

Footprint Update, October 2020

We do hope this newsletter finds you keeping well and in good spirits as we head into Autumn. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, these are challenging times for so many of us across the community, and here at the Abbey we deeply appreciate your support of the Footprint Project – thank you so much!

The Footprint contractors are making great progress with the complex construction, conservation and restoration work which makes up the innovative Footprint Project. The following update illustrates just how much has been achieved, as the team continues working hard to realise the Footprint vision - all whilst ensuring Covid-safety.

If you have any questions about the information shared in this update, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Cath Foxwell, our Development Manager, using cfoxwell@bathabbey.org.

Footprint Focus

The Abbey Floor: Restoring and Re-Laying the Historic Ledgerstones

Excellent progress has been made in the South Aisle and South section of the Abbey's Nave, where the Footprint team continues building the new floor structure ahead of re-laying the historic ledgerstones.

New service trenches have now been formed to house the radiator units which sit beneath the original cast iron grates, providing addition space-heating throughout the Abbey.

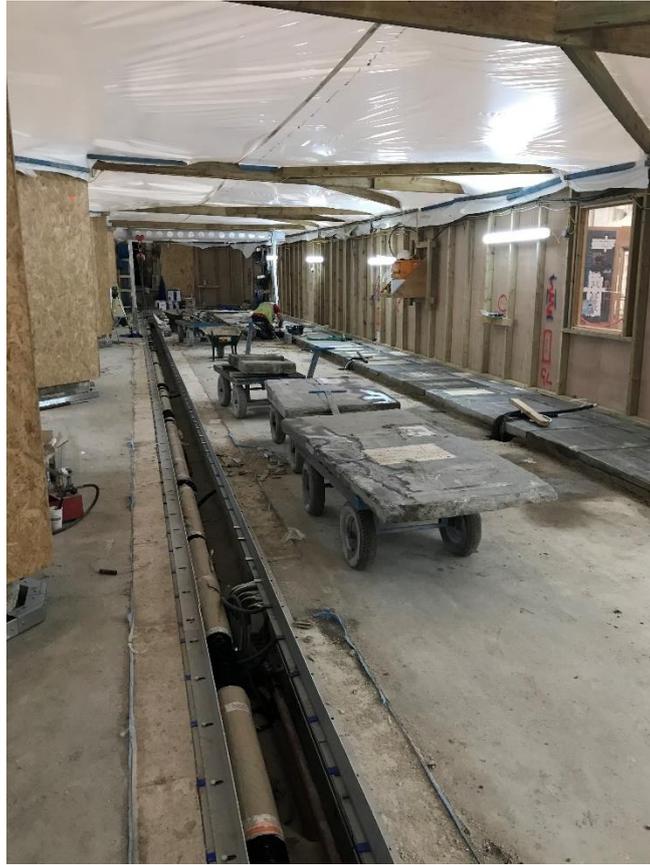
Repairs to the Abbey's historic ledgerstones are being completed by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation, including dowelling of existing stones and restoration of the marble memorial plates.

Cutting original marble memorials into a new Blue Lias stone (Right). This will be fitted in the Abbey's South Aisle in the same position as the old ledgerstone

Re-laying of the ledgerstones started at the beginning of October, working from west to east in the Abbey's Nave, before progressing into the South Aisle.



