

St Alphege

Solihull

Faculty Application

PROJECT TURNAROUND:
Addendum to the DESIGN NARRATIVE - version 2

February 2025



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I.0 INTRODUCTION

I.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide a detailed response to the various comments received following the initial Faculty application, providing further explanation for the thinking behind certain decisions, and demonstrating where feedback has informed modifications to the proposed design.

I.2 LIST OF CONSULTEES AND DATES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Comments were received from the following bodies:

- Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (comments dated 20/11/24)
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (comments dated 21/11/24)
- 20th Century Society (comments dated 12/11/24)
- Georgian Group (comments dated 11/11/24)
- Historic Buildings & Places (comments dated 14/11/24)
- The Victorian Society (comments dated 26/11/24 - received 31/1/25)

The following page provides a summary table consolidating the responses from each of the consultees to the various design proposals, along with a headline response to each issue raised.

I.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

A Historic Environment desk-based assessment (HEDA) of the site is currently being undertaken by Benchmark Archaeology, and will be shared with the DAC as soon as this is complete. The archaeologist is also providing support in the development of proposals for trial pit investigations both within the nave and outside in the churchyard, which are subject to a separate application. As the project moves forward, they will have a key role to play in archaeological monitoring and recording during any groundworks.



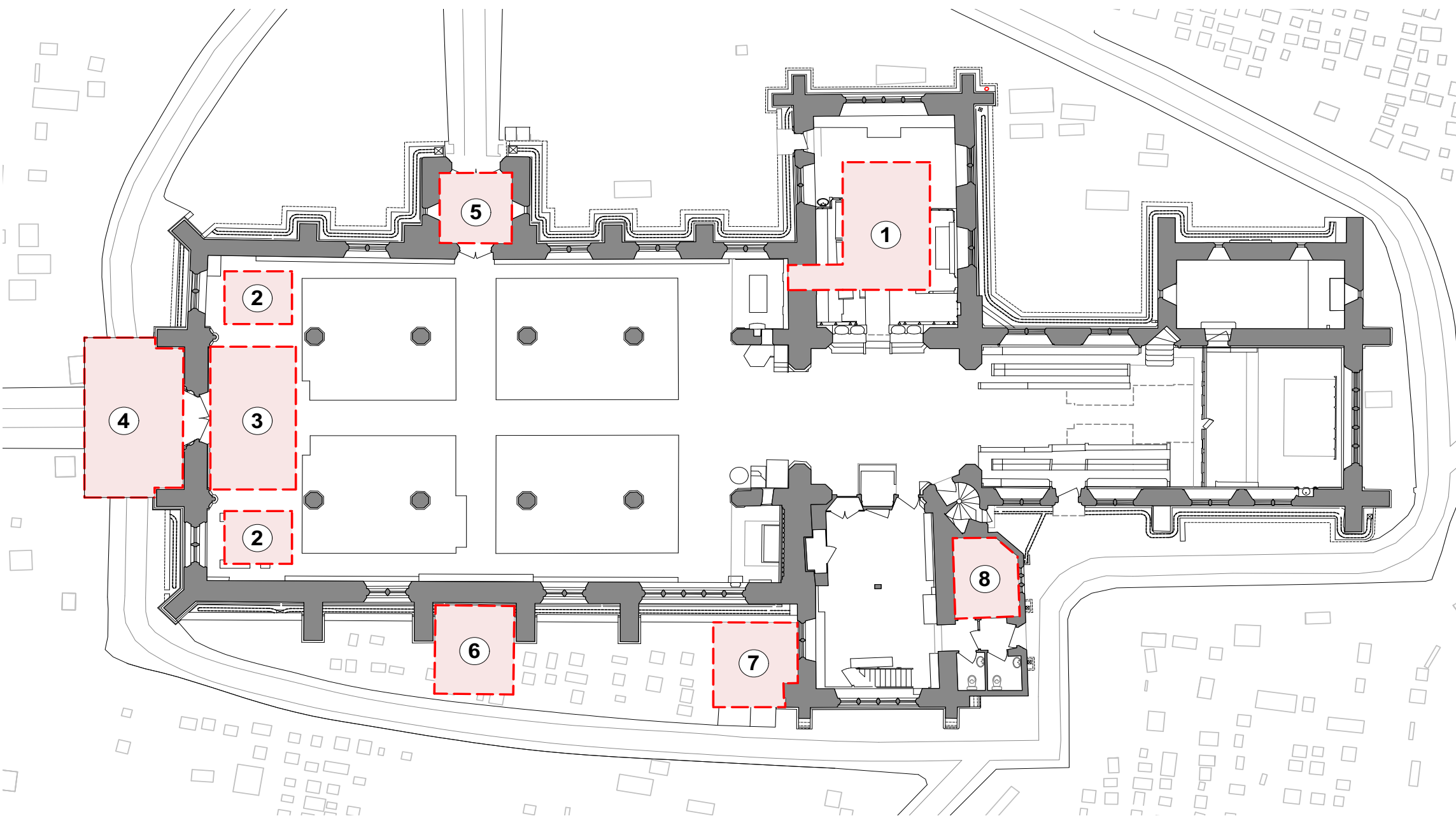
	Victorian Society [Comments received 31/1/25]	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	LPA	20th Century Society	Georgian Group	Historic Buildings & Places	Our response
DESIGN PROPOSALS: New narthex	"It is proposed to make the west door the principal entrance to which we would have no objection, but to erect a new narthex structure housing three wcs to which we would object." "We consider that other options for accommodating the wcs within the building itself should be explored...options should be considered on the less prominent south side of the building."	"It would cause a degree of harm, both visually and to the west wall itself. At present we are not convinced by the need for this or the proposed design given that the church is Grade I listed." "Only if it can be demonstrated that there are no suitable locations internally for the toilets would the option of an extension / narthex be considered."	"It would be a major intervention that would change the existing composition and character of the west elevation. The alteration would likely result in less than substantial harm to the significance of the grade I listed building." "The applicant would need to provide a clear and convincing justification for the proposed development, in which the public benefits generated by the proposal would be sufficient to outweigh the harm."	n/a	n/a	"We would welcome express reassurance that the incision marks in the [west entrance] wall will be safeguarded."	Please refer to Section 2.0
North entrance	n/a	"Details of these existing doors are required."	n/a	n/a	"More information would be welcome on the significance of the north porch gates and on the nature and extent of the alterations proposed."	n/a	We have revised our proposals for this area as updated drawing 1610 and no longer intend to alter the configuration of the external gates. The existing wooden internal doors will be held open by means of their existing metal hooks.
Flooring	"We would want to see a full assessment of the historic floors before making more formal comments...we would not support the introduction of a new uniform floor that is uniform across the church, dramatically changing the interior character"	"The carpet should be removed to allow a full assessment of the floors to be undertaken." "The assessment must include the materials that make up all the floor surfaces and their condition, details of all ledgers / brasses / memorials, the location of any vaults and where the access is to them, changes in levels, and an archaeological evaluation / trial pits."	n/a	n/a	"The church's floor also contains ledger slabs, the date, significance and future of which is not entirely clear."	"We formally OPPOSE the loss of the ledger stones in the chancel." "Externalising gravemarkers dramatically shortens their legibility and we cannot support this."	Please refer to drawings 0011 and 0211 and Section 3.0
North transept & St Katherine's chapel fittings	n/a	"Is this the best place for a meeting room or are there other areas where this could be achieved with less intervention? Is a completely level, lower floor necessary?" "We have concerns over the works to the floor."	n/a	"We object to proposals to remove the pews from the church, and to separate the altar from the reredos and dispose of the former."	n/a	"We welcome the retention of both screens in the north transept and raise no concerns over the loss of the altar. The retention of the very fine reredos on the west wall is especially welcome."	Please refer to Section 3.0 and 4.0. We have refined our proposals for the existing St Katherine's Chapel altar - please see drawings 1611 & 1614.
Improving accessibility	n/a	"We would strongly suggest that an Accessibility Advisor is brought on board to advise the parish regarding the floor and level changes."	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Please refer to Section 4.0 and the accompanying Client Statement of Future Use.
Heating	"It may be that other forms of heating that would require less intervention with the historic fabric and features, or indeed using the existing ducts and Victorian iron grilles in the existing floor, should be further explored"	"UFH is only really viable if the building is in use for the more than 5 hours / day for a minimum of 5 days / week which has not been demonstrated yet." "Evidence of the future uses of the building will be needed to help determine the most appropriate heating system, and to justify the need for the proposed pew removal and works to the floors." "Alternative options / combinations of options need to be	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Please refer to Section 5.0 and the accompanying Client Statement of Future Use.
Fittings:	Pews generally	"We would not object to the removal of the pew platforms themselves, but ...object to the removal of all the pews, and wish to see a significant number of them retained in the nave." "The possibility of adapting retained pews to make them movable should be explored."	"We consider the full removal of the pews to be harmful as the character and appearance of the interior will change dramatically." "A phased approach could be considered where some pews are removed."	n/a	"It would be useful to have a clearer idea of how many of the pews contain reused eighteenth-century woodwork and of the quality of the reused panels before formal comment is required."	"We urge that these be sold and not destroyed."	Please refer to Section 4.0
	Mayoral pew	n/a	n/a	n/a	"The pew would ideally be retained in-situ, but if it absolutely must be moved then it should be conserved as a complete pew and simply relocated."	n/a	Following further consultation with the church, we now propose to retain the Mayoral Pew in its entirety and relocate this to the Chapel of St Alphege. Inscribed panels on other pews will be mounted along the side walls as previously proposed.
	Servery / west end fittings	n/a	"We would prefer this cladding is removed from the proposals – it is not needed and detracts from the beauty of the interior in this area. It will also prevent the walls from breathing." "It looks as if the chair storage and Children's Area will be very close to each other which may cause problems." "A moveable servery with a lockable lid is usually preferred in this type of arrangement as it gives greater flexibility - has this been considered?"	n/a	n/a	n/a	Please refer to Section 7.0
	Pulpit	"We would prefer that pulpit remains in or near its current location and on its existing base to give it height...we would not support the loss of the current base."	"We regret the loss of height that the proposed removal of the base and its replacement with something lower would entail."	n/a	n/a	"We do not oppose the resiting of the pulpit bowl into the chancel but we do regret its relegation to such a relatively invisible location...it is a shame to see the pulpit and the plinth divorced."	Please refer to Section 6.0 and drawing 1613.
	Wardens' Stalls	n/a	n/a	n/a	"It appears to be a high quality fixture which adds variety and interest to the listed interior"	"We urge [the wardens pews and church pews] be offered onto the architectural salvage market."	Retaining this item in situ is not seen as sympathetic to the aims of the project, however attempts are to be made to relocate this item elsewhere.
	Jacobean Gate	n/a	"It is of high significance but it is not clear where this is at present or what will happen to it."	n/a	n/a	n/a	This item is currently in storage in the Oliver Bird Hall and its relocation does not form part of these proposals [it does not form part of the pulpit arrangement.]

2.0 NEW ENTRANCE PROPOSALS

2.1 OPTIONS FOR LOCATING NEW TOILETS

Key to the rejuvenation of the church in its community is the provision of the necessary ancillary spaces to support new uses - first and foremost the introduction of appropriate toilets. The location for these is intrinsically linked to the proposed changes to circulation around the church and the establishment of the western door as the principal entrance, especially with regard to the ambition to keep the historic doors open and allow views into the church.

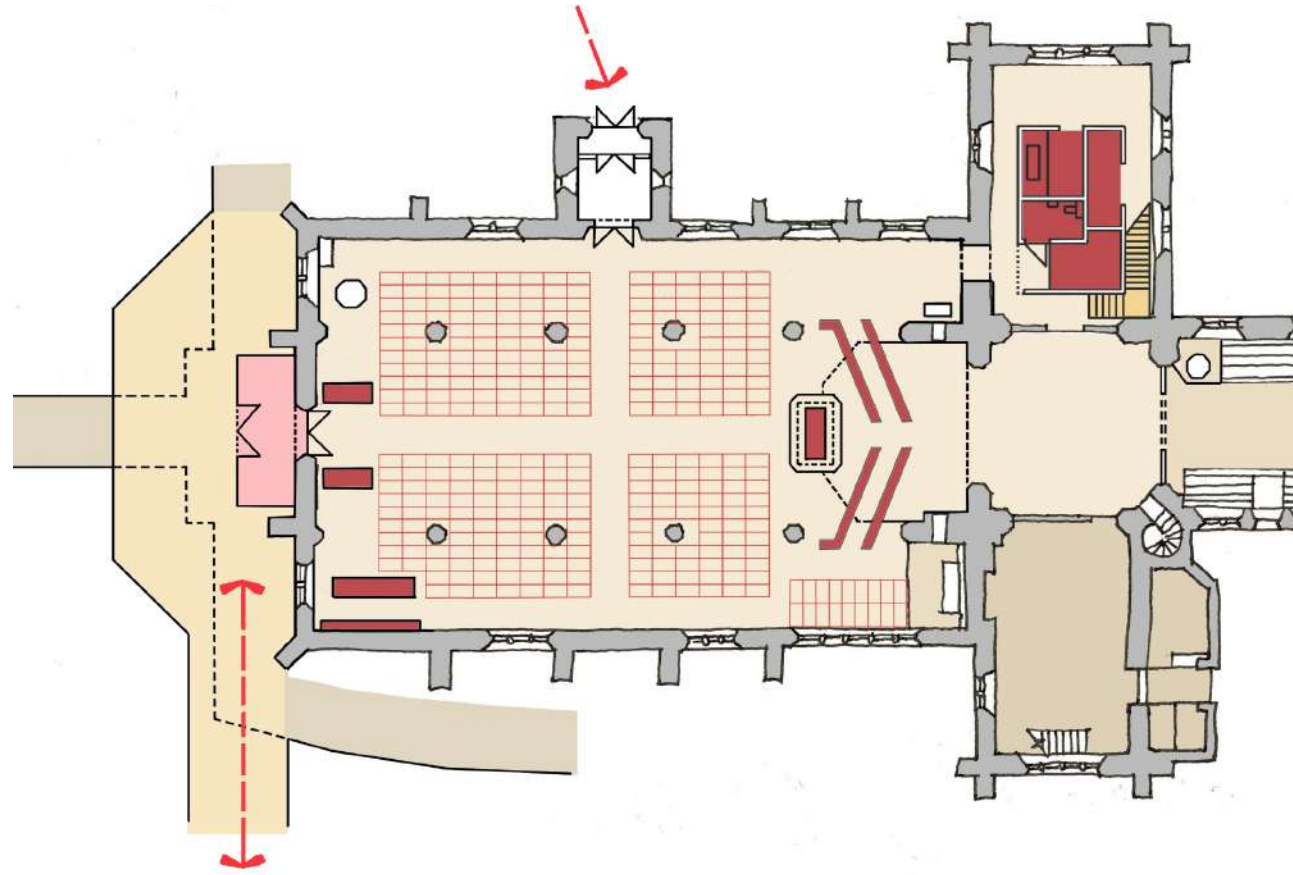
As part of our design development, numerous locations for the new toilets were considered and analysed, as shown on the plan below. Any intervention in a building of this nature will present challenges, thus we have carefully weighed up the potential impact on the existing fabric against the opportunities and benefits presented by each location to augment the future uses of the church.



LOCATIONS CONSIDERED FOR NEW TOILETS

2.0 NEW ENTRANCE PROPOSALS

The first four of these locations have been considered in greater detail:



Location 1

Internally, as a new volume inserted within the north transept

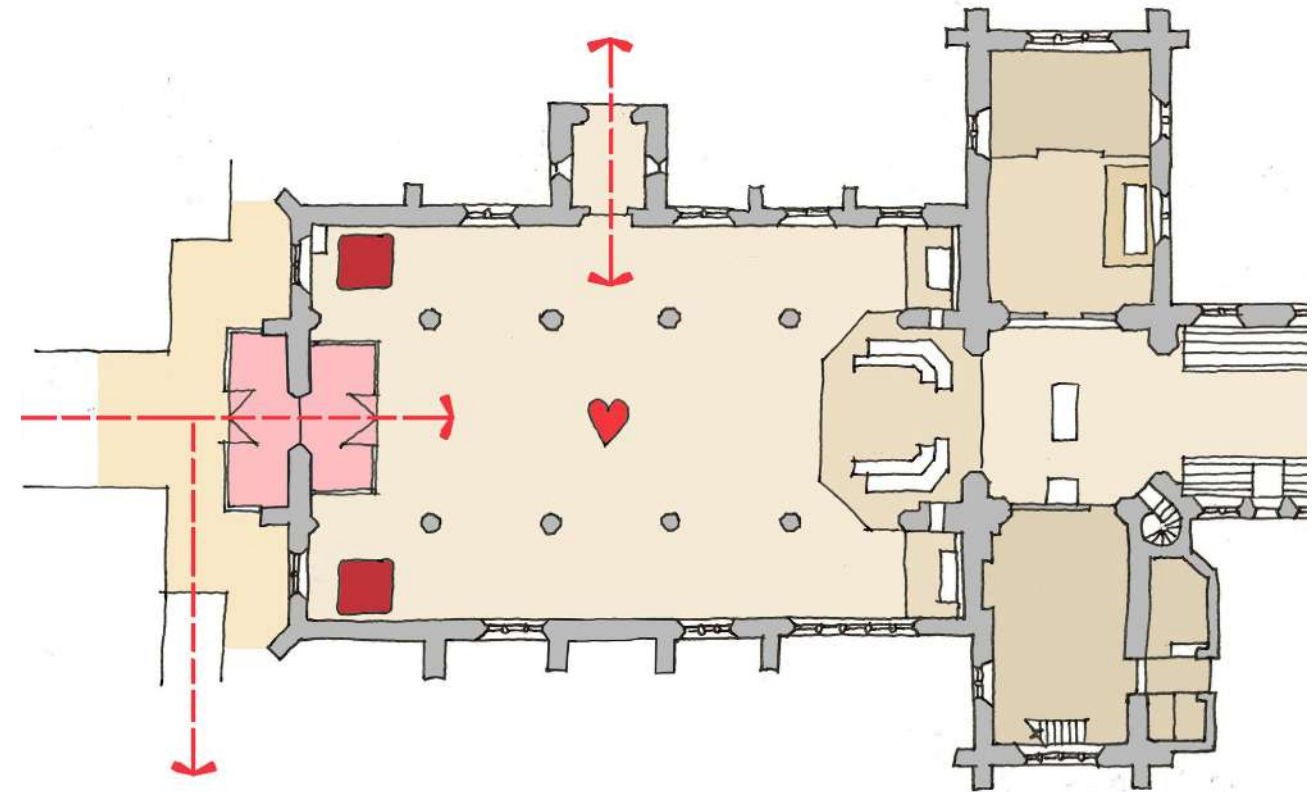
This option consolidates new toilets with storage space into a self-contained volume sitting clear of the existing walls, potentially including meeting space above. This would need to be supplemented by a glazed lobby (internal or external) if west doors are to be kept open to avoid heat loss.

Pros

- Discreet location for toilets away from main body of the church.
- New intervention could also provide for other ancillary uses such as storage.

