HERITAGE REPORT

ST PETER IN THE EAST



Contents

Introduction

Historical Context

Historical Assessment

Heritage Significance

Conclusion

Appendices

Appendix 01 Appendix 02 Appendix 03

Statement of N Statement of N Existing Lead

Heritage Assessment

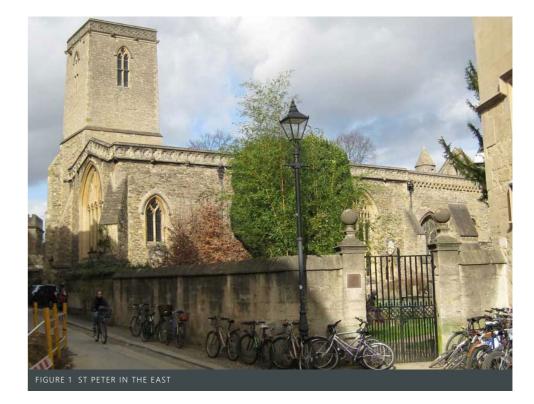
St Peter in the East - St Edmund Hall

December 2023

rev	date	note
P1	12.12.2023	Draft issue to Client
P2	13.12.2023	Planning and Listed Building Consent Application

t: +44 (0)1865 723 083 e: mail@originalfield.com w: www.originalfield.com

	4
	6
	12
	16
	22
	24
Needs - Lightning Protection Needs - Window Guard Covered Roof Details	



This Heritage Statement forms part of the Planning and This document contains the detailed assessment of Listed Building Consent Application for works associated the impact the proposals may have on the historical with the minor interventions to the library building at St significance of the heritage assets in accordance with Edmund Hall, Oxford, known as the St Peter in the East. Historic England principles and assessment.

The project description is offered as - Installation of the The assessment of harm will be weighed against the lightning protection from the top of the tower and around protection of the historical assets and lives. the parapet of the nave and chancel, to ground earths. Installation of the window guard to the main window on **Statutory List Descriptions** the west facing facade. There is no alteration proposed Historic England's full listing text for the building is below: to the internal areas.

ST EDMUND HALL 1. 1485 Library (Formerly listed as In accordance with Historic England's Good Practice the Church of St Peter-in-the-East) SP 5106 SE 9/387 Advice in Planning Note 2, this statement assesses 12.1.54. I 2. Crypt, chancel and nave, circa 1140-50. the significance of the assets and the impact of the North chapel added and chancel arch probably widened, proposals on them with justification for the proposed circa 1230-40. Mid C13 North aisle and North arcade; interventions and an explanation of mitigation measures. the former rebuilt circa mid C14. Early C14, North-West Where possible we have resisted repeating unnecessary tower added and nave extended to West. Chancel information in this document. This document should be and nave walls heightened, possibly in 1481. Late Cl5 read in conjunction with all other documents relating South porch. Early Cl6 vestry and chapel to West of to this submission including the Design and Access Northchapel. Church restored by Edward Blore in 1835. Stained glass by Willement, 1839. In C19 the vaulting ribs Statement and nominated appendices. of West part of chancel were carved. Other restoration, In this submission the proposal is assessed in accordance circa 1875. Chancel refitted by Sir T G Jackson, 1882. with the requirements of paragraph 189 of the National Exterior of Chancel restored in 1906-7 by A J Rowley of Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the onus it Oxford and the crypt in 1931-2. Fittings include notable places on those planning changes to historic assets to C15 stained glass. The Church was deconsecrated in begin the process of change with a clear description of 1967 to become the Library of W. A complete restoration the significance of the assets affected. The requirement with a modern interior and some plain glass followed in in the NPPF states that 'The level of detail should be 1970/1. The West windows was renewed and the West proportionate to the asset's' importance and no more door blocked. Some of the fittings are retained, others than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of are in store. (RCHM 38).

the proposal on their significance'.

Introduction

Listing NGR: SP5185906364

Historical Context

Historical background

The works under consideration are in the Library building of St Edmund Hall known as St Peter in the East, which is Grade I listed. The descriptions below give an overview of the development of the college from its founding with more detail on those areas impacted upon by this application, later in the document.

