



Heritage Impact Statement

Listed Building Consent Application

1 Vulcan Court, Merthyr Tydfil

Replacement Timber Door, Frame and Side Screens (Like-for-Like)

1. Introduction

This Heritage Impact Statement has been prepared in support of an application for Listed Building Consent for works at **1 Vulcan Court, Merthyr Tydfil**, a **Grade II listed building**.

The proposal relates to the **replacement of the existing timber door, frame and side screens with a like-for-like timber replica**, matching the existing design and detailing.

This statement assesses the significance of the heritage asset and the impact of the proposed works in accordance with:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)
- TAN 24: The Historic Environment
- Cadw: *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales*

2. Significance of the Listed Building

1 Vulcan Court is designated as a Grade II listed building in recognition of its **special architectural and historic interest**, reflecting Merthyr Tydfil's industrial heritage.

Key elements of significance include:

- Traditional construction materials and detailing
- Historic joinery elements, including timber doors and glazing
- Contribution to the character of the building's frontage and wider streetscape

The existing timber door and associated side screens contribute positively to the building's significance through their material quality and traditional design.

3. Description of the Proposed Works

The proposal comprises:

- Removal of the existing **timber door, frame and side screens**
- Installation of a **new timber door assembly on a like-for-like basis**, including:
 - Matching overall dimensions and proportions
 - Replication of existing detailing (panels, glazing arrangement, mouldings)
 - Use of painted timber finish to match existing appearance

No changes are proposed to the size of the opening or the architectural composition of the elevation.

4. Condition and Justification

The existing joinery elements are in **poor and deteriorating condition**, with evidence of:

- Rot and decay to timber components
- Weathering and loss of protective finish
- Reduced performance in terms of weather resistance and security

Given the extent of deterioration, **repair is not considered viable or proportionate**, and replacement is justified to ensure the continued use and protection of the building.

5. Impact on Significance

In line with TAN 24, the impact of the proposals has been assessed as follows:

Fabric

- There will be **limited loss of historic fabric** through removal of the existing door assembly.
- This loss is necessary due to its condition and is restricted to a discrete element.

Design and Appearance

- The replacement will be **like-for-like**, ensuring no alteration to the building's visual character.
- The new joinery will preserve the original proportions, detailing and materiality.

Setting

- The works are minor in scale and confined to the building envelope.
- There will be **no impact on the wider setting** of the listed building.

Level of Harm

- The proposal results in **less than substantial harm (at the lowest end of the spectrum)**, in line with PPW and TAN 24 terminology.

6. Public Benefits and Justification

The proposals deliver clear heritage benefits:

- **Preservation of the building's character** through accurate replication
- **Removal of deteriorated elements** that detract from the building's condition
- **Use of appropriate traditional materials (timber)**
- Ensuring the building remains **weather-tight, secure, and fit for continued use**

These benefits outweigh any limited harm arising from the loss of existing fabric.

7. Policy Compliance

The proposed development accords with:

- **Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**, by having special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building
- **Planning Policy Wales**, which seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment
- **TAN 24**, which supports proportionate change where it sustains heritage assets
- **Cadw guidance**, advocating like-for-like repair and replacement where elements are beyond repair

8. Conclusion

The proposed replacement of the timber door, frame and side screens at 1 Vulcan Court is:

- **Sensitive and proportionate**
- Based on a **like-for-like approach using appropriate materials**
- Resulting in **no change to the building's appearance**
- Necessary to address deterioration and secure the building's future condition

The proposal will therefore **preserve the special architectural and historic interest of the Grade II listed building**, in accordance with national and local policy.

