Historic England

Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Replacement Materials

Summary

This advice note sets out Historic England's response to lead theft, which continues to affect historic parish churches. We recognise that these heritage crimes are upsetting, expensive and challenging for congregations. This updated advice on replacement materials is intended to give maximum clarity to congregations who are still dealing with the consequences of the sharp rise in the number, severity and geographical spread of metal thefts from church roofs since publication of our previous advice note in 2017.

Front cover: Replacement terne-coated stainless steel roof covering following lead theft © Jo Hibbert

This document has been prepared by Dale Dishon and Diana Evans. With thanks to the following for their contributions: Andy Bliss, Alice Brockway, David Eve, Lynette Fawkes, Beth Harries, Mark Harrison, Aimee Henderson, Alison Henry, Dan Jones, Nicki Lauder, Martin Lowe, Rachel Neaum, Rhiannon Rhys, Guy Robinson, David Walsh and Duncan Wilson. Also to Emma Critchley and David Bevan; Steven Sleight and Matthew Godfrey; Rupert Allen, Gill Elliott and Simon Headley; David Knight; and Chris Wood.

This is part of a suite of advice notes relating to Metal Theft and Heritage Crime. This edition published by Historic England September 2021.

Please refer to this document as:
Historic England 2021 *Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Replacement Materials*. Swindon. Historic England

HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/places-of-worship-at-risk/metal-theft/

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1 Introduction

Foreword by the Chief Executive

Historic England fully appreciates the frustration and distress caused by crimes affecting historic places of worship, particularly metal theft. We have addressed this note specifically to those who carry the responsibility for replacing stolen church roofs.

When lead or copper roof coverings have been stolen, we understand it may be too risky to replace with the same materials. We have found that the most appropriate and long-lasting alternative is terne-coated stainless steel (TCSS). In some circumstances, natural slates or clay tiles may be suitable alternatives, if they are historically, geologically and technically appropriate. A well-detailed design, good specification and experienced contractors are key to ensuring the performance of the replacement roof covering.

We will support the installation of TCSS or other appropriate alternatives where a church has already suffered lead or copper theft; or when a roof covering has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced, and the church is in an area of evidenced high risk of metal theft.

We do not consider the fear of theft as sufficient justification for the pre-emptive removal of lead and copper roof coverings in good working order and with good remaining life expectancy.

Duncan Wilson

Chief Executive, Historic England

The purpose of this advice note

1.1 This advice note sets out Historic England's response to lead theft, which continues to affect historic parish churches. We recognise that these heritage crimes are upsetting, expensive and challenging for congregations. Preventing future thefts is paramount but dealing with the aftermath in an appropriate way is also very important.

1.2 The advice in this note is intended to give maximum clarity to congregations who are still dealing with the consequences of the sharp rise in the number, severity and geographical spread of metal thefts from church roofs since publication of our previous metal theft advice note in 2017, and those who will unfortunately become victims in the future. None of us can be complacent when the price of lead and copper remains high.

1.3 We continue to work hard with our partners in the police and Crown Prosecution Service to help them apprehend, charge and sentence the criminals who are carrying out these devastating heritage crimes. We remain hopeful that our joint concerted efforts, including those of parishes, will reduce the number of attacks on metal roofs in future. We encourage parishes to help by undertaking appropriate preventative measures and asking neighbours to be vigilant, as well as ensuring that all heritage crime is promptly reported to the police (see our companion advice note Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response). We are committed to reviewing our position and updating our advice if there are further significant changes to the metal theft situation.

1.4 This advice note is intended for members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), Diocesan Chancellors, local authorities, church architects/surveyors and other interested parties.

1.5 We have addressed this note specifically to those carrying the responsibility for replacing stolen church roofs. This note forms part of a package of materials published by Historic England and written to help congregations dealing with metal theft or the risk of metal theft. Other elements of the package include:

- A separate advice note on Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response
- A separate advice note on Church Roof Replacement Using Terne-Coated Stainless Steel

Online advice with links on what to do on discovering a theft

Some principles to note

- We have used “church” to refer to Church of England parish churches under the Ecclesiastical Exemption because the overwhelming majority of thefts are targeted at these buildings. However, the principles of this advice note may be applicable to other listed places of worship or other types of listed buildings, subject to the necessary permissions under the relevant consent regimes.

