



DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

2412-MAL-XX-XX-RP-A-8010

JULY 2025

REV: P0



CREATION OF A WELCOMING ARRIVAL AND ENVIRONMENT TO THE ABBEY CHURCH FOR BOTH VISITORS AND CONGREGATION, INCLUDING NEW FOOTPATHS, LIBRARY SPACE AND REFURBISHMENT OF WC'S
Worth Abbey, Paddockhurst Road, Crawley, RH10 4SB

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0 SITE AND CONTEXT

3.0 DESIGN PROPOSAL

4.0 SUMMARY



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2412 – Worth Abbey church – Design And Access Statement - 2412-MAL-XX-XX-RP-A-8010

1.1 PROJECT BRIEF

The aim of the project is to design a Welcome Centre, that creates an initial front door and welcoming environment to the Abbey Church and its Narthex, for monks, church visitors and congregation. This will sit separately to the existing school entrance.

The project also includes a new library space, bringing the existing monastery library into the visitor area (rather than in the current location at the heart of the monastery home); as well as more functional items including the refurbishment of the WC's and maintaining existing spaces within the Narthex.

The schedule of accommodation will include:

Welcome Centre:

- Reception desk
- Signage / AV
- Snacks and refurbishments
- Seating and tables
- Play areas

New WC's:

- DDA Compliant / Accessible WC's
- Female and Male toilets

Library:

- Entrance (fully compliant)
- Reception desk
- Reading
- Books
- Environmental control



1.2 VISION STATEMENT

The proposals aim to improve access to the Abbey church by establishing a visual connection to the car park and creating a pedestrian route that allows for stopping to enjoy the view. The impact on the grass-covered area would be an enhancement, providing visitors of all mobility levels with access and the opportunity to pause, meet, and reflect on their journey to the church.

The creation of a Welcome Centre at one end of the Narthex begins with the removal of the timber infill panel that currently blocks an existing opening, replacing it with a high-quality glazed set of entrance doors. This would be a positive change for several reasons – it would enhance the sense of arrival, improve the visual connection to external spaces, and increase the amount of natural daylight.

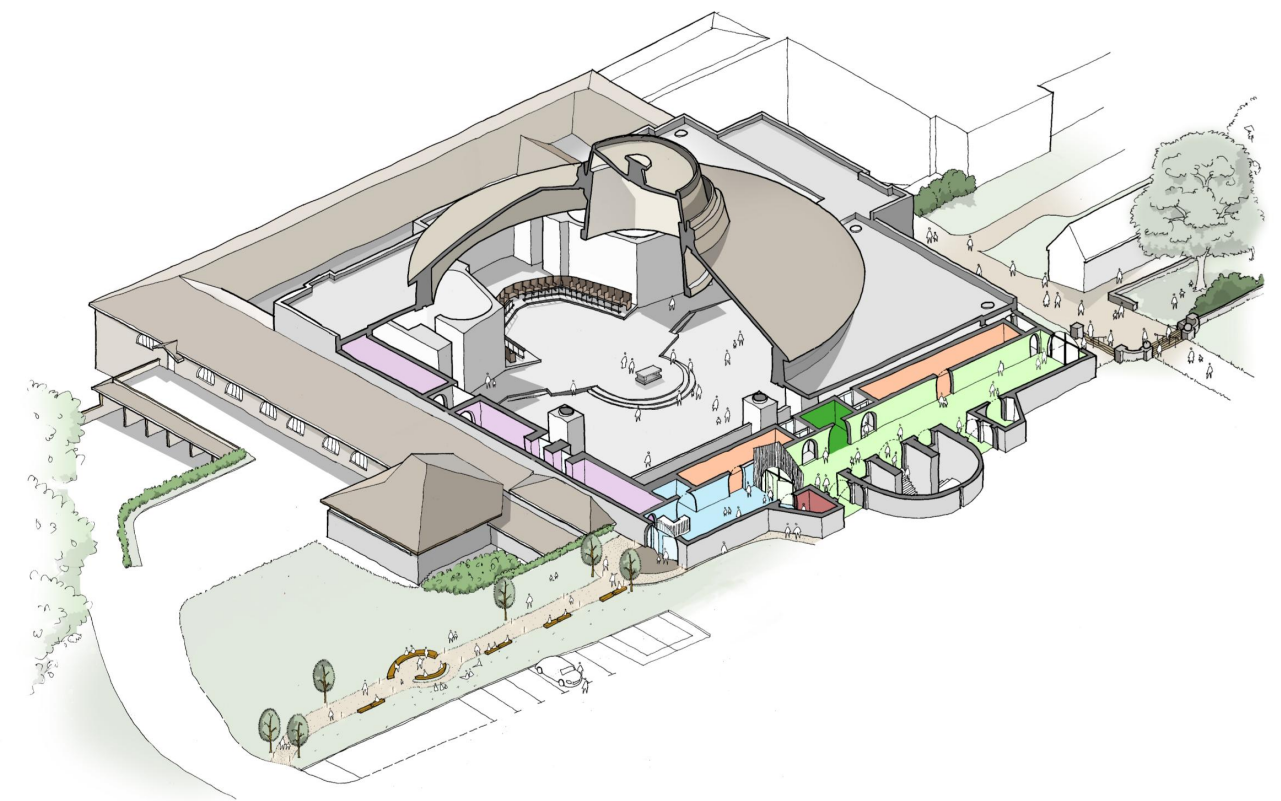
The installation of a dividing partition within the Narthex would provide flexibility within the space. It would allow the Welcome Centre to function without disrupting the usual use of the Narthex or its connection to the church, offering the congregation a point of arrival and gathering before and after services. The partition would maintain a continuous visual connection through a glazed set of doors, matching those of the Welcome Centre entrance, which could be held open to ensure a physical connection. The partition would also provide acoustic separation, allowing each space to function independently without disturbing the other.

