

Heritage Statement to support the planning application submitted by Ms. Stone to add single and second storey additions to the rear of **4 The Cottages, Magazine Lane, Marchwood SO40 4UX**

Local Planning Authority reference: **23/10555**

The planning application in question is a minor one and seeks permission to improve the back extension to one of a terrace of houses facing a lane which leads from Marchwood village to the waterfront. The area beyond the end of the garden is modern residential development so the terrace sits as something of a contrasting historic element in the townscape hereabouts.

That this Heritage Statement is needed at all is because the cottages have been included in the wider Conservation Area which is associated with the surviving elements of the former Royal Naval Armaments Depot (RNAD). The cottages themselves are not specifically cited as key features to the heritage asset itself although it could be reasonably argued that they have some contribution to make to an appreciation of the setting of the Depot.

As normal in situations like this it is important to look to the planning authority's own Conservation Area Appraisal to identify where the heritage significance lies. This is to recognise the "historic interest of RNAD as a whole" but importantly it was to "focus attention on the scope for the environment as a whole to be improved" and further "on (its) links to Marchwood village".

Later in the Appraisal we find a section listing things which make RNAD "special". Part of this is clearly going to be the 'History', but there is nothing to suggest that this terrace of properties had any particular association with the former site. Certainly the terrace is not listed as a building of any importance.

What relevance there is comes under the heading "Landscape and Setting" where it talks of the approach to the site along Magazine Lane still "retaining the character of a narrow country lane". This planning application in no way affects that; the proposed new extension is discreetly positioned to the rear of the building.

Under the heading “Potential for enhancement” we have the biggest clue as to the main purpose of the wider Conservation Area designation beyond the original buildings and blast walls. It says: “the Council’s intention is for this to become a residential site with development respecting the conservation area”. This is now manifest with the modern estate development to the rear of the application terrace. That development has opened up a view of the rear of the properties but the modest extension now proposed would be entirely in keeping with a traditional rural terrace such as this which will continue to complement the RNAD site in its present form.

The fact remains that the site lies within a designated conservation area where “special regard has to be paid to the desirability of conserving and enhancing the character and appearance” of the conservation area. This proposal is for a form of extension which is entirely sympathetic in design and scale to the cottage it serves. The two-storey element is of traditional form, the main part of the single storey element balances the one it adjoins on the next door property and the small additional flat roof element is suitably modest and unobtrusive.

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