

English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 0LL.

Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording



By

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HRSWales
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**English Wesleyan Chapel,
Clydach, Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire NP7 0LL.**

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Non Technical Summary

This report details the results of a program of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) undertaken prior to proposed development works at the Grade II Listed former English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (NGR: SO 2250 1292).

The Chapel was built in 1829 and renovated in 1891 and a Sunday School was added in 1902. It was likely built for the increasing population of workers at the Llanelly and Clydach Ironworks. The chapel presents a long façade to the road with forecourt iron railings and when facing the front elevation the earlier chapel is located to left and the Sunday school situated to the right, both under same roofline. The rear of the property overlooks a steep sided slope with views of the Clydach Gorge.

The development proposal is for a change of use and listed building consent for the former Wesleyan Chapel and attached Sunday school to provide a single 4 bedroom residential dwelling.

The intention is to use the Sunday school and the lower ground floor basement of the property for residential accommodation and to maintain the full height chapel and gallery in its current form.

In order to mitigate against any potential negative effects as a result of the development proposals, planning permission was granted by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA), but with the condition that a Level II Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (ABIR) was undertaken prior to any work commencing.

In summary, the building investigation and recording of the Wesleyan Chapel has made an adequate descriptive record of the building before it is altered and has ensured that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and all of its main features, character and state of preservation have been recorded and placed on archive..

Crynodeb Annhechnegol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn manylu ar ganlyniadau rhaglen o Ymchwilio a Chofnodi Adeiladau Archeolegol cyn ddatblygiad arfaethedig adeilad rhestredig gradd II sef Capel Wesleaid Saesneg, Clydach, Abergavenny, Sir Fynwy (NGR: SO 2250 1292).

Adeiladwyd y Capel yn 1829 a chafodd ei adnewyddu yn 1891. Fe adeiladwyd Ysgol Sul yn ychwanegol yn 1902. Mae'n debyg yr adeiladwyd y Capel er mwyn gweithwyr gwaith haearn Llanelly a Chlydach. Mae'r Capel un cyflwyno ffasad ar ochor y ffordd efo cwrth blaen a rheiliau haearn ac mae'r Capel gwreiddiol ar y chwith a'r Ysgol Sul ar y dde o dan yr un linell do. Mae cefn yr eiddo yn edrych dros lethr serth gyda golygfeydd dros geunant Clydach.

Mae'r cynigiad datblygu yn bwriadu newid defnydd a chael caniatad adeiladu i'r hen Gapel Wesleaid a'r Ysgol Sul i'w droi yn un ty gyda phedwar ystafell wely.

Y bwriad yw i ddefnyddio'r Ysgol Sul a'r llawr isaf ac islawr fel llety preswyl ac i gynnal uchelder llawn y Capel a'r oriel yn ei ffurf bresennol.

Er mwyn lliniaru yn erbyn unrhyw effaith negyddol o ganlyniad i'r cynigion datblygu, rhoddwyd caniatad cynllinio gan Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, gyda'r amod y cynhaliwyd Ymchwilio a Chofnodi Adeiladau Archeolegol Level II cyn dechrau ar unrhyw waith ar y Capel na'r Ysgol Sul.

I grynhoi, mae'r ymchwilio a chofnodi adeiladau wedi cwblhau disgrifiad digonol o'r adeilad cyn ei newid ac wedi sicrhau bod gwreiddiau yr adeilad, ei ddefnydd a'i ddatblygiad wedi cael eu deal a bod ei holl brif nodweddion cymeriad a chyflwr cadwraeth wedi cael eu recordio a'u rhoi ar archif.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of a program of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) undertaken prior to proposed development works at the Grade II Listed former English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.(NGR: SO 2250 1292).
- 1.2 The required building investigation and recording was undertaken to a level equivalent to a Historic England Level II.
- 1.3 The specific objectives of the work were to:
- Undertake a Level II archaeological standing building investigation and recording on the building prior to any development work commencing.
- 1.5 The Technical Appendices for this report contains the following information:
- *Appendix I: Figures;*
 - *Appendix II: Photo plates (selection only from over 270 photos)*
 - *Appendix III: Archive Cover Sheet*

Site Location & Description (*Figures 1-4*)

- 1.6 The English Wesleyan Chapel (HER 02472g / LB: 23810) is located approximately 7 miles west of Abergavenny, in the centre of the small roadside village of Clydach, on the south side of the Heads of the Road (A465) and within the Llanelly community, in the old county of Breconshire, now Monmouthshire.
- 1.7 The Chapel was built in 1829 and renovated in 1891 and a Sunday school was added in 1902.
- 1.8 The chapel was likely built for the increasing population of workers at the Llanelly and Clydach Ironworks. The chapel presents a long façade to the road with forecourt iron railings and when facing the front elevation the earlier chapel is located to left and the Sunday school situated to the right, both under same roofline. The rear of the property overlooks a steep sided slope with views of the Clydach Gorge.
- 1.9 Externally, the main façade of the chapel is of rubble construction with two tall pointed windows with sandstone voussoirs with stained glass occupying the main gothic tracery. A plaque on the wall denotes the chapel as English Wesleyan and the date it was built and renovated. The far right of the building is occupied by the later Sunday school extension. A plaque denotes when this extension occurred in 1902. Six sandstone commemorative plaques to local dignitaries also occupy this extension elevation, one heavily eroded. A gabled entrance porch with pointed arch entrance divides the two phases of build.
- 1.10 Internally, the chapel contains much surviving internal detail. The main chapel includes a fine rear gallery of 1829 with boxed pews, a pulpit probably installed following the 1891 renovation works, a plaster ceiling with centre rose and two outer roses, a tall niche above the pulpit with painted ribbon

motif, a basement with a central cast iron column and painted pew seating around two sides, a painted earlier pulpit, probably of 1829 and reset from the chapel.

- 1.11 Within the Sunday school aspect of the building, built in 1902, internal fixtures include sash windows at ground and upper floor levels, each with internal balustrade. An Edwardian staircase gives access to the upper floor level and painted pews line the ground floor and upper floor internal walls.
- 1.12 The site has been Listed Grade II as a well preserved early 19th Century Wesleyan Chapel, with an interesting early use of the Gothic style favored by the English Wesleyans. The fine original gallery is also recorded as part of the reason for listing.

Geology

- 1.13 The area sits within the South Wales Upper Coal Measures Formation, consisting of Mudstone, Siltstone, Sandstone, Coal, Ironstone and Ferricrete.

Development Proposals

- 1.14 The current application is for a change of use and listed building consent for a former Wesleyan Chapel and attached Sunday school to provide a single 4 bedroom residential dwelling.
- 1.15 The intention is to use the Sunday school and the lower ground floor basement of the property for residential accommodation and to maintain the full height chapel and gallery in its current form.
- 1.16 All existing openings are to be retained and the external character of the chapel preserved. No modification of the building footprint or form is proposed. No addition or removal of windows or openings is proposed, and existing sash windows will be refurbished, repaired or retained. The application seeks to reinstate the original doorways, now occupied by windows estimated to be from 1970-80's in the lower basement.
- 1.17 However, there will be modification and alteration to internal fixtures and fittings, and alterations to internal spaces. The stairs to the lower ground floor will be removed, and a new flight installed in the chapel hall. The gallery is to be retained, along with surviving original galleried seating. A section of paneling within the chapel will be removed, due to issues with damp on the front wall. The ceiling of the chapel is proposed for renewal/ repair. The works will seek to retain the ceiling roses. However, it is recognised that these are fragile.
- 1.18 The pulpit in the main chapel is to be retained given that it is one of the few remaining fixtures from the late 19th Century. The relocated late Georgian pulpit in the basement is also to be retained in the Chapel. The box pews in the gallery of the main chapel will also be retained.

Planning Background

- 1.19 On 31st August 2019 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hiscock of Pippins, The Street, Mortimer, Reading, submitted a planning application (19/17812/FUL) to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) for for a

change of use and listed building consent for a former Wesleyan Chapel to provide a single 4 bedroom residential dwelling.

1.20 Full planning permission was granted for the proposed development by the BBNPA on October 8th 2019, with Listed Building Consent permitted on 8th November 2019, but both with the following archaeological and heritage condition (No.14 and No.3 respectively):

1.21 *"No development shall take place until a program of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an Historic England Level 2 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by the local planning authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The program of building analysis and recording will be completed by an archaeological contractor and must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority National Park Archaeologist for approval. Following approval, a copy of the report and resulting archive will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the local Welsh Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).*

Reason: *To allow an adequate descriptive record of the building to be made, before it is altered, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.*

2 Mitigation

Aims & Objectives

2.1 The specific objectives of this work were to undertake a program of archaeological standing building investigation and recording of the building prior to any proposed development works commence.

2.2 In order to mitigate against any potential negative effects as a result of the development proposals, the proposed archaeological works, in accordance with a brief supplied by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA), consisted of one element:

1) A Level II *Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (ABIR)*.

1) Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (ABIR) (in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) - Prior to any works commencing on site the building needs to undergo an Historic England Level 2 building recording. This is typically a photographic and a descriptive record. Both the exterior and the interior will be viewed, described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. Interpretative ground plans and external elevation drawings will be made but the drawn record will not be comprehensive.

The reasons for the standing building recording are,

- to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.

2.3 As well as photographic and drawn records of the building's external and internal elevations, records will also be made of all original and later historic features, fixtures and fittings within the chapel at the time of the site visit, including the pulpits and pews.

3 Methodology

3.1` The archaeological building investigation and recording were undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice in mid November 2019.

3.2 All work was undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and followed the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings (CIfA 2014). Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MICfA) managed the project.

3.3 With regards to the building recording work, all generated plans, sections, profiles and drawings were drawn to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as required.

3.4 Photographs were taken in digital format, using an 18 mega-pixel DSLR camera, with photographs stored in RAW format. All RAW formats were then exported into TIFF files in preparation for archiving.

4 Historical & Archaeological Background

4.1 The English Wesleyan Chapel, including the Sunday school and railed forecourt (PRN: 02472g / NPRN: 12212) at Clydach (formerly Cheltenham) is a Grade II Listed building (LB: 23810). The chapel was designated as a listed building on 27th July 2000.

4.2 Listed Building Description:

History

Wesleyan Chapel built 1829, no doubt for the increasing population of workers at the Llanelly and Clydach Ironworks. Renovated 1891. Sunday school added 1902.

Exterior

Rubble construction; half-hipped artificial slate roof. Long facade to road with chapel to left and Sunday school to right. Chapel has two tall pointed window with sandstone voussoirs; 34-pane timber windows with intersecting glazing bars. Tablet above inscribed 'English Wesleyan Chapel 1829. Renovated 1891'. Sunday School has window to both storeys, but under same roofline as chapel. Upper 3/2 horned sashes, wider to right, cambered stone voussoired heads. Similar wide window to ground floor right, with ashlar inscribed band above: Wesleyan

Sunday School 1902' Gabled porch to ground floor left with bargeboard and pointed doorway with stone voussoirs: boarded doors. Several eroded foundation plaques to Sunday School. Gable ends are rendered; concrete block left addition. Rendered rear elevation rises to three storeys, the steep site allowing for a basement. Two windows to chapel as front; five windows below, the alternate three with pointed heads and 5-pane Y-tracery. Two other windows are C20, but possibly replace doors. Upper floors of Sunday School have sashes as front, wider to left. Boarded door to ground floor left, C20 window to right. Forecourt railings set on low rubble walls, with porch slightly projecting beyond, in line with pavement. Simple rails with spear-type finials; gate to right has lozenge pattern within dog-rail and posts with ball finials.

Interior

Fine rear gallery of 1829 in chapel. Painted front with tall panels, the central two panels slightly breaking forward. Gallery supported on two timber columns placed near centre, with elliptical head between capitals. Deep plaster cove under gallery. Pulpit probably of 1891 with bullnosed front having turned balusters and central panelled lectern. C20 seats. Plaster ceiling with centre rose and two outer roses. Basement under chapel has central cast iron column and painted seating around two sides; seats have panelled backs, and are probably of 1829, reset from the chapel. Matching low polygonal pulpit also probably reused, cut-down to fit. Schoolroom has staircase to basement and upper floor: both levels of chapel are accessed from stair.

Reason for Designation

Listed as a well preserved early C19 Wesleyan Chapel, an interesting early use of the Gothic style favoured by the English Wesleyans. Interior retains fine original gallery.

- 4.2 The Chapel and attached Sunday School building, is situated within the Registered Historic Landscape (RHL) of the *Clydach Gorge* which is divided into none (9) historic landscape character areas (HLCAs). The Chapel and Sunday School falls within *HLCA 002 Clydach North (Cheltenham)*. The following is a descriptive text of the *Clydach Gorge RHL* and the *Clydach North (Cheltenham) HLCA* taken from the register.

Clydach Gorge RHL

- 4.3 The short but spectacular Clydach Gorge cuts through the extreme north east corner of the South Wales coalfield, between the North Gwent uplands to the south and Llangattock Mountain to the north. The floor of the gorge drops steeply down from Bryn-mawr in the west at 350m above OD, to Gilwern in the east at 1001n above OD, in a distance of just over 5km. The gorge is seldom more than 0.5km wide and its sides rise extremely steeply, precipitously in places, to gentler slopes on either side above about 350m above OD. The River Clydach plummets and cascades its way through the gorge to join the River Usk at Gilwern where the gorge dramatically opens out into the Usk valley.

- 4.4 As the gorge cuts the South Wales coalfield, it exposes stratified seams of coal, clay and ironstone and then cuts deeply into the Carboniferous Limestone. This geological structure, together with the resource and power of the River Clydach, has ensured that the area was exploited at least from the prehistoric period as evidenced by Craig y Gaer, an Iron' Age fort occupying the top of a natural bluff overlooking the north side of the gorge. The presence of woodland, to provide timber and charcoal for firing furnaces, must also have been a key factor in attracting early industry to the gorge.
- 4.5 Geo-morphologically, the steepness of the terrain was an advantage to the early ironworking and lime-burning industries, where the blast furnaces and lime kilns could be strategically built into the valley sides, facilitating the charging of materials from above and their withdrawal from below.
- 4.6 The dramatic landscape and scenery of the Clydach Gorge is supplemented by its diverse historical and archaeological associations, and the variety of communication systems that have utilized the natural communication route of the gorge, which links the inhospitable uplands of Glamorgan with the fertile valley of the River Usk. However, most of the communications systems primarily served the industries that sprang up in the gorge, which from historical documentary evidence were first introduced into it in the 17th century, though medieval exploitation, albeit undocumented, should be expected. It was at this time that the Hanbury family of Pontypool established the Llanelly furnace and forge on the north bank of the river. By 1684, these works were producing large quantities of iron and charcoal, which ensured that the early exploitation and settlement of Clydach Gorge rapidly developed. Clydach House, situated nearby and built in 1693 by Francis Lewis, clerk to the furnace, ostentatiously displays his family arms above the main entrance to the property. Elsewhere in the valley, and in social contrast, are the visible remains of the former workers' houses, including the iron workers' terraces in Clydach South.
- 4.7 The Clydach Ironworks, founded before 1795, was established to exploit the recent introduction of coke as the fuel for blast furnaces. The site of the works lies alongside the modern A465(T) Heads of the Valleys road, with the surviving remains including two large masonry furnaces, together with the foundations of their casting houses, a cupola and other related buildings. The site is approached over a cast iron bridge, Smart's Bridge, dated to 1824. Production at the works continued until about 1860, up to which time it had become the focal point for activity in the gorge. By 1841, over 1350 people, including 133 children under the age of 13, were employed, of whom about two-thirds were engaged in extracting the required iron ore and coal higher up the valley. In its early years, the works were closely associated with the Frere family, which was to gain notoriety for a different reason when Sir Bartle Frere, born in 1815 in Clydach House, became High Commissioner of South Africa, and unwittingly helped to start the Zulu War.
- 4.8 The major industry of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the gorge was stone quarrying and the manufacture of lime for agricultural and building purposes. The first lime works had started production in 1795, at Blackrock, but numerous other quarries were opened throughout the next century. Llanelly Quarry supplied the Clydach Ironworks with limestone, and subsequently lime for farming and building mortars. It closed finally in 1962. The surviving Clydach Limeworks was built in 1877 to provide lime for

building the railway viaduct. Its large kilns, with double draw arches for each shaft, are particularly fine surviving examples.

- 4.9 Communications and transport have also clearly played a fundamental part in the development of the gorge. In the 1790s, railroads and tram roads, both initially horse-drawn, were being built to link mines and quarries with works. In 1793, permission was granted by Parliament for the construction of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal, together with a connecting tramway system, the first line of which ran through the gorge. The canal traverses the floor of the gorge near Gilwern on a huge earthen embankment, 25m high, with the river running in a tunnel at its base. The canal between Gilwern and Brecon opened in 1801, but the final connection with Pontymoile to the south was not made until 1812.
- 4.10 Other tramways and inclines to serve specific mines were laid in the gorge, with the consequence that the area now has the densest network of surviving early tram road routes anywhere in Wales. These were supplemented in 1862 by the single track Merthyr, Tredegar and Abergavenny Railway. This was absorbed into the London and North Western Railway in 1866 and converted to a double track system eleven years later. The precipitous slopes meant that the route could be negotiated only with a series of tunnels, cuttings and viaducts. The route, now dismantled, remains a prominent and spectacular linear feature which can be seen on the south side of the gorge. The present A465 (T) Heads of the Valleys road, built in the 1960s, is the latest in a series of road systems that have, from the 18th century, traversed the gorge as important connecting routes.
- 4.11 Today, all mineral and limestone extraction has ceased, leaving little employment within the gorge; nevertheless, the old-established communities still thrive. Vestiges of past industries and communications systems are plentiful, as is the evidence of former social conditions, including not only housing, but also surviving chapels and public houses. The dense and varied industrial sites and successive transport systems in the gorge represent a compact and integrated microcosm of the Welsh industrial past; this, in turn, depended on the remarkable geology and topography of this inspiring visual historic landscape area (*from Register of Historic Landscapes - Clydach Gorge*).

HLCA 002 Clydach North (Cheltenham)

Historic Background

- 4.12 The historic landscape area of *Clydach North (Cheltenham)* is an area, part of the Duke of Beauforts' Estate, associated with the development of the Clydach Ironworks (HLCA 003) and the surrounding limestone quarries from the late 18th century. This settlement, now generally known as Clydach, but formerly Cheltenham, essentially comprises ribbon settlement of early 19th century short rows. These are mostly terraces of stone-built houses associated with the Brynmawr Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. The area also retains a number of interesting Non-conformist Chapels: Siloam Chapel of 1829, the English Wesleyan (1829) and the Ebenezer Welsh (1828). The settlement is located at the junction of the Merthyr-Govilon turnpike road and the Clydach Railroad, built 1793-5, which ran from Rhyd-y-blew,

connecting with ironworks at Beaufort, to a forge at Glangrwyney in the Usk valley (stone sleeper blocks survive on the other side of the road from Siloam Chapel).

Historic Landscape Characteristics

- 4.13 *Clydach North (Cheltenham)* is an area, which is characterised by ribbon development along the Merthyr-Govilon Turnpike Road around its junction with the late 18th century Clydach Railroad. The area is characterised chiefly by much-altered workers' housing of late 18th and early-mid 19th century date, generally short rows of double-fronted two storeyed housing built in the local stone, either pennant or Old Red Sandstone. On the steep lower slopes many houses have three stories visible on the down-slope side, and two on the upper; house-over-house construction may have been employed here, however further in-depth field survey will be required to establish this for certain.
- 4.14 Whilst the area has a few shops/commercial properties and at least one surviving Inn, the Rock and Fountain, the other main characteristic of the area is provided by the settlement's non-conformist (largely redundant) chapels.

Landscape History and Wesleyan Methodism

- 4.14 The following section offers some background history on the community of Llanelly and John Wesley and his Methodism in order to put the chapel and school into both landscape and historical context. In terms of landscape history, one of the most valued writers to turn to is Samuel Lewis and his *Topographical Description of Wales* published in 1833, which offers some invaluable insight into the history of community parishes in Wales. The following text has been extracted from his entry on the parish of Llanelly, into which the chapel falls and mentions the places of worship in the area, including Calvinist and Methodist chapels in the fourth paragraph.

