

CPAT Report No. 1859


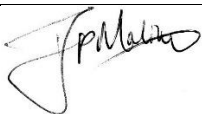
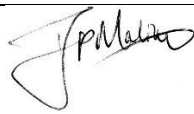
Foel Chapel, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Powys

Historic Building Survey



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Ian Tench
 CPAT Project No: 2616
 Project Name: Foel Chapel, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain
 Grid Reference: SJ 21921 20320
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: 19/1203/FUL
 CPAT Report No: 1859
 PRN: 214608
 Report status: Final

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Chris Matthews Project Archaeologist	Tim Malim Principal Archaeologist	Tim Malim Principal Archaeologist
5 th April 2022	7 th April 2022	11 th April 2022

Bibliographic reference: Matthews, C., 2022. *Foel Chapel, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Powys, Building Survey*. Unpublished report. CPAT Report No. 1859.



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8RP, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

trust@cpat.org.uk

www.cpat.org.uk

©CPAT 2022



The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation
 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	ii
CRYNODEB	ii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3 BUILDING SURVEY	3
4 CONCLUSIONS	6
5 SOURCES	6
6 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION STATEMENT	6

Summary

In April 2022 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a building survey of Foel Methodist chapel in Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain, Powys.

The chapel was constructed in 1878 as a single cell Wesleyan chapel serving the parish of Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain. The chapel was found to be in a disturbed state with the interior walls stripped of the former panelling and the ceiling removed to expose the joists. This enabled the identification of possible adaptations to the chapel including the possible blocking of a window on the northern elevation.

The overall character of the building is of a typical Welsh Victorian Methodist chapel with polychromatic brickwork, ornate timber gable fittings and a trellis porch.

Crynodeb

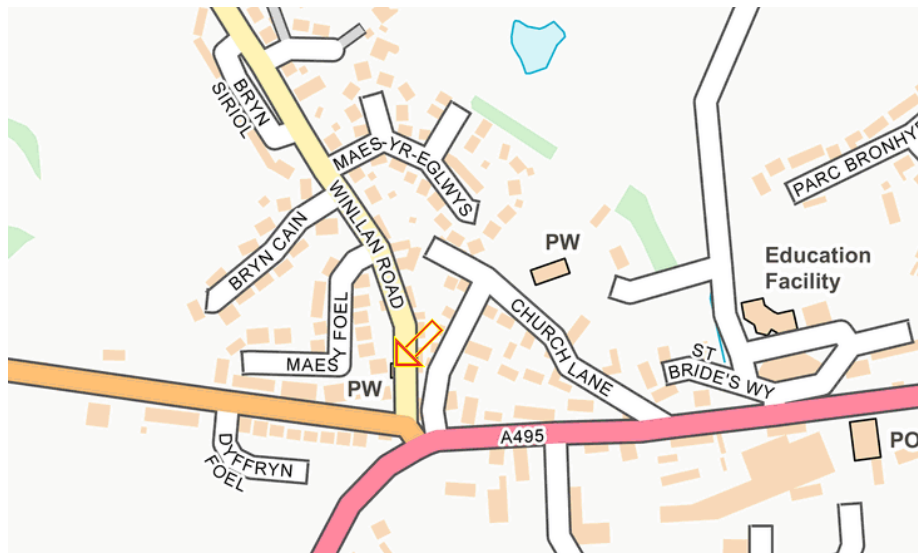
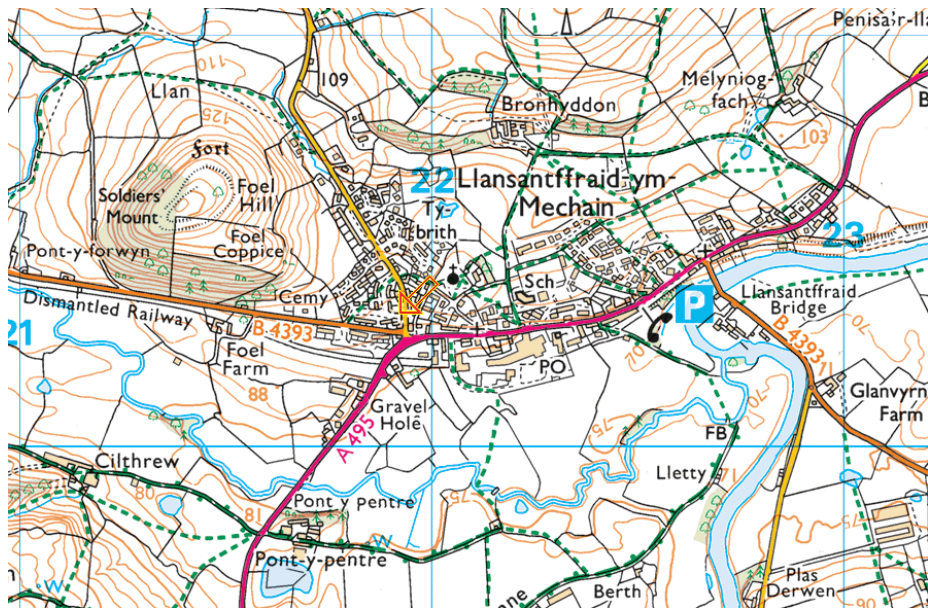
Fis Ebrill 2022, bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal arolwg adeilad o gapel Methodistiaid Foel yn Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain, Powys.

