

## FORM 4 (Rule 5)

### Section 8 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 Public Notice on application to the Fabric Advisory Committee

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of:**

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

**has on this date:**

3 February 2022

**applied to the Fabric Advisory Committee of the said cathedral for approval of the following proposal:**

The Chapter of York proposes to temporarily remove the book *Le Blason des toutes armes, 1495*, From York Minster Library to the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester, to enable non-invasive multi spectral imaging to take place. This will inform plans for its appropriate conservation.

**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]**

*Le Blason des toutes armes* is a book on heraldry printed in Paris in 1495. There are only two known copies of this, the other in Paris in the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève. The binding is particularly interesting, comprising layers of manuscript material including early French verse which scholars haven't yet been able to identify. The paper covering is in poor condition with pieces flaking off and it has been classified as 'not fit for production', meaning scholars are unable to handle and research it. The Friends of York Minster have kindly given money for its conservation and it is proposed that the book is transported to the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester to allow Multi Spectral Imaging (MSI), a non-invasive photographic technique to take place. This will inform plans for its conservation treatment, which will be subject of a future proposal.

Temporary removal for a short period (we anticipate less than 48 hours) for this non-invasive photography is therefore proposed.

**Plans, drawings, specifications or other documents**

**Copies of the plans, drawings, specification and other documents accompanying this application may be examined online at**

<https://yorkminster.org/about-us/statutory-applications/>

**From this day:**

3 February 2022

**and until:**

3 March 2022

## REPRESENTATIONS

**If you wish to make representations about the whole or any part of the proposal described in this Notice you should write to the Secretary of the Fabric Advisory Committee: *insert postal and email address.***

Mr David Demack  
Westbury House  
142 Fox Lane  
Leyland, Lancashire  
PR25 1HD  
[FAC@yorkminster.org](mailto:FAC@yorkminster.org)

**So that it reaches the Secretary not later than:** *insert a date ending 28 days after the time of the commencement of the period for representations.*

3 March 2022

## DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER

1. This public notice (or a copy of it) must be displayed for a continuous period of 28 days in a prominent position inside and outside your cathedral where it is readily visible to the public.
2. A copy of this notice must be sent as follows:
  - (a) to the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, and
  - (b) if the proposal is of a kind described in section 2(1)(a) of the Measure—
    - (i) to Historic England (formerly English Heritage)
    - (ii) to the national amenity societies as applicable (see list on Form 3)
    - (iii) to the local planning authority.

TITLE: Multi Spectral Imaging of *Le Blason des toutes armes*

CHAPTER MEETING DATE: 26 January 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

PAPER FROM: Head of Heritage and Participation



*Le Blason des toutes armes* is a book on heraldry printed in Paris in 1495. There are only two known copies of this, the other in Paris in the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève. The binding is particularly interesting, comprising layers of manuscript material including early French verse which scholars haven't yet been able to identify. The paper covering is in poor condition with pieces flaking off and it has been classified as 'not fit for production', meaning we cannot allow scholars to handle and research it. The Friends of York Minster have kindly given money for its conservation and it is proposed that the book is transported to the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester to allow Multi Spectral Imaging (MSI), a non-invasive photographic technique, as a first step in the book's treatment.

Conservator Nicholas Pickwoad, adviser on book conservation to the National Trust, and director of the Ligatus Research Centre, dedicated to the history of bookbinding, examined the book in the summer. He suspects that it still has its original 15th century sewing which will affect how we approach conservation treatment. The best way to confirm this is through MSI.

The John Rylands Library has a MSI machine and will photograph the book for no charge. They have a dedicated imaging team used to handling delicate material, and all care will be taken to minimise any further damage to the cover.

We are considering transport to and from Manchester via taxi and first class train or car with driver and passenger, and will take the advice of the insurers who will be kept informed throughout. The book will be off the Minster premises for less than 48 hours. It will be held in secure storage at the John Rylands Library overnight if travel, analysis and return is not possible within one working day.



This is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about this incredibly rare book, and the results of this non-invasive technique will inform future conservation plans ensuring the best and most up to date treatment.

The volume is classed as 'Outstanding' on the Inventory; whether CFCE permission is needed for a temporary removal for non-interventive imaging work is being discussed between John Gough, Chair of York Minster's FAC, and Thomas Ashley of CFCE. FAC were notified of the proposal at the meeting on 9 December and noted that if FAC rather than CFCE approval is appropriate, this will be formally confirmed retrospectively. If CFCE approval is required, papers will be submitted for the CFCE meeting on 25 March 2022, should Chapter approve this proposal. The analysis will inform development of a conservation proposal, which will be brought to Chapter, FAC and CFCE for consideration in due course.

**Chapter is asked:**

1. **TO RECEIVE** this briefing note
2. **TO APPROVE** the Head of Heritage and Participation's proposal for MSI photography of this volume, to inform conservation plans.