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# LONGRIDGE CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

## **PART 1 – Introduction**

### **Purpose of the management guidance**

These guidance notes are intended to assist the preservation or enhancement of Longridge Conservation Area. They are designed for the benefit of owners of land or property, public bodies, planning officers, developers, councillors, designers and the public at large.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Longridge Conservation Area Appraisal. The guidance builds upon the issues and recommendations identified in the Longridge Conservation Area Appraisal and relates to specific weaknesses and threats to the conservation area's special architectural and historic interest.

The guidance does not attempt to provide comprehensive advice; it is written in the awareness that, in managing the Borough's conservation areas, resources are limited and therefore need to be prioritised. Financial constraints on the Council mean that proposals for which it is responsible may take longer than is desirable to implement. However, the Council will continue to encourage improvements to the conservation area in co-operation with property owners, groups and local businesses.

### **The planning policy context**

A conservation area is defined as “*an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*” (Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

All new development within the Longridge Conservation Area should conform to policies within the Ribble Valley Local Plan 1998 (which already seek the preservation of the special character of all conservation areas within the Borough), the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan 2001-2016 and the relevant PPGs, particularly PPG 15, 'Planning and the Historic Environment'.

Local planning policies for the preservation of scheduled monuments and conservation of historic parks and gardens, listed buildings and conservation areas are set out in the Ribble Valley Local Plan which was adopted in June 1998 (Policies ENV14, ENV15, ENV16, ENV17, ENV18, ENV19, ENV20, ENV21) and the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan 2001-2016 which was adopted on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 (Policies 20 and 21, supported by draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) entitled 'Landscape and Heritage').

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## The Longridge Conservation Area Appraisal

The Longridge Conservation Area Appraisal, and its accompanying townscape appraisal map, is a separate document which defines the special architectural or historic interest that warrants designation of the Longridge Conservation Area. It provides a sound basis for development control decisions. It will help all those involved in the planning process assess whether a proposed development affecting a conservation area would, or would not, preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area.

### Summary of the special interest

The medieval settlement was further south, around St Lawrence's Chapel, but in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries a new settlement developed higher up on the edge of the Long Ridge, which forms the northern boundary to the valley of the River Ribble. The surrounding countryside is a transitional area leading up to the dramatic uplands of the Bowland Fells, and is notable for its plentiful supplies of water.

The conservation area is based on three streets, with Berry Lane forming the centre. Although there is an early 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse still located within the conservation area, the town largely developed from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards as a centre for handloom weavers and nail workers. From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the provision of a railway link to Preston encouraged the further development of the area, with six cotton mills being built in or near the town centre. Local streams supplied the water for the steam power which was used in these mills. Quarrying sandstone was another very important industry.

The Longridge Conservation Area contains impressive groups of late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century stone buildings arranged along the three principal streets. There are just four list entries – two 19<sup>th</sup> century churches, the early farmhouse, and a group of terraced handloom weavers cottages in Higher Road. These are socially significant because they were built and financed by one of the earliest housing associations in the country. Otherwise Longridge is notable for the long rows of terraced housing, built for the cotton mill workers in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Although post-war housing now largely surrounds the town, the conservation area retains sufficient examples of well detailed and reasonably well preserved late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, with their original plots, to justify designation.

### Summary of issues

This section provides a summary of the SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) identified during the appraisal process.

#### Strengths:

- The survival of the handloom workers' cottages in Higher Road, King Street and Market Place
- The survival of Sharley Fold Farmhouse, a 17<sup>th</sup> century building

- The cohesive nature of the mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century townscape in the three principal streets
- The prestigious mid-19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in religious, educational or commercial uses, mainly in Berry Lane
- The remains of Longridge Station and the adjoining Memorial Garden
- The remaining railway bridge under Derby Road with its huge pieces of tooled sandstone
- Towneley Gardens and bowling green, with the many mature trees
- A vibrant town centre with supermarkets and local family shops
- Interest in local history is evident from the many publications available
- Location within the Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill Countryside Character Area