The Buildings of St Edmund Hall

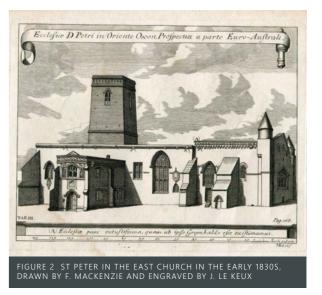
St Edmund Hall was the last to transform into a fullyincorporated college in the twentieth century among the medieval halls which were established to house and educate undergraduates, with many predating the colleges at Oxford. First mentioned in 1317, with indications of an earlier foundation, St Edmund Hall lays claim to being the oldest academic society to accommodate and educate undergraduates in any university.

Most of the college's historic buildings are located in the Front Quadrangle. The Front Quad has a medieval well-head, entrance to the Chapel and 17th-century Old Dining Hall. The Chapel and Old Library were built at the end of the seventeenth century. A passageway leads to the ancient churchyard of St Peter in the East, a 12th century medieval parish church on Queen's Lane, to the north of High Street. It is now deconsacreted and serves as the college library for St Edmund Hall. by the presence of a confessio or relic chamber at its western end, intended for the display of a saint's relic. Used as the student chapel for the Hall until 1682 when a separate chapel was built on the College grounds, this church was closed as a place of worship in 1965. It was reopened as the College library in 1970, with the renovation preserving many distinctive architectural features and arranging new internal fixtures to replicate the layout of a traditional church.

St Peter in the East

There are three significant examples of 12th-century ecclesiastical architecture in Oxford, despite the destruction of Oseney Abbey. The oldest of these is the St Peter in the East parish church, which is located on the site of an Anglo-Saxon church in the part of the town incorporated within the walls in the 11th century.

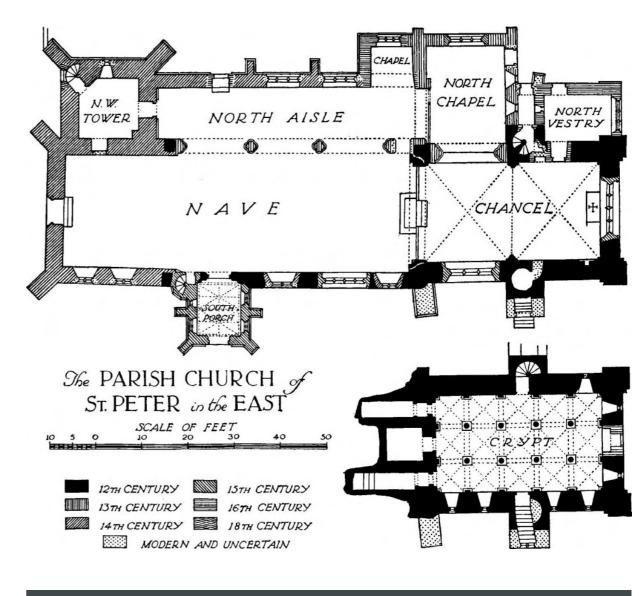
In its original form, an aisle-less nave and a chancel built over a vaulted crypt, which survives virtually unaltered, were constructed between 1130 and 1160. Substantial expansions occurred over the following four centuries, driven by the parish's increasing wealth. The crypt, an unusual feature in English parish churches, is explained



Refer to https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/listentry/1046644

Building chronology

10th Century	Traces of the footings and floors of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church, or churches, have been found during restoration work; there is some evidence of an aisle-less 11th century church of stone and a 10th century church of wood and stone.	
1086	The church was first recorded	
1140-50	Crypt Chancel, and Nave built	
1230-40	The North Chapel (Lady Chapel) was added when the chancel-arch was probably widened	
13th Century	The North aisle and Arcade were built The two East lancet windows date from the 13th century	
14th Century	The Nave (Norman) was extended West (Perhaps in 1321) The North-West Tower added The North aisle re-built	
1433	The north window in the chancel dates from 1433 and contains some glass from the 14th century	
15th Century	The South Porch was added The North window in the chancel dates from 1433 and contains some glass from the 14th century The window in the east wall of the chancel, originally Norman, is now 15th century Perpendicular and contains glass from the 15th to 17th centuries The walls of the Chancel and Nave were heightened (perhaps in 1481)	
16th Century	The small chapel was added north side of the North Aisle Vestry was built	
1629	A new door was made into the chancel in 1629 for the doctors going to the University's Lent sermons, which were given in the Church until 1837.	
1833	The interior of the church was restored	
1844-45	The exterior of the church was restored	
1852	The interior was burnt and many furnishings destroyed. The chancel was refurnished and repaved in 1882 and a low screen of Caen stone built between it and the nave.	
1966	Hall was granted the use of the church and its churchyard for its religious and educational purposes	
1968-70	Substantial restoration was carried out during the conversion into the library	