Raising the floor level of the central lowered section of the Narthex would improve accessibility, as the current arrangement relies on non-compliant temporary ramps for wheelchair access. The impact of this alteration would be that the stairs to the lower level would require two additional risers, and access to the gallery would involve two additional steps. These spaces are currently not wheelchair accessible, and the proposed changes make them no less accessible.

Converting the section of the Ambulatory, at First Floor, currently used for storage into a library space with study opportunities will enhance the overall use of the area and improve the existing low-quality partitioning and finishes. Not only does this opportunity provide better access to the library collection for public view, it also addresses the need for more accessible library space for the resident monks.

Refurbishing the existing WCs is considered an improvement, with the adjustments providing fully accessible facilities for all at either end of the Narthex, serving both the church and the Welcome Centre separately.

The relocation of the bookshop from its central niche to another existing niche has minimal impact, increasing its accessibility by bringing it within the Welcome Centre.



1.0	INTRODUCTION
2.0	SITE AND CONTEXT
3.0	DESIGN PROPOSAL
4.0	SUMMARY



2.1 THE SITE

Worth Abbey church is located within the wider context of the abbey estate, situated between Crawley and Haywards Heath and accessed from Paddockhurst Road.

The church, Our Lady Help of Christians, is in close proximity to the monastery, retreat facilities, Worth School as well as a number of outbuildings and residential properties.

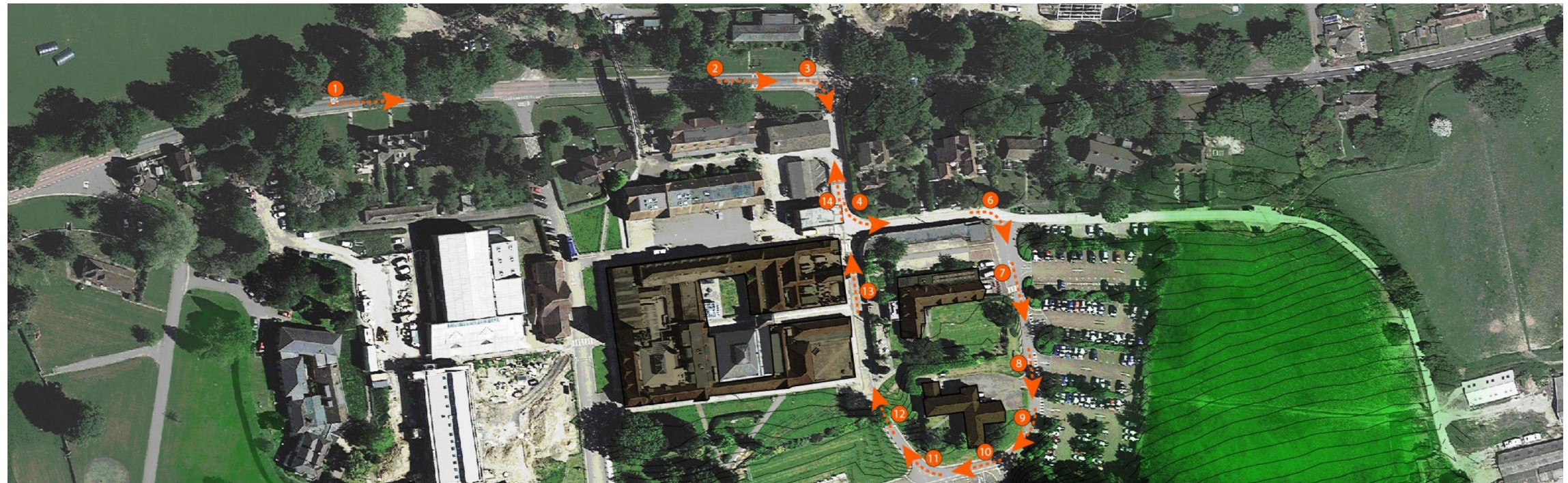
Situated within the face of a steeply sloping site, the church's vantage point provides breath-taking views over the High Weald National Landscape and South Downs National Park.

The Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians (Worth Abbey) was established in 1933 and officially recognised as an abbey in 1965. The church was then built and consecrated in 1975.

The church is a listed building and is considered to be a good example of English Liturgical Brutalism.



2.2 SITE ACCESS



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2.3 ACCESSIBILITY

Visitors arrive at the site and park their cars in, either the main car park, or in the accessible bays closer to the church.

The church is accessed, via the shared surface roadways, at several points:

1. Through the main entrances off the piazza in front of the church
2. Through the lower level by utilizing the roadway leading down the left-hand side of the church
3. Potentially via the eastern end of the Narthex, which has been infilled with a timber panel – This forms a significant portion of these proposals

Visitors with mobility issues can access the Narthex via the main entrance, off the piazza. From the Narthex they can access the church itself, via a ramp in the western ambulatory which leads to a lift that connects the Lower Ground Floor, church level, with the Upper Ground Floor.

The church is also accessible via an entrance at Lower Ground Floor level, beneath the eastern ambulatory (access point 2 above), this leads directly into a lobby where you can enter the church.

