

Design Justification Statement

PROPOSED FOUR-PANEL FRONT ENTRANCE DOOR

Property

Manor House, 48 Cross Lane, Ramsbottom

Applications

73481 and 73482

Purpose

This statement explains why a traditionally detailed four-panel timber entrance door is proposed in place of the six-panel arrangement requested by the Conservation Officer. The proposal responds to the proportions of the existing opening and the established character of nearby buildings within the village and conservation area.

1. Context

The application seeks consent for the replacement of the non-original front entrance door as part of the wider works at Manor House. The Conservation Officer has requested exact details of the proposed front door and has indicated a preference for a six-panel door to reflect the historical period of the house.

The applicant has considered that request carefully. However, the front entrance opening at Manor House is comparatively short and broad, rather than tall and slender. A conventional six-panel composition would therefore be compressed vertically and would not sit comfortably within the existing opening.

2. Why four panels are more appropriate

- **Proportion and balance:** A four-panel arrangement allows each raised and fielded panel to retain convincing traditional proportions. It creates a calm, balanced elevation suited to the shorter and broader door leaf.
- **Avoiding a cramped appearance:** Dividing the available height into six panels would make the panels noticeably shallower. This risks producing a visually busy or compressed door that appears selected by formula rather than designed for the opening.
- **Respect for the existing surround:** The proposal retains the established entrance opening and works with its width, height and surrounding architectural treatment. No alteration to the historic opening is proposed simply to accommodate a different panel count.
- **Local character:** The submitted photographic evidence shows that nearby properties use a variety of traditional panelled door arrangements. Four-panel and other non-standard configurations form part of the local streetscape, supporting a proportion-led approach rather than a single uniform pattern.
- **Traditional detailing:** The heritage character of the replacement will be expressed through timber construction, appropriately modelled panels, restrained mouldings, traditional ironmongery and a finish suitable for the building, not through panel count alone.

The proposed four-panel door is therefore not a modern or arbitrary departure. It is a bespoke, context-responsive solution intended to achieve the most harmonious traditional appearance within the retained opening.

3. Response to the Conservation Officer's comment

The officer's preference for a six-panel door is acknowledged and understood as an effort to secure a historically appropriate design. In this location, however, panel count should be considered alongside the proportions of the opening, the design of the surround and the varied door forms evident locally. A four-panel composition better reconciles these factors.

4. Heritage conclusion

The proposed four-panel timber door is considered the more appropriate design response because it:

- fits the short, broad proportions of the existing entrance opening;
- avoids the compressed appearance that a six-panel arrangement would create;
- reflects the variety of traditional paneled doors found in the surrounding village and conservation area;
- preserves the existing opening and respects the entrance surround; and
- can be delivered with high-quality, traditionally modelled joinery details.

For these reasons, approval is respectfully requested for the four-panel design, subject to agreement of the final detailed joinery drawing and finish.

Photographic Context

Examples of paneled entrance doors in the surrounding village and conservation area, submitted to demonstrate the variety of traditional door compositions present locally. The photographs are contextual evidence only and are not relied upon as proof of the age or originality of any individual door.



Figure 1. Local paired entrances showing differing panelled-door treatments. Location: Tottington Road (not in the Village)



Figure 2. Panelled entrance set beneath a semicircular fanlight. Location: Plant House (next Door)



Figure 3. Local entrance with a restrained panelled composition (Rose & Crown)



Figure 4. Panelled door within a prominently detailed stone surround. (Shoulder of Mutton)



Figure 5. Compact local entrance opening with traditional fanlight and door treatment. (side of Rose & Crown)