Cons

- Provision of a route into toilets requires creation of new entrance through 14th Century wall, and therefore significant impact on historic fabric.
- Extensive adaptation required to existing fittings in the north transept.



Location 2

Internally, to north or south side of west entrance

Placing the toilets within a new timber volume in one corner of the nave again avoids impact on the existing walls, and could be mirrored by the servery on the opposite side. Again, this would need to be supplemented by a glazed lobby.

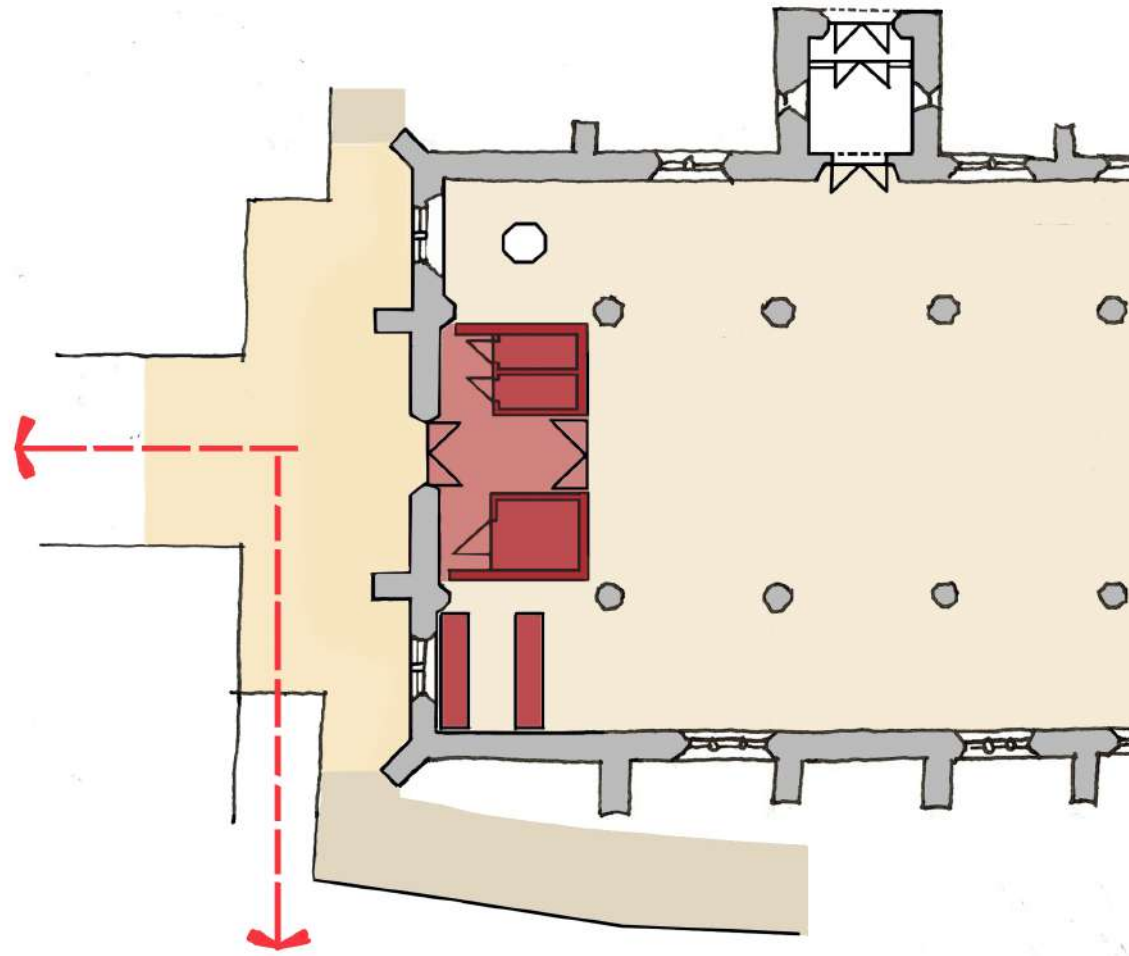
Pros

- Route into church is kept clear (may involve moving font).
- New interventions can sit away from existing walls - minimal impact on existing fabric.

Cons

- Access to and use of toilets becomes less discreet.
- More space taken up in the nave (and therefore less space available for seating or other uses).
- Drainage route from toilets would need to cross external wall.

2.0 NEW ENTRANCE PROPOSALS



Location 3

Internally, immediately within the west doors

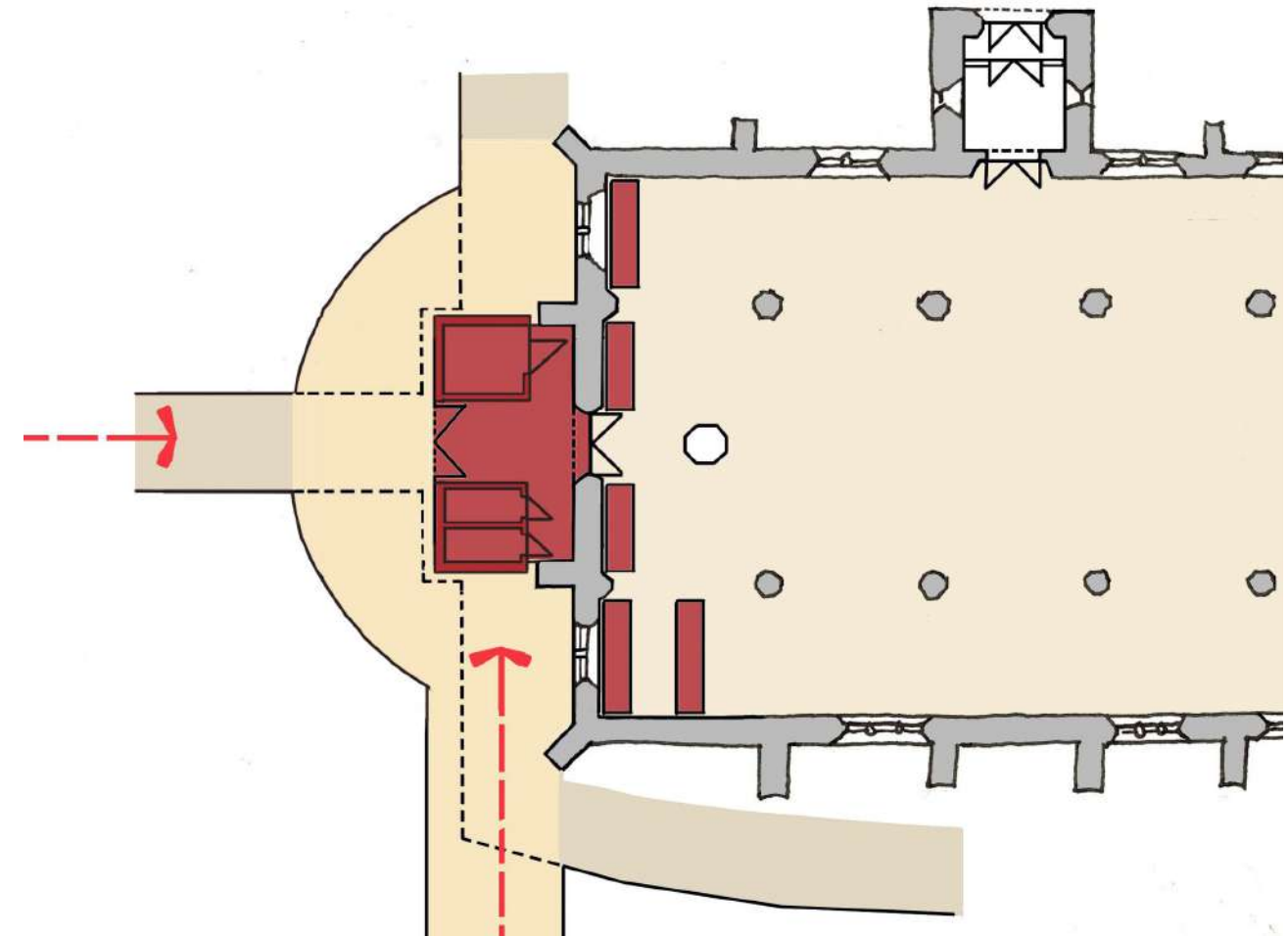
Locating the toilets immediately to either side of the west entrance allows this new intervention to double as an internal lobby, with an additional set of doors limiting heat loss. As with the previous option however the necessary footprint has a major impact on the nave space, essentially reducing this by $\frac{1}{3}$, reducing seating numbers and pushing other required functions (welcome desk, children's area etc.) further into the body of the church. The view into the church on arrival through the existing doors would also be compromised.

Pros

- Avoids impact externally on west facade.
- Additional line of glazed doors can be included to provide thermal comfort when the west doors are open.

Cons

- Reduces available space for seating and other amenities.
- Reduces impact on arrival in space.
- Font would need to be moved.
- More intrusive works within church to provide services and drainage.



Location 4

Externally, within new structure

Moving the toilets outside the existing footprint of the church frees up the nave to best accommodate all possible future uses of the church space. The font can be retained in its existing location without impeding circulation, and the views on entering and existing the main body of the church are not obstructed. A sensitive design and the use of high-quality materials can augment the west door as the new principal entrance to the church and improve its visibility from the wider site.

Pros

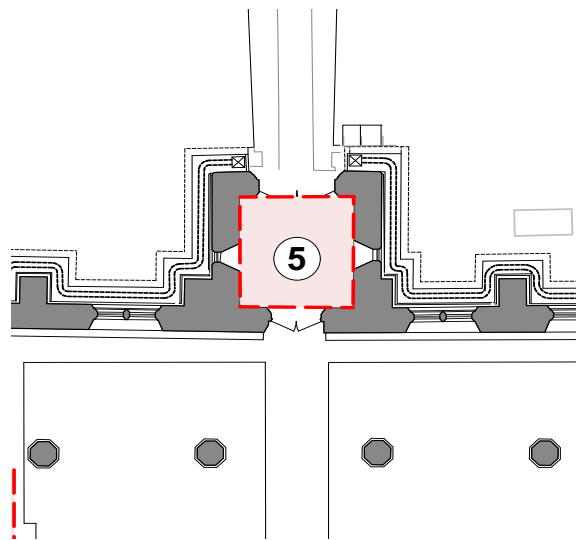
- Opportunity to give clear legibility and presence to new entrance
- Allows for discreet use of toilets when the church is in use.
- Services and drainage routes are moved outside the footprint of the existing building.

Cons

- Greatest impact on historic fabric of west facade.

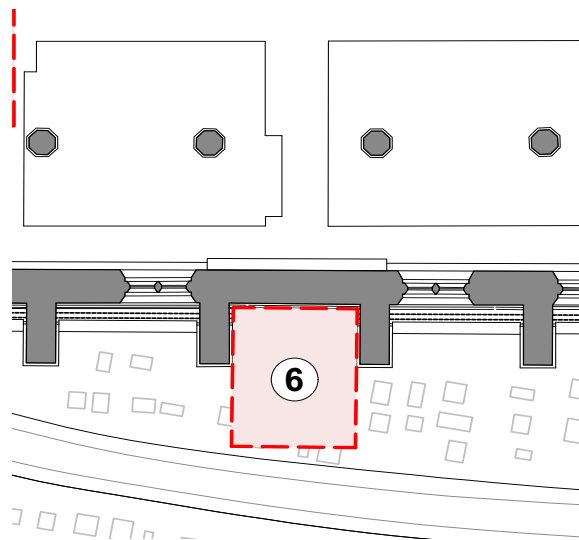
2.0 NEW ENTRANCE PROPOSALS

In addition four further locations were considered but more quickly rejected due to the more fundamental challenges they would present.



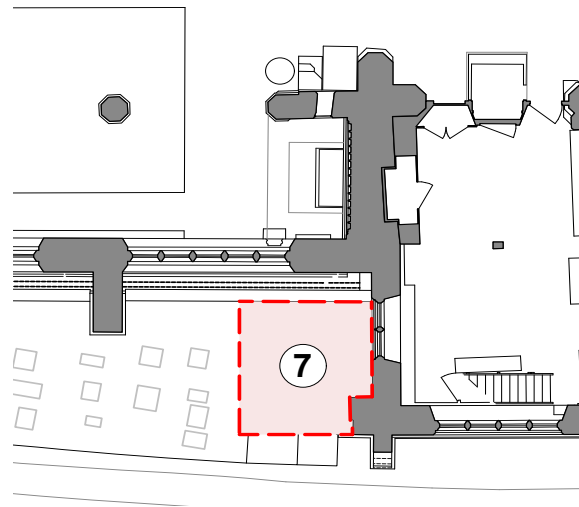
Location 5
Within the volume of the north porch

This location could conceivably fit two toilets within an existing space, however it would close off a vital secondary entrance to the church and is likely to be unviable due to the implications on fire escape routes.



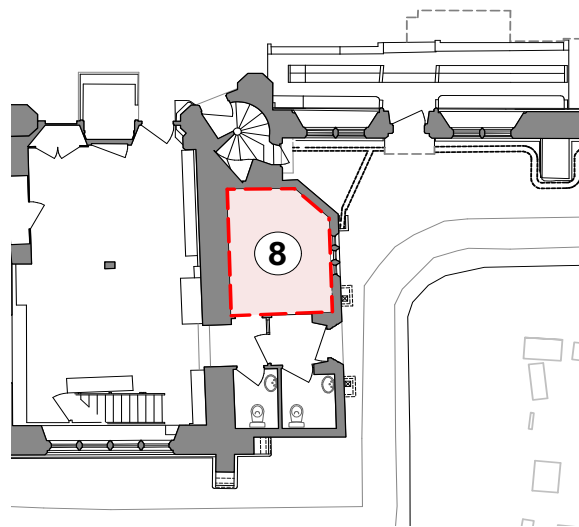
Location 6
As a new volume attached to the south wall of the church, opposite the north porch

This would require a new opening to be formed in the external wall and would again require careful detailing to avoid detrimental impact on the external appearance of the church. There are a large number of relatively recent graves in this location which it would be contentious to relocate.



Location 7
As a new volume with access through the vestry

A new block here could echo the more modern extension on the opposite side of the vestry and avoids existing graves, however access would need to be via the busy vestry space, which is not considered practical and would not allow for discreet use during services.



Location 8
Repurposing existing space within the vestry

This location would require further works to remove steps and provide level access. It also has the same significant issues with use and access as location 7.

2.0 NEW ENTRANCE PROPOSALS

Following a careful consideration of all of these options, the church client group and design team are of the opinion that the creation of an external narthex (Location 4) provides the best opportunity for a fully flexible space internally, supported by appropriate ancillary spaces, which is key to meeting the church's aspirations for their future diversification of use. While recognising that this option has the greatest impact on the external appearance of the church from certain viewpoints, it is considered that this can be mitigated through a design which respects the quality of its setting, through the careful detailing of the junctions between old and new, and through massing which sits judiciously below the sill line of the great west window. Conversely, it reduces impact on the fabric of the internal spaces and requirements for drainage can be more easily accommodated.

2.2 DESIGN DETAILS

It should be noted that three toilets are currently proposed: one accessible, one male and one female. This is in response to the new Building Regulations Part T, which prioritises the provision of separate single-sex toilets in preference to unisex facilities wherever possible. The size of the accessible toilet is such that it is balanced by two cubicles on the opposite side of the entrance route.

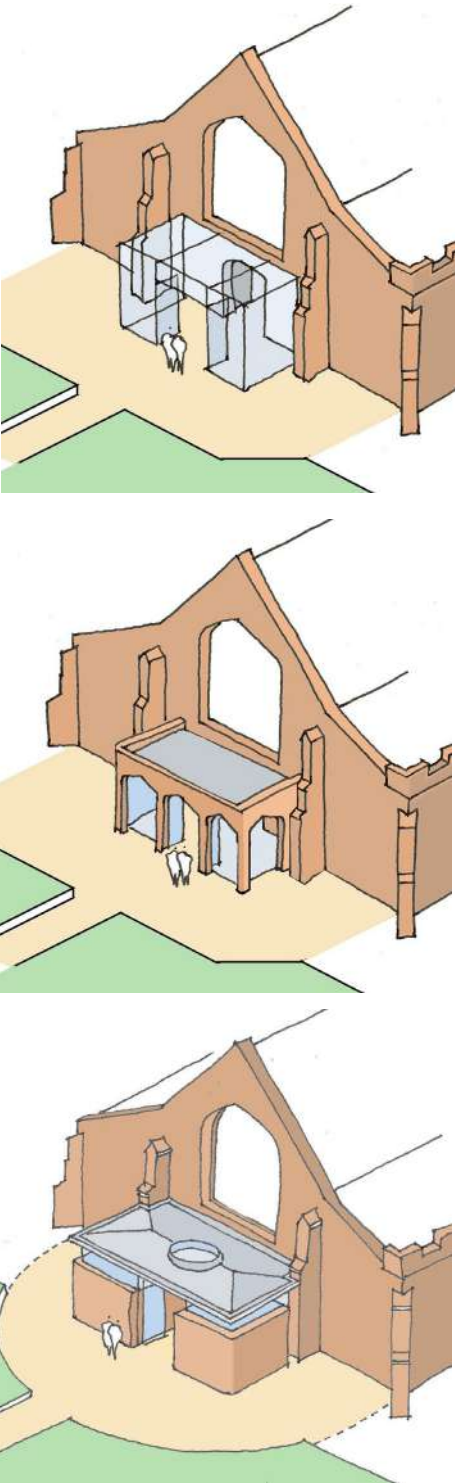
While building a structure onto the outer face of the church will result in a degree of loss of daylight just within the existing doors, we are balancing this through the provision of a large (1.8m diameter) rooflight over the entrance route, along with a glazed slot in the roof where the new structure meets the existing building, which will allow glimpses upwards towards the historic stonework and west window on reaching the historic doors. This results in a rich sequence of entrance spaces and allows for an appreciation of the full volume of the church immediately you pass through the doors.

It should also be noted that the provision of new glazed doors outside the existing entrance will allow views in when the church is closed to visitors without creating a recess that has security implications. An arrangement including an internal lobby would require the historic oak doors to be shut out-of-hours, or else significantly adapted to integrate a new weathertight glazed screen. Providing this degree of transparency is key to the church's aspirations.

The likely provenance of the historic 'arrow marks' cut into the stonework either side of the west door is noted - these are on balance more likely the result of the harvesting of holy stone dust for use in folk medicine rather than from archers sharpening their weapons. The intention remains unchanged that this is a highly significant historic feature of the church, which will be safeguarded by the careful siting of the new structure.

The existing 16th Century oak door forming the west entrance will be adapted to be fixed open with a discreet floor bolt fixing into a socket in the new stone, to minimise alterations to the door. The existing doors to the north entrance already have hooks which will be adequate.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXTERNAL MASSING



WEST ENTRANCE AS EXISTING



WEST ENTRANCE AS PROPOSED

3.0 FLOORING PROPOSALS

Since the initial submission to the DAC, further work has been undertaken to show the existing and develop the proposed flooring layouts in greater detail.