Current accessibility issues that are to be addressed within these proposals are:

1. Clearly defined routes; achieved through design as well as improved wayfinding
2. Better wheelchair accessibility – level Narthex floor, compliant ramps and level transitions
3. Provision of both ambulant and fully accessible WCs
4. Increased building usability – better placement of visitor amenities



2.4 SITE IMAGES



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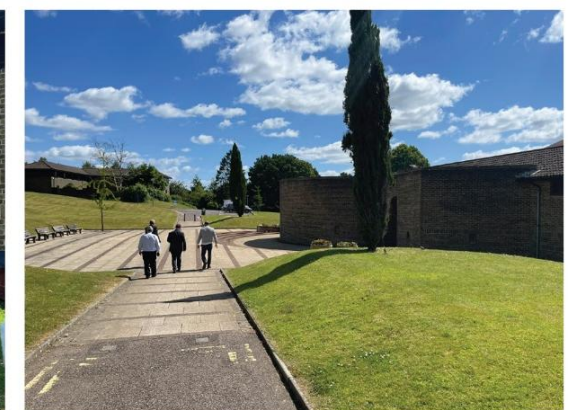
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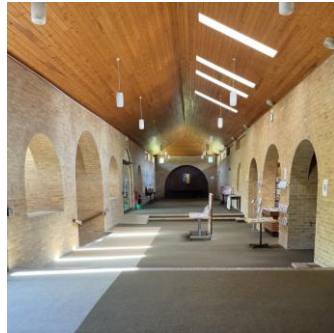


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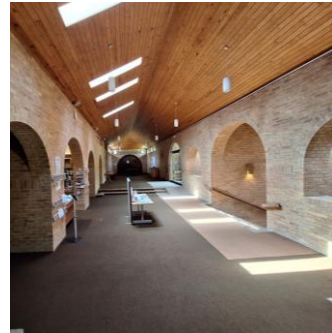


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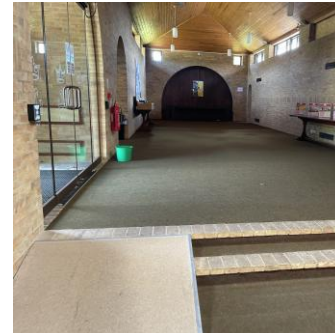
2.5 KEY PHOTOGRAPHS



View along Narthex facing east with the timber infill in the opening at the end



View along Narthex facing west with stair down to church on the right



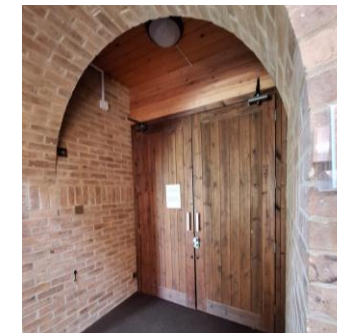
View of the Narthex floor showing the level differences



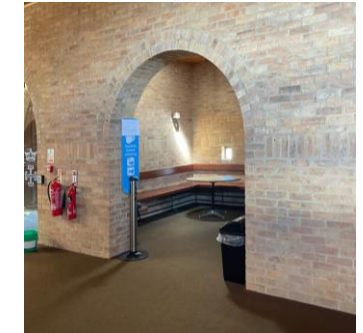
Existing bookshop is sited off the Narthex through one of the brick arches that are a feature of the building



Entrance to the east ambulatory at the far end of the Narthex also provides access to the only ladies WC



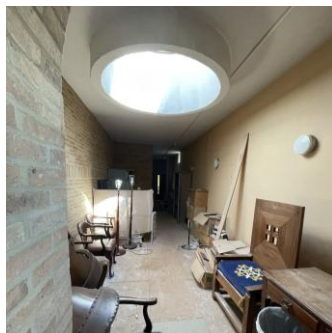
One of the two entrances to the Gallery overlooking the church



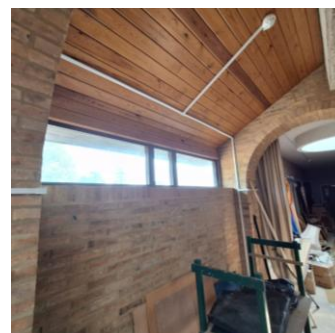
Through another brick arch is one of two niches, used for meeting



The eastern Ambulatory has been used for storage for a number of years



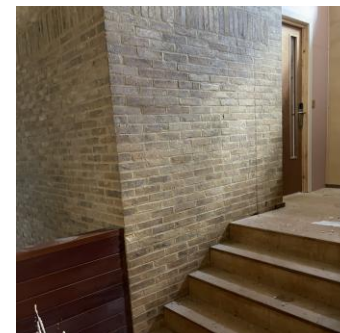
The Ambulatory features circular concrete rooflights



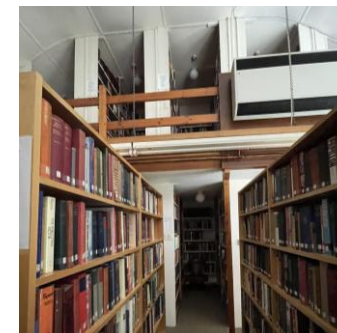
At the centre of the eastern Ambulatory is a lobby space with a high window and skieling



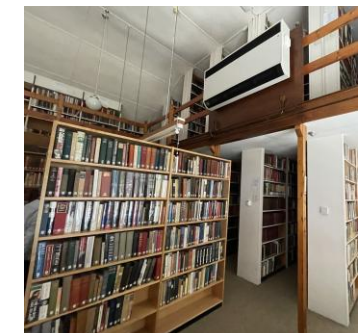
The Ambulatories also feature views into the church



