



Former Ffrwd Methodist Chapel, Windy Hill, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham LL12 9TE.

August 2019
V 1.0



aeon archaeology

Level 2 Historic Building Record
Archaeological Event PRN: 164103
Project Code: A0218.1
Report no. 0208





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August 2019
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Level 2 Historic Building Record

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Project Code: A0218.1
Date: 14/08/2019
Client: Mr John Easton
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August 2019

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan John Easton i ysgrifennu cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol - Lefel 2, o hen Gapel Methodistaidd Ffrwd sydd wedi'i leoli yn Windy Hill, Cefn Y Bedd, Wrexham, LL12 9TE cyn troi at lety preswyl.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by John Easton to produce a level 2 historic building record of the former Ffrwd Methodist Chapel, Windy Hill, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham LL12 9TE in advance of conversion to residential accommodation.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by John Easton (hereafter the Client) to produce a level 2 historic building record of the former Ffrwd Methodist Chapel, Windy Hill, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham LL12 9TE (centred on **NGR SJ 30337 54839**) in advance of conversion to residential accommodation.

The archaeological mitigation was completed as part of a planning condition of full planning permission (Planning Reference: **P/2018/0847**). Planning permission has been secured by the Client for the conversion of the traditional Methodist Chapel known as 'Ffrwd Chapel' to form a two bedroomed residential unit with associated car parking, access, services and amenity area. The following archaeological condition was assigned to the permission:

Condition 4

No development shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an English Heritage 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 programme of building analysis and recording 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 and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: markwalters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason

To allow an adequate analytical record of the buildings to be made, before they are altered, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Aeon Archaeology in August 2019 (appendix I) which outlined the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which they would be met.

This design and all subsequent mitigation will conform to the guidelines specified in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2016) & Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



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Figure 01: Location of Ffrwd Chapel, Windy Hill, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham LL12 9TE.
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of Ffrwd Chapel, Windy Hill, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham LL12 9TE.
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and County Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses” (s66(1))

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the Town and Country Planning 1995.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Building Record

The requirements were for an archaeological building record to be prepared of the former Primitive Methodist Chapel at Cefn y Bedd, prior to the alteration and refurbishment work, however should observations or desk-based research suggest the potential for significant features to be encountered during the renovation and site clearance/ground work, the archaeological contractor should make arrangements to undertake any appropriate supplementary recording work during the development. The DCA at CPAT had requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) **Level 2**.

Both the exterior and the interior were viewed, described and photographed. The record presents conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but does not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based.

The detailed photographic record consisted of English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) elements:

- written account: 1-3, 6
- drawings: sometimes 1, sometimes one or more of 2-7
- photographs: 1,2,4

5.0 METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Level 2 Record

5.1.1 Written Account

The written account included:

- The building's precise location as a National Grid Reference and address form;
- A note of any statutory designation and non-statutory designation;
- The date of the record, name(s) of the recorder(s) and archive location;
- A summary of the building's form, function, date, and sequence of development.

5.1.2 Photographs

The photographic record included:

- A general view or views of the building;
- The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building and give an impression of its size and shape;
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

A Digital SLR (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution was used throughout.

5.1.3 Drawings

The drawn record included:

- A site plan showing the location and orientation of photographs. This will label all room spaces and indicate any architectural features of note.

5.2 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving

Following completion of the record as outlined above, a report was produced incorporating the following:

- A copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- A site location plan
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of photographs
- Basic background and relevant historical, descriptive or analytical detail
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- Illustrations, including plans and photographs, will be incorporated within the report.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORD

The former Primitive Methodist Chapel is located on the western outskirts of the village of Cefn y Bedd, c1.85 km north of Gwersyllt and within the County of Wrexham. The National Grid Reference for the site is SJ 30337 54839.

The former Ffrwd Methodist Chapel building is not recorded within the Historic Environment Record but is believed to date to 1843 with an 1877 rebuild. The chapel currently retains fixtures and fittings pertinent to its original function as a place of worship, including wooden pews, pulpit, and memorial stones. The building, although not Listed, is of local architectural and historical interest. The conversion of the structure to a dwelling will impact the original function, layout, fixtures and fittings and therefore a Level 2 survey of the building prior to conversion has been undertaken so that a detailed record can be preserved.

