

Heritage Statement for the construction of an extension to the Pre School

At

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

This heritage statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for permission to construct an extension to the existing pre school building within the school grounds

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.

Heritage

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 construction will not require any alterations to the main school buildings, there will be no change or new restricted views of the school elevations.

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 Property

The school building which faces on to Berry Lane is believed to have been built circa 1865 from locally quarried sandstone. The nursery building was newly built in 2006 as a temporary facility but has now become a permanent addition.

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 proposed improvement of the fencing will have no detrimental effect on the school elevations but would result in a significant improvement to the security of the building.

Design Proposals

The proposed extension will be situated on the footprint of an existing storage shed which is no longer required, though slightly larger it will be more aesthetically pleasing, The structure will be built to the same specification and exterior finish as the existing building, which was constructed as far as possible to blend well with the existing school buildings, The structure will not be visible from Berry Lane, Access will be through the main entrance with no alterations

