



HERITAGE, DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

St Thomas a Becket Church, Warblington

December 2020

The Goddard Partnership Limited

Historic Buildings, Design
and Conservation Consultants

The Old Fire Station
Upper Basingwell Street
Bishop's Waltham
Hampshire
SO32 1PF

01489 890 629

office@thegoddardpartnership.com

1. Project Background

- 1.1. The following Heritage, Design and Access Statement has been prepared in support of an application for a new septic tank and a storage shed, and associated works at the church of St Thomas A Becket, Warblington.
- 1.2. The church is located in a relatively remote location and as part of their mission and outreach, proposals have been submitted and approved by the Diocese under the Ecclesiastical Exemption Measure 1955, to provide a new welcome area within the church and toilet facilities in the existing listed watch huts.
- 1.3. These facilities are ancillary to and support the primary function of the church buildings.
- 1.4. The as application presented considers the impact of the new drainage installation and the shed on the setting of the listed buildings

2. Heritage Statement

- 2.1. The work is proposed alongside the listed watch huts in the NW corner of the churchyard.
- 2.2. The list description for the building is as follows;

SU 70 NW HAVANT CHURCH LANE Warblington Gravewatcher's Hut (10 yards north-west 16.5.52 of church) 4/45 II Gravewatcher's Hut In the north-west corner of the churchyard. Early C19. Once square, then extended on the north side. Galletted flint walls with red brick quoins, Gothic arch within a square doorway, coupled lights with pointed heads, set in rectangular flint frame. Boarded door panels within a Gothic frame, shutters to the windows. Hipped slate roof.

Listing NGR: SU7293805566

- 2.3. Contrary to the list description the main church is approximately 25m from the NW watch hut, with the area of work to install the septic tank a further 6 m distant (31m in total).
- 2.4. For completeness, the list description of the church is as follows;

SU 70 NW HAVANT CHURCH LANE Warblington Church of St. Thomas- a-Becket

16.5.52 I 4/44

Parish Church. Saxon, Transitional (late C12), Early English (C13), C15, restoration of 1859 (by J. H. Ball). The slender central tower is Saxon (a tower above a west porch), but the lowest stage was widened when the chancel (originally the Saxon church) was rebuilt in the C13. The chancel has a north wing (vestry) and the east end, and next to it a shorter C19 transept (above the heating chamber). The comparatively-wide nave has 3 bays, with aisles extending as chapels (each with a piscina) on each side of the tower. The arcade is supported on the north side by drum columns with moulded circular caps and bases, on the south side by octagonal shafts, each with 4 detached Purbeck columns with 'stiff-leaf' caps: the 2 tower arches are C13 and rest on triple attached Purbeck shafts, having moulded caps at the _ east side and stiff leaf foliage at the west. Above the east wall of the nave can be seen a Saxon doorway, other features of the interior include 2 canopied medieval tombs (each with a recumbent female figure) and several wall monuments. Externally the roof is tiled and the walling is of flint and stone rubble with stone dressings, There are some lancets, but most of the windows are traceried Victorian lights, the aisles having coupled lights within one arch, beneath gables. The north porch is C15, of heavy timber- framing with stone side walls. The tower is crowned with a small shingled broach spire (of 1859).

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3. Proposals

- 3.1. The application includes the provision of a shallow excavation septic tank, to suit the use of the new toilet, and the provision of the drainage leading to extending from the tank.
- 3.2. The proposed location of the tank is close to existing 3 Cupressus x Leylandii trees (labelled T1-T3 inclusive), which are to be removed, and a separate application has been submitted to the Arboricultural Officer for this work. The trees are located in the Warblington Conservation Area, but they are not separately protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- 3.3. The proposal for the removal of the trees, includes their replacement with a native hedge mix, including

Hawthorn (30%)
Blackthorn (30%)
Crabapple (5%)
Field Maple (10%)
Hazel (15%)
Dog Rose(10%)
- 3.4. The work includes the provision of a new timber clad storage shed, (1.8 wide, x 3m long x 1.8m high) which will be concealed behind the existing heavily planted border within the churchyard. Other locations have been considered, and this position results in the least visual harm to the listed buildings and their setting. The storage shed will be used for the storage of chairs, and garden maintenance equipment.
- 3.5. The shed will be finished using a dark stain, over a paving slab base laid directly over the ground. The building will not have any formal foundations. An image of the shed proposed is included below.
- 3.6. There is no physical harm resulting the the listed buildings as a result of the proposal.

4. Pre-application advice

- 4.1. The Goddard Partnership met on site to discuss the proposals in January 2017. The following attended the meeting, with support given by all.

Peter Fellows (Havant BC, Conservation Officer)
Marion Brinton (Historic England)
Members of the Portsmouth Diocesan Advisory Committee

5. Archaeology

- 5.1. The site is located within the churchyard and it is possible that burials may be encountered, although none are specifically identified in the area of the work, on the grave plan kept by the church.
- 5.2. The work within the church will follow the *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England (2017) Second Edition* published by The Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

6. Impact on Accessibility

- 6.1. The provision of a fully accessible toilet, will improve the facilities within the church for all visitors.

7. Photographs



View towards location of shed from the church path



View of the watch hut, with the shed concealed to the right.



View of the watch hut from outside the churchyard. The shed will be concealed behind (out of view)

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Proposed Shed (2400mm x 1800mm . (Colour to be ebony, with no glazing)