

Planning Application at Brackendale, Heolgerrig for boundary wall and gate, two pergolas and retaining wall on behalf of applicant Mr R Williams.

Front view of Brackendale showing existing wall and gate.



The applicant is seeking full planning permission to carry out a series of improvements aimed at enhancing both access and privacy. The key elements of the proposal are:

- **Widening the Entrance:** The gate entrance will be widened by 1 metre, and a new solid gate will be installed to improve privacy.
- **Retaining Wall Reconstruction:** The existing gabion basket retaining wall, located between Brackendale and the adjoining neighbouring property, is set to be rebuilt.
- **Boundary Fence Replacement:** The current dilapidated timber boundary fence will be replaced with a new brick and timber wall that matches the existing front boundary design, providing increased privacy from the lane.
- **Addition of Pergolas:** Two pergolas will be added as part of the development.

This comprehensive approach underlines a commitment to better accessibility and an enhanced, cohesive appearance, ultimately improving the overall functionality and privacy of the property.

The application is supported by the following

Drwg No 07-18-01 entitled Proposed Block Plan, Location Plan and Elevations dated April 2025

Gabion wall Design Calculations

Gabion Wall Design Construction

Pergola Design X 2

Planning Statement

Property Permissions and Restrictions

The property benefits from several planning permissions that cover the main dwelling, a rear porch (which has now been removed), and an extension of the curtilage. Notably, the extension was granted retrospectively and is fully implemented, while the main dwelling has had its permitted development rights removed.

Site Context and Development Management

Situated within the settlement boundary, the site is subject to development management controls. Future work here must consider appropriate scale, design, siting, and the choice of materials.

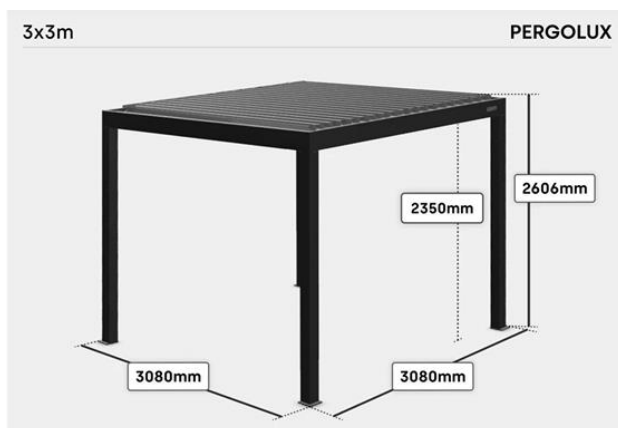
Boundary Enhancements for Security and Privacy

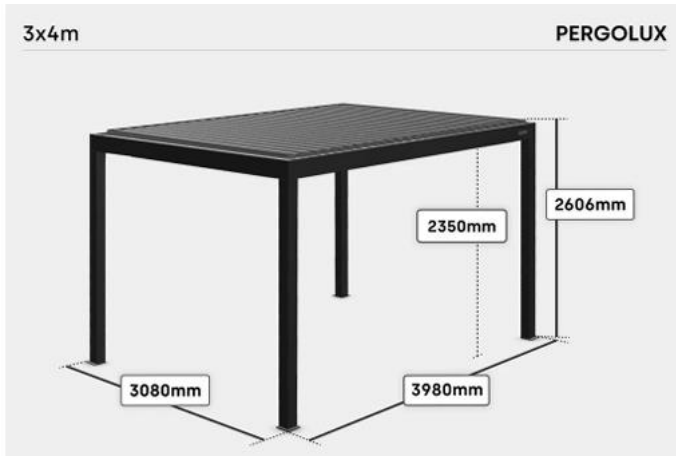
The project proposes replacing the existing, dilapidated timber fence with a robust boundary wall to enhance security and block views into the private garden amenity area. A new pergola and solid gate will also be installed to control access from the adjoining lane, benefiting nearby residents, visitors, and walkers in the area. This new boundary wall is designed to replicate the current front wall by using brick pillars and timber inserts that match the existing materials.

Supporting Engineering Works and Modern Design Features

The retaining wall is treated as an engineering operation and is supported by structural calculations and detailed construction design drawings. Additionally, the modern pergolas—as shown in the plans—will be finished with dark-painted legs and roof slats, with the final colour to be confirmed with the planning authority if necessary.

