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 Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

has on this date: 24 August 2022

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

To install bird protection measures (pigeon netting) as required under the consent granted by CFCE on 23 September 2021 to place a statue of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the West Front of York Minster.

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]

The CFCE’s approval of the Queen’s statue included a proposal for the essential pigeon netting, subject to agreement of details by the FAC. The CFCE advised York Minster to make a separate CCM application for the netting.

The netting will be installed by a competent specialist.

The primary aims of the pigeon netting are:
1. for the netting to be effective and exclude all birds from the niche
2. to select fixings which do minimal permanent harm to fabric
3. to be as visually unobtrusive as possible
4. to be maintainable and durable.

The components of the system are as follows:
1. the fixing plug
2. the hook eye
3. perimeter wire, crimps and tensioner(s)
4. the netting material.

The proposal has been considered and commented on by the Statue Advisory Group, who are unanimous in support.
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: 24 August 2022

and until: 21 September 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
c/o 4 Deangate
York
YO1 7JA
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.

21 September 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.
York Minster: 
The Queen’s Statue Commission

Netting Materials: application

CCM Submission.

Rev. A02: 24 August 2022
1. INTRODUCTION

The CFCE’s approval of the Queen’s statue included a proposal for the essential pigeon netting, subject to agreement of details by the FAC. The CFCE advised York Minster to make a separate CCM application for the netting (see letter dated 23 September 2021 appended). The FAC has been consulted informally and the proposal has also been considered and commented on by the Statue Advisory Group (SAG) who are unanimous in support. This paper presents the detailed proposals for the netting for formal CCM approval.

The need for the netting is unambiguous. There is not a huge bird fouling and soiling problem on and around the Minster, but there is also a constant battle of attrition against the pigeons. The niche and the new statue would be a perfect perching and roosting site without netting. It would only take one shitty bird to deface the new sculpture to harm the dignified reception of the statue.

In considering options, it is also clear that, given the artistic merit of the sculpture, it would be quite wrong to apply bird spikes to the crown and on the perching surfaces in and around the statue. The spikes and wires would undoubtedly do as much harm and would not be adequately maintainable.

It is not proposed here to further elucidate the exceptional heritage significance of the Grade 1 listed façade and the specific significance of the niche. Except to perhaps note that Richard Bosson’s statue has been approved and, following scrupulous consultations, has now been completed to the very highest standard. Therefore statue itself is now as much a part of the significance of the Grade 1 listed façade as the whole. It is also important to note that, following a separate CCM approval, the niche itself has been very carefully conserved and repaired – so that the setting of and architectural frame for the statue is now in an excellent state of repair which has enhanced significance.

2. AIMS AND PROPOSAL

The netting will be installed by a competent specialist. This is the same team who installed the netting to the South Quire Aisle as part of the Revealed project.

The primary aims are:
1. for the netting to be effective and exclude all birds from the niche
2. to select fixings which do minimal permanent harm to fabric
3. to be as visually unobtrusive as possible
4. to be maintainable and durable.

The components of the system are as follows:
1. The fixing plug
2. The hook eye
3. Perimeter wire, crimps and tensioner(s)
4. The netting material

Beside ruling out spikes or wires as a protection option (see above) we have examined the options for materials and setting out of fixings in detail – briefly explained in this paper. The main observation is that the key aims will be delivered but it needs to be stated that the netting cannot be completely invisible to a close observer, but for the majority of viewers it will hardly impinge on the enjoyment of the superb artwork.

Another matter to note is that the stoneyard team have cleverly devised an unveiling system for the official ‘reveal’ of the statue which will use the same fixings for the netting, so there will be no unnecessary holes in masonry.
3. MATERIALS (INCLUDING OPTIONS)

The fixing plug.
This will be a polypropylene unit as photograph below. These come in white, black and a rarer 'stone' colour. The installers have been able to source the 'stone' colour plug units.

The setting out of the fixings needs some explanation. The first instinct was to enquire if these fixings could only made into stone joints. This is not possible. The critical functional and visual effect could not be achieved as the stone joints don't fall regularly or in the needed locations and - if you consider the path of the tension wire – it would look terrible if the tension cord of the wire around the head of the niche were not symmetrical and regular. Similarly down the sides, since the perimeter wire holds the net in tension, it will form a parabolic line slightly between fixings. Therefore the vertical spacing of fixing has to be 500mm; the Surveyor has set out the spacing at 400mm around the arched head to control the faceting of the wire line so it does not cross the curve of the moulding profile.

