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Maintenance, Repair and Restoration

External Joinery

The Conservation Value of External Joinery

Decorative external joinery generally did not begin to be built on houses until the second half of the 19th century and even then it was only on the higher status houses in certain architectural styles, such as the Picturesque. Decorative joinery in the form of bargeboards, mock timber framing and porches, was a defining feature of the Arts and Crafts style of the late 19th and early 20th century. Many of these timber decorations were one-off features designed for a particular dwelling, therefore decorative timberwork was only found on the fashionably designed houses of wealthier people. However, the mass production of external joinery meant that by 1900 rows of affluent working class houses were built with fairly plain timber porches, veranda-style porches and moulded bargeboards.

Surviving external joinery should be retained as it is an important feature of past architectural fashions and the craftsmanship that went into making the joinery means that it would be expensive to replicate. When bargeboards or traditional porches have been removed from houses, they appear much plainer and do not make their full contribution to the character of the conservation area, and can negatively impact the value of a house.

The Maintenance and Repair of External Joinery - Best Practice

Joinery should last indefinitely if properly maintained. This means ensuring the timber is painted every 5 to 7 years to protect it from damp and that fittings remain secure. Re-painting should be carried out in accordance with Section1e of this guide. Much of the guidance in Section 1d of this guidance apply to the repair and replacement of timber joinery, in particular the following principles:

l Retain as much of the original joinery as possible.

l Only use timber and never use uPVC.

l Ensure that the details of the original porch or bargeboards are accurately replicated by the new.