

DELEGATED DECISION OFFICER REPORT

AUTHORISATION	INITIALS	DATE
Planning Officer recommendation:	BB	30/01/2025
EIA Development - Notify Planning Casework Unit of Decision	N/A	
Team Leader authorisation / sign off:	MP	30/01/2025
Assistant Planner final checks and despatch:	ER	30/01/2025

Application: 25/00003/NMA **Town / Parish:** Great Bentley Parish Council

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Stewart

Address: 32 Woodgreen Estate St Marys Road Great Bentley

Development: Non Material Amendment to 24/01064/FULHH - use of neotimber vertical cladding (colour oak) in lieu of hardieplank boarding originally approved.

1. Town / Parish Council

Great Bentley Parish Council No comments received

2. Consultation Responses

Not Applicable

3. Planning History

07/00293/FUL	Extension.	Approved	26.04.2007
91/00196/FUL	Temporary stationing of residential caravan (during renovation of dwelling)	Approved	09.04.1991
20/00715/FUL	Increase height of fencing from 1.2 metres to 1.8 metres and move fence out onto grassed area inline with pavement.	Approved	28.08.2020
24/01064/FULHH	Householder Planning Application - Proposed single storey rear/side extension to form kitchen and utility.	Approved	19.09.2024
25/00003/NMA	Non Material Amendment to 24/01064/FULHH - use of neotimber vertical cladding (colour oak) in lieu of hardieplank boarding originally approved.	Current	

4. Status of the Local Plan

Planning law requires that decisions on applications must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise (Section 70(2) of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). This is set out in Paragraph 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework). The 'development plan' for Tendring comprises, in part, Sections 1 and 2 of the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-33 and Beyond (adopted January 2021 and January 2022, respectively), supported by our suite of evidence base core documents (<https://www.tendringdc.uk/content/evidence-base>) together with any Neighbourhood Plans that have been made and the Minerals and Waste Local Plans adopted by Essex County Council.

5. Neighbourhood Plans

A neighbourhood plan introduced by the Localism Act that can be prepared by the local community and gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan to promote development and uphold the strategic policies as part of the Development Plan alongside the Local Plan. Relevant policies are considered in the assessment. Further information on our Neighbourhood Plans and their progress can be found via our website <https://www.tendringdc.uk/content/neighbourhood-plans>

There are currently no neighbourhood plans for this area.

6. Relevant Policies / Government Guidance

Not Applicable

7. Officer Appraisal (including Site Description and Proposal)

This is an application for a Non-Material Amendment (NMA). Section 96A of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 says in deciding whether a change is material, a Local Planning Authority must have regard to the effect of the change on the planning permission as originally granted. The Planning Practice Guidance confirms there is no statutory definition of 'non-material'. It will be dependent on the context of the overall scheme - an amendment that is non-material in one context may be material in another. The local planning authority must be satisfied that the amendment sought is non-material in order to grant an application.

The key test as to the acceptability of an NMA application is whether the change is material to any development plan policy. The changes proposed are minor and not material to any development plan policy. Then three further tests should be applied:

1. Is the proposed change significant in terms of its scale, in relation to the original approval?
2. Would the proposed change result in a detrimental impact either visually or in terms of amenity?
3. Would the interests of any third party or body who participated in, or were informed of, the original decision be disadvantaged in any way?

Proposal

This application seeks a non-material amendment to application reference 24/01064/FULHH to alter the finish from horizontal hardieplank boarding to oak coloured vertical neotimber cladding.

Assessment

The proposed changes in finishing materials will have minimal impact on the visual amenities of the site and its locality due to the development being well screened by the existing boundary treatment and sited a minimum of 7.6m from the edge of the highway. The proposed use of oak coloured vertical cladding is deemed to be of an acceptable design and appearance with no harmful impacts on visual amenities. Furthermore, once completed in accordance with the approved plans the proposed side extension could have been clad in vertical or horizontal cladding under permitted development at any time.

There have been no letters received regarding this proposed amendment.

Conclusion

In this instance it is considered the amendments being sought are minor and are therefore acceptable as a non-material amendment to the approved plans attached to 24/01064/FULHH.

Ecology and Biodiversity

General Duty on all Authorities

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 amended by the Environment Act 2021 provides under Section 40 the general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity: "For the purposes of this section "the general biodiversity objective" is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England through the exercise of functions in relation to England." Section 40 states authorities must consider what actions they can take to further the general biodiversity objective and determine policies and specific objectives to achieve this goal. The actions mentioned include conserving, restoring, or enhancing populations of particular species and habitats. In conclusion for decision making, it is considered that the Local Planning Authority must be satisfied that the development would conserve and enhance.

