

Design Statement – 18.02.2020

Listing Details for Cedar Lodge, North Side, Steeple Aston OX25 4SE

Substantial house. Possibly originally mid C18, re-modelled late C18 and extended C19. Limestone and marlstone rubble with some wooden lintels; Stonesfield-slate and Welsh-slate roofs with brick stacks. Double-depth plan with service ranges. 2 storeys plus attic. Entrance front has a symmetrical window arrangement of 16-pane sashes with brick jambs and wooden lintels, and has a central 6-panel door with marlstone jambs and a C18 flat canopy with panelled soffit and shaped brackets, to extreme right a rubble projection with a similar window has been added, probably to contain a stair. Symmetrical 3-window garden front, stuccoed over limestone rubble, has a more elaborate entrance canopy with dentil decoration below round window; outer bays have architraved tripartite sashes. Two-span roof has end stacks in both sections but is of unequal spans. A late-C18/early-C19 hipped-roofed Welsh-slatted range, running at right angles to the house, has a 3-window front with leaded 2-light casements at first floor, and lower windows with ornamental cast-iron grilles flanking the 6-panel door; it has been joined to the right end of the main range by a C19 marlstone linking section, altered C20. Interior: some late-C18 panelled doors and shutters. For many years the home of the novelist, Iris Murdoch.

Site Description

Cedar Lodge sits behind a high wall which fronts North Side with two gated access points at either end of a substantial plot and a range of converted outbuildings running down the western boundary. The less significant elevation faces north whilst the more significant south elevation faces onto the extensive landscaped gardens to the rear of the property extending to the bottom of the valley with fish-ponds and garden 'enclosures'.

Proposal

The proposal is to change one of the windows in the kitchen extension that was consented under Application Ref. 19/00531/F and 19/00532/LB and replace with a larger window with the framing to match the adjacent windows and doors. The proposal is detailed on drawing number 2018-1014-PL31 submitted with this application. The reason for this proposed change is to give the elevation a more balanced proportion and to give more light to the kitchen. The consented window is thought to be too busy with too many glazing bars for the scale of window and whilst designed with the best intentions to reflect other tripartite windows in the existing building it is felt that a simpler window is more appropriate for the new elevation.