- A small number of listed church buildings may also be Scheduled Monuments. These require bespoke advice. Please contact your local Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England.

- We refer throughout to “lead” as most metal stolen from church roofs is lead, but the same principles apply to copper (which itself was sometimes used as a replacement for stolen lead coverings in the mid-20th century).

2 Why are metal roofs on churches so important?

2.1 Lead has been used on roofs in England for over a thousand years and is part of our national story, culturally and architecturally.

2.2 The roof of any building is always an important element in its design, structure and appearance. In the case of an historic church it is likely to be a major feature in the way it was constructed, its appearance, its impact on the local streetscape or landscape and the way in which it is designed to protect the fixtures and fittings inside. All these elements contribute to making the church's roof a key part of its significance.

2.3 In the case of a lead roof, it is also important that much of the work that went into making lead sheet, and covering and repairing successive lead roofs was carried out by highly skilled craftspeople. The continued practice of these metalworking skills is part of a long, peculiarly English, tradition that is important to retain and celebrate. A well-constructed and detailed lead roof is almost maintenance-free for many decades.

2.4 Geologically, England is rich in lead and tin. The abundance of lead to be found, particularly in Derbyshire, the Pennines, Yorkshire and the Mendips, has meant that this material was used more frequently here than in most parts of Europe. It has always been expensive, due to the high cost of extracting, transporting and working such a heavy metal. As such, its use was usually reserved for buildings of high status: churches, cathedrals, and palaces, with lead elements often placed in highly visible locations as a statement of the splendour and importance of the building. Additionally, over time lead developed a light grey patina which is visually prominent in the landscape.

2.5 The history of lead theft is as longstanding as the use of the material itself due to the value of lead, the frequency with which it has been used for prominent buildings and features, and the fact it can be recast. However, it is the scale and organisation of theft that have increased in recent years. Even where replacing with lead is not appropriate due to the risk of further theft, it is important to acknowledge the high status and long-lasting significance of lead when we are looking at permanent replacements.

3 What is Historic England's approach?

Recognising the impact on congregations

3.1 Historic England is extremely concerned about the on-going problem of metal theft from church roofs, both because of the damage suffered by historic buildings and the additional burdens that this crime imposes upon congregations. The impact on the weatherproofing and water-tightness of buildings is severely compromised, but so too are the resources and the morale of the volunteers who care for them.

3.2 Until 2011, lead's unparalleled suitability for church roofs in terms of significance, performance and longevity meant our approach was to recommend like-for-like replacement following metal theft; however, this approach became untenable given the huge increase in risk of repeated theft. In 2011 we revised our position to accept replacement with appropriate alternatives such as terne-coated stainless steel (TCSS) following one incidence of theft. In 2017 we revised our advice again to include all historic buildings and provide more information about prevention.

3.3 The sharp rise in the number, severity and geographical spread of metal thefts from church roofs since 2017 led us to invest in commissioning and publishing technical advice on replacement with TCSS. We are now refreshing our wider advice on replacement materials, to provide additional clarity and address the particular needs of congregations caring for historic churches.

3.4 We recognise that lead and copper roofs are increasingly vulnerable to theft and therefore, even with security measures, replacing with the same materials may be too high a risk. This is especially the case if the church is in a remote location; or in an area where there is evidence of high rates of metal theft; or where it is not feasible for a roof alarm to be installed.

When does Historic England support the consideration of alternatives

3.5 Historic England supports consideration of replacing lead coverings with TCSS or other appropriate alternatives in these situations:

a. Where a particular roof slope has been the target of theft and there is a need for re-covering;

b. When the lead on a particular roof slope has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced, as evidenced by the Quinquennial Inspection (or other architect/surveyor's report) and the church has already experienced metal theft or is in an area of evidenced high risk of metal theft.

