Design, Access and Heritage Statement

Shires Barn
Black Lane
STOKE-ON-TRENT
Staffordshire
ST10 2JQ



Context Analysis:
Black Lane in Whiston is in the Midlands region of England. This character area is mainly in residential uses. Nearby there are another two similar buildings listed at grade II.

Site:
The original structure used to be barn in early to mid-C19. Moulded copper-slag blocks with sandstone ashlar dressings; tiled roof; verge parapets; 2-level plan of loft over stable and cattle shed. One loft door to right end; segmental- arch stable door to left flanked by small windows; further door to right under loft opening; lean-to against right end. A block on the left end has initials moulded in. Apart from a small shed, this group, consisting of house (q.v.) and 2 barns (q.v.) is the only example in the locality made from such an unusual material. The smelting site lay approximately 200m north and the group was possibly a model to promote a wider distribution of the blocks, which was never achieved. It is also quite conceivable that the name of the lane is derived from the extraordinary inky iridescence of the construction.

Appearance:
Proposed windows will be identical size and original built style. Replacing 12 timber windows with the Amdega Softwood Timber casement windows would have positive impact on the property than the existing. The proposed products are of a much higher quality than the existing and far more aesthetically pleasing than the current design. The new windows are more energy efficient than the older design and will significantly decrease energy loss and subsequently reduce energy bills. In terms of environmental conservation, the proposed new windows will only have a positive impact on the environment as the reduction in energy bills will only serve for a more environmentally friendly installation.

Access:
There will be no overall infringement on access to and from the building.

Layout and Landscaping:
There will be no changes to the layout of the property. This will of course not affect conservation in any way.
There will be no changes to the landscaping of the property.

Scale:
As for scale, in terms of additional space, there will be no change to the footprint of the property in any way.

Justification Statement:
The windows currently part of this installation are not providing enough security or providing an adequate thermal barrier. Repairs are not a financial option. The new

windows will have more of a positive impact on the property than the existing. Modern times call for more careful consideration of our environment and how we look after it. One main problem that is common in all aspects of life is energy loss. It's expensive, unnecessary, wasteful and damages the environment. By improving building techniques, using higher energy rated products and creating higher quality installations, we can reduce this loss. The new proposal contains products which fall in a much higher band of energy conservation than what was previously achievable. This will obviously only have positive effects, not only for the environment but also for financial savings on behalf of property owner. To conclude, I feel that the new proposal will only serve to enhance the property both visually and economically, blending naturally with the surroundings.