Adeiladwyd y capel ym 1878 fel capel Wesleiaidd ag un gell, yn gwasanaethu plwyf Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain. Roedd cryn aflonyddu wedi bod ar y capel, gyda'r hen baneli wedi'u tynnu oddi ar y muriau mewnol a'r nenfwd wedi'i dynnu i ddatgelu'r trawstiau. Roedd hyn yn golygu bod modd nodi addasiadau posibl i'r capel, gan gynnwys blocio ffenestr ar yr ochr ogleddol, o bosibl.

Mae cymeriad cyffredinol yr adeilad yn un nodweddiadol o gapel Methodistiaid Fictoriaidd Cymreig, gyda gwaith brics aml-liwiog, ffitiadau pren addurnedig ar y talcen a phorth delltwaith.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. In April 2022 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were commissioned by Ian Tench to undertake a programme of building recording at Foel Chapel, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain. The survey was conducted as part of a planning condition to convert Foel Chapel into domestic accommodation (19/1203/FUL).
- 1.2. Foel Chapel, constructed in 1878, is located on Winllan Road in Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Powys SY22 6AJ (National Grid Reference SJ 21921 20320) (Fig. 1) and was used a Wesleyan Methodist chapel serving the parish of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1 Location of Foel Chapel (marked in red)

- 1.3. Planning consent has been granted by Powys County Council for the conversion of the chapel into domestic accommodation. This is subject to conditions including a programme of historic building recording:

No development shall take place until a programme 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.

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

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Methodist Chapel was built in 1878 as a Wesleyan single cell known as Foel Chapel. The Chapel has a memorial stone built into the south-facing elevation which dates the Chapel and notes its dedication by Mrs WM Roberts of Ystym Colwyn Hall, a Victorian country house located 5.4 Km to the southwest.
- 2.2. The 1840 tithe map shows the location of Foel Chapel as a Meadow called 'Black Meadow', owned by a Mr William Griffiths (National Library of Wales). After its construction in 1878, both the 1885 six-inch and 1900 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps show the chapel located to the west of Winllan Road, inset into an agricultural field that surrounds the plot to the north, west and south (Fig. 2). Appearing at the same time to the north of the chapel is Foel cottage which is also inset into the field to the west of Winllan Road.



Fig. 2 Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1885 showing the Chapel and dwelling (circled in red)

- 2.3. The chapel's situation in this period would have given it an unbroken view towards the southern valley and would have been clearly visible from the junction of the Llanfechain and Meifod roads. The chapel was one of multiple religious buildings within Llansantffraid-ym-

Mechain, these included four chapels as well as the St Ffraid parish church, which is of medieval foundation.

3 Building Survey

- 3.1. The survey was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2020) and took the form of a Level 2 building survey as defined by Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. This is principally a descriptive survey. Figure 7 shows floor plans with location and direction of photographs. Contact prints are shown in Figs 8 and 9.



Fig. 3 Southern facing elevation of the building Photo CPAT 4981_001

- 3.2. The chapel measured approximately 9.75m by 6.25m and was constructed using un-frogged red brick with lime mortar bonding. The bricks were laid in a stretcher bond with a decorative lacing comprised of yellow and black vitreous bricks (Figs. 3 and 4). The southern gable had five separate decorative courses, one of which incorporates a circular feature that appears to have been in-filled by either mortar or sandstone. The lower 0.4m of the exterior wall comprised a spread foundation and a damp proof course level, topped by chamfered black vitreous brick. The north-facing gable is comparatively simple with no continuation of the decorative lacing. A slightly different red brick appears to have been used on the north-facing gable wall, defined by yellow striations in the brick that could be the result of a different fabric or the use of recycled brick. There is also a slight change in coursing in the centre of the northern gable with four separated rows of header bonding. Both could indicate some form of modification or remodelling of the northern gable wall.