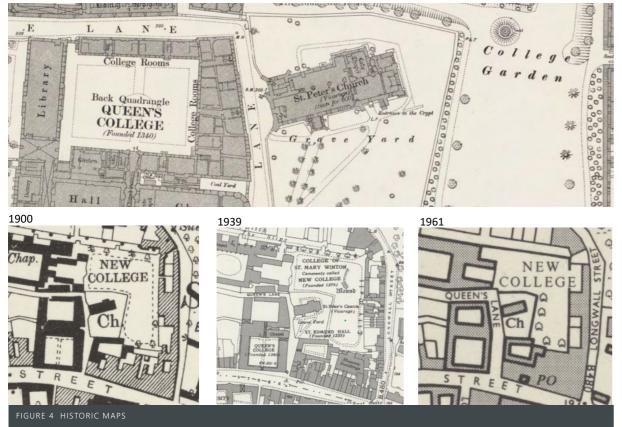
MENTS

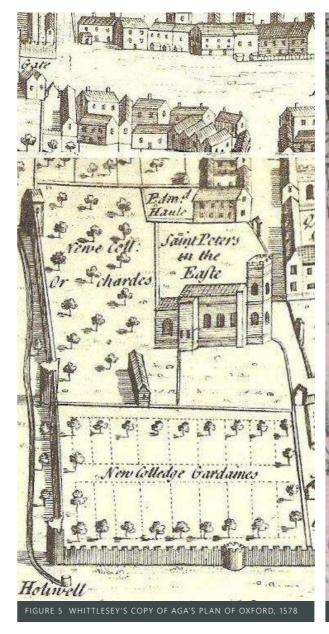
Historical Development and Map Progression

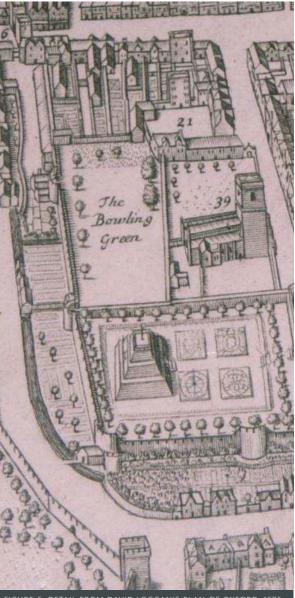
college. St. Peter in the East underwent significant Peter in the East and the surrounding gardens. Postchanges during its initial four centuries. A comparison 1900 maps indicate a stable layout in the college area, of the church depicted in Agas' Plan of Oxford in 1578 church, and surrounding buildings, reflecting a period and David Loggan's plan in 1675 reveals a remarkable of architectural continuity. similarity to its present-day structure. What is clear from the plans is the expansion of St Edmund Hall buildings particularly the strengthening of the presence on High Street and Queens Lane, and the gradual formalising of gardens.

The historical maps illustrate the development of the The 1872-76 survey presented a detailed plan of St

