



Design Guide 19

Traditional Paint Colours

19.1 TRADITIONAL FINISHES

In West Oxfordshire, traditional finishes for external timber fall into three general categories:

1. **Paint Finishes** – on softwood and hardwood doors, windows and door frames from the C18 to the present day;
2. **Pitch and Tar Finishes** – weatherproofing with a dull black appearance, mainly on frames and boarded surfaces of agricultural buildings;
3. **Natural ‘bleached’ surfaces** – weathered patina of grey or silver on oak, elm, chestnut.

19.2 COMPATIBLE MODERN FINISHES

Where finishes for modern work are required to match existing work in, for example, Conservation Areas; or where alterations to existing traditional buildings are to take place, the following approaches are recommended:

Paintwork – white/ off-white or other pale colours. ‘Burford Green’ (BS 12 B 17 or similar). There are specific guidelines for Great Tew and informal guidelines for Burford. For front doors and shopfronts, dark primary colours are recommended.

Dark Finishes – (to match the ‘pitch/ tar’ tradition), ‘Ebony’ stains such as those by Dulux, Jotun or Sigma.

Light Finishes – (to match ‘bleached’ timber tradition), ‘Light Grey’ (Ref. 625 by Jotun), or a light wash of black external stain diluted with white spirit, to give a pale grey colour.

NB The above recommendations are not exhaustive and suitable alternatives exist. However, there is NO traditional precedent for the use of modern red/ brown stains widely available in DIY superstores. Their appearance is quite unlike anything known in the

traditional palette. These materials are not suitable for use on traditional buildings or in Conservation Areas unless part of an approved design approach.

19.3 RECOMMENDED SHOP FRONT COLOURS

The following colours have been, or could be, used with success in this context.

(All numbers refer to British Standard 4800)

Greens:

- 14 C 40 Conifer, ‘Trust Green’
- 14 C 39 Hollybush
- 16 C 45 Scarab
- 12 C 39 Orchard
- 10 B 17 Mistletoe
- 12 B 17 Willow, ‘Burford Green’
- 12 B 21 Moorland
- 12 B 25 Chive
- 12 B 29 Juniper

Reds:

- 04 D 45 Monarch
- 02 C 39 Plum
- 02 C 40 Loganberry
- 20 C 40 Midnight (limited situations)

Blues, Blacks, Browns, Greys, Buffs and ‘broken’ Whites:

all can be used with confidence, in particular:

- 08 B 15 Magnolia
- 08 B 17 Sandstone
- 08 B 21 Antelope
- 08 B 25 Beaver
- 10 B 17 Mistletoe
- 10 B 21 Lizard
- 10 B 25 Turtle
- 10 B 29 Ironstone

19.4 PAINT COLOURS IN GREAT TEW

In order to preserve the picturesque appearance of this historic estate village, the paint colours used on all buildings in the Great Tew Conservation Area are subject to Planning Control. However, Planning Permission is NOT required for the use of the following colours:

Joinery, doors, gutters and downpipes:

'Buff' or 'Fawn', British Standard colours 08 C 35, 08 C 37. 'Bamboo', 'Butterscotch', 'Madras'.

Windows:

'Broken' or 'creamy' whites, British Standard colours 08 B 15, 10 B 15, 10 B 31. 'Magnolia', 'Gardenia', 'Buttermilk', 'Lime White', 'Old White'. (Brilliant white should not be used.)

Ironwork, gates and fences:

'Invisible Green', British Standard colours 12 B 29, 14 C 40, 'Holly', 'Conifer', 'Juniper', 'Trust Green'.

Reference: General Development Order 1077 (as Amended), Article 4 Direction 19.6.87