Fig. 4 North-facing elevation of the building Photo CPAT 4981_005

- 3.3. The roof was slate with ceramic toothed-crest ridge tiles, supported on a simple timber 'A' frame (Figure 5). The south facing gable had a decorative timber wave pattern bargeboard with a gable spire. The north-facing gable had a simple timber rake also with a gable spire.



Fig. 5 East-facing elevation of the building Photo CPAT 4981_004

Fig. 6 South-facing interior elevation showing round-headed recess CPAT 4981_018

- 3.4. The chapel has six fixed windows with radiating tracery and decorative brick voussoirs that connect with the decorative lacing on the eastern, southern and western elevations. The south-facing windows had sandstone sills whilst the east and west facing windows had chamfered vitreous black brick sills that form part of the decorative lacing. Above the door on the south-facing elevation was a round-head voussoir containing a fanlight window.
- 3.5. On the south-facing elevation of the chapel there is a sandstone memorial stone built into the fabric of the main construction. The stone is inscribed with:
- "THIS MEMORIAL STONE WAS PLACED BY MRS W^M ROBERTS OF YSTYM COLWYN ON TUESDAY JUNE 25TH 1878"*
- 3.6. The chapel is accessed via an open-sided trellis porch on the south-facing gable. The porch was comprised of a lower red brick wall with a chamfered vitreous brick lacing. The upper trellis comprised an ornamental timber frame with a decorative bargeboard and gable spike. The roof was constructed of slate tile supported on an 'A' frame with ceramic toothed-crest ridge tiles.
- 3.7. The interior is formed by a single large open room measuring 9m long by 5.5m wide (Fig. 6). There is a timber floor with a raised section suspended on red brick stanchions the northern end, that once formed the pulpit. The walls comprised an upper plaster rendering with exposed brick on the lower third where timber panelling had been removed. On the interior south-facing elevation there is a round-headed recess, with a moulded plaster arch. The exposed bricks on the lower section of the recess were not bonded with the main fabric of the building, suggesting the recess had been blocked up or remodelled. On the exterior north-facing elevation, the area of brick coursing that corresponds with this interior recess had previously been changed to an English bond pattern, and therefore could indicate past remodelling such as the blocking of a window.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The overall character of the building is of a typical Welsh Victorian Methodist chapel with polychromatic brickwork, ornate timber gable fittings and a trellis porch. The chapel is one of four chapels within the village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain in addition to the parish church of St Fraids which is of medieval foundation.
- 4.2. The memorial stone located on the south facing gable wall marks the dedication and construction of the chapel to 1878 by Mrs Roberts of Ystym Colwyn Hall, which is a Victorian country house located 5.4 Km to the southwest.
- 4.3. The chapel had been partly stripped during the time of this survey, with the internal seating, pulpit, timber panelling and ceiling removed. This enabled the recoding of the internal exposed wall structure which revealed possible modifications made to the northern elevation. An infill of bricks, which were not bonded to the main structure, as well as a change in coursing on the external north-facing wall, suggest that there may have been a north-facing window that has subsequently been blocked up. The external brick work on the north-facing wall is notably different from that of the other external walls, indicating a deliberate simplification of this side of the chapel or the result of remodelling, with striations in the redbrick implying either a different source of brick to the other external walls, or recycling. There is also a circular feature set within the decorative lacing of the south-facing gable wall. This is likely to have been a gable window or vent that has also been blocked up.

5 Sources

Online sources

<https://www.library.wales>: Tithe maps

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/11424>: Foel Chapel Llansantffraid

