

Rambler Cottage
Shripney Lane
Bersted
PO22 9NR

Change of thatch from combed wheat to water reed

Heritage statement

Rambler Cottage is a late 17th century cottage, situated in Shripney Lane. The building suffered a fire in 2016 and the entire roof covering and structure was lost as well as substantial damage to the walls, windows and internal floor structures.

The building was constructed of flint, brick and stone walls, with an aisled timber frame internally. The roof was thatched but this is now lost.

The property is Grade II listed, the listing reads

SU 90 SW BERSTED SHRIPNEY LANE,
14/479 SHRIPNEY
5.6.58
Rambler Cottage
(formerly listed as
Rambler Cottage and
Shripney Cottage)
II

Once two cottages, now one house. Dated 1699. Two storeys. three windows.
Faced
with squared knapped flints with red brick dressings, quoins and stringcourse.
Hipped
thatched roof. Casement windows. Doorway with brick pediment containing the
date
1699 and the initials "T.G." in the tympanum.

Listing NGR: SU9358602192

Listed building consent was granted under application BE/153/16/L for reinstatement works, these are due to begin in August 2017.

The owner wishes to change the thatching material from Combed Wheat to Water Reed, the reasons for this are explained further in the accompanying document provided by Chris Tomkins, Master thatcher, who has previously maintained and re thatched the building prior to the fire.

There is also anecdotal evidence from Chris that the base layer of thatch was Water Reed and so it is likely this was the original material. However, as the top coat was Combed Wheat prior to the fire, it has been established that listed building consent will be required for this change.

Informal discussion with Dr Ian Wightman, historic buildings advisor to Arun DC, has taken place prior to this application and positive responses were received.

The information provided by Chris Tomkins makes it clear that the change of material will not unacceptably alter the character of the building.

Given evidence of the use of Water Reed previously (perhaps earlier than the Combed Wheat coverings) and the total loss of the roof in the fire, it is not considered that the proposal will unacceptably cause harm to the significance of the listed building.