

The Nelson Memorial Hall

Burnham Thorpe

Design and Access Statement

1 Building and location

The Nelson Memorial Hall is situated within a triangular site bounded by 2 minor roads. The site is entirely within the Burnham Thorpe Conservation Area. Although not listed, the building has been recognised to be of local architectural interest as is mentioned in Pevsner's guide (West Norfolk).

2. Design Consideration

It is considered that the interest noted by Pevsner relates mainly to the original building: the appearance of which has been somewhat compromised by a flat roofed extension on two sides (south and east) built during the 1950's. The extension includes the front entrance hall and porch as well as toilet and kitchen facilities. An external concrete ramp was added in 2007. It is proposed to change crittall windows in the flat roofed extension to aluminium framed double glazed units.

3 Present windows

The hall comprises two distinct parts.

- The original flint faced building
- The flat roofed 1950s extension.

The original building has distinct windows in wood. These are set in arched recesses framed by red brickwork, with the unglazed area rendered and painted. These were originally constructed with lead detail that were subsequently changed to plain glass in the early part of the 20th century.

The 1950s flat roofed extension has original crittall framed windows that are visible to the front and side of the building.

4 Considerations in design and efficiency

All windows in the building are single glazed, leading to difficulty in limiting heat loss. In addition, the windows are in poor repair and are draughty. The Hall has limited use during the winter months as it is cold, draughty and difficult to maintain temperature. It was considered that in order to maintain this community building as a viable village asset, and to be able to offer a warm cost effective space for modern community use, that substantial upgrade in thermal efficiency is needed.

It was considered that adding secondary double glazing to existing crittall windows would limit ventilation and be difficult to use in the toilet and kitchen areas where windows need to be frequently accessed by a variety of different hall users.

It is therefore proposed to replace the crittall windows in the extension with aluminium framed double glazed units. These have been chosen due to the narrower profile than traditional UPVC and will therefore not appear to be such a substantial difference from the original windows.

It is proposed that these new windows will be in white, in keeping with the original building and the style of the extension.