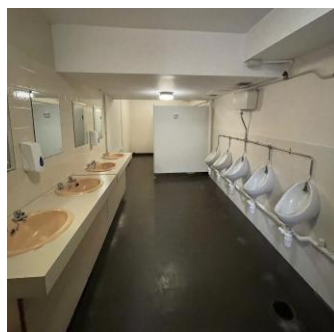
The Ambulatory terminates with a door leading onto a stair which descends into the church



The existing library contains a considerable collection of precious books and manuscripts



Books are stored in shelves over two levels and are becoming less accessible



The existing men's WC finishes and appliances are tired and in need of replacement



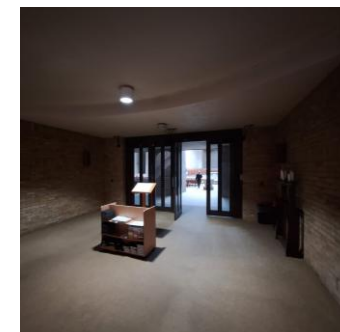
The landscape around the church negotiates significant level changes



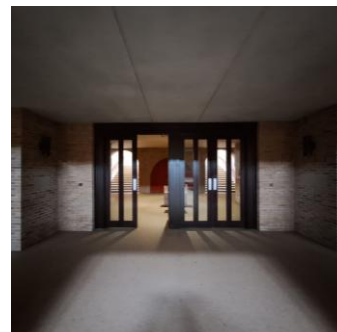
The eastern end of the Narthex is infilled with timber and faces in the direction of the car park



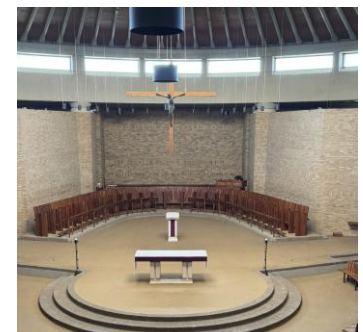
The western end of the Narthex is also infilled with a timber panel and faces the school



The entrance to the church on the lower level at the base of the main stair



View looking back at the lower ground floor church entrance



View from the Gallery over the alter, with clerestory windows at high level

2.6 OFFICIAL LIST ENTRY (1392325)

Roman Catholic (Benedictine) Abbey church. 1964-89 with later additions to the conventual buildings, to the designs of Francis Pollen. Reinforced concrete frame clad in brick, with exposed concrete beams, floors and details. Tiled roofs, the central drum over the church is felted, but was designed to be tiled when money permits.

Clever plan on steeply sloping site. The hillside site makes the most of views out into the Sussex countryside. Central square church under central circular top-lit drum. Central altar with monastic choir and two chapels behind, with further chapel separate to side. The church is entered by the laity from an entrance at first floor level, which gives on to a long vestibule gallery, and imperial stair that descends to the main church level. This projects from the entrance facade and is flanked by entrance doors. The other three sides of the church are encased by one and two-storey buildings for the monks, with cells, refectory and library (not inspected but understood not to be of special interest). Side entrance from car park to left, with the entrance to the monastery further down the hill on this elevation. Doors and windows of heavy-sectioned timber, save those in the clerestory under the dome, which are set between the exposed concrete frame. Exposed, too, is the circular top of the drum, with features concrete gargoyles modelled on those by Le Corbusier at Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamp, France, and which is surmounted by a cross.

