

Design and Access Statement

Stoney Court

The case

The case for needing solar panels is very clear, as the sustainability of the building is dubious. The structure has very old windows and doors which cannot be altered without affecting the historic significance of the building. The roof space is the main reason for the building's Listed Status, and hence we cannot install additional insulation.

The house is very cold as it cannot have gas or oil fired central heating and relies on electric radiators

An expert in historic building surveys has explained that we have a damp problem on the northern elevation of the building due to 1) obviously not being able to install guttering 2) the house temperature varying a great deal and the need to put heating on a a lower level to avoid diurnal variation, which is leading to moisture precipitating out of the air and into the walls

We need to be able to put the heating on more and have more radiators so that we can maintain the house at a more constant temperature.

Already the household electricity bill is likely to be in excess of £5,000, and this will climb if we put the heating on more and with the energy cap issues. The house will readily be unsustainable, and the fabric of the building is become at risk.

Obviously solar panels are also ethically the right thing to install to make our life more environmentally considerate.

The Design

We have consulted 3 different solar energy consultants who have all agreed the proposed location is the best. Placing it elsewhere will put the panels into shadow and make them unable to generate adequate energy. We explored the idea of placing ground mounted panels in the rear garden, but this would detract from the aesthetic of the grounds, is likely to affect the view enjoyed by neighbours and was felt to be less ecologically sound for its effect on wildlife. The trunking of power cables would also risk disrupting the fabric of the rear courtyard, itself quite beautiful and historic.

On the other hand, the outbuildings are already of a modern construction, only having been built in the last 15 years, and are quite separate in style and nature to the main house which is the building of historic significance. The roof has modern tiles.

Our immediately adjacent neighbours have consented to this work being carried out and are in support. Other houses immediately adjacent to this proposed work also have solar panels on them so this would be in keeping and sympathetic to this change that has already occurred in recent times.

The listed status relates to the internal roof structure of the main house and old wood panelling, neither of which will be altered or affected by the proposed change.

Access

This project has no impact on access to the land.