



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND REGION

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Mr Henry Freeland
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Our ref: PA00009762

10 March 2009

Dear Mr Freeland

Request for Pre-Application Advice

COPY

**WYMONDHAM ABBEY, CHURCH STREET, WYMONDHAM, SOUTH NORFOLK
PROPOSED WORKS: EAST END REORDERING AND EXTENSION SCHEME.**

Following our discussion of additions and amendments to the previously approved scheme for the above works at the DAC site visit on 29th January I would like to confirm my advice on specific points.

- I have no objection in principle to installing the Abbey shop in the south aisle or relocating the two chest tombs to the south aisle wall.
- I have no objection in principle to removing the present screen under the west tower and constructing a new screen further eastwards
- The removal of the vestry partitions in the south aisle will be a huge improvement to the appearance of the church. However, I am concerned by the retention of the kitchen function in this area. Making a kitchenette the eastward focus of the aisle could be very problematic and the proposed ramp will only add to the design complexities. Following excavation of the extension footprint it might prove possible to lower the floor level, making the ramp unnecessary. If not, the ramp must be carefully designed, perhaps with a form of Servery Screen, to minimise its visual impact.
- The addition of a first floor under the east tower has led to the proposed new opening in the south wall. Although the exact nature of the fabric here is uncertain I have reservations about this proposal. It was explained at the meeting that St Margaret's Chapel and the base of the East Tower would be flexible interpretation/education spaces and that the new choir vestry could on occasion serve as a further multi-functional space. The need for the additional



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first floor room would therefore require further justification if loss of significant historic fabric is required.

I hope the above advice covers all key aspects we covered. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

David Eve

Historic Buildings Inspector

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Cc. Jean Gosling Norwich DAC



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