Proposed Pergolas





Local Development Planning in Merthyr Tydfil

In Merthyr Tydfil, planning policies are structured around a locally adopted framework—in this case, the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2016–2031. This document sets the parameters for land use, design, and development control within the county borough. For example, policies in the RLDP guide what constitutes acceptable developments regarding scale, design, siting, and material choices. Whether it’s the removal of permitted development rights from the main dwelling (to ensure any changes rigorously meet design quality) or the retrospective approval of an extension of curtilage, these measures are designed to preserve local character and ensure that changes work harmoniously with the surrounding environment. In addition, supplementary planning guidance notes—covering aspects such as affordable housing, shopfront design, and sustainable design—give specific instructions on how to implement these policies on the ground.

National Planning Policy in Wales

Above the local framework, national policies provided by the Welsh Government offer an additional layer of guidance that all developments must respect. These policies emphasize sustainable development, community consultation, and environmental protection. They ensure that local plans like Merthyr Tydfil’s RLDP are not only fit for purpose regionally, but also align with a broader vision for sustainable and balanced development across Wales. This framework supports projects that aim to blend practical improvements—like enhancing garden privacy with a matching boundary wall—with a commitment to environmentally sensitive and energy-efficient design. The guidance provided by the “Planning Policy Wales” document serves as a foundation, ensuring that regardless of local circumstances, developments adopt best practices adopted at a national level.

Policy SW11 Sustainable Design and Placemaking

Integrating Sustainable Design and Placemaking

At its core, Policy SW11 insists that new developments must deliver an exceptional quality of design while being ecologically responsible and enriching the local community. This policy

mandates that proposals do not merely satisfy functional requirements but that they become catalysts for creating vibrant, people-centered spaces by integrating aesthetics, sustainability, and local context. For example, replacing a dilapidated timber fence with a boundary wall that mimics the character of the existing front wall—and using materials such as brick pillars and timber inserts—is not just an exercise in repair. It’s an application of sustainable design principles that respects cultural heritage while ensuring durability and environmental efficiency.

Practical Implications for Your Project

Under Policy SW11, all new development from the removal of outdated elements in the main dwelling to the incorporation of modern pergolas—is expected to adhere to high-quality sustainable standards. This means:

Material Consistency & Environmental Sensitivity: The proposed boundary enhancements use materials that align with local character and environmental best practices. By echoing the current design with brick and timber, the proposed development contributes to a cohesive streetscape and promotes sustainability.

Inclusive Placemaking: Sustainable Design and Placemaking isn’t solely about aesthetics. It’s about creating public spaces that delight users, support local well-being, and foster community identity. The design of accessible, visually engaging features like a well-planned pergola, solid gate, and safe boundary walls can encourage community interaction and generate a sense of place. These design elements become more than functional structures—they serve as landmarks that enhance neighbourhood cohesion.

Compliance with Broader Development Aims: When combined with policies dictating appropriate scale, siting, and material usage, Policy SW11 functions as the underlying guide. It ensures that all proposed development is aligned with a larger, sustainable vision. This includes thoughtful consideration for potential environmental impacts, energy demand reduction, and the integration of low-carbon technologies where possible, all of which contribute to the area’s long-term resilience.

Broader Sustainability Context

Policy SW11 resonates well with the locally adopted Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan, where sustainable development is key to ensuring that any interventions contribute not only to aesthetics but also to the health and vibrancy of the community. By embedding placemaking into the design process, the policy encourages developers and planners to move beyond traditional construction norms. It emphasizes creating environments that support both current residents and future generations by:

- Anchoring changes in the local cultural and historical context.
- Encouraging the use of sustainable building practices that reduce waste and lower overall energy consumption.
- Stimulating community pride, as high-quality, sustainable design becomes a hallmark of an area’s evolving identity.

This integrated approach means that each aspect of the proposed development—from the detailed engineering of the retaining wall, supported by rigorous structural calculations and

design drawings, to the modern design cues of the pergolas—can be viewed as part of a wider commitment to sustainable placemaking. In essence, Policy SW11 guides the proposed development not only to meet technical criteria but also to enhance the social and environmental fabric of the community.