# Archaeology Wales

# Nebo Independent Chapel, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg

Building Recording (Level 3)



By Susan Stratton

Report No. 1762



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# Summary

This report results from a Level 3 Building Survey by Archaeology Wales Ltd on the Nebo Independent Chapel building, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AU (centred on NGR SS 87674 99088) produced at the request of Ty Magpie Ltd. The work was undertaken as a condition of a planning consent prior to proposed demolition of the building (Planning application number P2016/0128).

Nebo Independent Chapel is a rectangular stone-built gable-end chapel, built in a Classical style. It was constructed in 1904 to designs by the architect William Beddoe Rees. The building has undergone a number of changes, largely in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century in an attempt to keep the building in use. Many decorative elements on the main gable-entry were removed, with window openings blocked. Internally many original elements survive, including the original layout of the main chapel room, although a ceiling was later inserted across the gallery and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor went out of use by the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building has been disused since around 2000, and has been gradually deteriorating, with dry-rot prevalent within.

## Crynodeb

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn deillio o Arolwg Adeilad Lefel 3 gan Archeoleg Cymru Cyf. Ar adeilad Capel Annibynnol Nebo, Heol Bryn, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AU (sydd wedi'i ganoli ar NGR SS 876474 9908) a gynhyrchwyd ar gais Tŷ Magpie Ltd. Ymgymerwyd â'r gwaith fel amod o'r caniatâd cynllunio cyn dymchwel yr adeilad (Rhif cais cynllunio P2016/0128).

Mae Capel Annibynnol Nebo yn gapel hirsgwar â thalcen wedi'i adeiladu o gerrig. Fe'i hadeiladwyd adeiladwyd mewn arddull glasurol yn 1904 i ddyluniadau gan y pensaer William Beddoe Rees. Mae nifer o newidiadau wedi bod i'r adeilad, yn bennaf yn ddiweddarach yn y 20fed ganrif mewn ymgais i sicrhau bod yr adeilad yn cadw i gael ei ddefnyddio. Symudwyd llawer o elfennau addurnol ar dalcen y fynedfa, gan hefyd blocio'r agoriadau i'r ffenestri. Yn fewnol mae llawer o elfennau gwreiddiol wedi goroesi, gan gynnwys cynllun gwreiddiol prif ystafell y capel, er cafodd nenfwd ei fewnosod yn ddiweddarach ar draws yr oriel ac aeth y llawr cyntaf allan o ddefnydd erbyn diwedd y 20fed ganrif. Mae'r adeilad wedi bod yn segur ers tua 2000, ac wedi bod yn dirywio'n raddol, gyda phydredd sych yn bresennol tu fewn.

#### 1. Introduction

In January 2019 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a Level 3 building survey (English Heritage guidelines), in advance of the proposed demolition and clearance of Nebo Independent Chapel, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AU (centred on NGR SS 87674 99088) (Figure 1 & 2). This report has been produced at the request of Ty Magpie Ltd. The planning application number is P2016/0128, the local planning authority is the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC). The work was carried out as mitigation prior to the demolition of the building.

The requirements for the survey were set out by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust — Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. Their recommendations are laid out in a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to the local planning authority. As a result, a condition is attached to the planning permission which states (Condition 5):

No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority

Reason: As the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact.

As a consequence, a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Rowena Hart, MCIfA (AW) prior to the work taking place. This was subsequently approved by GGAT (Appendix 3). All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014).

# 2. Building Recording Methodology

The primary objective of the building recording has been to describe and record, by means of high-resolution digital photography and measured drawings, all of the key internal and external components of the affected building so that a permanent record survives prior to its demolition. This will be completed by means of an Historic England Level 3 building survey.

The research and investigation into the building and its setting has included an examination of a number of primary and secondary sources, including information provided by Cadw on designated historic and archaeological assets, all relevant archaeological reports on works undertaken on the site and in the area, aerial photographic evidence, historic mapping, place name evidence and all relevant sources held in local, regional and national archives.

The Level 3 Archaeological Building Survey was undertaken by a suitably experienced Building Recording Archaeologist who can understand and interpret the structure and record the important details. The photographic and drawn record represent a comprehensive record, to archive standard, of the existing buildings and structures, both externally and internally.

The work was undertaken prior to any development works on the structure. The building is complete, in relatively good condition although deteriorating. The building is not currently in active regular use.

Access was possible to the building, both externally and internally, although concerns about the structural integrity of the upper floor/balcony area meant that the area was viewed from the access stairs only. Dry rot was noted and prevalent throughout. Descriptive records were made and photographs taken, in high-resolution digital format, of the historic structure. Elevations and a plan of the building have been illustrated at appropriate scales.

