14 September 2023

Heritage Statement

5 GRANGE PARK DRIVE, BIDDULPH, ST8 7UX

Addition of all-black solar panels to southerly facing roof

This heritage statement has been prepared to form part of the householder planning application for the addition of all-black solar panels to the southerly facing roof of 5 Grange Park Drive, Biddulph ST8 7XU.

1. The Heritage Asset

1. No 5 Grange Park Drive is a modern 3 storey terraced property located within the Biddulph Grange conservation area.
2. The conservation area was formed in 1977 and has no article 4 directions. It includes the National Trust Biddulph Grange Gardens, Biddulph Grange Country Park, St James Court, a cemetery, and some modern housing.
3. The National Trust Biddulph Grange Gardens were originally developed in the 19th century and following a period of neglect and decline, were acquired by the National Trust in 1988. They subsequently restored the gardens and opened them to the public.
4. Biddulph Grange itself was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1923. It was used as a hospital until the 1980s.
5. The Biddulph Grange Country Park is an area of woodland, meadows and a lake that was originally part of the Biddulph Grange Estate, but is currently managed by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council as a country park open to the public.
6. Between the National Trust Gardens and the Country Park are a mixture of houses, both modern and conversions.

2. The proposed development

1. The proposal is to add 12 all-black Sunpower Maxeon 3 solar panels to the southerly facing roof of the property, along with a bird protection system to prevent birds accessing the underside of the panels.
2. No solar panels would be placed on the northerly facing roof.
3. The solar panels would be mounted to a rail system which is bolted to roof hooks that are themselves fixed to the existing rafters.

3. The impact of the proposed development

1. The all-black solar panels were chosen to match the aesthetic of the existing grey tiled roof.
2. The panels will only be placed on the southerly facing roof.
3. They will be visible from the direction of the private householder car park immediately to the front of the property and from the small portion of the Grange Park Drive highway which runs around the western and southern boundaries of this car park.
4. This proposal does not place solar panels on the northerly facing roof.
5. The panels will not be visible from the direction of the Grange Park Drive highway approaching the property nor from St James Court or the Biddulph Grange Country Park.
6. The proposal will have a positive impact on the conservation area because it will allow the homeowner to run this property with a much reduced carbon footprint.