LLANELLY, a parish, in the union and hundred of Crickhowel, county of Brecknock, South Wales, 5 miles (W. by N.) from Abergavenny, on the road to Merthyr-Tydvil; composed of the hamlets of Aberbaidon and Maesgwartha, and containing, in 1847, nearly 10,000 inhabitants. This parish, which derives its name from the dedication of its church, is bounded on the north by the river Usk, and consists of arable, pasture, wood, and mountain land, that portion which constitutes part of the Vale of Usk being fertile, and the mountainous and mineral districts very barren. Its area is 4000 acres, whereof 1500 are common or waste land. It is divided into two nearly equal parts by the river Clydach, a mountain torrent, which, descending with impetuosity along a deep channel obstructed by rocks, forms some picturesque falls in its course through the parish. The scenery is diversified, combining features of romantic grandeur and enchanting beauty. The Vale of Clydach, which extends nearly the whole length of the parish, is deep, narrow, and winding; and the scenery on the banks of the Clydach, though seldom visited by the tourist, and consequently but little known, is remarkably beautiful. The banks of this rapid stream rise precipitously to an immense height, and being richly clothed with wood, and in some parts with timber of majestic growth, form, in the luxuriance and variety of the foliage, a striking contrast to the rugged and barren summits of the mountains above them. The Clydach, in its progress through the narrow cwm, or vale, presents two interesting falls, and there was formerly a third, called Pistill Mawr, which, however, was destroyed by the sinking of a coal-mine, at the head of the rock from which the water was precipitated, when the channel of the river was bored some distance higher up, and the stream, carried through a tunnel, was made to emerge at the bottom of the rock. Of the two others, called respectively Pwll Crochan and Pwll Cwn, the latter is by far the more picturesque, being formed by the precipitation of the river from a considerable height into a basin worn in the rock by the continual action of the water, from which it descends with great force from an elevation of thirty feet into a pool encircled with impending rocks and thick underwood, over which a few aged yew-trees cast a sombre shade. The banks of the river Usk likewise afford scenery of much

interest. The chief hills in the parish are those named the Gilwern, Disgwilva, Dinas, and Brynmawr, on which last is a great number of houses.

The parish abounds with Mineral wealth of various kinds, in procuring and manufacturing which the inhabitants are principally employed. In the mountains that inclose the Vale of Clydach, coal, iron-ore, limestone, sandstone, and fire-clay are found in great profusion. The Clydach collieries, which are very extensive, and employ about 100 hands, belong to the Brecknock Boat Company, and supply the town of Brecknock and the surrounding country to a great distance with bituminous coal. An immense quantity of coal is also raised here by the Clydach Iron Company, for the supply of their extensive works. It is all worked by levels, brought down the mountain steeps by means of inclined planes, and conveyed by the tramroad belonging to the Brecknock and Abergavenny canal company, either for the supply of the iron-works, or to the canal, for conveyance to Brecknock and its vicinity. The Clydach iron-works, originally established about 200 years ago, by a member of the Hanbury family, of Pontypool in Monmouthshire, are conducted upon a very large scale, affording employment to upwards of 1000 hands; and comprise four blast-furnaces for smelting the ore, worked by a steam-engine of seventy-horse power, and by a water-wheel forty feet in diameter: the forges, in which charcoal is employed, are supplied with air by a steam-engine of smaller power, and by a water-wheel of the same diameter; and the rolling-mills for converting the pig-iron into bars are set in motion by the waterwheel alone. Clydach House, the residence of the manager of the iron-works, is a handsome building; and of the other mansions in the parish may be named Tŷ Mawr, Aberbaidon, Glâslyn, and Dyfryn Mawr.

Great facilities of communication between the mineral districts of the parish, and other parts, are afforded by the road from Abergavenny to MerthyrTydvil, by the Brecknock and Abergavenny canal, and by a tramroad from the aqueduct below Aberclydach to the Beaufort iron-works, in the parish of Llangattock. This tramway, which is the property of the canal company, and about eight miles in length, winds up Cwm Clydach, and communicates along its whole course with tramroads from the different works in the neighbourhood. The Brecknock and Abergavenny canal, after traversing a distance of sixteen miles from the town of Brecknock, with a fall of sixty-eight feet, by means of six locks, is here conveyed over the valley and stream of the Clydach, at an elevation of little less than 100 feet above the bed of the river, by a strong aqueduct of stone, supported by a prodigious embankment raised upon an arch, twenty-two feet in the span, built over the Clydach in 1799; the whole forming a prominent feature in the scenery of the vale.

The Living is a perpetual curacy, united, with the living of Llangeney, to the rectory of Llangattock; the tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £423. The church, dedicated to St. Elliw, a small ancient structure in the early style of English architecture, with a low massive tower, comprises a nave and one aisle, the one much older than the other, separated by a series of pointed arches, and contains about 300 sittings. It is situated on an exposed eminence, about a mile south of the Usk, and a little westward of the Clydach; the churchyard is inclosed by yew-trees of ancient growth, and commands a charming prospect over the Vale of Usk, which abounds with richly varied and highly picturesque scenery. Divine service is also performed on Sunday evening in a licensed schoolroom, the services at the parish church being held in the morning and afternoon. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, Calvinistic Methodists, Primitive Methodists, and Wesleyans; the total number of the meeting-houses is about fifteen. Six of these are at Brynmawr, in the upper part of the parish, where a population of several thousand persons is located, dependent on Mr. Bailey's great iron-works at Nanty-Glo, in the adjoining county of Monmouth. At Glâslyn, in the lower part of the parish, is a school in connexion with the National Society, which owes its origin almost entirely, and its maintenance chiefly, to Mrs. Ansdell, a lady of the neighbourhood. A school is held under the patronage of the Clydach Iron Company; it is conducted on the National system, but is unconnected with any society, and attended only by the children of the company's workmen. At Brynmawr is a school built by the dissenters, but this is wholly supported by the parents of the children, and a free school on the National plan is greatly needed there; the population of the place has been much neglected, and at present there is neither school nor chapel in connexion with the Establishment. Of the numerous Sunday schools in the parish, two are taught on Church principles, and the rest supported by the various denominations of dissenters.

Edward Lewis, of Aberclydach, Esq., in 1713, bequeathed a rent-charge of £3, payable out of the produce of his estate of Pant Dreiniog, for six Welsh sermons to be preached annually in the church of Llanelly, by some clergyman other than the incumbent or his curate, "as long as the Church of England shall continue in this country." Mr. William Lewis, of Llanelly, in 1760, left £2 per annum, charged on a tenement called Llandewi Ysgyryd, in the county of Monmouth, and which his sister Anne afterwards extended to £4, to such poor persons not receiving parochial relief as may be thought most deserving. Harry William, or Harry William Jenkin, of Llanelly, in 1687, bequeathed to the poor certain lands called Tŷr yr Hooper, containing from ten to twelve acres of arable and pasture, let at £25 per annum; and a tramroad has been of late years cut through the upper part of the property, for which a rent of £1. 4. 5. per annum is paid in addition to the above: after an expenditure for repairs, the money is distributed, first among the poor relatives of the testator, in sums varying from five to thirty shillings.

On a hill called the Gaer, overlooking the Vale of Clydach, are the remains of an ancient encampment, supposed to be of British construction; and on a rock opposite to it are some vestiges of another military post, called Dinas. Mr. Edward Llwyd, who examined the coal and iron mines throughout the county of Brecknock, more than a century since, discovered near the mines in this parish a singular fossil production, consisting of a cylindrical piece of limestone, about eight inches in length and three inches in diameter, having the surface ornamented with narrow and equidistant circular cavities, in each of which was a circle of small diameter, with a small stud in the centre. Various spars are also frequently found among the iron-ores in the neighbourhood

(from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1833)

John Wesley and the Rise of Methodism

- 4.15 Wesleyan Methodism in Wales owes its popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries to one John Wesley (1703 –1791).
- 4.16 Wesley was an English cleric, theologian, evangelist and a leader of a revival movement within the Church of England known as Methodism. Wesley founded societies that became the dominant form of the independent Methodist movement that still continues to this day. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church college, Oxford, He was elected a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford in 1726 and ordained as an Anglican priest two years later. He led the "Holy Club", a society formed for the purpose of study and the pursuit of a devout Christian life, which had already been founded by his brother, Charles, and counted George Whitefield among its members. After an unsuccessful ministry of two years at Savannah in the Georgia Colony, Wesley returned to London and joined a religious society led by Moravian Christians. On 24 May 1738 he experienced what has come to be called his evangelical conversion, when he felt his "heart strangely warmed". He subsequently left the Moravians to begin his own ministry (Collins 2016).
- 4.17 A key step in the development of Wesley's ministry was to travel and preach outdoors. In contrast to Calvinism, Wesley embraced Arminian doctrines. Wesley moved throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, to help form and organise small Christian groups with his religious instruction. Of great importance to this formation was the appointment of unordained evangelists to care for these groups of people. Under Wesley's direction, Methodists became leaders in many social issues of the day, including prison reform and the abolition of slavery (Collins 2016).
- 4.18 Although he was not a systematic theologian, Wesley argued for the notion of Christian perfection and against Calvinism, and, in particular, against its doctrine of predestination. He held that, in this life, Christians could achieve a state where the love of God "reigned supreme in their hearts", giving them outward holiness. His evangelicalism, firmly grounded in sacramental theology, maintained that means of grace were the manner by which God sanctifies and transforms the believer, encouraging people to experience Jesus Christ personally. Wesley's teachings, collectively known as Wesleyan theology, continue to underpin the doctrine of the Methodist Churches. Throughout his life, Wesley remained within the established Church of England, insisting that the Methodist movement lay well within its tradition. In his early ministry, Wesley was barred from preaching in many parish churches and the Methodists were persecuted; he later became widely respected and, by the end of his life, had been described as "the best loved man in England". (Collins 2016).

- 4.19 The following sections (4.20 - 4.30) on the summary history of Methodism in Wales has been extracted from an article written by Lionel Madden and Neil Sumner of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust (*Addoldai Cymru*) founded in 1999 on the Addoldai Cymru website (www.welshchapels.org).

Methodism in Wales

- 4.20 Protestant Dissent in Wales was in the 17th century dominated by the twin movements of the Independents or Congregationalists and the Baptists, but in the 18th century the religious landscape was transformed by the coming of Methodism. This was part of a much wider international religious movement which can be traced to the growth of evangelical Pietism in continental Europe from the later 17th century onwards. Its emphasis on intense personal devotion, nurtured by preaching which spoke directly to the individual heart, formed the basis for movements which spread to Britain and also to the American colonies. In Wales it resulted in two major denominations, Calvinistic Methodism, later also known as Presbyterianism, and Wesleyan Methodism, or simply Methodism.
- 4.21 Wesley first preached in Wales in 1739 at Harris' invitation. However, the Welsh Methodists at that time embraced the Calvinist doctrine of predestination, believing that Christ died only for the chosen elect. This doctrine was held by the Welsh Methodist leaders and by Whitefield but was energetically rejected by Wesley who preached the Arminian view that the offer of salvation was open to all. Although Harris and Wesley found it possible to work together at first, this basic difference in the interpretation of Scripture increasingly drove a wedge between the two sides of the early Methodist movement. Despite John Wesley's 35 visits and other occasions when he passed through Wales on journeys to and from Ireland, Wesleyan Methodism had made only a small impact in Wales. Since Wesley did not speak Welsh this impact was almost exclusively on English speakers. His agreement with Harris leaving most of the responsibility for Wales to him meant that by the end of the 18th century Wesley's followers in Wales numbered only around 600.
- 4.22 The early Methodists, both Calvinistic and Wesleyan, evangelised within the Church of England and continued to receive communion at the local Anglican church. They were at pains to avoid being called Non-conformist, and considered their role was to cleanse and revive the Church of England rather than secede from it. When they began to erect their own buildings they were not independent churches or chapels nor even meeting houses (the Nonconformists' favoured term) but simply a "preaching house" or "new house" of the established church. The earliest surviving is Earlswood, Monmouthshire, built 1791.
- 4.23 The British Wesleyan Methodists formally separated from the Church of England during the 1790s, following Wesley's death. Under the guidance of Dr Thomas Coke, a native of Brecon, the British Wesleyan Conference resolved in 1800 to send Welsh speaking preachers to Wales, resulting in the growth of Welsh speaking congregations. Pendref in Denbigh claims to be the first Welsh-speaking Wesleyan chapel in Wales, built in 1801. Meanwhile, the influx of English-speaking Wesleyans particularly from Cornwall to the rapidly expanding mining areas aided the establishment and expansion

of English-speaking congregations. Although the Wesleyans thereafter spread throughout Wales they were always smaller in numbers and influence than the other three major denominations.

- 4.24 Throughout the 19th century Nonconformity in Wales was dominated by the older Dissenting movements of the Independents and Baptists and the newer Calvinistic and Wesleyan Methodists. Definitions of membership vary widely between the denominations, making comparisons between the denominations suspect. Even within a single denomination returns are not likely to be equally reliable from every congregation in every period. Nevertheless, it is clear that each of the four main denominations saw enormous increases in their membership throughout the 19th century.
- 4.25 The 1851 Religious Census recorded that the Wesleyans had a total of 499 places of worship. Although there are many questions about the reliability of the statistics in the 1851 Census, the numbers recorded as present at the best attended service – in most cases the Sunday evening service – confirm total attendance of 53,730 at Wesleyan congregations.
- 4.26 During the 19th century, the Wesleyan Methodist Church experienced many secessions, with the largest of the off-shoots being the Primitive Methodists, who had a particular mission to the working class. They broke away to form their own Connexion when the main body refused to allow open-air preaching and have a strong and interesting distribution pattern in Wales. Other secessionist groups, including the Methodist New Connexion, Bible Christians, Wesleyan Methodist Association and Wesleyan Reformers all had a presence in Wales, mostly among the English speaking population, though the Wesleyan Methodist Association included those Welsh-speaking chapels known as the Wesle Bach who left the Welsh Wesleyans in a secession that began in 1831.
- 4.27 With the exception of the Primitive Methodists all these bodies were gradually to merge, eventually becoming part of the United Methodist Church in 1907, which itself merged with the Wesleyans and Primitives to form the Methodist Church (Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd) in 1932.
- 4.28 Before the 1830s the main denominations, particularly the Methodists, had been conservative in their political attitudes. However, increasingly the Nonconformists acquired a single voice on such issues as denouncing the 1847 report of into Welsh education, the rise of the Oxford Movement within the Church of England, the civil disabilities imposed upon them, and the call for electoral reform. This unity enabled the Welsh Nonconformists to move to a position of considerable political influence which they exercised through a strong allegiance to the Liberal Party to which they looked for liberation from their grievances and with whom they shared a central belief in the importance of individual choice.
- 4.29 Despite the successes of the 19th century and the hopes raised by the 1904 revival the 20th century was to witness a catastrophic decline in Welsh Nonconformity. Membership of each of the main denominations peaked early in the century. Taking both Welsh- and English-speaking congregations into account the Wesleyan Methodists reached their highest point in 1932 with 56,027 members.
- 4.30 The Bible Society's 1982 census of the churches in Wales showed that the Wesleyan Methodists then had 24,300 members. Challenge to Change, the report of a Welsh Churches Survey conducted by the

Bible Society in 1995, showed that there were 396 Wesleyan Methodist chapels (compared with 553 in 1982). Faith in Wales: Counting for Communities, the report published by Gweini in 2008, estimated that there were 341 Wesleyan Methodist congregations in Wales (Maddon + Sumner www.welshchapels.org/nonconformity/wesleyan-methodists/).

Methodist Chapel Building in Wales

4.31 Rob Scourfield, co author of the *Buildings of Wales - Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion* (2006) has written exclusively on the history of non-conformist chapels in Wales and in particular on how the chapels were constructed. The following text has been extracted and adapted from an article by Scourfield also on the Addoldai Cymru website (www.welshchapels.org) taken from his Buildings of Wales.

4.32 "By 1860, there were enough pews in the chapels of Wales to seat three-quarters of the population, with some 2,922 chapels in existence to serve a country visited by the Great Revival in the previous year. Following the 1904 revival led by Evan Roberts, this figure increased.

The needs of the congregation were simple – a dry and light space with decent pews facing the all-important pulpit. By the later 19th century, architectural style became more important, along with the consideration of luxuries like acoustics, heating, lighting and ventilation.

Building work was costly and risky, generally with little available in the way of funds or wealthy benefactors. Causes commonly met in temporary premises until a chapel could be afforded. The typical pattern was for early congregations to meet in houses, cottages, inns and even barns. As fellowships increased, interim premises were often required – the Baptists at Knighton, Radnorshire met in a room above some wine vaults until their chapel was built in 1864. (Rev. J. Jones, *The History of the Baptists of Radnorshire*, 1895 pp 80-94) In the coalmining community at Fochriw, Glamorgan, the Independents built a cheap wooden chapel in 1865, superseded by a stone one two years later (Rees and Thomas, *Hanes Annibynwyr*, vol. 2, pp 154-9). Once funds and land were available, a permanent chapel could be built. With strong causes, lack of space and/or the desire to plant new 'daughter' chapels or even a split in the congregation, this process would be often repeated.

Where new premises were planned, a site was the first requirement, typically taken on a long leasehold, ideally on favourable terms from a sympathetic landlord. At Llechryd, Cardiganshire, for example, Thomas Lloyd of Coedmor provided the Independents with a site on a 999-year lease cost (Rees and Thomas, Vol 4 pp154-9). In towns and industrial areas where land was more expensive, shorter leases tended to be granted by landowners, such as the Bute and Tredegar estates. Sometimes the freehold was eventually purchased, or even gifted by the landowner. A trust would then be set up by the members to avoid future pitfalls, such as the premises reverting to a single party.

More prosperous congregations purchased sites freehold. The English Calvinistic Methodist congregation at Denbigh purchased a site comprising an inn and large yard for £1500. Within a fortnight, they had prudently sold off the inn for £1150. Sometimes land was gifted – at Gladestry, Radnorshire, the Baptist Chapel was built in 1842 in the garden of the house where the cause had begun (Rev. J. Jones, p. 54). In industrial areas, estates such as that of Lord Mostyn donated a number of sites and as Nonconformity strengthened, such generosity became more common.

The next stage was to raise money for building work. This was often achieved in difficult circumstances, demonstrating remarkable faith. At the Baptist chapel, Rhos, Glamorgan, for example, Thomas Williams raised money for the chapel in 1817 by pawning his pocket-watch, until he was able to sell a calf. (T.M. Bassett, *The Welsh Baptists* 1977, p 245) A standard way of raising funds was to send the minister on a collecting tour, often far afield. Azariah Shadrach, when collecting funds for Seion, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion in 1823, found 40 ministers in London engaged in a similar task (D.R. Barnes, *People of Seion*, 1995 p 49), while the Radnorshire Baptist, John Jones, toured seven Welsh and twelve English counties between 1866-69. Only in Wantage did he fail to get any donations, as the town had been visited by 'three imposters in succession'. (Rev. J Jones. pp 95-6)

At a local level, public appeals were set up, usually in the form of pamphlets or in newspapers. Novel forms of fundraising are recorded, including that of John Saunders of Buckley who collected from the frequenters of local taverns on every Friday afternoon! (E. Gruffyd, *A Review of Nonconformity in Flintshire*, 2007) More typically, clubs and friendly societies were set up to raise funds through subscriptions. As building work progressed, funds were raised through concerts and prayer meetings. When the foundation stone was laid, it became common practice for generous benefactors to place money on it, and this was usually recorded in great detail by the local press. By the later 19th century, singing-festivals, bazaars, children's crusades and 'lantern lectures' were all typical fund-raising events.

Borrowing money was not uncommon. A shopkeeper (and non-member) lent money for the building of Berea Baptist Chapel at Criccieth, Caernarfonshire in 1866 (Capel Local Information Sheet 8 – Llanystumdwy and Criccieth), while other congregations procured bank loans. From the mid-19th century, the denominations themselves started setting up 'in-house' loans and grants, addressing the problem of spiralling debts and the burden of collecting-tours. Many chapels remained saddled with debt years after opening. Albion Square Congregational, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, cost £3940 in 1867, but the cumulative debt of £6389 was not cleared until 1899. (S. Peters, *The History of Pembroke Dock*, 1995, p 100)

Records are sparse for the building of early chapels, but it may be assumed that local craftsmen were responsible for building and designing them. Usually these people were members of the cause, other members carrying out unskilled labour such as hauling stone and making mortar. During the working week, the women often found time to cart stone or timber. Jane Griffiths

carried stone on her back for the building of Horeb C.M. Chapel, Mynydd-y-garreg, Caernarfonshire in 1841 (Rev. J. Morris, *Hanes Methodistiaeth Sir Gaerfyrddin* 1911), as well as fetching the pulpit from Llanelli. Usually, the walls of a chapel were built during the summer to avoid frost or rain damage to the mortar. Once the roof was on, the joinery works could progress whatever the time of year.