The hook eye.
In the standard ‘kit’ there are two choices: a split pin and an M4 hook eye which projects 25mm from the face; both in stainless. The split pin is visually unobtrusive, but the Surveyor has regularly found that these press-fit fixings work loose over time and fall out. Therefore a screwed fixing is needed. We are now sourcing a smaller M4 end-terminal eye (see below). If none is available we will hot-forged and cut the standard unit ourselves to achieve a lesser visual effect.

Perimeter wire, crims and tensioner(s):
The wide is 2mm woven stainless with copper crimps.
We are offered an alternative for the tensioner:
- A single M5 s/s tensioner, circa 150mm long located at the bottom corner
- Or two M3 s/s tensioners circa 100mm long, positioned symmetrically at the two lower corners of the installation.

We are proposing using the two smaller tensioners, located symmetrically.

The netting material:
The standard netting materials are black and white. The issue with white is contrast with the background. White soils over time and can become more visually noticeable when dirty. The installer has been able to source a ‘stone’ colour netting for us in buff. This is the material proposed. It is as visually unobtrusive against the background as can be.

Netting material choice: Buff/stone colour selected. See tone effect against background (right).
Location and extent of netting:

Mock up showing the boundary of the netting indicatively showing the faceting of the wire around the arched head, which is set out at 400mm to stop the faceting of the wire crossing the bevelled rebate around the head. Fixings will be at 500mm vertically to limit deflection of the vertical line. In all 20 no fixings needed.

The proposed tensioners will be horizontal either side of the lower wire line.
Fixing materials:
Top: stone colour fixing plug.
Right: tensioner 150mm (proposal is to use 2no 100 long)
Bottom: split pin and hook eye fixings. (see below).

Illustration of preferred fixing (screw eye terminal) – awaiting sample to confirm sizing If we cannot procure to correct sizes, we will hand-forged and reduce size of the standard hook eye unit.

4. JUSTIFICATION

There are two ‘impacts’ of this proposal to assess. The first is the physical intrusion of a number of fixings. There are 20 fixing points proposed. 4 of these are into the new stone plinth capping. Therefore there are 16no small fixings into historic weathered stone, which have some direct harm. If and when removed, these fixings can be repaired using the conservation techniques for which the stoneyard team are renown. The options considered demonstrates that there is a well-justified need for an effective, maintainable netting solution. The impact is real but low.

The other impact is a visual one. This is subtle and low and, to most observers, will scarcely register. For those who do notice the netting or fixings, it will be readily apparent what the purpose of the
installation is and the rationale and need for protection. The visual impact has been mitigated by careful selection of materials as demonstrated above.

It is argued that the benefit greatly outweighs the alternative – a shifty, disfigured statue or an alternative installation of obtrusive, visually harmful bird spikes itself would be highly detrimental. Despite all the current best endeavours and other bird deterrent measures, the Minster is located in an urban setting where feral urban birds will gather. [In fact having a few pigeons delivers a biodiversity benefit – because they are the food-source for the Peregrine Falcon].

The netting and protection has a low-level of harm which is more than outweighed by the significant public benefit of protecting the highly significant niche and the wonderful new scripture which has been placed in this setting – which itself is now a highly significant and valuable addition to the Minster.

Oliver Caroe: Surveyor of the Fabric
with Alex McCallion, Director of Works and Precincts.
Dear Alex

**YORK MINSTER: Details of West Front Statue of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

Thank you for your application of 1st June 2021 to place a statue of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the West Front of York Minster. The Commission considered the application at its meeting on 30 May 2019. It had before it:

- Form 9 dated 16 August 2021
- Supporting documentation

The following representations were received:

**Statutory Consultees:**

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission **approved** the application with the following conditions:

1. That the suitability of the use of patinated metal for the orb and sceptre shall be agreed by the FAC based on the provision of material samples (this will not require a new application under the Measure).
2. That the installation of bird protection measures shall be approved by the FAC (this **will** require a new application under the Measure).
3. That the details of repairs to the stonework and plinth of the niche shall be approved by the FAC (the FAC shall determine whether an application under the Measure is required based on the extent of the proposed works and the significance of the fabric affected).

I enclose a **Form 10** for display, and a **Notice of Completion** for you to complete and return in due course, please.

Thomas Ashley  
Senior Cathedrals Officer and  
Deputy Secretary to the CFCE  
23 September 2021
I am sorry for my delay in sending this notification. As ever, I will be happy to discuss any aspect of this with you in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Ashley
Senior Cathedrals Officer and Deputy Secretary to the CFCE

cc  Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost, Dean
    Dr John Gough, FAC Chair
    David Demack, FAC Secretary
    Kathryn Blacker, Cathedral Administrator
    Stuart Harrison, Cathedral Archaeologist
    Oliver Caroe, Cathedral Architect
    Kerry Babington, Historic England
    The Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies
    York City Council