

## **Heritage Statement**

### **Ambulance shed, RVBC Longridge Depot, Dixon Road, Longridge**

#### **Site Location**

The Ambulance shed is an outbuilding on the site of the RVBC Longridge depot, separated from the main depot building by the depot's back yard area. The building stands part way down Dixon Road, which is a small single track road off Longridge's main street Berry Lane. Dixon Road once served as the access lane to Sharley Fold Farm, which dates back to the early 1600's. Today there stands a number of houses where portion of the farmland once was. Dixon Road now serves as access to these properties, Sharley Fold Farm, the depot's yard as well as access to the rear of a further four properties off King street.

#### **Historical Context**

Although the ambulance shed is not a listed building it is situated within Longridge's Conservation area. Longridge is considered a good example of an industrial Lancashire town. It experienced substantial growth in the 1800's due to its stone quarries and numerous cotton mills. The stone quarries supplied many of the North West's prestigious building in the 1800's. Due to conservation, there are many fine examples today throughout Longridge of the Weavers cottages, Mills workers terraces, public houses and gardens.

#### **Construction**

The building takes advantage of the easily accessible area at the far end of the depot's yard. An area of hardstanding in front of the doors makes it suitable for vehicles to maneuver both in and out of the building safely. Built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the building is constructed using a reinforced concrete portal frame. The single leaf wall is built up in concrete block with a rendered external finish. Corrugated concrete sheet roofing (containing asbestos) sit on concrete purlins. The roof makeup includes four areas of transparent roof covering to allow natural light inside the building. Each gable end has two narrow buttresses to provide further structural support to the block walls. Two large timber sliding doors cover the principle elevation of the building.

#### **Proposed Alterations**

The existing roof covering is no longer fit for purpose due to its years of wear and tear and so has reached the end of its serviceable life span. The roofing sheets contain asbestos so any damage to the roof would be hazardous to anyone within the vicinity. Therefore, it is proposed that the existing roofing sheets are removed and replaced with steel roofing sheets similar in colour and appearance.

The sliding timber doors to the principle elevation are now rotten and need replacing to ensure safe use and that the building remains secure. It is proposed that the existing doors are replaced with roller shutter doors of the same colour.

**Aim**

The primary objective of this project is to uphold the structural integrity of the building and improving the effectiveness of the roof covering, all the while preserving and respecting the historical significance of the surrounding area.

**Assessment of Impact**

The anticipated impact of the proposed work is expected to be minimal. While there will be a subtle visual alteration to the appearance of the roofing material, it is important to note that the proposed roofing sheets are consistent with the roof covering currently utilised. Consequently, this proposal poses very little aesthetic change from what currently exists.

**Impact on wildlife**

After careful inspection and consideration, it has been determined that the proposed changes are not thought to have any impact on wildlife.