

Project 620

Newton in Bowland School Bell – Proposed Restoration

Grade II List Entry 1072251



Introduction

Calibre Metalwork Limited are looking forward to restoring the historic bell on The Old School building in Newton-in-Bowland. The building is now a residential property and the historic bell tower sits empty as it has for a number of years.

We have already replicated the cast iron windows to this wonderful property in the recent past.

Although the original bell has been sourced by our client, the swinging framework on which it swung has been lost and will require careful sympathetic replication.

Our survey carried out in October 2023, and again in January 2025, have provided little insight into the original mechanism, where the original iron bearings remain embedded in the side walls of the bell cote. We have constructed working drawings based on site measurements taken and historical photographs of working and non-working bells of a similar age and size within the locality.

Drawings

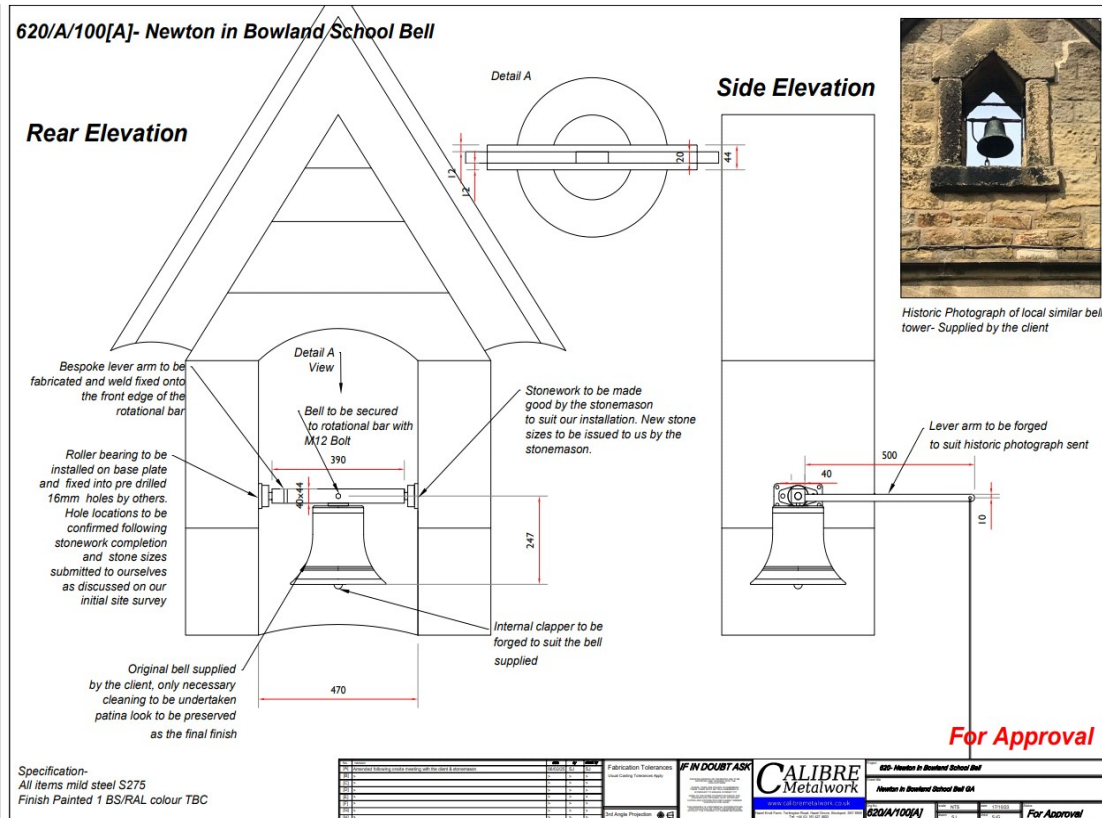
Based on the information gained and historic photographs provided, and viewed on the web, Calibre have produced a working drawing (screenshot below for reference) for approval both aesthetically and structurally (attached with this document) scaled 1:10 @A3.

We believe that the proposed arrangement is structurally capable of carrying the load of the bronze bell (weighing ~20kg) and will allow the bell to be rung from ground level.

Note

We are not stonemasons and are not able to offer any advice as to the strength of the related supporting stone. A suitable, experienced engineer/mason should be approached to confirm their approval.

Drawing



Modus Operandi for Proposed Restoration/Manufacture and Installation

- Preparation of working drawings for approval of new supporting framework and to all the client to explore options for the bell pull route/specification
- Manufacture/forge a new supporting, swinging framework in fabricated mild steel
- Galvanise all for longevity
- Finish paint the framework a single BS/RAL colour using our high quality, heritage approved, paint system
- The bell is to be cleaned and bead blasted to remove verdi gris to its original sand-cast finish and we will make and fit a new clanger within the bell
- We will install to structurally sound stonework
- Any paintwork bruised during transport or installation will be touched in and site left clean and tidy of our related waste

We propose to manufacture the new bell framework based on similar structures that still exist within the locality, working with the original bearings for repair and re-use where this is possible. Once removed and cleaned back however if the originals are

deemed to be too damaged/worn we will fabricate new bearings to closely replicate the originals.

There appears to be no current evidence of the original bell pull location and it cannot be ascertained whether the original bell was operated from outside or inside the building.