

L/25/99613 & H/25/99597 – Hound Lodge, RVCP, Netley Abbey, SO31 5GA.

Context.

Situated by the northern tip of the Country Park, adjacent to the entrance from Hound Road, this diminutive lodge consisting of just two rooms with a kitchen and bathroom added to the rear in masonry construction with a wooden lean-to space added to that. At the time of the hospital's construction in the 1880's entrance lodges were provided at every entrance to house a gatekeeper and family in very basic accommodation.

The Proposal.

It is proposed to extend this diminutive property by means of an annexe to the north-west linked to the existing structure by a glass link. Consisting of two bedrooms and a dining area, the character is in contrast to the existing by being both flat roofed and timber clad. By virtue of its positioning it will not be seen when approached from the primary direction of Hound Road, only as one proceeds into the park or along the footpath to the east and north boundaries.

The timber cladding appears to be vertical but no colour or finish is given and an opportunity has been missed to relate the main bedroom more closely to the garden by means of a full-length window or likewise the dining area. The cladding would be most appropriate in batten and plank form in a dark colour, which would give a traditional touch to a modern form and recede more into the background allowing the original pretty cottage to dominate.

Although the roof level is set slightly above the main dwelling soffit level, even this jars when seen from the proposed east elevation and would be improved by dropping the floor level about 150mm to enable the patio doors to open out onto a level exterior remaining 150 below d.p.c. level of the original; failing that having the link floor ramped to the prescribed incline would help.

Conclusion.

No objection in principle as it both removes an inappropriate extension and provides a more sensible amount of accommodation to make it a feasible proposition for occupation, which will ensure the original heritage asset is retained, hopefully in good health. A few tweaks will provide an improved result.

28.07.2025.

Tim J S Dyer, B.Sc.,Dip.Arch.(Birm), Grad.Dip.Conservation(AA), RIBA. [Built Heritage Consultant](#).