HERITAGE SASH
HERITAGE SASH WINDOW EXPERTS

Vacuum Glazing Guide

The Complete Homeowner's Guide to Vacuum Glazing

Preserve Character.

Improve Performance.

Respect Traditional Craftsmanship.

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Contents

The Heritage Sash Standard

Every recommendation made by Heritage Sash is guided by three simple principles.

Preserve Character

Original timber windows are an important part of Britain's architectural heritage. Wherever practical, our objective is to preserve original joinery rather than replace it.

Improve Performance

Traditional windows can often be significantly improved through sympathetic restoration and modern glazing technologies without compromising their original appearance.

Respect Traditional Craftsmanship

Every project should reflect the quality of the original workmanship. Modern materials and technologies should enhance traditional windows, never diminish their character.

"Knowledge creates confidence. Confidence creates trust."

Introduction

Preserving Character Without Compromising Comfort

If you own a period property, you've probably been told that you must choose between preserving your original windows and making your home warmer, quieter and more energy efficient.

For many years, that was largely true.

Traditional single glazing performs poorly by modern standards, yet replacing original timber sash windows with modern alternatives often compromises the character, craftsmanship and historical significance of the building.

Vacuum glazing has changed that.

By combining exceptionally slim glazing with outstanding thermal performance, vacuum insulated glass can often be installed within existing timber windows whilst preserving their original appearance.

This guide has been written to help homeowners understand how vacuum glazing works, where it can be used and, just as importantly, where it may not be suitable.

Our objective is not to sell a product.

Our objective is to help you make an informed decision based upon knowledge rather than marketing.

Glossary of Vacuum Glazing Terms

Understanding the Language of Vacuum Glazing

The world of high-performance glazing uses several technical terms that may be unfamiliar to homeowners. This glossary explains the most common terminology used throughout this guide.

Acoustic Performance

A measure of how effectively a glazing unit reduces external noise entering a building. Higher acoustic performance can significantly improve internal comfort, particularly in busy urban areas or near roads, railways and airports.

Edge Seal

The perimeter seal around a vacuum glazing unit that maintains the vacuum between the two panes of glass. Modern edge seals are extremely durable and are designed to retain the vacuum for many decades under normal operating conditions.

Emissivity (Low-E)

Emissivity describes how easily heat passes through a material by radiation. A Low-Emissivity (Low-E) coating is an almost invisible metallic coating applied to the glass that reflects heat back towards its source, improving thermal insulation without noticeably reducing natural daylight.

Hermetic Seal

An airtight seal that prevents air and moisture from entering the vacuum cavity. Maintaining this seal is essential for preserving the thermal performance and longevity of the glazing unit.

Low-E Coating

A microscopic transparent coating applied to one surface of the glass to reduce heat loss while allowing visible light to pass through. Low-E coatings are one of the key technologies responsible for the exceptional thermal performance of modern vacuum glazing.

Solar Gain (g-value)

Solar gain refers to the amount of heat from the sun that passes through the glazing into a building. Higher solar gain can help warm a property during colder months, while lower values may be preferable where overheating is a concern.

Support Pillars

Microscopic support pillars positioned between the two panes of glass. These tiny spacers prevent atmospheric pressure from forcing the panes together while maintaining the vacuum cavity. They are typically only visible under certain lighting conditions and are an essential feature of all vacuum glazing units.

Toughened Glass

Glass that has been heat-treated to increase its strength. If broken, it fractures into small blunt fragments rather than sharp shards, improving safety. Toughened glass is commonly specified where building regulations require safety glazing.

U-value

A measurement of how much heat passes through a building element such as a window. The lower the U-value, the better the insulation.

For comparison:

- Traditional single glazing: approximately 5.8 W/m^2K
- Modern double glazing: approximately 1.2–1.6 W/m^2K
- Vacuum insulated glazing: typically, 0.49–0.7 W/m^2K

Vacuum Cavity

The ultra-thin gap between the two panes of glass from which virtually all air has been removed. As there is almost no air remaining to transfer heat, the vacuum cavity provides exceptional thermal insulation despite being only a fraction of a millimetre thick.

Visible Light Transmission (VLT)

The percentage of natural daylight that passes through the glazing. High VLT allows rooms to remain bright while still benefiting from excellent thermal performance. Most modern vacuum glazing achieves visible light transmission of around 69–72% depending on the specification.

Heritage Sash Note

Throughout this guide, technical terminology has been kept to a minimum wherever possible. Where specialist terms are used, they are intended to help homeowners and professionals better understand how vacuum glazing works and why it has become an increasingly popular solution for improving the thermal performance of traditional timber windows while preserving their historic character.

What Is Vacuum Glazing?

Vacuum glazing is a high-performance insulated glass unit that uses a microscopic vacuum between two panes of glass instead of the air or argon gas found within conventional double glazing.

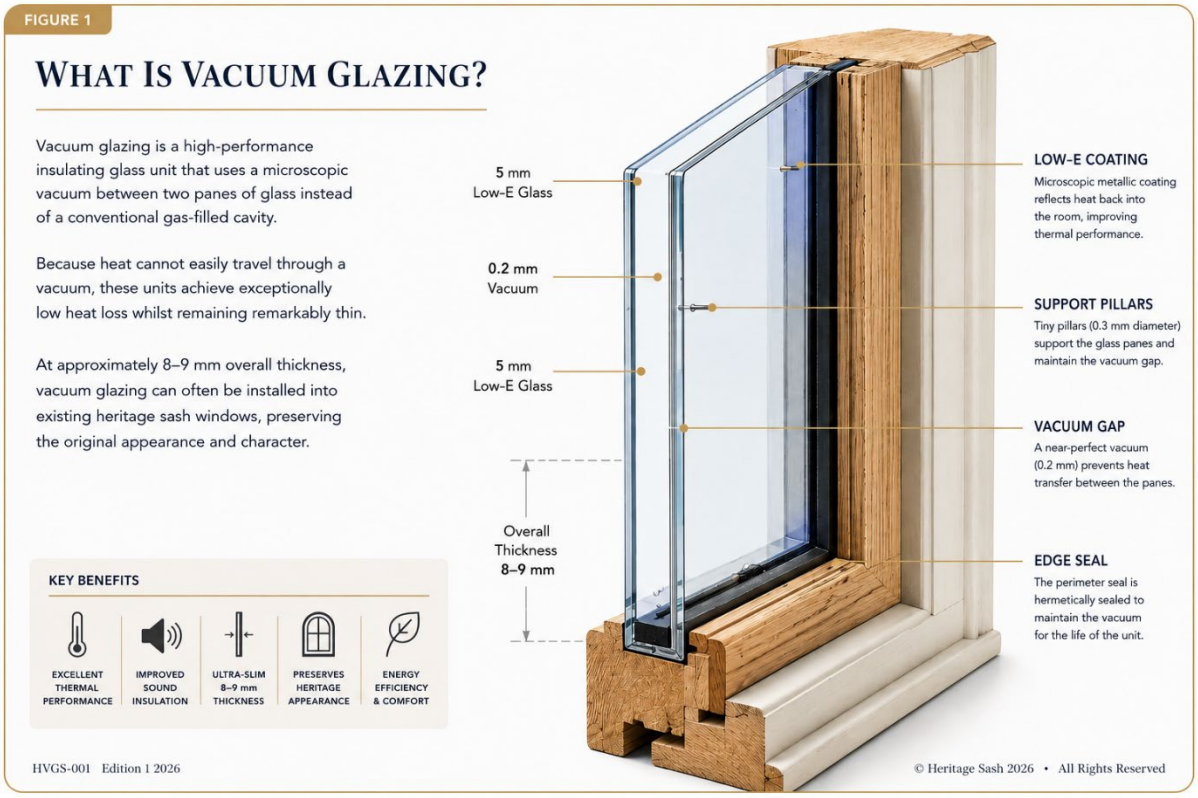
Because almost all the air has been removed from the cavity, there is very little opportunity for heat to transfer from the warm side of the glass to the cold side.

The result is exceptional thermal performance within an incredibly slim glazing unit.

Unlike conventional double glazing, vacuum glazing does not require large cavities between the panes.

Many modern vacuum glazing units are approximately 8 mm thick, allowing them to be installed into a wide range of traditional timber windows where conventional double glazing would simply be too thick.

For many heritage properties this provides an opportunity to significantly improve comfort and energy efficiency whilst retaining the original windows that define the character of the building.



Heritage Insight 01

Vacuum glazing is not simply "thin double glazing." Although both products contain two panes of glass, the technology used to achieve insulation is completely different.

How Does Vacuum Glazing Work?

It looks simple because, in many ways, it is.

Vacuum glazing achieves exceptional thermal performance by combining advanced engineering with a remarkably simple principle: remove the air between two panes of glass and heat has far fewer ways to escape.

Using the illustration opposite, let's look at each component individually.

Two panes of toughened glass

Two 5 mm panes provide the strength of the glazing unit whilst maintaining the elegant appearance expected within traditional timber windows.

Microscopic vacuum cavity

Instead of filling the space with air or argon gas, the cavity is almost completely evacuated. With virtually no air remaining, heat has far fewer paths through which it can escape.