It can be seen from the existing floor finishes drawing (0011 - see Appendix 2) that the existing floor is made up of a large number of different surfaces: plain stone, carpet, raised pew islands and small format floor tiles in red and cream / brown arrays, broken up by linear floor grilles. It has been noted that the floor contains a number of ledger stones in the chancel and south aisle - these have now been identified (where they are still legible) and added to the drawing.

The church has now submitted an application for a number of trial pit investigations in this floor; which would bring greater certainty to the existing build-up and possible archaeological deposits. Given that there are currently lowered areas of floor below the pew islands, the areas requiring excavation for the proposed new floor surface will be substantially reduced.

The proposed floor finishes drawing (0211) indicates that those ledger stones in the chancel will be carefully lifted and relaid in the same locations, with the new stone running around them. In the south aisle, the ledger stones have clearly been moved previously, with several split into multiple pieces. The proposal here is to relay these stones along the south aisle with the broken sections reunited, centred on the Chapel of St Anthony, thus improving the legibility of the monuments in situ. No ledger stones will be moved outside.

The proposed patterning reflects the move to multi-directional layouts for services, with the focus sometimes centrally or to the side rather than to a fixed altar table at the east. Focussing the patterning on the nave emphasises the prominence of this part of the church, while drawing the eye through the space towards the altar.

The large vertical ledger stone currently sitting in the south west corner of the church, attributed to the Greswolde family, will be carefully moved by a specialist and relocated to the north wall of the Chapel of St Thomas. Here it will mirror the second Greswolde slab which currently sits in the Chapel of St Anthony.

The existing floor grilles are highly decorative and the design team is exploring options for reusing parts of this metalwork within the new perimeter seating. If this is not deemed to be practical, then we propose a small number of them are retained and stored for potential integration into future projects.

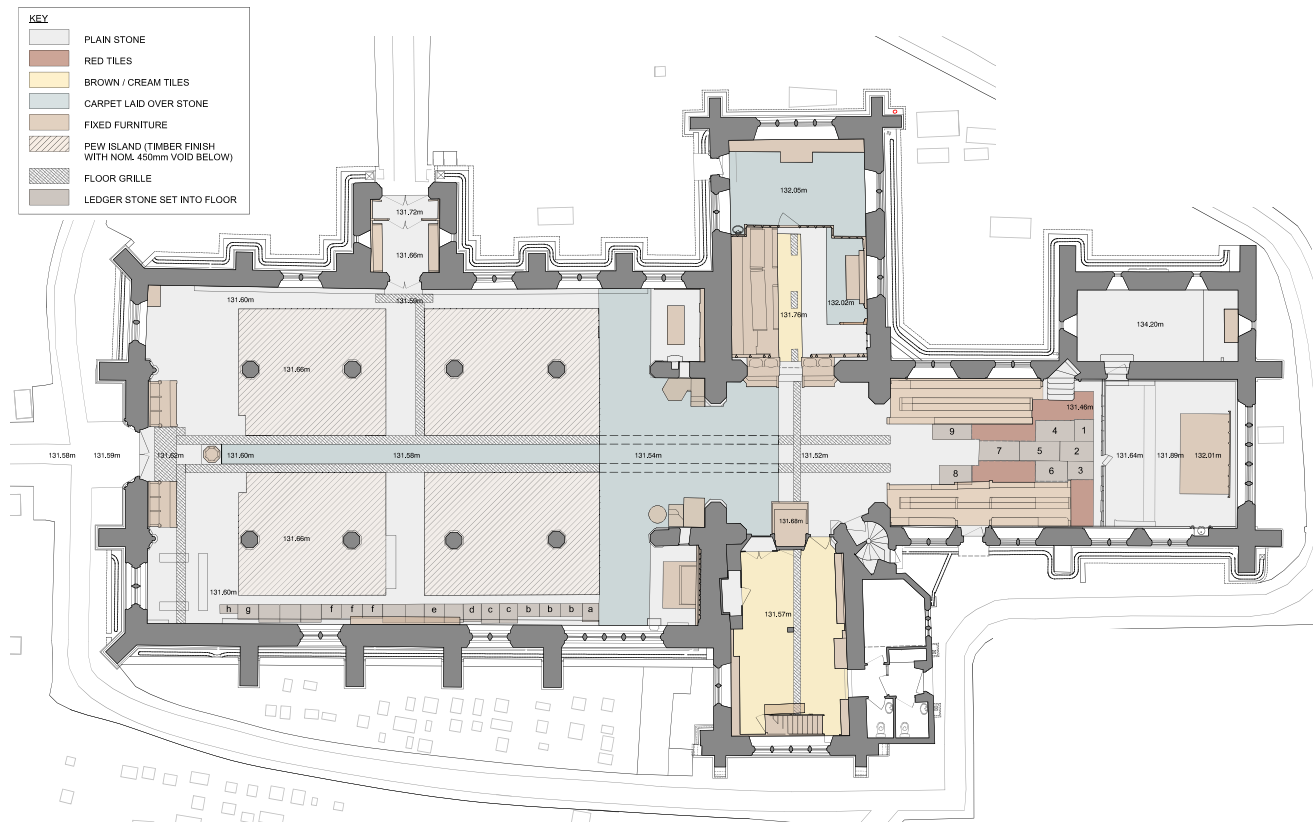
The exact type of stone to be used for the new flooring has not yet been specified. The intention is for a pale, warm-toned neutral colour to complement the red sandstone walls, but the final selection would be subject to approval.



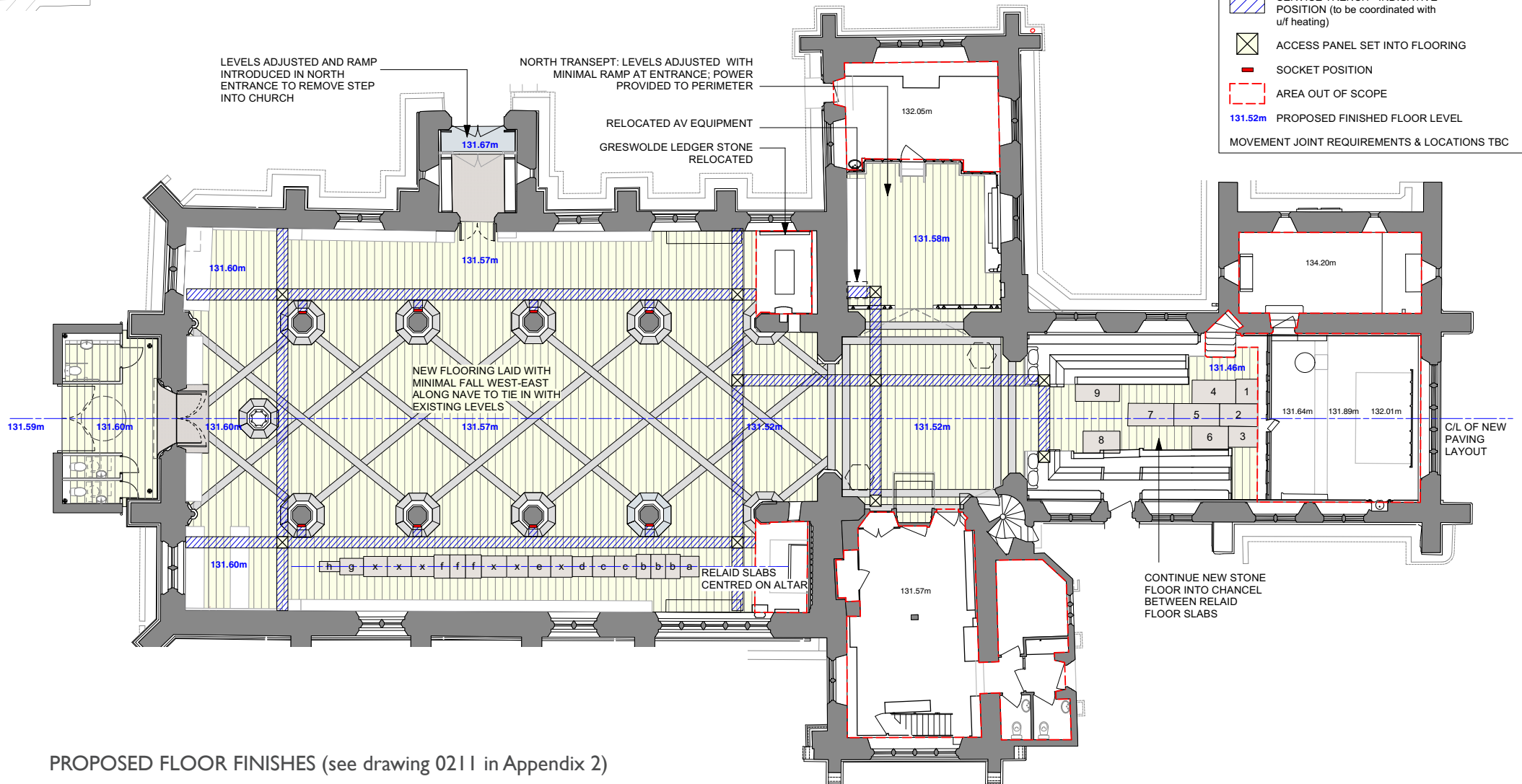
LEDGER STONES MOVED AND RELAI D ALONGSIDE A NEW HEATED FLOOR AT NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL



EXISTING FLOORING TYPES AT ST ALPHEGE



EXISTING FLOOR FINISHES (see drawing 001 I in Appendix 2)



PROPOSED FLOOR FINISHES (see drawing 02 I I in Appendix 2)

4.0 HOW THE SPACE WILL BE USED

4.1 REMOVING THE PEWS

While the proposal to remove the pews was always going to be a controversial part of the overall reordering of St Alphege, it is the single most critical part of bringing new life to the church's outreach and mission.

It is important to bear in mind that the pews were not an integral part of the original medieval layout of St Alphege. Historical evidence suggests that fixed seating was originally installed only in the late 17th Century, with the existing pews dating from 1879 (albeit with some evidence that earlier panels were incorporated) and generally considered as having low significance. Their removal could be considered as a continuing development of how the building evolves to respond to its times and changing needs over the centuries.

To be a valuable asset to its community, a modern church needs to serve its community in ways that go beyond a Sunday service, and for this to happen it needs to be able to adapt to new and possibly unpredictable uses. Improving the church's flexibility will bring demonstrable social value in the range of events, opportunities and support that the building can accommodate - this has been proved to be the case time and time again when churches and cathedrals have taken this major step.

For this reason it is not considered practical or helpful to remove only a small number of pews from the rear of the church: the nave space is not large overall and this would not accommodate the majority of new possible uses. It would also not provide the opportunity for worship to take place in new formats - 'in the round' or facing south, for example.

It should also be noted that a key driver of the reorganisation at St Alphege is to take full advantage of its fine choir in augmenting its worship. Acoustic studies have shown the improvement possible when they are positioned west of the crossing rather than confined to the chancel - not possible unless pews here are removed.

We have however responded to comments regarding the relocation of the decorative ends of the Mayoral Pew, identified as having medium significance. It is now proposed this fitting is preserved and moved in its entirety to the Chapel of St Alphege.

Two of the other existing pews will be retained and relocated to the east end of the new perimeter seating in recognition of this aspect of the building's history. It is intended that the remaining pews will be sold to raise funds for the project, or offered to one of the local social enterprises that specialise in their reuse, such as Men in Sheds or Take-A-Pew.

4.2 POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE USE

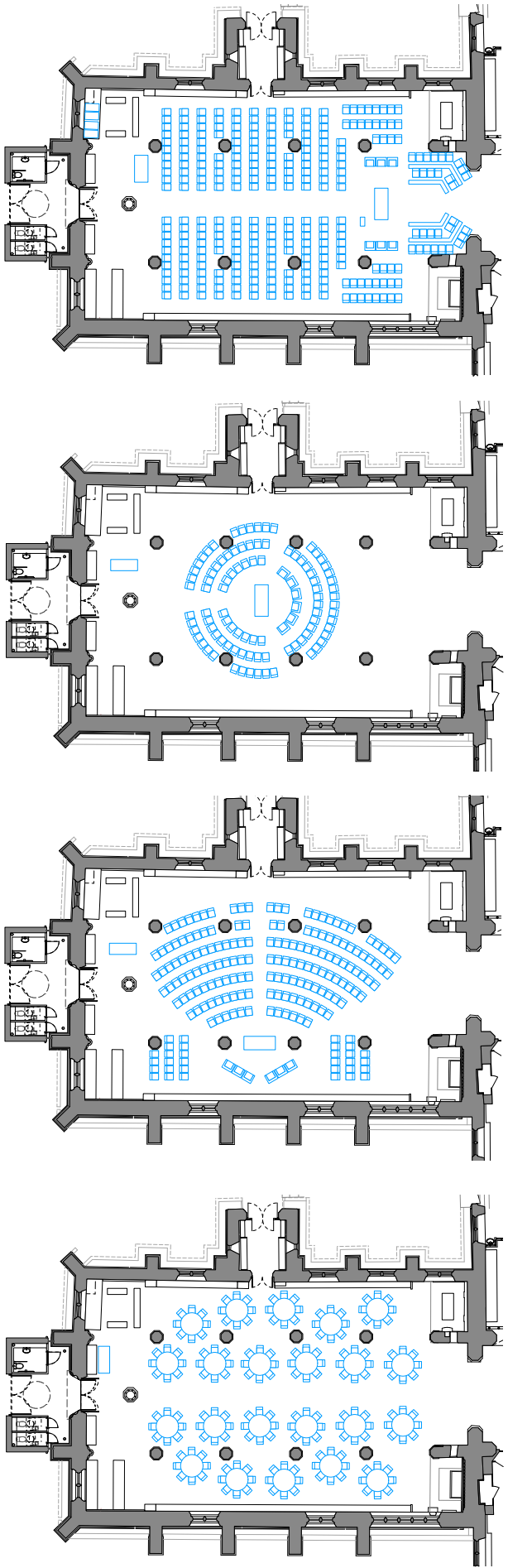
In order to fully justify the need for the pews to be removed, the church has prepared an addendum to the Statement of Needs describing the diverse anticipated future uses of a rejuvenated church building, which will also secure its financial viability. This is included here as Appendix I.

Traversing the existing floor currently requires negotiating threshold steps, floor heating grilles, carpet edging trims and raised pew platforms. Laying a new floor gives the opportunity to remove these remaining impediments to those who find steps a barrier and ensure the spaces can be enjoyed by all.

4.3 NORTH TRANSEPT PROPOSALS

The description of St Katherine's Chapel in 'Solihull and its Church', 1905, by the Rev'd Robert Pemberton, is that it has been "has been even more completely swept of all its fittings than the sister Chapel in the South Transept". It seems likely therefore that the current floor geometry dates from the mid-20th Century when the pews and altar table were constructed.

At present St Katherine's Chapel is essentially used as a convenient storage space on the way to the Sacristy beyond, leaving its high-quality fittings rarely seen by most and little appreciated. The church has a serious need for a semi-private space for smaller meetings or gatherings, which are currently accommodated off-site in the Parish Centre. The proposed removal of the pews and adaptation of the altar would bring this space back into full and valuable use, while levelling the floor up to the Sacristy steps would open this up to the whole community. This is described in more detail in Section 7 of Appendix I.



NEW LAYOUTS POSSIBLE WITH PEW REMOVAL

5.0 HEATING PROPOSALS

As described in the previous section and in the addendum to the Statement of Needs, removing the pews is fundamental to the vision for future use developed by the church, and will open up numerous new avenues for increased community engagement as well as potential income. A detailed breakdown has been provided of the current uses of the church building, which already average 6 hours per day even with its current limitations - more than enough to make underfloor heating a viable proposition.

Pairing the underfloor heating with more efficient perimeter heating pipes integrated into new bench seating will reduce the load on the underfloor heating while increasing seating capacity.

The existing gas-fired boilers at St Alphege are relatively new, installed in 2020, so it does not make financial sense to replace these at present. That said, installing low-temperature underfloor heating will provide immediate cost savings and much better future-proof the church for moving to air-source heat pumps in the years ahead, in line with the Church of England's push towards Net Zero.

6.0 THE PULPIT

A number of the consultees have commented on the significance of the existing pulpit or expressed concern that it should remain in a prominent location within the body of the church. The church body have also expressed a desire to be able to use the pulpit within the main body of the church for certain services. Following further consideration and discussion, it has been agreed to pursue a strategy whereby the existing pulpit structure is adapted to allow it to be moved on castors to different locations within the church, thereby supporting the aspiration for fully flexible use of the space. This can be achieved by the insertion of a new mechanism between the existing legs of the pulpit, which can then be covered with timber panels. To be moved, the pulpit can be lifted fractionally to allow castors to drop down, after which it can be rolled into a new position and the castors locked in place. A useful precedent for this is St Mary Magdalene at Tanworth, where a similar mechanism has been used to make a very heavy solid timber font moveable in this way.

7.0 OTHER FITTINGS

The new timber panelling proposed for the side and end wall of the nave's westernmost bay is conceived as a screen standing off the wall with only minimal fixings to secure it to the historic stonework. This will also avoid impacting the airflow to the masonry. The screen is designed to sit below the windowsills of the side pair of west windows and will not require any monuments to be moved save the Greswolde slab previously noted.

Over time, an abundance of mis-matched fittings have taken root in the church, quickly installed to serve an immediate need but resulting in a visual jumble. Retail stands, AV provision, noticeboards and temporary displays vie for wall space without any overall visual cohesion. This project offers the opportunity to take stock and consolidate these functional needs into a simple framework which can also be adapted over time to suit changing requirements.

The proposed panelling will unite the disparate joinery elements needed to fulfil the brief and allow modern services and discreet uplighting to be provided without undue impact on the existing fabric. The warm cherry proposed for these elements will be a welcome and complementary contrast to the sombre sandstone walls.

While the proposed children's area is located adjacent to the cupboards intended for loose chair storage, these will not be used concurrently; chairs will be set up in advance of services and functions. The furniture forming the children's area is in any case a fairly minimal arrangement of low benches which can be easily moved aside.

It has been suggested that the front section of the servery could be redesigned as a moveable counter to improve flexibility. Having reviewed the church's proposed uses for this counter and the likely numbers to be served for larger events, it is considered that the benefits of a more generously sized (and therefore very heavy) front counter outweigh the need to make this moveable. It was a key client request that this counter should incorporate a water tap to ensure visitors can easily help themselves to drinking water - this would be much less obvious if it formed part of the rear counter. The panelling to the side of the servery also offers the opportunity to conceal cabling and plumbing to the front counter.



EXISTING FITTINGS AT THE WEST END OF THE NAVE



PROPOSED UNIFYING JOINERY



Solihull Parish: St Alphege Parish Church

Project Turnaround Statement of Needs: Addendum

January 2025

1. Introduction

This addendum to the Statement of Needs seeks to clarify and amplify the future use of the new cleared, level spaces in church to justify the proposal to remove all the existing fixed nave and St Katherine's Chapel pews. Our main considerations are the use of the sacred space, how it is heated and lit, its accessibility, providing toilets and facilities for the young, the elderly and infirm in order to increase community use of the church and to welcome more people over the threshold. We want to present a strong and convincing case for this change on theological, visual and practical grounds to allow liturgical freedom, to increase the opportunities for mission and to support our financial well-being.