7.0 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

7.1 External description of Ffrwd Chapel (plates 1-11)

The chapel is a two-storey rectangular building orientated north to south and measuring 12.8m in length by 9.3m in width.

The structure is believed to be constructed from red-brick although all of the external elevations are clad in render. It has a double pitched roof of blue-grey slate with red ceramic ridge tiles above. A single chimney stack with red terracotta pot straddles the southern gable.

The northern elevation has two equally spaced thirteen pane curved sash windows in white painted wooden frames and with white painted stone sills, situated at first floor level. Centrally located between these two windows is a date stone which reads:

*Primitive Methodist
Chapel Built 1843
Rebuilt 1877
Ye Must Be Born Again.*

At midway height between the ground floor and first floor an arched discolouration in the render suggests a plaque has been removed from this location.

At ground floor level there is a date stone at the left-hand end which reads:

*This stone was laid
by
J OSBORN MORGAN MP
on Sept. 13. 1877.*

At the right-hand end is a similar date stone which reads:

*This stone was laid
by
MRS COWLISHAW OF FFRWD
on Sept. 13. 1877.*

At foundation level there is a projecting concrete skirt forming the foundation course of the building.

To the immediate left of the northern elevation a blue-painted cast iron gate with sandstone piers permits access to the side and entrance of the building.

The eastern elevation has a grey PVC gutter running the length of the elevation beneath which is a corbel table of bullnosed red-brick. The first floor has three equally spaced thirteen pane curved sash windows in white painted wooden frames and with white painted stone sills. At the left-hand end a blue-painted wooden double door, set within white painted wooden frame and with four pane fanlight above, permits access into the first floor chapel. This door is accessed via a set of sandstone steps that alight from the ground floor.

At ground floor level there are two 9 pane sash windows in white painted wooden frames and with white painted stone sills, situated at the left and right-hand ends. A blue-painted wooden double door in white-painted frame is situated between the two windows, which permits access to the ground floor Meeting Hall.

The southern elevation is featureless aside from a centralised projecting chimney stack. The lower 1m high portion of the wall is of exposed red-brick bonded by lime mortar.

At the rear of the property and located on its side, a memorial stone reads:

*IN MEMORY OF
MY DEAR HUSBAND
WATKIN MANSLEY
FOR 45 YEARS OFFICIALLY
CONNECTED WITH THIS CHURCH
DIED JUNE 8TH 1929.*

The western elevation has a grey PVC gutter running the length beneath which is a corbel table of bullnosed red bricks. At first floor height there are four equally spaced thirteen pane curved sash windows in white painted wooden frames and with white painted stone sills. At ground floor level there are four equally spaced nine pane sash windows also in white painted wooden frames and with white painted stone sills. The elevation is otherwise featureless



Plate 01: Ffrwd Chapel north facing external elevation, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 02: Ffrwd Chapel north facing external elevation showing date stone (centre), from the north.



Plate 03: Ffrwd Chapel north facing external elevation showing date stone (east), from the north.