Pre-emptive removal of lead and copper coverings

3.6 We do not accept fear of theft as justification for the pre-emptive removal of complete lead and copper roof coverings that are in good working order and with good remaining life expectancy.

3.7 Removal of any lead or copper roofs that have not been affected by theft and are still in good working order is harmful to significance and unlikely to obtain consent. As well as unjustified harm to significance, parishes should bear in mind the low salvage value of lead and the construction costs and fees of replacing a perfectly serviceable roof. It would be better to invest in a roof alarm and any other security measures required by the insurance company to satisfy its policy requirements.

4 How to decide what alternative materials to use?

4.1 In choosing materials for roof coverings that would not be vulnerable to theft, the priority is to secure the church building for this and future generations to use and enjoy, safe in the knowledge that it will last for many decades with only occasional maintenance required.

4.2 Before considering options for replacing stolen or failing metal, it is vital to seek advice from the church architect or surveyor, and from the DAC Secretary. A well-detailed design, good specification and experienced contractors are essential to ensuring the performance of the replacement roof covering.

4.3 Key considerations in choosing an alternative are:

- Assessing risk of further theft or damage and mitigating against those risks
- Matching the longevity and sustainability of lead, as far as possible
- Minimising the impact on the historic and architectural significance of the building
- Achieving the best technical performance available in an alternative material
- Value for money long-term – thinking of future generations

4.4 Another consideration is the amount of lead or copper that has been stolen or damaged. If a substantial part of the lead or copper covering on a roof slope has been stolen, it may be justified to remove what is left on that slope and replace the entirety with an alternative material. This is because a joint between two different materials on the same slope can impact on technical performance as well as aesthetics.

4.5 Where only a couple of strips of lead or copper have been stolen, parishes may find it is cheaper to replace those like-for-like and install security measures, as required by the insurer, than to strip off the remainder of the roof slope and replace it entirely.

4.6 The visibility of the alternative material from the surrounding areas is a consideration. However, the contribution that lead makes to the significance of the building goes beyond its appearance, so anything that replaces it will have some degree of impact on that significance, whether you can see it or not.

4.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local authorities to balance the public benefits of a proposal against harm to the significance of listed buildings, taking into account the advice of Historic England and other statutory consultees. The NPPF tests would be applied by the local authority to buildings outside the Ecclesiastical Exemption, but also to buildings within the Exemption where planning permission is required (see section seven). Equivalent tests would be applied by denominational decision-makers for buildings within the Ecclesiastical Exemption.

4.8 Therefore, in choosing an alternative material, the aim is to reduce the harm to the significance of listed buildings and ensure the harm is outweighed by the public benefits of keeping these buildings in use and in good repair for future generations.

4.9 Historic England has considered a range of coverings. In our experience, where replacement of lead is justified, the material that is most often accepted as achieving the best balance of harm against public benefits is terne-coated stainless steel (TCSS).

5 Materials for permanent replacement

Terne-coated stainless steel (TCSS)

5.1 TCSS offers many of the benefits of lead but without the risk of theft. It is a very stiff material and therefore hard to remove, and it has a low re-sale value. While there have been a handful of cases of attempted theft of TCSS where it was thought to be lead, no actual theft of TCSS has occurred to date.

5.2 Historic England has separately published a technical advice note that discusses design and specification issues that frequently arise when considering the use of TCSS to replace stolen lead roofing, and it provides guidance on addressing any issues.

5.3 In comparison with lead:

- TCSS offers a long lifespan of 80-100 years, and is comparable to lead in terms of its low maintenance requirements;
- it is very durable;
- coating the steel with tin (terne-coating) allows it to dull down after a few months to resemble lead; and
- it can be laid with traditional round batten rolls to match the appearance and performance of lead (see image in 5.12 below).

5.4 TCSS can cost almost as much as lead, but because of its longevity, durability and performance it is a good long-term investment. This means that re-covering using TCSS will save work for several future generations, providing a lasting legacy that offers good value for money.

5.5 There has now been quite a body of experience built up with the hundreds of TCSS roofs installed on listed church roofs, and architects and contractors are becoming more experienced at designing, specifying and installing it.

