



St Lawrence Church

LECHLADE-ON-THAMES



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This Statement of Significance is presented in two parts.

- Part 1 is a separate volume which presents an overview of the significance of the church.
- This document is Part 2 which sets out the reordering proposals and reports on the significance of the areas affected by the proposals and associated mitigation.

Both parts should be read in conjunction with the separate Statement of Need.

1. Introduction

This section has been prepared to accompany an application for a Faculty for the re-ordering of the church of St Lawrence, Lechlade. It should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Significance (Part 1), Statement of Need, design drawings and the Design Statement. This Statement of Significance (Part 2) sets out the impact of the proposals on the church, assesses the impact of those proposals and sets out the planned mitigation of those impacts. This section has been prepared by Chiz Harward BA MCIfA of Urban Archaeology, building on work by the Project Inspire Group. The project is managed by the Project Inspire Group (formerly the restoration and reordering project group) reporting to the Parochial Church Council.

2. The proposed scheme

Following detailed work to establish the needs of the congregation, four options were drawn up, including a new extension to house toilet facilities, and possibly office space, on the north side of the church. Following discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) the options for an extension have not been pursued. The current proposal involves:

- The principal entrance will revert to being via the north porch. The original wooden door will be retained. A new timber door will be placed in the entrance.
- A new, level, floor of finished limestone flagstones will be laid across the north porch, the nave and the aisles to match the level of the existing floor in the choir and chancel.
- Replacement of nearly all pews with seats to allow flexible seating. We shall retain a small number in the chancel.
- At the west end of the church the 18th century gallery will be reinstated, with meeting rooms, kitchen and WC below. There will be a meeting room in the bell ringing chamber.
- The floor in the west porch will be raised to match the new general internal floor level. The space will be used as a meeting room, with through access reserved for major services. Externally the hard landscaping will be adapted to provide step free access to the west door and reduce the risk of flooding the external paving.
- The Blaise chapel will be retained although the reredos will be removed to give more space.
- The choir screen will be moved to the back of the first-floor gallery. The side parclose screen will remain *in situ*.
- Three ledgerstones in the existing floor will be relocated in the new floor.
- A small number of wall-mounted monuments will be moved to accommodate the reinstated gallery.
- The south doorway will be unsealed, and the original wooden door restored.
- Lighting and heating will be replaced. An air source heat pump and underfloor heating is proposed. The existing radiators and pipes will be removed from the walls and services buried within the new floor.
- Upgrading of the internal furniture and fittings in the vestry.
- Externally, Shelley's Walk, a public class 6 highway, will need to be re-laid to provide safe access to the north porch.
- Improvements to the cellar/boiler room to accommodate new heating equipment.

- External works to include air source heat pumps and noise reduction baffles, two timber buildings in the north of the churchyard for grounds maintenance and recycling storage, and access path to the external vestry door.

There had been some concern that the proposed scheme may not allow sufficient room for toilet facilities inside the church, and two further options have been suggested and are here mentioned in brief: for a small toilet extension adjacent to the north porch, or one external to the south door of the church. These options have not been progressed and the external fabric of the church is unchanged by the current proposals.

3. The reordering proposals

In this section we set out the Project Inspire proposals as they impact on key features of the church, the historic background to these features, the reasons for the changes proposed and the benefits they will bring. The proposals reflect some key concepts:

- An open and welcoming space for flexible worship and community use;
- Level access for all abilities from the re-opened north porch to the communion rail;
- Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building;
- Efficient energy use towards the Church of England 'net-zero' carbon reduction target by 2030; and
- Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes.

The following sections describe the proposals for each area of the church building, the reason for the changes and the benefits which accrue. We identify impact and mitigation, but this is mainly covered in Sections 4 and 5 of the Statement.

3.1. The north porch

The north porch was probably added to the church in the Elizabethan era and served as the main entrance to the church, probably until the FS Waller and Son re-ordering of 1882. It has a stone roof, compared with the timber and lead roofs of the main church, and the ribbed ceiling and Tudor roses are a feature. Except for special events the porch has not been used as an entrance for several decades and is currently closed to the public. The external palisade gates leave the porch open to the weather.

The reinstatement of the north porch as the main church entrance will return this important area to public use and provide an important and historical feature as people enter the church. The reinstatement will affect the internal setting and view lines within the church as the principal entrance will now be from the north, not the west porch.

The existing wooden palisade gates will be removed and replaced with a traditional solid timber boarded door which will be fixed open when the church is in use. The doors are not likely to impact on views of the porch from the east and west.

The original wooden door, which has a Moderate significance, from the porch into the north aisle which will be retained and held permanently open. Light glass doors will allow normal access from the porch into the main church.

The existing porch floor will be adjusted to provide a gently sloping access from the external to inner doors. This work may impact on any deposits immediately beneath the current floor. This gives an unimpeded access for all from Shelley's Walk into the north porch, the nave and to the communion rail.

Main benefits

- the provision of a traditional solid timber external door will safeguard the porch internals from the weather and allow the area to be used more effectively, restoring the medieval access;
- the provision of an unimpeded access from Shelley's Walk through the north porch and into the nave suitable for all abilities (there will be a 50mm difference along the porch, but this is unlikely to be noticed and within acceptable design standards.

Harm and Mitigation

The existing palisade timber gates will be removed; in mitigation a solid timber external door will be installed within the existing external arch which will safeguard the internal fabric of the porch.

The existing stone floor paving will be lifted marginally to provide an even and slightly sloping surface, probably no more than 50mm along the length of the porch. An archaeological watching brief will be provided to record any findings.

3.2. The floor of the main church building

Our vision for the church, based on our initial consultations with the church community, is for

- level access for all abilities from all entrance to the communion rail; currently this is not feasible as entry from the north porch is down a steep ramp and access to the chancel is up two steps with a total height of 250mm. Access from the south door is down two steps.
- a clear, level and open space with a new light-coloured stone floor with flexibility to use for all services and a range of church and community activities.
- The provision of underfloor heating to provide an even distribution of heat across the church which removes unsightly radiators and pipework which are currently routed along the north and south aisles. Underfloor heating with an air source heat pump (ASHP) is proposed to meet the Church of England target for carbon reduction.
- The routing of all cabling and pipework under the floor to eliminate trip hazards.

These factors support the proposal to provide a new floor set at a higher level than existing as the best option with the least impact on the fabric

Existing construction

The current floor across the nave and north and south aisles was constructed as part of the 1882 re-ordering by FS Waller and Son. This replaced the flagstone floor from the 1828 Pace re-ordering. The architect's specification is confirmed by the recent core-sampling of the floor.¹ The specification required graves to be exhumed and infilled, suggesting that some, if not all, of the internal burials were removed in 1882: *'all human remains as may be interfered with ... shall be reverently and carefully removed'* and *'all open graves found under the church or those from which bodies have been removed shall be filled with soil and well rammed'*.²

¹ Note on floor coring, April 2018

² Architect's Specification 1882, FS Waller and Son,, Gloucestershire Archives document D2593

The 2018 GPR survey³ supports this suggestion, although it is very likely that some internal burials will remain, along with some tombs, vaults and other structures, although these may have been filled in.

The floor replaced an earlier stone floor from the 1828 reordering by Pace, confirmed by photographs of this period. It is unclear whether the stone extended under the box pews or just along the aisles.

In replacing the 1828 stone floor and box pews FS Waller and Son appeared to reduce the level of the finished floor, not unexpected if they were removing interments and earth. That FS Waller and Son lowered the floor level is supported by the exposure of the unfinished bases of the arcade columns. Drawings from the FS Waller and Son designs show that they had originally planned to place the new pews on a timber floor supported by transverse and longitudinal oak timbers to a height of about 250mm. This design was superseded with the pews sitting on tiles at a lower height.

Given that the floor was reduced by at least 150mm in 1882 to accommodate the new limecrete screed, it is presumed that most of the earlier floor levels and sub floors will have been removed at this point, whether the original floor levels were retained or not. Recent coring of the floor confirmed the lime concrete floor was hard to drill through and is 125mm to 150mm thick. Compacted earth was found below this and easy to penetrate.

The nave and aisles have a floor of plain red quarry tiles, with diaper pattern detailing in dark brown and black tiles between the blocks of pews. There is a frequent mention in the parish records of repairs to the tiles, many replaced with modern equivalents. There is also visual evidence of damage to the tiles. The choir and chancel have a superior floor detailed in decorated encaustic tiles by Godwin.

Ducts in the nave and aisle floors for heating pipes are covered by metal gratings. Further heating is provided by radiators set around the perimeter walls with the pipes fixed to the walls.

