



Council of the Isles of Scilly (CIOS)

Design and Access Statement
(including Statement of Historical Significance)

Old Wesleyan Chapel Flagpole

September 2024

REV B

Contact details

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1. Site Details

Site Name

Old Wesleyan Chapel

Address

Old Wesleyan Chapel, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW

Grid Reference

SV 90208 10540

Description

Former Methodist Church now functioning as the Council Chambers and offices by the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

2. Pre-application advice

We have not sought pre-application advice regarding this proposal.

3. Schedule of Works

The works proposal is to install a new wall-mounted, vertical flagpole to the building. Details of the flagpole are as follows (please review in conjunction with proposed drawings "PL4101565_WC_02 Proposed Elevations REV B and Site Plan" and "PL4101565_WC_03 Fixing Details REV B").

Size

The flagpole itself will be 6000mm in length, needed to suit the wind load of an 1800 x 900mm flag following advice from a flagpole specialist. The flagpole will sit proud of the external wall by approximately 235mm to ensure clearance with the existing rainwater gutters. A gold finial will extend the overall flagpole length by a further 65mm.

Position

The flagpole will be vertically mounted at first-floor level on the external wall of the principal elevation (East facing).

Material

The flagpole will be made from heavy duty glass fibre and polyester resin to suit the marine environment. The flagpole will be mechanically fixed to the building with two galvanised steel brackets, each containing two M12 threaded bars with washers and resin fixed into the mortar joints of the existing granite wall. The gold finial will be made from a hardened plastic.

Appearance

The flagpole will be white with a gold finial at the top with a gloss finish.

Flags

Various flags will be flown at different times such as, the Union Flag, The Council of the Isles of Scilly Flag, Armed Forces Day Flag and the Pride Flag. Flags will be no larger than 1800 x 900mm. The flag will be raised and lowered from the first-floor, middle window.

4. Access

No changes or additions are proposed to the existing access arrangements to the Old Wesleyan Chapel as part of this proposal.

5. Heritage Statement

Methodology

NPPF Clause 200 states that:

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.'

The following information sets out information on the heritage asset which has been used to assess the proposal's impact on the significance of the asset.

Heritage assets affected by the proposal

- Listed Building (LB)
- Conservation Area (CA)
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

5.1 Research and Information Sources

- Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Official List Entry
- Isles of Scilly Conservation Area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

5.1.1 Historic Environment Record (HER)

A review of the HER for the property returned one record containing the official list entry for the building.

5.1.2 Official List Entry

The building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**
Grade: **II**
List Entry Number: **1141217**
Date first listed: **06-Jun-1986**
List Entry Name: **FORMER WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL**
Statutory Address 1: **FORMER WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, GARRISON LANE**

Official List Entry is as follows:

Former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. Early C19. Coursed granite rubble with ashlar to 2 facades; hipped asbestos roof. Two storeys; 2 x 2 bays. Semi-circular arches over 2 ground and 3 first-floor sashes with glazing bars, and boarded replacement doors with blank fanlight. Similar return elevation has four 6-pane casement windows. Rear elevation has 18 and 12-pane sashes set in 2 semi-circular arched "preaching windows". Interior: U-plan panelled first-floor galleries supported on cast-iron Tuscan columns. Angle staircases with swept handrails, turned newels and stick balusters.

5.1.3 Isles of Scilly Conservation Area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The whole of the Isles of Scilly was designated as a Conservation area in 1975, deemed to be of “Special Architectural or Historical Character”. The whole of the Isles of Scilly was also designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1975.

5.2 Research Analysis

The building was originally constructed as a Methodist Chapel in the early 19th Century. From the Official List Entry, we note that the “asbestos hipped roof” has since been replaced with a more traditional natural slate covering. We understand that the principal elevation where the proposed flagpole will be installed is largely in its original form since construction.

5.3 Historical Significance

5.3.1 What is important about the affected heritage asset and its setting?

The Old Wesleyan Chapel originally served as a Methodist Church and school on St Mary’s and became listed in 1986.

5.3.2 How will the proposal impact on the significance of the heritage asset and its setting?

Through tradition on St Mary’s, a Council flag is flown to represent significant events and is symbolic for the local community. For example, the flag of the Council of the Isles of Scilly is flown during full council meetings and during local funerals the Union Flag is flown at half-mast. The current Council flagpole is installed on the Town Hall. In the very near future, renovations are due to commence in the Town Hall, converting it into the “Cultural Centre & Museum”. The Wesleyan Chapel is to become the Council’s new Civic building. Due to the significance which a flag represents on St Mary’s, it is important the future Civic Building (the Wesleyan Chapel) has a flagpole to continue this tradition in its future use.

The flagpole has been positioned in a prominent location on the principal elevation to ensure its visibility. Due to the scale of the building, it is only likely to be visible from the principal elevation. There are no other building works associated to this proposal. The works will result in a negligible loss in the visibility historic building fabric on this elevation, therefore we deem the proposal to be of low impact to the heritage asset and its setting.

Ultimately, the flagpole could be removed in the future should there no longer be a need for it. In doing so, the building can be returned to its current, original state with only minor works to make good the four fixing penetrations with suitable material.

5.3.3 How has the proposal been designed to conserve the significance of the heritage asset.

A high-quality flagpole has been proposed to ensure it is sympathetic of the grandeur of the Wesleyan Chapel as to not look out of place. The white of the flagpole will tie-in to the existing white window frames.



IMG 001: Principal Elevation (East Facing)



IMG 002: Principal Elevation (View from Garrison Lane)

6. Conclusion

The flagpole is required on the Wesleyan Chapel to continue tradition of flying a Council flag to signify significant events on St Mary's. The existing Council flag is due to soon become inaccessible with planned works to the Town Hall, making the Wesleyan Chapel the new Civic building for the council.

The flagpole is deemed to be of low impact to the heritage asset and its surrounding. Ultimately, the flagpole can be removed in the future should it no longer be required, returning the building to its current, original state with minor making good works.



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