

Glyn Purland

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Dear Glyn

St Andrew the Apostle, Holt, Norfolk (Grade II*, fourteenth-century, restored by William Butterfield 1862-64 and 1866-74) – New church hall with glazed link

Thank you for your email of 4 April consulting the Victorian Society on the proposed extension to St Andrew's Church, Holt. I presented this case to our Southern Buildings Committee at their April meeting, and I now write to convey their response. I regret to say that the Society **objects** to the plans as currently proposed.

The Society is not opposed in principle to the idea of an extension, and the Committee felt that many aspects of the scheme were promising. The church is very lucky in having such a site on which to build. The decision to situate the new building behind and on the line of the existing boundary wall is successful. The height and width of the glazed link responds sensitively to the dimensions, and particularly the buttressing, of the South Porch.

However, the judgement of the Committee was that the architectural treatment of the extension is of poor quality, and that as currently designed its impact would be greatly to the detriment of the sensitive church building and its setting. They were especially dismayed by the swooping profile of the roof, which was felt to be obtrusive and unsympathetic to the lines of the existing building. The Committee's view was that the building should be less conspicuous and not compete for attention with the listed church. Consequently, the Committee felt that the loss of historic fabric demanded by the works – in particular, the early twentieth-century extension to the South Porch – was not justified by the quality of the new building.

Yours sincerely

Tom Ashley