Support pillars

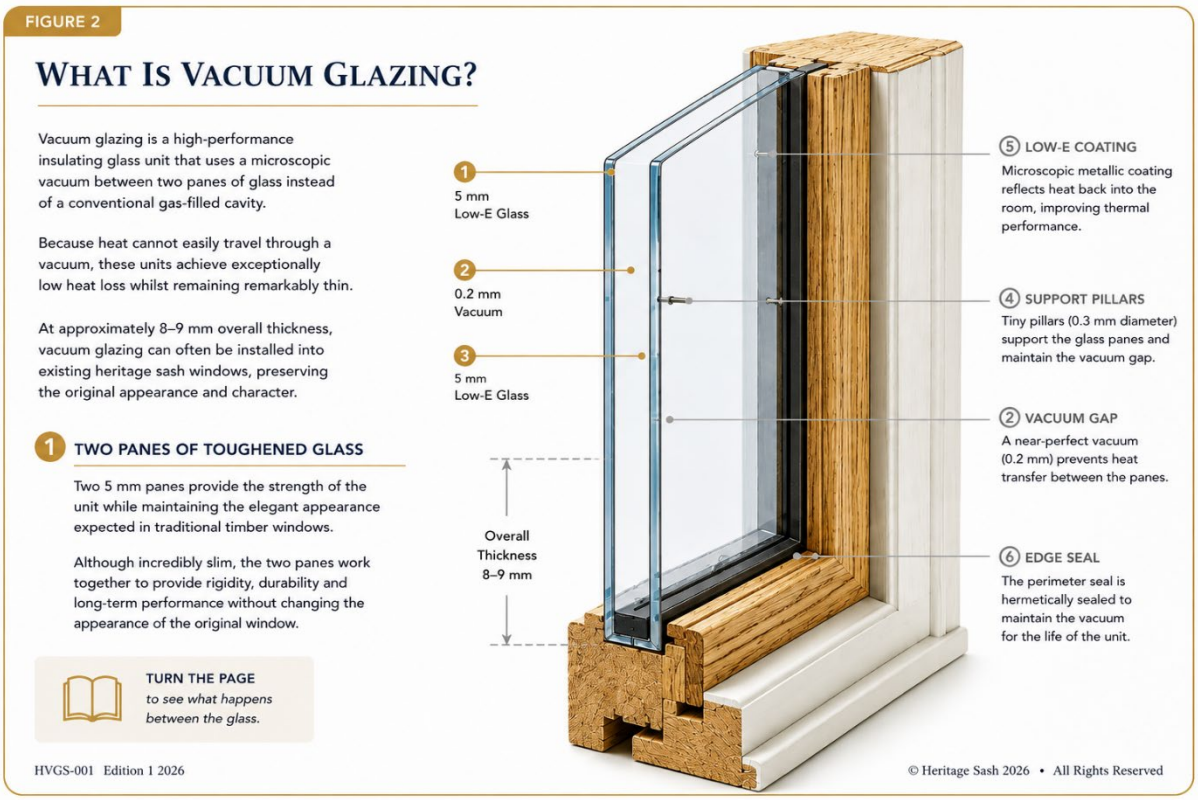
Tiny transparent support pillars prevent atmospheric pressure from forcing the two panes together. These pillars are extremely small and are generally unobtrusive during everyday use, although they may be visible under certain lighting conditions.

Hermetic edge seal

The perimeter edge seal permanently maintains the vacuum inside the glazing unit throughout its service life.

Low-Emissivity coating

A transparent Low-E coating reflects radiant heat back into the room whilst still allowing excellent levels of natural daylight to pass through the glass.



Heritage Insight 02

Many homeowners assume the thickness of the glazing unit determines whether vacuum glazing can be installed.

The glazing rebate depth is often sufficient.

More commonly, the deciding factor is whether the existing glazing bars are wide enough to sympathetically conceal the perimeter edge seal. Every Heritage Sash survey carefully assesses both dimensions before any recommendations are made.

Assessing Suitability

Can Vacuum Glazing Fit My Existing Windows?

One of the most common questions we are asked is whether vacuum glazing can be installed into existing timber sash or casement windows.

The answer is often yes, but every window should be individually assessed before a recommendation is made.

Unlike conventional double glazing, vacuum glazing is exceptionally thin and is therefore suitable for many traditional timber windows. However, successful installation depends on more than just the overall thickness of the glazing unit.

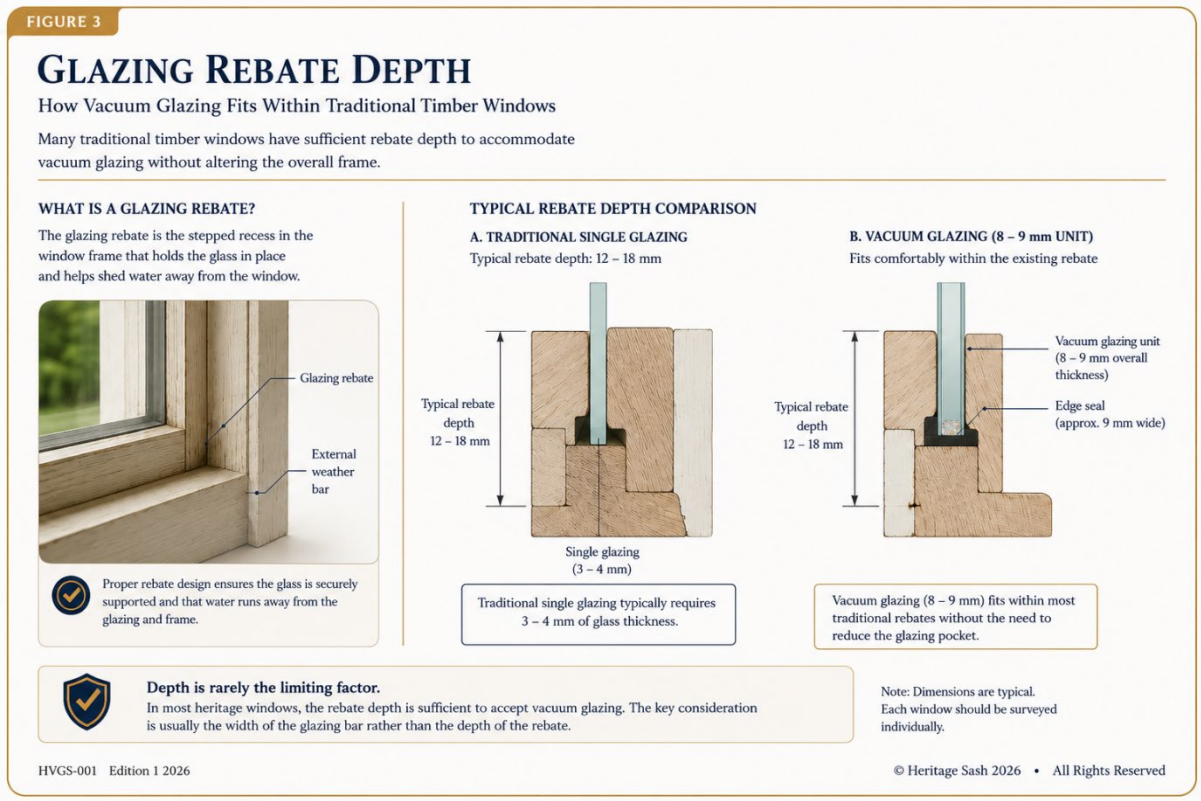
The Three Things We Assess

1. Rebate Depth

The glazing rebate is the recess within the timber that supports the glass.

In most traditional timber windows, there is sufficient depth to accommodate modern vacuum glazing without altering the overall frame.

Depth is rarely the limiting factor.



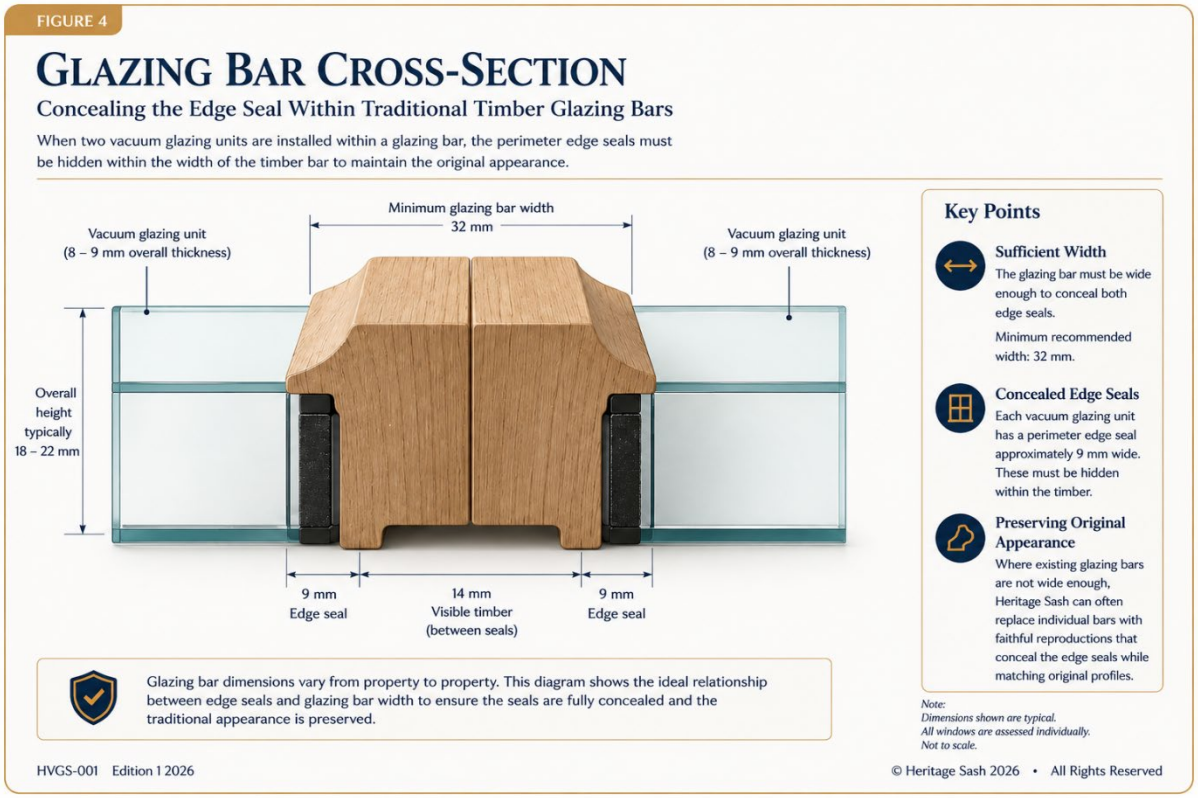
2. Glazing Bar Width

This is usually the most important consideration.