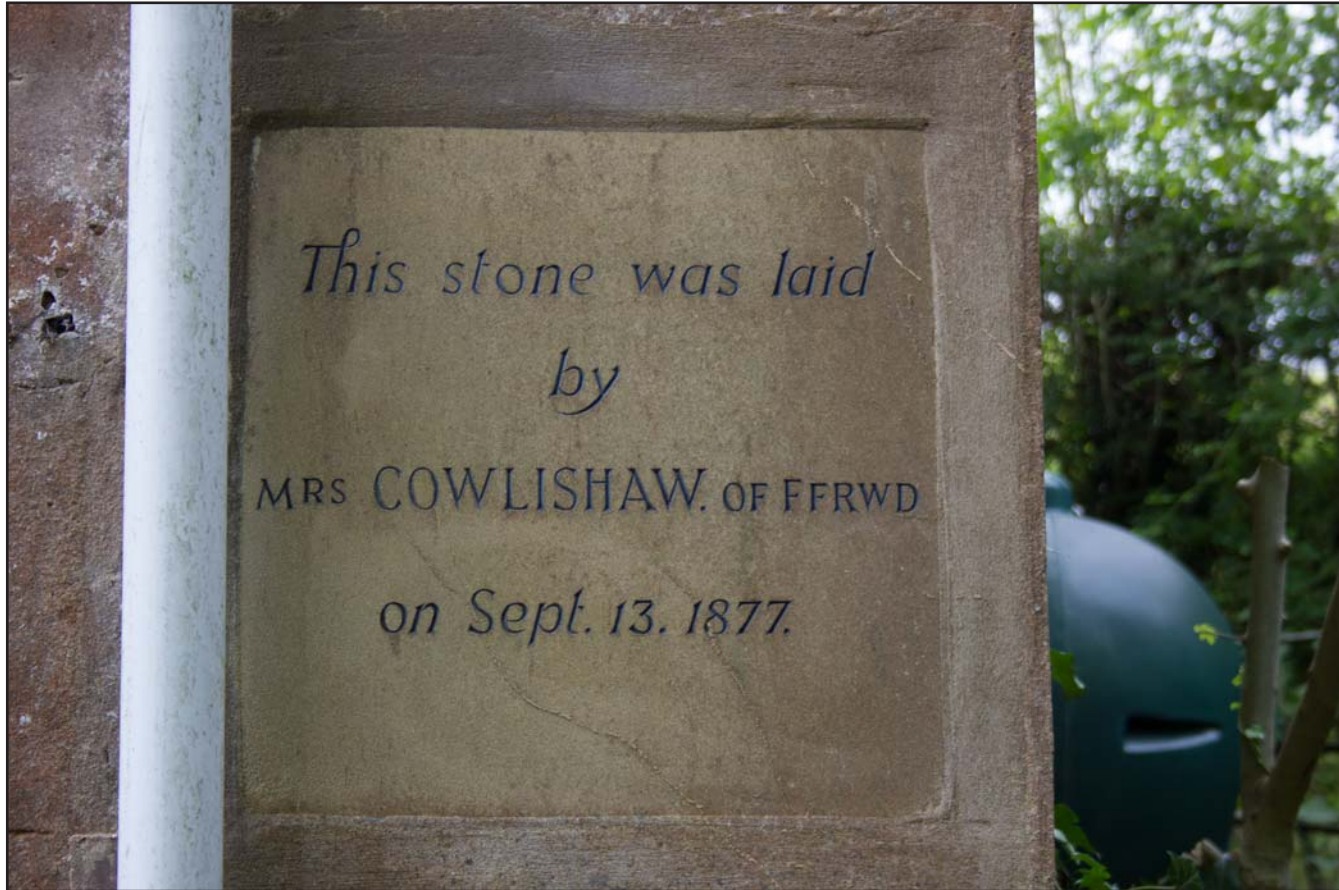


Plate 04: Ffrwd Chapel north facing external elevation showing date stone (west), from the north.



Plate 05: Ffrwd Chapel north and east facing external elevations, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 06: Ffrwd Chapel east facing external elevation, from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 07: Ffrwd Chapel east facing external elevation, from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 08: Memorial stone to the rear of Ffrwd Chapel (not in-situ).



Plate 09: Ffrwd Chapel south facing external elevation, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 10: Ffrwd Chapel south and west facing external elevations, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 11: Ffrwd Chapel west facing external elevation, from the west.

7.2 Internal description of Ffrwd Chapel (plates 12-34)

Ground Floor

Meeting Room

A rectangular room orientated north to south and measuring 11.7m in length by 8.1m in width. The ceiling is plastered and painted white and is separated into two rectangular bays by a north-south orientated, dark-stained sawn wooden beam. This is supported on two upright silver-painted cast iron cylindrical piers. There are six equally spaced modern electric light fittings.

