

Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners (“the Commissioners”) this day of 20.... under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.

Background

By a Scheme of the Commissioners made under the Pastoral Measure 1968 and confirmed by Her Majesty in Council on the 28th day of June 1972 (“the 1972 Scheme”) the church of Saint Peter, Woolavington (“the building”) in the Diocese of Chichester was declared closed for regular public worship and appropriated to use as a chapel in connection with Seaford College and empowered the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance (“the Board”) to licence the property for the said use.

It is now desired to make new provision for the future of the building and the land annexed or belonging thereto.

NOW, it is provided as follows:-

Future of the church building and annexed land

1. The provisions of clause 4 of the 1972 Scheme relating to the aforesaid use and disposal of the said building are hereby revoked.
2. The building and the land annexed or belonging thereto shown hatched on the annexed plan (together referred to as “the property”) shall be appropriated to use as a chapel in connection with Seaford College and for purposes ancillary thereto.

Disposal

3. The Commissioners are hereby empowered to give the property for the said use.
4. The contents of the building shall be disposed of as the Bishop shall direct.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

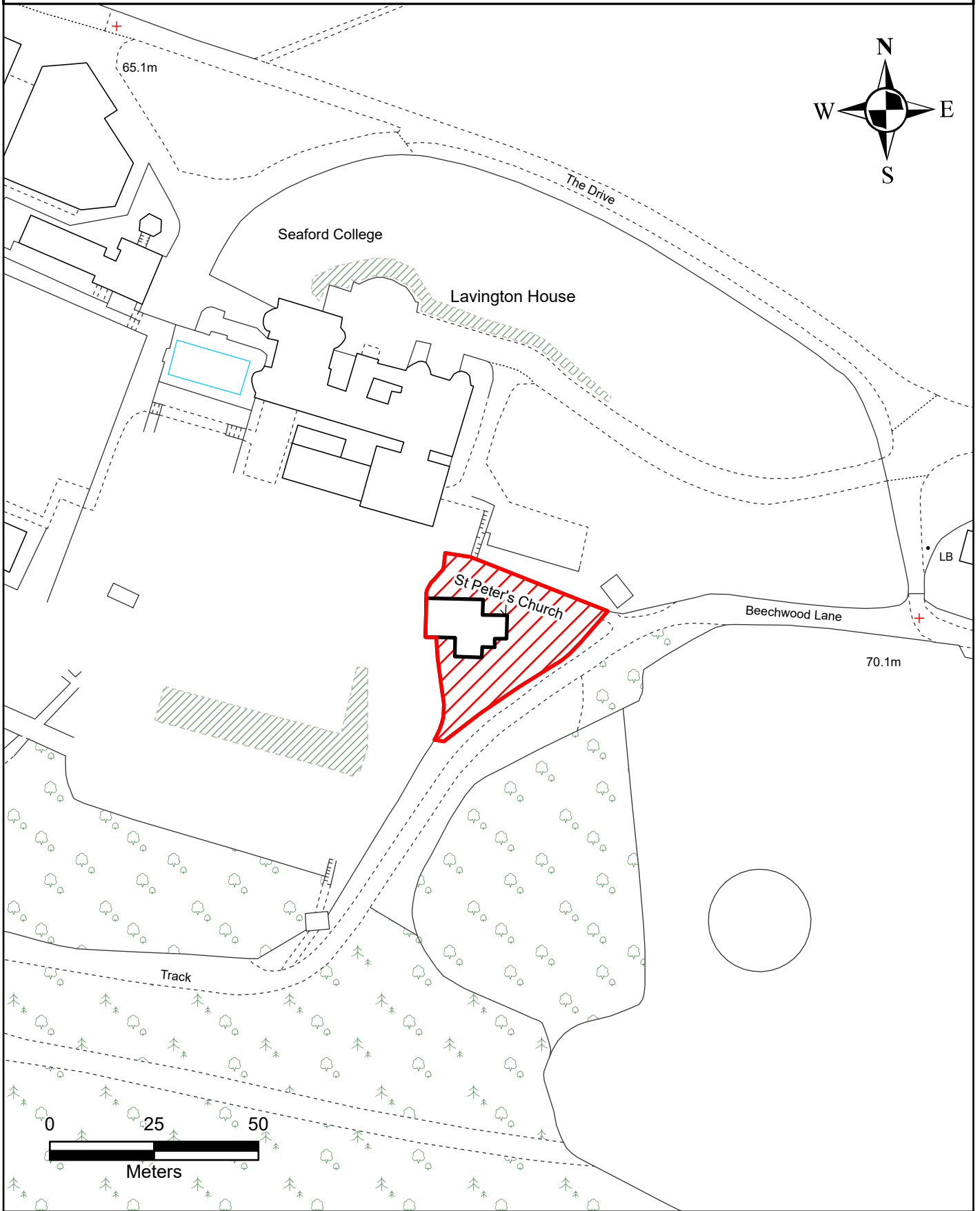
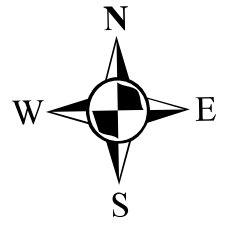
5. This Scheme shall not come into operation until such date or dates as the Commissioners shall determine following the making of this Scheme and the Commissioners shall not be obliged to bring the Scheme or any part thereof into operation.