Vacuum glazing units incorporate a hermetic edge seal around the perimeter of each pane. On the Heritage Sash system, this concealed border measures approximately 9 mm.

Where two panes meet within a glazing bar, both edge seals must be hidden within the width of the timber glazing bar.

If the glazing bar is too narrow, part of the edge seal may remain visible.



3. Timber Condition

Vacuum glazing should always be installed into sound timber.

Where decay or deterioration is present, the affected sections should be repaired or replaced before new glazing is installed.

In many cases, only isolated repairs are required, allowing the original sash and frame to be retained.

When Glazing Bars Are Too Narrow

Not every historic window was manufactured using the same dimensions.

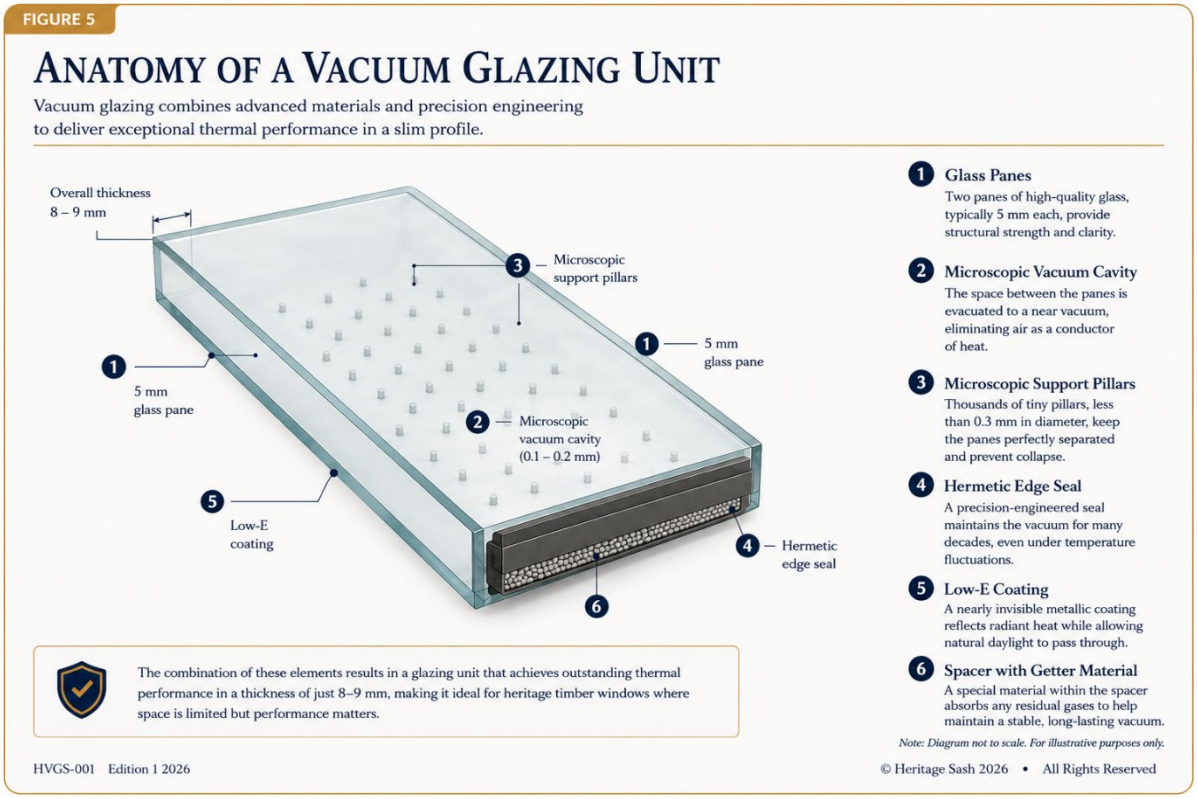
Where existing glazing bars are too narrow to conceal the edge seal, Heritage Sash can often manufacture replacement glazing bars that accurately match the original profile while allowing the vacuum glazing unit to be installed correctly.

This approach preserves the original sash and frame while maintaining the traditional appearance of the window.

Support Pillars

All vacuum glazing contains microscopic support pillars positioned between the two panes of glass. These pillars prevent atmospheric pressure from forcing the glass together once the air has been removed.

Although extremely small, they may be visible under certain lighting conditions or when viewed at close range. This is a normal characteristic of all vacuum glazing products and does not affect performance.



Every Window Is Different

No two heritage windows are identical.

Before recommending vacuum glazing, Heritage Sash carries out a detailed survey of each window to assess:

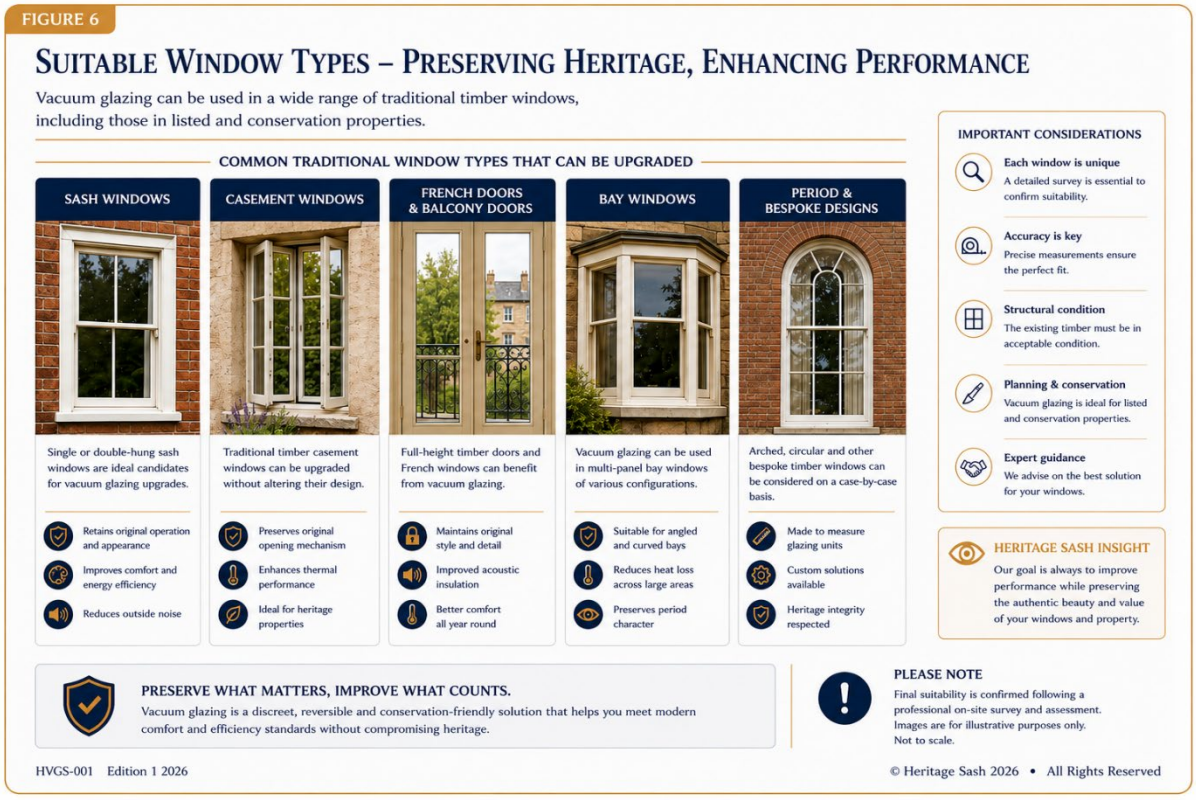
- Existing timber condition
- Rebate depth
- Glazing bar dimensions
- Existing glass
- Listed Building or Conservation Area requirements

This ensures the proposed solution balances thermal performance, heritage appearance and long-term durability.

Heritage Recommendation

Vacuum glazing is suitable for many traditional timber windows and often provides one of the best opportunities to improve energy efficiency while retaining original joinery.

Where minor alterations are required, these can frequently be limited to individual glazing bars rather than replacing the entire window, preserving both the character and historic significance of the building.



Choosing the Right Glazing

There is no single glazing solution that is right for every property. The best option depends on the building, the condition of the existing windows, conservation requirements and the homeowner's priorities.

The table below compares the most common glazing systems used in traditional timber windows.

FIGURE 7

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GLAZING

There is no single glazing solution that is right for every property.
The table below compares the most common glazing systems used in traditional timber windows.

