



St John's Church, Penistone

Heritage Impact Assessment

October 2022

9190

Foreword

Property Address: St John's Church
Shrewsbury Road
Penistone
Sheffield
S36 6DY

Applicant Penistone PCC

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On behalf of Soul Architects Limited

This Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared by Carl Andrews of Soul Architects Limited.

The document has been prepared in support of the application for the covering of the Nave Roof slopes with stainless steel. The property is grade I listed. The church benefits from Ecclesiastical Exemption.

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1 Understanding the Site

1.1 Site Location and Topography

The Church of St John the Baptist is located to the east of Penistone town centre and is within the Diocese of Sheffield. Penistone is a small market town to the west of Barnsley.



Extract from Google Earth

The Church of St John the Baptist is in Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The Church is listed Grade I.

1.2 Historical Development

PENISTONE MARKET PLACE (east side)

3/45 Church of St. John

G.V. I

Church. Masonry in nave, possibly pre-Conquest, arcades C13, chancel c1300, aisles, clerestorey and tower later C14 or C15. Deeply-coursed, squared stone, rubble to chancel. Lead roof. West tower, 6-bay nave with 4-bay north and south aisles and south porch, 2-bay chancel with north and south single-bay chapels and north-east C19 vestry. Tall Perpendicular, three-stage tower with diagonal buttresses. Large west door with two orders of mouldings enriched with stars and masks. 3-light traceried window above. Transomed and traceried bell-chamber openings. Gargoyles, castellated parapets and crocketed pinnacles. Buttressed aisles with three 3-light windows to south and two 2-light windows to north. South porch has C20 roof. Castellated parapets. Five 3-light square-headed clerestorey windows, castellated parapets and crocketed pinnacles. The south chancel chapel is gabled and has a 3-light window with Perpendicular tracery. Pointed chancel door with 2-light window above and a 3-light window with intersecting tracery. Five-light east window (restored) with intersecting tracery. North chancel chapel similar to south.

Interior: 6-bay arcades on alternate round and octagonal piers. Good nave roof, arched-braced to figure-head corbels and with elaborate bosses (c1375). Octagonal bowl-shaped font on square pedestal. Monuments in chancel, north side: 1708 shaped marble tablet with scrolled

support and scrolled open pediment and bust flanked by the ox and oak trees of the Bosvile crest; 1714 marble tablet, draped, with gadrooned canopy and flaming urn again with ox and oak trees of the Bosvile crest, flanked by two putti (one is missing). South side: mid C18 tablet with scrolled support and putto with coat of arms at top, to West and Fenton families of Underbrook Hall; other more plain C18 and C19 tablets including one of 1855 " in memory of Wm. Fenton of Underbank Esq. only son of Samuel and Jessey Fenton who was barbarously murdered by robbers at Algerciras in Spain. April 13th 1855. Aged 35".

N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England, 1967.

2 The Proposed Development

2.1 Scope of Works

In September 2007 the lead roof covering to the north and south slopes of the Nave was stolen leaving only the lead gutters in place. Following the theft, the roof was temporarily covered with bitumen felt.

Church insurances policies rarely provide full like for like replacement and limit pay outs.

The north and South Aisle roofs, North and South Transept roofs, Chancel roof and the South Porch roof have all be subject to lead theft and were subsequently covered with terne coated stainless steel.

While the bitumen felt roof covering is still performing, the material has a limited life expectancy, the PCC are keen to undertake works to replace the felt with terne coated stainless steel the safeguard the future of this well used building.

Following the theft of the lead to various roofs over a number of years there is an acceptance that the church is especially vulnerable, and that repeated theft is a real risk.

Historic England accept terne coated stainless steel as an acceptable alternative to lead.



Felt roof covering to the Nave



Lead gutters and outlets remain in place.

2.2 Proposed Development

Lead theft is a problem for many churches and low roofs are particularly vulnerable. Historic England support applications for a change of material where lead theft has been a problem. An accepted alternative material is terne coated stainless steel and with the use of solid rolls the roof covering will have a similar appearance to lead. It is proposed that the Nave felt roof covering is replaced with terne coated stainless steel. It is clear that replacement in lead will present a significant risk of further loss and damage to the fabric.

9190-100 Existing Roof Plan

9190-110 Proposed Roof Covering

9190-111 Proposed Details

9190-112 Proposed Details

3 Heritage Impact

With lead theft on the rise churches are especially vulnerable. To ensure that this church remains sustainable the use of vulnerable materials should be limited to inaccessible areas. Stainless steel has been used in many locations as a suitable alternative to lead and is supported by the DAC and Historic England.

The use of solid rolls will ensure that new covering retains visual similarities with lead. The use of stainless steel will have a neutral impact on the historic value of the building. The roof can only be glimpsed over the parapet and therefore the terne coated stainless steel will have minimal visual impact.



Nave roof viewed from the Tower



Exposed Nave roof structure (14th Century)



Nave roof is hidden by the parapet walls to all sides.