The northern elevation is of white-painted brick in the upper half with concrete foundation below painted white. At the right-hand end and just below the ceiling level is a memorial stone which reads:

*P.M. Chapel
1843
Ye Must be born again
John Chap III.*

At the right-hand end is a traditional iron safe and modern wooden kitchen units with melamine worktops.

The eastern elevation is also of exposed brick painted white and has a nine pane sash window in white painted wooden frame situated at the left-hand end, beneath which the modern kitchen units continue. To the right of the window is a double wooden door painted dark brown and with cast iron latch which permits access to the side of the property.

The southern elevation is of white painted exposed brick at the left-hand end and white painted breeze blocks at the right-hand end. The elevation is featureless aside from an elevated platform/stage.

The western elevation is all white painted exposed brick in the upper half and white painted concrete foundations beneath the dado rail. There are four equally spaced nine pane sash windows in white painted wooden frames and a silver painted cast iron pipe at floor level which forms part of the heating system.

The floor is of light blue carpet with red carpet upon the stage.

Toilet

A rectangular room orientated north to south and measuring 2.9m in length by 1.7m in width. The ceiling is plastered and painted white with two equally spaced modern electric light fittings. The walls are all plastered and painted white.

The northern elevation has a centralised modern fibreboard door in brown painted frame permitting access to the meeting hall but is otherwise featureless. The eastern elevation has a nine pane sash window in white painted wooden frame situated at the left-hand end, beneath which is a yellow porcelain hand basin. At the right-hand end is a single toilet also in yellow porcelain situated against the elevation.

The southern elevation is featureless.

The western elevation has a single doorway at the right-hand end consisting of a wooden fibreboard door in brown painted frame which permits access to the meeting hall. The floor is of exposed concrete.

Boiler Room

A rectangular room orientated east to west and measuring 3.6m in length by 1.1m in width. The ceiling is of cast concrete with a single centralised electric light fitting. The northern elevation is of modern exposed brick with a single centralised doorway of brown painted wooden boards permitting access to the meeting room.

The eastern elevation forms a rectangular niche by an overhanging brick parapet which leads into what would have been the coal chute for the boiler but which is now blocked up.

The southern elevation is of stone rubble bonded by mortar and is featureless aside from a single doorway opening situated to the right of centre but which has been blocked up with red brick.

The western elevation is of modern red brick and has a modern boiler mounted upon it.

The floor is of poured concrete aside from within in the coal chute where it is of laid stone slab.

First Floor

Chapel

A rectangular room orientated north to south and measuring 11.7m in length by 8.1m in width. The ceiling is plastered and painted white with three equally spaced brown painted circular plaster ceiling roses. There are two equally spaced dark stained queen post trusses, with six equally spaced pendulum light fittings with opaque glass shades.

The northern elevation is of dark stained wooden panelling with two equally spaced thirteen pane curved sash windows in white painted wooden frames. Beneath these are two white painted modern radiators. At the left-hand end of the elevation is a brass plaque which reads:

*The Riha Organ
Was Purchased As A Result
Of A Donation
By Mrs Hannah Matthias
White House, Cymau.
It Was Dedicated December 1975
By Rev JD Buxton. M.A.*

At the centre of the elevation is a dark stained wooden pulpit of wooden panelling and with two centralised quatrefoils. This is surrounded by wooden railings also stained dark brown. To the immediate right of the pulpit are two wooden pews for the choir.

The eastern elevation has three equally spaced thirteen pane curved sash windows in white painted wooden frames. The elevation is plastered and painted white with dark stained wooden panelling beneath the dado rail. Between the left and centre windows is a wooden plaque which has the Title Deed of the Chapel mounted on a tin sign. Between the centre and right-hand window is a marble memorial stone which reads:

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ANN
THE BELOVED WIFE OF
THOMAS EVANS,
OF IVY COTTAGE, FFOSYCO, GWERSYLLT,
WHO DIED AUGUST 29TH 1902,
AGED 58 YEARS.
ALSO THE ABOVE
THOMAS EVANS,
WHO DIED JANUARY 10TH 1907,
AGED 64 YEARS.
“GONE TO REST”.*

At the right-hand end of the elevation is a wooden porch constructed from wooden panelling which provides access to the exterior of the building. There is a silver painted cast iron pipe at floor level forming part of the heating system.

