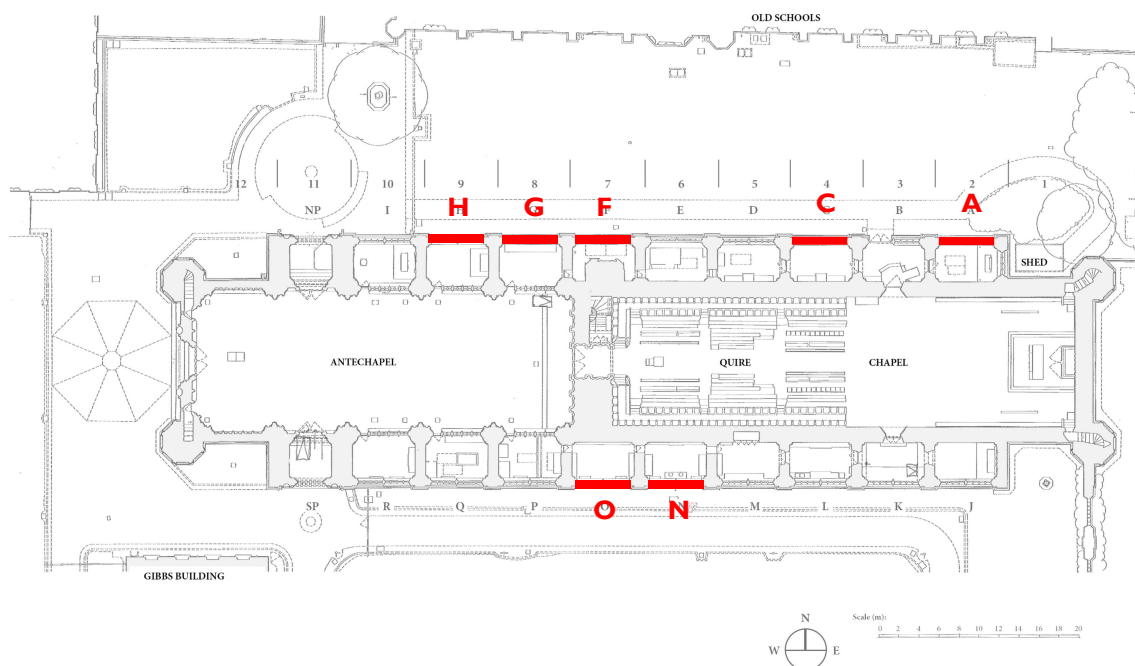


**099 KINGS COLLEGE CHAPEL
SIDE CHAPEL GLAZING REPAIRS
COVERING PAPER TO FACULTY APPLICATION**

This paper supports an application for Faculty under the 2015 RULES, for minor repairs to a number of the side chapel windows. The context arises from the Quinquennial Inspection of 2018 and subsequent Condition Survey by Holywell Glass, which noted a series of local defects within these windows that are in urgent need of attention. Following discussion with Geoffrey Hunter, DAC Secretary and Head of Church Buildings and Pastoral Department for the Diocese of Ely, it was considered that this application may be suitable for an Officer Delegated case.



Ground Plan showing windows with proposed works

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Very concise history and description.

The Chapel was the major building of the College founded by King Henry VI who laid the first stone in 1446. Its building history, which was marked by long periods of inactivity, reflects a politically turbulent era around the War of the Roses. For this reason, the Chapel went through three phases of construction, under four separate master masons, and was not completed until 1515. Subsequently the college Front Court developed to the South. The ensemble now comprises the C18th classical Gibbs building, the C19th Wilkins building and later C19 screen to Kings Parade, both in a gothic revival stylistic idiom.

Of relevance to the present application are the side chapels, which Henry VI's Will of 1448 referred to as 'closets,' or places for private worship. Only the two north east chapels were vaulted by Reginald Ely prior to 1461. The rest were not finished until after 1513. These side chapels serve today as spaces of worship and

remembrance: on the north side there is a sequence of spaces presented for visitor interpretation and the corresponding vaulted rooms on the south side serve as ancillary vestries.

The side chapels also contain a very important collection of historic glass – predominantly European – with very early English fragments, introduced over an extended period.¹

Significance of the whole: EXCEPTIONAL

“One of the major monuments of English Medieval architecture. Despite its long building history, the interior of Kings College chapel is a harmonious whole, a supreme achievement of a series of royal masons of the highest calibre” Pevsner: Buildings of England.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The need for repair is outlined in the accompanying Condition Report/Conservation Proposal by Holywell Glass. The decorative order of the historic opening casements has deteriorated. Those in the windows of side Chapels C, F, H, N and O are in poor condition and the associated glazing has compromised structural integrity – thereby prescribing the need for intervention. An isolated tracery in the window of side Chapel A and the larger traceries in the window of side chapel G are also in need of repairs to stabilise their leadwork where the matrix has weakened and bowed.

It should be noted that there are other more complex issues with some of the side chapel windows – in particular those in Chapels J and K - which are interlinked with decaying masonry and will require more involved planning and future repair campaigns in the medium term.

SCOPE OF PROPOSED WORKS FOR FACULTY

The scope of work submitted for Faculty comprises of works to overhaul the deteriorating casements and associated glazing in the windows of side Chapels C, F, H, N and O, alongside works to repair and re-lead tracery panels in the windows of side Chapels A and G. Cracked and broken panes will be repaired in conjunction. The proposals are detailed in the Conservation Proposal by Holywell Glass, the Schedule of Work and Drawings.

PROCUREMENT

The selection of a suitable Glazier to undertake the repair works will be made on the basis of tender submissions which are being sought from a shortlist of Conservators on the Conservation Register - each with demonstrated experience and ability of similar works.

¹ Clare, Stephen, *Condition Report/Conservation Proposal*, 2020