Appendix B in The Statement of Significance contains a significance assessment of the pews by a specialist ecclesiastical furniture consultant recommended by the Amenities Societies representative on Birmingham DAC.

The Statement of Needs lists the types of worship and missional activities and community events that are not easily accommodated in the current fixed seating facing east. The key aims of the church in proposing to remove all the nave pews are to provide:

- i. uninterrupted level access without the impediments of threshold steps, floor heating grilles, carpet edging trims and raised pew platforms
- ii. accessible circulation space for wheelchairs, walkers and buggies
- iii. a lower temperature heating system to be less environmentally harmful and save money
- iv. more configurable spaces for worship, mission and community events within the nave



2. Significance of the fixed nave pews

The specialist ecclesiastical furniture consultant concludes that, with the exception of the Mayoral pew and three inscriptions to former churchwardens, the pews are of no particular merit or significance. Their removal would not result in harm to the significance of the church as a building of special architectural or historic significance. Furthermore, she asserts that removal of all the nave pews would provide better visibility to the structure of the nave, including the pillars. She comments:

"...the pews themselves have little of interest to commend them in terms of their design
...Panelled pews are the most common Victorian design for church seating
...the quantity of fixed pews in the nave allows little flexibility or experimentation with the overall space, which is considerable. One could argue that the church is currently 'over-pewed' for most present-day services. Removing the pews from the nave would firstly allow under-floor heating to be installed. Secondly, it would allow more versatile use of the space and greater movement around the nave, and provide better visibility to the structure of the nave, including the pillars
...Given that St. Alphege is the town's third largest public venue, it is hoped that the refurbishments will attract greater use by the wider community. It is therefore intended to replace the fixed pews with stackable chairs which can be placed in numerous configurations and easily moved by one person. A similar scheme has been undertaken successfully at St. Mary's Church in Cerne Abbas, Dorset, providing a light and airy flexible space in the nave."

As recommended by the specialist ecclesiastical furniture consultant, the Mayoral pew will be relocated intact to St Alphege Chapel, and the inscriptions of former churchwardens, carved on the panels of two bench-ends in the south side of the nave and the further panel in the north side of the nave, will be preserved and displayed within the church.

3. Liturgical and Missional Need

The key role of the church is to be a local centre of worship and mission. The Statement of Needs lists fourteen types of corporate worship that currently take place in St Alphege Church. The fixed nave pews have for many years accommodated worship where the congregation faces east or where smaller congregations use the chancel or chapels:

- i. Sunday Eucharists in the nave
- ii. Sunday Evensong in the chancel
- iii. Weekday Eucharists in an aisle side chapel
- iv. Weddings with a central visible space for bride & groom
- v. Funerals with a central visible space for the coffin

Over the past twenty years the church has deliberately focussed its mission on nurturing young people and their families by providing lifelong learning opportunities. There has been a growing demand to provide more configurable spaces for worship and learning within the sacred space which cannot be accommodated by the current fixed nave seating facing east. For these activities it is liturgically unhelpful, and practically impeding, to encourage people into fixed pews. The nave cannot currently accommodate satisfactorily children in buggies, people in wheelchairs and those using walking frames. There is a genuine pastoral case for removing all the pews which are regarded by the Rector and congregation as a hindrance not merely to worship but especially to mission.

- i. Seating for the regular weekly baptisms in a circle around the font is severely limited by the fixed nave pews, with little space for buggies.
- ii. It is not possible to configure breakout areas in the nave configured for age-appropriate teaching during weekly Sunday services, including spaces for young children and their parents. These activities become relegated to even less accessible and remoter parts of the building, such as the choir vestry or up the steep steps to St Alphege Chapel, separated from the worshipping community, out of sight and out of mind. This reinforces the unhelpful idea that children are not a welcome part of our worshipping community: to be neither seen nor heard.
- iii. Infant school children visit St Alphege Church every Wednesday during term time for “Open the Book”, an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. Seating young children in the fixed nave pews hinders creativity and involvement, imposing a false formality on learning which should be interactive and fun. Both Infant and Junior schools hold twice termly Federation services with the need for plenty of performance space for pupil presentations to staff and parents. Currently the space at the east end of the nave is severely limited because of the fixed nave pews, pulpit, lectern and Rector’s stall.
- iv. Bible study and prayer groups meeting would like to meet in the round within the holy space of the church building. Because of the limitations of the current nave seating, the weekly Tuesday Prayer Group meet in a functional room of the Parish Centre, which loses the sacred atmosphere of the church building. The monthly Saturday Bible Study group create a small meeting area with portable chairs squeezed between the Wardens’ stalls and the nave pews in the circulation area near the west door. This is very unsatisfactory and limits the numbers attending comfortably.
- v. Church quiet days on a Saturday once each term are often designed with various focal points or stations to move around the church for meditation – for example, around the Candlemas window in the north west aisle. The fixed nave pews severely limit the flexibility for configuring focal points, restricting such points of reflection to the familiar aisle and transept chapels or, with more limited accessibility, to St Alphege Chapel and the Crypt.

- vi. Praise & Play is a weekly support network for families of pre-school children, comprising praise songs, Bible stories, drinks and chat. Whilst this started in church as a way of introducing young families to a less formal activity in church, the practicalities forced a move to the Parish Centre. It would be of huge missional benefit to offer such informal activities within the church building.
- vii. The annual promenade events of “Journey to the stable” and “Easter Journey” with various tableaux around the church are attended by many children from schools across the borough. Because of the fixed nave seating, the circulation spaces for large cohorts of children to circulate around the tableaux causes unhelpful congestion in the narrow aisles, which detracts from the overall experience.
- viii. Stations of the Cross hang from the nave pillars of the church during Passiontide each year but are only accessible by individuals negotiating the fixed pew arrangement. No corporate act of worship, moving from station to station, is possible with the fixed nave seating.
- ix. The Parish Puppets team perform during All Age services several times each year from a specially constructed booth which needs to be visible for the whole congregation. As previously noted, the space at the east end of the nave is severely limited because of the fixed nave pews, pulpit, lectern and Rector’s stall.

The limitations of the building’s fixed furniture mean that it is difficult to carry out these new ministries effectively in church.



4. Financial Need

The church has been running significant six-figure annual deficit budgets in recent years, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic and a continuing decline in regular congregational giving.

Usual Sunday Attendance dropped from 581 in 2018 to 251 in 2023. In 2017 there were 277 donors giving nearly £190,000 per annum. By 2023 this has reduced to 158 donors giving just over £130,000 per annum. This decline in income cannot continue depleting the parish financial reserves without severely impacting the ability of the church to fulfil its mission, including maintaining the treasured historic building. We are not prepared to manage decline gracefully. Rather we wish to invest in expanding our mission activities by updating our attractive buildings. It is vital that the church becomes suitable for more community use, not only for worship to fulfil its mission purpose at the heart of the historic centre of Solihull, but also to diversify income streams through profitable lettings of this prime venue.

The church could realistically be made available for use for up to 14 hours per day from 8am to 10pm, a maximum of 98 hours per week. It is currently significantly under-used.

- Sunday services including weekly baptisms occupy up to 8 hours a week.
- “Open the Book” for Infant school children every Wednesday during termtime lasts up to 1 hour
- The weekly Wednesday music recital lasts 2 hours.
- The Thursday Eucharist is 1 hour.
- Weekly choir practices occupy a further 6 hours.

Thus, regular weekly church activities total **18 hours per week**.

Out of a possible maximum 98 hours, the church is currently free and available, subject to the occasional wedding or funeral, for up to 80 hours per week.

Currently the church is open to visitors from 10am to 3pm every weekday and from 10am to 12noon on Saturdays, a total of 27 hours per week, or **an extra 24 hours** in addition to the regular weekday activities. This gives **a total current usage per week of 42 hours**, or an average of 6 hours per day, which would justify the economic benefits of installing under-floor heating. The church being open to visitors would not preclude the hiring out of the venue for community events during those periods.

Even if the actual community demand only took up 10% of the available 80 hours weekly usage, the church could generate extra revenue of up to £2,360 per week, or £122,720 per annum, using the rates currently charged by similar sized local venues. For example, Birmingham Cathedral charge from £295 per hour to hire the building and Gas Street Church Birmingham hire smaller spaces from £350 and the main space from £850 per event.

If we cleared the nave, we would have returned the greater part of the nave to the open space intended by its medieval architects, we could hire out the church for a variety of events and would be able to balance the books and pay our way for the future. Hence the church would remain open, active and a centre for worship and mission with increasing numbers of visitors experiencing this ancient treasure.



5. Community Events

One of the three key mission priorities of St Alphege Church is to become more outward looking to serve the communities in our borough. With due regard to the role of the church as a local centre of worship and mission, there is a clear public benefit in meeting the needs of the local community for greater space and flexibility.

The current seated capacity in the nave is 321, the third largest venue in Solihull after Bushell Hall at Solihull School and The Park Suite at St John’s Hotel. The current fixed pew arrangements prohibit offering the different seating layouts required by potential hirers. Looking at the example layouts in the Design Narrative page 11, with a cleared nave we could offer:

- At least 327 seats theatre style including the perimeter seating
- At least 100 seats in the round
- At least 192 seats fanned facing south
- At least 22 tables of 8, giving a total of 176 “cabaret” style for conferences or dining
- Over 400 on a cleared nave floor for a standing reception

Some events, such as flower and music festivals, could be hosted for free as part of our role in the community. The celebration of music has been at the heart of this parish church’s life for decades. Today, in addition to our various choirs singing regular choral services, we also host intimate concerts within our beautiful setting.

As a commercial venue for hire, we would have a remarkable and unique offering for music, corporate events and hospitality which could generate a substantial financial income. St Alphege Church Solihull is an exceptional example of elegant Early Gothic and Perpendicular architecture, rich in heritage and surrounded by one of the largest green spaces in the town centre.

Inside, the nave is overlooked by some of the finest Kempe stained-glass windows and surrounded by beautiful arches on either side. This beautiful open space could be transformed into a unique and stunning venue for concerts, performances, conferences, symposiums, exhibitions, launch events, networking or even private dining, bringing people together for work and social occasions. From drinks receptions to buffet lunches, celebrations, networking events and conferences – we could offer a unique venue to create memorable events.

Outside, over 35,000 people pass through the adjacent Touchwood Shopping Centre on average each day. St Alphege Church could offer a secluded space to hold events, promote business, and engage with the local community.

We are located in the heart of the town’s retail district at the end of the High Street, opposite Touchwood Shopping Centre and within ten minutes’ walk of Solihull Station. We are close to town centre car parks, bus routes, and nearby taxi ranks. In summary, we could offer:

- Capacity for up to 400 people.
- Central location with nearby public transport links.
- Unique and historic building.
- Flexible space.
- Step-free access and accessible ground floor WCs.
- Configurable lighting, sound, PA and visual systems, professional musicians for hire.
- Access to a network of trusted suppliers. to provide event planning, photography, catering, bar staff and stewarding.



6. Wedding Venue

The church has lost substantial wedding revenues over recent years to strong competition from dedicated wedding venues. From a peak of over 200 weddings a year in the 1970s, weddings have reduced to an average of around 20 a year over the last ten years. Reinventing St Alphege Church as potential one-stop shop for weddings could combine satisfying the liturgical, missional and financial needs.

We imagine that a couple would love to hold their wedding ceremony in our ancient parish church, with seating “theatre-style” facing east. What if we were able to re-arrange the furniture for dining “cabaret-style” after the ceremony, whilst the wedding photographs are taken in the beautiful setting of the churchyard? The guests could then return inside the church for the wedding breakfast. After the meal and speeches, some of the seating could be cleared to provide a dance space in the nave for the guests to continue celebrating. This wedding model has been successfully implemented by St Aldate’s Church in Oxford, amongst many others.

At present when a couple get married in St Alphege, the church receives a very small percentage (say 3%) of the total wedding expenditure. If the church were able to provide the venue for the whole celebration, then this percentage could increase substantially and contribute towards funding the church’s mission and maintaining the historic building.

7. North Transept

The North Transept is accessed up two steps from the area under the tower.

At the north end of the north transept the sacristy, or clergy vestry, is located up further steps behind an ancient screen. There are no plans to change this area.

The area in the south of the north transept is known as St Katherine’s Chapel, which, despite its relatively small space, has pews on two levels to the west and an altar up one step to the east. St Katherine’s Chapel was re-furnished in the 1940’s but is now little used: at the main Sunday service it is used for post-communion ablutions, otherwise it is used as an informal storage area and for stacking audio-visual equipment.

The ambition is to provide ramped access from the area under the tower to a repurposed St Katherine’s Chapel. The proposal is to clear the pews and altar and lower the floor to a single level for accessibility, but to retain the altar frontal, the reredos and the screens. This would then provide a much more useable area to satisfy the following needs:

- a vestry and robing room for servers.
- a Green Room and dressing room for performers.
- a meeting room with step-free access.
- a multi-media prayer area and flexible worship area
- a breakout room for age-appropriate teaching.
- purpose-built storage along the west wall.

We have considered whether any other area of church could provide for these needs, but:

- the nave and chancel are too open for these more discreet needs.
- the south transept is already in full use as a choir vestry and verger’s office.
- St Alphege Chapel, the Crypt and the Song School in the south transept could not provide step free access.



8. Congregational support

The development of the proposals and consultations to date are catalogued in sections 3 and 4 of the Statement of Needs. At the outset, in summer 2021, a congregational questionnaire, with responses from 185 members, informed the initial Statement of Needs. A Feasibility Study with an options analysis was presented by the church architects in May 2023. After feedback from the congregations, from a DAC visit and from the statutory consultees, revisions and improvements were made to the proposals, which were unanimously agreed by the PCC on 17th July 2024. Proposals were resubmitted to DAC in September 2024 and a further round of congregational briefings and DAC and statutory consultee feedback undertaken. From the usual Sunday attendance of around 250, only 6 individuals raised any concerns. A further DAC site visit in November 2024 recommended that archaeological test pits be dug in order to test the nature of the historic deposits and to determine the level of archaeological remains. This work is underway.

KEY

PLAIN STONE

RED TILES

BROWN / CREAM TILES

CARPET LAID OVER STONE

FIXED FURNITURE

PEW ISLAND (TIMBER FINISH WITH NOM. 450mm VOID BELOW)

FLOOR GRILLE

LEDGER STONE SET INTO FLOOR

CHANCEL FLOOR SLABS

1.

Mrs Ann Welshman d.1759
2.

Elizabeth Isham d.1703

Henry Isham d.1703
3.

Thomas Welshman d.1774

Mary Dolphin d.1808

James Dolphin d.1814
4.

James Boyd d.1782
5.

Revd. Zaccheus Isham d.1705
6.

Ann Dolphin d.1826

Mary Dolphin d.1845
7.

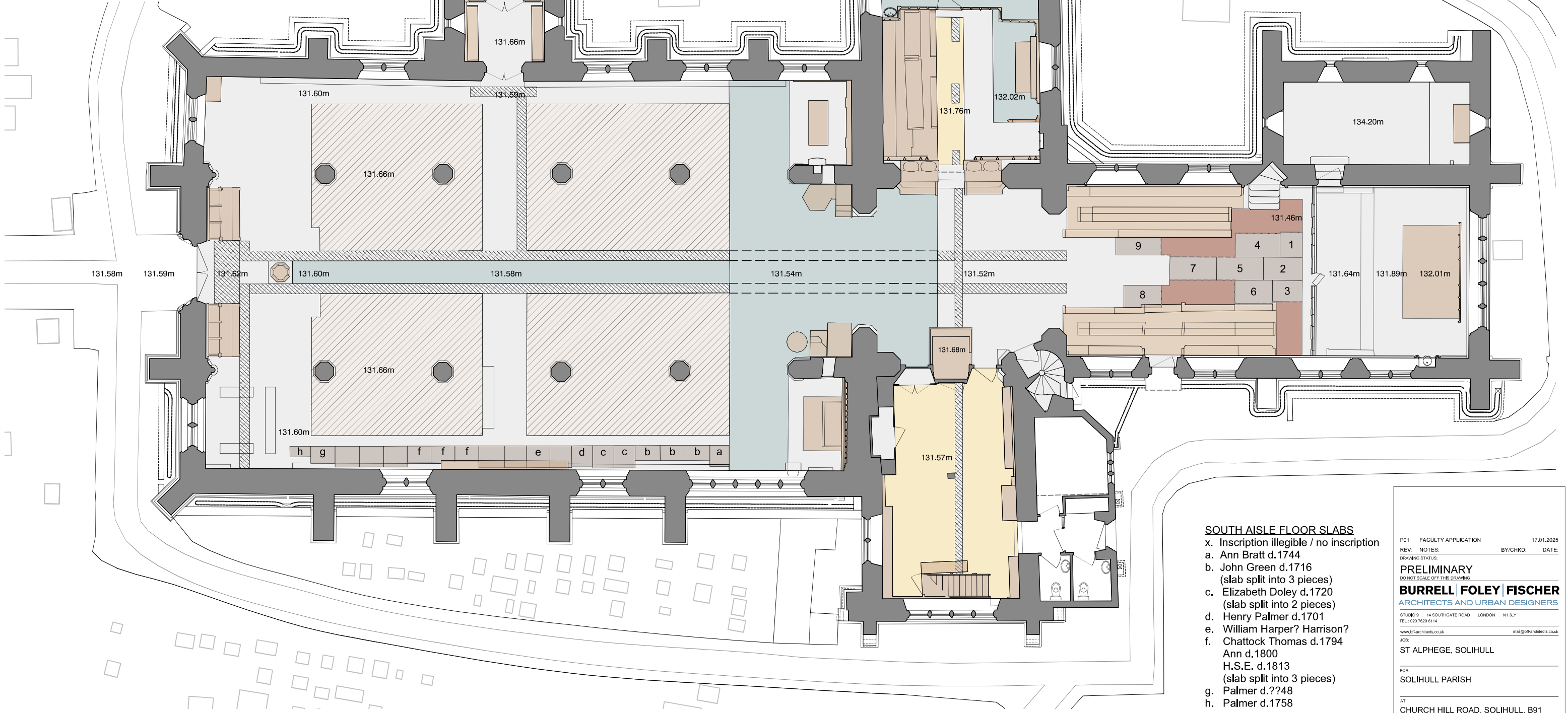
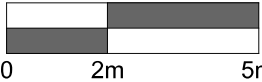
Revd. Robert Ladbroke d.1655
8.

William Baynton d.1752

Mary Baynton d.1762
9.

No inscription

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SOUTH AISLE FLOOR SLABS

- x.

Inscription illegible / no inscription
- a.

Ann Bratt d.1744
- b.

John Green d.1716

(slab split into 3 pieces)
- c.

Elizabeth Doley d.1720

(slab split into 2 pieces)
- d.

Henry Palmer d.1701
- e.

William Harper? Harrison?
- f.