#### Weaknesses:

- Insensitive alterations to historic buildings, particularly windows, spoiling the conservation area's historic character and appearance
- Concrete roof tiles e.g. Forest Arms P H no. 2 Derby Road
- Poor quality shopfronts such as nos. 88/90 Berry Lane (Worldchoice Travel)
- Poor quality mainly single storey modern infill buildings such as the Co-Operative Supermarket, Booths Supermarket and the public library
- BP garage in Berry Lane with its modern buildings, bright colours and assertive signage
- Public car park in Berry Lane
- Satellite dishes on the front of properties within the conservation area e.g. Lloyds TSB Bank (no. 4 Berry Lane); 36 Market Place
- Loss of containment to the front gardens of some of the commercial properties along Berry Lane (nos. 30-38 and 40-46)
- Poor quality pavements e.g. in Berry Lane by the BP garage
- Carefoots Car Sales on Derby Road
- Vacant sites and rubbish adjoining Sharley Ford Farmhouse
- Poor condition of barn adjacent to Sharley Ford Farmhouse
- Kitchen vent at the back of no. 23 Market Place (Noble Chef)
- Poor condition of properties, especially roofs, facing Market Place
- Busy traffic along the main roads with few controlled pedestrian crossings (only one in Berry Lane)

#### Opportunities:

- Existing historic street surfaces in Longridge should be protected
- Encourage the use of traditional windows and doors in the listed buildings and Buildings of Townscape Merit within the conservation area
- Consider a grant scheme to encourage the use of stone slate or natural slate for these buildings
- Improve the design of new shopfronts and discourage the use of deep fascias and unsuitable colours on existing shopfronts
- Maintain and protect existing historic shopfronts

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- Maintain and protect Towneley Gardens and the adjoining Memorial Garden, especially the trees
  - Enhance the former farmyard adjacent to Sharley Fold farm
  - Improve Council depot next to Sharley Fold farmhouse
  - Improve the public car park, Berry Lane
  - Improve the former railway arch and footpath, junction of Derby Road/Kestor Lane
  - Redevelop the Carefoots Car Sales site in Derby Road
  - Consider the use of traditional paving in more of the conservation area

#### Threats:

- Use of inappropriate details
- Poor quality shopfronts

#### Summary of recommendations

The Longridge Conservation Area Appraisal made the following recommendations:

- Conservation area boundary review – make changes to the existing conservation area boundary as follows:
  - (i) Add parts of Mersey Street, Severn Street and Humber Street.
  - (ii) Add Davis Street and Crumpax Avenue (off Inglewhite Road)
  - (iii) Add George Street and Mary Street West (off Inglewhite Road).
  - (iv) Add Alexandra Road and Regent Street (off Derby Road).
- Designate a St Lawrence's Church Conservation Area and a Newtown Conservation Area.
- Review the design and materials of existing paving/streetscape throughout the area
- Protect existing historic street surfaces
- Produce a Shopfront Design Manual
- Encourage better repair standards especially for roofs, windows, and doors, possibly through a contribution from the Council's Conservation Grant Scheme
- Prepare a Tree Management Programme to record existing trees in both public and private ownership and monitor their condition
- Review the conservation area and management guidance every five years in the light of the Local Development Framework and emerging government policy

## Part 2 - Guidance

### External alterations

The following design guidelines are intended to discourage the continuing loss of original architectural detail which is eroding Longridge Conservation Area's special character and appearance. Within Longridge Conservation Area, the Council will expect all applications for extensions and alterations to Buildings of Townscape Merit, as identified in the conservation area appraisal, to be particularly carefully considered and only well detailed schemes, using the appropriate traditional materials, will be approved.

The guidance below is not exhaustive and is aimed primarily at unlisted buildings within the conservation area.

Roofs: The roof is nearly always a dominant feature of a building and the retention of its original structure, shape, pitch, cladding and ornament is important. Traditional roofing materials should be retained. New materials should match existing. When a roof is stripped it is important that as much as possible of the original covering is re-used, preferably on the visible slopes, with matching new materials on other slopes.

Slates and tiles (general): Some slates and stone slates are laid to diminishing courses. The character of such roof coverings should not be damaged by a radical change in the range of slate sizes. The pattern and coursing of different roofing materials are distinctive features and should be retained and, where necessary, restored with matching materials.

Stone roofing slates: Stone slate roofs are a fundamental part of the distinctive local character of vernacular buildings in Ribble Valley. The character of the roof is derived principally from the colour and texture of the stone slates, their size, thickness and roughness. They are often laid in courses diminishing in size from the eaves to the ridge.

Correct detailing of a roof – its pitch and the treatment of the eaves, valleys and ridges – not only creates the character of the roof but also ensures that the roof performs satisfactorily.