1872-1876







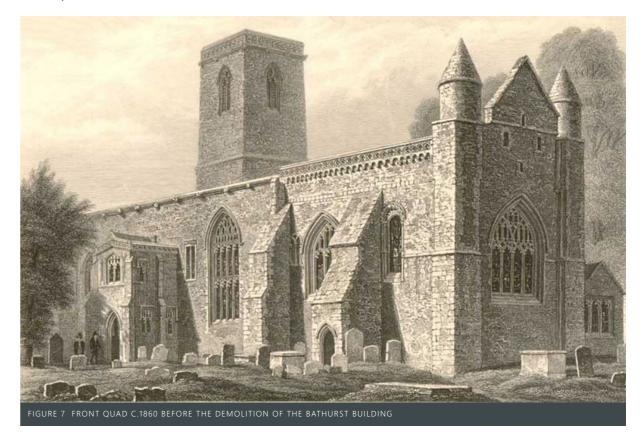
Historical Assessment

St Peter in the East

St Peter in the East holds national importance as both evolving architectural history of St Peter in the East. The an architectural and historical resource, spanning over North Chapel, added around 1230-40, is attributed to 1,000 years of history. The existing building, which dates Edmund of Abingdon who is said to have once lived on back to the 12th century, features a 13th-century north the site now occupied by St Edmund Hall; and served aisle and a 14th-century tower. Functioning as the library St. Edmund Hall. In the mid-13th century, the chancel for St Edmund Hall, the church serves as a focal point arch was likely widened, and the North Aisle and arcade for visitors. were built.

Listed Grade I as a building of exceptional interest, St Peter During the early 14th century, the church underwent in the East received this designation in January 1954, with significant changes, including the westward extension of an amendment in June 1972 (List entry No. 1046644). the nave, the addition of the North West Tower, and the The building stands on the East side of Queen's Lane. rebuilding of the North Aisle. Heightening of the walls in The walls are of rubble with local freestone dressings; the chancel and nave possibly occurred in 1481. The late the roofs are lead-covered. 15th century saw the addition of the South Porch, and in the early 16th century, a small Chapel was constructed to The church, encompassing the Crypt, Chancel, and the north of the North Aisle. Probably around the same Nave, was originally constructed around 1140-50. time, the Vestry was built.

Subsequent additions and modifications reflect the



The rounded south doorway of the nave, now hidden Throughout its history, St Peter in the East underwent by a 15th-century porch, is elaborately framed with several restoration phases in 1835 (restored by Edward zigzag (chevron) carvings enclosing a ring ofbeakheads: monstrous heads with staring eyes and long beaks 1875, 1882 (further refitting by Sir T. G. Jackson), 1906-7 curving over the roll moulding around the doorway. (the exterior of the chancel was restored by A. J. Rowley), Chevron carving, a common feature of mid-12thcentury and 1909, and the crypt in 1931-2. English Romanesque architecture, also appears inside the church, on the ribs of the western bay of the vaulted In 1967, the church became the Library of St Edmund chancel, probably Oxford's first ribbed vault; the ribs of Hall, named after the 13th-century scholar Edmund of the second or eastern bay, however, are decorated with Abingdon. Subsequently, the building has undergone an unusual chain-like motif, possibly representing the a complete restoration in 1970-1, resulting in a modern chains of St Peter.

The second or eastern bay's rib decoration is unique, West door was blocked. featuring a chain-like motif, possibly symbolising the chains of St Peter. Despite later medieval alterations, The church stands out for its architectural significance, much of the original ragstone rubble walling remains on the south side, and there are two 12th-century pyramidcapped staircase turrets at the east end originally led to a room over the chancel.

The addition of the Lady Chapel to St Peter in the East Refer to is traditionally attributed to St Edmund of Abingdon (c. 1175-1240). According to historical accounts, St Edmund, https://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/oxon/pp125-156 who resided on the site now occupied by St Edmund Hall, is said to have funded the construction of the Lady https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-Chapel using the income from his lectures. This addition entry/1046644?section=official-list-entry is significant, possibly being the first Lady Chapel added to a parish church in Oxford.

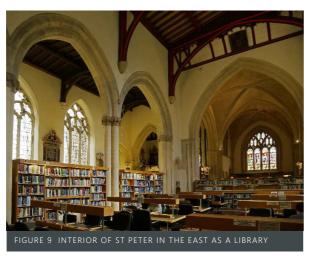


Blore), 1844-5, 1839 (stained glass by Willement), 1855-6,

interior. Some original fittings are retained, while others are in storage. The West window was renewed, and the

with elements such as the 12th-century crypt and chancel contributing to its historical and artistic value. Noteworthy glass fittings further enhance the overall architectural appeal of St Peter in the East.

Geoffrev Tvack - Oxford Architectural Guide



Description of the works

A summary of the scope of works is outlined below. The proposed interventions aim to safeguard the window on the west side of the building and mitigate the risk of lightning, thereby protecting both the historical building and the safety of individuals. A more detailed description of the works is set out in The Design and Access Statement section - Desian.

