

## Doors

Where original doors are still in place it is important to retain them. Traditional front doors are typically solid timber

- Victorian four panelled;
- Georgian six panelled;
- Lined and braced timber doors.

Traditional doors often incorporate fanlights, which should be retained.



## Windows

Scarcely anything has more effect on the external appearance of a building than its windows and, wherever possible, they should be retained. Most of the components of original timber windows can be repaired or renewed and draught-proofing can be added to improve insulation. This is the most sustainable approach and often the most economic. However, when repair is not possible replacement windows must be sensitive to the building and match the original windows as closely as possible. Before making any commitment to buy/install replacement windows planning permission should be secured.

## Colour Pallet

Planning permission is also required to paint shop fronts in a conservation area and this pallet of suggested colours is indicative of what is likely to be considered appropriate, albeit that it is not an exhaustive list.

02 C 39	02 C 40	04 C 39	04 D 45
06 B 29	08 B 39	10 C 39	12 B 21
12 B 25	12 B 29	12 C 39	14 C 39
14 C 40	18 B 25	18 C 35	18 C 38
18 D 43	18 E 53	20 C 40	20 D 45

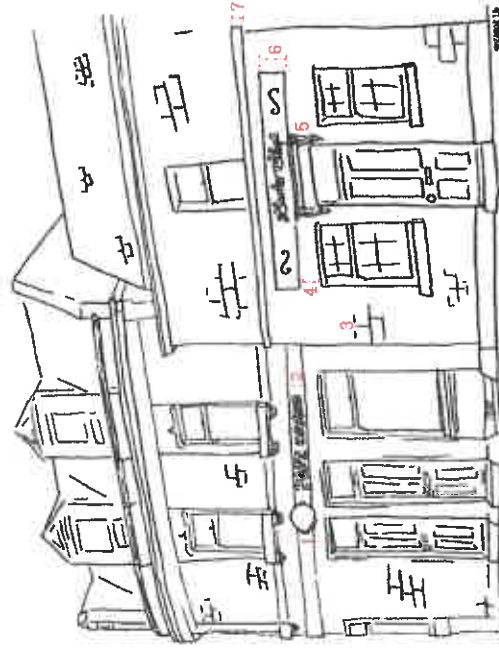
## Signage

Where a fascia board is not present, the presumption is in favour of displaying a company name by individual letters painted or fixed directly to the façade of the building.

Shop front cornices should be preserved or reinstated. Fascia width should be restricted within the pilasters and corbels, or line up with the window frame below where corbels are not present.

Illuminated signs in CAs are permitted only in a limited set of circumstances.

Please refer to the diagram below for advice on some elements of traditional shopfronts:



- 1 Projecting Sign: 400x500x50mm, metal bracket & suspension rod. Traditional symbols e.g. chemist pestle and mortar are supported.
- 2 Individual Letters: metal or wood fixed directly to building face. Light coloured letters on dark background preferable.
- 3 Original stone frontage should not be painted.
- 4 Fascia board is in line with the window.
- 5 Decorative corbel bracket retained.
- 6 Fascia board is max 450mm in height and under 20% of the total shopfront.
- 7 Cornice retained.

See: [Planning Guidance: Shopfronts and advertisements in conservation areas](#) for more details.



# Torphichen Conservation Area 2023

### What is a conservation area?

"An area of special architectural or historic interest, of which its character or appearance is desirable to preserve or enhance" *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997*.

There are over 600 conservation areas (CA) in Scotland, which are critical to the conservation of our built heritage.

Torphichen was designated a conservation area in 1976 and West Lothian currently has nine others: Bangour Village Hospital, Broxburn, Uphal, Kirknewton, Unlithgow Palace & High Street, Upper Unlithgow & Union Canal, Livingston Village and Gowanbank.



### What works are permitted within conservation areas?

Alterations to the exterior or structure of a building, even non-listed buildings, requires planning permission.

For example: alterations to a roof; erection of a satellite dish (which is visible from the road); replacing windows; stone cleaning; painting the exterior of a building; installing a dormer window; and illuminated signage all require planning permission.

To carry out total, or substantial, demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area consent is needed. This application form is available from:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/33090/Listed-Building-and-Conservation-Area-Consent>



### Tree felling and lopping

To obtain permission to lop or fell trees a 'tree works' form needs to be submitted to West Lothian Council, six weeks prior to the work commencing. This is available from: <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/3087/Tree-Works>

Trees under 75mm in diameter, or 100mm in woodland, are however exempt.

Felling or lopping protected trees without permission can result in prosecution and a fine of £20,000 (as of 2017).

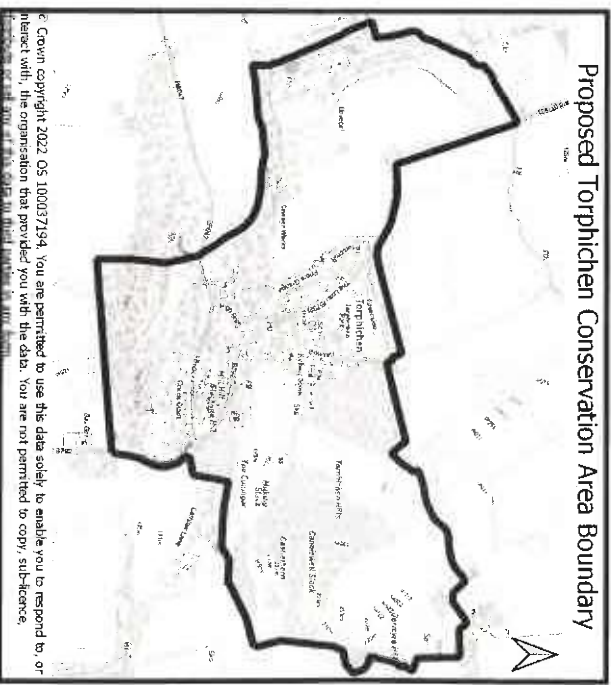


### Advice for householders in conservation areas

The character of conservation areas (CA) can be compromised over time by numerous small alterations leading to a loss of historic character.

Understanding the features which make an area characterful, is important to sympathetically maintain and restore.

Advice overleaf brings in to focus some features that contribute to the character of CAs.



### For further advice

If you are unsure what permission you require or you would like advice on maintaining built heritage, please, contact West Lothian Council at:

[Planning@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@westlothian.gov.uk)

or write to

### Development Management

Civic Centre

Howden South Road

Livingston

EH54 6FF