

# Appeal Decision

Site visit made 3 June 2025

**By Ruth Reed BA DipArch MA PGCertEd PPRIBA HonAIA FRIAS**

An Independent Scheme of Management Inspector  
Appointed by the Heritage Foundation Letchworth Garden City

Decision date 9 June 2025

---

## Appeal Reference RR/2025/021

**24 Woolston Avenue, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 2ED**

- The appeal is made by \_\_\_\_\_ against refusal of consent under the Scheme of Management of Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation for the application submitted on 7 October 2024.
- Consent for the scheme was refused by the Heritage Advisory Service on 25 October 2024. It was referred to the Heritage Foundation's Advisory Management Committee on 16 January 2025 who supported the decision to refuse. It was reviewed by the Householder Applications Committee on 7 February 2025 that found the style of the proposed door acceptable, but the proposed colour was not and the decision to refuse was upheld.
- The development proposed is: Replacement front door

---

## Decision

1. The appeal against the refusal of an application for a replacement front door is refused in terms of the colour of the replacement door.

## Preliminary matters

2. The colours of the windows and the garage door existing or proposed do not form part of this appeal. The windows and existing front door have been recently painted. The front door is in the colour proposed for its replacement.
3. The style of the replacement door, 'Mortlake', was approved by the Householder Applications Committee. They upheld the decision that the colour of the door should be Rosewood Brown to match the original windows and doors on the house and surrounding estate rather than French Grey, RAL 7032 proposed by the appellants.

## Main Issue

7. The main issue in this case is the impact of the proposal on the character and appearance of the area.

## Reasons

8. 24 Woolston Avenue is a detached dwelling in a Modern Character Area. It is in brown brick with a tiled roof. The house lies within an estate constructed in the 1980's comprising Woolston Avenue and the end of the cul-de-sac called Berkeley. The two streets are linked by a footpath.
9. The estate is distinctive within the Modern Character Areas, being of higher density around an informal road layout. The palette of materials for the house walls is a mix of buff and brown bricks with some houses having render or tile hanging above the brickwork. All properties have brown tiled roofs, brown window frames and all but one other, brown front doors, this lends coherence to the estate. Only the garage doors have a variety of paint colours.
10. Most properties have had replacement doors in a variety of styles but all except one, which is black, are in the Rosewood Brown. Retaining the same colour for the doors has maintained the visual coherence of the estate. I note the issues with weathering, particularly with south-facing PVCu doors in Rosewood Brown however the south-facing orientation will be challenging for most door constructions, body colour and paint finishes.
11. The appellant makes the case that there is no specific requirement in the Design Principles for Modern Character Areas that requires approval for the colour of a replacement front door. They were advised of this initially before they made their application. However, the Principles state:

*The principles generally indicate what is and is not acceptable when seeking to make alterations. However, each case will be considered on its own merits assessing the impact of proposals on the character and quality of the property and its context.*
12. In this instance the colour of the proposed front door would have an impact on the character of the property as can be seen by the effect of painting the existing door. Most significantly it would have a substantial impact on the coherence of the estate in which it occupies a prominent position close to the entry to the estate from Lawrence Avenue.
13. Elsewhere within Letchworth a variety of coloured front doors is part of the local character but not in this context. The Design Principles recognises that there cannot be a one definitive policy that fits all situations, and each proposal is assessed on its own merits and within its context.

14. There remains a remarkable consistency in the colour of windows and front doors within Woolston Avenue and the houses at the end of Berkeley. If the front doors throughout the estate were painted in a variety of colours much of this consistency would be lost.

### **Conclusion**

15. Having read the submissions and seen the site and its context, I conclude that the proposed front door colour would be harmful to this area of the townscape of Letchworth Garden City.

*Ruth Reed*

Independent Scheme of Management Inspector