The use of material salvaged from other old buildings should be avoided and new stone slates used wherever possible. English Heritage have published a *Stone Slate Advice Note* which is a comprehensive guide to the conservation of stone slate roofs and covers all aspects from the production of stone slates, to advice on choosing a slater. The website of the Stone Roofing Association ([www.stonerroof.org.uk](http://www.stonerroof.org.uk)) contains much useful information.

Chimney stacks and pots: Chimney stacks are both formal and functional features of the roofscape. In many cases chimneys also perform a vital structural function, and they should normally be retained, even when no longer required. If the stacks become unsafe, they should be taken down and rebuilt to the original height and design. Chimney pots can sometimes be valuable decorative features in their own right, but they are also functional features. A traditional roofscape can be damaged by their removal.

Stonework: Alterations to wall surfaces are usually the most damaging that can be made to the overall appearance of a historic building. Alterations or repairs to external elevations should respect historic fabric and match it in materials, texture, quality and colour. Stonework should not normally be rendered unless this was the original surface. It may be necessary to remove more recently applied render if this is damaging the surface beneath. A re-render in traditional materials would be appropriate if there is evidence of the original historic surface.

Stone cleaning: All stone cleaning techniques have an inherent risk of damaging the stone and must be selected and executed with care.

Cleaning may sometimes be desirable to prevent the harm caused by corrosive dirt or to reveal where problems are hidden by encrustations. However, cleaning is less justifiable for aesthetic reasons alone, and consideration must be given to its impact on the historic character of the building (e.g. loss of 'the patina of age') especially if located in a terrace.

Cleaning with water and bristle brushes is the simplest method, although water cleaning can lead to saturation of the walls.

Abrasive cleaning methods, including blasting of any kind, are likely to cause damage and should only be used where the necessary skills are available to carry out the work without harming the stonework. Techniques that use hand-held and mechanical tools with carborundum heads, rotary brushes and abrasive blocks should be considered as a resurfacing technique rather than a cleaning method.

Prior to cleaning, a sample panel(s) in an unobtrusive location should be prepared to ascertain the suitability of the technique and the effect on the fabric, character and appearance of the building.

External painting: Previously unpainted surfaces should not normally be painted over. There is rarely a good reason to paint historic stonework or brickwork. Re-painting in a different colour can be to the detriment of a building's historic character and the streetscape. Colour should not be altered unless there is historical evidence to support the proposed change. In Ribble Valley there is little or no historic precedent for bright or garishly coloured facades.

Historically, some buildings in Ribble Valley may have been limewashed, sometimes called 'whitewashed'. Limewash can be used to protect exposed rubblestone walls or to conceal rough stonework. Limewash is a simple type of matt paint made from lime and water, with or without additives. Impurities in early lime commonly produced an off-white colour, not today's startling white which is a 20<sup>th</sup> century development that is inappropriate on a historic building.

Render: The use of an impervious Portland cement render (and/or application of an impervious paint) in place of a traditional lime-based covering restricts evaporation. On buildings pre-dating about 1800, the original render is likely to have been of ordinary (non-

hydraulic) lime or natural hydraulic lime that has a weak chemical set. After that time, the introduction of eminently hydraulic limes began a trend which culminated in the widespread use of cement. Lime-based renders provide a different aesthetic effect to cement-based renders. Although a range of finishes exists with each, the latter has a more uniform appearance, and corners and details are sharper and more defined.

Weathering characteristics also differ. Cement renders often fail in patches and detach from the wall, whereas lime renders gradually erode back in a more even manner.

On traditionally constructed buildings replacement renders should generally be a soft and porous lime render without the addition of cement. It is important that the render is applied by someone familiar with lime-based materials. A traditional limewash will normally be the most appropriate finish as the high water permeability will allow the walls to 'breathe'.

Cement based or other waterproof and hard gloss paints should not be used on surfaces covered with traditional render.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (address below) may be able to advise on suitable contractors or courses regarding lime renders.

Stucco: The original purpose of stucco, an early type of render, was to mimic stone and, if painted at all, should be close in tone to the colour of local stonework. In any case, it is important to consider any clash in colour that may occur with neighbouring properties, especially in a terrace or row of houses.

Slobbered masonry: Local traditions such as 'slobbering' i.e. the uneven rendering of a rubblestone wall surface are part of the vernacular tradition of building and should be respected and therefore not painted or removed.