In some cases, the minister designed the chapel. For instance, Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist chapel, Arddleen, Montgomeryshire, was designed in 1839 by Rev. Evan Lloyd. (Rev. R.M.Roberts, *The Story of the Tabernacle, Arddleen, Montgomeryshire*, 1920) This tradition was continued later in the century by the prolific minister-architects such as Thomas Thomas and William Jones. As well as funds, building work required organization. It was common by the mid 19th century to appoint a building committee, usually comprising the minister together with members with some skills in business matters. Increasingly, however, committees turned to competent draftsmen or architects to design a chapel, either through direct contact, or advertising in the local press, as at Tabernacle, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, where a design was sought for a chapel 'not exceeding £1500'. (S. Hughes, *Thomas Thomas 1817-88; the First National Architect of Wales* 2003, pp 80-81)

By the later 19th century, many architects specialized in chapel design. A notable example was Richard Owens of Liverpool, whose papers survive as a remarkable archive of his work. Owens, like his contemporaries, dealt directly with the building committee. Correspondence usually started with a discussion of options in terms of seating capacity and costs. Once this had been agreed on, a detailed schedule of specifications was drawn up for further consideration. The next stage was the provision of tender documents, usually advertised in the local or building press. The tender documents tended to follow a set format, following through the various trades from excavation of footings to painting and decoration. Where members were able to supply or convey materials free of charge, such items were carefully noted. Once the successful tenderer was appointed, the architect was usually retained to oversee the works to completion.

Unsurprisingly, sometimes matters went wrong. Anxious to save money, a low tender from distant Aberystwyth builders was accepted for Hill Park Baptist Chapel, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, in 1888. The work was condemned by the architect, the contractor became bankrupt and the timber merchant sued the chapel for payment. Once the situation was resolved, it was calculated that the whole episode cost £14 more than the original highest tender. (W.J. Edwards, *Three Hundred Years: the Story of the Church Worshipping at Hill Park*, 1957)

In terms of costs, a chapel seating around 250 averaged at less than £200 to build between 1780-1810. By the middle of the century, comparable chapels were costing around £500-600. The more elaborate architect-designed chapels of the 1860s cost an average of £1200-1500 for a capacity of 250-300, rising to £2000-2500 for comparable examples in the 1870s and 80s.

Of the 6,427 known chapels in Wales, at least 2,295 were rebuilt once, 806 rebuilt twice, 213 rebuilt three times and 39 rebuilt four times. This gives a total of 9,780 chapel building projects for which congregations had to raise money for and organise building works.

Chapel buildings in Wales fall within three broad categories. The earliest, known as 'lateral entry' or 'long-wall' chapels, have house-like façades with windows and doors arranged across the long wall. The majority of these long-wall' chapels date from the period up to the mid 19th century, while from the 1830s, there was a trend towards 'square-plan' chapels and by the 1850s, the norm was for the façade to be at the short, gable end.

Until the 1689 Toleration Act, it was illegal for dissenters to meet for worship. Many congregations had met secretly in remote houses and barns at times of persecution, although a few simple meeting houses were built, including Llanfaches, Monmouthshire and Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, both by 1639. By 1715, some 38 chapels had been built, although many congregations remained in houses and barns until funds allowed otherwise. By the mid 18th century, the chapels of Wales were assuming a distinct form, regardless of denomination, size or location. Given the later pace of building, it is not surprising that very little survives from this date.

Only one early chapel, Maesyronnen, Radnorshire, survives in anything like its original condition. Converted from a barn before 1720, a handsome six-bay front was added, its symmetry proclaiming its status as a meeting house. The plan focuses on the all-important pulpit, which is placed in the centre of the long (rear) wall, typical of the period. The precedents for long-walled chapels like Maesyronnen are difficult to pin down. The Reformation placed stress on the pulpit in Protestant churches, as evidenced by the Calvinist churches in late 16th century France, the Netherlands and Scotland. The post-Reformation Scottish kirks with their prominent pulpits and galleries (for example, East Cromarty church, Ross & Cromarty) provided a good model for the early chapel builders. The first generation of post-1689 chapels in the north of England, such as Rivington Unitarian chapel, Lancashire, built in 1703, owe much to Scottish precedent in their planning and simple symmetry. This evidence suggests that from an early date, the builders of Welsh chapels were aware of new developments in chapel-planning elsewhere – and whilst some early surviving chapels are often considered rustic, they were not when compared to the typical living conditions of the day.

By the mid 1700s, there was a trend towards more distinctive long-wall façades, which usually had a large central window providing light for the pulpit over which it was set. This is evidenced by descriptions of older chapels prior to their rebuilding. Bethel Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Waun-fawr, Caernarfonshire was first built in 1785 for £150. Its original plan is schematically illustrated in the chapel history of 1946 (D.J. Lewis, *Dau Can Mwyddiant Bethel M.C. Y Waunfawr, Arfon 1746-1946*).

A small number still survive in unaltered form, two of the best being Nanhoron Independent Chapel, Caernarfonshire of 1770-72 and Capel Penrhiw, Llangeler,

Carmarthenshire, converted from a barn by the Unitarians in 1777, which can now be seen at the St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff. By the later 18th century, the symmetry of the façade became more formal, indicating greater confidence on behalf of the congregations, and a greater awareness of architectural style. Memberships and finances were growing, and there was a desire to make a presence felt – and perhaps to rival nearby congregations.

Blaenywaun Baptist Chapel, St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire, built in 1795, had a front with doors in the outer bays and paired inner windows (B. Rees, Hanes Blaenywaun, Gerazim, Penuel, Tabernacle, 1899). The chapel at Pontrobert, Montgomeryshire, built in 1806 is of similar form. As chapel-building accelerated, this form became commonplace across Wales, increasingly given some simple classical detail, especially in the use of round-arched windows to distinguish chapels from domestic buildings. Inside, to accommodate the rapidly growing congregations, paneled galleries were usually set around three sides, facing the pulpit.

Long-walled chapels were advantageous in their ability to be scaled up or down to suit funds and congregation. A small model with a central door and outer windows such as Cae-bach, Radnorshire (1804) could be utilized for causes with few members or little money, while a larger variant involved lengthening the façade by the addition of upper windows lighting the gallery stairs.

An early survivor of this form is Gellionnen Unitarian chapel, Glamorgan, built in 1801, and by the 1820s, the type was favoured by larger congregations across much of Wales, as at Capel Adfa, Montgomeryshire, built for the Independents in 1820. Windows were typically sashes, with intricate glazing within the arched heads. Roofs were gabled, with hipped roofs becoming increasingly fashionable in line with late Georgian houses.

Evidence suggests that all of the main denominations built similarly planned long-wall chapels, there being relatively little difference in their operational needs. The spread of design ideas via word and mouth among clergy and members travelling around Wales is evidenced by the similarity of Nanhoron and Penrhiw chapels, built at opposite ends of western Wales within a decade of one another. As a building type, they were easy to copy.

Interiors

Maesyronnen is the earliest and most intact interior in Wales. The pulpit is set against the rear wall and there are large enclosed family pews set against both front and rear walls. The centre of the chapel is occupied by open benches and tables, one used for taking communion. Interiors became more standardized by the later 18th century, by which time the norm was for a centrally placed pulpit, set against the front wall between two matching doorways. The pulpit was back-lighted by a window or, more commonly by c1800, a pair of windows.

The paired windows allowed for some embellishment of the wall between, giving the pulpit more prominence. This could be in the form of a moulded or pedimented frame, or a painted scriptural

verse such as at Soar y Mynydd, Ceredigion The doorways led into internal lobbies, these framing the enclosed sêl-fawr or 'big seat' which the deacons or elders occupied. Senior deacons usually occupied chairs set below the pulpit, while the rest occupied benches built into the paneled enclosure. Earlier pews were generally of the 'box' type with paneled sides and backs to help prevent draughts. Typically the layout of the pews was straightforward with two aisles dividing the centre rank from the side bays. The pews in the side bays were occasionally angled to provide a better view, or set perpendicular to those in the centre in collegiate fashion.

Galleries were commonplace, being the most economical way of increasing the seating, as well as setting apart areas for use by Sunday School scholars or non-communicants. The earlier examples have paneled fronts set on timber columns. The gallery usually occupied three sides of the chapel, facing the pulpit. Occasionally the galleries had canted corners with the pews angled correspondingly, giving a theatrical appearance. Smaller chapels tended to have single galleries at the entrance end. In some un-galleried chapels, the floor was steeply raked up to the rear, allowing a good view of the pulpit (for example, Troedyrhiw Independent, Ystrad Aeron, Ceredigion, 1861).

By the 1850s, the long-wall model was old-fashioned though some were still being built into the early 20th century, such as the slightly Art Deco Ebenezer chapel, Llanfair Caereinion, Montgomeryshire .

In some remote areas, later examples exist such as Nanternis Independent, Cardiganshire, built in 1867 and entirely untouched by Victorian taste. Square-plan, and increasingly, gable-plan chapels were soon to become the norm and a number of existing chapels were entirely remodeled to provide a more fashionable gabled entry, as at Tŷ-Newydd Calvinistic Methodist chapel, Cynwyl Gaeo , Carmarthenshire (1837, altered 1907)" (Scourfield 2006).

- 4.32 In terms of architectural type, the earliest part of the English Wesleyan Chapel at Clydach appears to have been a long-wall type but with a gable end access, which was later covered by the Sunday school extension in 1902, wherein the chapel became a full 'long-wall ' type with a central entrance.

Archaeological Sources Consulted

- 4.33 With regards to existing known records giving details and descriptions of the English Wesleyan Chapel at Clydach, there is very little mention. The RCAHMW record entry is very short, and is listed as 'Chapel, Cheltenham' (NPRN: 12212). The RCAHMW entry description is thus: Cheltenham Chapel is a typical example of a hipped-roof square-plan chapel of the early to mid nineteenth century. It is stone built in the Simple Round-Headed style. By 1997 this chapel stood disused..... Wesleyan Methodist Chapel with a plaque showing that it was built in 1829 and rebuilt in 1901-2 with a Sunday School added. It would appear to be still in use. Further reference is also made to a black and white photograph of the 1990s, but nothing before this.

- 4.34 The historic environment record entry (PRN: 02472g) at the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) is also very scant. "A chapel built in 1829 and rebuilt in 1891 with an attached school, approximately 50 meters west of the Ebenezer Welsh Chapel."
- 4.35 A quick search of the Glamorgan Archives and the National Library of Wales collection also turned up very little with no references to the chapel at Cheltenham, Llanelly or Clydach.
- 4.36 A brief look through a number of early newspapers from 1824 - 1910 mentions the English Wesleyan Chapel at Llanelly in two articles, both found in the *Cambrian* newspaper dated May 20th 1870 (p. 8) and 31st May 1872 (p6). The first article (1870) reports on the special sermons of the Rev. W. S. Snow, the minister of the Wesleyans at Llanelly. "His subject was 'The priest-hood with and without the veil'. He condemned those also who assume to themselves the title of priests, Christ alone being the high priest of this Church. He treated his subject most masterly, evincing great power of thought. In the evening his subject was 'Life Assurance'. He said that strictly speaking a man's life, could not be insured the only thing that could be done was to insure to his friends a certain amount payable at his death. It was possible, however, to insure the soul"
- 4.37 The second article (1872) mentions a visiting Rev'd, one Richard Roberts, "who delivered a most able sermon on Tuesday last, at the English Wesleyan Chapel, Llanelly to a very large audience. A collection was made at the close in aid of the chapel funds."
- 4.38 Further information regarding the size of the chapel was also gleaned from the 1940 Journal of Statistical Returns on Methodist Church Buildings. In it the Methodist Chapel at Clydach was recorded as being constructed from stone, having pew seating and was able to hold 128 people (this was based on the basis that the average size of a bottom was between 18 - 20 inches) and had four other rooms. Unfortunately the chapel at Clydach is not mentioned in the earliest Return of 1873 as the statistics at this time were only based on town chapels and churches and not rural or country chapels.

5. **Cartographic Sources** (see Figures 5 - 11)

Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of Llanelly (1839)

- 5.1 The 1839 tithe map for the Llanelly parish shows the chapel positioned on the southern side of the main road, sat between two adjacent properties, each numbered No. 295. According to the tithe map and the apportionment record this building along with the adjacent properties were owned and tenanted by 'Williams and Others' and it is described as a house and garden, with no mention of it being a Wesleyan chapel house. The apportionment record is not clear who the Mr. Williams and the Others were. However, it may be that Robert Williams of the Clydach Iron & Coal Company was the owner as this is the next property listed in the apportionment record and the English Wesleyan Chapel was associated with the Iron Works.

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1888)

- 5.2 The OS First Edition map of 1888 shows the chapel along the main street and is marked as 'Meth. Chapel (Wesleyan). A Calvinist and Independent Chapel (Siloam) are also shown active in the immediate area of Clydach Iron Works.

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1902)

- 5.3 No great change from the earlier map series, apart from the fact that all of the religious houses are now shaded in black rather than having regular cross-hatching.

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1905)

- 5.4 No great change from the earlier map series, apart from appearance of a Woollen Factory now occupying much of the area of the former Clydach Iron Works.

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1922)

- 5.4 No great change from the earlier map series, apart from the fact that the Wesleyan Chapel is no longer marked as a chapel, even though the Siloam Chapel and the Calvinist Chapel still are. Also, apparent is the appearance of a Woollen Factory now occupying much of the area of the former Clydach Iron Works.

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1943)

- 5.5 No great change from the earlier 1922 edition, apart from the apparent disappearance of the former Woollen Factory in the area of Club Row,

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1953)

- 5.5 No great change from the earlier 1943 edition.

6 Results of Building Investigation and Recording (See Figures 12 - 22)

General Description

- 6.1 The English Wesleyan Chapel at Clydach is a detached long tall building, approximately 16.5 meters in length, with a half-hipped roof with artificial slates. The front façade of the building is of rubble construction of pennant stone and red sandstone and is divided into two phases of build, the first phase being the 1829 chapel at the NE end and the second phase the Sunday School extension added in 1902 at the SW end. The chapel end of the building is characterised by two tall gothic style windows with sandstone voissiors and stained glass. The SW end is occupied by a gabled entrance porch that allows access to both the Chapel and the Sunday school, and by a series of sash windows. Several eroded foundation plaques are cemented into the Sunday school elevation. Both the gable ends and the rear of the building are cement rendered. The rear elevation rises to three storey's with the incorporation of a lower basement or lower ground floor. The building, both front and rear has Forecourt railings with spear-type finials set on low rubble walls, with an iron gate at the front SW end.

Exterior

- 6.2 *i) Front Northwest Facing Elevation (Figure 12 ; Plates 1- 19 and 26)*
- 6.3 The front NW facing elevation of the chapel and Sunday school is constructed from rubble Pennant stone and red sandstone, with exclusively red sandstone at the Sunday school end. It is plain to see that the chapel side, the NE end has been re-pointed with a raised mortar in the decade or so, and the Sunday school end not. This difference in stone type, style and mortar clearly defines the phasing of the building and shows that the original chapel built in 1828/29 was a formerly a square building which would have had an entrance at the SW gable end. This entrance was obviously changed as part of the 1902 Sunday school build.
- 6.4 The Chapel front façade consists of two tall pointed arch windows with red sandstone voussoirs. The two windows each have 32 square pane timber windows each holding clear mottled glass, with intersecting timber tracery glazing bars that start at the springs of each arch. These glazed areas hold mottled stained glass in alternating pink and light green colours. At the time of the site visit the northeastern-most window had a plywood board covering the lower broken panes of glass. Each tall window has a small square pivot window at its SW end allowing air to circulate into the Main Hall. Both windows hold original rolled stained glass. However, the NE window has had a replacement green stained glass panel replaced with a different style and shade of glass than the originals. The SW tall window has also had its timber frame and glazing bars repaired recently as the mouldings are not the same as the NE window. Both cills have been painted black. However, in keeping with window cills of this period, these are likely Welsh slate.
- 6.5 Between each of these two tall windows, between the two voussoirs, is a beige sandstone foundation plaque or tablet with the words '*English Wesleyan Chapel 1829 Renovated 1891*'. The whole is framed with a decorative scored line. This plaque is starting to erode in places.
- 6.6 The Sunday School front façade that occupies the SW end of the building is a two-storey build on the same roof line as the Chapel, but is characterised by three horned sash windows, with the SW end ones being wider than the upper floor one at the NE end above the porch. Each window has a cambered red sandstone voussoir head with a painted black cill, again most probably Welsh slate. Above the ground floor window is a long ashlar inscribed band with the words 'WESLYAN SUNDAY SCOOL 1902'.
- 6.7 Flanking the ground floor window are also six (6) inscribed foundation stones or tablets of sandstone, three on each side of the window. On the left only two are still legible as the other middle one has now unfortunately eroded away. The uppermost tablet is inscribed with the words ' THIS STONE WAS LAID ON BEHALF OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BY THE SUPERINTENDENT'. The lower foundation stone has the words 'THIS STONE WAS ???? ?? MR ERNEST.W. ELLIS NEW SWINDON'. The foundation stones to the right of the ground floor window at the SW end are all only partially legible and are heavily eroded. The uppermost stone has the words ' THIS STON? ??????????BEHA??? MR AND MRS ??? OF K??????? S. AUS??????' The lower portion of the tablet may have read as Kadina or Kainton S. Australia. The middle tablet reads 'THIS

STONE WAS LAID BY COUNCILLOR G EVANS ABERGAVENNY'. This stone is heavily eroded at its lower section. The lower foundation tablet reads '???? WAS LAID BY ???? POWELL ????BACH'.

- 6.8 Dividing the two phases of build is a gabled porch of red sandstone construction with a pointed arch entrance with a beige sandstone voussoirs head. Each side elevation of the porch is punctuated by a single pointed arch window each with voissors of beige/yellow sandstone. The roof of the porch is of grey slate with turquoise painted barge board and fascia board. A decorative timber finial projects from the top of the roof gable at the front above the door and there is modern plastic guttering either side.
- 6.9 Enclosing the front façade and adjoining the porch are forecourt wrought iron railings set on low rubble walls, with porch slightly projecting beyond, in line with pavement. The simple rails with spear-type finials are painted in a teal/turquoise paint. A number of the spear type finials are broken and missing, likely having eroded away over the decades. At the far SW end in the area of the Sunday School build, between the low stone wall and forecourt railings, is a wrought iron gate with similar spear type finials and a dog rail, but with a lozenge type pattern at its base. This gate is positioned between two tapered iron posts with ball finials.
- 6.10 The fascia board at roof level is painted in a green colour similar to that used on the forecourt rails.

ii) Rear Southeast Facing Elevation (Figure 13 ; Plates 20 - 25)

- 6.11 The rear of the building is accessed via a steep narrow passage between the neighboring building of Jubilee House. Visibility of the rear elevation is very limited due to the topography and restriction from the low stone rubble wall that forms a walkway along the SW-NE façade. The best vantage point to view this elevation is from the track and road along the area of Clydach School to the southeast.
- 6.12 The rear southeast facing façade is completely cement rendered which hides any possible evidence for any former doorways or enlarged windows or any changes to the fabric whatsoever. This elevation rises to three storeys, the steep slope having allowed the construction of a basement or lower ground floor, but only accessed externally from the rear of the property. As with the front NW facing elevation, the chapel end is characterised by two tall pointed arch windows. As with the front windows, each window here also has 32 square pane timber windows each holding clear mottled glass, with intersecting timber tracery glazing bars that start at the springs of each arch. Again, these glazed areas hold mottled stained glass in alternating pink and light green colours. Directly below these two tall windows are a series of five smaller windows, three alternately spaced with pointed heads and each with 5-pane Y-tracery, each containing clear glass. Between these pointed windows are two other windows, each probably late 20th Century. It is possible that these modern windows were inserted into already existing door openings, but unfortunately due to render covering no clear evidence for this is apparent. At the Sunday school end, the upper floors have sash windows identical to those in the front façade, with wider ones at the SW end. At ground level is a wooden paneled door painted in a light turquoise. Immediately to the right of this doorway is a modern late 20th Century window.

iii) Northeast and Southwest Facing Side Elevations (Figure 14; Plates 18 - 19)

- 6.13 Both gabled side elevations face the neighboring properties of Jubilee House and Whitland House. Both side elevations are rendered with no fenestration. The only feature worth mentioning is a residual roof and wall outline of a former single storey building that was once attached to the NE end of the building before the present Whitland House was built (see Plate No. 18).

