

SURVEY OF TOWER AND BELLS



This document aims to enable those undertaking a detailed survey of a tower and its bells, to record their findings. Companion documents offer advice to those requesting advice [1] on bells and their towers, or for those providing such advice [2]; these other documents provide more information about preparation and undertaking surveys.

The level of information and records made will depend on the purpose of the survey and for whom it is being prepared. A detailed survey such as indicated in this document is only likely to be required infrequently, perhaps as part of a Church Quinquennial inspection, in preparation of a Statement of Significance or as part of the planning of a restoration or installation project, and depending on what is already known.

A separate document [3] indicates what more frequent and regular checks of the condition of the bells, their installation and the tower could include.

The form below may be customised, depending on purpose of the survey and for whom the survey is being undertaken; every tower and bell installation is unique. A copy may be printed so that notes may be made during the visit. Inclusion of sketches, photos etc is especially helpful. The information to be recorded is likely to include type, manufacturer, date, key features, condition, specific issues, recommendations etc.

The records and any reports prepared are normally distributed to the people who requested the work to be undertaken, and those responsible for the tower and bells, e.g. the PCC, Church Wardens and Ringers. Reporting is considered in document [2].

*Any **hazards** or observations that may pose **risks** to people, the tower or bells are best identified very clearly and those responsible alerted as soon as possible. It is also recommended that the urgency for remedial work is indicated, along with any precautions to be taken in the interim.*

References:

[1] "How to get Advice on Tower Bells: Their Condition and Maintenance", <https://ccabr.org.uk/resources/stewardship-and-management/> Tower Infrastructure tab

[2] "Offering advice on bells and their towers", <https://ccabr.org.uk/resources/stewardship-and-management/> Tower Infrastructure tab

[3] "Check list and records" for Quarterly and Annual Inspections of tower and bells, <https://ccabr.org.uk/resources/stewardship-and-management/> Tower Infrastructure tab

SURVEY OF TOWER AND BELLS




Date of inspection	Church	Dedication
County	Map Ref.	
Diocese		
TOWER	Location / plan (attach copy)	Material (e.g. stone, brick, flint...)
	No. of buttresses	Level at top of buttresses
	External access, lighting, signage, security	
	Internal access – stairs, ladders, handrails, lighting	
	Ground floor - flooring, walls, ceilings, windows, power supplies	
	Roof form and material	
	Internal chimney	
	Battlements	
	Lightning conductor	Cracks in stonework
	Louvres fitted	Wire / plastic mesh netting
	Flag pole	

Weather vane		
Sound control		
Guttering/ drain pipes, gargoyles / ingress of water		
Openings to nave ceiling / roof		
Interior dimensions, frame level	E-W	N-S
Strong direction of tower		

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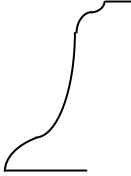
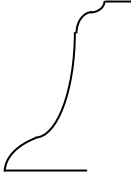
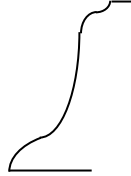

Clock	Maker	Date	Faces
Clock case			
Winding mechanism			
Hammers, clearance from bells when held off			
Chimes			
Intermediate rooms - Flooring, walls, ceilings, windows			

RINGING ROOM	No. of bells	Ring of	How rung
	Level of ringing room		
	Ellacombe chiming hammers		Clock hammers
	Ropes, including spares		
	Peal boards		
	Rope guides, rope path – flapper boards, drawing, pulleys, bosses, guides, chutes at all levels		
	Simulator		
	Ringers' boxes		

FRAME AND BELL INSTALLATION	Material	Plan (Attach a separate sheet, if required) N 
	Type (Pickford classification)	
	Age	
	Decay, insect attack	
	Tie rods	
	Type of bearings	
	Level of bearings above / below window	
	How mounted	
	Frame beams	
	Floor	

(repeat the following sheets according to number of bells in tower)

Bell number				
Diameter at mouth				
Soundbow thickness	Wear at Ellacombe, clock chiming points			
Weight				
Crown staple, cast in or independent				
Turned				
Tuning marks, machine or chip tuned				
Musical note				
Harmonics				
Tone				
Integrity, cracks				
Canons				
Argent				
Lip to shoulder dimension				
Shoulders				
Casting quality				
Founder				

Date				
Listing				
Moulding wires				
Fittings	Headstock – material			
	Headstock - condition			
	Straps / bell bolts			
	Bell loose on stock			
	Gudgeons e.g. hoop/plate (wooden stocks) riveted/bolted (metal stocks)			
	Wheel, all component parts. Is wheel true			
	Stay, dimensions			
	Spare stay			
	Slider and dinger			
	Clapper type			
	Clapper bushes, clapper roll			
	Ground pulley - single or double roller; condition of bearings and sheaves			

Inscription	bell	
	bell	
	bell	
	bell	

<p>Additional comments , photos, sketches (with captions, scales etc)</p>	

<p>Inspection by:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>
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CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup

V1 January 2021