With the hard lime concrete floor in place, we concluded that this should not be disturbed, and any floor re-construction should be above this.

Access

At present access into the main church is step free via the west door and through into the nave, aisles and the Blaise chapel. However, there are two steps up into the choir and chancel which present a barrier to accessing the communion rail. There is a step down from the north porch into the north aisle where there is currently a steep temporary ramp to assist access. There is also step up from the south aisle to the threshold of the south door.

A key objective is to allow for level access from the restored north porch to the communion rail. This will also allow the south door to be used without steps. The option to have a slope from the nave to the chancel was considered but found not to be feasible and would cause a greater impact. By raising the floor and protecting the tiles beneath, the impact is minimised for maximum benefit.

The Historic England publication 'Easy Access to Buildings'⁴ stated that:

'Where changes are proposed to a listed church there should be a clear need for the works which is sufficient to outweigh the normal assumption against alteration. Improvements to

³ St Lawrence Church - A Report on a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey, Archaeological Surveys Ltd, September 2018

⁴ Page 8, Easy Access to Buildings, Historic England, June 2015

access [as proposed here] should be considered in this context, in the light of what is reasonable'.

Locating the disabled toilet in the church provides a significant improvement to people of all ages who suffer from one or more disabilities. The disabled toilet provides level access to this facility without disturbing the main congregation on the nave. Currently two standard toilets are available in the adjacent church cottage with difficult access over several steps.

Main benefits

- Level access for people of all abilities from the north porch entrance to the communion rail.
- A new Purbeck limestone floor to provide a strong, consistent, lighter and welcoming aspect in the church.
- Provision of underfloor heating supplied from an air source heat pump to help towards the Church of England carbon reduction target.
- Routing of all pipes, power and signal cables in ducts under the floor avoiding the need for over-floor cabling.
- The removal of radiators, pipework and cabling from the north and south sidewalls to allow restoration of lime mortar and provide a clear open wall area.
- Minimum impact on existing floor and sub floor deposits by retaining this and building over compared to other possible solutions.

Harm and mitigation

With the hard lime concrete floor in place, we concluded that this should not be disturbed. Any excavation for heating or other services would create undue harm and added construction risks. We therefore considered the option of a new floor at a height to provide level access across the church would cause least harm.

One impact of the new floor construction is to cover the existing clay tiles. We propose to leave these tiles *in situ*, covering with a geotextile and insulation and construct the new floor over the existing one which will be preserved *in situ*. A photographic record of the Victorian tiled floor will be made prior to covering over.

At present the arcade column bases are a variety of undressed and dressed stone; some of the lower mouldings will be affected by the new floor level. We have yet to detail the arrangements of the floor around the columns. We shall make a photographic record of all areas of the column which are impacted by the new floor.

Existing ducts to be reused where possible for services. The floor design will avoid excavation below the level of the Victorian tiles with limited exceptions, for example for the toilets. Openings will be kept to a minimum, carefully cut out, and accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

The baptismal font and pulpit are to be re-sited on top of the new floor. We have completed an archaeological investigation of the three large ledgerstones⁵ and they will be lifted and relocated in the new floor. These proposals have been accepted by the church buildings conservator; details are provided in a separate report.⁶ We considered the option to cover the ledgers with glass, but the advice was not to do this.

⁵ Church of St Lawrence, Lechlade on Thames, An Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Urban Archaeology, February 2020

⁶ Restoration and reordering: Ledgerstones, Project Inspire March 2020

3.3. The west porch

With the principal entrance moving to the north porch, the west porch is proposed as a meeting room although it can still be opened for use on special occasions such as weddings and large services. Access via the west door into the nave will be reserved for major services.

The floor in the west porch will be raised to match the new level of the nave. To make the meeting room lighter and more attractive to use, a timber floor is proposed with insulation below and ducting for services below floor level. The main electricity and water services will be routed through the west entrance.

There are four ledgerstones in the existing floor which are detailed in the memorials inventory.⁷ These are not in their original locations and thought to be placed here as part of the 1881 reordering. These ledgerstones will be left in-situ and photographic records made prior to their retention beneath the new floor. Externally the hard landscaping will be raised to provide step free access to the west door and prevent flooding during heavy rain.

3.4. The bench pews

The bench pews were installed as part of the 1882 re-ordering to designs prepared by FS Waller and Son. These replaced box pews constructed as part of the Pace reordering in 1828. The existing FS Waller and Son pine pews with plain ends covered the whole nave and aisles extending to the west door and including the south side chapel. The current church layout suggests that some pews were removed when the side chapel was installed, and areas cleared at the west end of the church.

One outcome from the 2018 initial consultation ranked uncomfortable pews as one of the three most difficult factors impacting on the church, mentioned in 45% of the 118 questionnaire responses.⁸ This was because the pews were uncomfortable to sit on and very heavy to move; a significant constraint on the ability to provide flexible space for current activities. Volunteers find the heavy pews are difficult to move when the church is rearranged, particularly difficult with more elderly helpers. The same weight difficulty would arise with pews on the higher new floor.

It is not feasible to place the pews on permanent castors because of their weight. There is potential damage to a new limestone floor; there is also evidence of damage to some of the existing tiles. Pews have been moved with temporary trolleys with castors, but this requires lifting the heavy pews by volunteers, many elderly, with risk of injury. The pews are to be removed and replaced with modern chairs; options are being investigated for consultation with the church community. This is consistent with the objectives of the reordering to provide flexible use of the building for services and events.

3.5. The west gallery

A gallery was probably in place in the 18th century where there are records of a singing gallery in the church '*by virtue of a licence granted for that purpose in the bishops court*'.⁹ The 1828 reordering by Pace shows galleries at the west end and along the north aisle.¹⁰ The plans show an organ and 'organ loft' at the rear of the gallery and benches at the front. Access was from stairs located at the rear of

⁷ Inventory of Monuments, Memorials and Plaques, Project Inspire, May 2021

⁸ Findings from the Initial Consultation, St Lawrence restoration and reordering project group, January 2019

⁹ Extract from personal papers, Mrs. M. Baxter, 2021

¹⁰ Photographs of the church circa 1830, parish records and plans in Gloucestershire Archives reference D2593

the gallery. The organ location with its pipes and decorative housing looks, from photographs, very impressive. Bell ringing probably was probably from the base of the tower as the timber supports to the bell ringing chamber are more recent.

Both the west and north galleries were dismantled as part of the 1882 reordering by FS Waller and Son. The organ was moved to the north-east chapel in 1889.

The proposals are to reinstate the west gallery on generally the same alignment as the previous gallery. This will have a floor at the same level as the existing bell ringing chamber. Beneath the gallery two toilets are proposed in the north-west corner, one for disabled use. The kitchen proposed for beneath the south-west corner of the gallery replaces smaller units recently installed in the north-west corner of the north aisle.

There may be limited local impact from foundations to the gallery structure. Advice from a structural engineer confirms that raft foundations for the gallery can be placed with minimum impact and without any disturbance to the floor construction.

The statue niche on a pillar may be affected by the gallery construction. The room partition layout below the gallery is arranged to retain visibility of the statue niche. The full height of the windows will be impacted by the gallery structure. The windows at gallery level are unaffected and will be protected by floor box-outs and glass screens. The lower sections will provide natural light to the kitchen and toilets.

There will be a wastewater connection from the proposed toilets beneath the north-west corner of the gallery, leading to the existing sewer in the churchyard which lies just north of the church. Small openings in the wall are also required for ventilation. Re-routed electricity and water connections will be below the floors and not require separate openings. Service routes will be designed to minimise their impact on the existing floor, reusing existing ducting wherever possible, and there will be an archaeological watching brief on any new service trenches that may penetrate below the limecrete sub-base. The extent of any excavation will be confirmed at detailed design.

3.6. The choir screens

The designs of the choir and parclose screens echo the window tracery; they were designed by FS Waller and Son and installed in 1887. The screens enclose the choir, and also the north side of the current St Blaise chapel, the side chapel was originally used for seating but consecrated as a chapel in 1954.

For the three centuries between the Reformation and the 1881 reordering the space between the nave and chancel was clear with an unobstructed view of the altar, the officiating priest and the east window. This is shown in photographs after the 1828 reordering by Pace. Simon Jenkins in his book on England's Thousand Best Churches comments that *'a heavy Victorian screen shields the chancel and thus obstructs the view of the East window'*.¹¹ There was strong support from the initial consultation for relocating the screen opening up the aspect to the chancel and sanctuary and giving an unrestricted view of the fine stained-glass east window.