Interior

- 6.14 The public entrance to the Chapel and Sunday school is gained via the gabled porch at the front of the building from the pavement. The front door is varnished wooden panelled and is probably late Victorian in date, or else Edwardian and installed as part of the Sunday school build in 1902. The lock has been replaced with a modern Yale lock. However, the residual outline of the former rim lock is still plainly evident on the inside.

A) Ground Floor (Figures 15, 18, 20 ; Plates 28-77 and 88)

i) Sunday school (Reception/Kitchen Area) (see Plates 30 - 40)

- 6.15 Once inside the ground floor of the Sunday School Reception Room, the first feature confronted is a dark wood Edwardian staircase with turned balusters and ball finials. This staircase gives access to the basement and the upper floor and gallery that overlooks the Main Hall. Other than the original staircase, the Sunday School Reception Hall has been altered with modern decoration, a kitchen unit and WC with sink, the former stud wall for the toilet room having been removed at some time recently. Modern fluorescent lighting is also fixed to the ceiling. Apart from the staircase, the only other original early 20th Century features in this room is a painted wooden pew that runs the length of the NW elevation by the entrance, a remnant of another pew beside the staircase along the SE elevation in the area of the WC, and three safety balustrades with low rails that span the width of the sash windows at the front and rear of the room. Each of the sash windows still has their original locks. The cords on each of the sash windows in this room need attention.
- 6.16 It is very likely that behind the modern Kitchen unit in this room against the west wall is a blocked fireplace similar to that already exposed in the first floor.

ii) Main Hall (Figure 16 ; Plates 41 - 87)

- 6.17 Access to the Main Hall is gained from the Sunday School Reception Room section of the building, through a pair of original 3-panelled wooden doors. These have been painted in a mid brown gloss paint on the Sunday school side and two tone, mid brown and cream on the inside Main Hall side. The northernmost door has had a modern Yale lock fitted. Unfortunately the original rim lock has been removed as has the original handles. However, the size of the rim lock is still evident from a residual mark on the inside of the southernmost door.

- 6.18 Once through this pair of doors, it is evident that they occupy an earlier opening that has a pseudo Tudor style arch (*Plate 57*). This offers further evidence that this entrance would have formerly been the main entrance to the chapel in 1829 - 1891 before the Sunday school extension.
- 6.19 The Main Hall itself is a tall open room with the same tall pointed arch gothic windows with pink and light green stained glass flanking both sides of the room. The stained glass in these windows tracery areas shimmer coloured light across the hall and gallery from the south. At the time of the site visit all of the walls had been painted in a cream or Magnolia emulsion paint with the window timber frames painted white. The floor was covered in a modern terracotta coloured pile carpet with floral design. Originally all of the painted walls would have had wooden paneling fixed against all of the elevations at roughly chest height. However, only one section of the original paneling remains fixed to the southeast facing elevation, between the two windows. This paneling has also been painted in a cream paint and has been damaged by damp. Residual marking in all of the elevations suggest the likely full extent of the original paneling.
- 6.20 Fixed against the SW facing elevation are the preserved remains of the original late 19th century wooden pulpit and lectern (*Plates 41 - 48*). This pulpit was probably installed in 1891 following the renovation of the chapel and as such it represents a period of growth and development of the Methodist movement in Wales. The pulpit has a bull-nosed front with turned balusters with ball finials, a central panelled lectern and paneled pew seating at the rear. Either side of the lectern are access steps, each with a turned baluster on the inside turn with the remains of a brass fitting that would have once held a gas light fitting. Interestingly four of the turned balusters at the front of the pulpit are emblazoned with a carved wooden circular moulding similar to that used on the Edwardian staircase in the Sunday school.
- 6.21 Directly behind the pulpit is a tall niche topped with a half dome. This niche is presently painted with white emulsion. Above the niche is a well preserved ribbon motif painted in blue and gold with the words 'God is Love' (*Plate 49*).
- 6.22 The ceiling of the main hall is painted white and has a few cracks in its surface. The ceiling is characterised by having three plaster ceiling Roses, the central rose is the largest being approximately 0.60m in diameter and has an *Acanthus* design with plain rolled borders. At either end of the hall, both flanking the central rose, are two smaller ceiling roses each with a daisy motif with plain rolled borders. These latter two roses are approximately 0.40m in diameter. The westernmost rose is damaged slightly with the central motif seemingly raised from the rest of the feature, suggesting that the ceiling has dropped slightly. Also attached to the ceiling are a series of six suspended modern electric light fittings, four missing their shades.
- 6.23 At the time of the site visit there were no pews or any seating within the main hall.
- iii) Gallery (Figures 16, 18 and 22; Plates 50 - 60)*
- 6.24 The well preserved fine gallery in the main hall is positioned at the far southwest end of the hall and is accessed via the flight of stairs from the Sunday school side. The gallery is supported on two turned oak

columns with elliptical heads and square capitals and bases. These two columns are positioned near the centre of the gallery and are in line with the entrance doorway and both have been painted in a mid brown gloss paint. The underneath of the front of the gallery is deeply coved with the ceiling underneath sloping front to rear so as to allow head room for any raised or tiered pews at the rear of the hall. The front of the gallery is wooden paneling (14 panels in total) with a smooth rail painted in a light cream and mid brown paint. The central two panels project slightly from the rest of the panelled front, thereby highlighting a framed circular hole that would have once held a clock, now absent. The rear of the wooden gallery in this central area has a large box section that projecting suggesting that this once held a clock mechanism. The inside edge of each of the wooden panels in the gallery is chamfered. However this is not the case on the side facing the main hall of the chapel.

- 6.25 Within the gallery itself are the well preserved remains of a unit of wooden box pews with three rows of seating sat on a series of two raised steps and positioned on the northwest side of the gallery. The main paneling has been painted in a light cream and the pews themselves painted in the same mid brown paint as that used in the gallery front. This box pew would once have had a hinged door to each section of seating, however, unfortunately two of the doors are now missing and the only one surviving is the rear one. These pews are very likely the original 1829 pews.
- 6.26 Unfortunately the pews from the southeast side of the gallery are absent.
- 6.27 Looking up to the ceiling in the area of the gallery is an octagonal hole, a geometric form that was known to have been favored by John Wesley (Searjant 2004) for a number of his churches. It is possible, given its position in the roof space that this hole once gave access to a rope and bell now absent.

2) Basement (Lower Ground Floor) (*Figure 17 ; Plates 88 - 114*)

- 6.28 The basement or lower ground floor can be accessed from one of two ways, either by accessing a 'back door' at the rear of the building via the external steep narrow passage between the neighboring property of Jubilee House at the SW end of the Sunday School, or else via the flight of Edwardian stairs from the ground floor reception room.

i) Sunday School (Kitchen Area) (Plates 89 - 95)

- 6.29 This basement or lower ground floor room at the far southwest end of the building has walls painted in a terracotta and cream emulsion with decorative 'graffitti' style images painted on both the SW and NE elevations. Images include a Welsh flag, a US Confederate flag and references to music including the alternative techno-punk dance group the 'Prodigy'.
- 6.30 At the far SW corner of the room is a modern WC and a kitchen sink unit is fitted against the SW elevation. Other than these modern features there are no other significant original features in this room that are worthy of mention, other than the original leaf green painted paneled door that gives access to the main Sunday School activity room.

ii) Sunday School (Main Activity Room) (see Plates 96 - 108)

- 6.31 This room is the largest of the Sunday School rooms and sits directly below the main hall of the chapel and as such its central area is dominated by a cast iron column that offers well needed support to the above floor that would at its full capacity have once held up to a total of 128 seated congregation. This column sits directly below a painted supporting beam. As well as the cast iron support column itself, painted in rainbow colours, this entire room is also painted in multi coloured murals, fitting decoration for a Sunday school. All murals give reference to God and the environment. As well as the iron column other original features in this room include two large deep square niches in the SW facing elevation, each with a cambered head and an apparent base that reflects a former seating area. Both these niches have modern decorative illustrations on their faces, including an Owl with the words 'Be Wise Economize' and a Whale with the words 'Save the Whale'. Close inspection of these niches reveals faint traces of residual horizontal marking around head height, which may suggest that these niches also once held wooden paneling and were also used as congregational seating in the late Georgian and Victorian periods. Further residual marks in the elevation itself at around hip height that run the length of the room suggest that this elevation once had a fixed pew against the wall that may also have been part of the niche seating. The painted lower border of this elevation has a band of leaf green paint that appears to have been an original colour which is repeated across the entire length of the room at this height.
- 6.32 In the northwest facing wall are three windows, two original pointed arch windows with clear glass already described in the earlier exterior section, and one central modern square window, which may have once been a former doorway opening, but no solid evidence for this is forthcoming due to internal plaster and external render covering.
- 6.33 Another feature in this room is an apparent blocked chimney or fireplace at the far southeast corner of the room in the southwest facing elevation. This is characterised by a projecting section of wall with an inspection hole pierced through the plasterwork. Given that the chapel main hall is directly above, then it is likely that this section of walling may have once had an old coal burner fitted against it with a flue that exited out through the rear wall. Unfortunately given that the rear wall is rendered there is no way to confirm this interpretation.
- 6.34 The ceiling of this room is painted in white emulsion with the end beams painted in green paint. The floor appears to have been covered in a grey floor paint.
- 6.35 Apart from these features in this room, the only other significant items are fixtures. As well as a long painted pew that sits against the SE windowed wall, a further two wooden paneled pews lean against the southwest wall and the northeast wall of this room. These pews are each very different in style and have most probably been removed from the main hall at some time or other. The painted blue and purple long pew against the SE wall (*Plates 96 - 98*) appears to be 2½ pews joined together poorly with the ½ pew damaged with its legs missing. Given the character and style of these pews, being very similar in style with the rear paneling in the boxed pews in the gallery and the gallery front paneling itself, this joined combination of pews are very likely original Georgian pews from the early chapel that have been

adapted, joined and utilized for use in the Sunday School. The short painted blue and purple pew against the SW wall (*Plate 108*) is also very likely an original Georgian boxed pew given that its style is very similar to those still surviving in the gallery. However, this pew does not have a curved side panel as those do in the gallery, but the supporting feet and the width of the paneling in the seating area is identical, suggesting that this again probably came from the main hall and was probably a rear pew that formerly leaned against the wall.

- 6.36 The remaining brown painted pew (*Plate 107*) in this room leaning against the SW facing wall appears to be an Edwardian pew with an identical style to those already in place in both the ground floor and upper floor of the Sunday school. Although this pew is missing its end arm at its right end, the remaining arm on its left side is intact and is characterised by a sloping curved design with arm curved arm rest.
- 6.37 The only other significant fixture in this room is the remains of a former pulpit with lectern painted in purple and blue gloss paint. This pulpit is fixed against the SW facing elevation and tucked into the NE corner of the room. This pulpit is polygonal in form with five paneled sides and a flat paneled back that may have been cut down to fit into its present location. Access to the pulpit is gained via a hinged door on its southern side. Beside the lectern are the remains of what appears to be the base of a former gas light fitting. This style and character of this pulpit suggest that it is Georgian in date and as such is very likely the original pulpit placed here following the replacement pulpit that exists in the main hall in the later 19th Century following the renovation in 1891. This pulpit is to be retained within the property.

iii) Sunday School (Back Room) (Plates 109 - 114)

- 6.38 This room at the far NE end of the basement is also positioned directly below the main hall. As with the main activity room, this room also has been painted appropriately in fitting with the Sunday school, the back SW facing wall having been painted with a mural depicting the Great Flood and Noah's Ark surmounted by a rainbow. A modern convection heater has also been fitted to this wall. The west wall has a modern sink unit fitted with wall tiles acting as a splash back and a decorative wallpaper border. This wall is also painted in cream emulsion and has modern light switches fitted.
- 6.39 The SE wall of this room is characterised by one pointed arch window and a modern square window, which again may or may not have formerly been a doorway opening. This wall is painted pink with a red border at lower level.
- 6.40 A feature of the NW wall of this room is another square niche identical to that in the main activity room. As with other two niches or alcoves in the main room this one also very likely held paneled seating at its earliest time before the Sunday school extension in 1902. The presence of this niche here may suggest that the cross dividing wall between this room and the main room is a later insertion and if this had been the case then it is also possible that there was once another cast iron floor supporting column in the location of this later cross wall in the Georgian period.

3) Upper floor (Figure 17, 22; Plates 78 - 84, 115 - 126)

- 6.41 Access to the upper floor level reception room and the Gallery is gained from the Edwardian staircase in the Sunday school ground floor reception room.

i) Sunday School (Waiting Area) (see Plates 115 - 126)

- 6.42 This room is lit by sash windows in both the rear and front elevations. All of the walls are painted cream with wooden panelling running the length of each of the walls. As with the ground floor room of the Sunday school, each window opening still holds a safety balustrade with turned wooden balusters and a wooden rail.
- 6.43 At the far NW end of the room, against the NW wall and both the NE and SW walls are fixed pews with turned legs. The ends of each of these pews have curved arms and shoulders. Apart from one loose pew that leans against the staircase at the SE end of the room, all other pews have no fixed backs but are accommodated by wooden panelling fixed to the walls. It is very likely that the loose unfixed pew was once placed in the main hall but has since been reset up stairs. Both the loose pew and the fixed seating pews are original early Edwardian pews.
- 6.44 In the centre of the SW wall is a former fireplace recently unblocked complete with its original Edwardian decorative cast iron surround complete with grate (Plates 123 -124).
- 6.45 Other than the fixtures mentioned above, the only other original Edwardian fixture is the remains of a former decorative gas light wall mount (Plate 126), mounted on the wall on the NW side of the fireplace.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 7.1 There are over 6426 Welsh chapels built in Wales and given that there has been a marked decrease in the membership of Non-conformist Churches and Chapels in Wales in recent years, a great many have now closed and the future of many of these special historic buildings is under threat. Many have been demolished and others are having a change of use, being either turned into commercial properties or else residential dwellings. This of course is placing an increased pressure on the buildings and their fabric to accommodate new roles and uses.
- 7.2 Chapels were founded in all manner of places, newly formed mining communities, in older established urban centres, coastal towns and rural landscapes. Once established, the chapels became a part of the community, offering a range of activities beyond their spiritual role, including education, sporting and social events. Their survival within towns, villages and the countryside is evidence of the social impact of the movement in Wales, in both industrial and non-industrial communities, and as such they hold an important role in the history of Wales. As such any changes or alterations made to these chapels need to be considered carefully guided by conservation policy with investigation and recording of the buildings prior to development being of crucial importance.
- 7.3 The building investigation and recording of the English Wesleyan Chapel at Clydach, as well as having made a lasting record of the building before it is altered, has also ensured that the buildings origins, use

and development have understood and all of its main features, character and state of preservation have been recorded.

- 7.2 The investigation of the chapel has revealed that the original Georgian chapel was very likely a long-wall type with a gabled entrance at the NW end, which was later extended when the Sunday school extension was added in 1902, which gave the chapel its full long-wall street frontage that survives today. Given that the early chapel would once have had a gabled entrance, would suggest that the former entrance must have also had some form of access stair that would have allowed access to the upper Gallery which is also Georgian in date. How this arrangement would have worked is uncertain given the steep topography to the south and the fact that the building also has a basement. Unfortunately the only way to truly ascertain this layout would be to investigate the internal wall of the Sunday school if any wall plaster is removed from either the ground floor or upper floor rooms in the area of the entrance to the main hall and the Gallery.
- 7.3 As well as having recorded the existence of many original features, the investigation has also managed to identify the age of the pews being held in the lower basement of the Sunday school. The investigation also managed to identify and record the existence of the early Georgian pulpit in the basement room and the later Victorian pulpit in the main hall. The survival of these two different styles of original pulpits together under the same roof is rare. Both are representative of the changing development of the Methodist movement in Wales.
- 7.4 The investigation also managed to make a lasting record of the foundation tablets in the front façade which are fast eroding given that they have been inscribed into sandstone. A number of other smaller internal fixtures were also recorded within the chapel.
- 7.5 All of this work has now ensured that an adequate lasting record has now been made of this chapel as it undergoes alteration and its role changes within the community of Clydach.

8 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Ben Hiscock, for allowing access to the site for investigation and recording. Also thanks to Alice Thorne of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for their help and advice.

9 Bibliography & References

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Cartographic Sources

- *Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of Llanelly (1839)*
- *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1888)*
- *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1902)*
- *Ordnance 1905 Edition Map*
- *Ordnance 1922 Edition Map*
- *Ordnance 1943 Edition Map*
- *Ordnance 1953 Edition Map*

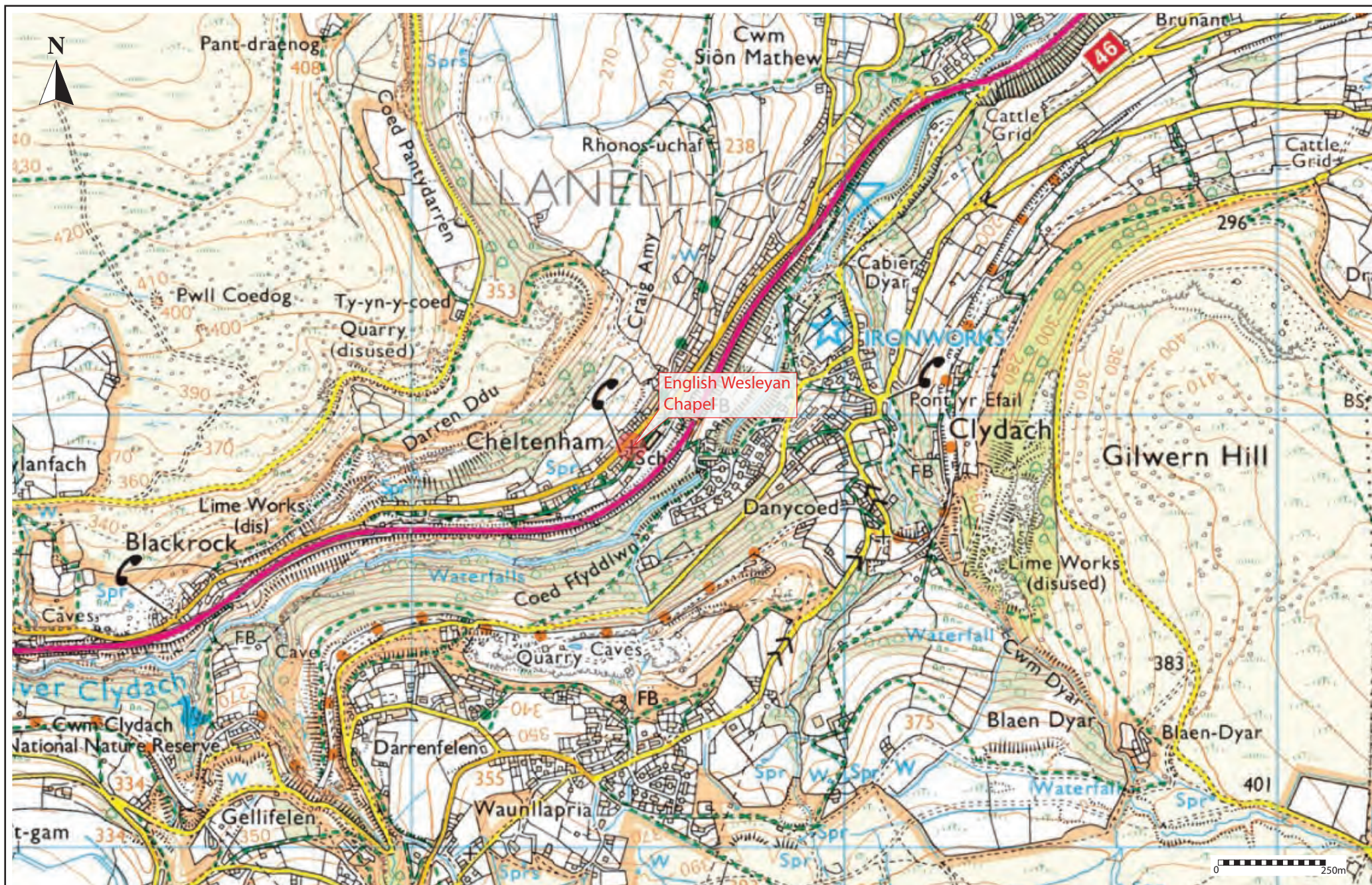
APPENDIX I:

Figures



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 1.
Location Map (OS Landranger 1:50,000)



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 2.

