

Design & Access Statement

8 Merchants Place, Reading RG1 1DT Proposed Installation of New Window – The Forge

The application relates to the smallest commercial unit within The Forge at 8 Merchants Place, Reading. The unit is located at the corner of the site closest to Gerrard Street. The Forge comprises a group of converted brick buildings that retain much of their original industrial character and are arranged around a shared courtyard accessed from Merchants Place.

The proposal seeks permission to install a single new window in the Gerrard Street-facing elevation of the smallest unit. The opening will measure approximately 1160 mm wide by 1760 mm high and will be positioned centrally within the existing wall. The proportions have been selected to reflect the rhythm and vertical emphasis of other openings within The Forge, ensuring the new addition appears consistent with the established character of the building.

The window frame will be designed and finished to match the existing windows on The Old Forge, using [insert material and colour – e.g. painted timber / aluminium in RAL 7016 anthracite grey]. The surrounding brickwork will be carefully cut and made good to match the existing masonry, with detailing kept simple and sympathetic to the original fabric.

The proposal is deliberately modest in scale and appearance. It will not alter the building's overall form or use and will have no adverse impact on neighbouring properties. The introduction of a window on this elevation will modestly enhance the external appearance of the unit by adding articulation and improving the sense of activity along Gerrard Street.

Overall, the works are considered to represent a sensitive and proportionate improvement to the building, consistent with local planning policy objectives to promote high-quality, contextually appropriate design.

WINDOW INSTALLATION

Enhancing the small unit at The Old Forge: New Window to Improve Light, Usability, and Accessibility.

This proposal seeks planning permission to install a new window in the smallest commercial unit at The Forge, 8 Merchants Place. The existing unit currently lacks natural light, limiting its usability and commercial potential. The proposed window is designed to match the building's existing style and materials, improving internal light levels and creating a more inviting, accessible, and energy-efficient space without altering the character or use of the property.



Window size: 1160 mm × 1760 mm

**Material (e.g. timber/aluminium frame),
colour, glazing type (double-glazed, clear).**

**Position (e.g. centred on the front
elevation).**

**Brickwork to match existing after forming
the opening.**

Proposal details

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Inside Floorplan

