



Historic England

Ms Jacqui Carreira-White  
Bath & Wells, Church of England

Direct Dial: 0117 975 0725

Our ref: E00240106  
Your ref: 2024-100355  
17 April 2025

**Notification under the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Orders 2010**

**LOCATION: ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CHURCH CL, NORTON FITZWARREN, TAUNTON TA2 6QR**

**PROPOSED WORK:** Installation of WCs, Drains, Served, Staircase and associated works

We were notified on 26 March 2025 of the proposed works at the above site. Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above proposals, we would like to offer the following advice to assist in the determination of the application.

**Historic England advice**

**Significance of the Parish Church of All Saints**

The Parish Church of All Saints retains two distinct phases, the earlier dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century including the north aisle and the tower. While in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the church underwent a significant restoration including the rebuilding of the chancel, vestry and porch. It also underwent an internal reordering but that respected aspects of the earlier church. This included the survival of the fine 15<sup>th</sup> century rood screen with an exceptional plant-trail frieze as well as survival of several medieval bench ends, which were applied to the ends of the plainer Victorian pews.

The church has been listed at grade II\* due to its more than special architectural and historic interest, thereby forming the top 8% of all listed buildings in England.

**Impact of the proposed works**

The proposals relate to the introduction of facilities into the church including toilets, a served and some flexible space.

**Toilets**

The application looks to install two toilets, including one accessible, in the base of the



1ST FLOOR FERMENTATION NORTH FINZELS REACH HAWKINS LANE BRISTOL BS1 6JQ

Telephone 0117 975 1308  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

*We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information*  
[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/)



tower. This will obscure the west door and involve the introduction of 2 small vents inserted into the door to provide ventilation.

We note that other locations have been considered in the options appraisal. The base of the tower, currently largely used for storage, does present a solution that address a number of challenges and issues regarding accessibility. The historic screen is being retained in situ which is welcomed. There is some degree of impact caused by the introduction of the enclosure and loss of access through the west door but on balance this seems to be acceptable.

In terms of providing access to the ringing chamber, we note the intention to use the historic stair turret. The intervention would result in the loss of some medieval fabric; however, it does utilise the staircase for the purpose they were intended for, reduces constraints to accommodate the new facilities and overall seems pragmatic. We would question the design of the door, could this be an arched opening, which could minimise the loss of fabric and also the lintel should be stone rather than concrete. These changes would help for the new door better responding to the character of its location.

### Servery and flexible space

The proposals to create a new servery and a greater flexible space seem sensible. In terms of the bench ends that retain applied medieval pews, it would be useful to have marked up plans showing their existing position and their proposed new location. A methodology of how the ends will be detached and reattached should also be submitted.

## **Historic England's Position**

The proposed works allow for much needed facilities to be accommodated in the Parish Church of All Saints. There will be some degree of harm caused, but we recognise that opportunities have been taken to avoid and minimise the impact identified. There are some aspects of detail still to be resolved, including the design of the proposed new doorway from the stair turret to the ringing chamber, and details of what will happen with the medieval bench ends.

## **Recommendation**

Historic England would strongly encourage the points raised in our letter to be address in order to minimise potential harm being caused.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss these comments. Any unamended application for faculty for this work can be determined without further reference to Historic England, but please consult us again if there are any material changes to the



1ST FLOOR FERMENTATION NORTH FINZELS REACH HAWKINS LANE BRISTOL BS1 6JQ

Telephone 0117 975 1308  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

*We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information*  
[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/)



Historic England

proposals. We would be grateful for a copy of the Diocesan Advisory Committee's advice in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Rhiannon Rhys**

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

E-mail: [Rhiannon.Rhys@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:Rhiannon.Rhys@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

cc

Mark Lidster, Bath and Wells DAC



1ST FLOOR FERMENTATION NORTH FINZELS REACH HAWKINS LANE BRISTOL BS1 6JQ

Telephone 0117 975 1308  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*

*We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information*  
[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/)