

Holystone Grange
Holystone
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 7AN

Northumberland National Park Authority
Eastburn
South Park
Hexham
NE46 1BS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

18th December 2020

RE: 20NP0073LBC Holystone Grange

Darren Whitfield of Northpoint Consulting has replied to your queries and provided various information and drawings to support the retrospective Listed Building application for the Garden Room restoration works.

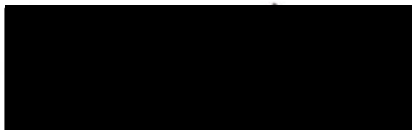
I would like to add my comments about the decorative frieze around the cupola (" the frieze ") inside the Garden Room.

The roof which supports the cupola was in a dangerous and unstable condition. Scaffold supports were in place to prevent it collapsing. The central part around the cupola had sunk down by about four inches, part of the ceiling had collapsed and significant rain was seeping into the room. Obviously, my prime concern was safety. Urgent repair was essential to avoid the risk of injury and further deterioration of the building.

I asked the builder to try and retain the frieze, but due to the rain damage that was not possible. However, when it was removed it became clear that it was not plaster work but in fact a form of plastic stuck on the plasterboard upstand, in other words, imitation plaster work. When it was removed it sat on the ground like a damp hoop. Unfortunately, given your enquiry, it ended up in the skip with the other building rubble and rubbish.

I am not a builder, nor an architect, but as a senior QC of over twenty years standing. I have conducted many building and construction disputes in court and in arbitration. If required, I will give formal evidence that the frieze was not Victorian plaster work, but a copy made of plastic, stuck on plasterboard. Also, I will ask the builders to give evidence in support, setting out what they found and explaining why the roof had to be repaired as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Nigel Aiken