

Llandygai Belfry Galebreakers – Visual Impact Assessment

Overview

Galebreakers are a form of membrane commonly used in the agricultural sector to create blinds and other window or door coverings that exclude heavy weather without impacting light and ventilation.

The fabric is a proprietary product and details can be found on the companies website: <https://galebreaker.com/>.

In recent years this fabric has been used as a solution for church belfries where the existing louvres are insufficient to exclude the increasingly extreme weather this country is experiencing.

This solution has been proposed by John Taylor & Company (<https://www.taylorbells.co.uk/>) who have implemented this solution in multiple other locations.

Case Study – St James the Great, Barrow-in-Furness

This scheme is believed to have been implemented by Nicholson's rather than Taylor's, but the details of the scheme are similar and so it can be used to illustrate what is proposed.



Image of the galebreakers during installation.

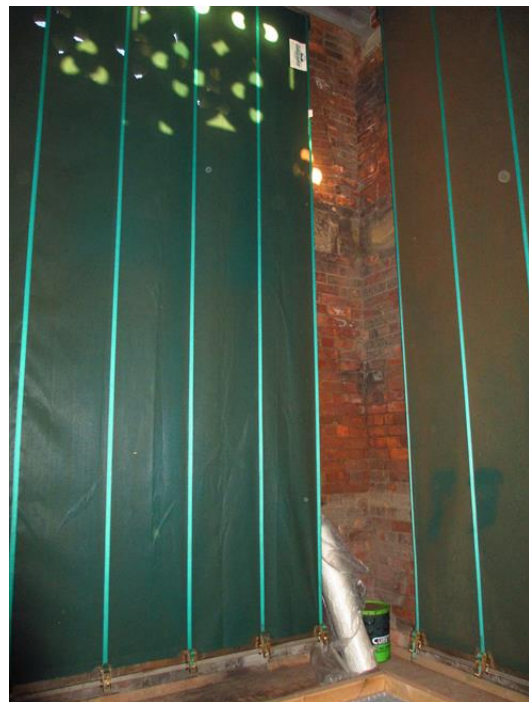


Image of the galebreakers after installation (taken by a bell ringer)

As can be seen, the galebreaker blinds have a significant visual impact on the space, but as this is the bell chamber itself (not even the ringing chamber) this will only be seen by professionals accessing this chamber to carry out works to the bells.



A photo of the outside of the church taken by the same bellringer on the same day.

As can be seen from the photo above, as the material of the screen is quite dark and there is no light source within the bell chamber, there is no visual impact of the screen to the outside of the building.

Other Notes

The current proposal includes other items to assist with acoustic damping (in the form of wooden shutters). It is not currently proposed to implement this aspect of the proposal and so Faculty is not being sought for this at this time.

Further details of the means of fixing should be sought ahead of implementation to ensure they are appropriate for the historic fabric of the tower.

It should also be assessed whether the additional water run-off from the galebreaker will have an impact on the outside wall of tower and if any further works are required to mitigate this. As further investigations are planned, it should be simple to include this.

SRO 12/04/2024