

**Section 9 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011
Notice of Decision of Cathedrals Fabric Commission**

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Peter in Exeter applied on 5 November 2021 for approval of the following proposal:

To deliver the second phase of Exeter Cathedral's 2020's Vision – Investing in Our Welcome project. The proposals include:

- Installation of new service routes (infrastructure cabling/electrical and data services, heating)
- Reordering works in the Chapel of St James, Quire, Quire Aisles, the former Vestries and Cathedral Shop

Summary of the application

- Forming new service ducts and routes for all mechanical and electrical systems around the Quire Aisles, Retroquire and through the Quire crossing together with all connections / ducts to the Cloister Gallery and Chapter House.
- Installing new services and heat emitters within the newly formed ducts.
- Installing radiators and electric heaters within the east end of the Cathedral.
- Removing the 1960s reinforced concrete floor within the Quire and installing a new breathable floor with integrated services and heating.
- Reordering around the High Altar, to provide guarding and effective storage of the frontals.
- Reordering associated to the Chapel of St James including the installation of a data hub at first floor level and re-instating the means of escape through the organ blower room.
- Adjusting the timber screen and levels to provide access for all to the Chapel of St James from the South Quire Aisle.
- Adjusting the existing ramp in the North Quire Aisle to the Quire.
- Conserving and limewashing of the Quire Aisle vault webbing.
- Undertaking a programme of local heating trials and building environment assessments within the Quire.

All works would be subject to the written scheme of archaeological investigations (WSI) produced by the John Allan, Cathedral Archaeologist.

Representations

Representations in writing in respect of the above proposal were received from:

Fabric Advisory Committee, 9 December 2021, supportive

Historic England, 1 December 2021, supportive, but highlighting areas where further detail or clarification would be helpful

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 25 November 2021, generally supportive, with detailed comments on engineering and with particular concerns about the detailing of heating trenches

Decision

At a meeting of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission held on 15 December 2021 the above proposal and representations were considered and the Commission decided:

To **defer determination** of the proposals for the vestry area behind the high altar pending further information of the proposals for the low stone wall which should include a detailed design of the proposed wall, an appraisal of the various options considered, further details of Scott's plinth for the reredos and how this has influenced the current

design, and a concept for the replacement of the floor around the high altar. Further details should also be provided of the new joinery proposed for this area.

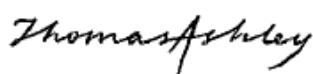
To **defer determination** of the installation of services to the upper room of St James's chapel pending further details of and justification for the impact of any proposed coring on sensitive fabric, and a method statement explaining how roof voids will be accessed, as requested by Historic England.

To **approve** the other elements of the application with the following conditions:

1. That, prior to the commencement of works to the floors, a report on the results of the ground water monitoring, together with a statement from the Cathedral Architect as to whether any amendment to the proposals is necessary in light of those results, is circulated first to the statutory consultees and FAC and then to the Commission for approval. (N.B. a fresh application under the Measure may be required for any substantial amendments to the proposals.)
2. That a report on the results of trials of electric fixed panel and under-cushion heaters in the quire shall be circulated to the statutory consultees, FAC and Commission for comment.
3. That:
 - a) an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the excavation;
 - b) that if anything of particular archaeological significance is uncovered which would be disturbed or destroyed by the works, works shall stop to allow for consultation with the Cathedral Archaeologist and the Commission and shall not recommence until a mitigation strategy is agreed by both parties;
 - c) that if any human remains are uncovered they shall be treated with due care and decency and in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England's Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England (2nd edition, 2017); and that
 - d) a report describing the results of the work will be prepared and circulated to the Cathedrals Fabric Commission and the Exeter Historic Environment Record.
4. That final details of the details of alteration to the twentieth-century timber screen to St James's chapel, the relaying of the stone floor to St James's chapel on a new gradient, and of opening up works in the upper room to provide means of escape, be circulated to the statutory consultees for comment and then to the FAC for approval before works commence.

The reasons for the conditions being that these details are not yet available (1, 2 and 4), and to safeguard the archaeological resource (3).

Signed:



Thomas Ashley
Deputy Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission

Dated: 7 January 2022

Within 7 days of receipt of this Notice the administrator of the Cathedral Church is to display a copy of it inside and outside the cathedral where it will be readily visible to the public for a period of not less than 28 days.