Chattock Thomas d.1794

Ann d.1800

H.S.E. d.1813

(slab split into 3 pieces)
- g.

Palmer d.??48
- h.

Palmer d.1758

P01

FACULTY APPLICATION

17.01.2025

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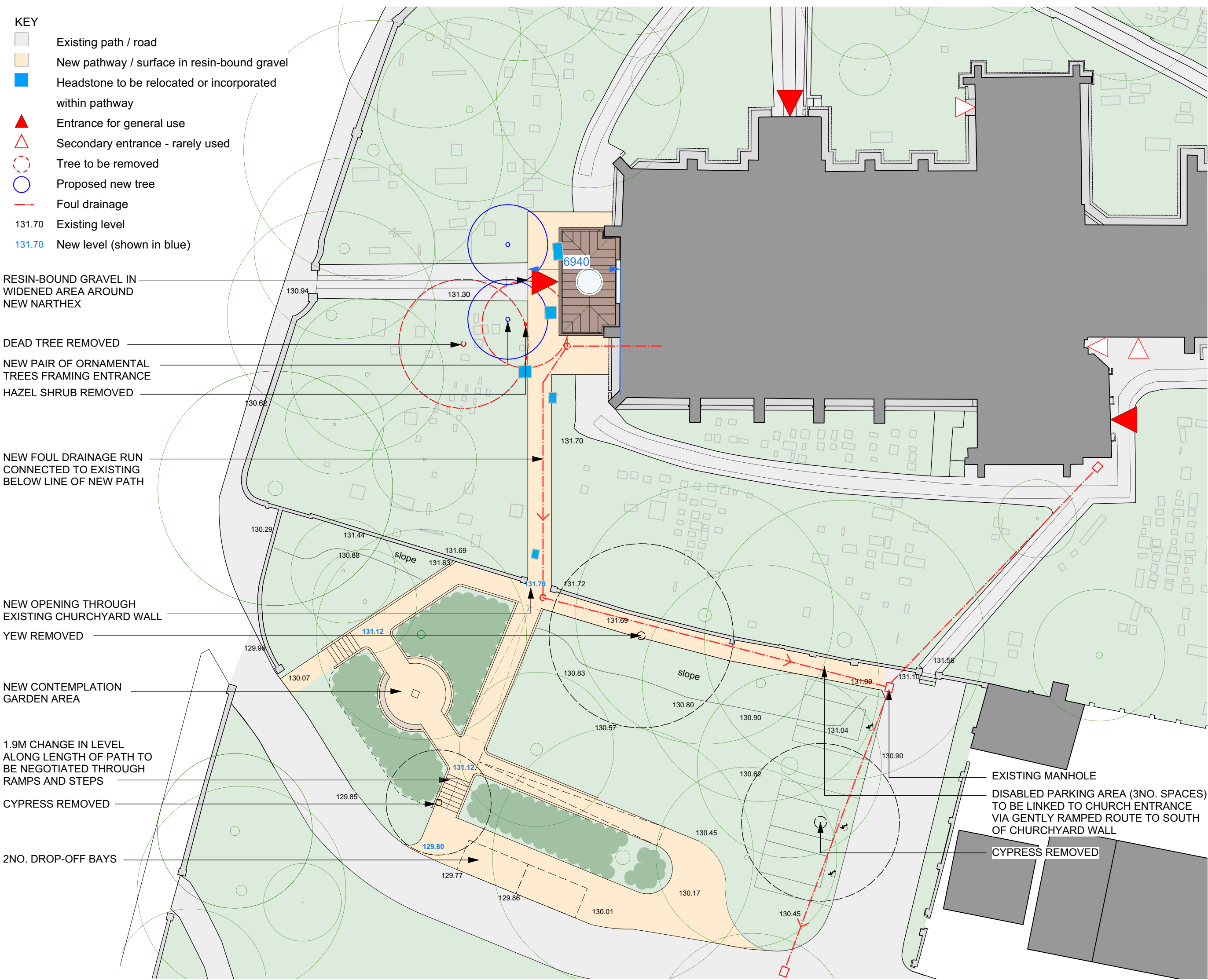
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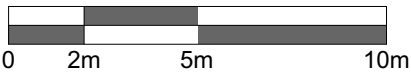
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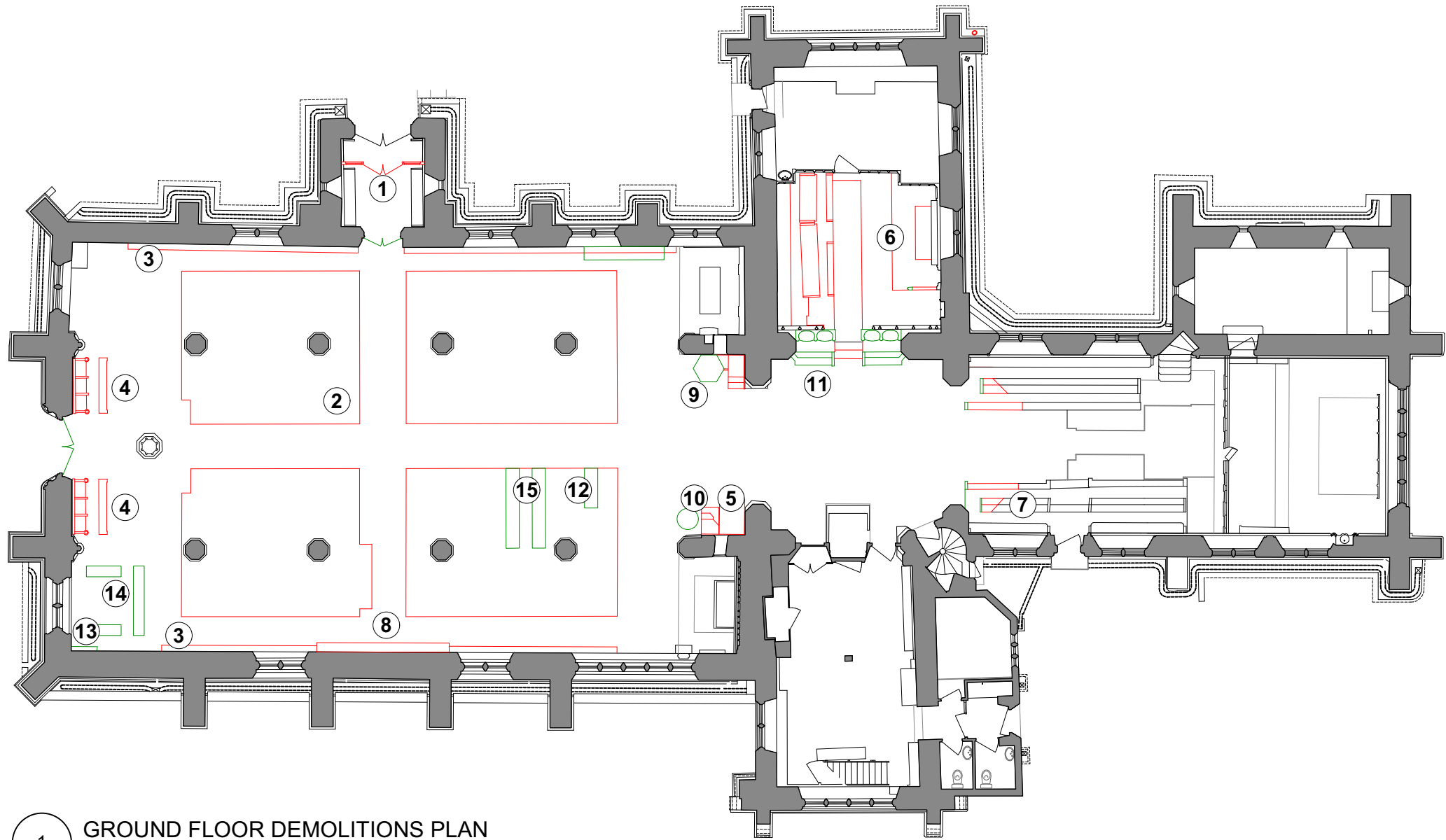
P03	UPDATED FOR FACULTY APPLICATION	17/01/2025
P02	FACULTY APPLICATION	29.08.2024
P01	FACULTY APPLICATION	16.08.2024
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1 **GROUND FLOOR DEMOLITIONS PLAN**
Scale: 1:200

KEY

Fittings to be removed shown red

- 1 North entrance glazed screen (replaced in same location)
- 2 Fixed pews & pew islands (2no. pews retained and reused along side walls)
- 3 Perimeter heating pipes
- 4 Wardens' Stalls (incorporating Roll of Rectors)
- 5 Rector's stall & lectern steps
- 6 St Katherine's Chapel fittings (pews removed; altar table to be adapted)
- 7 Choir stalls (to be adapted)
- 8 Book stall (to be replaced)

Fittings to be relocated shown green

- 9 Pulpit (base to be adapted to allow relocation)
- 10 Eagle lectern
- 11 Server stalls
- 12 Mayoral pew with decorative end panels
- 13 Greswolde ledger stone set vertically in corner (to be moved to north wall of St Thomas Chapel)
- 14 Children's corner furniture
- 15 2no. existing pews retained
- Pew inscriptions to be relocated to side walls.

NB. Loose fittings to be removed / replaced

- Hassocks
- Funeral candles (6no.)

P04	UPDATED PROPOSALS FOR PULPIT AND PEWS	17/02/2025
P03	MINOR UPDATES	25/11/2024
P02	FACULTY APPLICATION	29/08/2024
P01	FACULTY APPLICATION	16/08/2024
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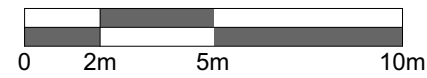
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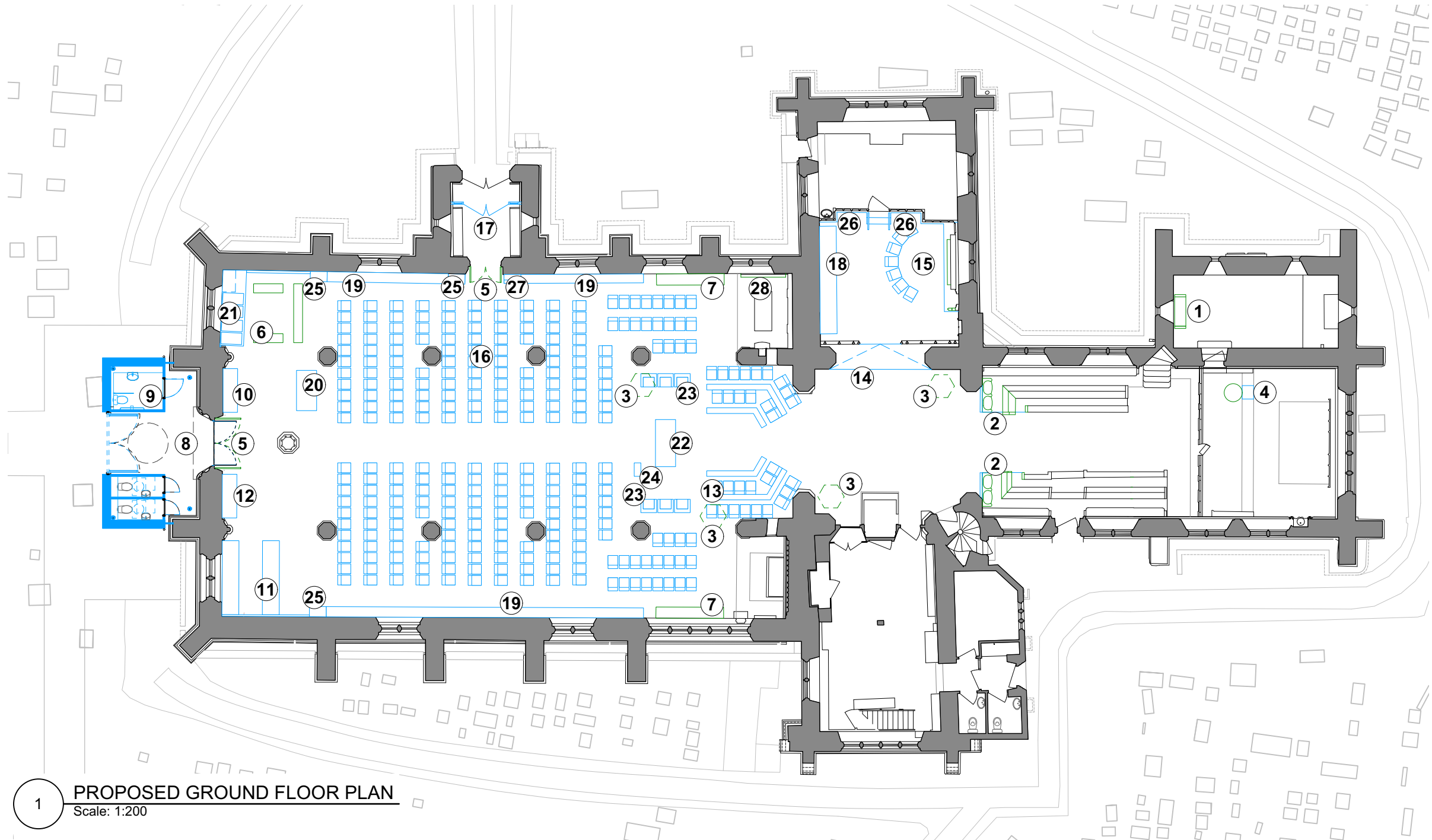
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1 **PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN**
Scale: 1:200

KEY TO FULL SCOPE OF WORKS (SHOWN FOR INFORMATION)

Adaptation of existing elements (shown green)

- 1 Mayoral pew moved to Chapel of St Alphege
- 2 Existing server stalls & choir stalls adapted
- 3 Pulpit adapted to allow relocation to multiple positions
- 4 Eagle lectern relocated
- 5 Existing north & west doors fixed open
- 6 Children's area relocated (existing furniture restrained to match new)
- 7 2no. pews and all pew inscriptions to be relocated to side walls
- 28 Greswolde ledger stone moved to north wall of St Thomas Chapel (to mirror second Greswolde stone in St Anthony Chapel)

New elements (shown blue)

- 8 New west entrance (narthex) with circular rooflight & glazed doors
- 9 New WCs
- 10 Welcome desk
- 11 Servery & counter
- 12 Book stall
- 13 New choir stalls
- 14 Ramp into north transept
- 15 Flexible flat-floor / meeting space
- 16 Fixed pews replaced with loose seating
- 17 North entrance glazed screen & doors replaced
- 18 Storage cupboards

- 19 Fixed seating over perimeter heating with interpretation boards above
- 20 Moveable AV desk
- 21 Chair storage (within storage wall incorporating switch box)
- 22 New altar location
- 23 Altar party chairs
- 24 New lectern / legilium
- 25 Book cupboards (hymn books & bibles)
- 26 Roll of Rectors board
- 27 Housing for lighting controls

P04	UPDATES TO PROPOSALS FOR PULPIT AND PEWS	17/02/2025
P03	UPDATES TO NORTH ENTRANCE, MAYORAL PEW & LEDGER STONE	25/11/2024
P02	FACULTY APPLICATION	29/08/2024
P01	FACULTY APPLICATION	16/08/2024
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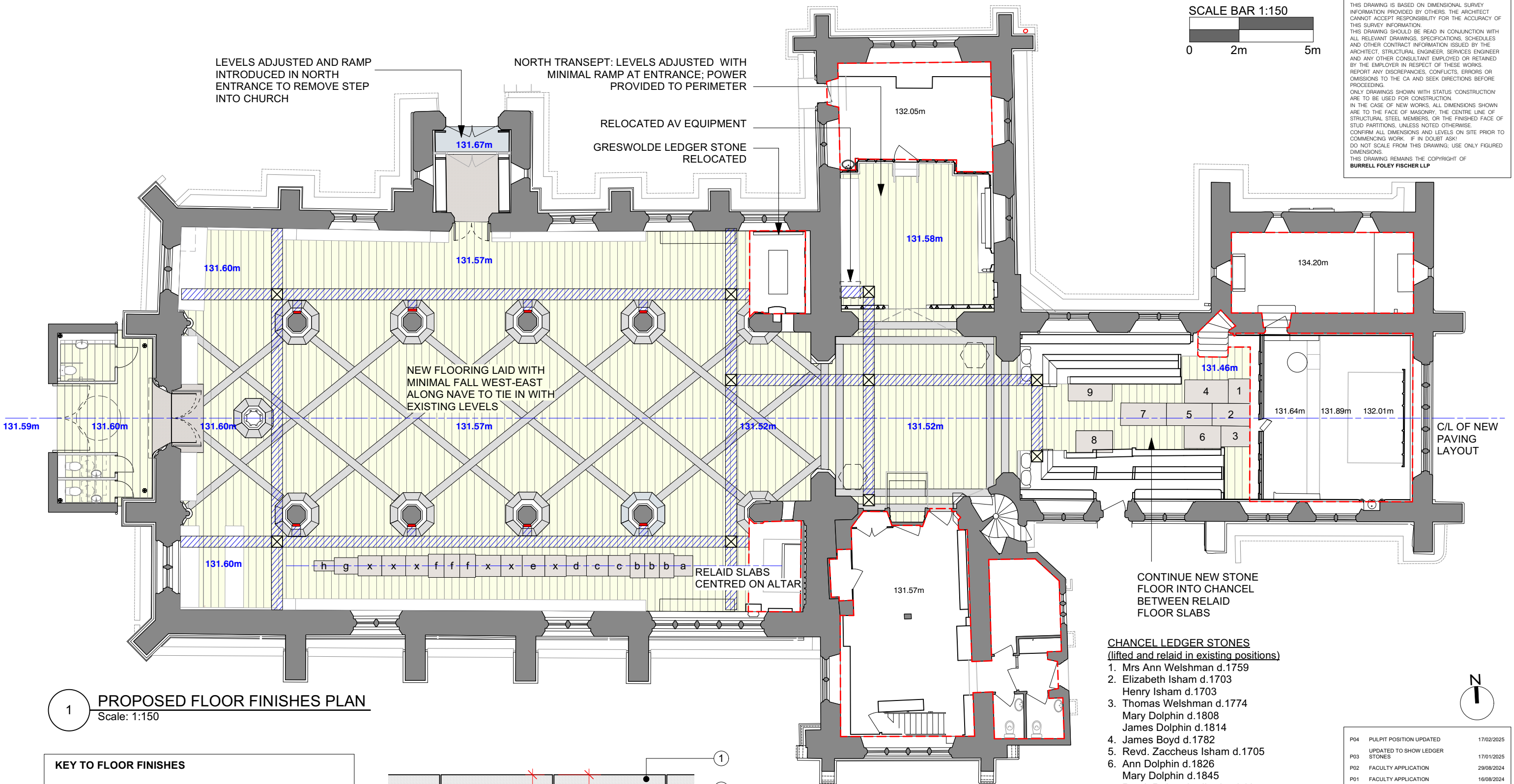
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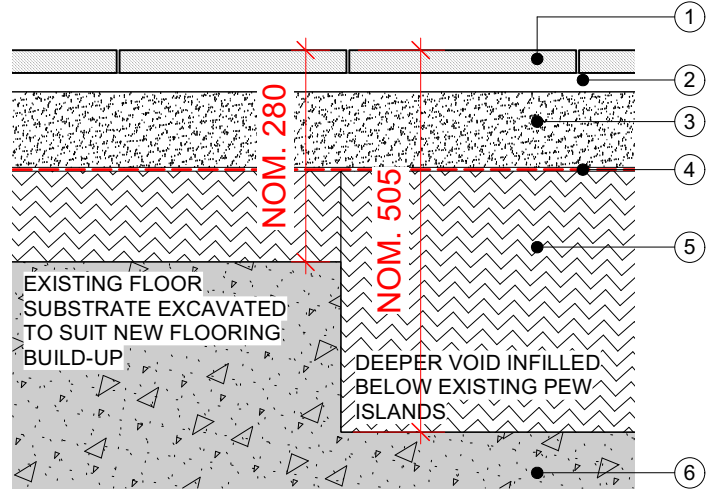
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1 PROPOSED FLOOR FINISHES PLAN
Scale: 1:150