Location Map (OS Explorer 1:25,000)



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

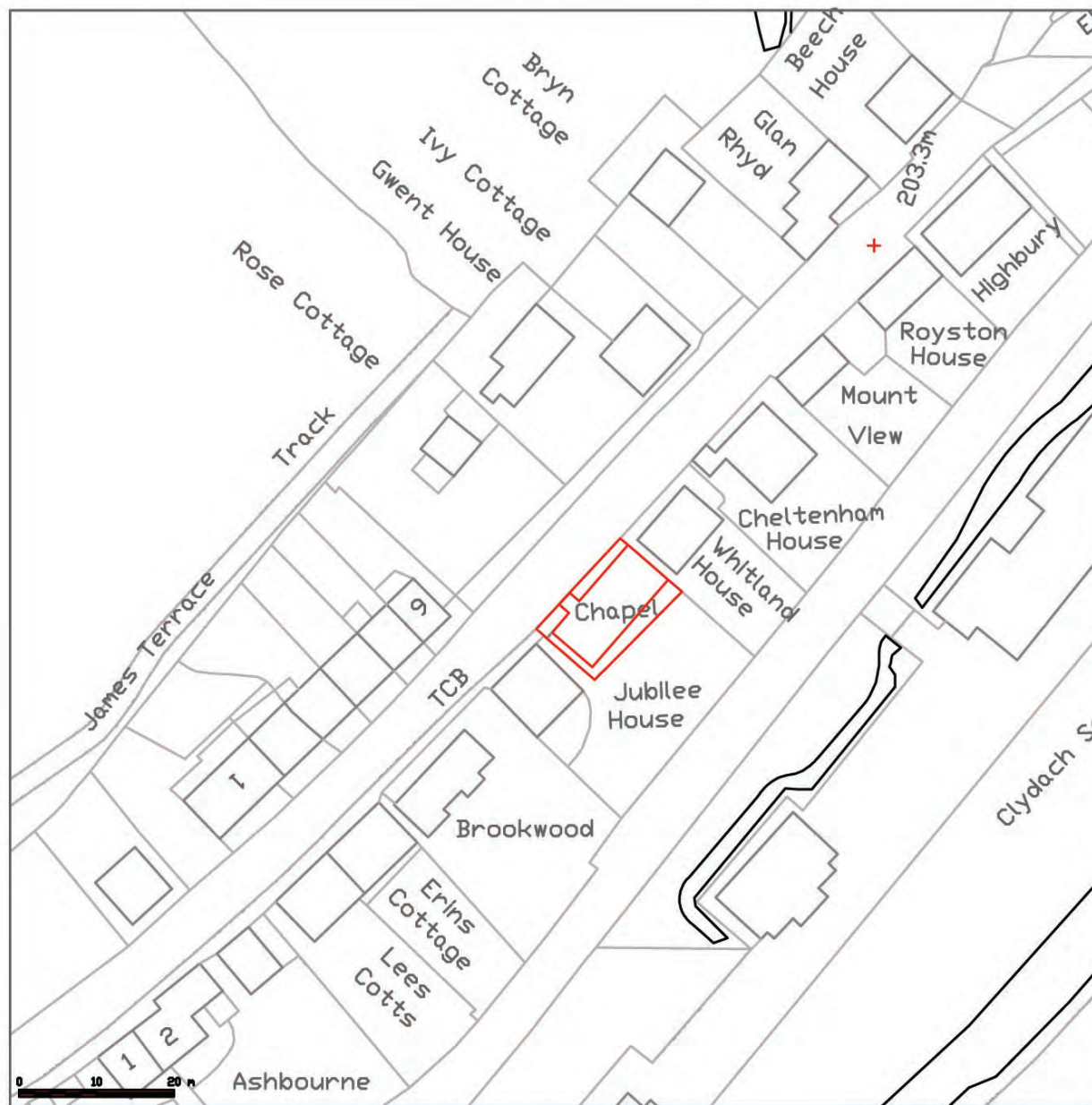
Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 3.

OS Aerial photo (2019)



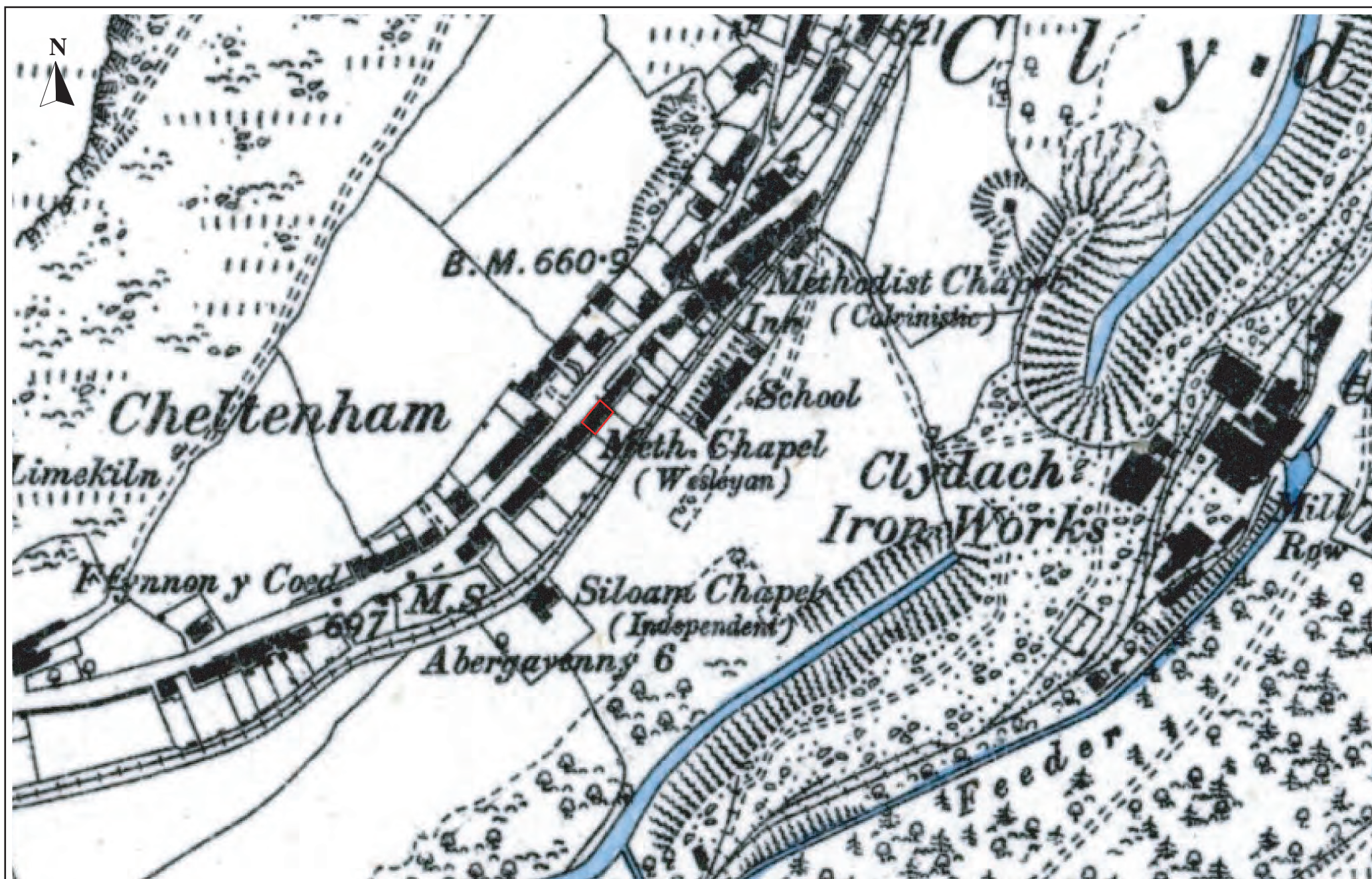
Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 4.
Site Block Plan



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 5. Tithe Map of Llanelly Parish (1839). Apportionment details (No. 295), Chapel highlighted.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

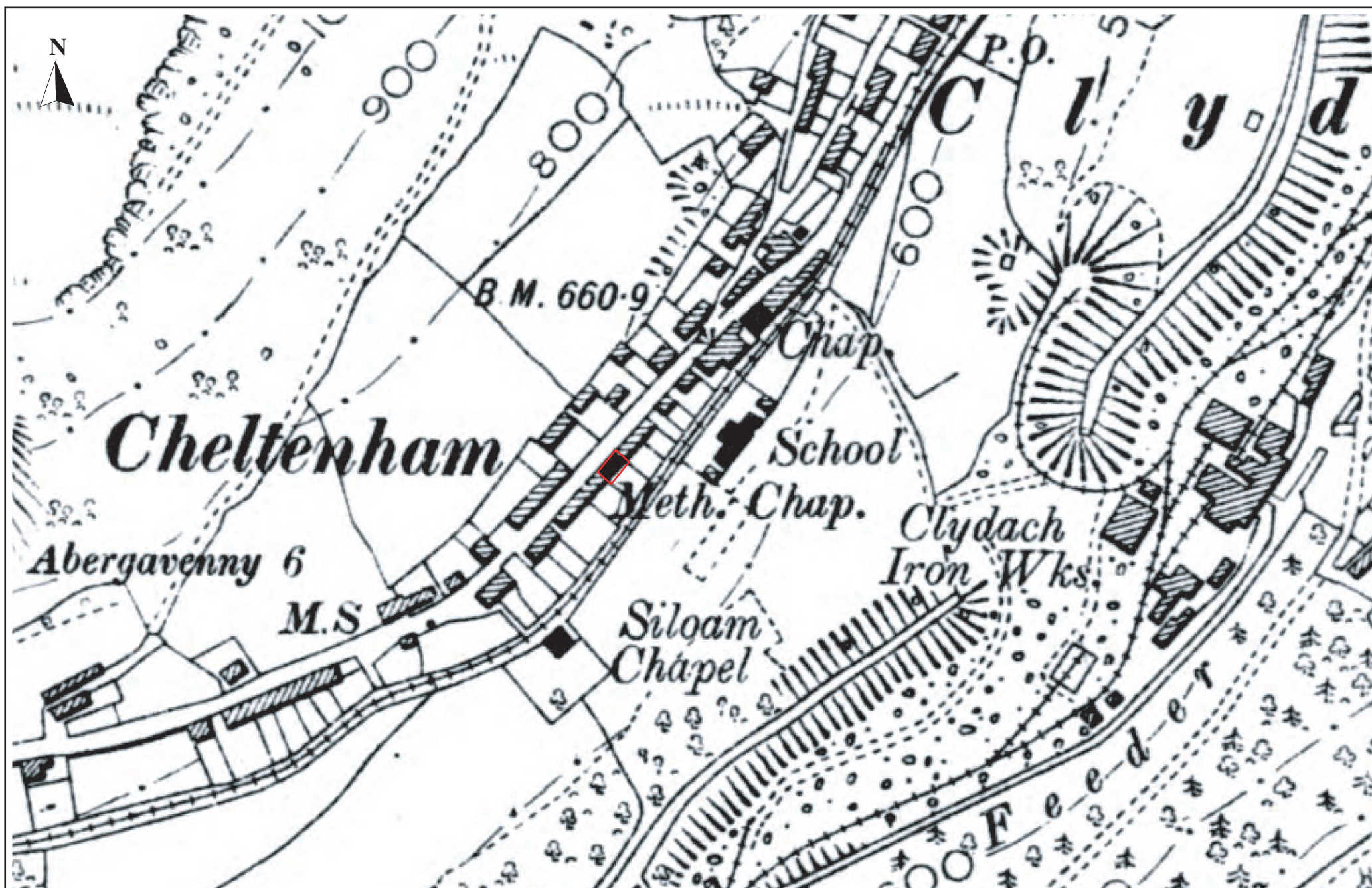
Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 6.

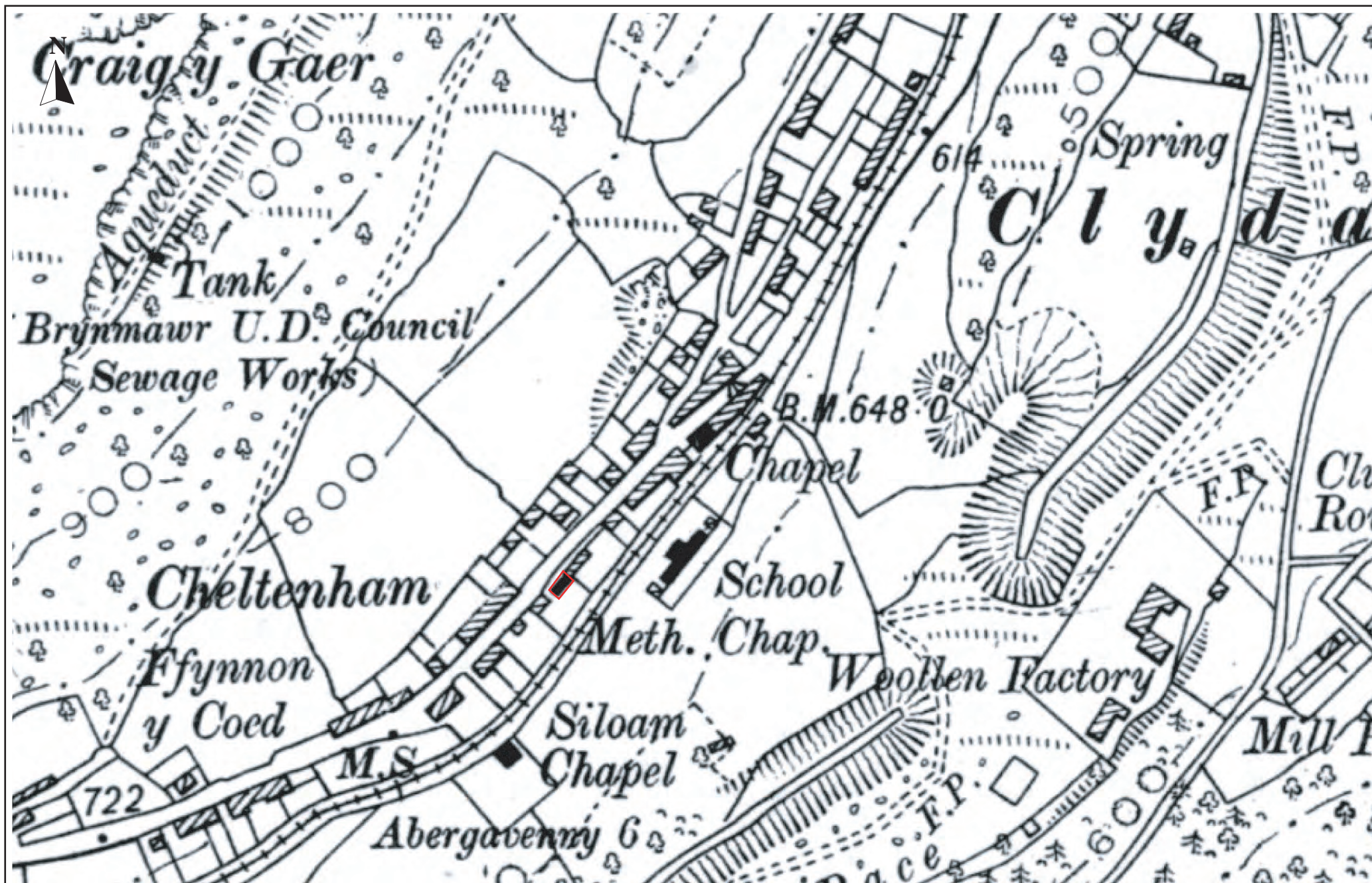
OS First Edition Map (1888). Chapel highlighted in red,



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 7.

OS Second Edition Map (1902). Chapel highlighted in red.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

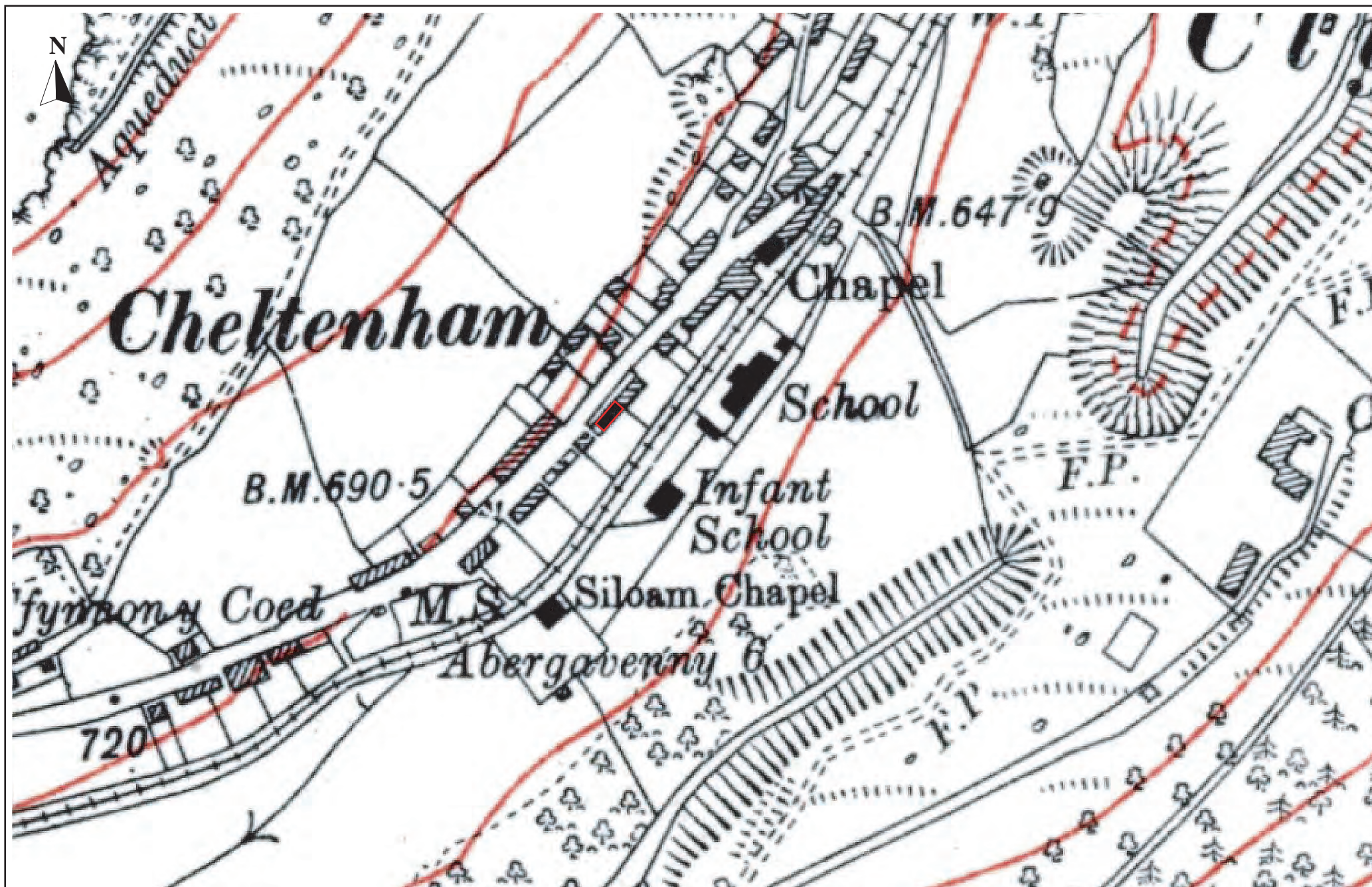
Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 8.

