

Specific Statement of Significance and Impact Assessment

The General Statement of Significance covers the whole church and does not change very much.

The Specific Statement of Significance gives more detail about the particular item affected. You should attempt to assess the significance using the following terminology:

- **Exceptional** - *important at national to international levels.*
- **Considerable** - *important at regional level or sometimes higher.*
- **Some** - *usually of local value only but possibly of regional significance for group or other value (eg a vernacular architectural feature).*
- **Local** - *of local value.*
- **Negative or intrusive features** - *those which actually detract from the value of a site. For example, a concrete boiler house adjacent to a medieval Church.*

The Impact Assessment explains how the proposals will affect that particular item.

The Impact Assessment gives you an opportunity to explain why you consider the change is necessary.

Refer back to other options that you considered and explain how you weighed up the benefits against the significance of the object/item in question.

Example

If, for example, you have some medieval pews, but these are in the way and you want to create a larger open space for circulation, or round the font, so you propose to move the pews. Your specific statement of significance will explain about the pews in more detail than the General Statement. The Impact Assessment would explain that the pews will still be in the church (and will be moved very carefully – you will use a skilled joiner and will have an architectural historian on hand); and in fact they had been moved before in a Victorian re-ordering. Thus the impact on them, and on them in the church, will be minimised.

Wider consequences

Don't forget that many proposals have consequences for things other than those directly affected. For example, moving a font will affect the font, but may also affect several views/aspects of the church eg the former area around the font, and the proposed area around it.