KEY TO FLOOR FINISHES

- WARM NEUTRAL HONED STONE FLOORING 600x300x30mm
- CONTRAST HONED STONE CUT TO SUIT PATTERN
- BARRIER MATTING
- SERVICE TRENCH - INDICATIVE POSITION (to be coordinated with u/f heating)
- ACCESS PANEL SET INTO FLOORING
- SOCKET POSITION
- AREA OUT OF SCOPE
- 131.52m PROPOSED FINISHED FLOOR LEVEL

MOVEMENT JOINT REQUIREMENTS & LOCATIONS TBC

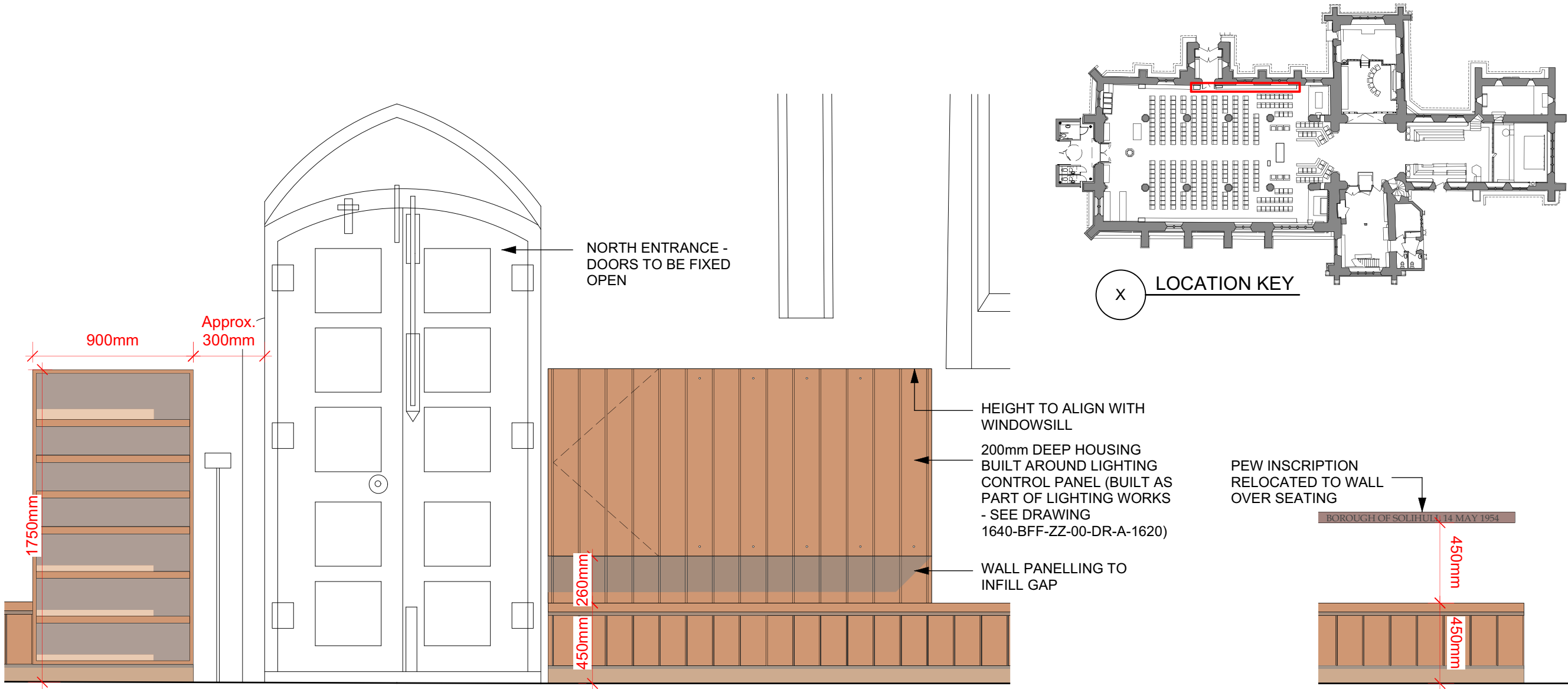


2 PROPOSED FLOOR BUILD-UP
Scale: 1:10

- KEY TO FLOOR DETAIL**
- 30mm THICK STONE SLAB WITH 4mm JOINTS
 - BEDDING
 - 100mm LIME/SAND SCREED
 - UNDERFLOOR HEATING LAID ON GEOTEXTILE
 - INSULATION (THICKNESS VARIES)
 - EXISTING SUBSTRATE
- NB. ALL DEPTHS ARE NOMINAL - TO BE CONFIRMED DURING DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

- CHANCEL LEDGER STONES**
(lifted and relaid in existing positions)
- Mrs Ann Welshman d.1759
 - Elizabeth Isham d.1703
Henry Isham d.1703
 - Thomas Welshman d.1774
Mary Dolphin d.1808
James Dolphin d.1814
 - James Boyd d.1782
 - Rev. Zaccheus Isham d.1705
 - Ann Dolphin d.1826
Mary Dolphin d.1845
 - Rev. Robert Ladbrooke d.1655
 - William Baynton d.1752
Mary Baynton d.1762
 - No inscription
- SOUTH AISLE FLOOR SLABS**
(lifted and relaid to reunite broken slabs)
- Inscription illegible
 - Ann Bratt d.1744
 - John Green d.1716
(slab split into 3 pieces)
 - Elizabeth Doley d.1720
(slab split into 2 pieces)
 - Henry Palmer d.1701
 - William Harper? Harrison?
Chattock Thomas d.1794
Ann d.1800
H.S.E. d.1813
(slab split into 3 pieces)
 - Palmer d.??248
 - Palmer d.1758

P04 PULPIT POSITION UPDATED 17/02/2025
P03 UPDATED TO SHOW LEDGER STONES 17/01/2025
P02 FACULTY APPLICATION 29/08/2024
P01 FACULTY APPLICATION 16/08/2024
REV: NOTES: BY/CHKD: DATE:
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TEL: 020 7620 6114 www.bff-architects.co.uk mail@bff-architects.co.uk
JOB: ST ALPHEGE, SOLIHULL
FOR: SOLIHULL PARISH
AT: CHURCH HILL ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3RQ
DRAWING TITLE: PROPOSED FLOOR FINISHES PLAN
DATE: APRIL 24 SCALE: 1:150@A3
JOB NO: BFF/1640 DRAWN BY: XX CHECKED BY: XX
DWG NO. (JOB-ORG-BLDG-LVL-TYPE-ROLE-SHEET NO.-OP-REV) 1640-BFF-ZZ-00-DR-A-0211 -P04
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1 BOOK STORAGE & PERIMETER SEATING
Scale: 1:25

2 RELOCATED INSCRIPTIONS
Scale: 1:25

PROPOSED MATERIALS:			
PANELS / DOORS / SHELVES - CHERRY VENEERED			
SKIRTINGS / TRIMS / HEATING GRILLE - ANODISED BRONZE			
Existing book storage requirements:			
	w	d	h
Weekday missals	2120	130	180
Book of Common Prayer	1000	100	150
New English Hymnal (melody)	4320	120	180
New English Hymnal (words)	800	110	170
Hymns Old & New	6700	160	240
Bibles	1440	140	220
TOTAL SHELVING WIDTH	16.38m		

PROPOSED BOOK STORAGE UNITS:
1no. unit @1750 high = 5.95m shelving
2no. units @2000 high = 6.8m shelving each
TOTAL PROPOSED SHELVING = 19.55m

3 BOOKCASE SECTION
Scale: 1:25

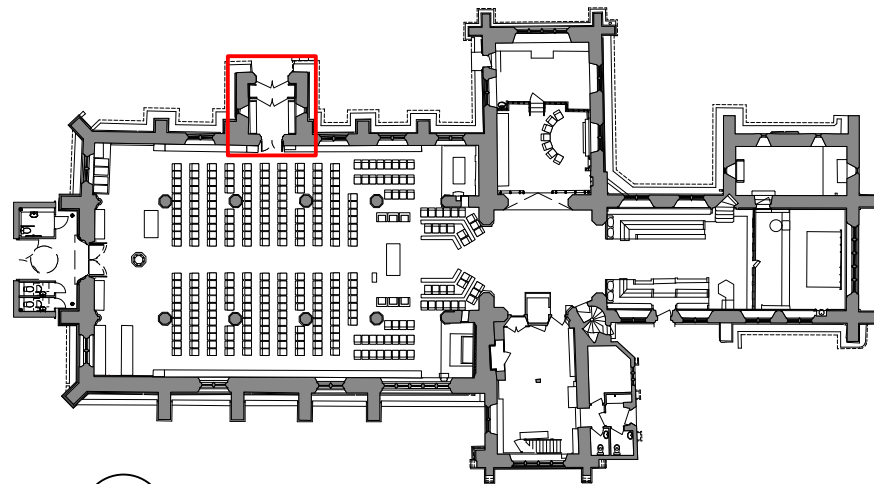
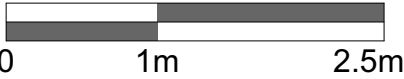
4 BENCH SECTION
Scale: 1:25

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SCALE BAR 1:25
0 0.5m 1m

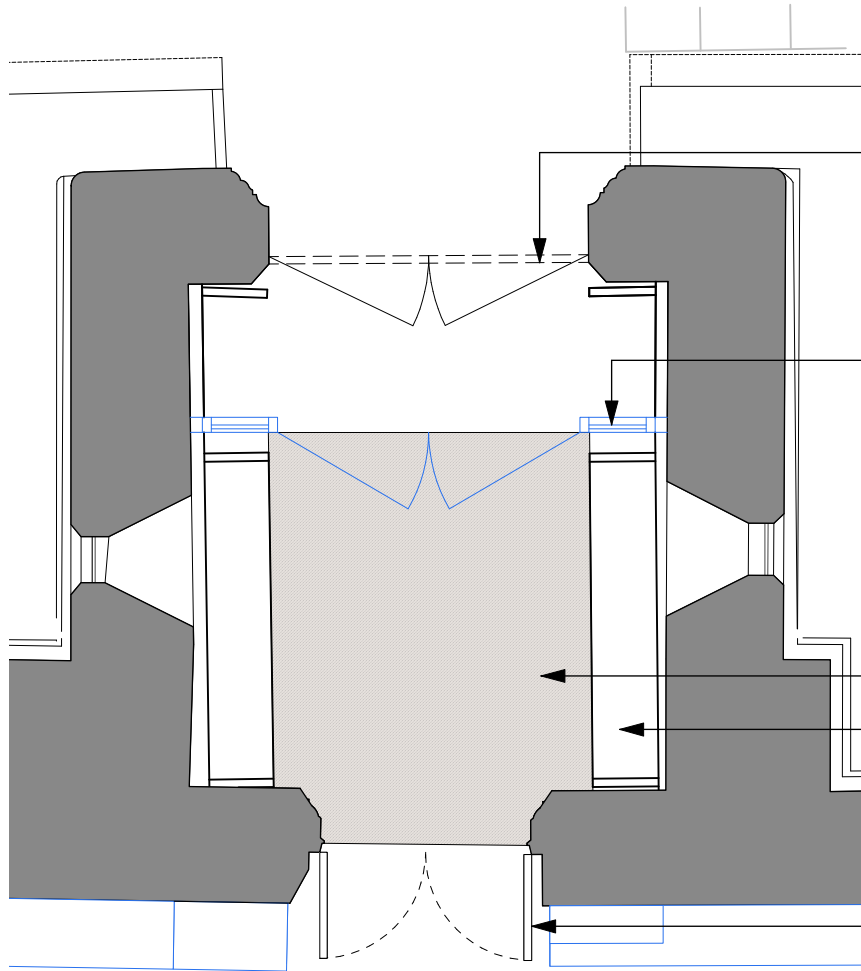
RELOCATION OF DECORATIVE PEW ENDS OMITTED. 25.11.2024
P03
P02 FACULTY APPLICATION 29.08.2024
P01 FACULTY APPLICATION 16.08.2024
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JOB:
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FOR:
SOLIHULL PARISH
AT:
CHURCH HILL ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3RQ
DRAWING TITLE:
NEW FITTINGS - BOOK STORAGE & BENCHES
DATE: APRIL 24 SCALE: 1:25@A3
JOB NO. BFF/1640 DRAWN BY: XX CHECKED BY: XX
DWG NO. (JOB-ORIG-BLDG-LVL-TYPE-ROLE-SHEET NO.-OP-REV.) 1640-BFF-ZZ-00-DR-A-1602 -P03
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SCALE BAR 1:50



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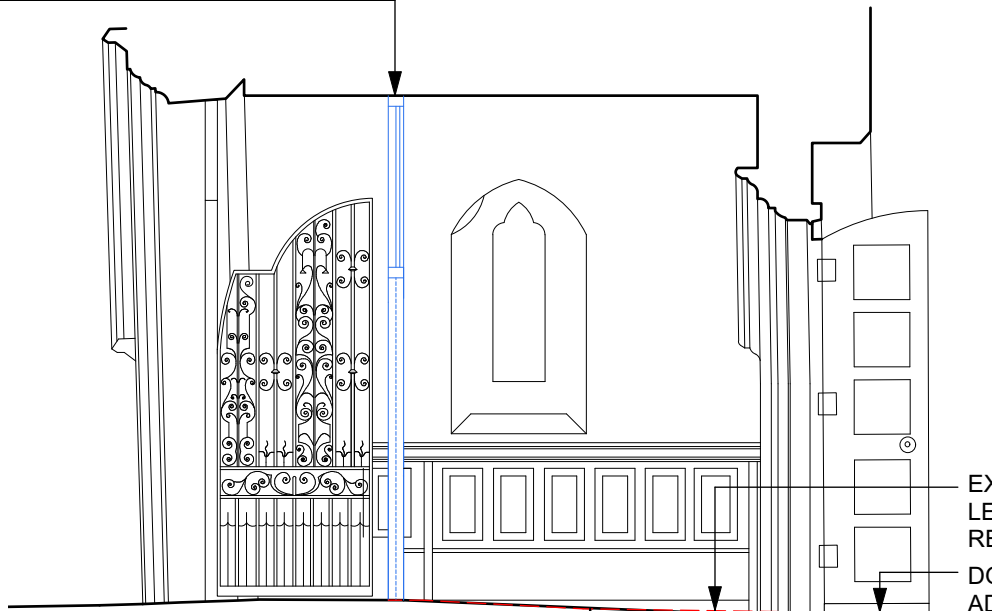
DECORATIVE METAL GATES RETAINED AS EXISTING

GLAZED DOORS & SIDE PANELS REPLACED WITH NEW SCREEN IN EXISTING POSITION

NEW BARRIER MATTING

EXISTING BENCH SEATING RETAINED [NB. POTENTIAL PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS IN THIS AREA]

EXISTING WOODEN INTERNAL DOORS RETAINED AND FIXED OPEN



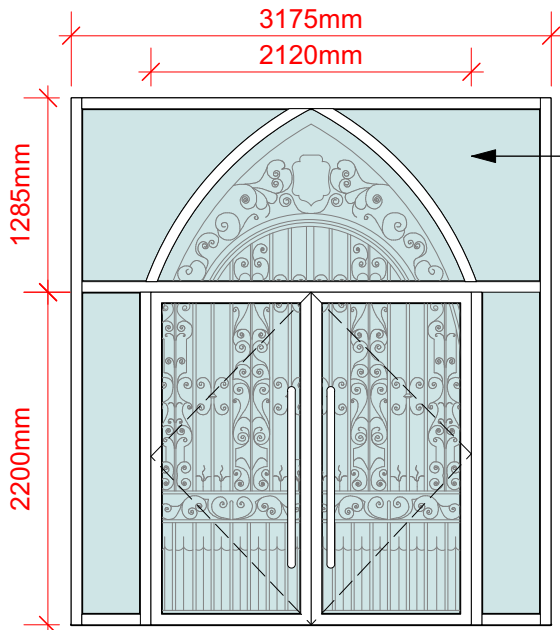
EXISTING FLOOR LEVEL SHOWN RED

DOOR BASE ADAPTED

FLOOR LEVEL ADJUSTED TO REMOVE STEP DOWN BY INNER DOORS

1 NORTH ENTRANCE PLAN
Scale: 1:50

2 NORTH ENTRANCE SECTION
Scale: 1:50



NEW DOUBLE-GLAZED METAL FRAMED GLAZED SCREEN WITH ARCHED CLERESTOREY DETAIL TO REPLACE EXISTING TIMBER DOORS & SIDE PANELS

IMAGES AS EXISTING



3 INTERNAL ELEVATION OF NEW GLAZED DOORS
Scale: 1:50

GATE CONFIGURATION RETAINED AS EXISTING; GLAZED SCREEN REPLACED IN EXISTING LOCATION.
P02 20/11/2024
P01 FACULTY APPLICATION 16/08/2024
REV: NOTES BY/CHKD: DATE:
DRAWING STATUS:

