
Project	Pandy Farm, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8PA
Reference	179
Subject	Heritage Impact Assessment – Archway Entrance (Access Gate)
Date	11 th April 2022 (v3)

Impact Assessment

Overview

This report concerns the archway entrance at Pandy Farm, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil.

The impact assessment should be read in conjunction with the drawings and the Design, Access & Heritage Statement of which it forms part. Early research and analysis has enabled an understanding of significance and a commentary on potential impact of proposals.

Heritage Summary

Pandy Farm is a former estate farm associated with Cyfarthfa Castle and Ironworks. The current buildings span a range of phases of construction mainly across the 19th century. Much re-ordering of the farmstead may be contemporary with the construction of Cyfarthfa Castle in c.1825 when the farm became the 'Home Farm' of the estate. The landholding/ property name of Pandy is older with a Pandy aka 'Fullers House', a place for weaving and preparing wool, noted from the 14th century in the vicinity – this was more than likely a water powered mill and would therefore have been near the river. From the early 18th century, the Pandy name is recorded in the vicinity of the ironworks – this could include part of the fabric of the current farmhouse although much of the farmhouse structure ties in with a 19th century date.

Located at the south western entrance to Cyfarthfa Park, Pandy Farm stands on the south west side of Brecon Road and forms an early 19th century model farm complex. It would appear that this small complex was adapted, perhaps by Robert Lugar, as part of the landscaping works to surround Cyfarthfa Castle in 1825. The styling of the clock tower and the presence of the stone barn with cart entrance (perhaps later) was used in the transformation the farmstead into a cottage orné that complemented the gothic character of the castle and the neighbouring castellated entrance lodges (now demolished).

Roadside threshing/combination barn

The coursed rubblestone barn is orientated east-west and forms the northern enclosure to the courtyard farmstead. The barn exhibits decorative detailing in the form of arched openings, gable oculus and tall carriage entrance with pointed brick arch. The roof covering is replacement concrete tiles.



Fig.75 South elevation. Offset tall carriageway with pointed arch in brick contrasts with the coursed rubblestone – perhaps this has been inserted? Domestic scale openings at ground floor level with brick arched heads and later 20th century windows and door.



Fig.78 The carriageway with well worn stone sett floor. The corrugated iron doors are modest compared to the huge doors that must have once graced the openings on both sides denoted by the heavyweight iron sockets for the original doors.



Fig.79 The heavyweight iron sockets for the original opening doors found on both sides of the carriageway.

Introduction

Assessing the impact that proposed changes may have on the significance of the historic asset has identified the most appropriate way to make those changes.

The following questions have been asking during the design process:

- How the proposals affect the evidential value of the historic asset? Would they result in the loss of or damage to historic fabric, including archaeological evidence, or make it harder to appreciate the way in which the building or site was used in the past, and how it has changed over time?
- How would the proposals affect the aesthetic or design qualities of the historic asset? Will they compromise its historical design principles — such as its layout, scale and proportion — or result in the loss of historic detail or craftsmanship?
- How would the proposals affect communal value? Would they make it easier for people to access and appreciate the building or site?
- Are there any other risks or benefits? For example, risks include increased maintenance and management liabilities, or compromised performance through the use of incompatible materials; benefits include the introduction of a sustainable new use.

Proposals have a range of impacts which may be:

- positive — such as the repair of damage, the removal of intrusive elements or bringing a building back into beneficial use so that it is no longer at risk
- neutral — such as where proposals are sympathetically designed, or change is accommodated in part of the building or site that is less sensitive The plans, elevations and other drawings provided as part of the application for consent provide supporting information, illustrating the existing situation and showing how the proposals will change it.
- negative — such as when important fabric or significant aspects of the original design are removed or altered. If the level of damage is unacceptable and there are few compensatory benefits, the application may be refused.

Section 1: Proposals

The proposal is to replace the current corrugated iron doors which are in need of repair. A steel frame timber-clad design with automated gate will replace the existing, this will be mounted onto the existing cast iron hinge plates, set within the brick reveal of the entrance archway. The replacement gate will provide increased security and allow continued access to the courtyard.

The carriageway has a well-worn stone sett floor. The existing corrugated iron doors are modest (later addition) compared to the huge doors that were likely mounted on both sides - denoted by the heavyweight iron sockets for the original doors. The design of the proposed gates directly references the existing architecture and offers a contemporary interpretation of the farm vernacular.

The application is submitted following a pre-application process with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough and Cadw.

Section 2: Analysis of impact of proposals/ justification

Impact on Significance

Natural Impact. A new entrance gate with automated access will ensure the sustainable future of the existing courtyard, providing vehicular access to the farmhouse and ancillary buildings.

Materials used in construction of the new gate have been chosen based on their compatibility with the historic structures, architectural aesthetic, and sustainability. A FAAC automated hinge mechanism (or similar) will be discreetly incorporated to meet contemporary needs.

Impact on Character and Setting

Natural Impact. There are no further additions or alterations to the roadside threshing/combination barn. Pandy Farm has early origins, but its significance today largely derives from its place in the history of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and Castle.

Elements of Potential Impact on Significance

Area	Element	Context	Effect on Significance
Access	Existing corrugated iron gate (Threshing Barn)	Removal and replacement of existing corrugated iron gate at archway to Brecon Road.	Neutral impact. The current gate is not original (latter addition) and the heavyweight iron sockets from the original doors will remain in situ. A new gate enables the courtyard to work for the intended use and provides a level of site security and safety.

As a general note historic fabric will be conserved and sensitively repaired in appropriate materials as appropriate.

Section 3: Mitigation measures

All designs have been considered to sit in the built landscape and not dominate or overshadow the existing historic buildings. Drawings show the proposals and relationship with the archway. Specification to be developed alongside manufacturer to suit weight and length of gate.