

Vale Consultancy

CONSULTING CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION

Inspection Report upon an Existing Boundary
Retaining Wall at The former Norton Tavern,
High Street,
Merthyr Tydfil,
CF47 9HG

Prepared for: Raynes Scaffolding & Groundworks Ltd
Project Ref: 20391

01656 863 794 | enquiries@vale-consultancy.co.uk | <http://vale-consultancy.co.uk>
29 Bocam Park | Old Field Road | Pencoed | Bridgend | CF35 5LJ

Thornlink Limited T/A Vale Consultancy
Registered Number | 04140053 | VAT Number | 879 7269 45



Document Control

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Client	Raynes Scaffolding and Groundworks Ltd
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Document Checking:

Prepared By: Richard Dean BSc (Hons) CEng MStructE FGS
Structural Engineer

Signed: *Richard Dean*

Checked By:

Verified By:

Issue	Date	Status
1	9 June, 2026	First issue



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/02 – Inspection dated 5 March, 2026



1 Introduction

1.1 At the request of Mr Darren Raynes, Managing Director of Raynes Scaffolding and Groundworks Ltd, Vale Consultancy Ltd were instructed to undertake a further visual inspection, to include verticality check dimensions and to provide a report upon an existing boundary retaining wall to the rear of The former Norton Tavern, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9HG.

1.2 The retaining wall was first inspected to check for verticality on 21 January, 2025

1.3 Our client has received a request from the Local Planning Authority to determine whether or not the rear retaining wall has been disturbed by construction works to install pre-cast concrete retaining blocks in front of the existing masonry wall.



General

2.1 We undertook a visual inspection of the wall on 3 March, 2026 when the weather was cloudy and raining.

2.2 We were not accompanied during our visual inspection.

2.3 It is considered that the boundary wall was first constructed as part of The former Norton Tavern Public House at the turn of the Century and is therefore considered to be approximately 120 years old.

2.4 The wall forms the northern boundary between The former Norton Tavern Public House and multi-let residential accommodation to the North.

2.5 The wall is constructed from a variety of stonework, rough cast blockwork and brickwork. The retaining wall extends up to approximately 2.0m above the ground to the former Tavern and retains up to 900mm of the car parking area/external gardens to the North - refer to photographs P1 - P11 included in Appendix A.

2.6 This report is for the confidential use of our client only and shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by a third party without the express written authority of Vale Consultancy Limited.



3.0 Inspection

3.1 .Our visual Inspection was undertaken externally from ground level only.

3.2 Verticality dimensions were recorded at five specific locations along the wall on two separate occasions on 21 January,2025 and 5 March,2026 – refer to drawings 20291/01 and 02 included in Appendix B.

3.3 The out-of-plumb dimensions recorded during both inspections were as follows;

Date	Location				
	A	B	C	D	E
21 January 2025	7	10	12	42	43
5 March 2026	5	8	15	40	42

3.4 The thickness of the boundary retaining wall is typically 215mm.



4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 A comparison of the wall verticality readings between the two dates (14 months apart) records that there is negligible difference in movement of the wall given the accuracies of readings based upon the naked eye and use of a string plumb bob.

4.2 For a free-standing masonry wall to be considered stable, the maximum 'out-of-plumbness' is limited to a maximum of one sixth of the wall thickness.

4.2.1 The existing boundary wall is 215mm thick and therefore the maximum 'out-of-plumbness' will be 36mm.

4.3 The eastern section of the boundary wall exhibits a lean of 40mm-42mm. This slightly exceeds the theoretical limit for the wall to be considered as stable. However, the measurements confirm that the wall has effectively not moved over the preceding fourteen months and therefore, no strengthening works are recommended at this time other than a bi-annual check is undertaken upon the wall to ensure any subsequent movement is not progressive.

Appendix A - Photographs P1 – P9

Photograph P1 – Wall Elevation 21-01-25





Photograph P2 - Wall Elevation 21-01-25





Photograph P3 -- Wall Elevation 21-01-25





Photograph P4 – Wall Elevation 21-01-25





Photograph P5 – Wall Elevation 21-01-25





Photograph P6 - Neighbouring Land to the rear of Retaining Wall





Photograph P7 - Wall Elevation 05-03-26





Photograph P 8 - Wall Elevation 05-03-26





Photograph P9 - Wall Elevation 05-03-26





Photograph P10 - Wall Elevation 05-03-26





Photograph P11 - Wall Elevation 05-03-26





200391/02 Retaining Wall Inspection 05-03-2026