5.6 The stiff nature of steel, which makes it so difficult to cut and therefore unattractive to thieves, also means it is not as naturally

sound-proof as lead. It will require additional measures such as underlay mats to reduce noise from heavy rainfall or hail. For further information see the section on 'Reducing rain noises' in our technical note Church Roof Replacement Using Terne-coated Stainless Steel.

5.7 TCSS roofs should always be installed by competent and experienced hard metal roofers. Members of the Federation of Traditional Metal Roof Contractors (FTMRC) have to achieve a high level of competence and have their work regularly vetted.

Zinc

5.8 Zinc is another sheet metal which has been used on historic buildings, particularly in Europe, for many years but has not been extensively used in England. We would not object to its use as an alternative to lead, but it does have a resale value so is not entirely free from theft, and on exposed flat expanses there could be issues with noise-proofing. It may be more suitable for small sections that are challenging to cover in TCSS, such as shaped areas of domes or spires, as it is flexible and lighter than TCSS.

Photo: Zinc covering on a church spire
© Bakers of Danbury

Lead and copper

5.9 There are some situations in which PCCs, owners or trustees may want to replace lead or copper like-for-like. This could be where only small sections have been stolen or are failing; the remaining leadwork is particularly decorative or has plumbers' marks; or improved security and surveillance measures provide confidence in complete replacement.

5.10 Before proceeding with like-for-like replacement we recommend carrying out a risk assessment; see our advice note *Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response* for more information.

5.11 Where lead or copper are being replaced with the same material, it is important to consider future insurance cover and any requirements of your insurer, to ascertain that you will have full cover in the case of further theft. The insurer's requirements are likely to include the installation of forensic marking, an approved roof alarm and/or possibly CCTV. In addition to the capital costs of installing an approved roof alarm, you will need to bear in mind the annual costs of service, maintenance and monitoring required to satisfy insurance policy requirements.

5.12 There will be parts of the roof where lead may be the only long-lasting and durable option, even if the main coverings are of a different material; for example, flashings, valley gutters and upstands. This is because other metal alternatives such as TCSS or zinc are unlikely to be malleable enough to create a weather-tight junction. These stiffer materials will also be unsuitable for forming fine decorative details. If lead is being used, the same consideration will need to be given to preventative measures and insurance cover as above.

Photo: TCSS roof covering with round batten rolls and lead gutters, upstands and flashings
© Jo Hibbert

Slates and tiles

5.13 There are circumstances where it may be suitable to replace lead with natural slates or clay tiles, but these are not straightforward and would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. We advise early discussion with the church architect/surveyor, the local authority and Historic England if these options are being considered.

5.14 Considerations include impact on appearance and, importantly, whether slates or tiles are historically, geologically and technically appropriate:

- Church roof coverings were designed to reflect these buildings' special high status and were not necessarily covered in the same materials found on surrounding domestic or farm buildings. This needs to be borne in mind when choosing a replacement material.

- For slates or tiles to be historically appropriate there needs to be evidence that parts of the church building are, or were historically, roofed in this material. It also depends on the age of that part of the church; for example, Welsh slate is a material that was not generally available in parts of England until the railways were developed in the mid-19th century and therefore might be appropriate for re-roofing a Victorian porch but not a medieval one.

- The appropriateness of the material would also depend on whether geologically it came from a source nearby and whether that source was still available; for example, churches in Leicestershire might have been roofed in Swithland slates but these are no longer quarried. So, consideration needs to be given as to whether there is now a suitable alternative. Importing materials as a replacement is unlikely to be appropriate because using local materials is often a key part of the story of the building.

- A key factor will be whether the existing pitch of the roof slope is technically suitable for slates or tiles, and additional advice may need to be sought in this regard from a specialist contractor. Changes to the pitch will impact on the significance of the building.

Issues with synthetic plastic-based materials as roof coverings

5.15 Historic England does not support the use of synthetic plastic-based materials as roof coverings on listed church buildings, including composites such as glass-reinforced plastic (GRP), mesh-reinforced plastics, and single-ply membranes. These materials were developed for use on modern buildings and are not suited to the character or breathable construction of listed church buildings; neither do they offer the durability of lead or TCSS and level of protection required for sensitive interiors.

