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Comisiwn Brenhinol
Henebion Cymru
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

26 July 2024

FAO Sarah Hill

RE: P/2024/1186. Presbyterian Church, Holt. *Listed building consent for internal and external alterations.*

Thank you for consulting us on the plans for the former Presbyterian Church at Holt, Wrexham, application number P/2024/1186. The remit of the Royal Commission permits us to comment only on the historical significance and context of a monument or structure and on the adequacy or otherwise of the record.

The church – often referred to as Park English Presbyterian Church – was originally built in 1843 and then rebuilt in 1865 in the Gothic style with a gable-entry plan. The current church was built to the designs of architect Thomas Meakin Lockwood (1830–1900), who was prominent in north Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire. Extensions were made in the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries but the church dates overwhelmingly to Lockwood's 1865 Gothic design, with its impressive contemporary interior scheme. It is unclear when the church ceased to be used as a place of worship.

The proposal seeks internal and external alterations to the Grade II Listed church, with ground and first floor living and accommodation space transforming the interior and overall use of the building. Regrettably this would result in the loss of historic fabric, in particular the pews. To ensure a visual record of the building with the pews in situ survives, we would recommend as a condition of consent a **Level 3 photographic survey** as detailed in section 5 (p.26) of Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings (2016). Digital copies of the resulting survey photographs should then be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Wales in Aberystwyth. Photographs are to be TIFF formatted although we can convert these accordingly if deposition of the photographic survey in JPEG proves more efficient.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely

Meilyr Powel

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