Pointing: The primary feature of a wall is the building material itself and the pointing should normally be visually subservient to it. In general, pointing that speaks louder than the walling material is inappropriate. Repointing should usually be no more than a repair - a repeat of the existing mix and appearance - except where the mix is inappropriate or damaging.

Repointing of historic stone walls should be carried out using lime based mortar, which is compatible with the strength, porosity and texture of the stone and a close match to the original mortar. As a general principle, the mortar should be slightly weaker than the stone to allow the wall to 'breathe' and for moisture to evaporate through the joints and to discourage excessive moisture loss through the face of the stone – which would speed up the rate of decay.

Any change in the character of the pointing can be visually and physically damaging. Historic pointing may survive wholly or in part and this should be preserved. Mechanical cutters should not be used to cut out old mortar because it makes the joints unacceptably wide, and may score the masonry.

Doors and doorways: Original doors should be retained. Their replacement or defacement is often entirely unnecessary. Replacement doors should copy the original in the materials, the detail of the design, and the paint finish. Modern off-the-peg doors are not generally acceptable for use in historic buildings, nor are doors with incongruous design features such as integral fanlights. Unpainted hardwood, stained or varnished softwood, or uPVC doors are rarely suitable. Doorcases, door furniture including hinges, knockers and letter-boxes, foot scrapers, fanlights, pediments, columns, pilasters, cornices, consoles and carved or stucco moulded details should not be removed or mutilated but retained even if the doorway is redundant.

Windows: Sliding sash and side-hung casements are the two principal window types. As a rule, windows in historic buildings should be repaired, or if beyond repair should be replaced 'like for like'. It is important that the design, scale and proportion of new windows should be sympathetic to the character of the building.

Glazing bars in old buildings are invariably moulded and slender. Over time, the thickness and moulding of glazing bars, the size and arrangement of panes and other historic window details varied. Care is therefore needed in the repair and replacement of historic windows to ensure works are 'honest' and not historically misleading. Details should be appropriate to the date of the building or to the date when the window aperture was made.

Seventeenth century stone mullion windows were normally glazed with leaded lights in a thin metal frame. If necessary, they should be replaced with a similar design ensuring that the stonework dominates.

Paint is usually the correct finish for timber windows; staining is not a traditional finish and should not normally be used. All old glass is of interest, whether it be stained, painted or etched glass or early plain glass such as crown glass.

Replacement windows: The insertion of factory made standard windows of all kinds, whether in timber, aluminium, galvanised steel or plastic is almost always damaging to the character and appearance of historic buildings. In particular, for reasons of strength the thickness of frame members tends to be greater in plastic or aluminium windows than in traditional timber ones. Modern casements with top-opening or louvred lights or asymmetrically spaced lights are generally unsuitable as replacements for windows in historic buildings.

Services: The poorly thought out introduction of services, such as mains electricity, telephone or gas, can be detrimental to the appearance and character of a building. Long runs of surface wiring and any external gas piping should be avoided.

Satellite dishes, meter boxes, burglar alarms, security and other floodlighting, video cameras, and central heating and other flues should be located carefully in a visually unobtrusive position away from the principal elevation.

**Rainwater goods:** Traditional eaves gutters were made of timber or cast-iron fixed on metal rise and fall brackets. Downpipes were normally cast-iron. Modern plastic gutters can be unsightly and out of character, especially if grey plastic is used. Traditional metal brackets are fixed directly to the stonework. Cracked or broken cast-iron rainwater goods should be replaced in matching material and section (e.g. ogee, half-round). Aluminium is preferable to uPVC.

There is a distinctive Ribble Valley feature of shaped stone brackets supporting the gutter at eaves level or, on high status properties, a moulded stone eaves cornice behind which the gutter is concealed. These local details should be preserved.

**Maintenance:** A key to keeping the necessary high standards in order to retain the historic appearance of the conservation area is in regular and thorough maintenance. A well-looked after building will normally retain maximum value.

### **Boundary treatments**

Traditionally, most boundaries in the Longridge Conservation Area are defined by stone walls, of varying heights. Occasionally, cast iron railings remain, set into a low plinth wall, also made from stone.