The prevailing view of the present worshipping community is that we should be seeking to remove barriers between the clergy and congregation, as we are all the People of God. Holy Communion is

¹¹ England's Thousand Best Churches, Simon Jenkins 1999

open to all as a sign of God's grace and welcome. This stance differs from a more sacramental Anglo-Catholic ecclesiology of Victorian times which sought to emphasise the distancing between laity and clergy. This removal of the screen returns the area to the pre-1881 reordering where for three centuries there were no physical barriers between clergy and congregation.

The removal of the choir screen will open up views along the church and through and into the choir and chancel, and of the east window. The transition between nave and choir will still be marked by the transition in the floor materials and by the two side chapels, which will retain their parclose side screens.

This will create an open, internal space that will appear longer, and which draws the eye through to the chancel.

We propose to retain the central screen as an example of 19th century workmanship and relocate it to the rear of the west-end gallery at first floor level. This will enable a clear view of the east window and contribute to the open and light nature of the church. The central screen can be relocated towards the rear of the gallery without modification as the distance between walls is the same width as the screen so will fit without any modification. The profile of the screen in this location will be similar to the earlier organ structure in the same place.

The north and south side screens would remain *in situ*.

3.7. The chancel

The chancel includes choir stalls aligned north and south which we understand date from the 1882 FS Waller and Son reordering. There are two rows of choir stalls on each side. The front pew can be moved although the rear choir stalls are currently fixed in place; the rear stalls are slightly elevated on timber floorboards. Long timber benches form the rear of the pews which back against the north and south choir screens. The stalls are constructed of deal with the only embellishments being at the top of each pew-end.

The choir and chancel have a floor detailed in decorated encaustic tiles by Godwin, which extends across the visible floor areas. Areas below the wooden platforms are made of concrete with no tiling.

The arrangement of choir stalls to reflect the changing and more flexible forms of worship and other events has been investigated. The requirement to have east facing stalls for small communion services or west facing to allow the choir to engage more closely with the congregation or for a large choral concert, means that the choir furniture needs to be more adaptable than in the current arrangement. While it may be possible to retain the existing choir stalls by sub-dividing them and adding end panels and wheel frames on the bases, their current weight and shape make them unmanageable for volunteers to move. There is also potential damage to the tiled floor. We concluded that the choir stalls should be replaced with modern, light and appropriate church/chorister furniture similar to that proposed in the nave. This would allow any reorientation of the pews to be ably managed by older and less able volunteers.

Following comments from the Church Building Council in its informal consultation, we have decided to defer reordering work in the chancel until works in the Nave have been completed.

3.8. The Blaise chapel

The chapel originated when the current church was built, although the chantry was dissolved at the Reformation. All that remains is a small 13th century piscina in the wall of the south aisle (there is a second adjacent to the high altar) and is where the sacred vessels used in the Eucharist were cleansed. The piscina is one of the few survivals from the 13th century church.

The 1828 reordering by Pace shows box pews in the area facing into the chancel. The 1881 reordering shows bench pews similarly aligned. The chapel was later restored and consecrated in 1954 and dedicated to St Blaise and St John the Baptist; currently there are no pews within the chapel. A reredos, made by A. R. Mowbray of Oxford, stands on a low timber base with a simple wooden Communion table in front. The reredos is of an unexceptional and standard mid-20th Century design.

A monument to Coxeter 1699, is located in the corner of the chapel. It was completely dismantled and rebuilt in 2010.

The chapel is mainly used for the 1662 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service on Sundays and during the week. Occasionally it is used where there is a high number of communicants at special services. It is proposed to move the smaller communion services into the chancel.

The new floor level will continue into this side chapel. The Church Buildings conservator recommended that the two large ledgerstones with brasses are re-laid in an area with reduced footfall. The ledgerstones will be laid in the floor of the current side chapel.

3.9. The font and pulpit

The octagonal bowl is enriched with quatrefoils with different cusps on an octagonal stem. The original base has been lost. The font dates from the 15th Century but has been recently moved. The 18th Century cover has been relocated within the church.

It is proposed to relocate the font to the east end of the church between the nave and south aisle. This is thought to be more inclusive for the congregation when baptisms take place.

It is important that the majority of the congregation should be able to see and hear clearly what is happening, especially when many guests may be present at a parish baptism. While this reorientation is a change from the historic tradition, it reflects the current liturgical view and is supported by the Archdeacon.

The pulpit is a reproduction from 1882 by FS Waller and Son and reflects the design of the C15th base on which it now rests; this base was found in the vicarage garden. It is proposed to retain the pulpit and raise the base to the level of the new floor.

3.10. The south door

The south door is of sturdy construction in cross-boarded oak held together with heavy iron studs and dead-nailed. It has been pointed into its opening with a hard cement mortar. The door has been sealed for as long as anyone remembers.

Repairs have been carried out with various infill pieces added over the years. Ironwork is generally in good condition. The door closes against the internal face of the threshold step and has rotted and

withered where moisture has been trapped. The door has been surveyed by a conservation joiner who has prepared a condition report.¹²

The door has been inspected by a dendrochronologist although dating has not been carried out.

The door is to serve as an overflow exit, either when congregations are large or for use in an emergency. The exit will be step-free.

3.11. The vestry

The vestry was constructed after the main church building although the specific date is unclear. An external door was added as part of the 1882 reordering. There is an open drain outlet located below the hand sink which makes the room feel damp.

There is a fine 15th Century door between the sanctuary and the vestry. This door bears a carving of a pomegranate, a symbol of Catherine of Aragon, who held the Manor of Lechlade from 1501 to 1535.

The vestry will be used as a Parish Office during weekdays. To improve light and ventilation in the room, one or two roof lights are proposed in the existing lead roof. The internal layout of furniture will be changed to be appropriate for dual use of weekday office and vestry on a Sunday.

3.12. The cellar

The cellar is partly within the churchyard and partly under the nave, immediately north of the south door. It was probably modified during the 1882 reordering by F S Waller and Son when the earlier floor was removed, earlier burials removed, and the Victorian floor built. The south aisle floor spans the cellar with stone flags on steel flats. Access to the cellar is down steps outside the south door within an iron railing surround.

The cellar is largely occupied by the gas boilers and associated pipework. These were installed in 2011 and replaced an earlier gas boiler; previous heat sources were oil and coal-fired boilers.

The cellar will be maintained for pipework and other mechanical plant. Two air source heat pumps will be located outside and adjacent to the south wall of the tower. The new floor will span over the existing floor supports which will be suitably strengthened.

4. Areas affected by proposed reordering and their significance

4.1. Definitions

The significance of the affected areas and parts of the building has been set out in the Statement of Significance Part 1; this is expanded below, with specific reference to the proposed reordering. In assessing significance this statement uses the following terminology:

High – important at national to international levels

Moderate-High – important at a regional, sometimes higher level

Moderate – usually of local value but classifiable as being of regional significance for its contribution to the building as a whole.

¹² Report on the South Door with a view to repairing and making operable, Tim Jeffree, August 2021

Low-Moderate – of local value

Low – adds little or nothing to the value of a site or detracts from it.

The church as a whole is of High Significance and all the individual component parts and areas of the church contribute towards this nationally important level of significance, although some are obviously contributing less, and some may in fact detract. Aspects of the areas affected by the proposals are described in detail, building on the general description in Part 1, which is not repeated here. The proposals have been considered in terms of their Significance, their impact, and any possible mitigations; consideration is presented in a tabular form below.

4.2. Overall views and settings

Internal views within the church are principally along the liturgical axis from the current entrance into the nave at the west end, with the repeated arches of the arcades drawing the eye along the nave and into the choir and chancel. The choir screen obstructs this long view, although the wide east window pulls the eye onwards. The church appears slightly fore-shortened by the extension of the choir into the main nave footprint. The eye is also drawn up and to the sides, with the organ in the north chapel, and the St Blaise chapel on the south and with the stained glass and clerestorey windows flooding the church with light. The dark floors and ceilings are counterbalanced by the whitewashed walls.

The church is remarkable as a largely intact example of a ‘wool’ church, built in two main phases in the late 15th and early 16th century. Despite the two phases and styles, the building works as a unified whole and is of **High Significance**.

Externally, under the planned proposals, only the north side of the church will be affected: by a new external timber door to the porch, and by improvements to Shelley’s Walk that may be required to improve access along this Class 6 highway. The principal views are from the Market Place looking east along Shelley’s Walk, looking westwards along Shelley’s Walk, and from along the route of Shelley’s Walk. The views are framed by a number of mature yew trees, with the view along the church accentuated by the linear route of Shelley’s Walk. From the Market Place the views of the north side of the church and the vestry are largely obscured by the north porch.

