

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

In Support of an Application for Listed Building Consent for: Replacement Glass Screen at Margam Park Orangery

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1. Introduction

This application for Listed Building Consent is concerned with replacement of a glass screen that functions as a partition to the large interior space in a Grade 1 Listed Building

The previous glass screen was installed in 1977 during major restorations that included a new fabricated steel roof, new floors, ceilings and wall surfaces. The installation of a 'frameless' structural glass screen is likely intended to respect design objectives such as:

- a) To, retain the internal visual scale and classically proportioned rhythm of the interior as the 1952 Reasons for Listing.
- b) Creation of an inclusive community resource and contribute the financial security and wellbeing of the group value in Margam Park

The previous Glass Screen was removed following structural failure and danger to life. It was replaced with a temporary partition to enable ongoing activities whilst processing an Application for Listed Building Consent, Detail Design and Tender. That process has been disrupted by Covid Lockdown and the Orangery's use as a Vaccination Centre until the end of December 2021.

2. Purpose of this Statement

The purpose of this statement is to outline the architectural and cultural significance of the existing property within its setting and to consider the impact of the proposed changes.

3. Planning Policy Statement

This heritage statement has been prepared with reference to:

- Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales – Best Practice Guide
- Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

4. Designation

Margam Orangery is a Grade 1 Listed Building

Reasons for listing are: *Listed Grade 1 as one of the finest classical buildings in Wales, and the longest orangery in Britain. Group value with surrounding buildings in Margam Park.*

Cadw Source ID: 14152.

Listed 12th November 1952 and last amended 25th April 2000.

5. Site Location

The Glass Screen is within the Orangery and acts as a separation between areas of the main pavilion. The building is situated within Margam Country Park with pedestrian links between outdoor leisure and historical tourist attractions including the group of listed building

The Park is predominantly rural with intermittent residential properties located around its boundaries. The local district centre of Margam is to the south with good access to Port Talbot. There are also good links to wider communities and visitors via the M4 corridor and A48 arterial roads, reflected in the large area of onsite parking.

6. Constraints

6.1 Visual Impact

This proposal aims to replace the original 1977 Glass Screen and preserve the integrity of that design concept. That is, to retain the internal visual scale and classically proportioned rhythm of the interior.

To this end, the replacement scheme is a frameless glazing system to maximise visual continuity along the interior of the pavilion. This proposal maintains the previous strategy of connections hidden within surface finishes. However, the size of glazing panels, mechanical fixings and requirement for structural bracing with glass fins address's shortcomings in the previous design that led to its failure

6.2 Scheduling

Previous targets for scheduling the installation of a new glazed screen have been hampered by bookings and commercial pressures that sustain Margam Park. However, there is a window of opportunity to carry out works in January 2022, when the site will no longer be required as a vaccination centre and there are no bookings before February. This time slot will afford contractors time for careful and considerate installation.

7. Biodiversity

The Orangery roof space has potential for Bats and as such a Working Method Statement for the attic is to be agreed with NPTCBC Biodiversity Team, contact Megan Price.