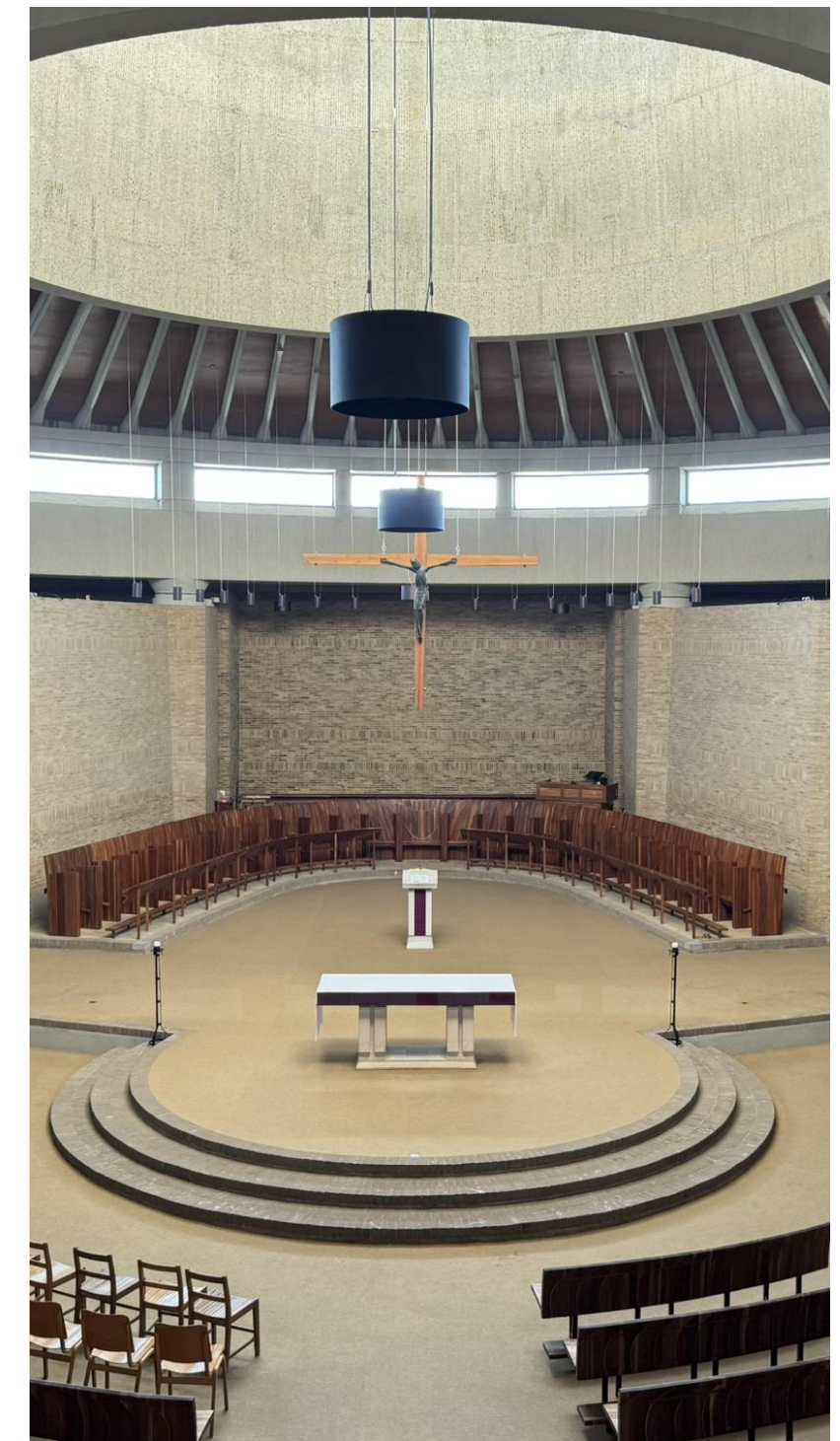
Vestibule and staircase lined in brick with exposed concrete beams and dressings, timber roofs. Round-arched openings to bookstall, stairs and into lobbies serving adjoining rooms. The austerity of the church interior enhances the sense of its great scale. Rear balcony of exposed concrete. Exposed beams to the slope of the drum with timber ceiling between, central concrete lantern supported on exposed ring beam and braced by internal cross of concrete beams. Battered brick piers with shallow concrete capitals define ambulatory round three sides. Raked floor leads to near-central altar; the difficulties of worship in the round are avoided by having the monks' choir behind the altar, together with two large side chapels - largely enclosed brick drums with curved and battered brick walls reminiscent of Oscar Niemeyer's work, to either side. Pierced opening over tabernacle behind the freestanding altar in each. Forward altar a single stone, resting on two piers and raised up three steps. Timber offices and confessionals set either side off the ambulatory. Foundation stone dated 1968; memorial stone to Francis Pollen (1926-87), and Dom Victor Farwell, first Abbot of Worth 1965-88. Plaque to Simon Dominic Woods, died 1972. The other interiors not inspected.

The Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians was founded at Worth in 1930 as a daughter house of the Benedictine Abbey at Downside, and with the same function of running a boys' boarding school. Pollen's first design, published in 1956, was for a tall, elliptical reinforced concrete building surrounded by an ambulatory with side chapels all the way around, and with a central circular lantern. In 1961 this was revised in favour of a central, square building surrounded by conventual buildings for fifty monks and ten novices. Pollen and his clients were thus in the vanguard of liturgical thinking among the Roman Catholic Church in Britain. His scheme was

enlarged to provide seating for a congregation of 800, and the design took on its present form in 1963-4. The main concrete structure was built in 1964-5 by the contractor Lovells, but as local contractors were unwilling to commit themselves to a price for the curved brickwork, John Lyles, then teaching carpentry in the school, undertook the brickwork by direct labour, and supervised the completion of the building. The first service was held in 1970 and the church was consecrated in 1975, leaving the flanking buildings for later completion. As part of this use of direct labour, a pitched roof was preferred for the vestibule or narthex as cheaper and easier to build, and the surrounding buildings followed this more vernacular approach. This serves to make the central drum still more dramatic and space-ship like.

Francis Pollen was trained at Cambridge and the Architectural Association, but his early career was influenced by Edwin Lutyens, who had remodelled Lambay Castle in Dublin Bay for his grandparents and who remained a family friend. But in 1958 Pollen adopted the tenets of the New Brutalism, preferring heavy brick and concrete construction to what Alan Powers describes as the 'physical shallowness' of much contemporary modernism. In a more extreme way, Pollen's career mirrors that of Sir Basil Spence, who began his professional career with Lutyens and who went on to embrace the style of Le Corbusier's Maisons Jaoul; Worth Abbey is suggestive of what might-have-been had Spence designed a major church in the manner of his listed Sussex University. Pollen himself wrote, 'I believe that churches must feel as if they had just happened as a result of divine laws of geometry, mechanics and proportion, timeless laws' (quoted in Architects' Journal, p.35). The debt to the Renaissance ideas of humanism and proportion expounded in Rudolf Wittkower's Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism, a key text of the Brutalists and of the Liturgical Movement, is as important as Pollen's own deep and personal Catholic faith. Powers has also made comparisons with Louis Kahn's First Unitarian church at Rochester, New York. The artist Patrick Reyntiens considered that Pollen had 'produced singlehanded a style that has reference to the past and can give hope for the future' with its mixture of modern and primitive forms and austere control of space. It is one building that has successfully made a virtue of the most rigorous economy.