For new development in Longridge, it is important that local materials and detailing are used and new boundaries following the historic precedent of stone will help development to fit in to its context. Modern alternatives, such as concrete blocks, ranch-style timber fencing, or post-and-rail type fencing are not acceptable. Simple, close-boarded fencing, with timber posts, may be an alternative to stone in certain locations away from the public viewpoint but such fencing should be simply detailed, without any decoration such as a curved top or trellis.

### **Shopfronts and security grills**

The Longridge Conservation Area contains a small number of commercial premises with shopfronts, sometimes incorporating elements of earlier fabric. The appearances of many of these properties has been compromised by badly designed shopfronts. The most common problems are:

- Bad proportions such as over-deep fascias
- Use of garish colours
- Use of plastic lettering
- Poor quality, modern lighting

The Council already includes some advice on the design of new shopfronts in the Local Plan, adopted in June 1998. Policy S13 states:

*“The Borough Council will require new shopfronts to be designed to be in keeping with the character of the building and appropriate to the street scene”.*

The following principles should be followed when considering a new or altered shopfront:

- New shopfronts should be built from timber and painted.
- The use of uPVC or other modern materials will be resisted.
- New shopfronts should adhere to published design guidance.
- Traditional shopfronts are usually preferred although in some cases a modern, good quality alternative, might be acceptable.
- Existing historic shopfronts should be preserved and kept in good repair.

If roller shutters are to be provided, they should fit neatly between existing features, with open lattice grilles rather than solid shutters. Ideally, these shutters should be positioned internally, to avoid the flat, feature-less appearance of external shutters. Another alternative is a concertina type of shutter, which slides sideways rather than vertically. These can be used to protect recessed doorways. All such shutters should be painted or colour finished to match the decoration of the rest of the shopfront.

Simple fabric roller blinds are another traditional feature which should be encouraged, as opposed to the modern plastic canopies, which are too reflective and detract from the historic character of the building.

### **Advertisements**

Some of the commercial premises in Longridge have poor quality signage which detracts from the character and appearance of the conservation area. Policy S14 in the Local Plan 1998 states:

*“Renewals of consent and new consent to display an advertisement on shop fronts will be granted if the proposal is acceptable in terms of amenity and public safety, having regard to the following criteria:*

#### A The Sign

- (i) The sign is in keeping with character of the shopfront and the area.*
- (ii) The sign is not positioned above fascia level.*
- (iii) Existing first floor pilasters and architectural details such as string courses and pilasters are not obscured.*
- (iv) Projecting signs on brackets are not set away from the fascia board.*
- (v) Projecting signs should be sited high enough to avoid danger to pedestrians.*
- (vi) Signage should not be over-intensive.*
- (vii) Materials used should reflect the character in the conservation area.*

#### B – Conservation areas and listed buildings.

- (i) On listed buildings and in conservation areas the Council will seek a high standard of design which should conserve or enhance features of architectural or historic interest.*

(ii) *Traditional fascia design with indirect lighting will be considered appropriate.*

### C Illumination.

(i) *Intermittently illuminated signs will not be considered appropriate.*

### D Canopies.

*Canopies at first floor will be resisted.*

## **Buildings of Townscape Merit**

The appraisal for Longridge identified a number of unlisted buildings which it is considered make a *positive* contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area, and these are marked on the Townscape Appraisal map that accompanies the appraisal.

There is a general presumption in favour of retaining all Buildings of Townscape Merit, as set out in the Local Plan policy ENV18 and in PPG15. The Council will also consider very carefully all applications to alter or extend such buildings.

Buildings within a conservation area greater than 115 cubic metres are automatically protected from demolition as “Conservation Area Consent” is required from the Council before any building can be removed. For Buildings of Townscape Merit, any application for demolition will need to be accompanied by a reasoned justification (similar to that required for a listed building) stating why the building should be demolished. The Council will expect the applicant to demonstrate that:

- The building is beyond economic repair
- The building has been offered on the open market
- If vacant, alternative uses have been sought

## **Building condition**

Generally, the buildings in Longridge are relatively well maintained, although there are pockets of buildings requiring repair and restoration in the Market Place and facing King Street. The most obvious “Buildings at Risk” at the time of the survey (2005) is the former barn off Dixon Road, close to Sharley Fold Farmhouse.