8. Previous Condition, Archive Photos



Figure 1, Before Restoration, Margam Orangery, Patricia Moore



Figure 2, During Restoration, Orangery, Patricia Moore



Figure 3, Glass Screen after Restoration, circa 1977, Orangery, Patricia Moore



Figure 4, Steel Glazing Channel in Wall



Figure 5, Steel Glazing Channel Removed



Figure 7, Typical Steel Truss providing fixing at top of Glass Screen



Figure 6, Channel Location in Concrete, beneath timber floor

9. Existing Condition, Temporary Screen



Figure 8, Temporary Screen, construction as DWG A1197-01

10. Design Proposals

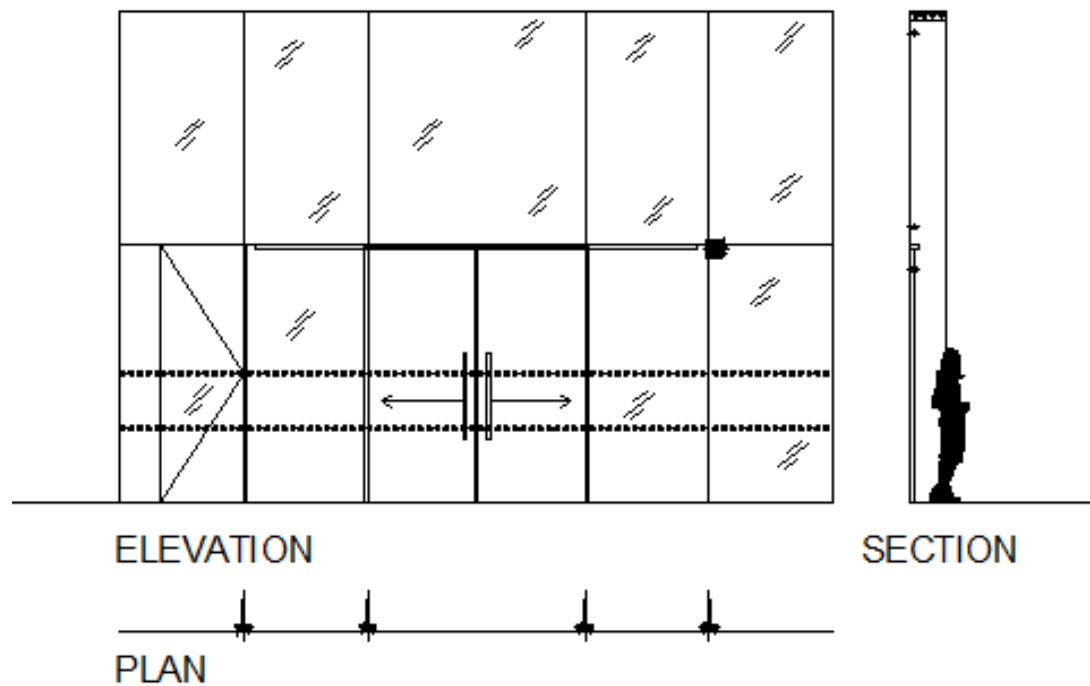


Figure 9, Proposed Arrangement of new Glass Screen. Re DWG A1197-01

- 10.1 The new glazed screen will be fitted to the full height and width of the Orangery in order to retain the internal visual scale through the length of the interior.
- 10.2 Glass panels will be fitted into recessed metal channels in the floor, walls and ceiling with new steel brackets for the perpendicular fins. Existing metal channels are to be retained if they comply with the requirements of new glazing. In the event that new metal channels are required by the manufacturer, they will be fitted into the existing recess, with minimum cuts to contemporary surfaces and like for like repairs to:
- Render /plaster surface at walls
 - Plasterboard at ceiling
 - Timber at floor
- 10.3 Junctions between glass panels are to be sealed with clear silicone to tolerances specified by the glass manufacturer.
- 10.4 All hardware fittings to be polished and reflective surface such as stainless steel
- 10.5 The arrangement of Glass Panels will vary from the original in order to comply with current manufacturing and safety standards as recommended by Pilkington glass and informed by current building regulations.
- 10.6 The structural integrity of the glass screen will be enhanced with 450mm Glass Fins fitted perpendicular to the panel junctions. Rigidity at this junction is maintained with isolated stainless steel fixings 9 (Figure 10) to manufacturers structural specifications.
- 10.7 Door openings have been informed by Orangery staff and over 40 years of operating experience with the previous screen.

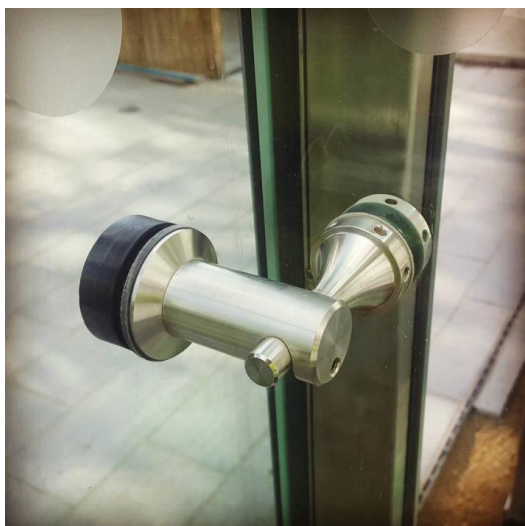


Figure 10, Example Stainless Steel Fixings at Glass Fins

11. Conclusion

This application for Listed Building Consent retains the aesthetic and practical essence of the original 1977 Glazed Screen. A replica of that failed screen would not meet current health and safety standards, thus minor amendments have been proposed with recommendations from leading manufacturers and structural engineers.