The external views and settings are considered to be of **Moderate to High** significance especially that from the Market Place looking at the church and down Shelley’s Walk, and the principal longitudinal view down the church.

4.3. Archaeological deposits

Although the 1882 re-ordering is likely to have removed the medieval and post-medieval floor levels and many of the internal burials across the nave and aisle, it is likely that some internal burials will survive *in situ*, along with the (possibly infilled) remains of vaults, tombs and other internal structures.

Externally there will have been truncation north of the church caused by ground reduction and drains installed in 1882. The cobbled parts of Shelley’s Walk have some archaeological merit in the wider setting; their original date is thought to be circa 1830.¹³

¹³ Extract from parish records, personal papers, Mrs. M Baxter

The archaeological deposits likely to be affected by the proposals are considered to be of **Low to Moderate** significance.

4.4. F S Waller and Son reordering

The 1882 restoration of the church by FS Waller and Son has largely left us the church we see today, reversing many of the post-Reformation changes to the church. Although apparently carried out by the firm, rather than FS himself, the St Lawrence reordering was a restoration in keeping with FS Waller's attitudes to medieval architecture: most post-Reformation features were completely stripped out including all of Pace's work and in many ways the church was taken back to the sixteenth century. The Waller practice had a great understanding of medieval architecture and was extremely sensitive to surviving work and this can be seen in the careful restitution of the medieval masonry fabric, it must however be noted that their work would have almost certainly removed all the medieval floors and horizontal stratigraphy within the church.

The greatest impact of the works, however, was in what was removed and restored, rather than what was added: in many cases the new Victorian additions were of less than the best quality and it seems were often the second choice of the architects. The shadow of a straightened budget appears to have restricted any higher ambitions the architects may have had for the church, with the restored pulpit being one of the few additions of intrinsic architectural value worthy of the setting. The rest of the additions were largely fairly standard late Victorian church fittings: simple red and black tiles in the nave contrast with highly decorated encaustic tiles by Godwin in the chancel, and pine pews; it is perhaps telling that the Waller-designed rood screen was not added until 1887.

Perhaps due to budgetary restrictions, the Waller and Son restoration has left us with a fine Perpendicular church, largely unencumbered by later alterations or over-endowed with Gothic revival additions: the beauty of the church is in its simplicity of form and clear lines.

As with consideration of the Perpendicular church as a whole, in assessing the High significance of the FS Waller and Son restoration we need to separate the overall significance of the work, from the intrinsic significance of the component parts, and consider the impact of the proposed reordering on both the component parts and on the whole restoration.

4.5. Floors and floor levels

The current floor dates from the 1882 F S Waller and Son re-ordering. The nave and aisles have a floor of plain red earthenware tiles, with diaper pattern detailing in dark brown and black tiles between the blocks of pews. The choir and chancel have a floor detailed in decorated encaustic tiles by Godwin.

Ducts in the nave and aisle floors for heating pipes are covered by metal gratings. Further heating is provided by radiators set around the perimeter walls.

The tiles are laid on a six-inch-thick limecrete screed: the architect's specification¹⁴ is confirmed by the recent core-sampling of the floor. The specification required graves to be exhumed and infilled, suggesting that some, if not all, of the internal burials were removed in 1882: *'all human remains as may be interfered with ... shall be reverently and carefully removed'* and *'all open graves found under the church or those from which bodies have been removed shall be filled with soil and well rammed'*.

¹⁴ Architect's Specification 1882, F S Waller, Gloucestershire Archives document D2593

The 2018 GPR survey¹⁵ supports this suggestion, although it is very likely that some internal burials will remain, along with some tombs, vaults and other structures, although these may have been filled in.

Given that the floor was reduced by at least 150mm in 1882 to accommodate the new limecrete screed, it is presumed that most of the earlier floor levels and sub floors will have been removed at this point, whether the original floor levels were retained or not.

At present access is step free into the west door, and through into the nave, aisles and the Blaise chapel. There are two steps up into the choir and chancel. There is a step up from the south aisle to the threshold of the south door. There is a step up from the north aisle to the north porch, with a further step up to Shelley's Walk.

The current floor dates from 1882 and the nave and aisle floors are considered to be of **Low to Moderate** significance in itself; it is a fairly typical late-Victorian floor with no particular intrinsic merit although along with the pews it is the most visible part of the F S Waller and Son restoration. The highly decorated Godwin floor of the chancel is of greater significance and is a key component of the Waller restoration.

4.6. Pews

The pews date from the F S Waller and Son 1882 reordering, replacing earlier box pews. Records show that the 1828 reordering included box pews across the whole of the nave, north and south aisles and extending into the current organ area, choir and Blaise chapel.¹⁶ Some were designated as 'free'. These are shown in early photographs.

The current pews were designed by F S Waller and Son and are plain but well made in pine with the main decoration being from a cinquefoil arch detail on the slightly splayed side legs. They are not fixed to the floor. F S Waller and Son originally wanted to have pews on wooden planking, with tiles in between the rows.

The pews are considered to be of **Moderate** intrinsic significance but assume a greater significance as one of the key visible components of the 1882 F S Waller and Son restoration.

4.7. The choir stalls

The choir stalls in the chancel are currently fixed in place, with timber floorboards. The stalls are considered to be of **Moderate** intrinsic significance but assume a greater significance as part of the 1882 F S Waller and Son restoration.

4.8. Stained glass

The Bowley window in the north aisle commemorates St Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians, St Lawrence and St Stephen. It was made in 1920 by Herbert Bryans and presented to the church by Mrs Bowley in memory of her husband Joseph. Bryans, known for his greyhound signature, was a student of Kempe and died in 1925. Currently the Bowley window is the only window with stained glass in the

¹⁵ St Lawrence Church - A Report on a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey, Archaeological Surveys Ltd, September 2018

¹⁶ Architect's General Arrangement 1882, F S Waller, Gloucestershire Archives document D2593

north elevation of the church. A faculty had previously been granted to move this window to the south aisle.

The stained glass is considered to be of **Moderate** significance.

4.9. The Blaise Chapel

The Blaise Chapel occupies the eastern bay of the south aisle. It was founded as a chantry by John Twyniho, Lord of Butler's Court manor and survived until the dissolution of the chantries. The chapel was restored in 1953 and is considered to be of **Low to Moderate** significance as a separate focus within the church and a reminder of the lost chantries.

4.10. Memorials

Three ledgerstones were fixed in the floor at the 1882 re-ordering, although archive evidence suggests the original locations were elsewhere with a plan of 1881 showing the ledgers positioned along the central aisle of the nave. The GPR survey shows no evidence of burials beneath the current memorial positions and archaeological investigation suggests that all three ledgers sit on the Victorian gravel levelling layer with the limecrete sub-base laid around them.¹⁷

There are several memorials, a defaced stone panel and a statue of St Agatha mounted on walls around the church, and a canopied niche on the west column of the south arcade. The war memorial is on the east side of the north door.

The memorials and decorative elements are considered to be of **Low to Moderate** significance. They are important within the context of the church as examples of the former appearance of the church, and indeed of the earlier church that stood on this site, as well as having intrinsic evidential and historic value.

4.11. The gallery

There has not been a gallery in the church since the 1882 reordering, however prior to that date there has been at least one gallery since the mid-18th century. There are records of a singing gallery from 1745 up to the 1828 reordering, with up to nine male singers employed to sing at divine services. The singers appear to have been licensed by the bishop.

At the 1828 reordering a balcony was constructed at the west end within the western arch of the nave; access steps are shown on the drawings at the far west end. Photographs show that original organ was placed to the rear of the western balcony. Plans and photographs show a balcony was also constructed over the north aisle and a pulpit placed part-way down the aisle. These galleries were removed in the 1882 as they were considered unsafe.

4.12. The west porch

The base of the tower is known as the west porch and is currently the main entrance to the church. The floor is of flagstones. On the walls are several large fragments of lead salvaged from the church

¹⁷ Harward, C 2020 *Church of St Lawrence, Lechlade-on-Thames, Gloucestershire, An Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

roofs, decorated with the names of past churchwardens, presumably marking the dates of previous repairs to the leadwork.

The west porch is considered to be of **Low to Moderate** significance, although it does frame the present access route into the church, along the east–west axis of the church.

4.13. The north porch

In the past the north door has been used as the main entrance to the church, however currently the porch is now only accessible on special occasions. The half-height wooden paling gates across the entrance are kept locked, and the wooden door into the north aisle is also locked.