The southern elevation is entirely plastered and painted white with a centralised marble memorial stone which reads:

*TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
JOSEPH MEREDITH,
A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL,
WHO AT THE CALL OF DUTY LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HUMANITY
IN FRANCE, ON JULY 31ST, 1917, IN HIS 31ST YEAR.
GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS.
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY MARTHA MEREDITH, IN REMEMBRANCE
OF HER BELOVED BROTHER.*

Beneath this is a dark stained wooden batten that runs the entirety of the elevation and which has black painted cast iron coat pegs along its length. There is a single, centralised white painted radiator beneath.

The western elevation is plastered and painted white with dark stained wooden panelling beneath the dado rail. There are four equally spaced thirteen pane curved sash windows in white painted wooden frames. At the right-hand end between two windows is a marble memorial stone which reads:

*TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
THE LATE THOMAS COTTERILL,
WINDY HILL,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JUNE 28TH. 1906,
AGED 69 YEARS.
ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE P.M. SOCIETY, FROOD.
A MEMENTO
OF HIS VALUABLE SERVICES DURING A PERIOD OF 50 YEARS.
MARCH 1907.*

At floor level is a silver painted cast iron pipe forming part of the heating system.

The floor is of wooden boards orientated north to south with the pulpit situated at the northern end on a raised platform. There is mid-blue carpet down the aisles and wooden pews arranged into three sections with two aisles in between and orientated north to south.

Porch

The porch is a rectangular room orientated east to west and measuring 1.7m in length by 1.6m in width. The ceiling is of dark stained wooden boards and the north, south and west elevations are all of mid-stained wooden panelling. The eastern elevation is of a double mid-stained wooden door with cast iron latch and four pane fanlight above, permitting access to the side of the building. The southern elevation has cream painted paper in the upper half and mid-stained wooden panelling beneath the dado rail. The western elevation has a single wooden board door permitting access to the chapel with three transom windows above. The floor is of grey carpet.



Plate 12: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Meeting Hall, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 13: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Meeting Hall, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 14: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Meeting Hall, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 15: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Meeting Hall, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 16: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Meeting Hall memorial stone north elevation (east side), from the south.



Plate 17: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor toilet, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 18: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Boiler Room, from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 19: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Boiler Room showing coal chute, from the west. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 20: Ffrwd Chapel ground floor Boiler Room showing blocked doorway, from the northeast.
Scale 1.0m.



Plate 21: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 22: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 23: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel, from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 24: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 25: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 26: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel showing ceiling roses and trusses, from the north.



Plate 27: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel showing pulpit, from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 28: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel north elevation showing plaque, from the south.



Plate 30: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel east elevation (south side) showing memorial stone, from the west.



Plate 31: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel east elevation (south side) showing porch wood panelling, from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.