Sources The Builder, 28 September 1956, pp.530-1 Architectural Review, January 1963, p.70 Alan Powers, 'Church Triumph' in Architects' Journal, 30 January 1991, pp.30-37 Alan Powers, Francis Pollen Architect, 1926-1987, Oxford, Robert Dugdale, 1999

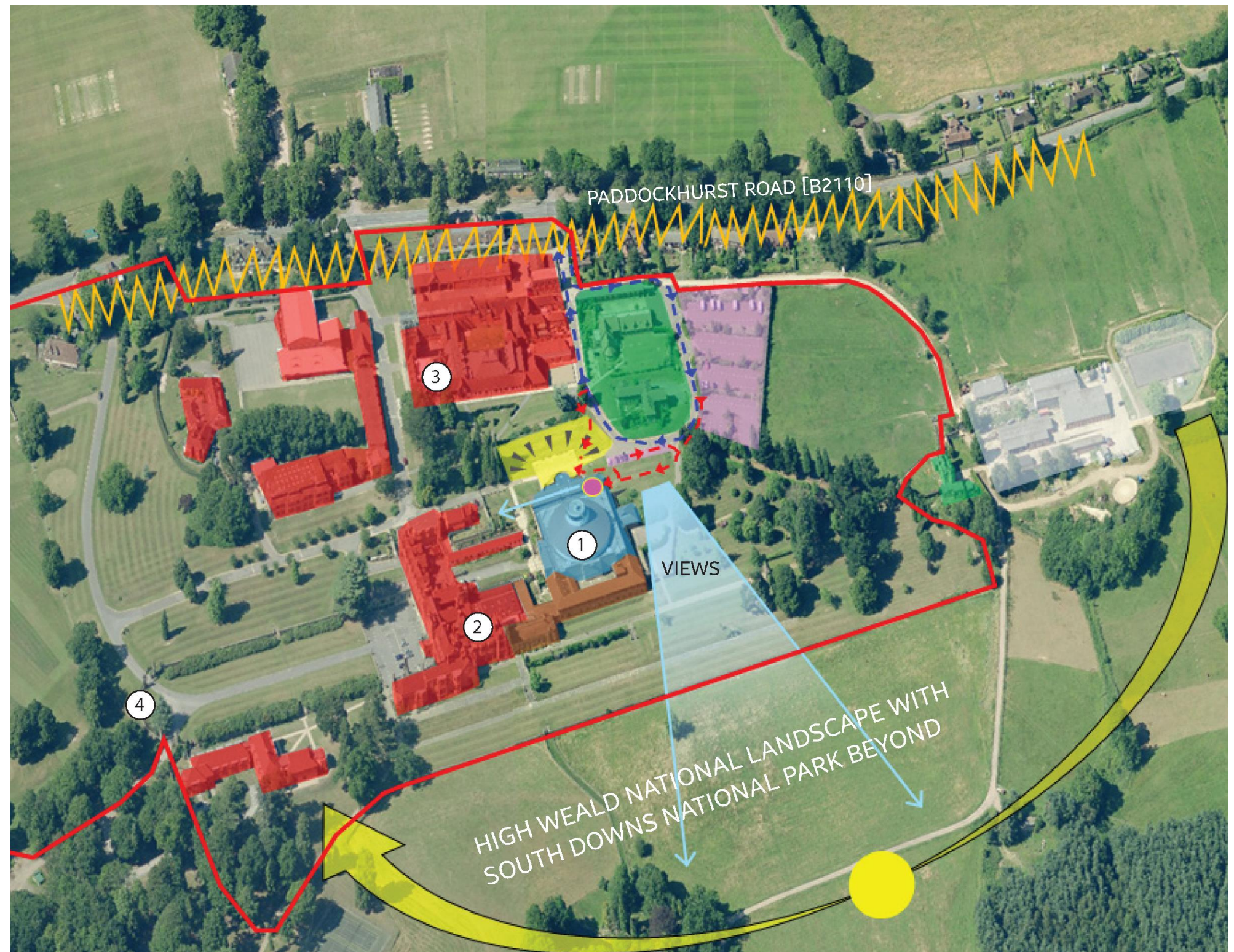


2.7 OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS PLAN

- ABBEY CHURCH
- WORTH ABBEY
- WORTH SCHOOL
- ACCOMMODATION AND RETREAT CENTRE
- CAR PARK
- STEEP BANKS AND PLAZA
- WORTH ABBEY FARM
- VEHICLE ACCESS [ONE WAY]
- POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- NEW WELCOME CENTRE
- LANDSCAPE LEVELS LIMITED ACCESSIBILITY
- VIEWS
- TRAFFIC NOISE

LISTED BUILDINGS [ALL GRADE II]

1. ABBEY CHURCH OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
2. WORTH ABBEY
3. FORMER STABLES AT WORTH ABBEY
4. SCREEN AND 2 GATEWAYS TO THE WEST OF WORTH ABBEY



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3.1 PLANNING PRE-APP RESPONSE

Reference: DM/25/0353

SITE CHARACTERISTICS AND CONSTRAINTS

Worth Abbey is a monastery and Roman Catholic school campus which includes a number of listed buildings. The Abbey Church is Grade II listed and dates from the 1960s; the adjacent school buildings are also Grade II listed but predate the Church, having been constructed in a series of phases over the second half of the 19th century as a country house. The Abbey Church itself is located on a high ridge with far-reaching views to the south, with the school buildings arranged to the west and north.

In policy terms, the site is located within the Countryside and within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The site is designated as a Great Crested Newt – Impact Risk Zone (Red) and both a Geology Safeguarding and Methane Safeguarding Zone.

