

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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Dear Ms. Morina

DM/21/02850/LB - St Mary-the-Less, South Bailey, Durham City

Trustees note that formal consideration is being given to these proposals not only by DCC as the Planning authority, but also by the Cathedral Fabric Commission, and under church Faculty procedures.

Trustees wish to support and encourage early implementation of these carefully prepared proposals to secure consolidation of the retaining wall immediately west of the church building, as well as the rebuilding, foundation up, of the collapsed section to the South, to an authentic form and appearance as the ancient monastic wall between churchyard and Cathedral grounds.

We do wonder however whether there should be better provision in the scheme for the careful recording, conservation, and return of the loose gravestones presently “stored” leaning against the boundary wall to the West of the church where possible to positions more closely associated with the graves they once marked, presumably in the section of graveyard fronting the collapse (between the church and cottage). That would surely be a better way of conserving the heritage of the site and City, than simply returning them loose and out-of-view as now, with the visible record of burials in that area of the churchyard being in effect broken, or even lost.

Yours sincerely,

John Lowe
Chair, City of Durham Trust.