

Consultation Response from WY Archaeology Advisory Services
2025/90439 Church of the Holy Innocents, Vicarage Road, Dewsbury, WF12 9PD
Conversion of existing listed church to 2 dwellings, forming new residents car park, external amenity spaces and associated works
Date Responded: 14/4/25
Responding Officer: Glyn Davies
Responding Ref: CWY244

This application relates to the proposal to convert the Church of the Holy Innocents to two residential properties.

The application is supported by a combined Heritage, Design & Access Statement and several plans which provide a basic description of the church and its surrounds but does not provide sufficient detail to fully assess the impact of the proposed changes.

The church which was built in the late 1850s is one of three listed buildings within the church property but in addition there are further listed buildings in the vicinity that relate to the church primarily the Vicarage and Vicarage gates across the road in front of the church. The vicarage gates are of the same style as the church gates and were obviously designed to match them.

The Church Listed Building No. 1300421

The Sundial Listed Building No. 1300424

The Gate and Gatepiers Listed Building No. 1313648

The Vicarage Listed Building No. 1134713

The Vicarage Gate and Gatepiers Listed building No. 1183833

Recommended Course of Action

We recommend that, in accordance with national and local policies the developer is required to provide the Planning Authority with an archaeological assessment, based on appropriate analytical methods, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development. We strongly recommend that this assessment should be carried out prior to the determination of this application to permit the design of an adequate archaeological/heritage response.

A photographic buildings appraisal is required that will provide a record of the church and related structures to assess the impact of the proposed changes. This needs to include photo location plans and a written description highlighting the key features of the church.

- The record should include a record of any internal memorials and wall plaques. The existing architects drawings can be used to as base maps for the photo viewpoint plans and elevations and these should be annotated with photo viewpoints and plaque locations.
- The aim should be to identify the significance of the church and related listed buildings and non-designated structures around the church that relate to the church.
- The appraisal needs to consider the proposed changes to the church, its heritage significance, and the impact of the changes on the heritage significance.
- In addition the appraisal needs to assess the impact of the proposed changes in the wider landscape such as the burial ground, churchyard walls and the gate. This should consider the potential impact of any proposed changes on any burials that may be present and impacted by external changes, such as the provision of services and car parking to the proposed residential properties.
- The appraisal should refer to the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service's Research Agenda for Historic Buildings. In particular the section relating to Post-medieval Anglican churches. <https://www.wyjs.org.uk/media/1274/historic-buildings.pdf>

The buildings appraisal should be carried out by an appropriately qualified buildings archaeologist or similar.

Further archaeological advice will depend upon the results of the appraisal but may vary from: a recommendation for refusal or re-design of the development proposal, to carry out archaeological recording in advance of development, to have an archaeologist on site during development works to record anything of interest that is revealed (a 'watching brief'), or that no further archaeological work is required.

We advise that it is in the developer's interests to carry out the assessment as early as possible, in order that the full implications and cost of any archaeological discoveries can be taken account of when planning the project.

Further works, if appropriate, may be secured by placing a suitably worded condition on any grant of planning permission awarded by the local planning authority.

Recommended Condition

The following condition is suggested by Historic England in their Historic Environment Good Practice Advice, Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, 2015 paragraph 37:

"No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI"

Detail of Archaeological Work

Should further works be required following the buildings appraisal details of the necessary archaeological work, in the form of a specification, will be provided to the developer, on written request, by the WY Archaeology Advisory Service in our capacity as Kirklees Council's advisors on archaeological matters. The WY Archaeology Advisory Service will also be responsible for monitoring the work of the archaeological contractor commissioned by the developer to undertake this work, on behalf of the Planning Authority. From the 1st of April 2011 in accordance with the agreement of the Council Committee that oversees our work the WY Archaeology Advisory Service will charge the developer for these and concomitant services. Please note that the production of a specification may take up to three working weeks from receipt of a written request. It is in the applicant's interest that they be made aware of this likely timescale.

The WY Archaeology Advisory Service can also provide a list of archaeological contractors who may be available to tender for the work. In order to aid the developer to meet the requirements of the above condition I would suggest that it might be helpful to add the following as a note to the planning permission:

"For further information please contact: Glyn Davies, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service: 0113 3782249."

We would strongly suggest that the developer is advised that a reasonable period of time for the execution of the necessary archaeological work must be allowed for within the

overall site timetable. Any commencement of work on site prior to the approval and implementation of an archaeological specification, and/or any failure to schedule work properly that results in inadequate archaeological recording, should be deemed by the Planning Department to be a breach of the planning condition.

Yours

Glyn