PROPOSAL

We established on site that the internal elements of the proposal to create a Welcome Centre would be covered by the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2010, and hence do not require listed building consent. Therefore, for the purposes of this enquiry we are dealing with works that require planning permission only, namely:

The formation of a new footpaths and steps; and Replacement of timber infill panels at either end of the Narthex with glazed openings.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

The Council would need to have regard to the following Development Plan policies:

Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031 (Mar 2018)

Policy DP12: Protection and Enhancement of Countryside

Policy DP16: High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Policy DP26: Character and Design

Policy DP34: Listed Buildings and Other Heritage Assets

Policy DP37: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

Policy DP38: Biodiversity

<http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/mid-sussex-district-plan/>

Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan (Mar 2016)

Policy THP7: Building Extensions and Infill Development

Policy THP8: Countryside Protection

Policy THP9: Worth Abbey and Worth School

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-plans/>

In addition, the Council would need to have regard to other material considerations. These include:

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039 - Submission Draft (Regulation 19)

The District Council is reviewing and updating the District Plan. Upon adoption, the new District Plan 2021-2039 will replace the current District Plan 2014-2031 and its policies will have full weight. In accordance with the NPPF, Local Planning Authorities may give weight to relevant policies of the emerging plan according to the stage of preparation; the extent to which there are unresolved objections to the relevant policies; and the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the NPPF. The draft District Plan 2021-2039 (Regulation 19) is currently at Examination and the Stage 1 hearings were concluded on 31 October 2024. There are unresolved objections to some of the Policies in the draft District Plan and as such, only minimal weight can be given to the Plan.

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/mid-sussex-district-plan/district-plan-review/>

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Dec 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Mid Sussex Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (Nov 2020)

The Council has adopted a 'Mid Sussex Design Guide' SPD that aims to help deliver high quality development across the district that responds appropriately to its context and is inclusive and sustainable. The Design Guide was adopted by Council on 4th November 2020 as an SPD for use in the consideration and determination of planning applications. The SPD is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/supplementary-planning-documents/>

ASSESSMENT

Design and visual impact on the character and appearance of the Listed Building

Policy DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan states (in part):

'All development and surrounding spaces, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings and replacement dwellings, will be well designed and reflect the distinctive character of the towns and villages

while being sensitive to the countryside. All applicants will be required to demonstrate that development:

- is of high quality design and layout and includes appropriate landscaping and greenspace;
- creates a sense of place while addressing the character and scale of the surrounding buildings and landscape;
- protects open spaces, trees and gardens that contribute to the character of the area;
- protects valued townscapes and the separate identity and character of towns and villages;
- positively addresses sustainability considerations in the layout and the building design.'

Policy DP34 of the Mid Sussex District Plan states (in part):

'Development will be required to protect listed buildings and their settings. This will be achieved by ensuring that:

- A thorough understanding of the significance of the listed building and its setting has been demonstrated. This will be proportionate to the importance of the building and potential impact of the proposal;
- Alterations or extensions to a listed building respect its historic form, scale, setting, significance and fabric. Proposals for the conversion or change of use of a listed building retain its significance and character whilst ensuring that the building remains in a viable use;
- Traditional building materials and construction techniques are normally used. The installation of uPVC windows and doors will not be acceptable;
- Satellite antennae, solar panels or other renewable energy installations are not sited in a prominent location, and where possible within the curtilage rather than on the building itself;
- Special regard is given to protecting the setting of a listed building;
- Where the historic fabric of a building may be affected by alterations or other proposals, the applicant is expected to fund the recording or exploratory opening up of historic fabric.'

Policy THP9 of the Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan states:

'The Neighbourhood Plan supports development proposals within the built campus at Worth Abbey and School provided they:

- Are sympathetic to the rural setting and to the listed buildings;
- Recognise the impact any buildings may have on the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and are landscaped appropriately;
- Enhance both the School's status and position as a major local employer; and
- Enhance and benefit facilities for the Religious Order.'

3.1 PLANNING PRE-APP RESPONSE (CONTINUED)

The Council's Conservation Officer, Emily Wade, has made the following comments:

Worth Abbey Church is a Grade II listed building dating from the 1960s. The church has a square plan, and is constructed of reinforced concrete clad in brick with a central circular top-lit drum. The building forms part of Worth Abbey, which is a Benedictine community established here in the 1930s by the purchase of a country estate then known as Paddockhurst. Two of the previously existing buildings of the estate, which was created during the later 19th century incorporating elements of a earlier farmstead, are also Grade II listed. These are the former country house, and the stables with clock tower, located to the west and north west of the Abbey Church respectively.

The current pre-application proposal relates to works to the narthex of the church, which is a large porch or antechamber extending across the north-western end of the building, opposite the altar. The proposed works include:

- Improvements to the internal and external access to the church;
- Creation of a new Welcome Centre within the eastern end of the narthex, with associated internal and external alterations;
- A new access to the opposite (western) end of the narthex with associated alterations to the existing steps in this position;
- Creation of a new library space within the ambulatory internally;
- Refurbishment of WCs internally; and
- Relocation of the Abbey shop internally, within the Welcome Centre.

The proposed works to the building will be covered by ecclesiastical exemption, which applies to Roman Catholic churches in use as places of worship, and will therefore not require the benefit of listed building consent. The internal works are therefore outside the scope of the local authority's control, although it is likely that MSDC would be consulted when an application for a faculty is made. I think it is unnecessary to comment on this aspect of the proposal, as I would defer to the specialist architectural expertise of the Church's internal body (the Historic Churches Committee) in this respect.