Regular monitoring of the condition of the buildings in the conservation area is desirable. Where a listed building is threatened by a lack of maintenance or repair, the Council does have powers to force the owner to take action. These powers include Urgent Works and Repairs Notices, allowing the Council to carry out the works themselves if necessary and to recover the costs from the owner. The Council also has powers to secure the preservation of unlisted buildings in the Conservation Area by using Urgent Works notices in a similar way to listed buildings, although in this case, the Secretary of State’s permission is required. This applies where a building is important for maintaining the character and appearance of

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the area so all buildings which have been identified as “Buildings of Townscape Merit” in the conservation area appraisal will be eligible. The Council may carry out such works as a necessary in default and recover the costs incurred from the owners.

Some of the buildings might be assisted by an offer of grant aid - conservation area status gives the potential for external funding from English Heritage or the Heritage Lottery Fund, through a partnership grant scheme with the Council.

### **Trees**

The preparation of a Tree Management Programme would be welcome, identifying all mature trees within the conservation area (privately as well as publicly owned) and ensuring that priorities are agreed and funding set aside for the costs involved for remedial works or replacement.

## **New development**

There are a few development opportunities within the Longridge Conservation Area, including the improvement or enlargement of some of the existing buildings, subject to very rigorous controls. There may also be sites where completely new development is acceptable. In the conservation area, where the quality of the general environment is already acknowledged by designation, the Council will insist on good quality schemes which respond positively to their historic setting.

Development should conform to the criteria set out in Policy G1 of the Ribble Valley District-wide Local Plan, and other relevant policies.

The following guidance will apply to most schemes, including the creation of parking areas, extensions to existing properties and new houses or commercial buildings. It is based on central government advice, contained in PPS 1 and PPG 15, and policies contained within the Ribble Valley Local Plan.

All development, but particularly in the Longridge Conservation Area, must respond to its immediate environment, its “context”, in terms of scale, density, form, materials and detailing. Applicants for planning permission must therefore provide a “Design Statement”, to justify the design decisions that have been made as the scheme was developed and to show how the building relates to its context.

The following are general principles which should be adopted for all development in all parts of the conservation area:

### *Urban grain.*

The “urban grain” is the pattern of the arrangement and size of buildings and their plots. It is an important part of the character of the conservation area and should be protected. Proposals for new development must include a detailed analysis of the locality and demonstrate that there is a full appreciation of the local townscape and how it has developed, including prevailing building forms, materials and plot ratios. This is particularly important on “backland” sites where new development potential is very limited and must always be secondary in character to the more important primary buildings facing the main street.

### *Scale and density.*

Scale is the combination of a building’s height and bulk when related to its surroundings. The scale of any development should respect surrounding development. The applicant must provide accurate elevations of the surrounding buildings, showing how the new development will relate to them.

Density is the amount of development (measured in terms of floor space or number of housing units) related to the site area it occupies. In practice, it is the combination of

density with layout, landscaping and other factors which determines the quality and “feel” of new developments. Where the proposal lies within a conservation area, a careful balance must be sought between the sensitivity of the environment and the requirements of the developer. In taking account of existing densities within the conservation area, care must be taken to ensure sites are not overdeveloped. Developments which have a detrimental effect on the character of the conservation area will be resisted. It is especially important to consider how the conservation area has developed over time and to recognise the differences in building form which can be attributed to different periods.

### *Height*

Generally, the height of new development should match the adjoining buildings, although allowing for the inevitable variations in height and bulk which are natural to historic towns and villages.

### *Massing*

Massing is the combination of the scale of the development, its layout and its site coverage. For larger schemes, poor massing and over-intensive development leads to the creation of over-shadowed areas, with poor quality spaces between the buildings. These create a threatening environment for pedestrians and reduce the opportunities for good quality landscaping.

### *Appearance, materials and detailing*

The emphasis in any new development or proposed alteration must always be on the need to provide a high quality of design. Consideration of scale, density, height and massing may be used to set out the basic form of the new building(s), including roof shape, roof pitch, height, depth of plan and, most importantly, the relationship of the new buildings to existing surrounding buildings and to the street. Once this basic framework has been established and the general form and siting of the building agreed, the actual appearance of any new building may be either traditional or modern, providing some opportunities for a good designer to experiment with new materials and details. In all cases, a design statement should be submitted.

Where a more traditional approach is appropriate, the Council will expect new buildings which are designed in a traditional form within the conservation area to be detailed in a manner appropriate to the historic setting. Roofs should be pitched and covered in stone slates or natural slate. Dormers and rooflights should be avoided, unless appropriate to the building, modestly sized and away from the public viewpoint. Chimneys may sometimes be required in certain locations.

