

# Heritage Statement

## Introduction

Chalford Hill is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This designation recognises the national importance of landscapes that carry distinctive character and scenic value. The designation is applied to protect and enhance the qualities of those areas and promote their enjoyment to the public. Stroud District Council are charged with ensuring all decisions conserve the natural beauty of the AONB. The existing site lies within the Chalford Hill Conservation area with views over the Golden Valley to the south.

## Policy

We have examined Stroud Local Plan Policy which concerns the historic environment. The policy clearly states that any proposals should protect and where appropriate enhance the architecture and visual impact of the heritage asset. The policies purpose of ensuring historical features of value are protected has been considered in this proposal. The development proposal accords with Stroud District Councils ES7 Landscape Character and ES10 Valuing our historic environment and assets.

## Assessment

The proposal seeks to install a below ground external pool on land to the side of the residential dwelling known as The Witts. The surrounding area is residential, and the site is within the settlement boundary, therefore the principle of the development is considered acceptable. The dwellings in the area are not all of the same design or have the same use of materials or landscapes as the village has evolved and grown. The proposal will incorporate an external pool level with the existing surface level of the site, sympathetic in size to the overall footprint of the existing site and well within the existing boundaries of the site. It also ensures that the proposal does not appear overly dominant within the plot or street scene. The proposal maintains a good level of private outdoor amenity space within the site, reducing the sense of overbearing and not being visually imposing or intrusive to the surrounding area. It is considered the proposal will not cause any harm to the existing residential area the site sits within.

The location, materials, scale and use are sympathetic and complement the landscape character. The proposed materials are both high quality and complementary to the house, visually matching the existing design and style.

The proposal does not impact any natural features including trees, hedgerows, and water features that contribute to the landscape character.

The design proposal does not impact any existing access and parking and all works relate to the existing fabric of the house improving the day to day use of the ancillary space.

The plot size of the existing property is large enough to accommodate the proposal without resulting in a cramped or overdeveloped site. The location, scale, form and design of the proposal are in keeping with the scale and character of the original dwelling and the site's wider setting and location. The proposal is of a high standard of design, which complements the scale and style of the house within the site boundary and others nearby. The design respects the appearance of the site and local area. The proposal does not adversely affect neighbours' amenities. The proposal is of a scale, density, layout and design that are compatible with other existing pools in the area. The proposal would not cause the loss of, or damage to, any open space, which is important to the character of the settlement. The proposal would not result in the loss of locally valued habitat, which supports wildlife. The proposal would be located within an existing garden area.