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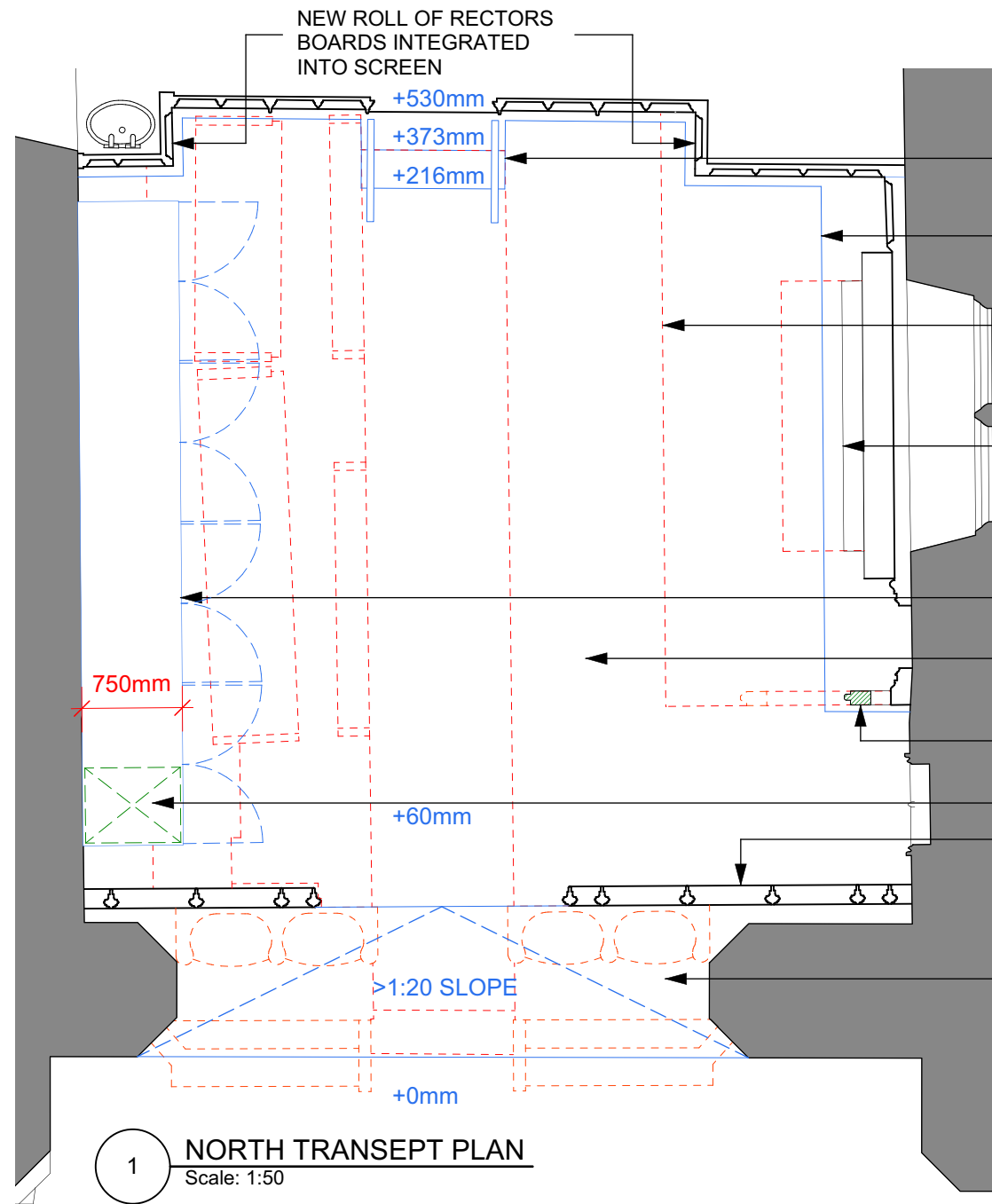
JOB: ST ALPHEGE, SOLIHULL

FOR: SOLIHULL PARISH

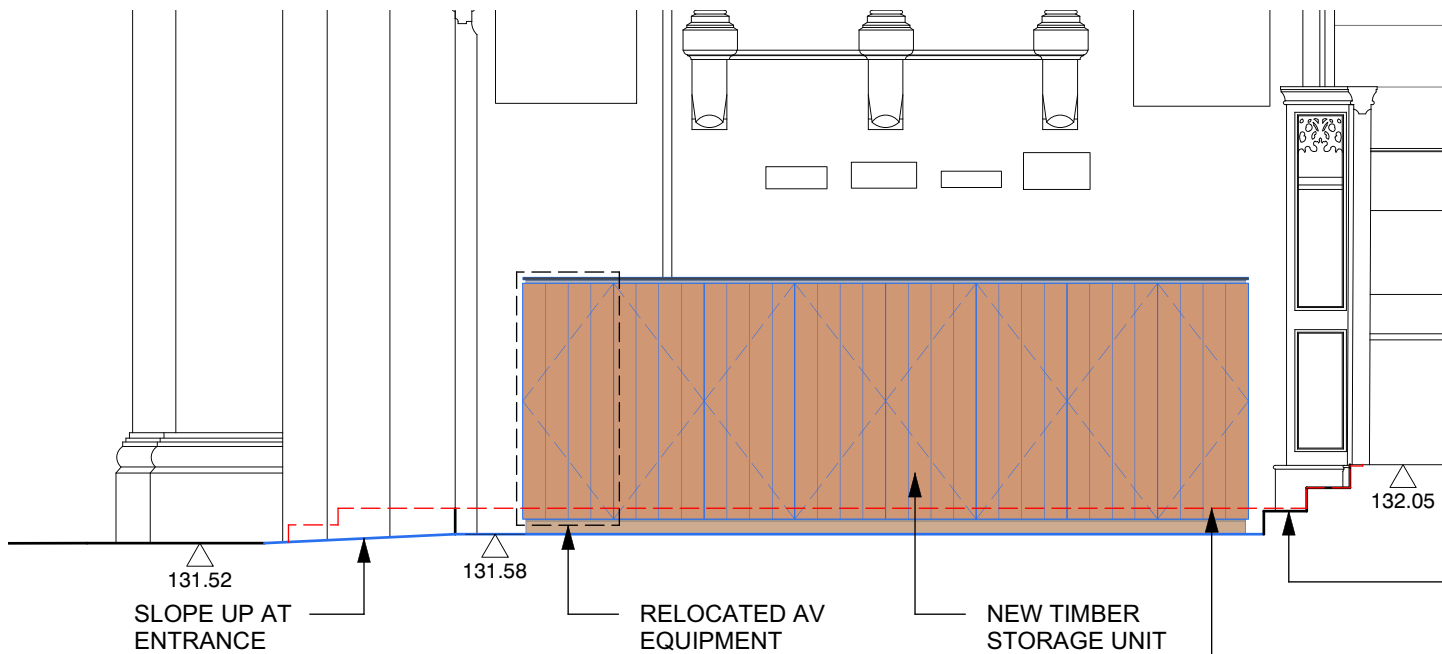
AT: CHURCH HILL ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3RQ

DRAWING TITLE: NORTH ENTRANCE ADAPTATIONS

DATE: APRIL 24 SCALE: 1:50@A3
JOB NO. BFF/1640 DRAWN BY: XX CHECKED BY: XX
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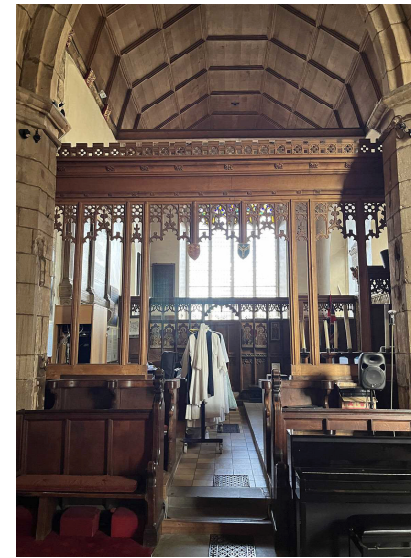
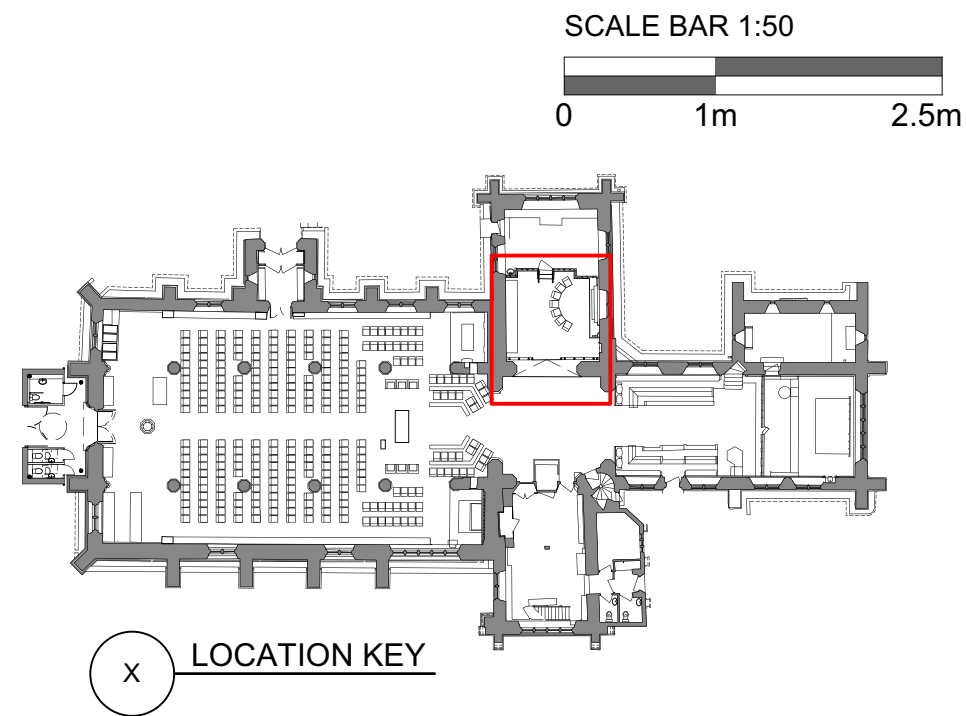


1 NORTH TRANSEPT PLAN
Scale: 1:50

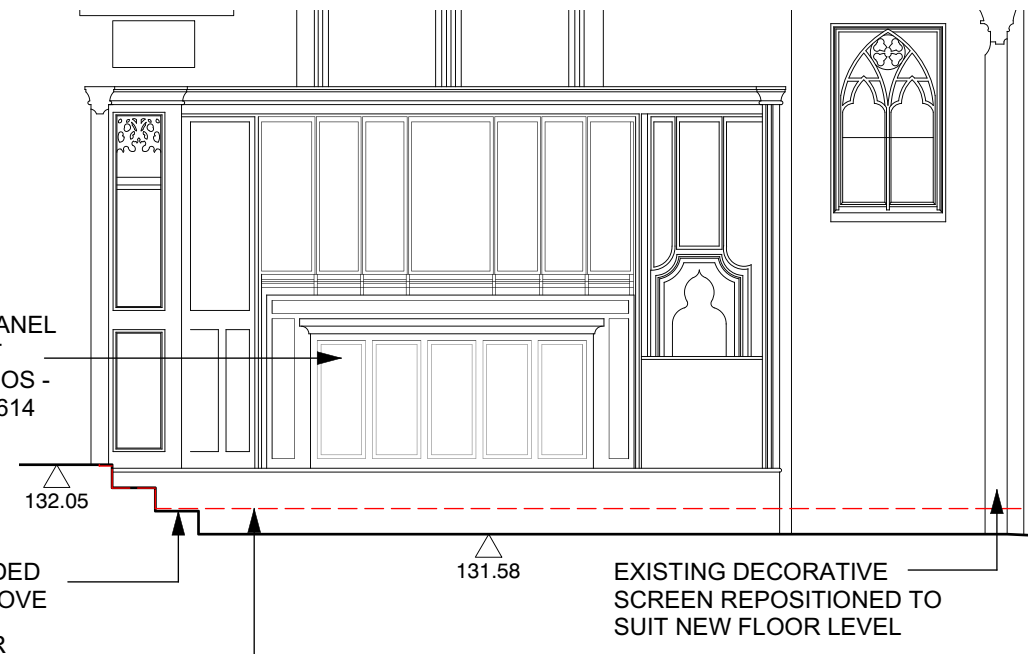


2 SECTION FACING WEST
Scale: 1:50

- HEIGHT OF EXISTING STEPS ADJUSTED & 1NO. STEP ADDED AT ENTRANCE TO SACRISTY, WITH HANDRAIL EACH SIDE
- STONE PLINTH ADDED AT NORTH & EAST SIDES TO SUIT LOWER FLOOR LEVEL
- FIXED FURNITURE AND STEPS IN EXISTING FLOOR REMOVED / RELOCATED
- EXISTING ALTAR RECONFIGURED WITH FRONT PANEL ADAPTED TO SIT AGAINST REREDOS - SEE DRAWING 1614
- NEW TIMBER STORAGE UNIT
- FLOOR LEVEL LOWERED THROUGHOUT
- DECORATIVE NEWEL POST REPOSITIONED AT END OF SCREEN
- RELOCATED AV EQUIPMENT
- EXISTING TIMBER SCREEN LOWERED TO SUIT NEW FLOOR LEVEL
- FLOOR SURFACE GENTLY SLOPED AT TRANSEPT THRESHOLD



IMAGES AS EXISTING



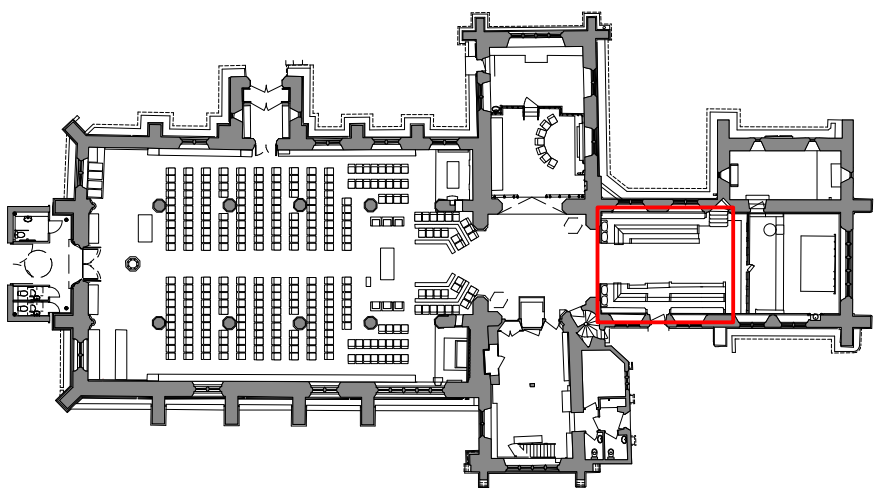
3 SECTION FACING EAST
Scale: 1:50

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P03	ALTAR FRONT SHOWN RETAINED	25.11.2024
P02	FACULTY APPLICATION	29.08.2024
P01	FACULTY APPLICATION	16.08.2024
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DRAWING TITLE:		
NORTH TRANSEPT ADAPTATIONS		
DATE:	SCALE:	
APRIL 24	1:50@A3	
JOB NO:	DRAWN BY:	CHECKED BY:
BFF/1640	XX	XX
DWG NO. (JOB-ORIG-BLDG-LVL-TYPE-ROLE-SHEET NO.-OP-REV.)		
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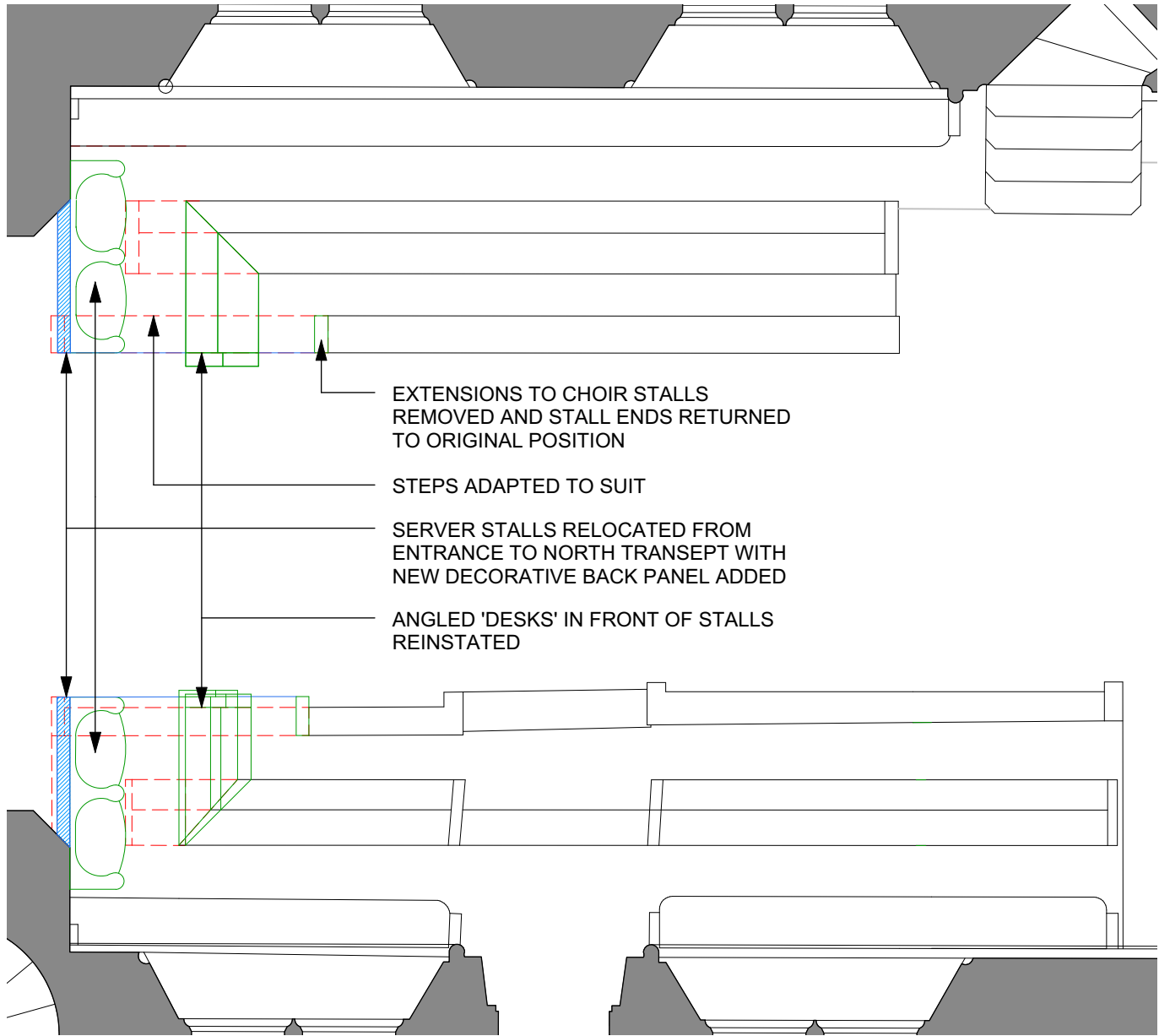
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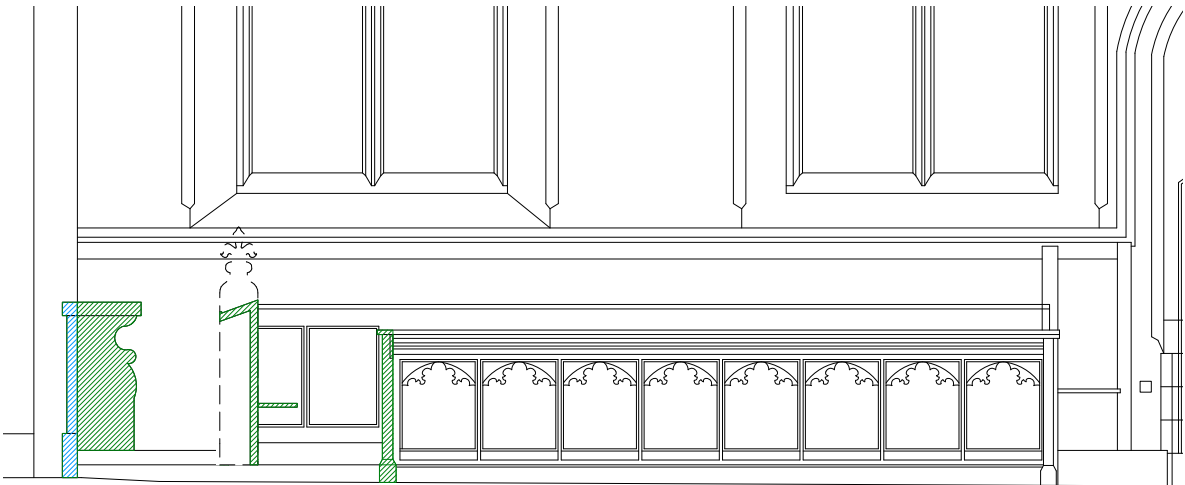
X LOCATION KEY



