

Salisbury Cathedral

“An Exceptional Place”

Revised Master Plan 2016: An Outline



Salisbury
Cathedral



A wide-angle photograph of Salisbury Cathedral, showing its massive stone structure and the iconic spire. The cathedral is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a large green lawn is visible, with several people walking and sitting on the grass. A person is lying on their back in the lower foreground, with their legs raised. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Salisbury Cathedral is an exceptional place - one of England's greatest treasures.

We welcome many people, both visitors and worshippers, to experience a place of Christian celebration that is enriched by ancient heritage and many traditions, stories and treasures.

Our Master Plan is a key element in ensuring the Cathedral continues to evolve, thrive and inspire future generations. The ideas it contains are designed to ensure the best possible management of the Cathedral and the Close and to increase people's ability to access the place and its history while enabling sustainable growth.

This summary explains the revisions to the Master Plan we have made following the consultation we carried out in 2015. The revised plan has been submitted to Wiltshire Council who will conduct their own consultation for six weeks from 12 September 2016. You can find the plan and how to comment on it here:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/salisburycathedralmasterplanconsultation

Thank you to everyone who has already engaged in the development of our Master Plan. We appreciate your thoughtful contributions.

Public Access to the Cathedral's South Side

The south of the Cathedral is rarely seen, mainly because it is the location of the Works Yard where our glaziers and stonemasons work. The expected completion of our Major Repair Programme (MRP) in the next few years offers the chance to change the use of this site and give people more access to it. The public consultation response was fairly evenly mixed between those who supported and those who opposed this proposal because of possible effects on the Cathedral School. The Close is one of the finest urban open spaces in the country and increasing access to it remains an important part of our plans. We will ensure a balance is found between extending public access and meeting the Cathedral School's requirements.



Improving Access and Welcome in the Close

The Cathedral is a place of hospitality and welcome; at the heart of the City, its foundation in 1220 was central to Salisbury's growth and development. It is important to us that we are accessible and welcome everyone who comes into the Close and the Cathedral, honouring our core value of generosity in all we do.

The Master Plan considers ways of improving our hospitality through developing a visitor welcome point, reviewing how we use the North Porch entrance and finding ways to manage traffic to balance the needs of pedestrians and vehicles.



Improving Office Accommodation, Meeting Rooms and Function Spaces

As part of improving access and our welcome in the Close, it is important to us that our daily business operates effectively. This aligns with our aspiration to establish one location for our staff and volunteers in a "Cathedral House". The initial Master Plan proposed flexible working and function spaces, suggesting this might be done in the Bishop's Palace. The decision not to change the School's occupation of the Bishop's Palace has meant we have had to reconsider how these aspirations might be achieved through more effective use of existing Cathedral properties such as No. 20 the Close.



Creating an Education Centre

Our guided tours and our education and outreach activities offer opportunities for visitors to discover more about the Cathedral, its history and treasures. There is much more we could do, however, to share this rich heritage with current and future generations. The creation of an education centre will enable us to share more of the Cathedral's story and give a greater understanding of its integral relationship with the city of Salisbury and the wider community. The consultation process has demonstrated that people want to experience more through our education and outreach activity and we need the facilities to make this possible.



A Permanent Home for Magna Carta

Magna Carta is significant both locally and internationally. It is essential we preserve this important part of history and we want to find a permanent home where it can be displayed and interpreted appropriately. Consultation respondents supported this idea, noting that, although its current location works well, moving it from the Chapter House would allow better appreciation of this beautiful medieval space. In our revised Master Plan our initial idea to locate Magna Carta in the Bishop's Palace is replaced with proposals for a new purpose-built structure on the existing Works Yard site or another location within the Cathedral site.



Access to the Cathedral Archives and Library

The treasures and artefacts held in the Cathedral's Library and Archives are as valuable as our liturgical life and the artisan skills of our crafts men and women. We want to provide state-of-the-art accommodation for the Archives, as well as Magna Carta, to preserve them and make them more accessible. The consultation feedback was firmly in favour of improved storage and better access to the Library and Archives but questioned whether the Bishop's Palace was the right location. Our revised Master Plan leaves the Library in its current, historic location but is still committed to making its books and records more accessible. It also retains the aspiration to provide a suitable location for and better access to the Archives.



A Song School

The aspiration to provide a new Song School springs from our desire to sustain our exceptional music heritage by maintaining the excellence for which our Choir, including its boy and girl choristers, is known. Our suggestion that the Song School could be located on a changed Works Yard Site, generated comments about the importance of maintaining a choral tradition and noting that a Song School would need to be close to the Cathedral. The revised Master Plan includes the provision of a new Song School and suggests that it would be located on land to the south side of the Cathedral, to be close to both the Cathedral and the Cathedral School.



Development of the Works Yard Site

We want to keep the Works Department on site at the Cathedral to maintain the continuity of its long history within the Close and its vital role in maintaining the Cathedral. It is also important to support our plans for developing opportunities to learn about the Cathedral and the stories connected with its ancient fabric. Our vision for the Works Yard Site is that it will add to our ability to serve visitors, pilgrims, Cathedral partners and the wider community by becoming the location for educational and interpretative space, a Song School and a home for the Archives and possibly Magna Carta.

Building a new Auditorium

The idea of creating an auditorium in the Close came from the aspiration to have a separate function space that could be used for concerts, lectures and other education or worship centred activities. The consultation feedback generated numerous responses to this idea. Many agreed with the perceived need for a large space of this type but thought it was actually a city-wide project. Equally, there were many concerns about the impact such a building would have on the historic setting of the Close. The Cathedral has decided not to proceed with this idea, but is open to working with other organisations in the city who might want to develop their own plans for an auditorium.

Providing new Clergy Housing

The Cathedral wants to explore the possibility of providing more sustainable living accommodation for the clergy who live within the Close. Many of the properties we currently use are old, large and costly to maintain. We recognise the tradition of clergy offering their homes as places of welcome and hospitality, so there are a variety of issues that need to be considered. The revised Master Plan still retains the aspiration to provide more sustainable housing and this might be through developments on the site of No. 20 the Close.

The Cathedral School

Ideas about the Cathedral School and its facilities, which now include the new campus at Leaden Hall, generated the strongest responses during the consultation process, in light of which the Cathedral has already confirmed to the School that it has no plans to change the School's occupation of the Bishop's Palace. The Cathedral remains committed to working with the School as they develop their own ideas and plans for improving School facilities in support of future growth and flourishing.

Consultation Process

The Cathedral's revised Master Plan has been submitted to Wiltshire Council, which will consult on the proposals. The consultation opens on 12 September 2016 and you can find the full Master Plan and how to comment on it here:

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