Cartographic sources

1839 Tithe Map for the parish of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain

1887 Ordnance Survey 6" Map Montgomeryshire Sheet 10.NE

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive summary

45 digital photographs, CPAT Film 4981

CPAT Report 1859

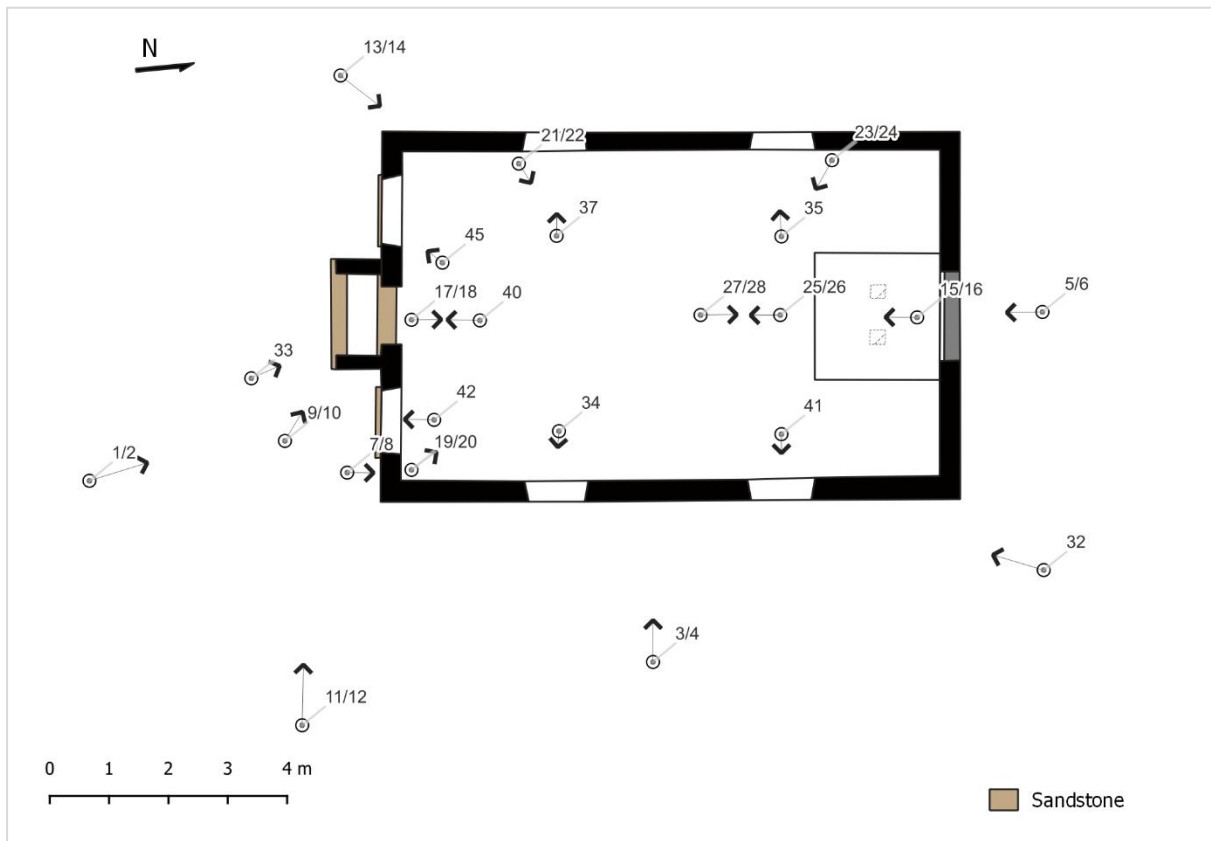


Fig. 7 Floor plan of Foel Chapel with photographic locations

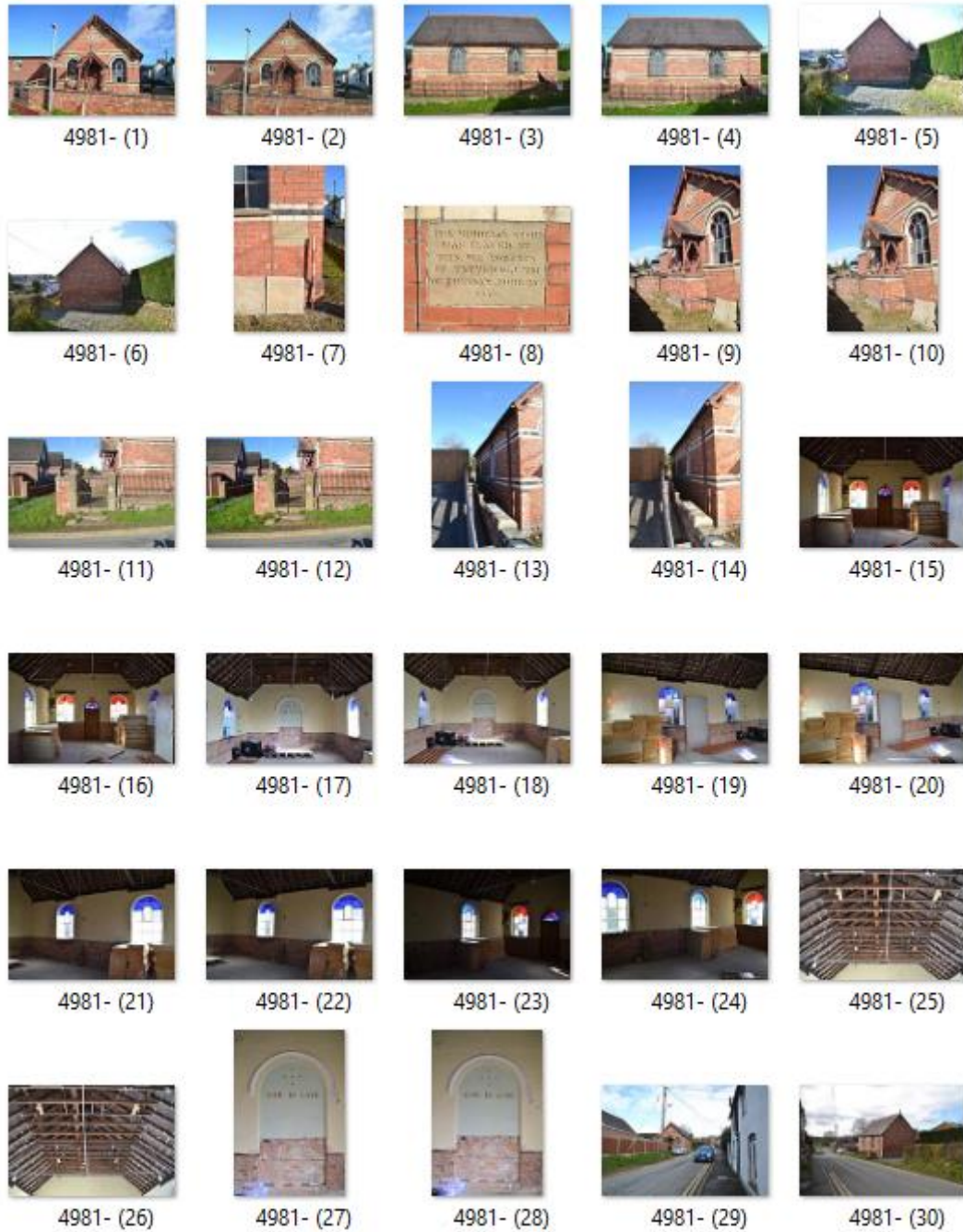


Fig. 8 Contact Sheet 1

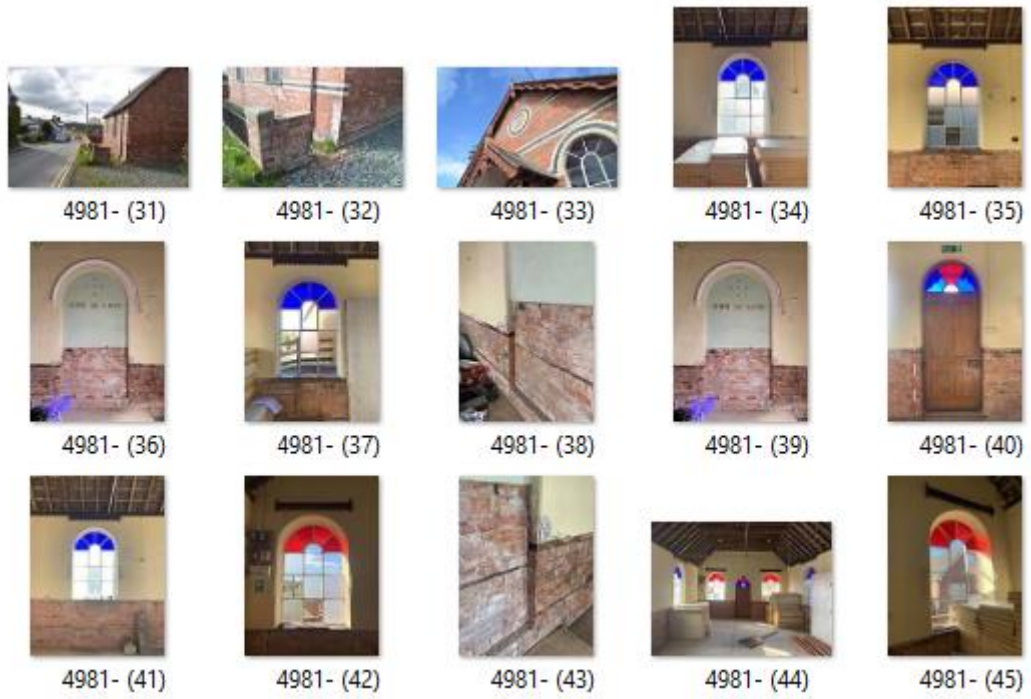


Fig. 9 Contact Sheet 2