Design and Access and Heritage Statement

Proposed Development: Replacement of existing timber front door with uPVC alternative.

Site Address: 16 Foxhouses Road, Whitehaven, CA28 8AF

Date: 5th April 2026

1. Introduction

This statement accompanies a Listed Building Consent application for the replacement of the two external front doors at the above address. The property is a Grade II listed building situated within the conservation area of Corkickle. The goal of this proposal is to improve the thermal efficiency and security of the dwelling while maintaining a respectful visual relationship with the heritage asset.

2. Assessment of Heritage Significance

The building is recognized for its Georgian architectural style. The front doors are a prominent feature of the primary elevation. While the current timber doors follow a traditional design, they have suffered from significant rot and warping, rendering it no longer fit for purpose in terms of weatherproofing, energy efficiency, and security.

3. Design Principles and Justification

The proposed replacements have been carefully selected to mimic the proportions and styling of the existing doors to ensure the character of the building is preserved.

- **Materials:** While uPVC is a modern material, the chosen model features a wood-grain effect and traditional joinery lines to minimise the visual transition from natural wood.
- **Color and Finish:** The finish will be anthracite (very dark grey) matching the existing color palette of the streetscape and mimicking the existing front doors' colour.
- **Hardware:** Period-appropriate design hardware ironmongery will be used to maintain a traditional aesthetic.
- **Justification:** The move to uPVC is proposed to ensure long-term durability and reduced maintenance. Modern uPVC offers superior thermal insulation (U-values) compared to the existing single-pane timber unit, contributing to the building's environmental sustainability without requiring frequent chemical painting or sealing.

4. Impact on the Heritage Asset

The replacements are designed to be "sympathetic in situ." Because the doors occupy the same apertures as the original, there will be no alteration to the historic fabric of the surrounding

masonry. From the public highway, the visual change will be negligible, ensuring that the "special architectural or historic interest" of the building remains intact.

5. Access

The proposal does not involve any changes to the physical access of the property.

- **Level Access:** The threshold height will remain unchanged, ensuring that current levels of accessibility for residents and visitors are maintained.
- **Functionality:** The new door will feature a modern multi-point locking system, significantly improving the security and ease of use for the occupants compared to the current failing timber unit.

6. Conclusion

The proposed works represent a balanced approach between heritage conservation and the practical requirements of a modern dwelling. By replicating the design of the original doors in a durable, high-performance material, the proposal secures the future maintenance of the building's envelope while respecting its historic aesthetic.