Feature	Single Glazing	Slim Double Glazing	Vacuum Glazing
Typical Thickness	3–4 mm	10–16 mm	6–10 mm
Thermal Performance	★☆☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Heat Loss	High	Moderate	Very Low
Energy Efficiency	Low	Good	Excellent
Noise Reduction	Low	Good	Excellent
Suitable for Heritage Windows	Yes	Sometimes	Excellent
Suitable for Listed Buildings	Often	Sometimes	Often*
Weight	Light	Heavy	Similar to Single Glazing
Appearance	Original	Slightly Thicker	Very Close to Original
Condensation Reduction	Low	Good	Excellent
Lifespan	Excellent	Good	Excellent

* Subject to individual building constraints, conservation guidance, glazing bar dimensions and local authority requirements.

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Heritage Recommendation

Vacuum glazing offers one of the closest visual replacements for traditional single glazing while delivering thermal performance comparable to modern insulated glazing.

However, every heritage window should be individually assessed before specifying vacuum glazing. Existing glazing bar dimensions, rebates, timber condition and planning requirements all influence whether vacuum glazing is suitable without alteration.

Where existing glazing bars are too narrow to conceal the edge seal, Heritage Sash may recommend carefully replacing individual glazing bars while retaining the original sash and frame. This approach preserves the character of the window while allowing the vacuum glazing unit to be installed correctly.

Important Note

No glazing system is suitable for every property.

The objective should never be to fit vacuum glazing wherever possible. Instead, the correct solution is the one that balances thermal performance, heritage significance, planning requirements and long-term durability.

A professional survey is always recommended before specifying replacement glazing.

Why Is It Different?

From a distance, vacuum glazing may appear similar to conventional double glazing. Both consist of two panes of glass separated by a cavity.

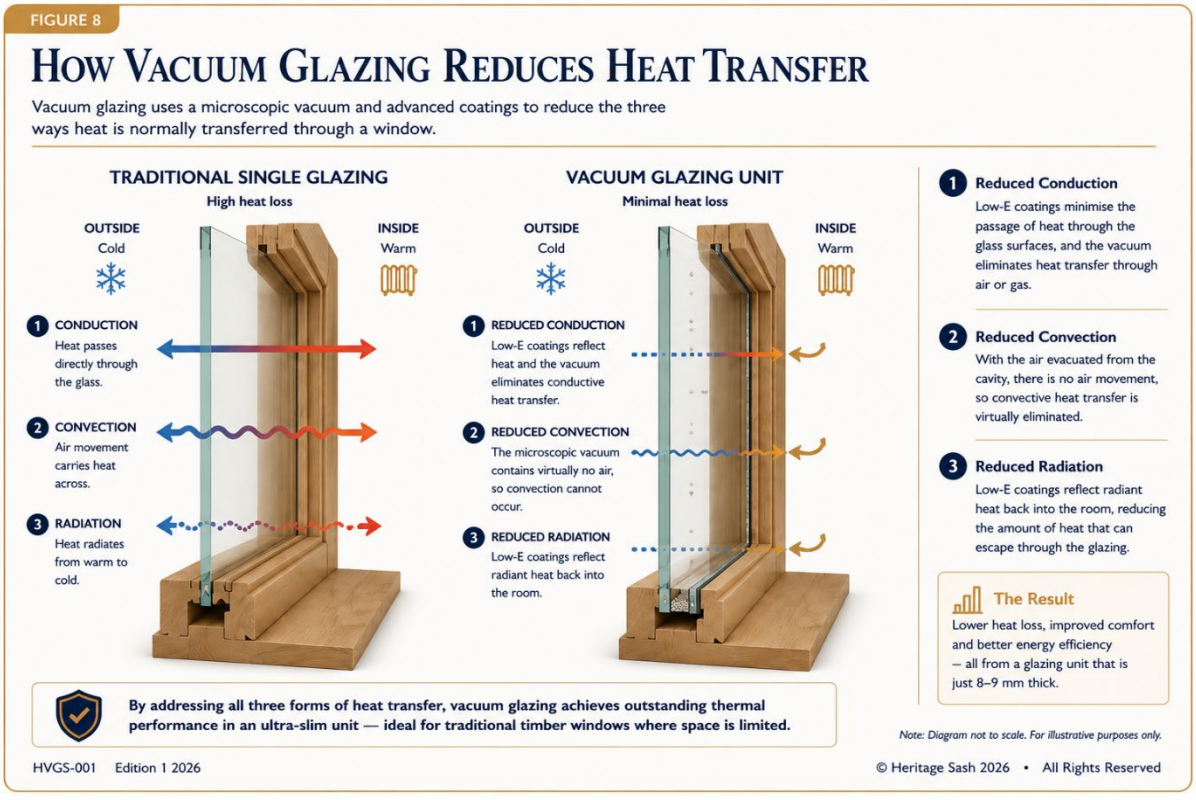
The difference lies within that cavity.

Traditional double glazing relies on air or argon gas to slow the transfer of heat. Vacuum glazing removes almost all the air, creating a microscopic vacuum that provides significantly greater thermal insulation within a much thinner glazing unit.

For many period properties, this difference is critical.

Conventional double glazing often requires wider glazing bars and deeper rebates that can alter the appearance of traditional timber windows.

Vacuum glazing achieves comparable or superior thermal performance whilst retaining much slimmer sightlines, making it particularly suitable for many heritage applications.



Heritage Insight 03
Vacuum glazing should never be selected simply because it is thinner.

The correct glazing solution should always be based upon the individual window, its condition, its heritage significance and the customer's objectives

Understanding Existing Timber Windows

No two heritage windows are identical.

Even within the same property, glazing bar widths, rebate depths and timber profiles often vary considerably due to historic repairs, previous alterations or the original methods used by the joiner.

This is why Heritage Sash surveys every window individually rather than assuming every opening can accept the same glazing specification.

Our assessment considers far more than the thickness of the glass.

We examine the condition of the timber, the construction of the sash, the width of the glazing bars, the available glazing rebate, the existing putty line and the overall appearance of the finished window.

Only once these factors have been assessed can the most appropriate glazing solution be recommended.

Heritage Insight 04

The objective is never simply to install new glass.

The objective is to improve performance whilst preserving the proportions, detailing and character that make traditional timber windows special.

Why Glazing Bar Width Matters

This is one of the most important aspects of a successful vacuum glazing installation. Many homeowners assume that if the glazing unit is thin enough, it will fit their existing windows. The overall thickness of the glazing unit is often not the limiting factor.

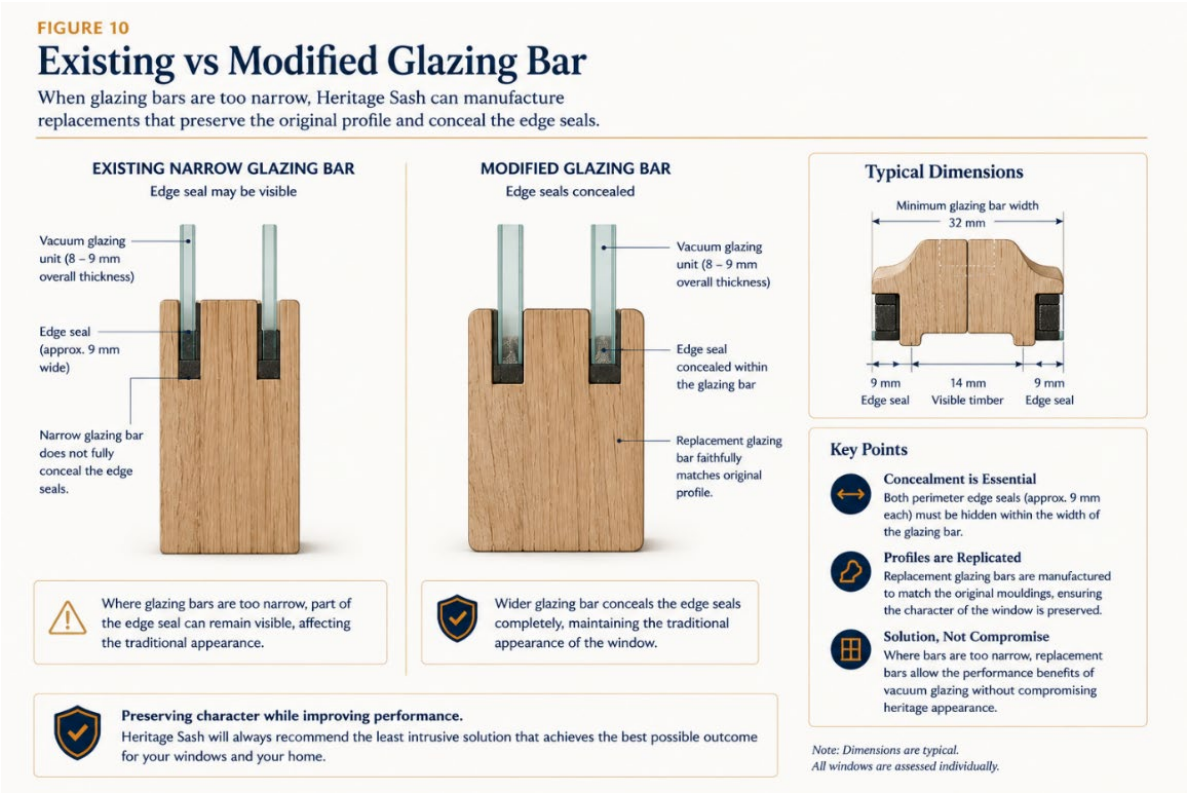
The more significant consideration is whether the existing glazing bars are wide enough to conceal the perimeter edge seal around each individual pane.

