



NYMNPA

23/02/2022

# Design, Access & Heritage Statement

## Old St Stephen's Church, Fylingdales

### Proposal

Installation of replica sundial to south porch

### Introduction

This document provides a proportionate and combined Design, Access and Heritage Statement to meet the requirements of, section 10(4) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, paragraph 194 of the NPPF and local validation requirements.

## Heritage Statement

### Assessment of Heritage Significance

In preparing this heritage statement, the North York Moors NPA Historic Environment Record has been consulted online. This records the location of Old St Stephen's Church (HER 16060) and unspecified gravestones within the burial ground dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (HER 7912). Also nearby are lynchets (HER 19370, 284m south west) and medieval field systems (HER 9562, 157m north) which attest to the long history of human occupation in Fylingthorpe.

There has been a church on this site since 1088 or possibly earlier, the present church was built in 1821-2. The church is designed in the Gothick style, the architect is unknown. The church has a simple rectangular nave of five bays with small cupola (recently restored), south porch and small chancel with north vestry. The walls are presumably built of brick, faced externally with squared sandstone ashlar blocks with the herringbone tooling characteristic of later Georgian buildings in this area. The roofs are covered with slate.

Old St Stephen's Church at Fylingdales is a remarkably complete survival of a late Georgian church, erected within a decade of the start of the Oxford movement and survives virtually unchanged with all its furnishings. The building of a new church down in the village within fifty years doubtless did much to make alterations at the old church unnecessary.

### Churches Conservation Trust

Society Building, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL

**President** HRH The Prince of Wales **Chairman** Peter Ainsworth

**Vice Presidents** Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville CH PC | Baroness Kay Andrews OBE | RT Hon Frank Field MP DL  
Dame Liz Forgan DBE | Jools Holland OBE DL | Dr Bettany Hughes | Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FSA

Registered Charity No: 258612



The church stands in a magnificent position high on the moors above Robin Hood's Bay. It is visible from afar, and from its churchyard and porch there is a panoramic view of Robin Hood Bay. The churchyard slopes from north to south and is filled with a large number of headstones, many of the older than the present church and some recording burials of seafaring people in many parts of the world.

At the time of listing on 6.10.69, the building was described as having a sundial above the porch doorway with dates 1736, 1864 and 1919 with various initials. This was extant up until 1991, when it was removed by a contractor working for the Churches Conservation Trust with the intention that it should be put back. Regrettably this did not come to pass and the whereabouts of the original are unknown. Numerous photographs exist including the postcard below, thought to date from the 1920s or 1930s. The dates along with paired initials suggest that a sundial was first installed to commemorate a wedding between W.W. and W.R in 1736 and subsequently restored or replaced in 1864 and in 1919. It was common practice in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to date architectural features such as door heads, fireplaces and sundials for commemorative purposes. The persons commemorated at Old St Stephen's have yet to be identified, but the sundial contributed to the historical value of the church, by recording locally significant historical associations with the building that predated the existing 1822 building.



## Assessment of Impact

It is proposed to reinstate the lost sundial in its original location above the doorway to the south porch.

The sundial would be constructed and installed to the following specification:

Woodwork: Tricoya panel with hardwood edging

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Metalwork: Gnomon in 6mm mild steel with black Hammerite paint finish with 'headless' bolts to fix to panel

Signwriting: White painted board with black lettering, all in exterior quality paints

Fixing: A4 marine grade stainless steel fixings into mortar joints only

When set against the position at the time of listing, the likely impact of the proposed works on the significance of the Old St Stephen's Church would be neutral. The works would cause no harm to its significance. When set against the current position, the proposed works would be a slight enhancement and better reveal the historical value of the listed building.

With regards to the setting of the undesignated gravestones within the churchyard of Old St Stephens's, the impact would also be neutral or slightly enhance their significance by better revealing the historical associations between the church, the graveyard and past parishioners.

The project to restore the sundial has been brought forward by the Friends of Old St Stephen's Church and involved community fundraising. It is proposed to unveil the sundial at a commemorative service to mark 200 years of the churches reopening in 1822 in June 2022. The project has helped raise awareness of the listed building, which in itself is a public heritage benefit. Old St Stephen's is owned by The Churches Conservation Trust. The CCT has responsibility for a growing collection of historic churches. In order to best care for these buildings it is essential that they are used and loved by the local community. Where there are historic churches with a motivated and well-supported community the building thrives.

