

**Heritage Statement For An Existing Temporary Nursery To Be Granted Permanency,
External Materials To Be Refurbished & The Addition Of A New Window**

At

Longridge C of E Primary School, Berry Lane, Longridge, PR3 3JA

a). This heritage statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for permission to permanently retain an existing prefabricated building within the grounds of the school. The application also covers the refurbishment of the external building façade for aesthetic and weather proofing reasons as well as the addition of a single window.

b). The main school building is not a listed building but does lie within Longridge Conservation Area – see figure 1. The school is used as a Primary School education establishment, the detached prefabricated building is used as a nursery.

Heritage

c). Historical Context

A review of documented histories of Longridge C of E School reveals little significance recorded about the property, although the Gothic windows to the Primary School and the United Reformed Church are mentioned briefly in the Ribble Valley Borough Council – Longridge Conservation Area Appraisal.

Longridge Primary School on Berry Lane was built circa 1865 to accommodate the increased population following the arrival of the railway in 1840 to aid transport of locally quarried sandstone being transported to build Liverpool Docks. Two separate school buildings can be seen on the first OS First Edition map of 1892, labelled 'school' and 'infant school', these two buildings have been connected by use of an 'infill extension' during the 20th Century. A search of the area using the Heritage Gateway website and the PastScape website did not provide any further information about the school property.

The proposed upgrading works to the prefabricated nursery building will not require any alterations to the main school buildings, there will be no change or new restricted views of the school elevations.

d). Aesthetic & Communal Context

The Longridge Conservation Area is essentially urban in character with the three principal streets being lined with buildings, mostly without any front gardens. This restricts views out of the streets although there are some notable long views along each, especially southwards along Berry Lane to The Dog Inn.

Berry Lane is the only street with some public space off it (Towneley Gardens), which does provide a 'green' break in the buildings, with pleasant views across the trees and Bowling Green. St Paul's Church is notable for the vista up Church Street from Berry Lane. St Wilfred's RC Church is another focal building, this time in Derby Road.

The front of the property forms part of a street scene based on a line of properties on Berry Lane which also includes the most significant building in Longridge, the Longridge Co-Operative Industrial Society Building. The nursery building is towards the rear of the school site away from Berry Lane.

The Property

e). The prefabricated nursery building is within the grounds of the school building which faces on to Berry Lane, the school building is believed to have been built circa 1865 from locally quarried sandstone.

The nursery building was newly built in 2006 and was originally granted temporary planning permission, full permanency is now required to maintain this important local facility. The National Planning Policy Framework states at paragraph 72 that:-

The Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education.

They should:

- *give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools; and*
- *work with schools promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.*

Assessment of Heritage Significance

The two school buildings which now make up Longridge C of E Primary School, are good examples of 19th Century stone buildings which lie within the heart of the existing Longridge Conservation Area and have a significant visual impact upon the street scene of Berry Lane.

The existing single storey nursery building is detached from the school building, the proposed upgrade of the external façade will have no detrimental effect on the school elevations but would result in a significant improvement to the appearance of the existing prefabricated building.

Design Proposals

The existing building will be refurbished in order to improve the energy efficiency of the building in accordance with current building regulations, which will enable the facility to continue to be used and serve in the local community for the foreseeable future.

Pre-application advice was provided by Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning Department regarding the permanency of the nursery building and the refurbishment of the external materials using cladding panels. With regards to the permanency of the building, the report stated:

Taking into account the weight attached to development that widens choice in education and the proposed refurbishment of the existing classroom, the permanent retention of the classroom building would comply with the relevant policies of the Core Strategy including policies DME4 and DMG1.

With regards to the choice of cladding materials, the report stated:

Whilst the Council has no objection to the use of this material it is considered that a more pleasing visual appearance would be achieved by using one uniform colour, perhaps with a low level plinth of a lighter or darker shade to break up the elevations

The proposed cladding for the prefabricated building is Trespa Meteon cladding panels, the main envelope of the façade will be a light grey with a dark grey contrasting skirting.

The existing felt roofing will be replaced with a matching replacement material to maintain the weather tightness of the building.

The existing UPVC doors and windows will be retained following the works.

Layout

There will be no change to the layout of the school site

Scale

The proposals are to add a cladding veneer to the existing building, there will be no extension to the existing building accommodation. The building height will remain the same.

Landscaping

Landscaping will not be affected or altered by these proposals

Appearance

The upgrade of the existing external materials will significantly improve the aesthetics of the nursery building.

Access

Access to the premises will not be altered by these proposals.

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Existing Nursery Building – Gable End



Existing Nursery Building – Gable End



Existing Nursery Building – Play Area Elevation



Existing Nursery Building – Play Area Elevation / Gable End