

Statement of Significance – Major projects

Section 1: The church in its urban / rural environment.

1.1 Setting of the Church

How does the setting out of the church contribute to its landscape / townscape value and to its significance?

The church is situated on the extreme southern end of the village. It is not in the proximity of any other village amenities. It is set in a valley and the only public view is of it's Northern aspect from the Southern end of Sandy Lane.

1.2 The Living Churchyard

What is the significance of the natural heritage of the site?

The churchyard comprises largely of a graveyard with an unused and as yet unconsecrated area of grass to the Northern Side. Lime and Yew trees are set along the driveway and further Limes and Scots pines are situated along two boundaries..

1.3 Social History

What is the historic and present use of the church and churchyard by the congregation and wider community? How does this contribute to its significance?

The principal use of the church has been and continues to be the central place of worship situated in the village. Thus it has been used for baptisms and burials and is a popular place for weddings.

1.4 The church building in general

Provide a description of the church.

St Edmunds is a grade 1 listed small/medium sized church consisting of nave with south aisle, chancel, south porch and round west tower with octagonal top and embattled parapets.

The building is of flint rubble with limestone dressings. The nave roof is pantiled, the chancel thatched, south aisle and south porch slated and west tower leaded. Windows are mainly perpendicular.

1.5 The church building in detail

Assess the significance of either each historical phase of the building or of each area within it.

Portions of the Nave date to the first half of the 10th century with additions in the 13th century. The west tower dates from the 11th century with a 15th century upper stage. The chancel was added in the 14th century and the south aisle and porch in 1863.

1.6 Contents of the Church

Provide a description of its contents and their significance. It is reasonable to group these if there is a contemporary scheme which is significant as such, for example one could say a complete scheme of 18th-century furnishings, of high significance.

The church is furnished with oak pews and pulpit which were installed as part of restoration in 1861.

The altar rail is a good example of 14th century wood carving with delicate filigree tracery and is believed to have originated in Booton church and the rood screen is an example of good quality 15th century design and craftsmanship.

The font also dates from the 15th century and was moved to it's present site in 1981. There is a stained glass window in the north wall of the nave which is an example of 15th Century Norwich glass. The East window is Victorian

1.7 Significance for mission

What are the strengths of the building as it is for worship and mission? What potential for adapted and new uses does the church and its setting already have with little or no change?

The building is well suited for the original purpose for which it was built - formal worship. It is not suitable for the many, extra, demands and uses placed on churches in the 21st century.

Section 2 : The significance of the area affected by the proposal.

2.1 Identify the parts of the church and/or churchyard which will be directly or indirectly affected by your proposal.

This proposal - being a separate building - will have no impact on the significance of the church or its contents defined in section 2. The area under proposal is currently used as turning circle at the end of the drive and does not contain any known graves or suspected items of archaeological significance.

2.2 Set out the significance of these particular parts.

Not applicable

Section 3: Assessment of the impact of the proposals

3.1 Describe and assess the impact of your proposal on these parts, and on the whole.

As a separate structure there will be no impact on the existing church building. Because of its proposed location it will not be visible from the public highway. The only impact will be the view from within the Churchyard to the south. This is considered as low impact.

Building will necessitate the felling of two Lime trees, but these are showing preliminary signs of disease and are reaching the end of their useful life. Two similar trees have already been removed for the same reason.

3.2 Explain how you intend, where possible, to mitigate the impact of the proposed works on the significance of the parts affected and the whole.

Not applicable.