The wooden gates are considered to be of **Low to Moderate** significance. There are stone benches on either side of the porch. There is historic graffiti internally and externally on the north porch. The porch steps down into the north aisle through the north door.

The north porch is currently considered to be of **Moderate** significance intrinsically and, although it contributes positively to the setting and views of the church, this is negatively affected by the current lack of access.

4.14. Choir screens

The screens echo the window tracery; they date from 1888 but were designed as part of F S Waller and Son's original scheme in 1881. The screens enclose the choir, as well as the north side of the St Blaise chapel, defining it as a separate place of worship.

The screens are considered to be of **Moderate intrinsic** significance and contribute greatly to the overall F S Waller and Son's scheme, and to the current church interior.

4.15. Vestry furniture

It is proposed to reorder the furniture and fittings in the vestry which is of **Low** significance; no impact is anticipated on the fabric of the vestry.

4.16. Lighting

The interior of the church is currently illuminated by natural light, with spotlights. There is a brass chandelier in the nave, donated by Richard Ainge in 1730 which is of **Low-Moderate** significance.

4.17. Shelley's walk

The footpath running along the north side of the church from the Market Place to the primary school east of the churchyard is commonly known as Shelley's Walk. From the Market Place to the church, the footpath is formed of stones laid on edge which are worn and uneven and have been previously repaired with stone and concrete infilling and disturbed in places by the installation of buried services. The footpath is bordered by mature yew trees which frame the views along the north side of the church. Shelley's famous poem related to the churchyard, looking from the east towards a sunset, and there is no specific reference to the footpath in the text. The path is thought to be dated about 1830, from parish records,¹⁸ and laid after Shelley wrote his poem. The path is in poor condition but

¹⁸ Extract from personal papers, Parish Office

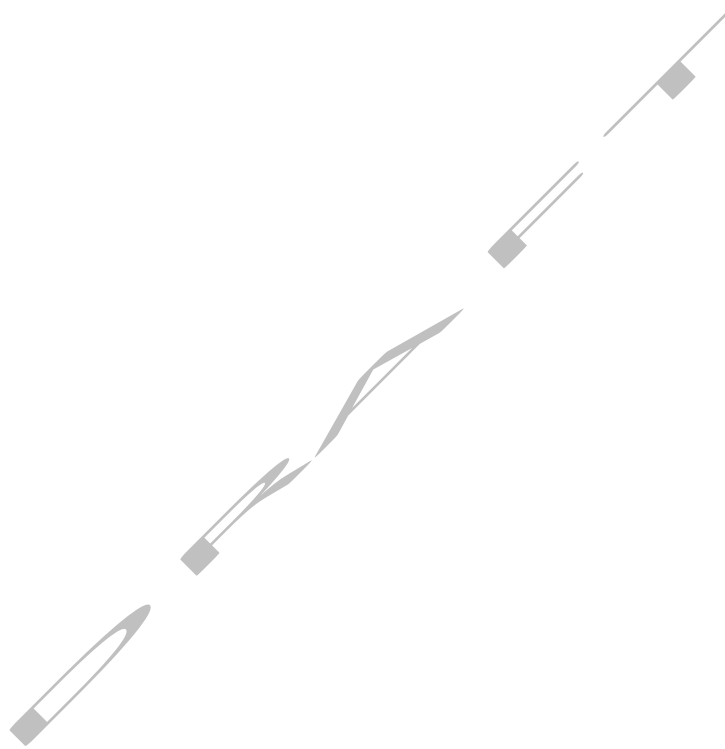
has archaeological and historical significance. This western section is of **Moderate** significance due to its contribution to the setting of the church, and the aesthetic and historical value of the Walk.

The length of path from the north porch to the eastern end of the churchyard is built of precast concrete slabs which have no intrinsic historic merit and are themselves of **Low** significance.

The Walk is bordered by mature yew trees which frame the Walk and views along the north side of the church.

The physical structure of Shelley's Walk varies between **Low** and **Moderate** significance; however, as a whole, and as part of the setting of the church it assumes a **Moderate** significance within the wider churchyard area.

The footpath, a Class 6 highway, is maintained by Gloucestershire County Council.



5. Impact of the proposals and proposed mitigation

As can be seen from the preceding section, the largest impact of the proposals is on the church as restored in the 1882 re-ordering by F S Waller and Son. They removed most, if not all, of Richard Pace’s 1828 re-ordering: replacing the box pews with pews, reflooring the church, taking down the 18th and 19th century galleries, and adding screens to the choir. F S Waller and Son has received just praise for their sympathetic treatment of the late medieval fabric of a major wool church; however, they altered the floor levels and flooring materials across the church and removed most of the internal stratigraphy.

Seating arrangements have been altered over the years, as has access to the building. The evolution and development of the building and its contents is an integral part of every church, and the impact has to be seen within this paradigm.

The proposals will largely retain the benefits of the F S Waller and Son restoration on the late medieval fabric, nod back to the late 18th–19th Century through the re-instatement of a west gallery and look to the present and future by creating a uniform floor level and improved facilities, with additional space for the flourishing congregation. The greatest impacts are on the F S Waller and Son nave floor, pews and screen

5.1. Mitigation

In order to reduce and mitigate the impact of the reordering on the existing building and any surviving archaeological remains the design process has considered heritage implications from the outset, and a detailed Statement of Significance has been written for the church and its environs.

A programme of photographic recording will record the church as it stands at the present moment. Additionally, an archaeological recording programme ('watching brief') will accompany the planned works and will ensure that all exposed archaeological and structural remains and fittings are fully recorded, and where possible preserved *in situ*.

The impact on the archaeological deposits has been mitigated by careful investigation and design work, as well as by the GPR survey and coring, and archaeological investigation of the ledger stones in the nave. This has established and mapped the potential level of survival of the archaeological deposits and will allow the final designs to minimise the impact on these levels.

A full report will be produced on the archaeological work undertaken within the Reordering project, and will include detailed text, photographs and illustrations.

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
The principal entrance will revert to being via the north porch. New solid external doors to the porch.	Moderate impact. The reinstatement of the north porch as the main entrance will return this important area to public use and enhance the space. It will also affect the internal setting and view lines within the church as the	Photographic record of present condition of the north porch and its fittings including the wooden gates. Archaeological watching brief on excavation for new floor sub-base.

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>principal entrance will now be from the north, not the west porch.</p> <p>The existing wooden gates will be removed and replaced by solid wooden doors. The doors are not likely to impact on views of the porch from the east and west.</p> <p>The original wooden door into the north aisle will be retained.</p> <p>The new porch floor level will be reduced by approximately 60mm with the current flags re-laid, this will impact on any deposits immediately beneath the current floor.</p>	
<p>A new, level, floor of 'Purbeck' limestone flagstones will be laid across the north porches, the nave and the aisles to match the existing floor level in the choir and chancel, a rise of approximately 250mm and sealing the Victorian tiles.</p>	<p>High impact. Partly reversible, as tiles are sealed in situ and intact beneath the floor.</p> <p>This will be one of the most obvious changes in the scheme, covering the late Victorian red and black tile floor and returning the nave and aisles to the pre-Victorian floor materials and levels. The alterations will however bring some beneficial impacts.</p> <p>The tiled floor is one of the most visible parts of the F S Waller and Son restoration, and it's covering up will impact on the visual evidence for that work, although the chancel decorative tiles will remain and be restored.</p> <p>The floor level will be raised across the nave and aisles, this will return the floor level to near to the original late medieval levels, as evidenced by the unfinished stone presently visible at the base of the arcade columns. Depending on final floor</p>	<p>Photographic record of the Victorian tiled floor prior to covering over.</p> <p>Record of all arcade column bases and other mouldings affected by the new floor level.</p> <p>The existing tiles will be retained <i>in situ</i> under the new insulation meaning that the impact is largely reversible.</p> <p>Existing ducts to be reused where possible for services.</p> <p>Any services requiring excavation below the level of the Victorian tiles will be limited and will be carefully cut out and accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.</p> <p>Font and pulpit to be re-sited on top of new floor.</p>