5.16 Historic England will object to the use of such materials as roof coverings on listed churches. Our reasons for objection relate to significance, performance and sustainability:

- Historic churches were designed as high-status buildings at the centre of their communities, with high quality materials. Synthetic plastic-based materials do not meet this standard and therefore harm the status and significance of the building. This includes the visual impact, but is not limited to it.

- Much of the work that went into covering and repairing successive lead roofs was carried out by highly skilled craftspeople. Using synthetic plastic-based materials, designed for modern construction, entails the loss of the traditional metalworking skills that are an important part of our cultural heritage.

- Synthetic plastic-based materials have an advertised lifespan equivalent to a single generation and will not protect the church building for future generations in the same way as lead or TCSS, which are expected to last for 80-100 years.

- The total cost over the same lifespan as lead or TCSS will therefore be higher as the material will need to be replaced a number of times.

- The additional cost of annual inspection of the joints between sheets and eventual replacement of these materials also needs to be factored in when working out value for money, especially where resources are limited.

- These materials are more susceptible to piercing or cracking than hard metals and some are prone to adhesive failures. They present a higher risk of water ingress at joints and abutments, so are not an anxiety-free option for PCCs.

- Due to the above susceptibility they pose a greater risk to the sensitive interiors of listed churches, which often contain highly significant features such as wall paintings, organs, furnishings and hangings.

- They are not as sustainable as metals in terms of repairability and re-cyclability.

5.17 Synthetic plastic-based materials are therefore not a good investment for parishes or grant-funders in the medium-long term; nor are they a risk-free or maintenance-free option, even if they seem financially attractive in the short term. This is an important consideration when working out value for money, especially where resources are limited.

5.18 If a low-cost temporary repair is needed, we recommend protection of the roof using roofing felt until funds can be fully raised for TCSS or another appropriate permanent replacement. For further information on emergency and temporary coverings see section six.

Exceptional use of synthetic plastic-based materials on complex details of the roof

5.19 On those limited parts of the roof where TCSS or zinc are not malleable enough to be used, such as valley gutters, flashings and upstands, we would normally recommend using lead with appropriate security measures. However, in cases where the risk of lead theft is too high and cannot be mitigated, we may not object to the use of synthetic plastic-based materials as an alternative. We advise PCCs to bear in mind that these materials are likely to require regular inspection for damage, are not suitable for walking/access routes and will have a limited lifespan. Any proposals for the use of these materials should be made in consultation with the church architect/surveyor.

6 Materials for temporary replacement

6.1 Immediately following a theft, emergency coverings such as tarpaulins or plastic sheeting should be put in place straight away. These should keep the roof watertight and weatherproof for a few months until a permanent solution can be agreed and implemented. Advice on what to do in the immediate aftermath of a metal theft can be found in Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response.

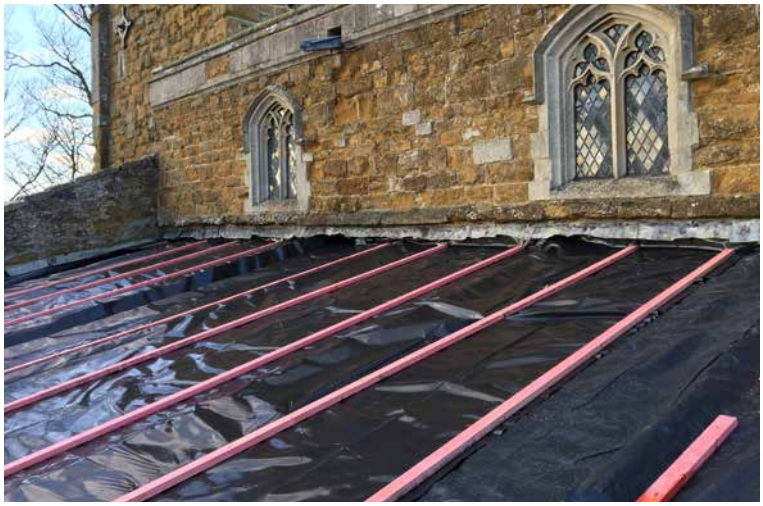

Photo: Plastic sheeting secured with vertical battens as emergency covering
© Simon Headley

6.2 Once the emergency coverings are in place, the next step is to consider permanent replacement. However, there may be situations in which funding is not immediately available to replace roof coverings with an appropriate permanent material. If that is the case, it may be justifiable to replace the emergency coverings with a temporary solution for a period of up to five years (exceptionally up to ten years) until funds can be raised for the permanent replacement.

6.3 Before considering options for a temporary replacement material, it is vital to seek advice from the church architect or surveyor as, by definition, a temporary material may not be acceptable as a permanent covering.

6.4 Planning permission and denominational consent are likely to be required for temporary replacement materials. Planning permission from the local authority for a temporary covering is usually granted for a period of five years (but exceptionally can be extended to ten

years), at the end of which an application for a permanent solution is expected. Within the Church of England faculty system, Chancellors have the authority to impose conditions on consents to ensure an equivalent timescale for replacement of temporary materials with a permanent solution.

6.5 Synthetic plastic-based materials, multi-layered reinforced bituminous membranes and other modern systems are sometimes proposed as temporary solutions. However, as their advertised lifespan is often more than ten years, they go beyond the accepted timescale for temporary planning permission. The issues with their use as permanent materials, raised in paragraphs 5.15-18 above, therefore apply.

6.6 Synthetic plastic-based materials and other modern systems with an advertised lifespan of more than ten years can also cost more to install than our recommended temporary alternatives (see 6.7 below), which reduces the funding available for a permanent replacement that will last for several generations.

6.7 On sheltered roof slopes, shed felt is a suitable temporary cover. This is a single-layer bituminous felt that doesn't require adhesive, of the type used on garden sheds. On roofs that are exposed to strong winds, a stronger material, such as bitumen-impregnated corrugated profiled sheets, may be needed. If fitted well and fixed appropriately for the degree of exposure, both materials should last for five years. They must be adequately lapped, well-detailed at junctions and abutments and fitted to discharge into gutters.

6.8 Regular inspection is important to ensure that the felt (or other temporary cover) is sound and continuing to discharge into rainwater goods as intended, particularly after severe storms. The inspection should include a thorough visual survey of the inside with a powerful torch to detect water ingress. This should preferably be carried out by the same person, who should become familiar with historic discolorations or stains and not confuse these with new leaks.

7 Consents and consultation with Historic England

Consents

7.1 If you are proposing to replace the roof covering (or any other roofing parts) on a listed building with an alternative material, then various types of consent may be required:

- Church of England parish churches: please speak to your DAC Secretary regarding Faculty consent.
- Other places of worship under the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Baptist Union and United Reformed Church): please speak to your denominational historic buildings advisors regarding denominational consent.
- Non-exempt places of worship and secular buildings: please speak to your local authority conservation officer regarding Listed Building Consent.
- Planning permission: in all of the above cases you may also need planning permission from the local authority if they consider the works constitute development. Local planning authorities will determine the requirement for planning permission on a case by case basis: please speak to your local authority conservation officer or planning department.
- A small number of listed church buildings may also be Scheduled Monuments. These require bespoke advice regarding Scheduled Monument Consent. Please contact your local Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England.
- Bats are a protected species and it is illegal to disturb them or their roosts. Bats are often found in the roof structures of churches and roof work is likely to disturb them. You must get expert advice about planning and carrying out the works. In England, churches

can contact the Bat Helpline 0345 1300 228 for free advice which may include a roost visit by a trained volunteer. You may need to get a licence from Natural England to authorise the works.

Consultation with Historic England and other statutory consultees

7.2 Historic England is a statutory consultee with regard to the historic environment. We should be consulted on all types of applications for roofing replacement works on Grade I and II* listed buildings, including Faculty consent, planning permission and listed building consent.

7.3 Consultation with us is normally undertaken by the DAC Secretary at the 'formal consultation' stage of a Faculty application on the Online Faculty System, and by the local planning authority on planning applications and listed building consents where these are required.

7.4 We recommend that you come to us for a free cycle of pre-application advice before you submit your formal application for determination, if your proposal for an alternative roofing material on a Grade I or II* listed building doesn't fall into a category we consider 'straightforward' (please see paragraph 7.8).

7.5 Consultation with Historic England on roof replacement works on Grade II listed buildings will depend on the nature of the work being proposed, and if there are implications for the setting of Grade I or II* listed buildings.

7.6 There are other statutory consultees whose advice you may need to seek, including the Church Buildings Council and the national amenity societies. Consultation with these bodies is also normally undertaken by the DAC Secretary at the formal stage of a Faculty application, and by the local planning authority on planning applications and listed building consents.

Pre-application advice from Historic England

7.7 We hope this advice note clarifies which proposals for replacement materials are more likely to gain our support, and which are more likely to be considered controversial or complex. In all cases, we recommend that you seek the advice of your church architect/ surveyor before making decisions on a replacement material; and that you check with your insurer that any measures you take are acceptable under the terms of your policy.

7.8 We consider the following types of proposals to be straightforward and it is not necessary for you to seek advice from us before submitting your application/s for consent:

a. Where a particular roof slope has been the target of lead theft (or copper theft) and you are proposing to re-cover it with TCSS, using round batten rolls (as specified in our technical advice note on TCSS);

b. When the lead on a particular roof slope has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced, in line with the QI recommendations; and the church has already experienced metal theft or is in an area of evidenced high risk of theft; and you are proposing to re-cover the roof slope with TCSS, using round batten rolls.

7.9 If your proposals don't fall into the above categories, or you're not sure what to do, we'd welcome the opportunity to advise you at an early stage – we offer a free cycle of pre-application discussions and written advice.

7.10 Please email your pre-application request to your local Historic England team (email addresses below). Alternatively, send us a pre-application advice request through the Online Faculty System, at the 'pre-formal consultation' stage. In some dioceses the DAC Secretary will take responsibility for ensuring that Historic England receives an advice request through the Online Faculty System.

7.11 This is the information you'll need to provide with the pre-application request for it to be considered (some of which can be incorporated into Statements of Significance and Need):

- Name and address of the building, with a map or plan if possible;
- What is the existing roof covering material, its condition as set out in the last QI (if relevant), and how much of the covering remains or has been stolen;
- The number and approximate dates of theft that have occurred and the roof areas affected, or evidence of high risk of theft in the area;
- Photographs of the roof area/s affected, including from surrounding viewpoints such as the churchyard;
- What material you are considering replacing the roof covering with, and why;

- Any drawings or technical specifications provided by your architect/surveyor or roofing contractor;
- Whether there is a roof alarm installed or proposed to be installed;
- Whether any grant-aid for repair of the roof was received in the last 10 years from Historic England (formerly English Heritage).

Email addresses for sending pre-application requests

North West: e-nwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk

North East: e-neast@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Yorkshire & Humber: e-yorks@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Midlands: e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk

East of England: e-east@HistoricEngland.org.uk

South West: e-swest@HistoricEngland.org.uk

London: e-london@HistoricEngland.org.uk

South East: e-seast@HistoricEngland.org.uk

To find out which of our local offices you should contact, refer to our website, where you will find a list of the counties each office covers:

https://historicengland.org.uk/about/contact-us/local-offices/

8 Trade contacts for appropriately skilled contractors

Federation of Traditional Metal Roofing Contractors: http://ftmrc.co.uk/

Lead Contractors Association: https://leadcontractors.co.uk/

National Federation of Roofing Contractors: http://www.nfrc.co.uk

Contact Historic England

East of England
Brooklands
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Bristol BS1 6JQ
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Email: southwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Swindon
The Engine House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon SN2 2EH
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Email: swindon@HistoricEngland.org.uk

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HEAG305
Publication date: September 2021 v1.0