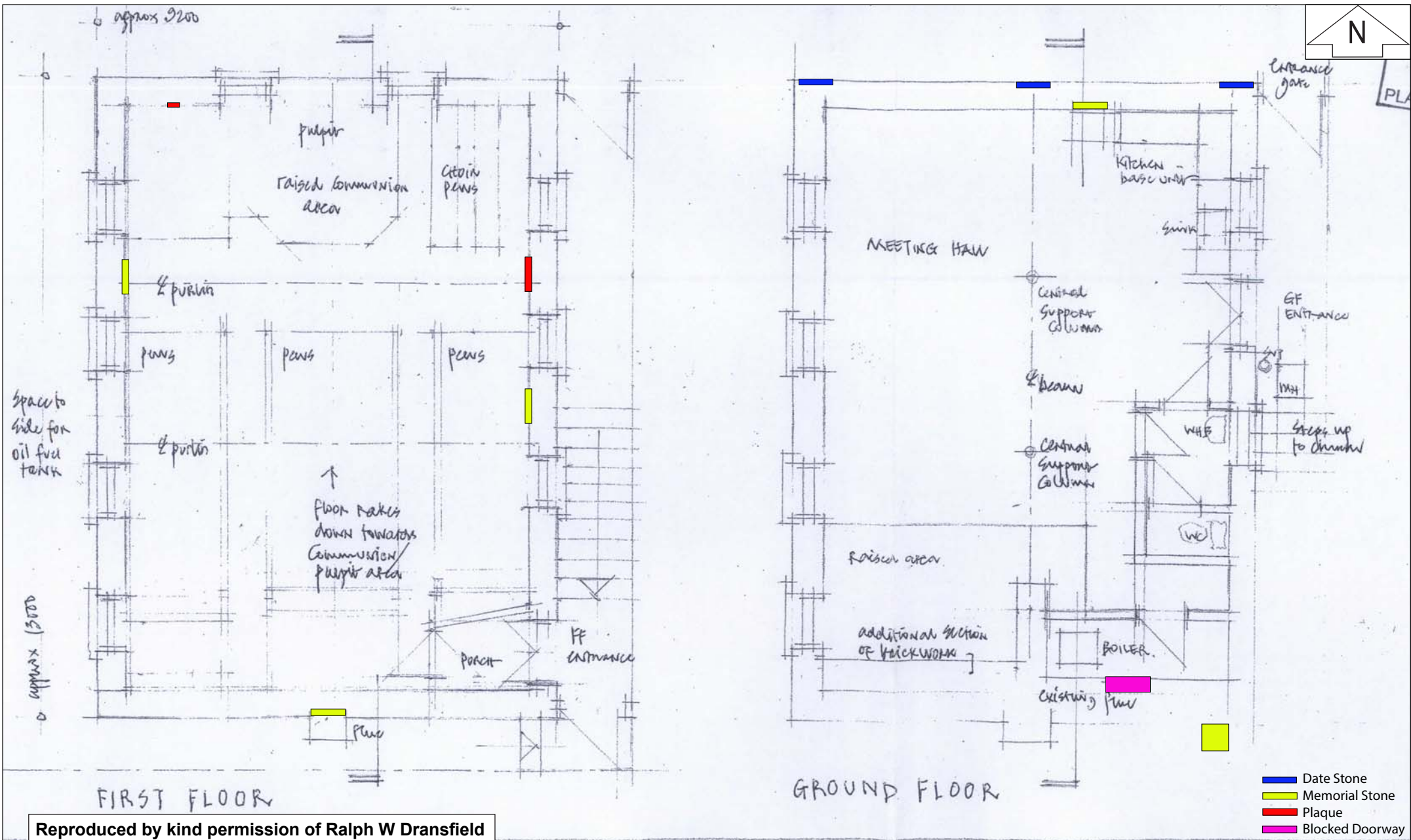
Plate 32: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel south elevation (centre) showing memorial stone, from the north.



Plate 33: Ffrwd Chapel first floor chapel west elevation (north side) showing memorial stone, from the east.



Plate 34: Ffrwd Chapel first floor porch, from the west. Scale 1.0m.