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>levels it is possible that some worked stone at the base of the columns may be concealed under the new floor.</p> <p>The chancel floor will be unchanged apart from repair to damaged tiles, which will enhance this area. The area currently under the choir stalls will be refloored with tiles or stone slabs.</p> <p>There will be a sharp transition from the limestone flags of the nave to the Victorian tiles of the choir and chancel, accentuating the boundary between the nave and choir following removal of the choir screen.</p> <p>The new flagstones will be lighter in colour than the existing Victorian tiles and will increase light levels within the church and increase the feeling of space within the church. The new flooring material will be a return to that used in the church before 1882.</p> <p>The new floor will be level and provide step-free across the church.</p> <p>The reinstated level will allow for unsightly heating pipes, electrical cables and some radiators, to be placed below floor level in ducts, removing clutter from walls and allowing the current flaking of the rendering to the walls to be re-plastered with lime plaster and painted.</p>	
<p>Removal of all pews and replacement with seats.</p>	<p>High impact.</p> <p>The removal of the F S Waller and Son pews and the change to seats is acknowledged to be a significant</p>	<p>Plan, general and detailed photographic record of the pews.</p> <p>The choir stalls will be</p>

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>impact on the internal appearance of the church and on the tangible and evidential aspects of 1882 restoration. The F S Waller choir stalls will be altered and made into moveable seating.</p> <p>The change from pews to seats in the nave and aisles will offer flexible seating options. Seats will be easy to move compared to heavy pews. It is not feasible to place pews on wheels because of their weight and potential damage to the limestone floor if regularly moved.</p> <p>The use of chairs will lighten the church and allow more of the floor to be seen.</p>	<p>removed (see commentary in Section 3.7) and replaced with modern church furniture.</p> <p>There are drawings of the pews in Gloucestershire Archives¹⁹.</p>
<p>At the west end of the church the 18th century gallery will be reinstated, with multi-purpose areas, kitchen and WC below. The first-floor gallery will provide addition seating, with a multi-purpose area in the ringing chamber.</p>	<p>High impact, but largely reversible.</p> <p>The reinstatement of the gallery will echo the former 18th and 19th century galleries. The principal impact will be on the internal appearance and layout of the church, where the return of the gallery will affect internal views of the west end of the nave and aisles, and the axial views down the church. The gallery will also provide new view lines within the church from a raised perspective.</p> <p>There may be limited local impact from foundations to the gallery structure.</p> <p>Wall memorials, windows and the statue niche may be affected by the gallery construction.</p> <p>Wastewater connection to sewer at north of church.</p>	<p>Archaeological watching brief on all excavations.</p> <p>Photographic record of present condition of the west end of church.</p> <p>The stained glass and memorials will be protected by a glass screen, which will allow for close inspection, without damage.</p> <p>Foundations for the gallery and internal room divisions will be as lightweight as possible to reduce impact on any archaeological deposits.</p> <p>The gallery would be independent of the medieval structure with localised foundations. The structure</p>

¹⁹ Gloucestershire Archives document D2593

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>Openings in the wall are required for soil pipe and ventilation and new, relocated, water service (water service already within the church).</p>	<p>would be designed to be reversible.</p>
<p>The choir screen will be moved to the first-floor gallery.</p>	<p>Moderate to High, reversible impact.</p> <p>The relocation of the 1888 F S Waller and Son choir screen will impact on internal views and setting within the church.</p> <p>The removal will open up views along the church and through and into the choir and chancel, and of the east window. The transition between nave and choir will still be marked by the transition in the floor materials and by the two side chapels, which will retain their parclose screens.</p> <p>This will create an open, internal space that will appear longer, and which draws the eye through to the chancel.</p> <p>There are three screens: the choir screen between choir and nave, and two parclose screens on either side. Moving the choir screen will fragment the group, however the choir screen will be retained within the west gallery space and could be reinstated in the future. The parclose screens will remain.</p>	<p>Photographic survey of the screen in its current position.</p> <p>Retention of the screen allows for any potential return to its original position.</p>
<p>The Blaise Chapel will be retained but modified</p>	<p>Low impact.</p> <p>The chapel originated in 1472, although the chantry was dissolved at the Reformation. The chapel was</p>	<p>Photographic record of chapel.</p>

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	restored in 1953 and dedicated to St Blaise.	
The floor in the west porch will be raised to match the new internal floor level. The space will be used as a meeting room, with access reserved for major services. Externally the hard landscaping will be adapted to provide step free access to the west door. The door will be restored.	<p>Low impact. Largely reversible.</p> <p>The path outside the west door currently floods in heavy rain and this will be prevented by raising the access level.</p> <p>The ledgerstones were placed here in the 1882 reordering, they will be covered over by the new flooring and retained <i>in situ</i>.</p> <p>The new step free access may impact on archaeological deposits externally, although this will be a very limited ground reduction.</p>	<p>Archaeological recording of any mouldings that will be buried beneath the new floor or access.</p> <p>Possible watching brief on new access.</p> <p>Ledgerstones will remain in place with photographic records taken.</p>
The south doorway will be unsealed and the original wooden door restored.	Positive Low impact: the reopening of the south doorway will improve access; the original wooden door will be restored.	Photographic record of present condition of south door. Dating of the door using dendrochronology.
Reordering of vestry furniture and fittings	Minimal impact.	Photographic record of the area prior to work.
Possible part or full Infilling of cellar/boiler room.	Minimal impact.	Photographic record of the cellar prior to infilling.
The stained glass window in the south west corner will be moved to into a window in the south aisle and swapped with the plain glass.	<p>Moderate impact.</p> <p>The existing stained-glass window is bisected by the proposed gallery and relocation will allow the window to be viewed in full.</p> <p>The impact, on balance is seen as being a positive one.</p>	<p>Photographic record in current position.</p> <p>Restoration of stained glass prior to reinstallation.</p>
Ledgerstones will be reset within the new floor	<p>Low impact.</p> <p>The ledgerstones were moved in the 1882 re-ordering and will be reset at the new floor level.</p>	Detailed archaeological record of the ledgerstones will be made.

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>There is no evidence from the GPR survey of burials or tombs beneath, archaeological investigation suggest they are laid on Victorian gravel bedding, and the ledgerstones are <i>ex situ</i> from their original positions.</p>	<p>The work to move the ledgers will be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.</p>
<p>The wall-mounted war memorial will be retained.</p>	<p>Low impact, reversible</p>	<p>Photographs of current position; archaeological monitoring of new location</p>
<p>A small number of wall-mounted monuments will be moved to accommodate the reinstated gallery</p>	<p>Low impact, some of the memorials have probably been moved once already at the 1882 reordering</p> <p>The statue niche will remain in place with wall partitioning offset from this feature.</p>	<p>Photographs of current position; archaeological monitoring of new locations</p>
<p>Lighting and heating will be upgraded with the removal of radiators and pipes from the walls.</p>	<p>Low impact, largely beneficial.</p> <p>The use of LED lights will reduce energy use and limit the health and safety risks of working at height to replace bulbs and maintain fittings.</p> <p>Lighting can accentuate the architectural features of the church.</p> <p>New heating will remove pipes and radiators from the walls, with heating from ducts and floor mounted convection heaters around the perimeter.</p> <p>The new meeting rooms and other enclosed spaces will be easier to heat, improving efficiency. The new lobby to the north door will also improve efficiency, as will repairs to the south door which will be weather and draughtproof and will be an emergency exit.</p>	<p>Suitably qualified lighting and heating consultants will advise on appropriate designs and minimise any impact on the building.</p> <p>Any excavation for ducts is likely to be limited to within the limecrete screed and will be monitored by an archaeological watching brief as required.</p>

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
<p>Externally, Shelley’s Walk may need to be adapted to provide smooth and level access to the north porch.</p> <p>This work is subject to a separate faculty which has been granted.</p>	<p>Low impact.</p> <p>Proposals to provide level smooth access from the Market Place and also retain or relay the cobbled length of path to be developed with GCC and the DAC.</p> <p>Levels may need to be adjusted on Shelley’s Walk, on both the cobbled and paved areas in order to ensure step free access.</p>	<p>Photographic record of the area prior to work.</p> <p>Archaeological watching brief on any alterations to the area external to the north porch.</p>
<p>Air source heat pumps</p>	<p>The two pumps will be located adjacent to the south wall of the tower.</p>	<p>An acoustic screen will be provided for noise attenuation. The screen will be hidden through planting of appropriate bushes.</p>
<p>Outbuilding in churchyard</p>	<p>Minimal impact.</p> <p>The outbuilding will be placed on a shallow concrete slab and no groundworks are envisaged.</p> <p>The location is in the north area of the churchyard and adjacent to the wall.</p>	<p>Screening and planting.</p>
<p>Internal views and setting</p>	<p>High impact.</p> <p>The principal visual impacts will be from the new seating, the new floor, and the new west gallery, and the removal of some of the physical evidence for the F S Waller and Son restoration (see below for specific consideration on F S Waller and Son).</p> <p>Restored access via the north door will alter the immediate impression on entering the church, with the views being <i>across</i>, rather than <i>along</i> the east–west axis of the church.</p>	