If the edge seal remains visible after installation, it can affect the appearance of the window and reduce the sympathetic nature of the upgrade.

For this reason, Heritage Sash carefully measures every glazing bar during the survey. Where sufficient width already exists, the original glazing bars can often be retained.

Where additional width is required, new glazing bars can be manufactured to match the original profile whilst retaining the existing sash and surrounding frame.

This approach preserves the character of the window whilst achieving the best possible visual result.



Heritage Sash Insight 05

In many projects, glazing bar width—not glazing unit thickness—is the deciding factor when assessing whether vacuum glazing is appropriate.

Understanding the Perimeter Edge Seal

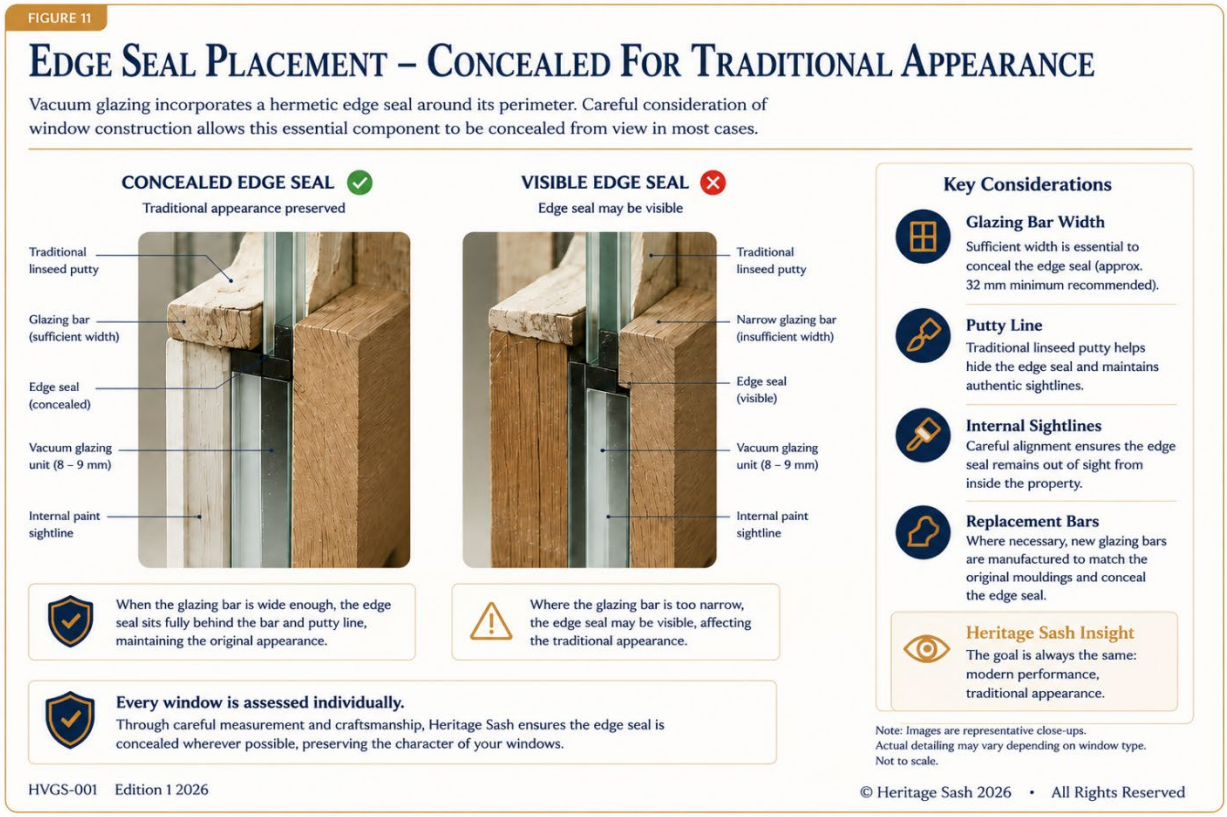
Every vacuum glazing unit incorporates a hermetic edge seal that permanently maintains the vacuum between the two panes of glass. This seal is an essential part of the glazing unit and should not be confused with traditional glazing putty or timber beading.

Whilst the edge seal is a functional component, careful design allows it to be sympathetically concealed behind the glazing bars and glazing system in many traditional timber windows.

Depending upon the existing window construction, Heritage Sash may achieve this through:

- Existing glazing bar widths
- Traditional linseed putty
- Internal paint sightlines
- Carefully manufactured replacement glazing bars matching the original profiles

Every property is assessed individually to achieve the best possible balance between performance and appearance.



Heritage Insight 06

Our objective is not simply to install vacuum glazing. Our objective is to install it in a way that respects the original appearance of the window.

Support Pillars – What Should I Expect?

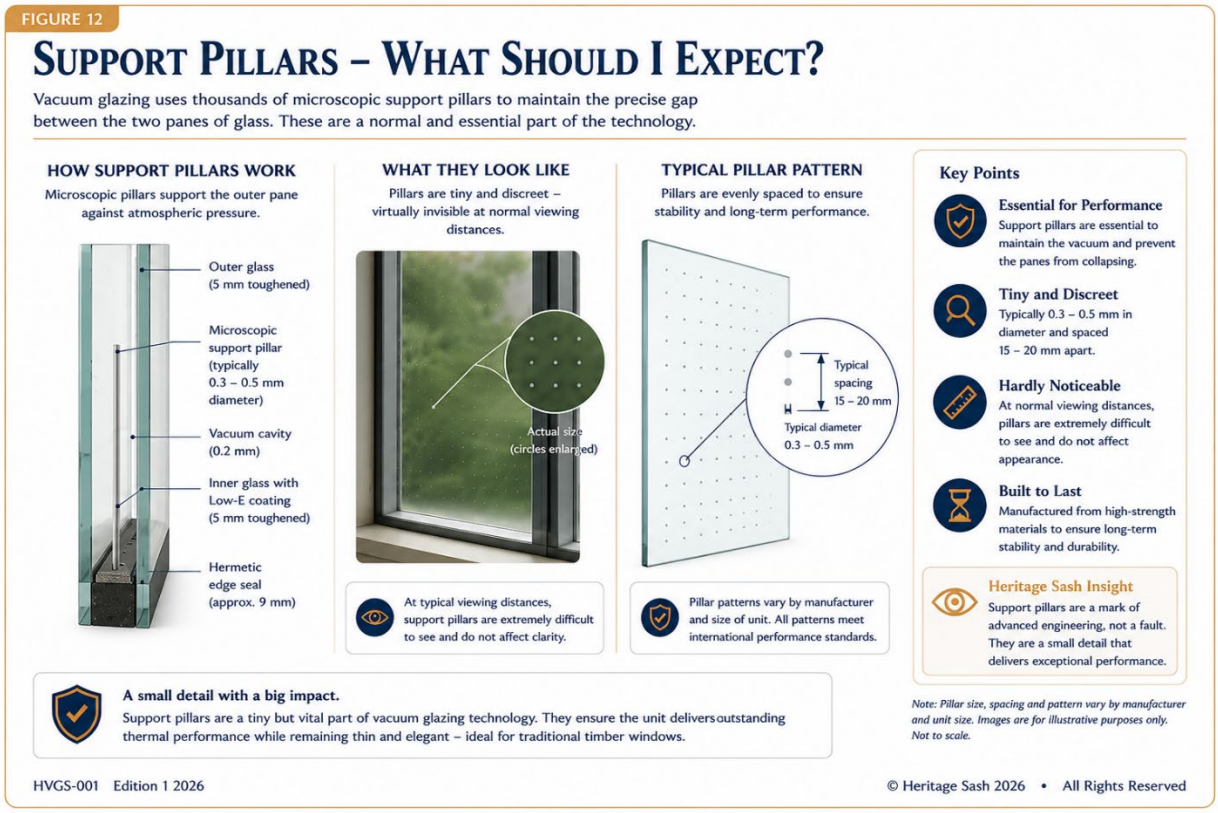
One characteristic unique to vacuum glazing is the presence of microscopic support pillars positioned between the two panes of glass. Without these pillars, atmospheric pressure would force the glass together.

The pillars are extremely small and are distributed evenly across the glazing unit to provide structural support.

They are generally unobtrusive during normal everyday use but may become visible when viewed closely or under certain lighting conditions. Different manufacturers use different pillar designs and spacing, meaning visibility can vary between products.

At Heritage Sash, we believe homeowners should understand these characteristics before making any decisions.

By explaining the technology openly, there are no unexpected surprises following installation.



Heritage Insight 07

The support pillars are a sign that the vacuum glazing is doing exactly what it has been designed to do. Most homeowners quickly stop noticing them during everyday living, but we believe it is important that every customer understands exactly what to expect before proceeding.

Can My Existing Windows Be Upgraded?

One of the most common questions we are asked is whether existing timber sash windows can be upgraded to accept vacuum glazing. The answer is often yes, but every window should be assessed individually. Whilst many traditional windows have sufficient glazing rebate depth to accommodate modern vacuum glazing, every installation should consider the complete construction of the window rather than the glass alone.

During every survey Heritage Sash assesses:

- Overall condition of the timber
- Glazing rebate depth
- Glazing bar width
- Existing putty lines
- Historic repairs
- Structural movement
- Previous glazing alterations
- Listed Building requirements

By assessing each window individually, we can recommend the most sympathetic solution for your property.

Heritage Insight 08
Every window tells a different story. Even two windows beside one another may require completely different recommendations.

