

MATERIALS AND FINISHES STATEMENT

Proposed New Detached Dwelling
Land at Oxford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6TH

This statement has been prepared in support of the proposed dwelling and sets out the intended external materials and finishes.

The overall design approach is to provide a contemporary dwelling with a subdued and recessive appearance that sits sensitively within the woodland setting. The selected palette of dark external materials is intended to minimise the visual prominence of the building when viewed within the surrounding trees and woodland backdrop.

External Wall Finish

The principal external wall finish will comprise charred timber cladding.

The proposed cladding is:

Black Spruce Cladding – TimberSol Charred Wood Cladding

The cladding has a deep charcoal grey / black appearance and is based upon the traditional Japanese Yakisugi (Shou Sugi Ban) method of timber treatment. This provides a durable and weather-resistant finish whilst maintaining a natural timber texture.

The dark finish has been specifically selected to help the dwelling visually recede into the woodland setting and reduce its prominence within longer distance views through the trees.

Roof Finish

The roof covering will comprise Cedral Rivendale fibre cement slates in a graphite finish, sized 600mm x 300mm.

The proposed slate has a textured riven surface and dressed edge, giving the appearance of natural slate whilst providing the durability and consistency of a modern fibre cement product.

The graphite colour has been selected to complement the black timber cladding and muted palette of the building, helping the roof blend into the surrounding tree canopy and reducing its prominence within the woodland setting.

Cedral Rivendale slates are recognised for their sustainability credentials and achieve an A+ rating within the BRE Green Guide to Specification. The material is also durable and long-lasting, with a nominal thickness of 4mm and minimum density of 1700kg/m³.

Windows and Doors

All windows and external glazed doors will be grey powder-coated aluminium.

The muted grey finish has been selected to complement the dark timber cladding and provide a contemporary appearance without creating reflective or visually intrusive elements.

External Lighting

External wall-mounted lighting will comprise:

Bat Outdoor LED Recessed Wall Light Round Urban Grey IP65 2.2W 2700K

These fittings provide a low-level, warm colour temperature light output suitable for sensitive ecological settings and to minimise disturbance to bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

Driveway and pathway lighting will comprise:

Guarda Wired Bollard Light 93019

These bollard lights will be set to an amber light output to further reduce impacts on bats and nocturnal species.

All external lighting will operate via passive infrared (PIR) sensors with a maximum illumination period of approximately 1-2 minutes. This approach is intended to minimise unnecessary lighting spill, reduce impacts on wildlife and maintain the dark character of the woodland setting.

Driveway Finish

The driveway surface will comprise a permeable gravel finish using 10–14mm angular black basalt gravel.

The use of a permeable gravel surface is intended to:

- Reduce surface water run-off
- Maintain a more natural appearance within the woodland setting
- Avoid the visual impact of large areas of hard surfacing
- Provide a dark and recessive finish that complements the proposed cladding and wider landscape setting

Overall, the materials palette has been selected to provide a restrained, natural and contemporary appearance that responds positively to the wooded character of the site and seeks to minimise visual impact.