Walls will usually be stone or, less commonly, natural or painted render, depending on the situation. The inclusion of small decorative details can add interest and a sense of place but must be based on local precedent and used correctly.

Windows should be timber, painted not stained. Their design should reflect traditional local styles, usually simple side-hung casements or vertically sliding sashes. If windows are to be double glazed, then these must be carefully designed. Avoidance of glazing bars can assist in achieving a satisfactory solution. Consideration should be given to alternative ways of complying with Building Regulations if traditional windows are to be used. Modern top-hung lights and modern materials, such as uPVC or aluminium, are generally unacceptable in a conservation area, particularly where the new building abuts a listed building or faces a principal street. Front doors should also be painted timber, again reflecting local historic styles.

*Key design principles:*

All new development should seek to:

- Achieve continuity in the street frontage building line, usually set on the back edge of the pavement;
- Maintain the historic pattern of development by respecting the historic grain associated with historic plots and the historic morphology of development in the immediate area;
- Complement the human scale, height and massing of historic development in the immediate streetscape and the wider conservation area;
- Reflect the proportion of solid to void found in the elevations of traditional buildings and employ robust detailing, avoiding fussy or gimmicky use of applied features or detailing;
- Respect the historic hierarchy of development and detailing between principal and secondary street frontages and within plots between frontage and rear elevations;
- Conceal any parking or servicing areas behind built frontages of appropriate scale;
- Reinforce local identity by the use of the traditional materials used in the conservation area;
- Re-use traditional buildings which contribute to townscape quality.

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## Part 3 - Useful information

### Addresses

*For information on listed buildings and conservation areas in Ribble Valley:*

Design and Conservation Officer  
Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire BB7 2RA  
Tel: 01200 414513

*For further information relating to listed buildings and conservation areas:*

English Heritage  
23 Savile Row  
London W1X 1AB  
General enquiries: 020 7973 3000  
Customer Services: 020 7973 4916

*For an excellent range of technical advice leaflets:*

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)  
37 Spital Square  
London E1 6DY  
Tel: 020 7377 1644

The Georgian Group  
6 Fitzroy Square  
London W1T 5DX  
Tel: 020 75298920

The Victorian Society,  
1 Priory Gardens,  
Bedford Park,  
London W4 1TT  
Telephone: 020 8994 1019

The Twentieth Century Society  
70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ

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**Where to find out more:****Longridge Public Library**

Longridge Public Library,  
Berry Lane,  
Longridge.

Tel: 01772 782386

**Clitheroe Library**

Clitheroe Library,  
Church Street,  
Clitheroe.  
BB7 2DG.

Tel: 01200 428788

Clitheroe library covers the whole of the Ribble valley with particular emphasis on Clitheroe and includes a considerable amount of material on places formerly in Yorkshire. It includes a large collection of books, a large collection of photographs of the Ribble valley, a comprehensive collection of current and retrospective maps and a significant amount of printed material from other sources.

**Longridge and District Local History Society**

Tel: 01772 786315 email: [derek@tootle-heights.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:derek@tootle-heights.fsnet.co.uk)

**Longridge Heritage Committee**

The Heritage Committee was formed in 2000 and is made up of a cross-section of people of the town, including representatives from Longridge Town Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Longridge and District Local History Society. For further information please contact the chairman, John Earnshaw on 01254 878543 or by email: [John.Earnshaw@tesco.net](mailto:John.Earnshaw@tesco.net)

**The County Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston****The Harris Library, Preston****Lancashire County Archaeological Service**

Lancashire County Archaeological Service  
Environment Directorate  
PO Box 9

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Guild House  
Cross Street  
PRESTON  
PR1 8RD

Tel: (01772) 533404

Lancashire County Council maintains a register of archaeological and historic sites, structures and find spots known as the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The SMR is based in the Environment Directorate and is available for consultation by arrangement.

Website: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/archaeologyandheritage](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/archaeologyandheritage)

<http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk> is the website of MARIO (Maps & Related Information Online), an interactive map which allows you to go to anywhere in Lancashire and view information held by the Council including old maps and aerial photographs.

[www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk) aims to create a 'point in time' photographic record of England's listed buildings.

[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk) is a source of online early Ordnance Survey maps.