

A Guide to

**Living and Working** in

Conservation

Areas

# What is a

# Conservation Area?

'Conservation Areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.'

[Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990].

The emphasis is placed on the quality of an area rather than individual buildings. For example groups of buildings, open spaces, street patterns or trees can all be important factors which give an area its character.

Every Council has a duty to identify areas within their administrative boundaries that have a character worthy of protection and to designate them as '**Conservation Areas**'. The Council is then required by law to formulate policies and proposals for their preservation and enhancement. The Council also reviews conservation areas from time to time in addition to potential candidates for designation.

There are currently 38 conservation areas in the Vale of Glamorgan, identified on the map overleaf. They vary greatly in character, due mainly to the diverse mix of settlements found in the Vale; from small villages like St. Georges Super Ely, to the market town of Cowbridge, to the urban centre of Penarth.



## WHAT IF I WANT TO MAKE ALTERATIONS TO MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

The designation of a conservation area does not stop you making alterations to your home or business, it simply aims to ensure that the changes you make are in keeping with the character and quality of their surroundings, for the benefit of everyone.

## WHAT EFFECT DOES CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION HAVE ON WHERE I LIVE OR WORK?

The designation of a conservation area should promote a sense of public pride and interest in the area, and a willingness to preserve the elements that make up its special character. Designation also provides the Council with a better opportunity to manage change in the area. The Council has several mechanisms for control in conservation areas:

- **Control over the demolition of buildings;**
- **Strengthened controls over minor development;**
- and
- **Special provision for the protection of trees.**

Within a conservation area, the range and size of developments you can undertake without needing planning permission is reduced. Examples of development that may require consent because of the conservation area designation are:

- **Cladding any part of the exterior of your house;**
- **Extending the house with an addition or alteration to the roof;**
- **Installing a satellite dish on the front of the house or on a chimney;**
- **The erection of larger scale house extensions and garden buildings**
- and
- **Displaying illuminated advertisements**



# Useful

## Contacts

### Conservation and Design Group

Tel: 01446 704626 or  
01446 704628

### Development Control

Tel: 01446 704649

### Directorate of Environmental and Economic Regeneration,

The Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
Dock Office,  
Barry Docks,  
Barry, CF63 4RT.

Further information is available on

[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

### Conservation Area Trees

Tel: 01446 704742

### Building Control

Tel: 01446 704640

### CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments,

National Assembly for Wales,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ.  
Tel: 02920 500200

