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Dear Mr Macholc,

Planning Application 3/2018/0380: Proposed extension to the church and car parking facility. St Peters Church, Ribchester Road, Clayton-le-Dale BB1 9EQ

Thank you for your consultation on the above application. The only strictly archaeological issue with the proposed development is with regard to the existence of burials within the development footprint, as no earlier remains are considered likely to exist here.

The 1807 chapel of ease at Salesbury and the present parish church are noted on the Lancashire Historic Environment Record as PRN 6717. The earlier chapel was located c.130m to the north of the present building (the latter erected as a replacement in 1887) and is shown with an associated surrounding graveyard on the OS 1:10,560 sheet of 1848 (sheet Lancashire 62, surveyed 1844-6, reproduced as Figure 7 of the Heritage Statement (HS, C J O'Flaherty, 2018)). The 1893 OS 1:2,500 mapping showing the present church (sheet Lancashire 62.04, surveyed 1892) has the words 'Grave Yard' written just to the north of the church within the triangular development plot. There is, however, no boundary between this area and the older graveyard site to the north, so the label may denote an intention to extend the burial area rather than denoting where burials had actually occurred.

The HS does not consider archaeological deposits or burials, although it does note that "...To the north there is a large graveyard ..." (section 2.2). The Design and Access Statement (DAS, Byrom Clark Roberts, 2017) also does not consider potential remains, although it does state that "... All the burials are in the cemetery on the north side of the footpath..." (section 1.1), with "the footpath" presumably meaning the path at the north side of the proposed development plot. This would seem to be supported by digital aerial photographic coverage held by LCC, which show the older graveyard being gradually extended to the east towards the cricket ground, rather than south into the proposed development plot. It would be sensible, however, to ask for a specific confirmation from the applicants that they have checked the relevant burial records and that no known burials exist within the proposed development area.

With regard to the design of the proposed new structures themselves, we note that there has been significant pre-application discussion with the council, including the drawing up of a (rejected) draft scheme. We also note that the proposed scheme only requires the removal of the 1968 choir vestry and the conversion of a single window to a doorway (extant tracery and leaded light to be re-used in the new fanlight). The detail of the junction between the present building and the new extension has not been provided, but there seems to be no reason to suppose that this will be particularly difficult or damaging to the older structure. As such we are content to leave comment on the architectural merits and potential impact on the existing church and its setting to your Conservation team.

We hope the above is of use to you. Should you wish for further comment or information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Peter Iles