## Mitigation Strategy

To ensure the fitting of the sundial causes no harm to the surrounding masonry, it would be fixed with A4 marine grade stainless steel fixings into the mortar joints only.

## Design and Access Statement

### Design principles

The proposed design seeks to replicate that of the sundial present at the time of listing in 1969 and comprises a timber sign written board with metal gnomon.

### Access

The proposed works will not alter the means of access to the existing building.

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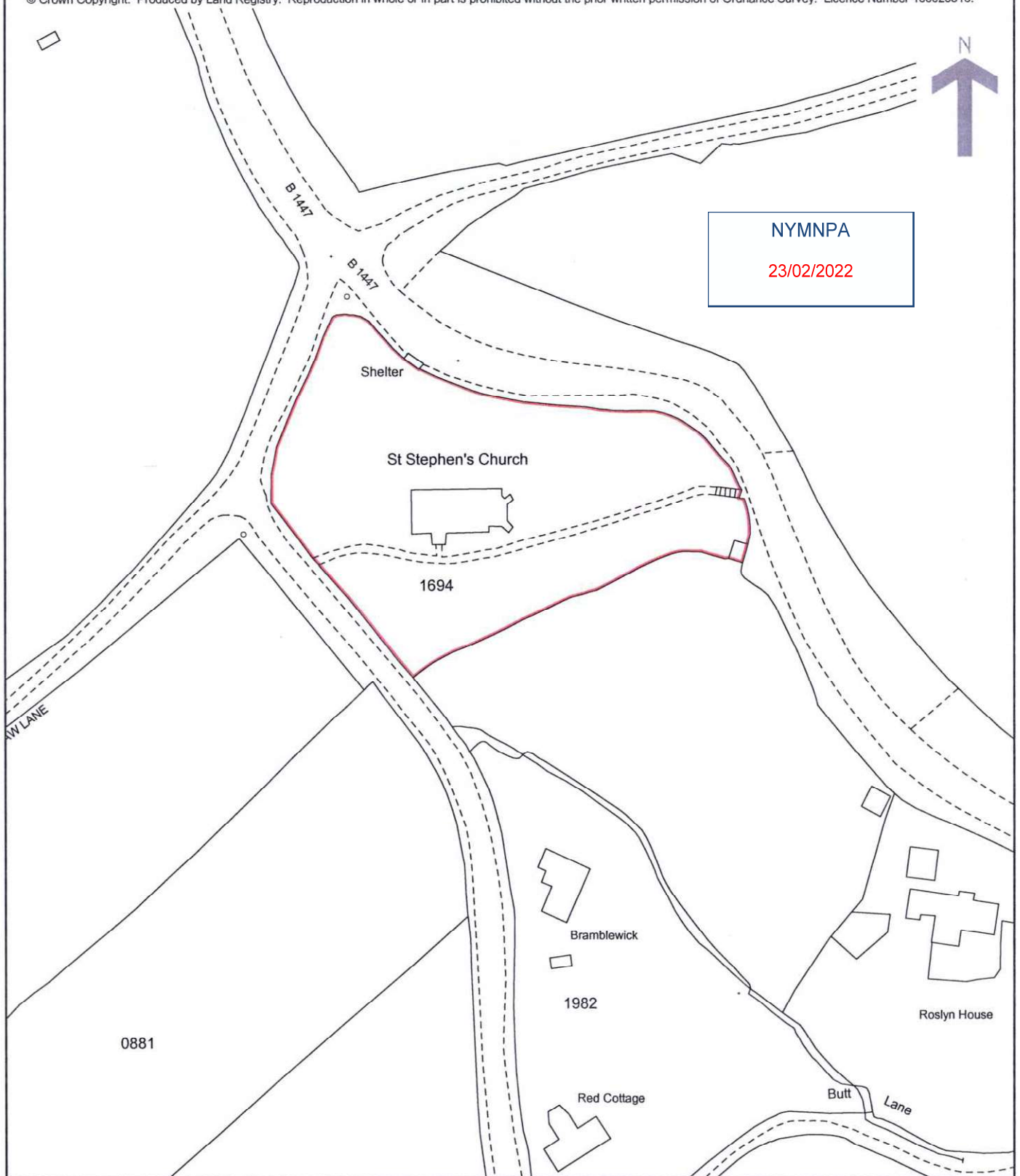


Land Registry  
Official copy of  
title plan

Title number **NYK339502**  
Ordnance Survey map reference **NZ9405NW**  
Scale **1:1250** enlarged from 1:2500  
Administrative area **North Yorkshire: Scarborough**



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