Susan Stratton undertook the building recording work. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Philip Poucher, MCIfA.

The work has been completed in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014) and to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 3 (Historic England (formerly English Heritage) Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (2016).

# 3. Historical Background

Nebo Independent Chapel is situated to the east of Glyncorrwg village, in the Upper Afan Valley. Although never likely to be a large settlement, the village appears to have a long standing, with the first documentary reference to a church in Glyncorrwg from 1519, and possible 13th century detail previously noted in its stonework (Brown 1982). By the start of the 19th century Glyncorrwg was a small hamlet, with settlement principally on the west bank of the Afon Corrwg. Records from this period (Carlisle 1811) indicate that the population of the area, including the hamlets of Glyncorrwg and Blaen Gwrach, was only 234. There is no indication as to the main occupations of the residents in this largely mountainous and rocky area, although coal mining is noted it is stated that it is dug only for local residents, presumably as access to more populous areas was difficult down the Afan valley to the south. By the mid-19th century it would appear that some settlement expansion was beginning, presumably as people sought to extract the coal on a larger scale. Transporting this down the valley would still have proven

problematical, but this was to change in 1863 with the arrival of the South Wales Mineral Railway linking Glyncorrwg to Briton Ferry, which opened up the area to coal mining and associated industries, attracting a rapidly increasing population by the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This is demonstrated in the historic map regression detailed below.

The hamlet was served by the parish church which still stands on Castle Street. As the settlement grew, members of Hebron Chapel in neighbouring Cymmer decided to start a Welsh Independent cause in 1860 (Brown 1987). Initially this met in the home of Jonathan Jones. By 1862 the congregation had grown enough to lease land in the area of what is now Pleasant View to construct a wooden chapel on with space for a cemetery. This chapel was sold in 1866 as it had been outgrown, and the new Nebo chapel was built on the eastern edge of Glyngorrwg, on the current site of the chapel. The lease for this new chapel was considerably more expensive than the previous one, and additional financial strain was caused by a loss of members due to a period of industrial depression (Brown 1987).

In 1876 the chapel had only 76 members (Brown 1987). The population of Glyncorrwg however continued to grow, no doubt spurred by the opening of a number of new mines around the turn of the century. By 1900 the population of the village had grown to around 1300. By 1903 the situation had improved enough to commence expensive rebuilding works, which included the elaborate metalwork decorations to the balcony and plasterwork behind the pulpit. The new building was designed by architect William Beddoe Rees and cost £2000. The new Nebo chapel had space for 600 attendees.

Beddoe Rees was born in Maesteg in 1877 and trained as an architect. He made his name early on in his career largely designing chapels, and around the turn of the century is responsible for designing at least 20 chapels, largely in the South Wales Valleys region. Glyncorrwg was designed roughly midway through his career as a chapel architect. In 1905, not long after designing Nebo, he also produced a short manual on chapel building (Beddoe Rees 1905), one of a few architects to do so. The gable-entry plan and Classical style of Nebo was well-established by the time of its construction, and represents a relatively standard design for Beddoe Rees. There are around 14 Beddoe Rees-designed chapels still standing (James 1989), with similar examples in Resolven (Tabernacl) and Manselton, Swansea (Mount Calvary), but with many designs also on a grander scale, particularly in his home towns of Maesteg (Tabor and Bethania) and Cardiff (Plas Newydd, Pentyrch Street), and more elaborate and unusual designs can be seen in his rounded plan for the Ebenezer Chapel in Llandudno. With the end of this later boom in chapel building around the time of the start of the First World War, Beddoe Rees moved on from designing chapel to become the managing director of Welsh Garden Cities Ltd, constructing a number of garden villages in the South Wales valleys. It was largely for this work that he gained his notoriety (he was knighted in 1917 in recognition of his work with Welsh Garden Cities Ltd) and his wealth, later becoming an MP for Bristol South.

An early, undated, photograph found in the regional archive shows the original façade of the chapel (Photo 1). It was a three bay, two storey elevation with a segmental pediment in Classical style. It appears to have had carved stone decorative elements. The storeys are marked by string courses and the bays by pilasters. To the ground floor the pilasters are banded, while to the first floor they appear to be Doric although the detail is hard to make out. The ground floor window surrounds are quoins and the first floor's are decorative with small pediments to the side windows and a keystone above the central window. There is a decorative arched pediment and a date stone to the centre of the gable. The photograph also depicts the small building to the south-east of the chapel, which also appears on the historic mapping (see below).