Every effort has been made to ensure the impact on the heritage assets is kept to a minimum and follows good conservation practice.

Windows Guard

The west-facing window is vulnerable to potential damage from the public road (Queen's Lane), where incidents involving objects thrown at the window have been reported by the college. To enhance protection, a proposed guard, designed with minimalism in mind, will be installed on the traditional stone mullions, providing safeguarding for the window's clear glass panes set within a grid lead frame. This measure seeks to balance protection and aesthetic considerations.

Refer to drawings 322 PA-700 and 701 for existing and proposed window details.

Lightning Protection

The current building lacks lightning protection, posing fire risks. To preserve the historical asset and ensure occupant safety, introducing protection is necessary, meeting insurance and preservation commitments. The proposed design minimises visual impact, limits down conductors to non-public-facing areas. It adheres to a Level 4 Lightning Protection System using 25 x 3mm PVC-sheathed aluminium conductors, selected in a discreet colour.

Refer to contractor documents for detailed product and installation information.

Heritage Significance

Heritage Significance

This section of the report identifies and evaluates 'significance' before assessing the impact of potential change in accordance with good conservation practice and Historic England Conservation principles, Importantly this approach demonstrates to the local authority and other decision makers that the heritage significance has been fully understood and analysed as an integral step in the process of informing a development.

Original Field has referred to the six principles set out in the English Heritage document 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance' and assessed the heritage assets in accordance with the categories detailed in the guidance, i.e. evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal. The principles and categories are set out below:

Principle 1: The historic environment is a shared resource Principle 2: Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment Principle 3: Understanding the significance of places is vital Principle 4: Significant places should be managed to sustain their values

Principle 6: Documenting and learning from decisions is essential

Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity

Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative.

Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. (ref. Conservation Policies & Guidance. Pub. English Heritage 2008)

Each project element is assessed in accordance with the above values.

- Principle 5: Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent

Evidential Value

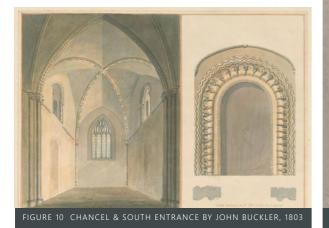
Evidential value is defined as the potential of a place Historical value is defined as the ways in which past to yield evidence about past human activity.

As has been illustrated by the building timeline St Peter in the East in common with most other historic college buildings, has experienced substantial change from its inception to the present day. It is part of a living, thriving community and has been for generations.

St Peter in the East has served as a parish church, with additions such as the North Chapel and North Aisle in the 13th century, attributed to the scholar St. Edmund of Abingdon. This addition has broadened the use of the building and added the feature of being possibly the first church in Oxford with a Lady Chapel. St Peter in the East had been used as the student chapel for the Hall until 1682, after which a new chapel was built on the college grounds.

The enduring significance of St Peter in the East is also evident in its continuous use as the library for St Edmund Hall, making it a focal point for educational purposes.

St Peter in the East has played a multifaceted role, serving both spiritual and educational functions, while its architectural and historical significance has made it a lasting and valued part of the community's heritage.



Historical Value

people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.

St Peter in the East embodies immense historical value as a living testament to the evolution of communities. The building's significance lies in its preservation of architectural and historical elements, spanning over 1,000 years. The internal and external features, including the crypt, offer insights into the art of the period and historical functionality, capturing diverse narratives encompassing local life, religious practices, educational traditions, architectural styles, artifact preservation, and the dynamic interaction with governing bodies. This makes the building a valuable cultural and historical resource.



Aesthetic Value

draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

St. Peter in the East possesses profound aesthetic value, emanating from its architectural features, Originally constructed as a parish church St Peter in historical elements, and the harmonious integration the East has served as a place of worship and spiritual of its surroundings. The church's architectural design, reflection for the local community and visitors. Over the dating back to the 12th century, showcases a blend centuries, the church has likely been a gathering place of English Romanesque and Gothic styles. Distinctive for community events, ceremonies, and celebrations. features such as the 12th-century crypt, chancel, and Its conversion into the library for St Edmund Hall has intricate carvings contribute to its visual appeal.

