

Advice note following informal visit of 29 August 2024

Tower roof: Repairs, re-covering and new visitor viewing platform Reference nr 2024-101812

1.The plans to introduce a platform atop the tower at the Abbey will deliver a change to the appearance of the tower-most noticeable when stood upon the tower and relatively inconspicuous from a distance-however the most significant change will be the appearance of those using the platform that will now be seen above the parapet stood upon the new platform and possibly including the handrail.

2.The Abbey Team have already discussed the potential with the local authority and the Bath Preservation Trust and have advised they have initiated consultations. with Historic England who are a significant consultee for both planning and faculty concerns. *Post meeting note: comments received from Historic Buildings and places with useful guidance notes. HE have suggested an informal visit be arranged directly with the Abbey team.*

3.Materials were discussed to ensure that the scheme if consented would not create material issues with the water management of the tower roof-the tower is covered in lead with solid/hollow core rolls-the DV guests informed the Abbey team as to lead expansion/contraction, the risk of the new structure restricting this and therefore creating a water ingress situation that would be difficult to manage unless the new structure were to be set upon a different type of roof cover that could accommodate the weight-the restriction caused by the weight and be easy to maintain.

4.The Abbey team are aware of the risk to flagpole ascenders and are seeking advice as to climb prevention devices that would not compromise the aesthetic of the tower extant and not present a risk to visitor pleasure or damage their attire (anti climb paint)

5.The lighting options are important and will require to be compliant with endangered and protected species-this is in hand and will be advised by ecologists and likely be conditioned through the inevitable planning application.

6.The DV guests advised the Abbey as to a few housekeeping issues relating to trips and vegetative growth-this was noted and will be actioned by the Abbey team

7.The DV offered counsel as to the potential for some focused conservation repairs to the Tower stonework and associated materials that would be deemed as beneficial to the overall condition of the fabric and be seen as appropriate considering the expense and effort planned for the new platform atop the ancient structure.

8. The delegation were generally supportive of the selected design which includes two curving staircases.

Future applications should include the full options study with an explanation why the preferred design was selected.