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>The west end of the church will obviously be impacted by the gallery and the rooms below which will visually shorten the church, although the use of glass, as opposed to solid, walls will minimise this.</p> <p>However, the relocation of the choir screen will draw the eye down to the east end, altar and east window, extending the church visually and reuniting the spaces of nave and chancel.</p> <p>New viewpoints will be created from the gallery.</p> <p>Overall, this Perpendicular church will appear lighter and taller, with enhanced lighting supplementing the natural light that comes through the stained glass of the south and east windows and the clerestorey. The new limestone floor will aid in the lightening of the interior.</p>	
<p>External views and setting</p>	<p>Low impact.</p> <p>Externally the impact appears to be limited to the move of the stained glass Bowley window to the south side, which will be a largely positive impact when viewed from within the church, and new access areas at the north and west porches.</p> <p>The external impact is currently considered to be low although it centres on the exact schemes for Shelley's Walk and the new timber external door to the porch.</p>	
<p>Waller and Son reordering</p>	<p>High impact.</p> <p>The physical evidence for the 1882 Waller and Son work will be impacted by the proposals,</p>	<p>The retention of choir stalls and of the decorative Godwin floor tiles in the chancel will continue to highlight the</p>

Proposal	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>principally the nave flooring, the pews and the choir screen.</p> <p>The greatest significance of the Waller and Son work might be considered to be the restoration of the Perpendicular fabric and form of the church, and the clearing away of the Georgian reordering, rather than in the pews and flooring <i>per se</i>. These items have their own intrinsic significance but also, they act as highly visible signposts to the wider, less visible Victorian restoration of the standing fabric.</p> <p>Whilst some aspects of the proposals are reversible, the covering of the red and black tiles, and replacement of the Waller and Son designed pews with chairs will alter the appearance of the church interior and remove evidence for their work from the nave.</p> <p>The reversible translation of the choir screen will also affect the internal views within the church and affect the integrity of the choir and parclose screens.</p> <p>The high impact on the Waller and Son work needs to be considered against the positive impact of opening up the views into the chancel, and on the lightening of the internal space which will better show off the Perpendicular architecture.</p>	<p>important Victorian chapter of the church's history, although some visible signposts to the F S Waller and Son work will be removed elsewhere.</p>

6. Bibliography

Gloucestershire Archives D2593/2/431, D2593/1/12/6

Appendix A: Architect's specification 1882 reordering

Transcript from the original Specification in the Gloucestershire Archives ref D2593/2/431 and D/2593 /1/12/6 related to Lechlade St Lawrence Church....Alterations and fittings of the Church 1881 to 1882 including plans, elevations and sections.

General Specification of the Work

To put the ground in good order when the works are in other respects complete and make good and damage that may be caused by the execution of any of the works or by the workmen or their neglect of any of the fences, gates or paths adjoining the Church or churchyard or damage to monuments or gravestones in the Church or churchyard.

Internal floor levels

The floor levels of the Nave and North and South Aisles and Tower to remain as at present but the levels of the Chancel floor to be altered as shown on the plans and sections.

Graves and Vaults

Such human remains as may be interfered with in laying the new floors or foundations to be reverently and carefully removed by the contractor.

All this to be done under the direction of the Vicar and Churchwardens and to their satisfaction. All open graves found under the Church or those from which bodies have to be removed to be filled with soil and well rammed.

To make good, arch over or divert or remove any old drains or tanks interfering with the works, carefully cover over and secure all vaults within the Church whether under the wooden floors or tile floors and lay over the whole area of the Church, a bed of concrete 6-inches thick.

Monuments

To take down and remove to a safe place and protect from injury during the progress of the works, any monuments now on the walls and refix them after the works have been otherwise completed in such positions as may be directed.

Old Materials

In the several branches of the works, such as the old materials as are sound and good may be reused, subject to the approval of the Architects, the contractor to have and to remove all that is left at the completion of the works except such as the Vicar may desire to retain.

A careful plan is to be made shewing the position of the gravestones in the Church at present and delivered to the Vicar as a record.

No such stones must be removed from the place.

Remove Seating

The whole of the existing seating, gallery organ and all other woodwork as well as the paving, steps, floors and soil to the depth required to be removed from the Church.

The organ is to be most carefully protected during the work and removed from the gallery and set up in the new organ chamber under the direction of an experienced organ builder and at the contractor's cost.

The contractor will be held entirely responsible for any damage that may recur to any part of the Church during the work and will be expected to leave all work complete and perfect and the old work where not specified to be altered or resorted, in as good state as at present, when the building is delivered up as finished.

Stonework

When the galleries and seating, stairs, and other woodwork have been removed, to most carefully repair and reinstate the whole of the stonework dressed or otherwise of the interior of the Church, to clean the whole of the dressed stonework, from washes, colour and dirt. This will include the stonework of piers, and arches, quoins, jambs, and window mullions and all other stonework so far as mentioned in the instructions to builders.

To lay the Tower floor with good paving from the Church and to lay the whole of the Nave and north and South Aisles and Chancel with tiles, inserting such monumental slabs as are shewn on the plan.

[NJ – note that the text 'the floors under seats and organ and vestry are to be of wood']

General Work

To re-seat and re-floor, the whole Church as hereinafter specified, to screen off the western bay of the Chancel from the Nave and Aisles with ornamental oak screens, placed in the three arches, North, South and West, each worked in accordance with the detail furnished.

To carefully examine and repair and put in thoroughly good order, the whole of the plaster of the Church, and renew where requisite and leave the whole such tint as may be directed.

To provide and fix a new outer door and doorway to the Vestry.

To provide and fix a new pulpit and steps thereby and new Altar rails and Table.

Mason

Excavations

To excavate the ground for the foundations and all other work which may require to be excavated and to level and ram the bottoms of all the trenches for footings and generally to fill up, remove and level the ground in and about the Church and the site thereof as shall be found requisite or may be directed by the architects.

Take away rubbish.

To remove and cart away from the whole of the site all the earth, soil and rubbish which may be found superfluous after the ground is made up to the proper level and surface, and finally to leave the whole of the buildings and site entirely free from all superfluous earth materials and rubbish.

Mortar

The whole of the mortar to be used in the works to be compounded in the proportion of one third part by measure of the best, fresh, well burnt stone lime and two thirds by measure of clean sharp sand, to be worked and mixed together in small quantities and used fresh. The lime to be the best blue lias stone lime or other of equal quality.

Damp Course

To delay entirely across the width of every a layer of gas tar, quicklime and sand not less than one inch in thickness and in the following proportions viz

One bushel of sand; Half bushel of lime; Four gallons of coal or gas tar. To be boiled together and laid on white hot and allowed to harden sufficiently before being built upon and smooth on the top surface.

Concrete

The whole of the internal area of the Church is to be levelled and rammed in every part thereof and upon this level is to be laid a bed of concrete 6-inches thick compounded of one part of fresh lime to six of stone and gravel and thoroughly mixed and thrown into place from a height of 6 feet and then levelled.

Scaffolding

To provide, maintain and alter as occasions may require and finally take down remove and cart away scaffoldings necessary for the performance of the whole of the works of every kind with sufficient poles, cords, wedges, ropes, planks, ladders, And all other proper appurtenances.

Jointing

All the joints of the masonry to be neatly pointed with properly prepared pointing mortar as may be directed by the Architects. Great care to be taken with the pointing and the joints to be raked out before it is commenced.

Dressings

The whole of the new dressed stonework in windows, doors and arches to be dressed stonework in windows and door jambs and heads, piers, arches, caps, bases and the like to be executed in the best weather Box ground stone (Bath) of the best workmanship to be jointed according to the old work – all the stone to be set on its natural bed.

Steps

In front of the situations shown on the drawings, rubbedstone steps, properly and neatly jointed and back jointed all the steps to be of the required length, square in section throughout and of the same width and size shown on the drawings and to be bedded in solid masonry or concrete.

Hook and catch stones.

To provide and build in with the jambs of the new door to the Vestry properly worked and rebated hook and catch stones of the width of the walls, and the length and height shown and load in the hook and locking irons to the same.

Stone Paving

To lay the paving shown on the drawings and coloured 'buff' for the Tower on a bed of well mixed concrete 6-inches thick. The paving to be neatly pointed.

Tile Paving

To lay the floor coloured 'pink' on ground plan with Godwins or Mintons thin tiles. The tiles to be carefully laid on a screed of cement on a bed of concrete 6 inches thick and jointed in cement. The two monumental slabs have brasses in, to be laid in the Nave where shewn and the tiles worked around them.