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England acting by two authorised signatories:

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

WOOLAVINGTON ST PETER



Drawn by T. Wood	Scale 1:1250	Date 06/03/2025
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 DRAFT PASTORAL (CHURCH BUILDINGS DISPOSAL) SCHEME WOOLAVINGTON ST PETER DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

This note accompanies a draft scheme under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, which makes provision for the future of a closed church building. The Church Commissioners provide this information so that individuals and interested parties can understand the background to the proposals, make a reasoned judgement on the merits of the draft scheme and, if they see fit, a reasoned expression of support or objection to it.

The Current Proposals

The Church Commissioners have agreed to publish a draft amending Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the former church of Woolavington St Peter and churchyard to be sold for use as a chapel in connection with Seaford College.

Background

The church of Woolavington St Peter was declared closed for regular public worship by a Scheme made under the Pastoral Measure 1968, which took effect on 30th June 1972. Mission and pastoral care for the parish has since been provided from the nearby parish church, Graffham St Giles. The Scheme also empowered the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance to license the church for use as a chapel in connection with Seaford College.

The church is a focal part of the College and there is now a need for the College to have freehold ownership of the property to enable them to fundraise for significant repairs that are needed to the building. The existing licence, which could be terminated at any point with six months' notice, does not offer sufficient security of the long term use of the building and currently hinders the ability of the College to secure grant funding for the significant repair works needed.

The Building

The former church of St Peter is Grade II* listed and is located on the edge of Lavington Park, which is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

The church building dates from the 13th century and is of Early English style, built of rubble with stone dressings to the quoins, doorways, windows and copings. It was significantly rebuilt in the mid-19th century to designs by G E Street and was re-roofed and re-fitted in 1937. The church building consists of a nave with north aisle, a chancel, a south transept/chapel, and a bell gable at the west end.

The church is known as one of the 'Shepherds' Churches' of the Sussex South Downs. Today, it serves as chapel to Seaford College, an independent day and boarding school that has been based on the Lavington Park estate since 1946. Seaford College is owned by a Charitable Trust and governed by a Board of Trustees.

Planning and Access

The proposal for continued use as a chapel in connection with Seaford College will not require planning permission and/or listed building consent.

Access to the church is possible from Beechwood Lane, where the churchyard can be accessed from the lane on foot via a track that leads to existing pathways that lead across the churchyard to the west and north doors of the church. The church can also be accessed from within the grounds of Seaford College, vehicular access into Seaford College is via private gated drives off the A285 to the east and from Graffham to the west.

Burials and the Churchyard

The church is surrounded by a small triangular churchyard, which is believed to have closed in the late 19th century. The Wilberforce family had a strong connection with the church in the 19th century, and several members of the family are buried within the churchyard. It is proposed to include the churchyard in the sale. Covenants will prohibit the disturbance of any remains and provide for access at reasonable times for persons wishing to visit and tend to existing graves.

Correspondence

Further information about the proposals may be obtained from the Case Officer, Edward Youngson by e-mail at edward.youngson@churchofengland.org.

Representations against or in support of the draft Scheme

Anyone may make a representation for or against any provision of the draft Scheme.

Representations should be sent to:

**Shaman Durrant
Mission and Pastoral Services
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ**

Or by e-mail to: shaman.durrant@churchofengland.org

Any communication received after **23rd April 2025** cannot be treated as a representation.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop, whose view will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If no representations against the Scheme are received the Commissioners shall make the Scheme and bring it into effect as provided for in the scheme and explained above.

Information on the Mission and pastoral Measure 2011 and its procedures can be found on the Church Commissioners' web-site at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/parish-reorganisation-and-church-property> where there are also links to download copies of these notes and the draft scheme.