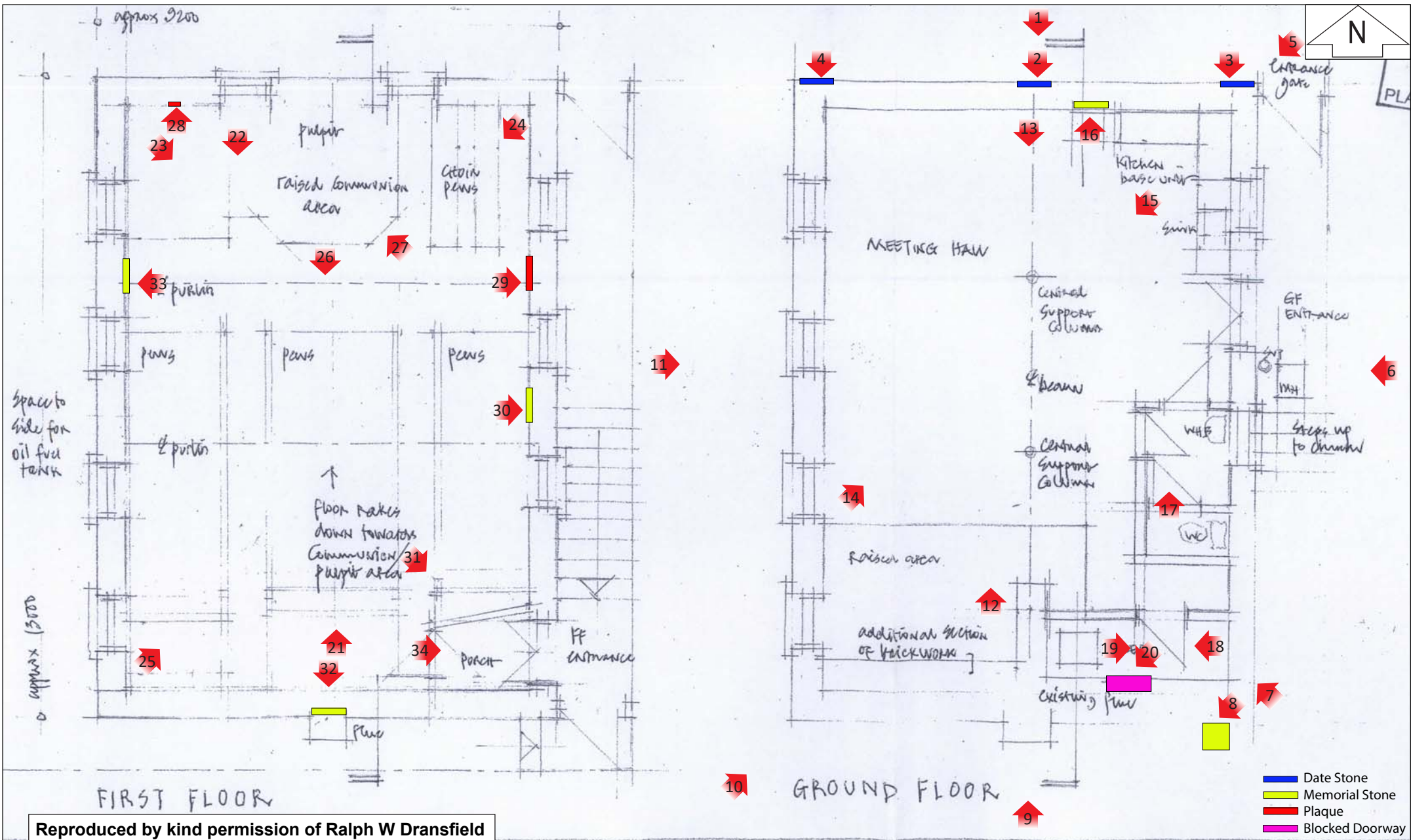


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Figure 03: Plan of Ffrwd Chapel, Windy Hill, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham LL12 9TE.
Scale 1:100 at A4.



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8.0 CONCLUSION

The former Primitive Methodist Ffrwd Chapel building is an important historical asset as a mid-19th century place of worship, specifically constructed to service the needs and requirements of the Methodist congregation of Cefn y Bedd and the surrounding area. The building played a vital role not only in worship but also as a meeting room and school.

The architecture, although not remarkable, is well preserved and its current fixtures and fittings testament to its function as a chapel. Moreover, the presence of three date stones, five memorial stones, and two plaques (including the Chapel Title Deed) preserve some of the social identity of the people for whom this building played an important role.

Despite a frustration of the historic function of the building from place of worship to residential dwelling the structure will retain the immediate outward appearance of a chapel, and the historic building survey will preserve via record the internal characteristics of a building that served a once historically thriving Methodist congregation.

The level 2 building record at Ffrwd Chapel, Cefn y Bedd has met the spirit and intent of planning condition 4 of application P/2018/0847 in that it has produced a time-stamped photographic and descriptive record of the building in advance of conversion. As such it is the recommendation of this report that the condition be discharged.

7.0 SOURCES

Maps.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SJ NE25, NW25, SE25, SW25.

Secondary Sources

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures