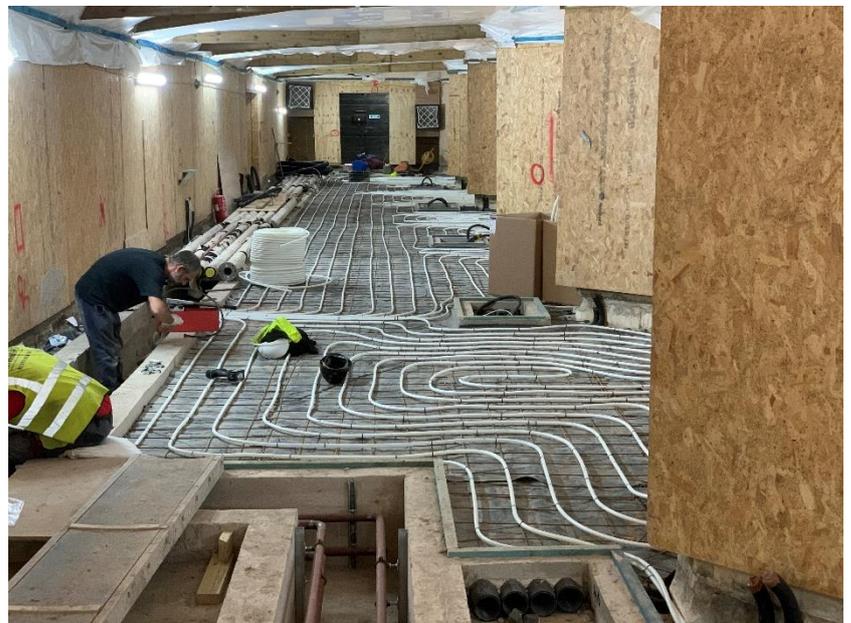
Re-laying the restored ledgerstones in the Abbey's South Aisle



Installing an Eco-Friendly Heating System in the Abbey's South Aisle

As part of the Footprint Project, underfloor heating pipes (shown Right) are being laid in Bath Abbey as part of an innovative thermal heating system to heat the Abbey and adjacent buildings using Bath's famous hot springs.

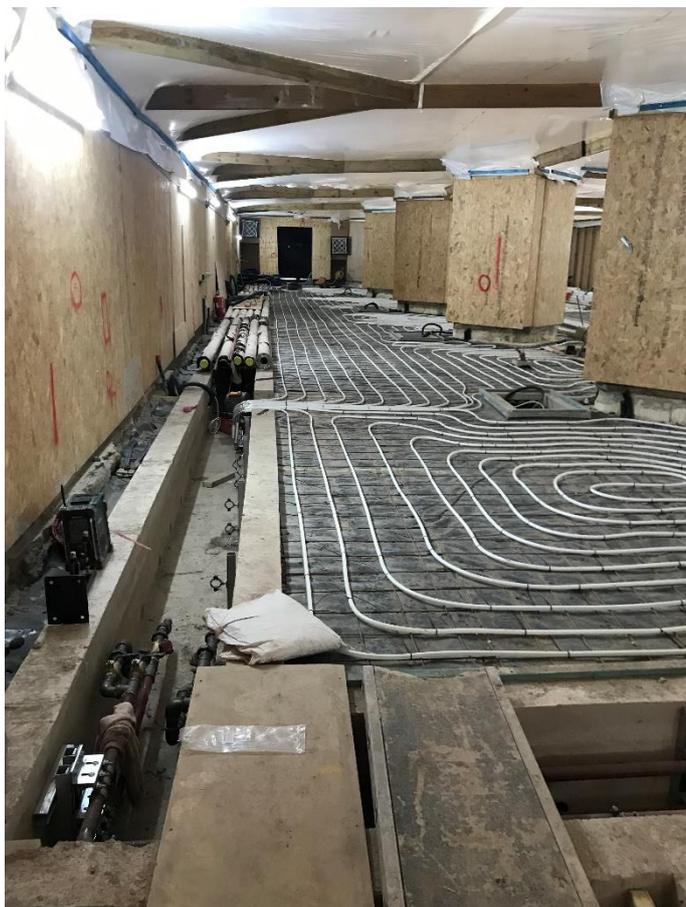
Every day, a quarter of a million gallons of hot water flows through the Roman Baths from the thermal spring located at the heart of the site. A large quantity of this hot water eventually ends up in the nearby River Avon via the Great Roman Drain. When harnessed and converted, it could potentially



produce 1.5 megawatts of continuous energy to support a 200kW ground source heat pump system.

By early next year, contractors will have finished working on the final section of the Abbey's floor in the South Transept. The next stage will be for the engineers to install heat exchangers in the Great Roman Drain which will capture the energy in the hot spring water and transform it into renewable energy.

Although the new underfloor heating pipes are currently being fitted, the Abbey's new heat extraction system will not be fully active until Spring 2021. We are working closely with Bath & North East Somerset Council on the access and installation of this innovative new system and aim to begin installation during the winter.



Nathan Ward, Footprint Project Director, says: "The thermal heating scheme allows us to preserve the heritage and setting of the Abbey while improving its environmental sustainability by using a renewable energy sourced locally through Bath's famous hot springs, directly heating one of the city's famous landmarks.

"This is a hugely challenging task and we are so grateful to our team of consultants and contractors who are working together to deliver this scheme, as well as our generous supporters who have made this possible."

This image of the Abbey's South Aisle (Left) shows the new underfloor heating pipes and the southern service trench, which will house the radiators

The New Discovery Centre and Learning Space

The extensive excavation and archaeological work have now been completed in the Abbey's Jackson Extension, allowing contractors to form the new floor, creating space for the new Abbey Shop and Discovery Centre.

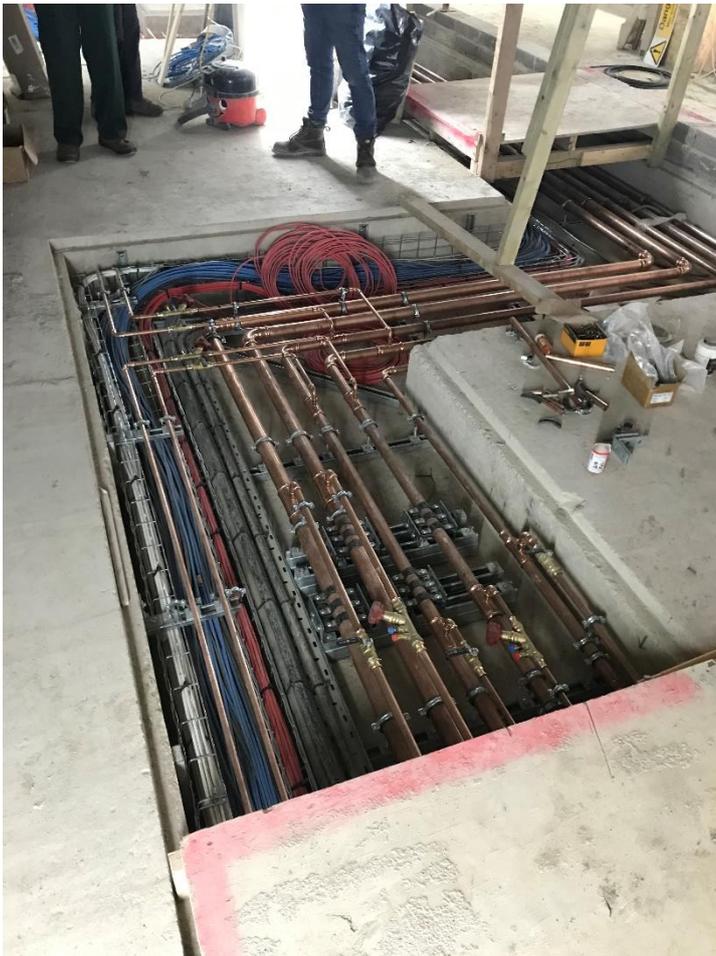
This image (Right) was taken in the Abbey's Jackson Extension, showing the new Discovery Centre at basement level, looking west

The image also shows the installation of the new steel floor to form the Abbey Shop at street level

Georgian and Victorian masonry structures have been largely removed from this area, and we have retained the mediaeval masonry for future interpretation and education uses.

New door openings have now been formed to connect the Discovery Centre to the main vaults beneath Kingston Parade, leading through to the Learning Space and Song School.





This image (Left) shows some of the intricate pipework that has been installed to supply electrical, heating and water services throughout the Vaults area, including to the new Discovery Centre and Learning Space

The vaults housing the new Learning Space have now been stripped of their cementitious damp proofing, revealing the beautiful Bath stone construction. These historic vaults have been fully opened up and we now have a real sense of how these rooms will look and feel.

Polly Andrews, Footprint's Learning Officer, has been researching alternative learning platforms while visits to the Abbey are restricted due to the coronavirus. Ahead of the Discovery Centre and Learning Space opening in 2021, digital approaches are being explored alongside planning for in-person visits in order to ensure that, regardless of the pandemic situation, there are still exciting opportunities to learn about the Abbey's fascinating history.

Supporting the Lady Waller Tomb in the Abbey's South Transept

During the excavation of the Abbey's Victorian floor structure, a large void was discovered beneath the Lady Waller Tomb in the South Transept (shown right), leading to a halt in work until an extensive temporary steel-supporting framework was installed to support approximately 8 tonnes of marble (see image, below). This steel will support the Lady Waller Tomb while the new floor structure is formed as a permanent support.



Kingston Buildings: The New Song School



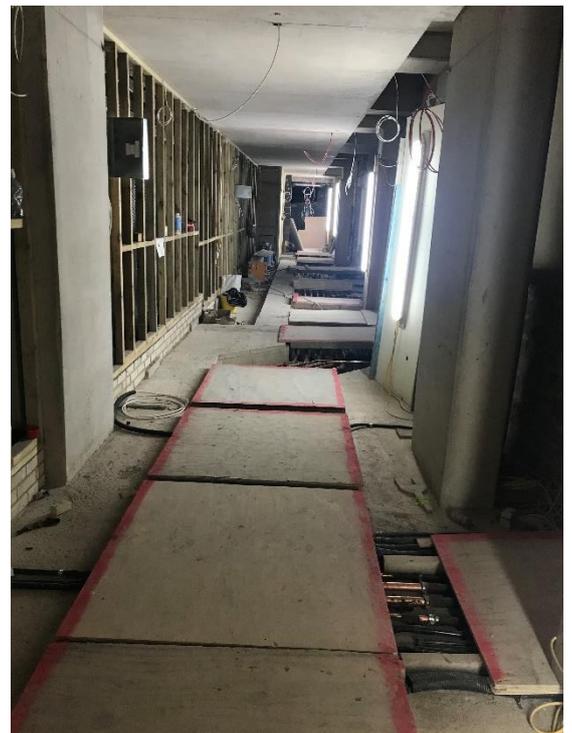
Work in the Song School (shown left) is ongoing and we are progressing with the fitting out of these spaces ready for occupation before Christmas.

Installation of the oak wall panelling is due to begin in October and the new timber ceiling panels for the Song School are now on site and awaiting installation. This is a complex piece of work which will require precision to provide the necessary sound dynamics within the Choir Practice Room.

New oak flooring is now being laid throughout the Song School lobby and the new Office Reception in Kingston Buildings.

Song School Corridor (Right):

This image shows the new concrete construction along the front of Kingston Buildings. This image has been taken looking east, back towards the Song School's Choir Practice Room on the right, from the door leading to the new Learning Space in the Abbey's Vaults



Kingston Parade

Damp-proofing works (shown below) are progressing to the paving of Kingston Parade, which will allow us to begin reinstatement of the paving that links the pedestrian route between Kingston Parade and Orange Grove.



The Footprint Vision for Our Community

The Footprint vision has become even more necessary in these challenging times we are all facing.

Bath Abbey – reimagined through Footprint – will embrace everyone within the inspirational Abbey Family, be they local, national or international, extending a warm welcome to all and an invitation to engage with exciting education opportunities and accessible learning spaces, encounters with dynamic interpretations of the Abbey’s rich heritage, stimulating opportunities to volunteer, and a commitment to environmental innovation and stewardship – all taking place within a vibrant hub for Christian worship and mission.

Footprint will transform Bath Abbey, and a transformed Bath Abbey is a vital component in the renewed future of our community

Thank you for your support of this visionary project!

Supporting Footprint

In these challenging times, we must continue fundraising to make sure we deliver the ambitious Footprint vision and develop all the wonderful opportunities Footprint can bring to our community.

If you are able to support Footprint with a monetary gift, we would deeply appreciate your generosity. All donations will be acknowledged by personal letter and, if you so wish, your name will be added to the Benefactors’ Book which will be displayed in the new Discovery Centre.

The Brownsword Charitable Foundation is matching donations up to a total of £44,000, which is the amount remaining in the £500,000 match-fund, so any gift you make will be doubled and have twice the impact on Footprint.

For a confidential discussion about ways you can support Footprint, get in touch with Cath Foxwell, our Development Manager, using cfoxwell@bathabbey.org. Alternatively, you can donate securely through the Bath Abbey website via this link: www.bathabbey.org/donations/footprint/



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