With respect to the proposed external changes requiring planning permission, to consider these in turn:

- The proposed new external access routes will affect two lawned areas to the north and east of the church building. Although there will be some loss of lawn in favour of the new hard surfaced pathways, this will be fairly minimal and will not in my opinion detract from the attractively open and verdant character of the church's setting. Subject to detail, including of the proposed associated lighting, I do

not consider that this aspect of the proposal is contentious. Likewise, in my opinion the proposed alterations to the steps to the western end of the narthex, to provide direct access to this end of the building from the direction of the abbey school, are fairly minor in their impact and are likely to be acceptable subject to detail.

- To the building itself, the creation of the Welcome Centre will involve removal of timber panelling from an existing brick archway to the eastern end of the narthex and installation in its place of a glazed door screen. This is mirrored by similar works to the western end of the building, to create a further new access point which will improve the accessibility of the building from the abbey school.

As we discussed on site, although without sight of the original plans (which hopefully can be located before a formal application is made) it is difficult to be certain about the originally intended purpose or appearance of the two brick archways affected, it does seem reasonable to speculate that their current state, with the painted timber infill, may not reflect the architect's original concept for these parts of the building. The infill gives these archways an unfinished appearance, and rather begs the question why bother to build them in the first place, if they were not intended as openings?

For this reason, on the basis of the limited information in front of us, I would have no objection to the current proposals to open up and glaze the archways. To my mind, this will enhance the appearance of the building and is more likely to reflect the original intended purpose of these features of the building. However, it will be useful if original plans or other evidence can be provided as part of any formal submission to support this view.

Any formal application should also include detail of associated signage and lighting to the building. This should be carefully considered in terms of its extent and materials in order to not detract from the appearance of the building or the prominence of the principle northern entrance to the church.

In summary, in my opinion the proposed works requiring planning permission are not likely to prove contentious, subject to detail, although further research in relation to the original concept for the narthex should be undertaken to (hopefully) support the proposed alterations to the two archways. Any formal application would be assessed against the requirements of District Plan Policy DP34 and the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF, and should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed heritage statement.

Other matters

The proposed Serpentine path will be located within the vicinity of a tree, so a Tree Report, including an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement, will be required to accompany a planning application.

Lighting of the paths should be designed in accordance with the attached Planning Technical Advice Note from the High Weald National Landscape: Dark Skies in the High Weald.

Given the open nature of the site in relation to its countryside setting and proximity to ponds, an Ecological Impact Assessment Report would be required, and an assessment would be made in relation to Great Crested Newts as part of any application, together with Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. Please see the following guidance at:

Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

and our website at:

Biodiversity Net Gain - Mid Sussex District Council

Wildlife and Planning - Mid Sussex District Council

CONCLUSION

An application would be encouraged, in accordance with Emily Wade's comments above.

Application forms (Form 5 - Full Planning Permission), checklists and guidance notes can be found via the following link:

Apply for Planning Permission - Mid Sussex District Council

The information contained in pre-planning advice may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Unless the information contained is legally exempt from disclosure, we cannot guarantee that we will not provide the whole or part of this advice to a third party making a request for information about the subject matter.

The views expressed in this email are at officer level only and do not prejudice the Council from making whatever decision it considers appropriate on any application subsequently submitted.

3.2 HCC PRE-APP RESPONSE

PRE-APPLICATION #1436 - PROPOSED RE-ORDERING OF NARTHEX

Introduction

The Abbey community have long wanted a Welcome Centre for all its visitors attending the church, wanting to study, participating in taking retreats or walking in the woods. This is not achievable in a separate building due to various constraints. The existing narthex is a very large and under utilised space that could be adapted to provide a Welcome Centre at its east end. Also there is a lack of study areas, specifically for Catholics now in the South East, and this could be incorporated into the scheme.

Proposals - narthex and cloister

Pollen, the architect, had envisaged that the "stop ends" at either end of the narthex could be provision for other uses, as a form of future proofing. It is proposed that both ends would be glazed. The east end would be the access to the Welcome Centre and the west end would be a window. This will create a lot of natural lighting. The west end would retain its function as the narthex before descending to the worship area. There would be a glazed partition fitted across the narthex space to separate the Welcome Area from the traditional narthex.

The toilets need a major overhaul and would be re-configured to provide separate independent facilities for the Welcome Centre (east) and the remaining narthex end (west). This would require new entrance archways through the south narthex wall. There would one additional access archway through the south wall for a small catering facility which could not be a cooking kitchen. The archways would match the existing Pollen designs.

The existing narthex floor is two steps down in the centre to lead into the stairwell to the worship area. This would be raised with extra steps to the worship space. There would be a ramp into balcony over the worship space.

The unfinished cloister on the east side of the church above the worship space will be adapted as a study/library area. Until now it had been a junk storage area, now cleared out. It would be staffed with volunteers and perhaps some monks. The far south end of the cloister has a stairway leading down into the rear of the worship space and this would be one fire escape route to the outside.

The heating system has not yet been fully analysed.

Proposals - outside

A new lit path would lead from the car park to the new east entrance and on around to the existing doors on the north side of the narthex. This separates pedestrians from car traffic as a safety measure. This path would have various features such as seating overlooking the view. It was suggested that artwork installations could enhance the whole area. There would also be a lit path from the piazza zigzagging up the slope to the other monastery buildings. Again this is needed to separate pedestrians from car traffic.

There are thoughts to improve the walks in the nearby woodland.submitted.

