

Design, Access and Heritage Statement

Property: 5 School Hill, Warnham, RH12 3QN

Proposal: Replacement of existing roof covering and installation of an in-roof solar PV system with associated battery storage.

1. Introduction

This statement is submitted in support of a householder application for 5 School Hill. Following our commitment to a "fabric first" approach for the long-term maintenance of the property, we are seeking to replace the aging roof covering and introduce a small solar PV array. Our primary goal is to improve the home's energy efficiency in a way that is quiet, respectful, and appropriate for the Warnham Conservation Area.

2. Design and Context

5 School Hill is a semi-detached cottage dating from the early 20th century. We recognize and value its "picturesque" contribution to the village, particularly its symmetrical relationship with the neighboring cottage.

- **Roofing Materials:** As the existing roof requires replacement, we intend to use materials that carefully replicate the original character of the area. We have selected **Greys Heritage Rutland Stone Slate** for this purpose. These slates are specifically designed to provide an authentic match to traditional stone slates, featuring a weathered appearance and hand-dressed edges that sympathize with the historic context of Warnham.
Crucially, these slates will be laid in **random diminishing courses**, with larger slates at the eaves and progressively smaller slates towards the ridge. This traditional laying pattern is essential to maintaining the authentic vernacular style of the property and ensures visual continuity with the existing street scene.
- **Solar Installation:** To minimize any visual change to the roofline, we have selected an **integrated in-roof mounting system**. By mounting the panels directly to the battens so they sit flush with the tiles, we hope to avoid the bulky profile associated with traditional "on-roof" systems.
- **Equipment Choice:** We have chosen six **Longi "Pure Black" modules**. These were selected specifically for their matte, uniform appearance, which we believe will blend into the dark tones of the roof much more effectively than standard blue-tinted panels.

3. Heritage Impact

The property sits within a sensitive historic core, characterized by several fine Grade I and II listed buildings. While our home is not listed, we are mindful of its position near the village green.

- **Preserving the Street Scene:** The solar array is located strictly on the **rear roof slope**. This ensures that the frontage facing the village green remains completely untouched and preserved in its original state.
- **Low Impact:** The installation is designed to be low-profile and entirely reversible. We believe this modest addition allows the house to meet modern environmental needs without harming the architectural form or the wider character of the Conservation Area.
- **Modernization:** The inclusion of battery storage (to be housed internally in the garage) allows us to store the energy generated on-site, reducing the home's carbon footprint while maintaining the building's historic silhouette.

4. Access and Environment

The works are minor in nature and will not impact vehicular or pedestrian access to School Hill. We will ensure that all scaffolding and material deliveries are managed carefully to minimise any disruption to our neighbors or the public green. No mature trees or existing garden biodiversity will be affected by these proposals.

5. Conclusion

We hope this proposal is seen as a sympathetic update to a valued local building. By choosing high-quality, low-profile materials and keeping all modern additions to the rear of the property, we believe we can improve the home's sustainability while fully respecting the heritage of Warnham.