OS 1905 Edition Map. Chapel highlighted in red.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire (Old County)

Date: 14th Nov 2019

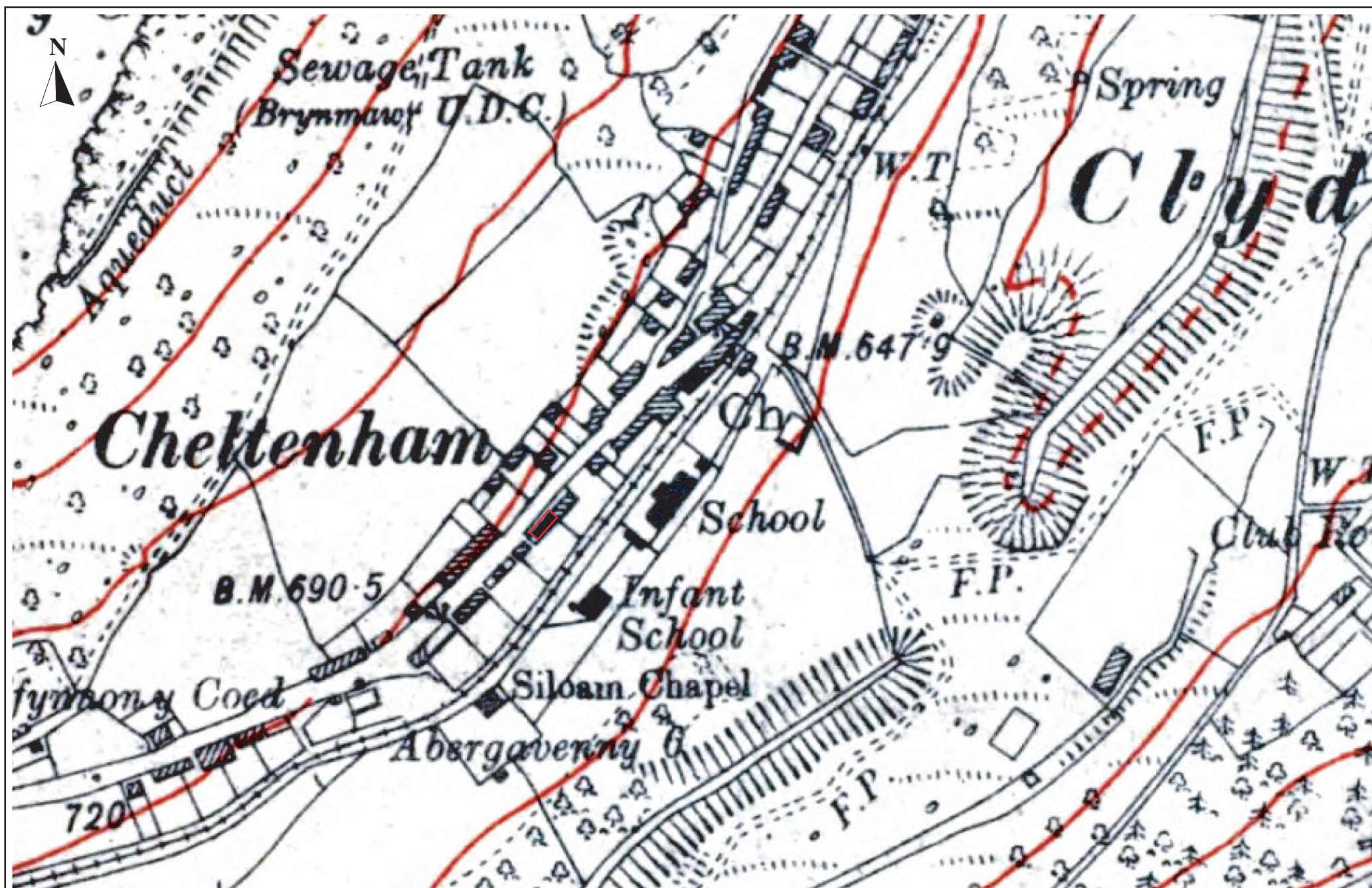
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Figure 8.

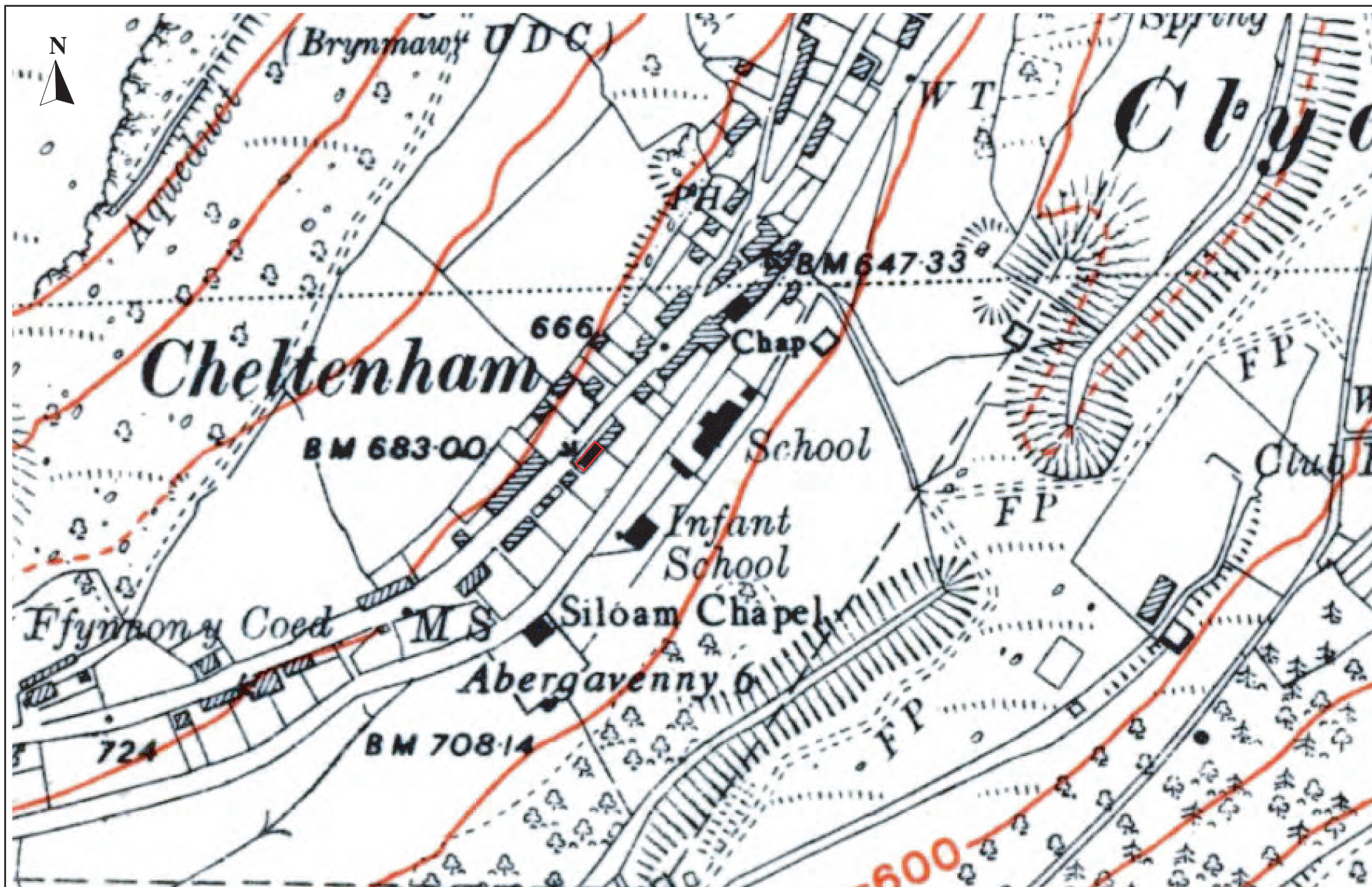
OS 1922 Edition Map. Chapel highlighted in red.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 9.

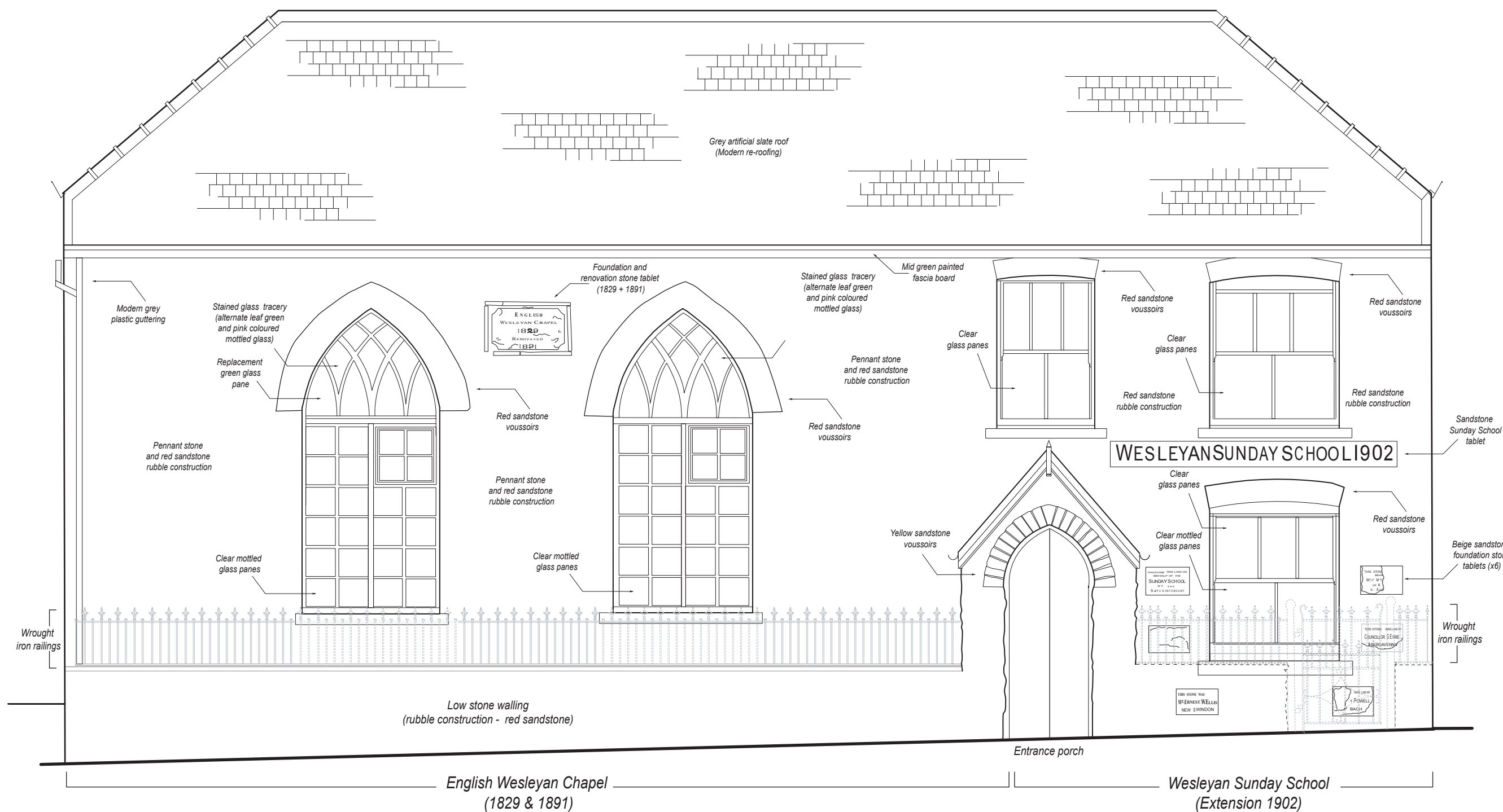
OS 1943 Edition Map. Chapel highlighted in red.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 10.

OS 1953 Edition Map. Chapel highlighted in red.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

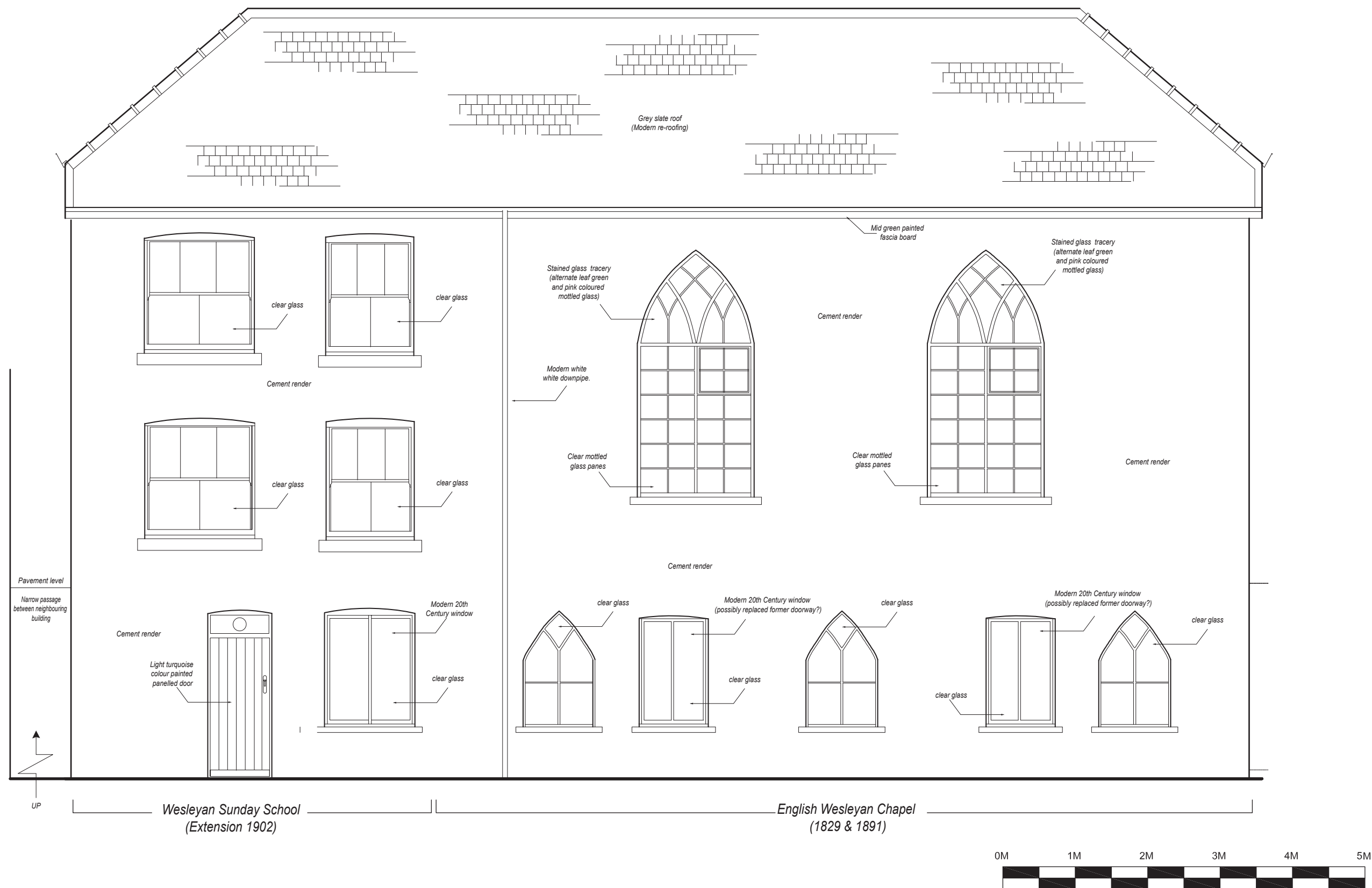
Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 12.

Front Northwest Facing Elevation.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

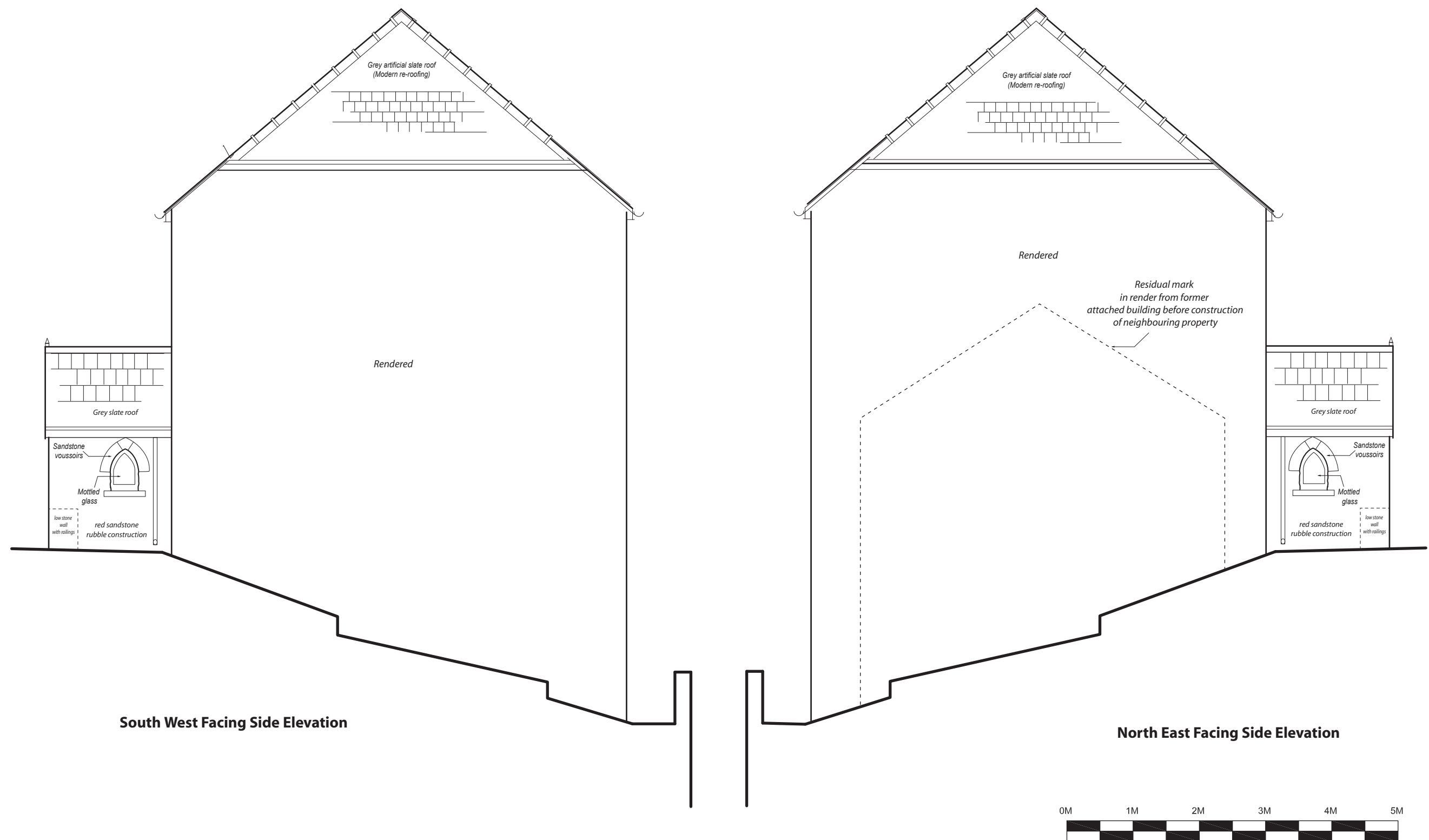
Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 13.

Rear Southeast Facing Elevation.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny

Date: 14th Nov 2019

Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 14.

Northeast and Southwest Facing Side Elevations.