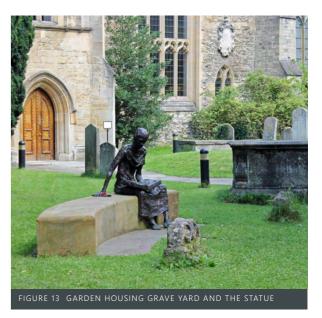
numerous drawings and photographs, has been a educational aspects. cherished landmark in Oxford. Its aesthetic value greatly enriches the cityscape, with the public perspective The building has communal value in that its use as a along Queen's Lane contributing to the iconic image of gathering/community space has been continuous since Oxford.

Communal Value

Aesthetic value is defined as the ways in which people Communal value is defined as the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

sustained its role as a focal point, attracting students, This historically significant building, captured in scholars, and visitors interested in its historical and

> inception and has been the place of study for many students since its conversion.



Level of Significance (General)

St Peter in the East is listed grade I as a building of exceptional interest.

of significance, based on their construction date. architectural features, and restoration history. However, vertical tracery in a two-centred head, with moulded considering the entire building's protected status, the reveals and a label. The west window underwent renewal approach to its protection from risks should be holistic. as part of the library transformation. The windows are

It's crucial to execute any modifications with minimal impact on the iconic appearance of the building, especially on public facing west and south facades.

Specific details about the west window and the roof are been alterations to the exterior of the roof. emphasised to facilitate a clear understanding of the distinct significance attributed to these components of The roof of the North Chapel dates back to the 13th the building, where the proposed works are going to century and is of the trussed-rafter type, featuring arched take place.

Level of Significance (Specific)

West Window

The facade on which this window is located was constructed in the 14th century due to the westward Various sections of the building hold different levels expansion of the nave. The much restored 15th-century western window features five cinque-foiled lights with clear glass in lead grid frames.

Roof & Parapet

Level of significance is high due to their original and generally intact nature in the interior, although there have

braces below the collars. The early 16th-century roof of the nave consists of five bays with a narrow bay at the east end, coved from north to south.

During the late 15th century, possibly in 1481, the walls of the chancel and nave were heightened. Detail of the church contained in Agas' bird's eye plan of the city drawn in 1578 does not show the vestry, St Thomas chapel or single height roof. The St Thomas chapel, but not the vestry, are shown in Loggan's plan of 1675, by which time the roof of the church had been raised and the spirelets built.

The drawings in the appendices depict the alterations to the roof covering carried out in 1986 and 2001 by The Howes and Allen Partnership. The 1986 works involved the installation of a new lead roof over the Nave, Chancel, and North Aisle, along with a ventilating abutment, parapet gutter, and ventilating eaves. The 2001 works focused on alterations to the north slope of the Nave roof.

Impact of Proposal on Significance

This report assesses the impact of the proposed works impact. With services such as lead mushroom ventilators on the historic fabric of the building and impact on the contribution that the heritage asset's setting makes to bondings will be minimal. Down conductors are planned its heritage significance.

The primary objective of the proposed works is to safeguard the historical assets by implementing necessary measures as assessed by lightning protection specialists.

The visual impact of work is deemed as minimal and reversible. For more information refer to Design & Access There is a requirement to demonstrate public benefit in Statement, Section Design. proposed works to listed buildings.

Explanation of How Impact Avoided

The installation of window guards involves minimal fixing into the fabric, ensuring easy removal. The chosen product combines a discreet appearance with a strong structure; refer to proposed drawings and Design and Access Statement for specific details.



IGURE 16 GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE OF THE ROOF

20

For lightning protection, the proposal suggests installation on the sloping surface of the parapet to minimise visual on the roof have been removed, the visual impact of to be placed away from public-facing facades of the tower and the Nave, using the least noticeable colour.

Justification for Impacts

Public benefit

St Edmund Hall's investment in the installation of a lightning protection scheme is crucial for safeguarding historical assets and lives. The installation of the window guard holds similar importance, as evidenced by the incidents outlined in the client's Statement of Need.

Continued use

The proposed lightning protection and window guard aim to enhance protection against potential risks and improve the comfort levels of residents in the St Peter in the East building, ensuring its continued use as a library.

