

Heritage Statement

Number 4A Devonshire Road sits in a line of 4 residential properties within the surrounding conservation area. Although mainly traditional properties surround this group, the properties in question were built in the early 1970s and, as such, owe little to the surrounding character although some respect has tried to be paid to the surroundings in the elevation material of recon stone/blockwork, the tiled roof coverings and white uPVC windows that have meant that although sitting in the conservation area there is little in the way of existing character to respect the more traditional surroundings.

The fact that these four dwellings stand isolated raised above the road means that the addition of solar panels has no impact to surrounding dwellings. The residential apartment block to the side (north west) is a significant distance from the dwelling. The solar panel installed would be on the roof that is perpendicular to the block and positioned facing the road, with little visual impact for the block.

There are no dwellings located directly opposite the front aspect of number 4A Devonshire Road. The nearest facing property is of a similar age to 4A Devonshire Road and is at a distance of ~ 35 metres in a south-south-west direction. That dwelling is set back from the road by ~11 metres, with a line of mature, established trees between the dwelling and the road. The installation of solar panel would have little, if any, visual impact on that dwelling.

The nearest traditional building is located at a diagonal, shortest distance of 35 metres in a South-East direction and with a lateral offset of ~18 metres along the length of the terrace of four properties. This dwelling does not directly overlook number 4A.

The proposal involves installing 12 photovoltaic solar panels on the front (south-facing) roof slope of the property. The structure of the building will not be altered so the visual impact will be unchanged other than the installation of the panels, which follow the exiting profile of the main building's roof. The panels will be mounted on frames on the roof surface and will not project above the ridge line. No alterations to the roof structure or external walls are proposed. The installation is reversible and will not involve removal of historic fabric or features.

The installation supports national and local sustainability goals, enhancing the environmental performance of the dwelling without compromising heritage values.

In summary, the installation of solar panels on this 1970s house is considered to have a neutral impact on the significance of the conservation area. The works are sympathetic, reversible, and aligned with planning policy encouraging renewable energy.