Typical Upgrade Options

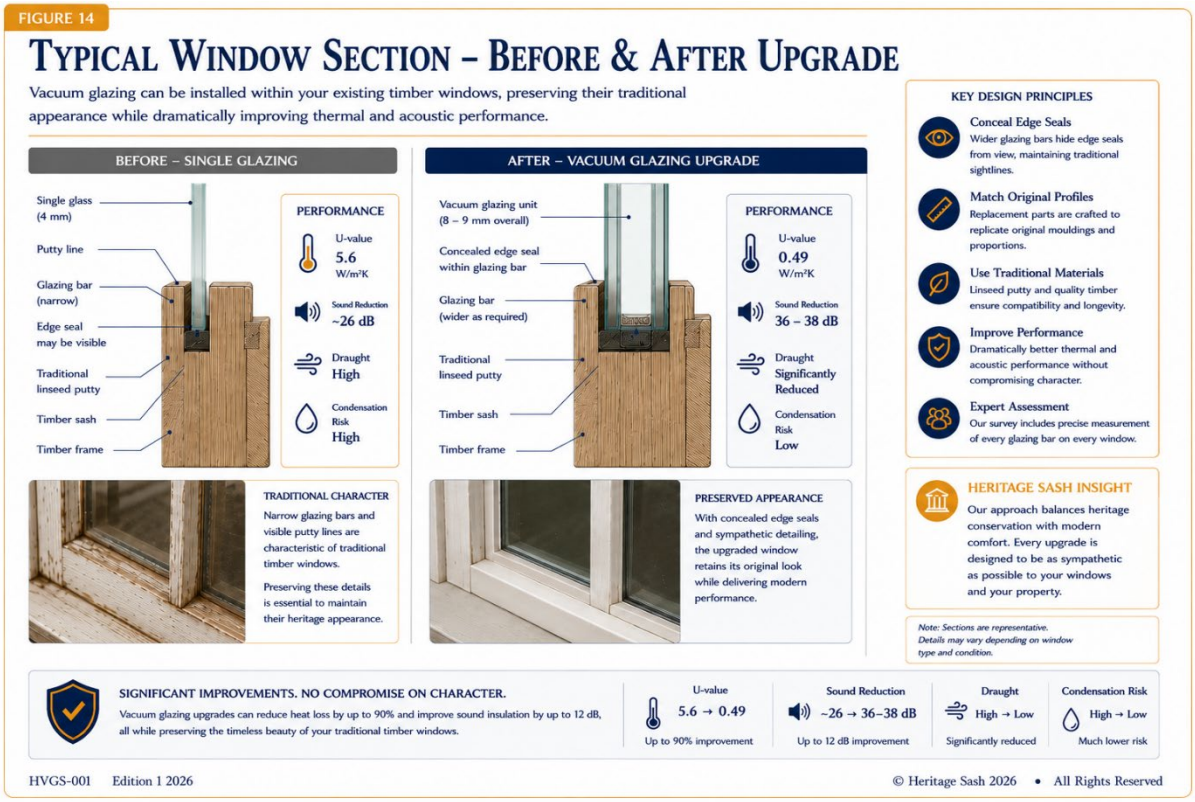
Not every project requires the same solution.

Our objective is always to preserve as much original timber as possible whilst delivering the performance improvements the homeowner is looking for.

Typical recommendations include:

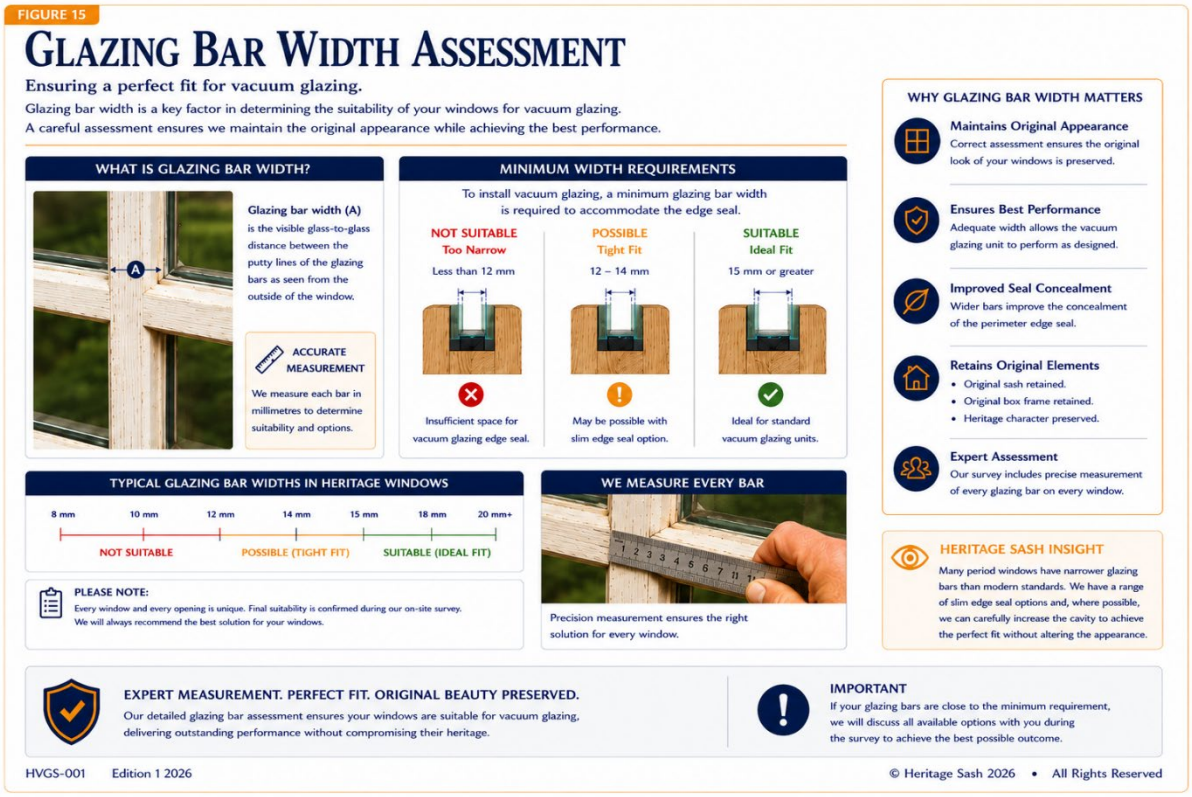
Option 1

- Original glazing bars retained.
- Vacuum glazing installed.
- Minimal intervention.
- Ideal outcome.



Option 2

- New matching glazing bars.
- Original sash retained.
- Original box frame retained.
- Improved concealment of the perimeter seal.



Option 3

- Timber repairs completed.
- Loose joints repaired.
- Vacuum glazing installed.
- Draught proofing incorporated.

Option 4

Where the existing sash has deteriorated beyond economical repair, sympathetic replacement sashes may be recommended whilst retaining the original box frame where practical.

Heritage Insight 09

The best solution is not always the one involving the most work. Our role is to recommend the least invasive solution that delivers the desired outcome.

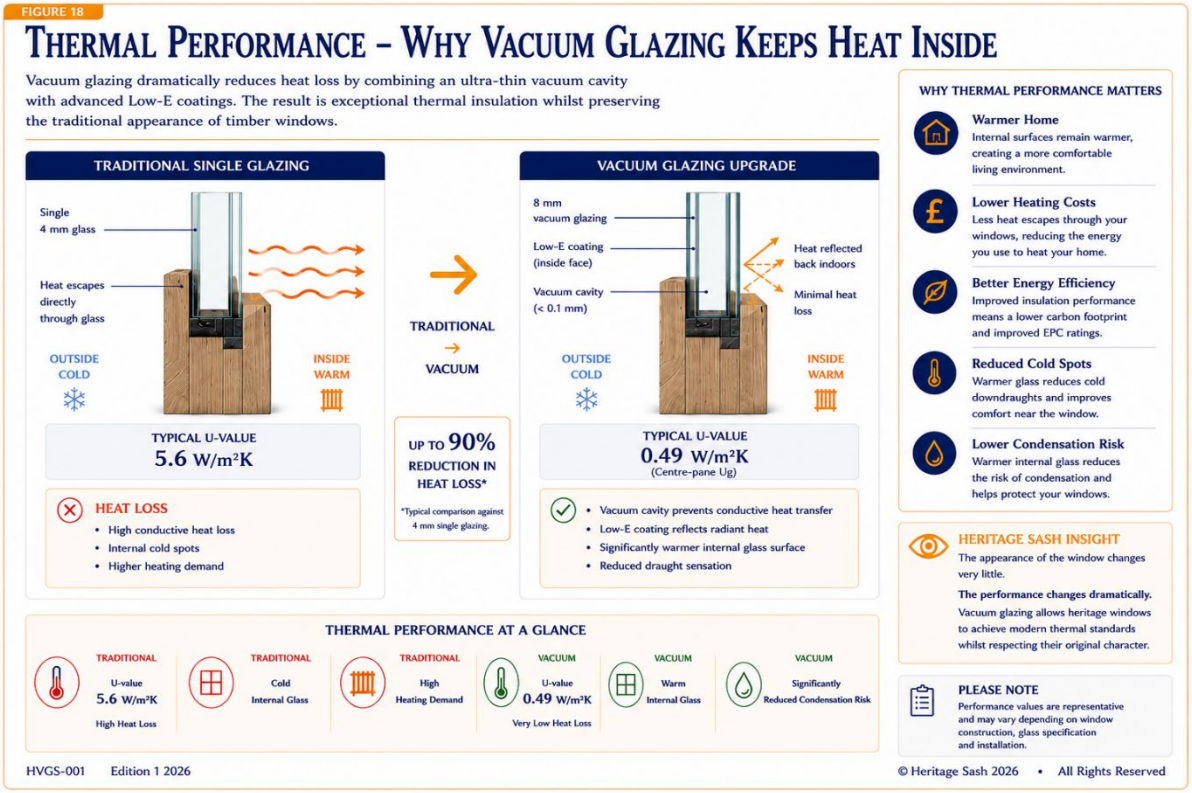
Thermal Performance

Traditional single glazing provides very little resistance to heat loss. This often results in cold internal glass surfaces, uncomfortable draughts and increased heating costs during the winter months. Vacuum glazing significantly improves thermal performance by reducing heat transfer through the glass whilst maintaining an exceptionally slim glazing profile.