EXISTING ANGEL OF 'DESK'



1 ADAPTED CHOIR STALLS PLAN
Scale: 1:50

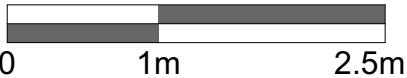


2 NORTH CHOIR STALLS ELEVATION
Scale: 1:50



3 SOUTH CHOIR STALLS ELEVATION
Scale: 1:50

SCALE BAR 1:50

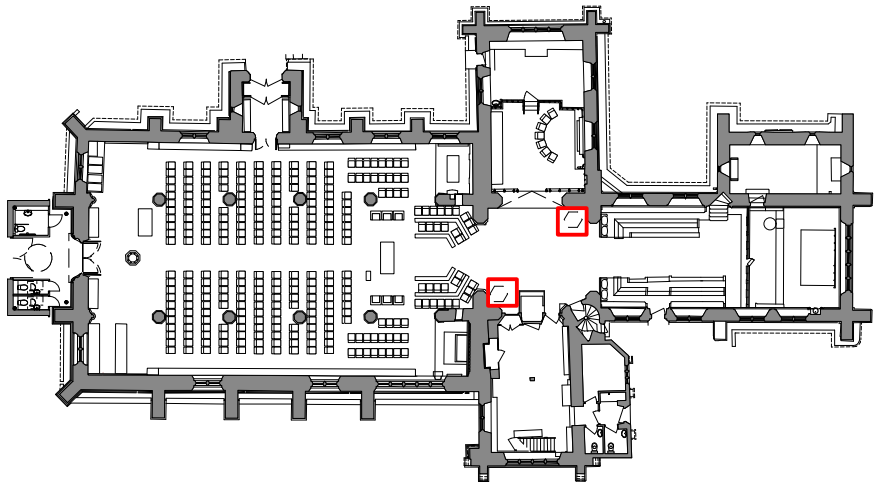


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P03	ADAPTION OF EASTERN END OF STALLS OMITTED.	14/02/2025
P02	FACULTY APPLICATION	29.08.2024
P01	FACULTY APPLICATION	16.08.2024
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DRAWING TITLE:		
CHOIR STALL ADAPTATIONS		
DATE:	SCALE:	
APRIL 24	1:50@A3	
JOB NO:	DRAWN BY:	CHECKED BY:
BFF/1640	XX	XX
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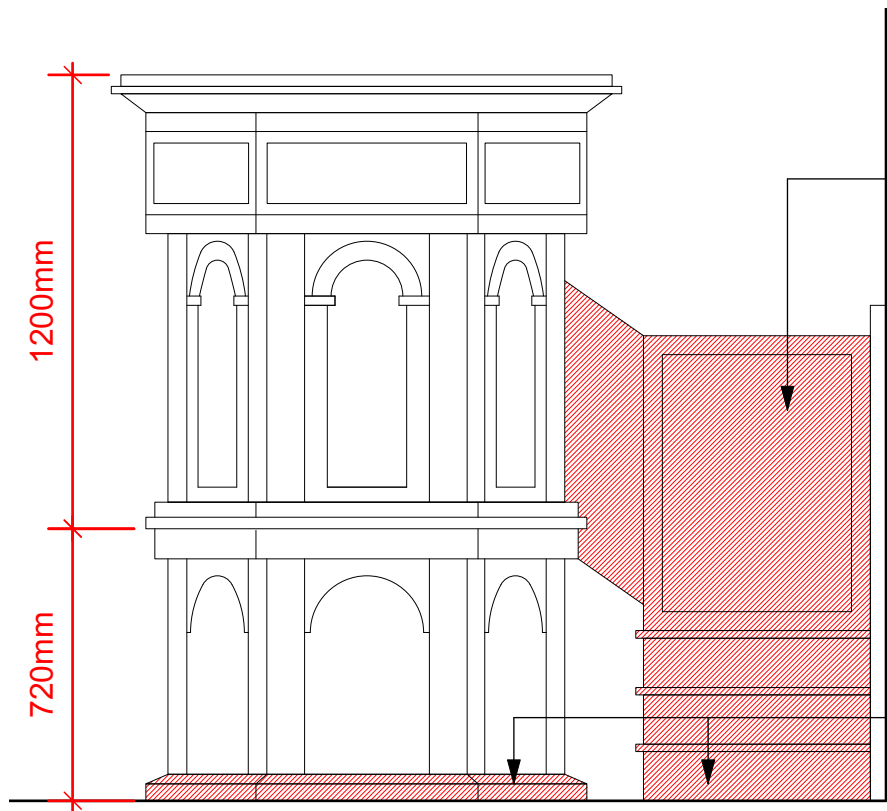
IMAGES AS EXISTING



LOCATION KEY
2 locations shown - intention is for multiple possible locations

EXISTING PULPIT TO BE ADAPTED TO ALLOW FOR RELOCATION, TO MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF USES AND LAYOUTS. A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE LOCATIONS ARE ENVISAGED FOR USE AND 'PARKING' OF THE ASSEMBLY.

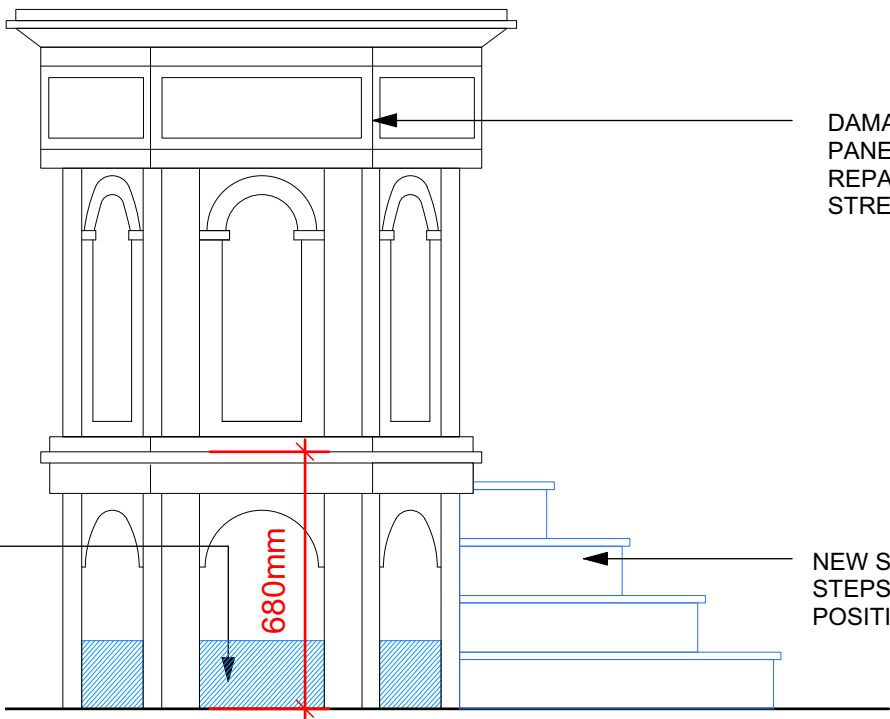
BOTTOM PLINTH TO BE REMOVED AND NEW HYDRAULIC MECHANISM INSERTED WITHIN VOID IN EXISTING BASE ASSEMBLY TO ALLOW WHOLE UNIT TO BE CRANKED UP AND MOVED ON LOCK-DOWN CASTORS. LOCATING PINS WITHIN FLOOR AND PULPIT BASE TO SECURE IT ONCE IN POSITION.



GATE REMOVED AND CAREFULLY STORED FOR REUSE ELSEWHERE

NEW HYDRAULIC MECHANISM INSERTED BETWEEN EXISTING LEGS TO ALLOW UNIT TO BE RAISED SLIGHTLY AND WHEELED INTO NEW POSITON ON LEVELLING CASTORS. SOLID PANELS ADDED INSIDE LEGS TO CONCEAL MECHANISM

HATCHED BASE SECTION AND STAIRS TO BE REMOVED



DAMAGED JOINTS BETWEEN PANELS TO BE CAREFULLY REPAIRED AND REINFORCED TO STRENGTHEN ASSMEBLY

NEW SET OF SIMPLE TIMBER STEPS ON CASTORS TO BE POSITIONED ALONGSIDE PULPIT

1 EXISTING ELEVATION
Scale: 1:20

2 PROPOSED ELEVATION
Scale: 1:20

SCALE BAR 1:20
0 0.5m 1m

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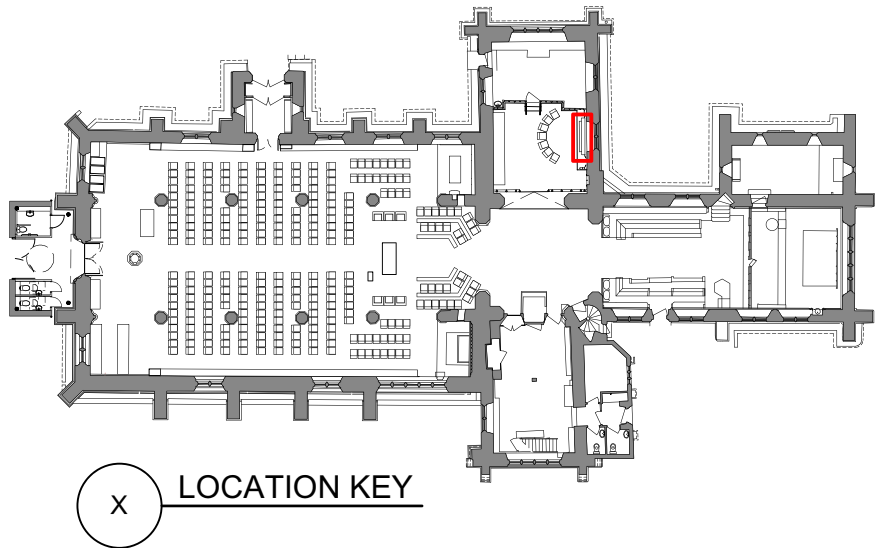
P03 PLINTH AMENDED 14/02/2025
P02 PULPIT HEIGHT UPDATED 27/01/2025
P01 FACULTY APPLICATION 16/08/2024
REV: NOTES: BY/CHKD: DATE:
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CHURCH HILL ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3RQ
DRAWING TITLE:
PULPIT ADAPTATIONS
DATE: APRIL 24 SCALE: 1:20@A3
JOB NO: BFF/1640 DRAWN BY: XX CHECKED BY: XX
DWG NO: (JOB-ORIG-BLDG-LVL-TYPE-ROLE-SHEET NO.-OP.-REV.)
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ST KATHERINE'S CHAPEL ALTAR AS EXISTING

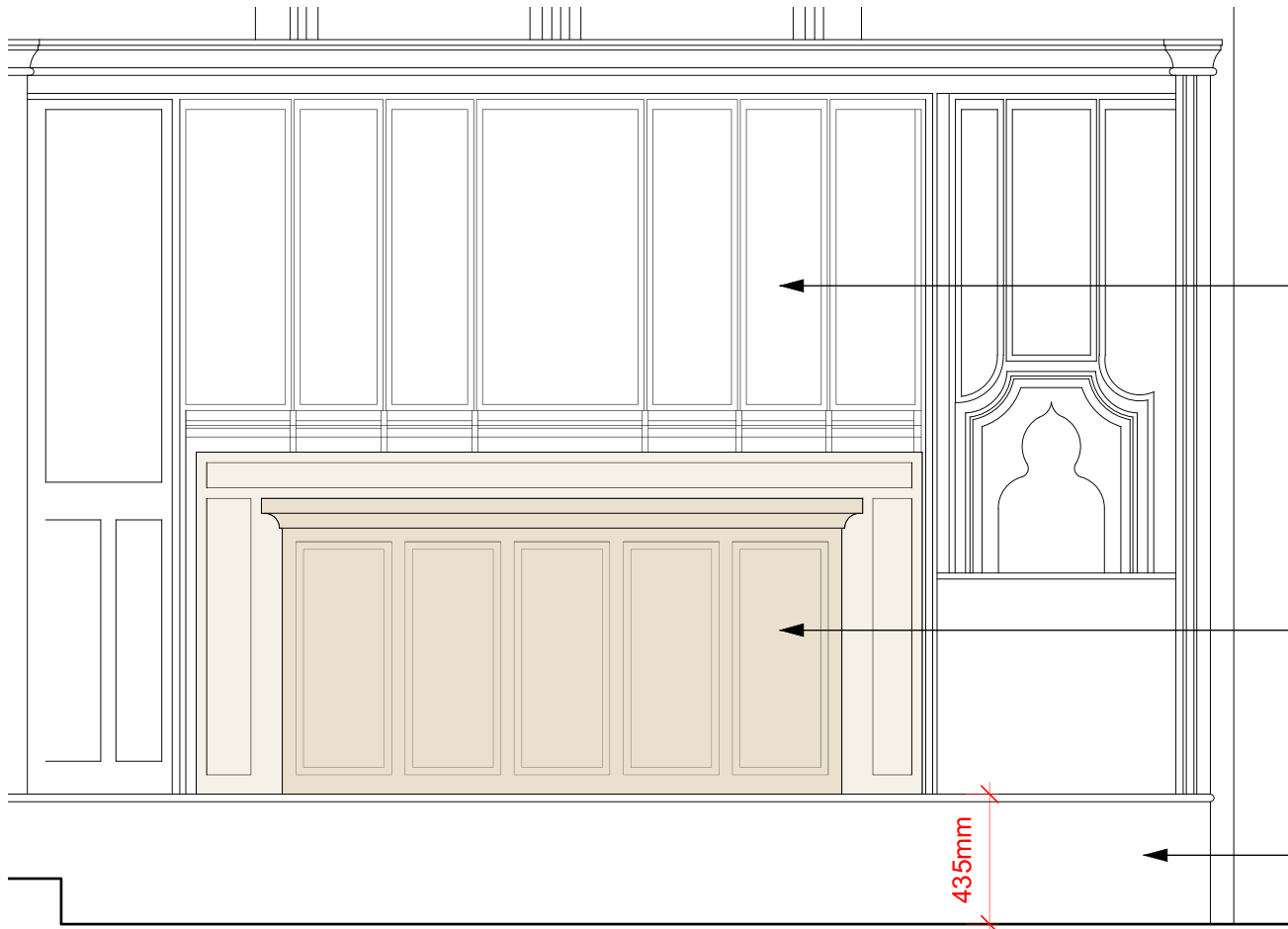
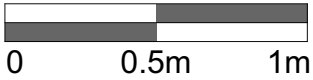


FRONT SECTION OF ALTAR
CAREFULLY CUT ALONG RED DASHED
LINE. REAR SECTION REMOVED AND
FRONT PANEL REATTACHED TO REAR
TIMBER SECTION



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SCALE BAR 1:25

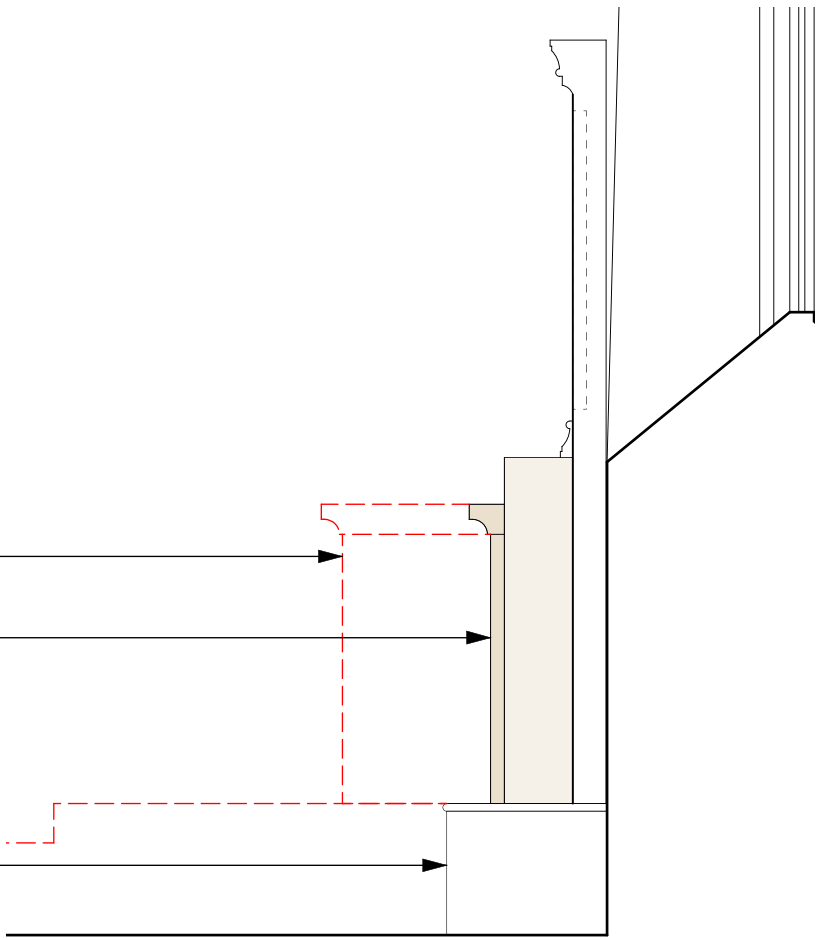


REREDOS RETAINED
UNCHANGED

EXISTING POSITION
OF ALTAR FRONT

PANELLED FRONT SECTION
OF ALTAR REINSTALLED
TIGHT AGAINST HIGHER
REAR TIMBER SECTION

NEW STONE-FACED
PLINTH TO SUIT
DROPPED FLOOR LEVEL



1 FRONT ELEVATION
Scale: 1:25

2 SIDE ELEVATION
Scale: 1:25

P01 FACULTY APPLICATION 25.11.2024
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ST ALPHEGE, SOLIHULL
FOR:
SOLIHULL PARISH
AT:
CHURCH HILL ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3RQ
DRAWING TITLE:
NORTH TRANSEPT ALTAR
ADAPTATIONS
DATE: APRIL 24 SCALE: 1:25@A3
JOB NO: BFF/1640 DRAWN BY: XX CHECKED BY: XX
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