



Shell Brook

Materiality Appraisal

Introduction

In September 2024, a comprehensive site appraisal was conducted across Ardingly to carefully assess the village's character, appearance, and the setting of the Conservation Area. This process informed the selection of materials for the proposed development, ensuring it is firmly rooted in its surroundings and harmonises with the local vernacular.

During the previous planning application, concerns were raised regarding the choice of materials, including vertical timber cladding, white render, and standing seam zinc. In response, the revised proposal features a more contextually appropriate palette, incorporating local stone, clay tiles for both walls and roofs, and charred timber cladding. This selection draws inspiration from Ardingly's architectural character and the historical significance of the site.

The new dwelling for the family is situated within Ardingly Conservation Area, within the High Weald National Landscape and the Ashdown Forest 7km zone of influence, highlighting the importance of softening the proposal within a sensitive and responsive design. The client has the desire for a restrained, modest, yet a modern approach to what can be seen as a traditional architectural language. This is reflected in the selection of materials, colours and the typology of the elongated gabled elevations.

Proposed Materiality

Local Brick / Stone - the materiality is used across the ground floor external walls and the courtyard wall which continues through the dwelling internally.

Clay Tiles - the materiality is used across both the first floor external walls as well as the main roof.

Charred Timber - the materiality is used on both the garage and the annex. Charred timber is incorporated within the proposal as a reference to the existing dwelling which was severely damaged by a fire in 2023. The use of natural, softer materials at the front of the site, in combination with the reduced massing ensures an enhanced relationship with the High Street.

Sedum Roof - implemented across the annex roof to soften the massing and improve the relationship with the neighbouring property.

Weathered Metal Cladding - the materiality is used on the roof dormers.

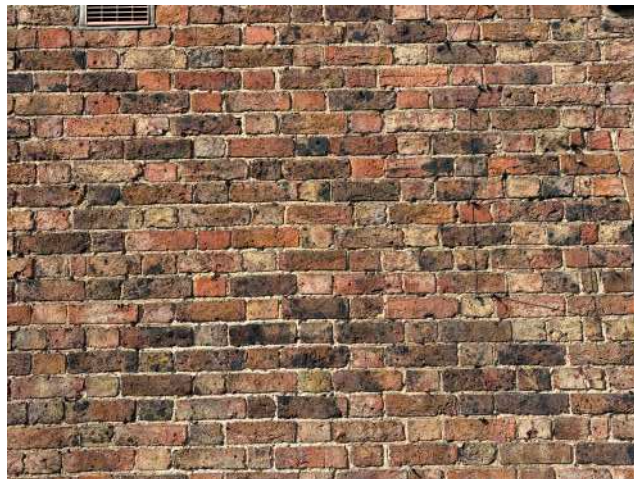


Local Brick / Stone

Brick and stone are prominent in Ardingly. The colour palette highlights reds, browns and greys.



Local Brick / Stone (cont'd)



Clay Tiles

There is a very strong and clear architectural language of wall hung tiles at first floor level with a different material below, as seen in the below images, the material below tends to be a lighter material to ensure the first floor material is the focal point.



Charred Timber

As mentioned previously, in 2023, the existing building sustained irreversible and extensive damage from a fire which resulted in parts of the dwelling collapsing. The fire has uncovered an interesting architectural dialogue, revealing views through the roof towards the large, mature trees to the north and has highlighted key considerations of openness and natural light.



Massing + Styles + Miscellaneous



A mixture of both single storey and two storey elements to reduce the overall massing.



The use of timber cladding can be referenced throughout Ardingly, both natural and painted.



Reduced massing of integrated garages at the front of a dwelling along High Street.



External rainwater goods (gutters and downpipes) tend to be black.



Natural growth and screening is sampled across multiple elevations which enhances and softens the street scene.



Flat roof dormers providing both natural light and additional headroom to rooms in the roof.