Benefits may include:

- Warmer internal glass surfaces
- Improved thermal comfort
- Reduced heat loss
- Lower energy consumption
- Reduced carbon emissions

The precise level of improvement depends upon the existing window construction, installation quality and the overall condition of the surrounding timber frame.



Good to Know

Even the highest performance glazing cannot compensate for significant air leakage around poorly fitting sashes. For the best overall performance, glazing improvements should always be considered alongside draught proofing and restoration where appropriate.

Acoustic Performance

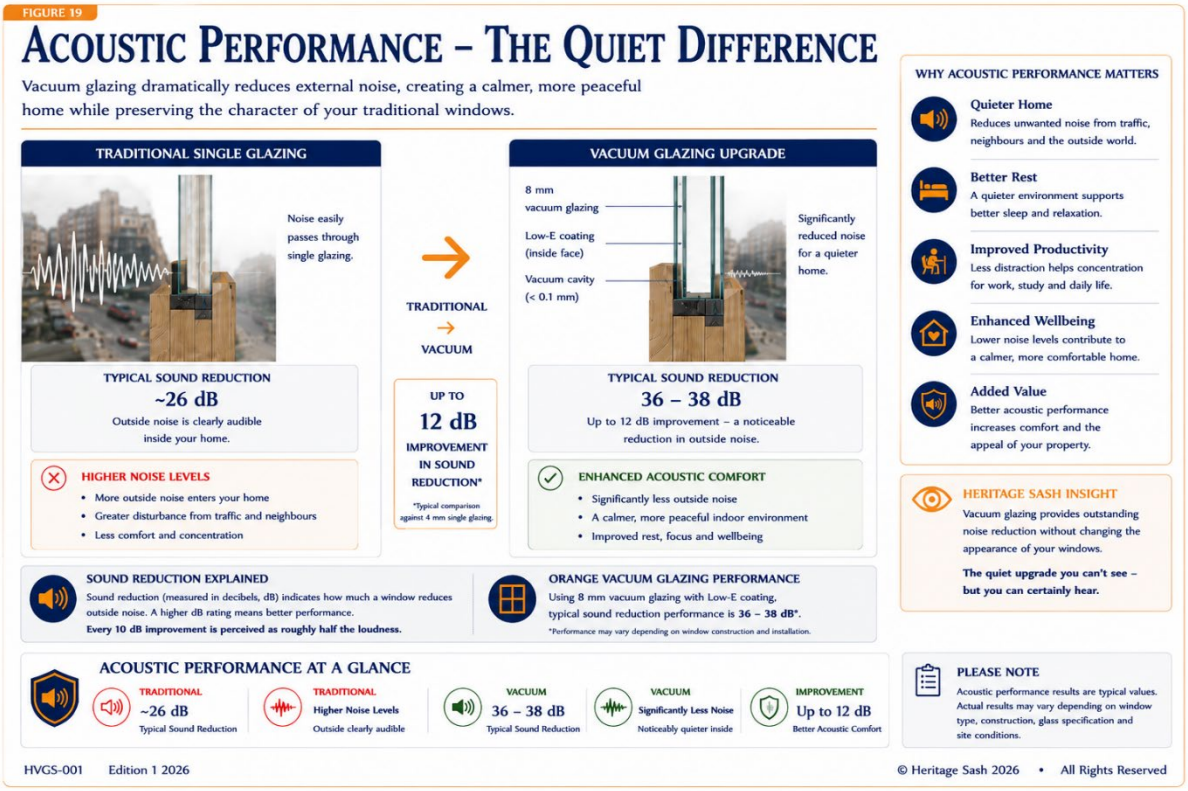
Many homeowners first enquire about vacuum glazing because they want a warmer home.

They are often pleasantly surprised by the improvement in acoustic comfort.

The vacuum cavity helps reduce the transmission of external noise, making vacuum glazing particularly attractive for properties located near busy roads, railway lines or within city centres.

The level of sound reduction depends upon the glazing specification, pane thickness and the existing window construction.

Where additional acoustic performance is required, different glass build-ups may be specified to improve performance further.



Heritage Insight 10

Noise does not only travel through glass.

Poorly fitting sashes, open joints and missing draught seals often contribute significantly to the overall sound experienced within the home.

Condensation

Condensation forms when warm, moisture-laden air meets a cold surface.

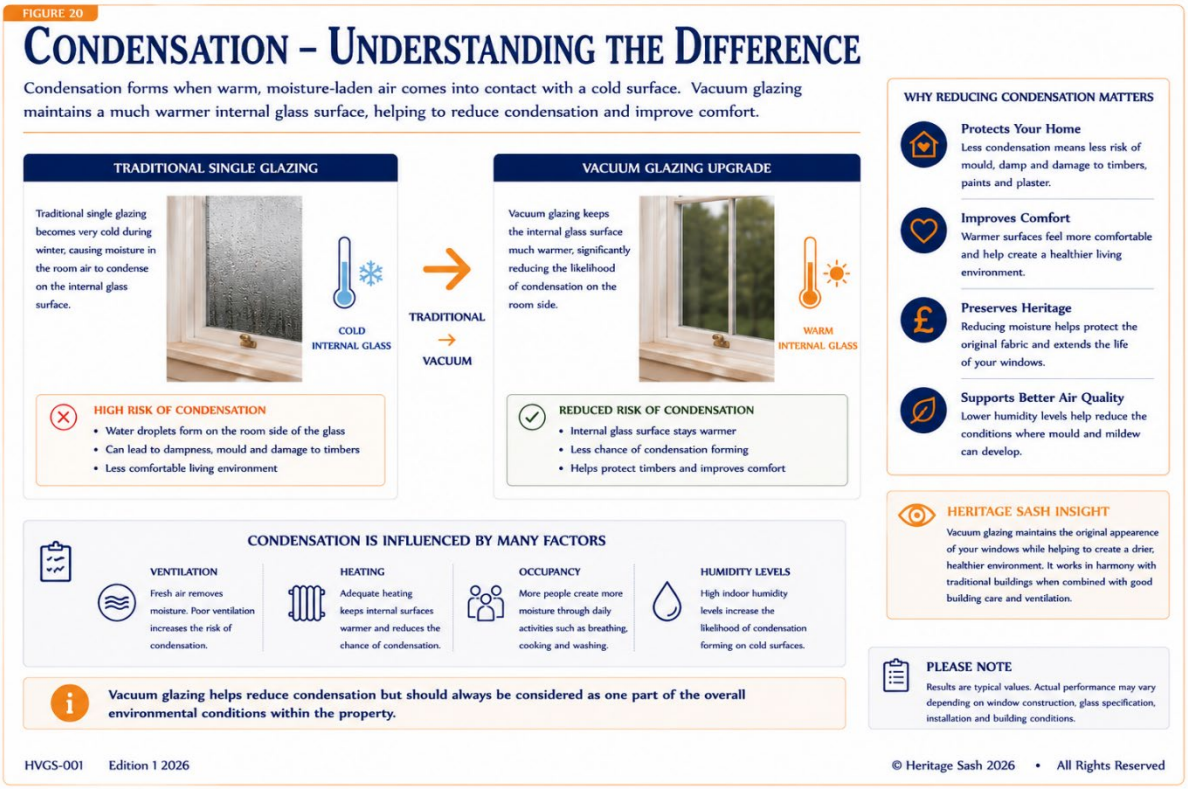
Traditional single glazing often becomes extremely cold during winter, making condensation a common problem in many period properties.

Because vacuum glazing maintains a much warmer internal glass surface, condensation on the room side of the glass is often significantly reduced. This not only improves comfort but can also help reduce moisture-related problems such as mould growth around window reveals.

It is important to remember that condensation is influenced by many factors including:

- Ventilation
- Heating
- Occupancy
- Humidity levels

Vacuum glazing helps reduce condensation but should always be considered as one part of the overall environmental conditions within the property.



Heritage Insight 11

Reducing condensation is often one of the first improvements homeowners notice following installation.

Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas

Many period properties are located within Conservation Areas or are formally Listed.

This often creates uncertainty for homeowners wishing to improve the energy efficiency of their windows.

Vacuum glazing has become an increasingly attractive solution because it offers exceptional thermal performance whilst maintaining a remarkably slim glazing profile that can often preserve the original appearance of traditional timber windows.

However, every property should be considered individually.

Planning requirements vary between local authorities, and Listed Building Consent may still be required depending upon the significance of the building and the extent of the proposed works.

For this reason, Heritage Sash never assumes vacuum glazing is automatically appropriate.