Need for Recording

The need for recording when carrying out works in and around listed building as this is important to inform decisions during the design process, mitigate harm and evidence understanding in the decision-making process. Recording features that will be lost during alteration or demolition as a result of carrying out works is also a key benefit.

The original features remain intact and the envelope of the building has only minor interventions to the west window traceries and to roof and parapets by the installation of the lightning protection.

Conclusion

Conclusion

For all the reasons set out in the body of this report and in the supporting documents we are firmly of the opinion that the application proposal represents a highly commendable scheme in terms of the design.

No real harm is caused to the historic environment by the proposed works in this application. For the reasons laid out we seek Listed Building Consent approval for the proposed works.

p. 23

Appendix 01 - Statement of Need - Lightning Protection



STATEMENT OF NEED FOR A LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR

- following deconsecration.
- 2. The College is fully responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the Consent as well as a Faculty from the Diocese.
- 3. The College uses the building as its main student library.
- 4. The building, including the tower, has no lightning conductor. This places the structure and any occupants at risk in the event of a lightning strike.
- 5. The College has worked up, with a specialist contractor, a lightning nave and chancel, to ground earths.
- 6. Consideration has been given to adequacy of the cover while minimising the conductor covering.
- 7. The College is concerned by the lack of a lightning conductor, and its conductor.
- 8. The College cannot afford (in any sense) to be exposed to repair damage the event of a lightning strike.

domestic.bursar@seh.ox.ac.uk |+44 (0) 1865 279005 St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford, Queen's Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AR United Kingdom Registered Charity № 1137470

WWW.SEH.OX.AC.UK

Appendices



1. St Edmund Hall ('the College') is the lawful user of the Church of St Peterin-the-East ('the building'), transferred by the Diocese of Oxford in 1968

building. Any alterations or improvements may require Listed Building

conductor scheme from the top of the tower and around the parapet of the

visual impact of the route, including the least intrusive colour for the

insurers are most anxious at the lack of protection. The Diocese was also unaware of the lack of protection and supports, in principle, the fitting of a

costs, and other claims that could arise through injury or lack of amenity in

Appendix 02 - Statement of Need - Window Guard



STATEMENT OF NEED FOR WINDOW PROTECTION

- 1. St Edmund Hall ('the College') is the lawful user of the Church of St Peterin-the-East ('the building'), transferred by the Diocese of Oxford in 1968 following deconsecration.
- 2. The College is fully responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the building. Any alterations or improvements may require Listed Building Consent as well as a Faculty from the Diocese.
- 3. The College uses the building as its main student library, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 4. The west window is made of clear glass, much or all of which is relatively modern.
- 5. The west window overlooks Queen's Lane and is prone to damage by hooligans. Over the past few years, it has been smashed on average once a year: the most recent being March 2023.
- 6. This damage is not only annoying and costly to repair, but also putting students and staff at grave risk. The most recent incident included a loose cobble being thrown through the glass and landed at the staff desk. Fortunately, no one was seated there at the time. On the same occasion, bicycle seats, ripped from nearby bicycles, were also lobbed through the window, and dropped onto the reader desks directly below the window. Again, it was fortunate no one was seated there at the time.
- 7. This sort of damage is typical of what has been sustained on previous occasions. The risks to people, as well as the damage itself, is completely unacceptable.
- 8. The College's insurers have remarked on the frequency of damage and the repair claims that follow. The College does not wish to be in a position where negligence of action could minimise or cancel the validity of a claim for injury.
- 9. The College has investigated applying window guards to the exterior of the window. A specification and design have been coordinated with Sherriffwire workers, who have extensive experience in this field.

domestic.bursar@seh.ox.ac.uk |+44 (0) 1865 279005 St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford, Queen's Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AR United Kingdom Registered Charity № 1137470

WWW.SEH.OX.AC.UK



10. The proposal is for stainless-steel welded mesh, onto a stainless-steel frame with all joints welded, powder coated black. The guards would be fitted within the tracery, so they are as minimal as possible.

11. The College believes this course of action is essential for the safety of its staff and students, and the protection of the window itself.

domestic.bursar@seh.ox.ac.uk |+44 (0) 1865 279005 St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford, Queen's Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AR United Kingdom Registered Charity № 1137470

WWW.SEH.OX.AC.UK

Appendix 03 - Existing Lead Covered Roof Details

