

Victoria Blackmore/Wiltshire Council
Development Planning Management
Monkton Park Offices
Monkton Park
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN151ER



06.08.2026

Dear Victoria Blackmore and Wiltshire Council

5 The Tynings .Objection to Solar Panels on front elevation roof slope . Planning Application. PL/2026/04155. Installation of solar panels to the south - west facing roof of the main dwelling and the roof of the rear extension , together with the demolition of the dilapidated workshop and replacement workshop incorporating biodiversity tower and associated ecological enhancements

Although I appreciate the applicant's desire to renovate this historic building and the importance of renewable energy, I am concerned about the adverse visual impact of the proposed solar panels (now installed) on the prominent front elevation roof slope facing the highway.

On reading the recent past planning history of this site, which included extensions to the property, I agree with the Planning Officers of the Council who felt that this terrace merited non - designated heritage status, and that it met Historic England's guide for such designations. Please refer to planning application PL/2024/03119

Despite the fact the terrace remains not formally designated a non-designated heritage by the Council the Planning Inspector, in the dismissed Appeal Decision APP/Y3940/D25/3360203 , 2nd June 2025, stated in Paragraph 17 :-

" I understand that the terrace in which the appeal property is situated is not formally registered as a non-designated heritage. Nevertheless, its historic and picturesque appearance makes a direct contribution to the quality of the local street scene. Despite various alterations and extensions, the terrace maintains a relatively consistent appearance along its frontage." Furthermore , I note that 1- 5 The Tynings is identified on Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record, MW 180230, together with other entries which refer to the importance of Box Hill as an area of historic importance for stone quarrying . For example, Clift Quarry .Box Hill MW 177276 and Hazelbury Quarry MW 177274. The reference to Hazelbury Quarry refers to the fact that Hazelbury probably refers to the whole estate that includes Box Hill.

The terrace, which includes number 5 , is therefore a good example of a 19th century terrace of quarrymen's cottages which makes a positive contribution to the character of the area as a former quarryman's settlement and an area of historic stone quarrying importance.

The large solar panels on the front elevation roof slope clearly do not, " preserve the established character of the site ." or " respect the historic character of the property." as claimed in the supporting Design and Access Statement . The supporting digital 3-D representation of the solar panels and their visual impact on the front elevation of the property/terrace does not accurately represent their true, and full, visual impact.

No photographs have been provided of the terrace, or the property, to show its appearance prior to the fitting of the solar panels

Prior to the erection of the above large solar panels the roof of number 5, and the terrace, was an almost continuous expanse of slates apart from the addition of some small rooflights . The front elevation of the terrace retaining to a large degree its important, intended design uniformity. A consistent appearance, which is also noted by the Inspector in his 2025 decision.

Comprising an array of 8 large solar panels, and stretching for the most part the whole width of the cottage at number 5, and on its front elevation, the panels are an incongruous, dominant feature, interrupting the continuity, scale of the roofscape and the homogeneous use of slate on the terrace .The solar panels are in marked contrast in terms of material used in their construction , colour, size and pattern to the slates used on the roof. Their adverse visual impact, harm , emphasised by their installation some distance above the existing roof slates, they stand proud of it, and the fact that they are located remarkably close to the attractive raised stone coping detail on the gable of number 5.

The 8 large solar panels also create a cluttered appearance to the roof of the historic property, and this also detracts from the appearance of the historic terrace.

Proposals for the solar panels on the front elevation roof slope do not conserve the character of the historic cottage/terrace or the wider area but cause visual harm.

The continued use of the property is not dependent on solar panels attached to the front elevation roof slope . Electricity generated from the panels on the front elevation, which to a degree appears compromised by surrounding tree canopies, benefits the householder through the reduction in energy costs. However, these appear predominantly private, rather than substantial public or environmental benefit, and of a small scale .

It appears there are other practicable alternative locations for solar panels, where additional renewable generation can be achieved, thereby minimizing harm to the external appearance of the cottage /terrace when seen from the highway and its prominent and attractive front elevation. For example, solar panels used on the rear roof slope of the main building and on its rear lean-to roof, or on the roof of the proposed outbuilding. If the location of the new outbuilding does not lend well to additional panels on the roof for generating electricity perhaps it could be moved to a better location in the rear garden, and solar panels then attached to the roof.

Ground mounted solar panels in the rear garden may also be considered as a way of achieving alternative additional renewable energy, whilst minimising impact on the prominent and attractive front elevation of this historic building and terrace

I hope my comments are helpful to officers, and Wiltshire Council, in their consideration of this application.

Yours faithfully
Mrs A Banks

