

FORM 5 (Rule 5)

Section 8 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 Notice of Decision of Fabric Advisory Committee

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of:

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

applied on *insert date*

17th January 2022

for approval of the following proposal: *complete as on Form 3*

Treatment of mould infestation of Library material.

Summary of the nature of work and its extent (and materials) [or in the case of an object, a short description of it and details of the proposal]

In November 2021 a severe 'live' outbreak of mould was discovered in the Upper Hall of the Old Palace, affecting library material including early printed books and other material of interest and significance. Humidity in the room had reached 70% RH, encouraging mould bloom: this has now been lowered through dehumidification. The humidity had encouraged reactivation of a previous infestation, caused by water ingress. To preserve the material, and remove the mould spores, cleaning and treatment by a specialist contract, Harwell Restoration, is proposed, subject to final sign-off of details at the Chapter meeting on 26 January 2022.

'Outstanding' material, as identified on the Inventory, including the incunabula, has been less significantly affected and will be dried and cleaned on site by Harwell using HEPA vacuum treatments. After treatment, material will be stored in alternative secure and environmentally suitable stores within the Old Palace building.

Other volumes will be removed and dried and treated for mould in Harwell studios. Treatment may include irradiation: tests will be conducted on bindings to establish if this is suitable for specific volumes. While some material will return to the Old Palace site, for reasons of alternative storage limitations on site and retention of public access, it is proposed that other treated material is temporarily stored at the Borthwick Institute, through the established Library Partnership between York Minster and the University of York, until structural improvements to the Old Palace building have been made to prevent water ingress and re-infestation in the Upper Hall space.

Representations

Representations in writing in respect of the above proposal were received from: *list any statutory consultees and other bodies and give total number of representations from members of the public*

Victorian Society – 24th January 2022 – no comment
Historic England – 25th January 2022 – no comment
SPAB – 25th January 2022 – no comment

Decision

At a meeting of the Fabric Advisory Committee held on:

24th March 2022

the above proposal and representations were considered and the Committee decided to:

1. Approve the proposal

Signed



David Demack
Secretary of the Fabric Advisory Committee

Dated: 12th April 2022

NOTES:

1. A copy of this Notice is to be sent or delivered to the bodies or persons specified in Rule 5(7), as applicable [to the Chapter, the Cathedrals Fabric Commission and any other bodies who received a copy of the Form 3].
2. Within 7 days of receipt of this Notice the administrator of the Cathedral Church is to display a copy of it inside and outside the cathedral where it will be readily visible to the public for a period of not less than 28 days.