

7 CONSERVATION

Appointing architects

We would always advise churches that are listed or unlisted in conservation areas to appoint conservation accredited architects when they consider undertaking works to their building. Older, traditional buildings differ to modern buildings as their construction and significance can be considerably complex. Thus, employing the right architect or professional advisor who understands such buildings can save considerable time, effort and money in the long term.

Should you decide to approach an architectural practice, the local branch of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) is usually able to help, and should be able to provide you with names of some local architects who also have expertise in working with churches. You may wish to contact your regional office of the RIBA to find architects in your locality (www.architecture.com/Home.aspx). Alternatively, another good source of assistance is the architects accredited in conservation register, which can be accessed here: www.aabc-register.co.uk

We recommend that several architectural practices are approached and asked to give a short presentation to the Managing Trustees. In this way, it is usually possible for the Managing Trustees to establish which practice they feel most comfortable with, and also to ask questions in a fairly informal atmosphere, before any formal appointment is made.

The RIBA Clients' Advisory Service offers a free referral service to help you find a suitable architect for your building work. This service will be tailor-made for your project and will result in a shortlist of RIBA registered architectural practices to match your criteria. For further information visit: www.ribafind.org.

Similar services do exist if you are looking for a chartered surveyor for your project. This can be done through the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' website at www.rics.org. There is also a register of structural engineers accredited in conservation (CARE) which can be accessed by following this link: <http://www.careregister.org.uk/>