

St Andrew's Church, Ombersley

Asbestos – management survey

Summary

No immediate actions are required, but specialist advice must be sought before carrying out work on the disused heating ducts, the panelling of the stud wall between the toilet and the north porch, or before testing or working on the Gray organ

1. Introduction

This document records the result of a management survey conducted in August 2012 to determine the presence or otherwise of asbestos and asbestos containing materials in St Andrew's Church, Ombersley. The survey is required by the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

The survey was carried out by the Churchwarden, Dr Robert Thornton CEng FICHEM E noting the advice given on the Health and Safety Executive web site.

2. Background

St Andrew's church was built in 1829 using traditional building materials. Since then internal modifications have been carried out. Recent work on the building (post 2006) has included refurbishment of the north windows, installation of a new lighting system, a major restoration of the tower and the installation of a new electrical heating system in the narthex. There has been no evidence of the presence of asbestos containing materials during this work.

3. Areas inspected

- (i) The main body of the church
- (ii) The vestries
- (iii) The incumbent's study ("The White Room")
- (iv) The utility area
- (v) The north porch area
- (vi) The gallery
- (vii) The tower
- (viii) The boiler room
- (ix) The church exterior

4. Results of the inspections

4.1 The main body of the church

No asbestos containing materials have been found. However, the old, disused heating ducts under the floor are inaccessible. There is a remote possibility that traces of asbestos could be present from earlier heating installations.

Action plan: no action required at present, but the advice of the Architect should be sought if there are plans to open the ducts or carry out work in them.

4.2 The vestries

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the vestries.

4.3 The incumbent's study ("The White Room")

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the incumbent's study.

4.4 The utility area

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the utility area.

4.5 The north porch area

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the north porch area. However, there is a remote possibility that the panelling used in the stud partition wall which divides the toilet from the porch area is an asbestos/cement composition board. The panelling is painted and is in good condition.

Action plan: no action required at present, but the advice of the Architect should be sought and contractors warned if there are plans to carry out work involving disturbing or cutting the panelling.

4.6 The gallery

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the gallery. However, there is the possibility of asbestos containing materials present as soundproofing in the blowing fans enclosure of the old Gray organ. The interior of the enclosure is not accessible, and the organ is currently not in use. There are plans to restore the organ if funds become available in the future.

Action plan: no action required at present, but it is essential that specialist advice be obtained before the organ is tested or used again, or before any restoration work is undertaken.

4.7 The tower

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the ringing chamber, the clock room or the bell chamber.

4.8 The boiler room

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials in the boiler room. The boiler was installed in 2002, and exposed hot pipework is lagged using glass fibre materials.

4.9 The church exterior

There is no evidence of asbestos containing materials anywhere on the church exterior.

R Thornton
August 2012