This development is subject to the general duty outlined above. An informative has been imposed strongly encouraging the applicant to improve the biodiversity of the application site through appropriate additional planting and wildlife friendly features. Therefore the development on balance, with consideration of the impact of the development and baseline situation on site, is considered likely to conserve and enhance biodiversity interests.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. This excludes applications for householders and the proposal is not therefore applicable for Biodiversity Net Gain.

Protected Species

In accordance with Natural England's standing advice the proposed development site and surrounding habitat have been assessed for potential impacts on protected species. It is considered that the proposal is unlikely to adversely impact upon protected species or habitats.

Conclusion

In accordance with the overarching duty outlined above, this development is considered to accord to best practice, policy, and legislation requirements in consideration of the impacts on ecology interests.

8. Recommendation

Approval Non Material Amendment

9. Conditions

1 APPROVED PLANS & DOCUMENTS

CONDITION: The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the drawings/documents listed below and/or such other drawings/documents as may be approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing pursuant to other conditions of this permission or such drawings/documents as may subsequently be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority as a non-material amendment following an application in that regard (except for Listed Building Consents). Such development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with any Phasing Plan approved, or as necessary in accordance with any successive Phasing Plan as may subsequently be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development pursuant to this condition.

Drawing No. 32/WGAG/3 and the document titled 'NeoTimber Composite Cladding'.

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper phased planning of the development.

NOTE/S FOR CONDITION:

The primary role of this condition is to confirm the approved plans and documents that form the planning decision. Any document or plan not listed in this condition is not approved, unless otherwise separately referenced in other conditions that also form this decision. The second role of this condition is to allow the potential process of Non Material Amendment if found necessary and such future applications shall be considered on their merits. Lastly, this condition also allows for a phasing plan to be submitted for consideration as a discharge of condition application should phasing be needed by the developer/s if not otherwise already approved as part of this permission. A phasing plan submission via this condition is optional and not a requirement.

Please note in the latest revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) it provides that Local Planning Authorities should seek to ensure that the quality of approved development is not materially diminished between permission and completion, as a result of changes being made to the permitted scheme (for example through changes to approved details such as the materials used). Accordingly, any future amendment of any kind will be considered in line with this paragraph, alongside the Development Plan and all other material considerations.

Any indication found on the approved plans and documents to describe the plans as approximate and/or not to be scaled and/or measurements to be checked on site or similar, will not be considered applicable and the scale and measurements shown shall be the approved details and used as necessary for compliance purposes and/or enforcement action.

10. **Informatives**

Non-Material Amendment Informative

You are advised that this decision is for minor amendments only and should be read in conjunction with the decision notice for application 24/01064/FULHH which will contain a number of conditions and informatives that still apply. Any original conditions that refer to previously approved plans should be read in conjunction with the corresponding updated plans and information forming part of this Non-Material Amendment application.

Ecology Informative

In accordance with the Council's general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, you are strongly encouraged to improve the biodiversity of the application site through appropriate additional planting and wildlife friendly features. Suggested enhancements could include: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/in-the-garden/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden>

11. **Equality Impact Assessment**

In making this recommendation/decision regard must be had to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (as amended). This means that the Council must have due regard to the need in discharging its functions that in summary include A) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act; B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic* (See Table) and those who do not; C. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic* and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

It is vital to note that the PSED and associated legislation are a significant consideration and material planning consideration in the decision-making process. This is applicable to all planning decisions including prior approvals, outline, full, adverts, listed buildings etc. It does not impose an obligation to achieve the outcomes outlined in Section 149. Section 149 represents just one of several factors to be weighed against other pertinent considerations.

In the present context, it has been carefully evaluated that the recommendation articulated in this report and the consequent decision are not expected to disproportionately affect any protected characteristic* adversely. The PSED has been duly considered and given the necessary regard, as expounded below.

Protected Characteristics *	Analysis	Impact
Age	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Disability	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Marriage or Civil Partnership	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Race (Including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin)	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Sex (gender)	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Religion or Belief	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral

12. Notification of Decision

Are there any letters to be sent to applicant / agent with the decision? If so please specify:	YES	<u>NO</u>
Are there any third parties to be informed of the decision? If so, please specify:	YES	<u>NO</u>
Has there been a declaration of interest made on this application?	YES	<u>NO</u>