

Cockring Farm

Cop Hill Side

Slaithwaite

HD7 5XA

Reference PP-14814726

Summary of Plans

The proposal involves the installation of 18 monocrystalline solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the south-facing elevation of the existing roofs. Each panel measures 1.7m x 1m. To minimise the visual impact on the listed building's character, the panels feature a 'black-on-black' design to complement the existing dark Spanish slate. They would be installed no more than two rows deep and in many cases in single rows.

The installation is designed to be entirely non-intrusive and fully reversible. The original building was two cottages and has undergone several alterations since 1948 and most recently in 2013. The panels would go on the roofs of the two extensions at either end of the main structure and the other lower roof over the 'sun room' added in 1996. No panels would be installed on the roof of the original 19th century building. The two roofs are south facing and not visible from the main road. While the original property is Grade II listed, it has undergone various alterations and extensions over time, including a full roof replacement circa 2020. Extensions have been built onto both the west and east facing ends of the house. The roof contains no original 18th or 19th-century materials. As the roof structure and Spanish slates are modern additions, the installation will not impact any historic fabric. The mounting system will use slate-compatible brackets, ensuring no permanent alteration to the building.

Furthermore, the visual impact on the wider setting is negligible; existing mature trees and the topography along the southern boundary provide significant natural screening, obscuring much of the roofline from the public bridleway that runs to the rear of the property. (see photos) Because the panels are being fixed to a modern (2020) roof and are screened from public view, there is no loss of original historic fabric and no significant change to the building's perceived character and represents a sustainable upgrade to the property.

Many of our neighbours also currently have solar panels fitted to their roofs so it would be in keeping with the general look of the area.

The solar panels will significantly reduce the property's carbon footprint, supporting Kirklees Council's Climate Emergency goals to be Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038.

Historic England say "Decision-makers must balance heritage preservation with climate adaptation benefits, considering legislation and policies." The installer

estimates the panels will lead to us producing two tons less carbon every year. Over the lifetime of the system the savings would be equal to 34 long haul flights, 47,851 car kilometres driven and equivalent to 308 trees being planted.

The energy costs of this older building are becoming unaffordable. We have recently started fostering within Kirklees. We now have two children visiting every month leading to an increase in all our bills. A building that is economically viable to inhabit is better protected for future generations. Plus the plans are fully reversible.

In conclusion, the proposal represents a sensitive balance between renewable energy needs and heritage conservation. By utilising a modern roof slope and ensuring the panels are screened and reversible, the significance of the Grade II listing is preserved while securing the building's sustainable future.