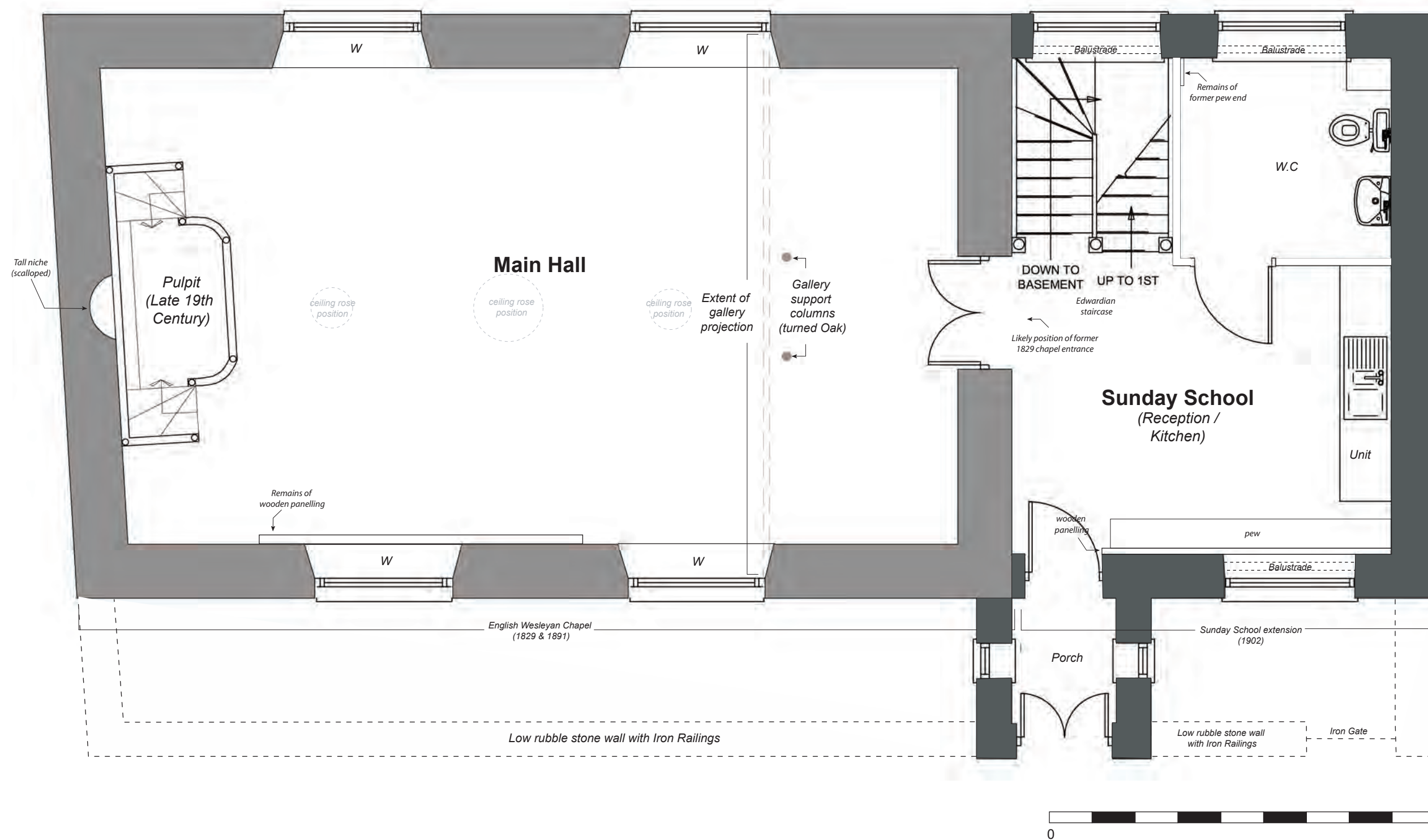
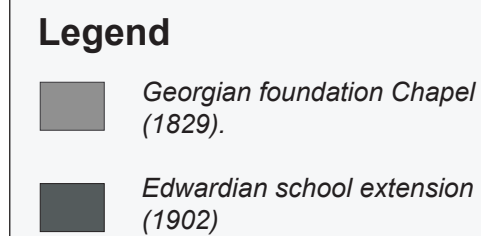


Figure 15.

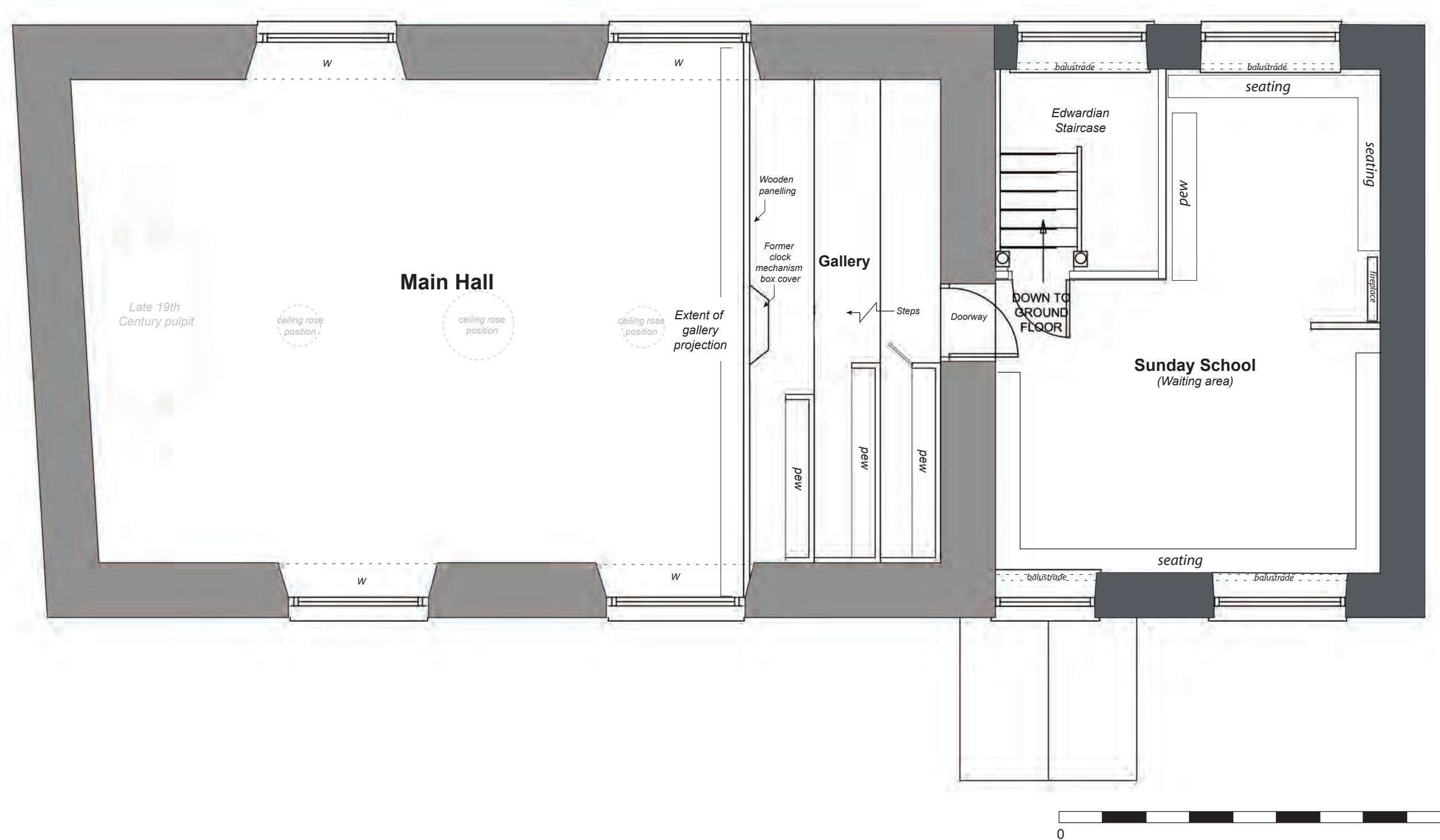
Ground Floor Plan (Phased).



Legend

Georgian foundation Chapel
(1829).

Edwardian school extension
(1902)



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 16.

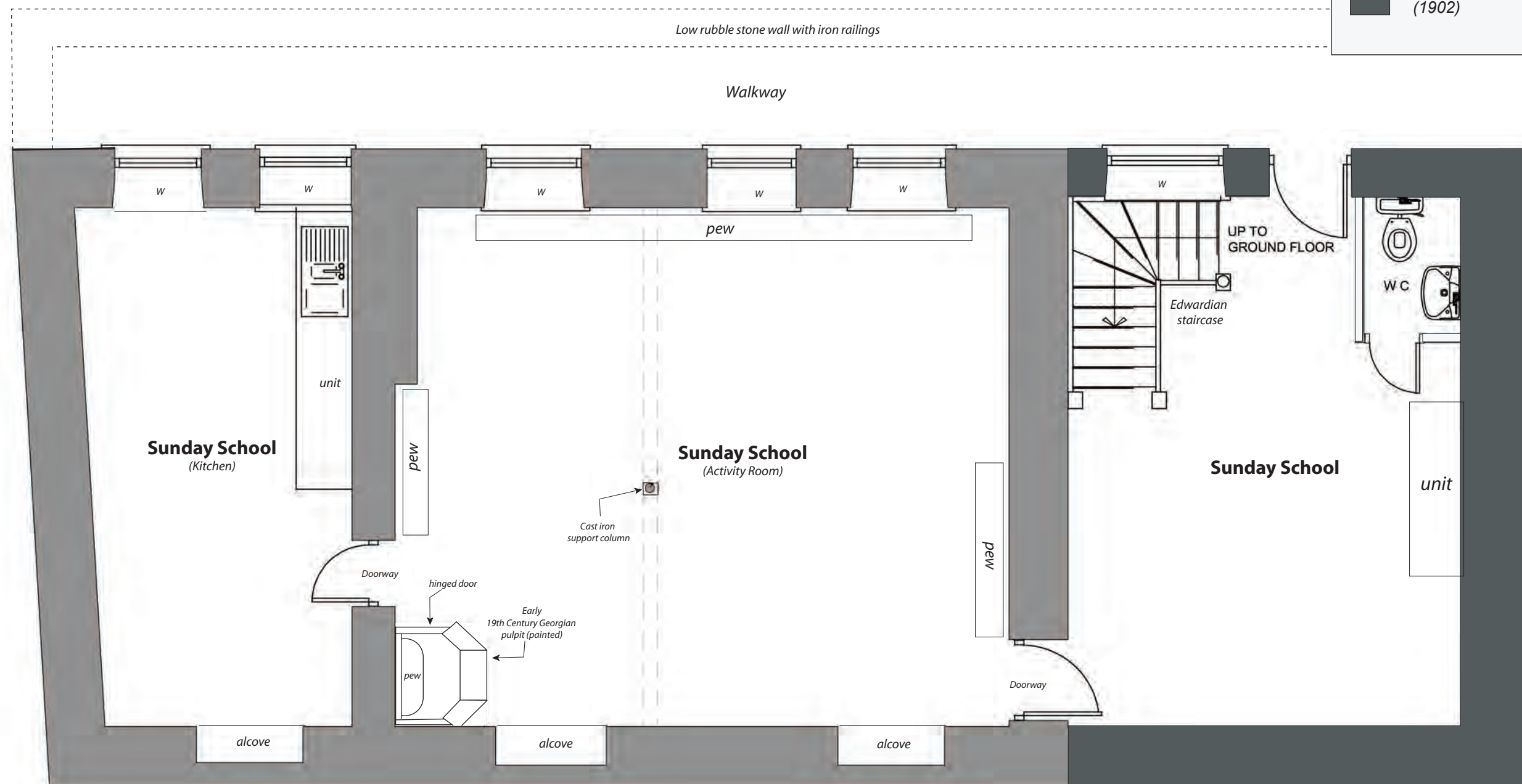
Phased First Floor Ground Plan



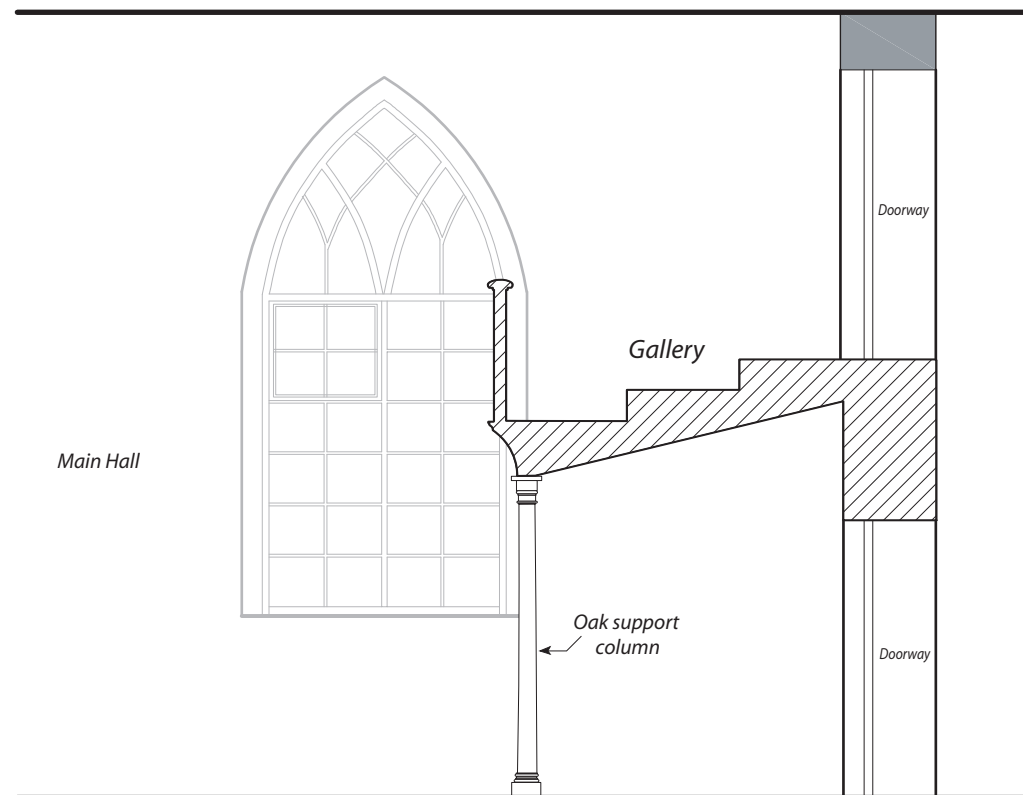
Legend

Georgian foundation Chapel
(1829).

Edwardian school extension
(1902)



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.		Figure 17. Basement Ground Plan (Phased).	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Drawn by:	Drawing No.		



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny

Date: 14th Nov 2019

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Figure 18.

Section drawing through Gallery showing profile of mouldings. Looking southeast.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.

Date: 14th Nov 2019

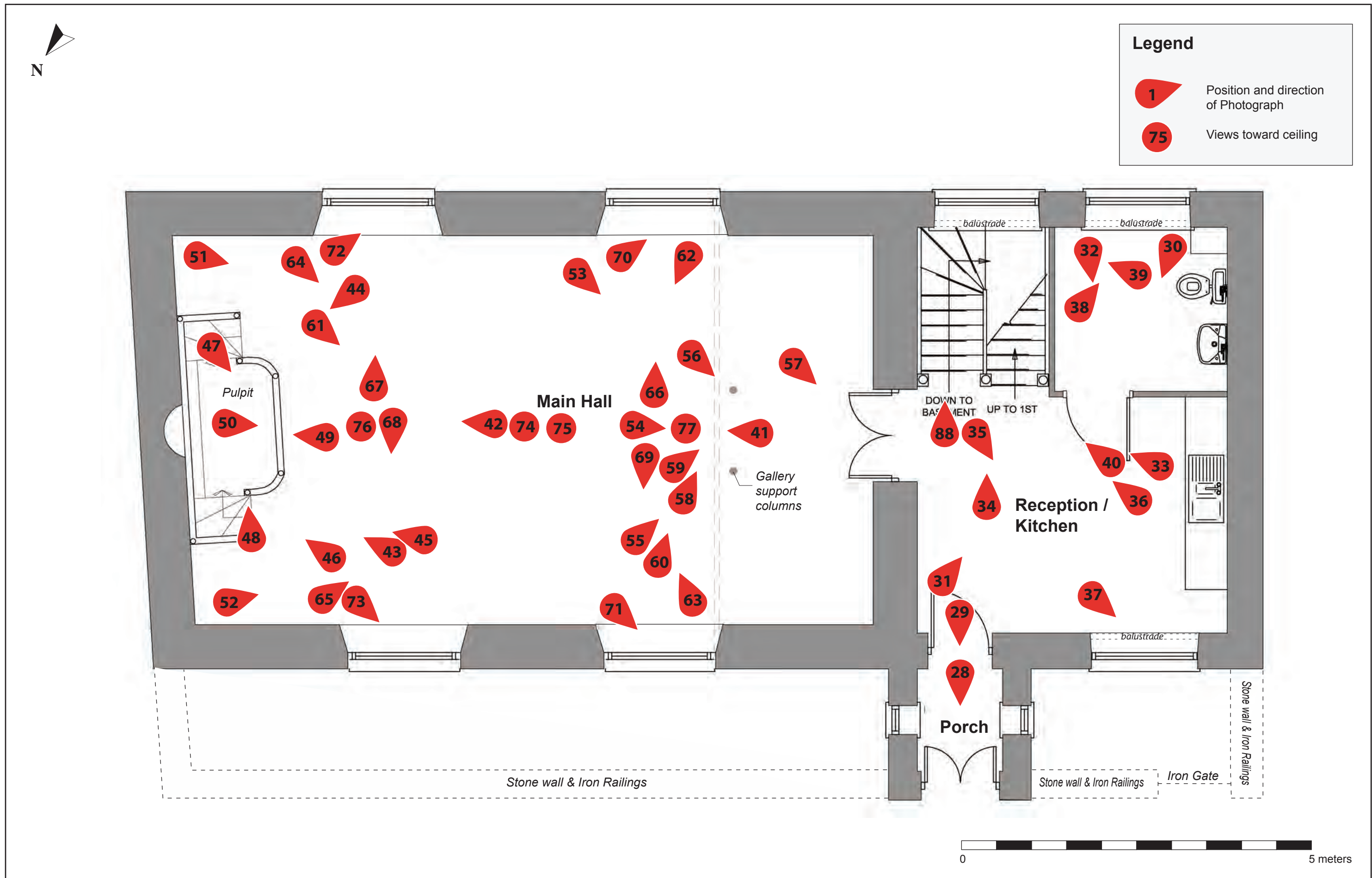
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Figure 19.

Photo Index Plan - Exterior views (Plate No's. 1 - 27).



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 20.

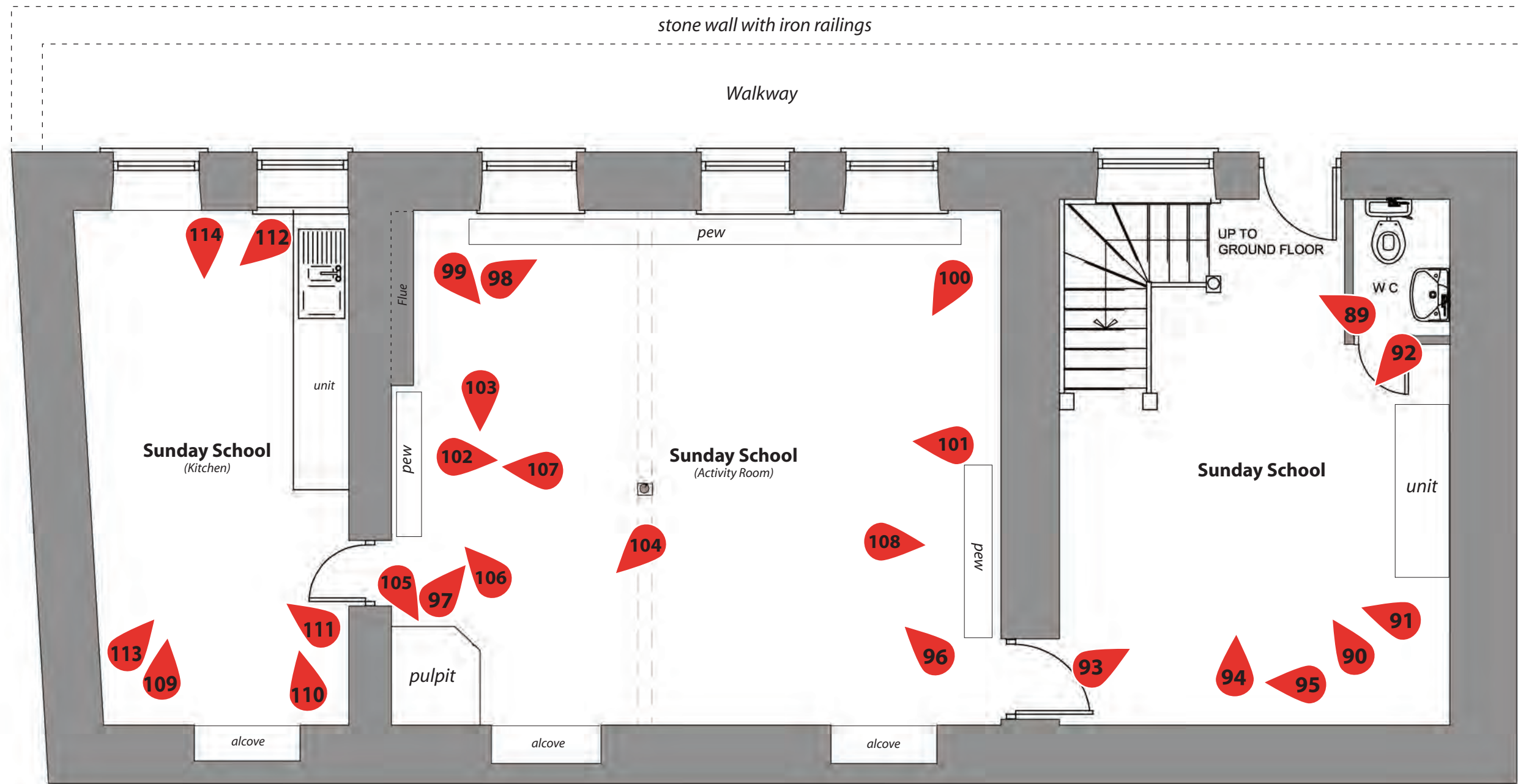
Photo Index Plan - Interior views - Ground Floor (Plate No's. 28 - 77 and 88)



Legend

1

Position and direction of Photograph



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny		Figure 21. Photo Index Plan - Interior views - Basement (Plate No's. 89 - 114)	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Drawn by:	Drawing No.		