Instead, we assess each property individually, considering:

- Heritage significance
- Existing window construction
- Planning constraints
- Conservation guidance
- Long-term preservation

Where appropriate, we can provide supporting technical information to assist discussions with conservation officers and heritage professionals.

Heritage Insight 12

The objective is not simply to improve thermal performance.

It is to improve performance whilst preserving the architectural character that makes heritage buildings so special.

The Heritage Sash Survey Process

Every successful project begins with a thorough survey. Rather than recommending a glazing specification immediately, we first seek to understand the construction, condition and character of each individual window.

Our survey typically includes:

- Measuring glazing rebate depth
- Measuring glazing bar widths
- Assessing timber condition
- Identifying previous repairs
- Inspecting existing glazing
- Assessing putty condition
- Photographing key details
- Discussing customer priorities

This information allows us to recommend the most sympathetic solution for each individual window.

- No assumptions.
- No standard specification.
- Every recommendation is based upon evidence gathered during the survey.

Heritage Insight 13

A successful installation begins long before the glass is ordered. The quality of the survey often determines the quality of the finished result.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can vacuum glazing be fitted into my existing sash windows?
Often yes, but every window should be individually assessed to confirm glazing bar widths, rebate depth and overall condition.

Will I lose the original appearance of my windows?
Our objective is always to preserve the original appearance wherever practical. In some cases, sympathetic modifications such as replacement glazing bars may provide the best overall result.

Can I see the support pillars?
The support pillars are extremely small and may be visible under certain lighting conditions or at close range. Most homeowners quickly stop noticing them during everyday use.

Can I see the perimeter edge seal?
The edge seal may be visible if it cannot be fully concealed within the existing glazing system. During every survey we assess the most sympathetic method of minimising its visibility.

Is vacuum glazing better than slim double glazing?
Both products have their place. The most appropriate solution depends upon the individual property, the existing windows and the customer's objectives.

Does vacuum glazing reduce condensation?
Yes. By maintaining a warmer internal glass surface, condensation is often significantly reduced.

Does it reduce outside noise?
Vacuum glazing can improve acoustic comfort, although the overall performance also depends upon the condition and draught proofing of the existing windows.

Do I need planning permission?
Some Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas may require consent. Every project should be considered individually.

How long does installation take?
Most projects are completed over several days, with windows removed in carefully planned phases to minimise disruption to the home.

Will my windows still open and operate as before?
Yes. Our objective is to retain the original function and character of the window whilst improving its overall performance.

Why does vacuum glazing cost more?

Vacuum glazing is a highly engineered product manufactured to extremely fine tolerances using specialist vacuum sealing technology. Although the initial investment is higher than conventional glazing, it delivers exceptional thermal performance, reduced condensation, improved acoustic comfort and helps preserve traditional timber windows without altering their character.

VIG Cost Comparison Guide

Every window is individually manufactured.
Vacuum glazing is not an off-the-shelf product. Every glazing unit is made specifically for your window size and specification.

Typical quotation includes consideration of:

- Individual glass sizes
- Heritage requirements
- Edge seal concealment
- Manufacturing complexity
- Installation requirements
- Window condition

WHY THE DIFFERENCE?
✓ Specialist vacuum manufacturing process

✓ Microscopic vacuum cavity with hermetic edge seal

✓ Low-E coated toughened safety glass

✓ Bespoke manufacture for each opening

✓ Exceptional thermal performance (Ug 0.49 W/m^2K)

✓ Designed to preserve traditional timber windows

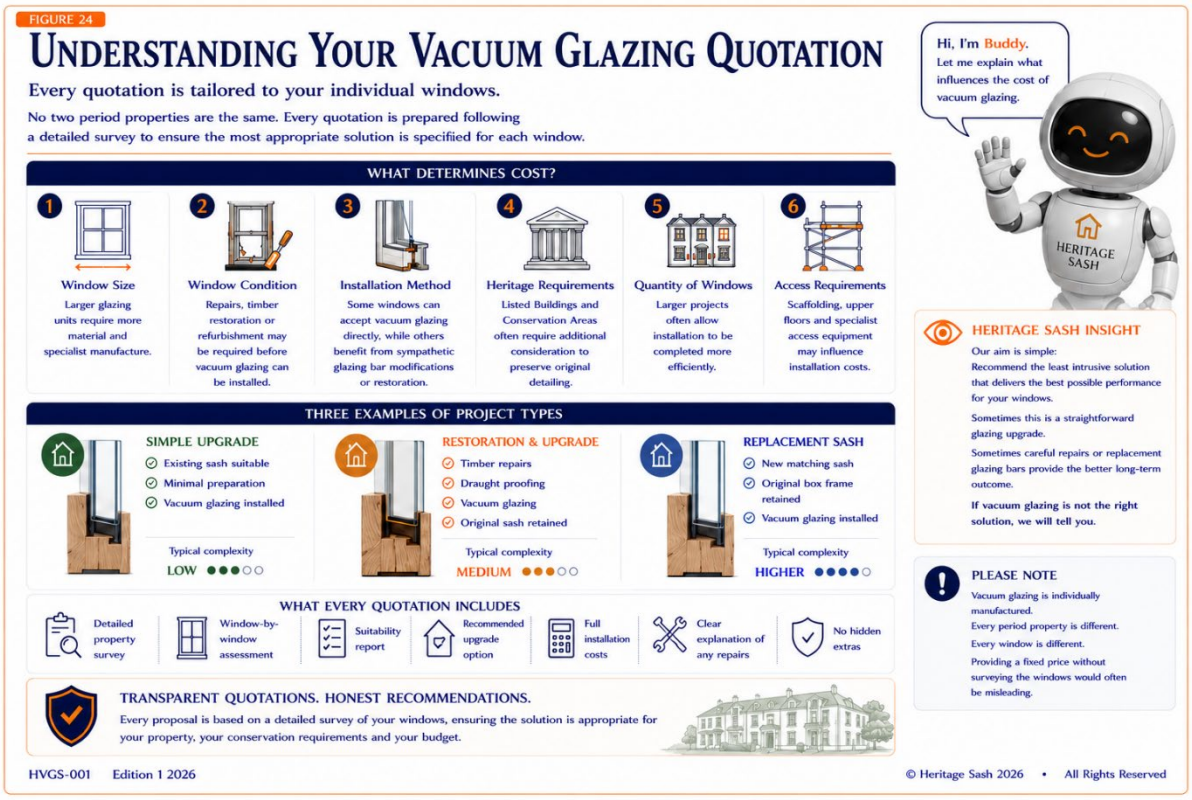
Heritage Insight 14
Like-for-like quotations matter.

When comparing prices, ensure quotations include:

- Manufacture of the vacuum glazing units
- Survey and technical assessment
- Heritage-compatible installation
- Timber adaptations where required
- Reinstatement and finishing
- Warranty and aftercare

Every window is unique.

Following our survey, we provide a detailed fixed quotation based on the condition, dimensions and requirements of your individual windows.



Why Heritage Sash?

Vacuum glazing is only one part of the solution.

The quality of the survey, the joinery, the glazing installation and the understanding of traditional timber windows are equally important.

At Heritage Sash we specialise in preserving original timber windows through careful craftsmanship, sympathetic repairs and considered upgrades.

Every recommendation is guided by three principles.

- Preserve Character.
- Improve Performance.
- Respect Traditional Craftsmanship.

We believe knowledge should come before recommendations. Every customer deserves to understand the options available before deciding. Whether vacuum glazing proves to be the right solution or not, our objective remains the same:

To help homeowners make informed decisions that respect both their property and its heritage.

Heritage Insight 15
The best restoration is often the one that goes unnoticed.

Continue Your Heritage Journey

The Heritage Sash Knowledge Library has been created to help homeowners, architects, surveyors and conservation professionals better understand traditional timber windows and sympathetic modern upgrades. Every guide has been written using practical experience gained from restoring heritage windows throughout the UK. This guide forms part of the Heritage Sash Knowledge Library.

Additional publications include:

- The Complete Guide to Sash Window Restoration
- Understanding Draught Proofing
- Timber Repairs Explained
- The Homeowner's Maintenance Guide
- Repair, Restoration or Replacement?
- Listed Buildings & Traditional Windows

Future editions of these guides, together with interactive resources, will also be available through the Heritage Sash website.

HERITAGE INSIGHT 16

Good decisions start with good information. Every property is different. Every window deserves the right solution.

Case Study – Upgrading a Traditional Sash with Vacuum

Existing Window

This traditional timber sash window had reached the point where improved thermal performance was becoming a priority, while retaining the original character of the property remained essential.

Following a detailed survey, the existing timber frame was found to be suitable for restoration and capable of accommodating vacuum glazing with only minor modifications.

Our Solution

Rather than replacing the entire window, the existing timber frame and sash were retained and carefully restored.

The original glazing was removed and replaced with slim vacuum insulated glazing units, preserving the appearance of the historic window while significantly improving its thermal performance.

Where necessary, glazing bars were carefully adapted to accommodate the vacuum glazing edge seal while maintaining the original proportions and visual character.

Outcome

- ✓ Original timber window retained
- ✓ Significantly improved thermal performance
- ✓ Reduced draughts
- ✓ Improved acoustic comfort
- ✓ Minimal visual difference from the original glazing
- ✓ Suitable for many heritage properties

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide.

We hope it has helped you better understand vacuum glazing and the considerations involved when upgrading traditional timber windows.

Every property is unique.

Every window tells a different story.

If you would like Heritage Sash to assess your windows, we would be delighted to help.