



Historic England

Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings

Best Practice Guidelines for Adaptive Reuse





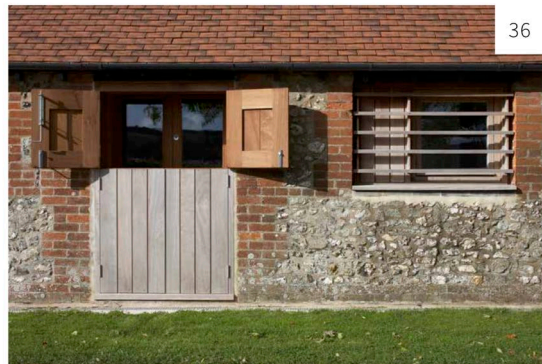
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Images 33-37

33 Glazing has been introduced into the gable end of this barn with minimal impact on the character of the exterior.

34-37 The adaptation of this dairy to domestic accommodation has involved some skillful joinery design for windows and doors.

The use of joinery for shutters and horizontal subdivision has minimised the impact of new windows and glazing.



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External finishes

Poor repointing can have a significant impact on the character of farm buildings and can ultimately be damaging to the fabric. Generally it is always advisable to use lime-based mortars. Look for evidence of the aggregate and sands used in the past, which may well have local significance and will enable a close visual match. For more information see our guidance [Repointing Brick and Stone Walls: Guidelines for best practice](#)

When considering external finishes as part of a farm building adaptation it is worth trying to establish what previously existed. Lime-render and limewash create an authentic and protective external finish for many traditional farm buildings and are especially appropriate where there is surviving evidence of their earlier use.

Some estates and areas adopted their own livery of colours for painting doors, windows and other architectural joinery. If this is not obvious or cannot be identified, consider colours that blends