

**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 Christ, Canterbury, applied on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for the approval of the following proposal:**

**The Proposal**

Loan of C12th Screen Fragments to the British Museum

**Summary of the nature of the work and its extent**

For their exhibition 'Thomas Becket: Murder and Myth' the British Museum have requested loan of:

- Inventory Number 001196.2 – C12th 'Screen' fragment
- Inventory Number 001196.3 – C12th 'Screen' fragment

From 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. The Chapter and FAC endorsed the proposals at their November 2020 meeting.

**Representations**

- Historic England, letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, with no comment

**Decision**

The above proposal and representations were circulated to the members of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission and discussed by video conference, and on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the application was **approved** by Chair's Action subject to the following condition:

1. That the following information is sent to the Commission before the loan takes place and the details agreed in writing between the Chapter and the Head of Conservation or, in default of agreement, approved by the Commission:
  - a. details of insurance arrangements for the object
  - b. a signed loan agreement.

With the reason for the condition being:

- That these details are not yet available

**Signed:**



**Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission**

**Dated:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**NOTE:**

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.

**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 RIPON applied on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for approval of the following proposal:**

Relocation of the font from the south nave aisle to the Narthex, fitted into a new two-step stone plinth with bronze handrail and decorative polished marble finish, draining into new soakaway. Conservation and structural repairs undertaken to protect the font, remove harmful past repairs and enhance its legibility. New York stone pavers to the south nave aisle to replace the font plinth, in keeping with the surrounding York stone paving.

Decorative marble design pending separate application.

**Summary of the application**

The font within the south nave aisle at Ripon Cathedral is of historic significance, and the project proposes its relocation to the Narthex to enhance its presentation and legibility. The Skillingtons conservators report revealed the font has structural damage and is suffering from ongoing deterioration, including damage from rising ground water, unsuitable past ‘repairs’ and insufficient drainage to ground.

The aims are to:

1. Sensitively repair the damage to the font
2. Allow the font to drain freely into a new soakaway
3. Stop the ongoing deterioration through use of suitable repair materials and isolating the stone from the damp ground.
4. Construct a new two-step stone font plinth with decorative English marble surface and bronze handrail within the Narthex, enhancing the prominence of the font, coordinated with the flow of visitors around the Cathedral

The decorative marble design has not yet been designed, and will follow within a separate application, following stakeholder engagement and evaluation of different polishable English marbles that are available.

The Skillington report includes a methodology and specification for the font repair based upon minimal intervention and legibility of repairs, although samples will be required for approval before the following elements can be undertaken

1. Sheltercoat repairs (colour, texture, and no of coats)
2. Mortar repairs (colour, texture, extent)

**Representations**

**A representation in writing in respect of the above proposal was received from:**

- Letter from Historic England dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with no comment.
- Email from the SPAB dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, objecting.

## **Decision**

The above proposal and representations were circulated to the members of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission and discussed by video conference, and on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the application was **approved** by Chair's Action subject to the following conditions:

1. That no works to the existing font may be undertaken until the design of a replacement plinth is agreed by the Commission, which will be subject to a separate application.
2. That the FAC is consulted on the finish of the font surface during conservation, and on the extent of the building up of damaged shield and lozenge details with lime mortar.
3. That the font is fully recorded in its current condition
4. That any works into the floor shall be subject to a watching brief to be carried out by the Cathedral Archaeologist or his nominated representative.
5. 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 shall not recommence until a mitigation strategy is agreed by him.
6. 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).

For the following reasons:

- 1) To protect the font from early intervention without an agreed solution
- 2) So that these details can be agreed by those that are close to the cathedral
- 3) For the historical record
- 4) – 6) To preserve the archaeological resource and ensure the proper and respectful treatment of human remains.

**Signed:**



**Becky Clark**  
**Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England**  
**Dated:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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