[the space under the seats in the Nave and Aisles and space of organ and Vestry to be laid with seconds tiles of good uniform red colour]

To pave the Chancel as far as the first step (no 3) and the Altar rails of the value of 20/- per yard PC exclusive of carriage and laying.

Lay the same in a screed of cement on a bed of concrete and arrange them in such colours and such patterns as may be directed. The remainder of the Chancel to be paved with tiles in a similar manner of the PC value of 15/- per yard.

Pulpit

Provide the sum of £25 for a new pulpit and steps including fixing.

Clean off.

The whole of the Mason's work is to be cleaned off when directed, shortly prior to the entire completion of the works.

Altar Standards

To provide rubbed blocks of stone for the Altar standards.

Font

To re-fix the Font in the position shown and place as new steps on the West site thereof and construct and...a well under the same to receive the drainage.

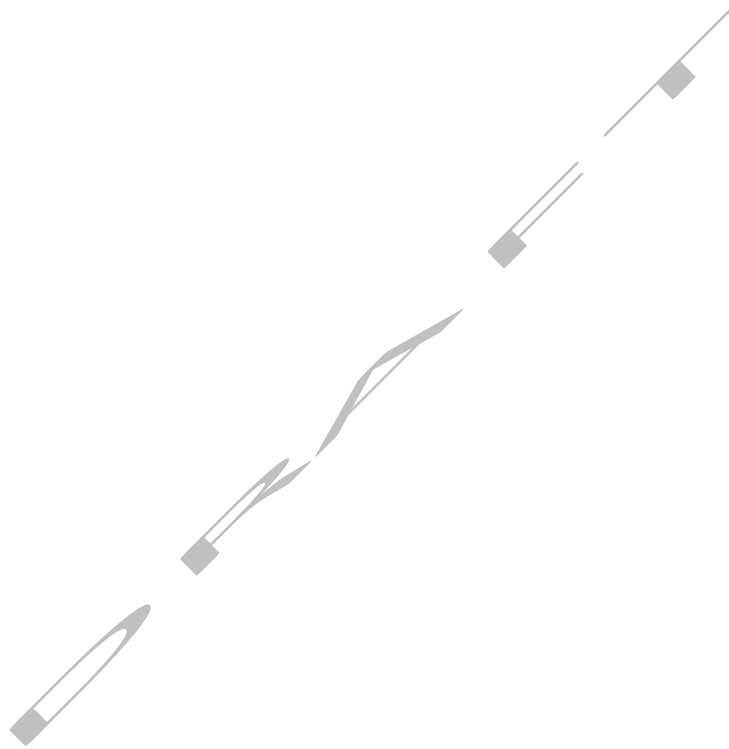
Channels for Pipes

To form the channels under the Aisle spaces for the warm water pipes in the positions shewn and give all necessary attendance upon the Hot Water Engineer. The work of adjusting and refixing the present hot water pipes and the provision of iron gratings over the channels will not form part of this contract.

'The church as it has come down to us from our 15th Century ancestors is singularly complete and perfect and unaltered with the exception of the internal fittings all of which, consisting of no doubt of oak seats stalls screens and have been removed and have given place to modern high pews and galleries. '

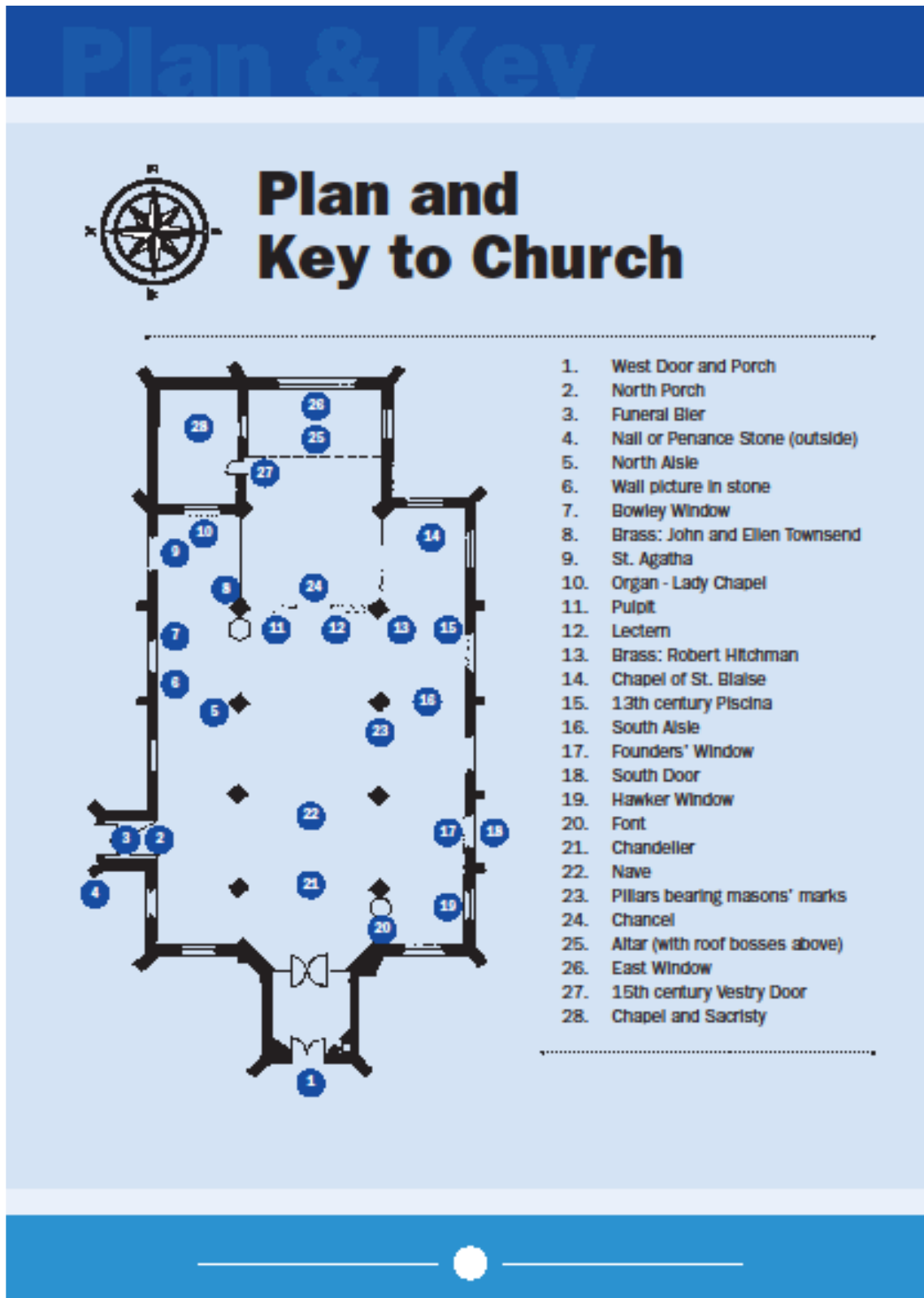
Frederick S Waller & Son

Architects



Appendix B – Plans of St Lawrence Church

Plan B1: Key Plan and Key from the Guidebook



Appendix C– Photographs

The photographs included here are from a wide database for the whole church. They are included here to show some of the key issues raised in the report.

Photographs C1a to c: South internal wall showing the loss of lime plaster due to the effect of copper sheathed MIC cabling. The proposals are to rewire and renew the heating system with all cabling and pipes below floor level. This will enable restoration of the lime plaster and redecoration.





Photograph C2: Base of internal columns showing undressed stone indicating a higher floor level pre 1882 suggesting the original stone floor was at a higher level before the 1882 re-ordering.



Photograph C3: North porch door from inside the church. Note the sill level is some 200mm above current floor level. A temporary timber ramp is provided with a gradient of 1 in 5. The proposal is to raise the floor to provide level access from the north porch to the altar rail.



Photograph C4: External view of the north porch showing the timber palisade entrance gate. The porch is open to the elements. The proposal is to enclose the porch with external doors to protect the internal structure and finishes, make best use of the space. The access through the porch will allow people to appreciate this important structure, particularly the ceiling. Note the uneven stone cobbled area and footpath outside the porch.



Photograph C5: Shelley's Walk looking east from the Market Place to the north porch. Note the uneven cobbled stone footpath. Church Cottage is on the left.



Photograph C6: The vestry is located on the northeast corner of the church. The date of construction is unclear although we do know that the external door was added and ground lowered at the time of the 1881 reordering.

