

**Consultation Response from KC,
Conservation & Design**

2026/90619 United Church Marsden, Warehouse Hill Road, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6AB

Change of use and alterations to church (class F1) and Sunday school to form 8 residential units (class C3), including internal reconfiguration and external alterations, insertion of rooflights and formation of roof terrace, associated parking, landscaping and ancillary work. (within a Conservation Area)

Date Responded: 6/5/26

Responding Officer: SC

Responding Ref:

This building is not listed but has been identified as a Key Unlisted building/Building of Merit on P.22 of the Conservation Area Appraisal (link below). The United Church (1931), formerly the Congregational Church, on Warehouse Hill Road. It is classed as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset.

[Marsden Conservation Area Appraisal](#)

Significance

The architectural interest of the United Church derives from its robust stone construction, articulated arched openings, and clearly expressed roof form. The stained-glass windows contribute artistic value and enhances the quality of light within the interior. Internally, the scale and volume of the principal space, together with surviving staircases and structural elements, provide evidence of the building's original ecclesiastical function. While not ornate, the building demonstrates confident civic composition and contributes positively to the architectural diversity of the Conservation Area. The front elevation is completely symmetrical.

Proposals

The front elevation (south) as existing remains largely unchanged, preserving its symmetry, proportions and stained-glass windows.

External

The front elevation is completely symmetrical, with imposing stone steps, walls and railings to the large entrance door. The proposed new ramp to the right side of this front elevation will introduce an asymmetrical feature. It will be important to condition matching natural coursed stone to be used for the retaining walls of the new ramp, a suitable surface to match the colour and palette of materials of the church, and quality metal railings and handrail to complement the existing railing. Some more appropriate soft landscaping could be encouraged to the immediate frontage of the front ramp as well to reduce the impact of the large new ramp.

Stone boundary walls should be retained to provide a strong boundary treatment and sense of enclosure in keeping with the building and Conservation Area. Appropriate hard and soft landscaping is recommended. Stone paving would be more appropriate and longer lasting than timber decking.

Windows & doors

The report and plans state that the large front window and other small front stained glass windows will be retained which is welcomed.

Side windows are indicated as new anthracite windows, plastic would not be acceptable. It is important to retain original stone tracery and stained glass windows as they make a positive contribution to the character of the building and Conservation Area. Therefore, it is requested that original windows at the sides should be retained and re-used. The use of a small amount of clear glazing could be considered if this would not affect privacy issues. Consideration could be given to secondary glazing or encapsulation of the stained glass.

Other 6 pane windows could either be repaired or replaced with timber or metal (not plastic) to match the original styles (but could incorporate slimlite double glazing). All should be recessed from the wall by 100-150mm or to match existing (with no visible trickle vents).

External doors should match existing with vertical boarded timber to be painted a dark colour.

The new single door on Proposed Elevation D below, and to the left side of the largest side arched window appears to be squashed. Are there any other options to deal with this issue and ensure the structure would not be compromised.

All details and principles of proposed treatment of external windows and doors shall be submitted and agreed in writing, preferably prior to releasing a decision, to ensure that agreement can be reached on acceptable design treatment. Alternatively, details must be required and agreed in writing prior to commencement of the development.

Rooflights

The large roof lights in the top floor should be reduced in width and should be placed symmetrically above the large gable below. All rooflights should be flush with the roof slopes and use a Conservation type roof light with dark surrounds.

Balcony

This is a large feature within the roof. It should be reduced in width and placed symmetrically above the 2 arched windows below. The glass balustrade should ideally be set within the recessed structure if possible.

Services & details

Soil vent pipes should be internal where possible or at least to the rear or side (metal, black).

Rainwater goods to be metal, black.

New external pipes should be internal as far as possible, sited to rear or side, metal, black.

Ventilation or extraction grilles, new pipes, external lighting, alarms, meter boxes and broadband boxes/cabling (should be internal as far as possible) and all should be sited to minimise impact and details should be submitted for approval.

Pointing shall be an appropriate lime mortar, to be flush or recessed, not strap or ribbon pointing.

Interior

Retention of original stone staircases, balustrading and any other significant internal heritage features would be welcomed where possible and would assist to retain the character, significance and value of the heritage asset.

In conclusion, in terms of heritage, it appears that, subject to the above requests for amendments, it is possible that an acceptable scheme could be achieved. The re-use and retention of this heritage asset would be welcomed. If the above amendments can be agreed, it is considered that the other alterations could be classed as less than substantial harm that could be mitigated by retention and re-use to achieve a viable use of the building in accordance with Paragraph 216 of the NPPF and Policies 24 and 35 of the Local Plan.