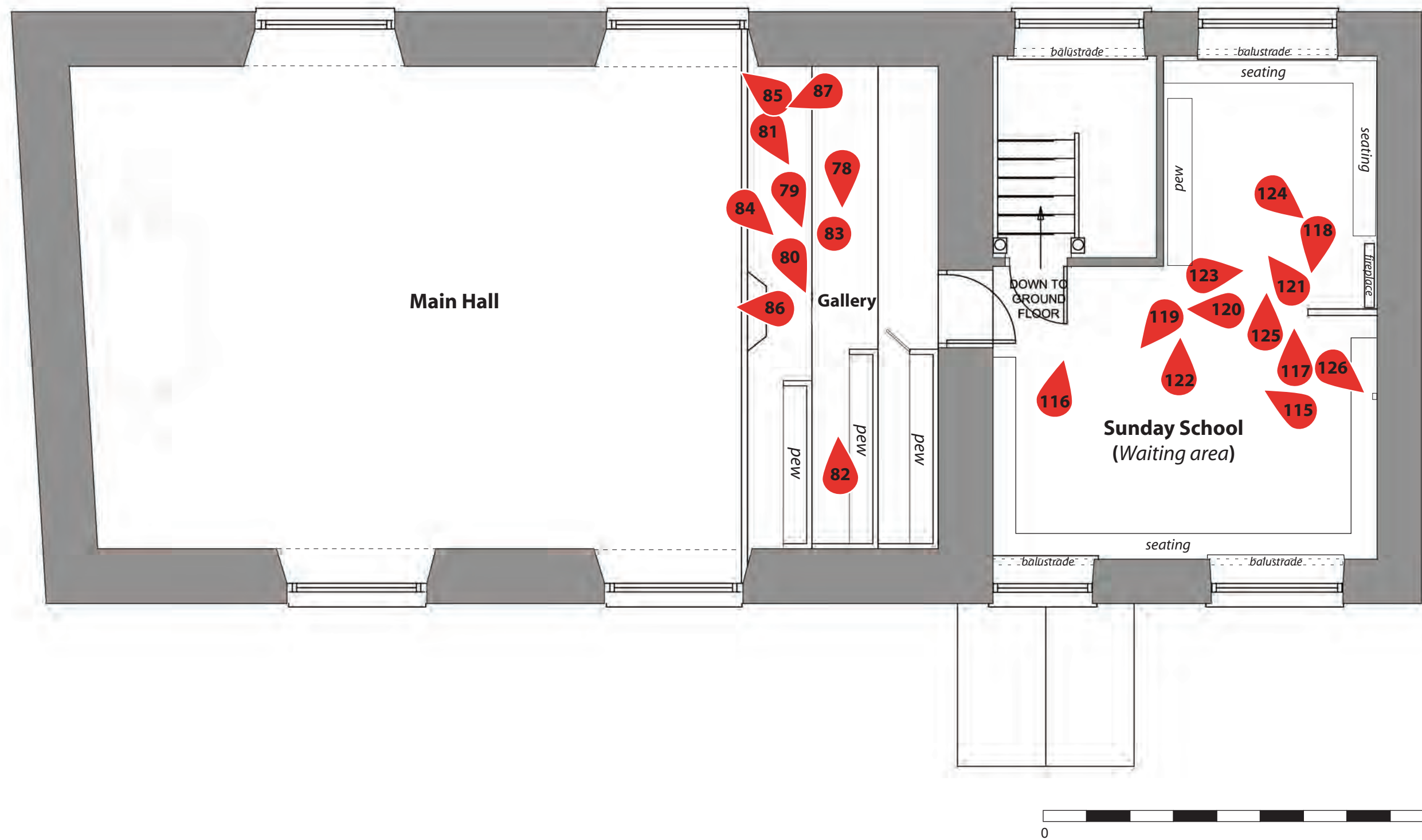
Legend

1

Position and direction of Photograph

75

Views toward ceiling



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.	
Date: 14th Nov 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 22. Photo Index Plan - Interior views - First Floor and Gallery (Plate No's. 78 - 87 and 115 - 126)

APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 01. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny. Looking northeast.



Plate 02. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny. Looking Southwest.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 01 - 02	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 03. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny. Looking northeast.



Plate 04. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny. Looking Southwest.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 03 - 04	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 05. Spliced view of external front facade. Looking south.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 05

Heritage
Recording Services Wales



Plate 06. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Looking northeast.



Plate 07. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Looking Southwest.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 06 - 07	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 08. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade. Looking southeast.



Plate 09. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Entrance porch. Looking South.



Plate 10. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Entrance porch. Looking northeast.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date Taken: November 2019

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by:

RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

08 - 10



Plate 11. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade. Commemorative plaque.



Plate 12. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade of Sunday School section. Note Commemorative foundation plaques.



Plate 13. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade of Sunday School section. Note Commemorative foundation plaques on left side of window at ground level.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 11 - 13	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 14. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade. Sunday School plaque. Looking eastwards.



Plate 15. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade of Sunday School section. Note Commemorative foundation plaques on right side of window at ground level.



Plate 16. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade. One of two Gothic windows in front elevation. Looking southeast.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 14 - 16	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 17. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Front facade. Detail of spear headed railings. Looking westwards.



Plate 18. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. View of NE facing elevation. Looking SSE.



Plate 19. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. View of SW facing elevation. Looking SE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date Taken: November 2019

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by:

RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

17 - 19



Plate 20. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Raer facade. Looking Northwest from are aof Clydach School.



Plate 21. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Raer facade. Looking Northwest from are aof Clydach School.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 20 - 21	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 22. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Rear facade. Looking NE.



Plate 23. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Rear facade. Looking SW.



Plate 24. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Rear facade. Detail of ground floor window. Looking W.



Plate 25. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Rear facade. Detail of ground floor windows. Looking W.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 22 - 25	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 26. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Entrance porch. Looking SE.



Plate 27. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Entrance porch. Looking SE.



Plate 28. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Entrance porch. Looking NW.



Plate 29. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire.
Entrance porch. Looking NW.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date Taken: November 2019

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

26 - 29



Plate 30. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Looking N.



Plate 31. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Looking S.



Plate 32. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Looking NW.



Plate 33. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Looking SE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 30 - 33

Heritage
Recording Services Wales



Plate 34. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Edwardian staircase. Looking SE.



Plate 35. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Remains of former pew against SE facing wall. Looking NW.



Plate 36. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Looking W.



Plate 37. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Example of Balustrade in front of sash window in SE facing wall. Looking NW.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 34 - 37



Plate 38. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Example of Balustrade in front of sash window in SE facing wall. Looking S.



Plate 39. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Remains of former pew end against NW facing wall. Looking SE.



Plate 40. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Edwardian staircase. Looking SE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 38 - 40



Plate 41. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Looking Northeast toward late 19th Century pulpit and tall niche in SW facing elevation.



Plate 42. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Late 19th Century pulpit. Looking Northeast.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date Taken: November 2019

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by:

RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

41 - 42



Plate 43. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Late 19th Century pulpit. Looking eastward.



Plate 44. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Late 19th Century pulpit. Looking Northwards.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 43 - 44	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 45. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Late 19th Century pulpit. Looking eastward.



Plate 46. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Late 19th Century pulpit. Looking eastward.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 45 - 46	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 47. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Detail of Late 19th Century pulpit. Looking westward.



Plate 48. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Detail of Late 19th Century pulpit gaslight fixing. Looking westward.



Plate 49. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Painted ribbon motif 'GOD IS LOVE' above niche in southwest facing elevation. Looking Northeast.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 47 - 49	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 50. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of NE facing elevation and gallery. Looking Southwest.



Plate 51. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of NE facing elevation and gallery. Looking westwards.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date Taken: November 2019

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by:

RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

50 - 51



Plate 52. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of NE and NW facing elevations and gallery. Looking southwards..



Plate 53. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of NE facing elevation and turned oak gallery support columns. Looking westwards.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date Taken: November 2019

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by:

RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

52 - 53

Heritage
Recording Services Wales



Plate 54. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of NE facing elevation and turned oak gallery support columns. Looking SW.



Plate 55. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Oblique view of NE facing elevation and turned oak gallery support columns. Looking southwards.



Plate 56. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Detail view of turned oak gallery support column. Looking westward.



Plate 57. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of former Georgian entrance into Main Hall, now giving access to Sunday School Reception / Kitchen. Looking westward.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 54 - 57	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 58. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Front paneling of upper gallery. Looking S.



Plate 59. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Detail of former slot in front panelling of upper gallery for clock, now absent. Looking W.



Plate 60. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Supported Gallery and pointed arch window in NW facing elevation of Main Hall. Looking S.



Plate 61. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Pointed arch windows with stained glass tracery in SE facing elevation of Main Hall. Looking westward.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 58 - 61



Plate 62. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Pointed arch windows with stained glass tracery in SE facing elevation of Main Hall. Looking N.



Plate 63. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Pointed arch windows with stained glass tracery in NW facing elevation of Main Hall. Looking SSE.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 43 - 44	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 64. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Pointed arch windows with stained glass tracery in SE facing elevation of Main Hall. Looking NW.



Plate 65 English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Pointed arch windows with stained glass tracery in NW facing elevation of Main Hall. Looking S.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 64 - 65	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 66. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of pointed arch tracery window at SW end of NW facing elevation. Looking SE.



Plate 67. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of pointed arch tracery window at NE end of NW facing elevation. Looking SE.



Plate 68. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of pointed arch tracery window at NE end of SE facing elevation. Looking NW.



Plate 69. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. View of pointed arch tracery window at SW end of SE facing elevation. Looking NW.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 66 - 69	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 70. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Window details of pointed arch tracery window at SW end of NW facing elevation. Looking S.



Plate 71. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Window details of pointed arch tracery window at SW end of SE facing elevation. Looking W.



Plate 72. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Window details of pointed arch tracery window at NE end of NW facing elevation. Looking S.



Plate 73. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall. Window details of pointed arch tracery window at NE end of SE facing elevation. Looking NW.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 70 - 73	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 74. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Main Hall. Plasterwork. Central ceiling Rose. Acanthus leaf design.



Plate 75. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Main Hall. Plasterwork. Central ceiling Rose (oblique view). Acanthus leaf design with plain border.



Plate 76. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Main Hall. Plasterwork. One of two flanking ceiling Roses. Daisy motif with plain border.



Plate 77. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Main Hall. Plasterwork. One of two flanking ceiling Roses (oblique view). Daisy motif with plain border.

Project Title:	English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire	Plate No. 74 - 77	
Date taken:	November 2019		
Photographer:	Richard Scott Jones		



Plate 78. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall - Gallery. Painted boxed pews in gallery against SE facing elevation. Looking NW.



Plate 79. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall - Gallery. Painted boxed pews in gallery against SE facing elevation. Looking NW.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 78 - 79	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 80. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall - Gallery. Painted boxed pews in gallery against SE facing elevation. Looking NW.



Plate 81. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall - Gallery. Painted boxed pews in gallery against SE facing elevation. Looking NW.



Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 80 - 81	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 82. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall - Gallery. View of NW facing elevation of gallery. Looking SE.



Plate 83. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Main Hall - Gallery. View of painted panelling and boxed section that once held clock mechanism. Looking N.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire		Photo Plates 82 - 83	
Date Taken: November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		

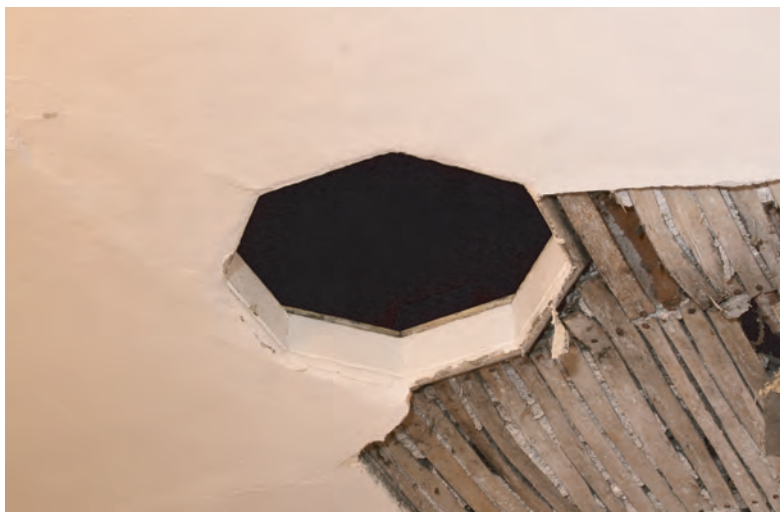


Plate 84. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Octagonal hole in ceiling in area of Gallery.

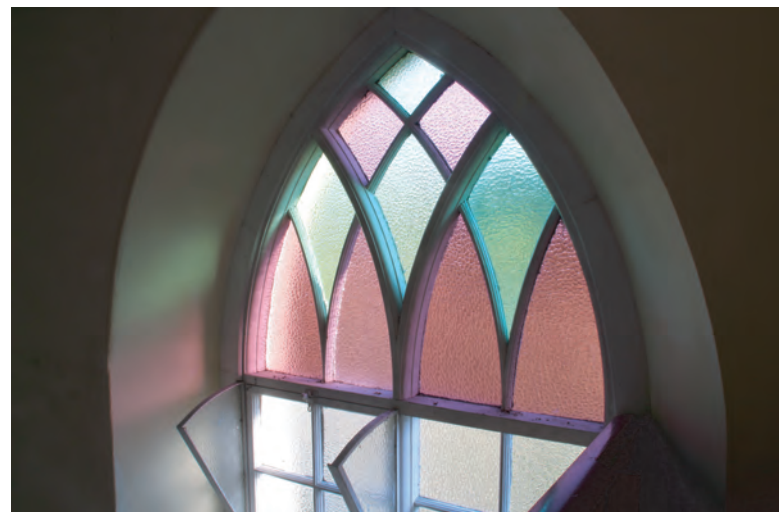


Plate 85. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. Main Hall. View of stained glass from area of Gallery. Looking SE.



Plate 86. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. View from Gallery of Main Hall with late 19th Century pulpit in position. Looking NE.



Plate 87. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Gallery. View from Gallery of Main Hall with late 19th Century pulpit in position. Looking NNE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 84 - 87



Plate 88. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Ground floor. Sunday School reception/ Kitchen area. Staircase to basement area. Looking SE.



Plate 89. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School School Room. Staircase to ground floor. Looking E.



Plate 90. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School School Room. Looking SE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 88 - 90	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 91. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. SW facing elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 92. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. SW facing elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 93. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE facing elevation. Looking SW.



Plate 94. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NW facing elevation. Looking SE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 84 - 87



Plate 95. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Door detail in SW facing elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 96. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. NW facing elevation. Looking SE.



Plate 97. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. NW facing elevation. Looking S.



Plate 98. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. Detail of painted pew against NW facing elevation. Looking S.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 95 - 98



Plate 99. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. SE facing elevation. Looking NW.



Plate 100. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. SE facing elevation. Looking N.



Plate 101. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. SW facing elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 102. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. Detail of painted pew against NE facing elevation. Looking SW.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 99 - 102



Plate 103. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. NE end of SE facing elevation showing remains of probable earlier Georgian pulpit. Looking NW.



Plate 105. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. Detailed view of probable earlier Georgian pulpit. Looking N.



Plate 104. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. NE end of SE facing elevation showing remains of probable earlier Georgian pulpit. Looking NW.



Plate 106. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main activity room. Detail of painted pew against SW facing elevation. Looking E.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 103 - 106



Plate 107. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main Activity Room. Detail of light brown painted pew positioned against SW facing elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 108. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. Main Activity Room. Detail of purple and blue painted pew positioned against NE facing elevation. Looking SW.



Plate 109. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE Room. NW facing elevation. Looking SE.



Plate 110. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE Room. NW facing elevation. Looking SE.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 107 - 110



Plate 111. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE Room. SW facing elevation showing 'story of 'Noah's Ark and the flood'. Looking E.



Plate 112. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE Room. SW facing elevation showing 'story of 'Noah's Ark and the flood'. Looking NE.



Plate 113. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE Room. NE facing elevation. Looking S.



Plate 114. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Basement. Sunday School Room. NE Room. SE facing elevation. Looking NW.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 111 - 114

Heritage
Recording Services Wales



Plate 115. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. First floor. Sunday School Room. View of staircase giving access to ground floor. Looking E.



Plate 116. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. First floor. Sunday School Room. View of staircase from ground floor. Looking E.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 115 - 116	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 117. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. First floor. Sunday School Room. Seating area in small alcove at SE end of room. Looking SE.



Plate 118. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. First floor. Sunday School Room. Seating area on NW side of room. Looking NW.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 117 - 118	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 119. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. First floor. Sunday School Room. Detail of painted pew in seating area on NW side of room. Looking N.



Plate 120. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. First floor. Sunday School Room. Detail of doorway into upper Gallery in Main Hall in SW facing elevation. Looking NE.


Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire			Photo Plates 119 - 120	
Date Taken:	November 2019	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 121. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Sunday School. First floor Room. Detail of painted pew against staircase at SE end of room. Looking E.



Plate 122. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Sunday School. First floor Room. Detail of painted pew end against staircase at SE end of room. Looking SE.



Plate 123. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Sunday School. First floor Room. Edwardian cast iron fireplace in NE facing elevation. Looking SW.



Plate 124. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Sunday School. First floor Room. Oblique view of Edwardian cast iron fireplace in NE facing elevation. Looking W.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 121 - 124



Plate 125. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Sunday School. First floor Room. Detail of painted pews at S end of room. Looking SE.



Plate 126. English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire. Sunday School. First floor Room. Detail of decorative Edwardian gas light fitting positioned at head height against NE facing elevation. Looking W.

Project Title: English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Breconshire

Date taken: November 2019

Photographer: Richard Scott Jones

Plate No. 125 - 126

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

English Wesleyan Chapel,
Clydach, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 0LL

ARCHIVE DESTINATION - RCAHMW

Site Name:	English Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach, Abergavenny.
Site Code:	EWC/2019/ABIR
PRN:	02472g
NPRN:	12212
SM No.	N/A
Other Ref No.	HRSW Rpt No. 211
NGR:	SO22501292
Site Type:	English Wesleyan Chapel 1829; 1891; 1901
Project Type:	Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording
Project Manager:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Date(s):	Nov 2019
Categories Present:	None
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of Duplicate Archive:	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
Number of Find Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Ref:	N/A
Copyright:	HRS Wales
Restrictions to Access:	None



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