softness to this area adjacent to the conservation area.

Conclusion.

This is work that quite clearly needs to be expedited to prevent further erosion and although outside the conservation area affects it's setting, however being down on the beach front this is minimal and it is more important to protect the shoreline to prevent further erosion which would lead to the loss of the trees and thereby affect the setting of the conservation area. No objection.

24.06.2024.

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