In 1918 the chapel applied for and received certification for solemnizing marriages. There is little information regarding the chapel in the mid 20th century. A hymn service program in Welsh from 1940 has been preserved in the regional archive. By the 1980s the congregation had reduced to the extent that it was considered necessary to adapt the building interior to reduce the space and therefore heating costs. These adaptations were observed during the building survey and are described below. It is not clear whether the decorative elements of the façade were removed at the same time or earlier. A photograph from the national archives shows the chapel interior when it was still in use after the suspended ceiling was constructed. Another photograph, also undated, shows the exterior with the decorative elements removed, except for the plaque to the centre of the gable (Photo 2). This inscription read "NEBO CAPEL Y ANNIBYNWYR ADEILADWYD 1866 AIL ADEILADWYD 1904 [Nebo Independent Chapel built 1866, rebuilt 1904]." This inscription and the plaque surround have since been removed. The chapel was disused by 2000 and has since fallen into disrepair.

A historic map regression of the building and its immediacies is included below to provide further information on the building **and its surrounding's** development over time.

Aberdare, 1814, Thomas Budgen, 1: 31680

This is the earliest map to depict Glyncorrwg (Glyncorwg). The settlement is depicted as being a small cluster of buildings on the western side of the River Corrwg, with another small cluster of buildings to the east of the river at Nantyrallor, which is just to the north of the modern settlement of Glyncorrwg. There are no buildings depicted on the east of the bank in the area of the chapel, although it is possible to identify the corner of Cymmer Road and Bridge Street on which the chapel is situated.

Map of the hamlet of Glyncorrwg in the parish of Glyncorrwg, Glamorganshire, 1847

As on the 1814 map, the Tithe Map of Glyngorrwg shows that the settlement consisted of only a few buildings on the west of the river, and scattered surrounding hamlets. The principle building in the area is the Church, which is depicted in the same location it occupies today.

There is one building depicted on the east of the river in the area of Nebo Chapel. It seems to lie slightly to the east of the current Chapel location, although due to in poor level of accuracy in the Tithe Map it is hard to say definitively. The building is unlabelled, but the apportionment in which it is located is described as a wood.

#### OS County Series Glamorganshire 1875, 1:2,500 (Figure 3)

The First Edition OS County Series map shows the settlement of Glyncorrwg had expanded significantly from the time of the Tithe Map. This development was driven by the establishment of two collieries, Glyn-corwg and Corwgfechan further up the Corrwg valley, approximately 1.5km to the north-east. These collieries were serviced by the South Wales Mineral Railway, which ran through Glyncorrwg, and ended at Briton Ferry.

Several rows of terraced housing had been constructed in Glyncorrwg, including Brick Row (now Brick Street). Nebo Chapel is marked at its current location on the corner of Cymmer Road and Bridge Street. Bryn Street was not established at this point. The chapel building is depicted as rectangular, but orientated north-west — south-east rather than the current building's north-east — south-west orientation, indicating that the current building did not follow the same ground plan as the building it replaced.

#### OS County Series Glamorganshire 1899, 1,2500

Further development of Glyncorrwg can be observed in the 1899 OS map, with new streets, including Bryn Street, to the north of the Chapel. The area also has a school, police station, and another chapel, the Bible Christian Chapel on Bryn Street. The Nebo Chapel building is still depicted as being north-west – south-east orientated.

#### OS County Series Glamorganshire 1918, 1:2,500 (Figure 4)

The current chapel building is depicted on the 1918 OS map. In comparison with the preceding mapping it is possible to see that the current chapel is much larger than the building it replaced. The front of the building appears to be in the same place as the earlier one, but the new building has been expanded back, to the north-east, to the full extent of the plot that the earlier chapel occupied. There also appears to be an additional building adjoining the south-east of the chapel, in the area now overgrown.

OS plan 1962, 1:2,500

The building adjoining the south-east wall of the chapel on the preceding map is still present in 1962.

## 4. The Building Recording Results

#### **GENERAL**

Nebo Independent Chapel is a rectangular stone-built gable-end chapel orientated north-east — south-west, 15.4m by 12m. It was constructed in 1904, and has been out of use since 2000. A detailed description of the building's exterior and interior can be found below:

BUILDING EXTERIOR (Figure 6)

FRONT ELEVATION: SOUTH-WEST FACING (Photos 1 - 8)

The front elevation is a gabled end, three bay, two storey façade (Photo 3), 11.5m tall to the apex, 8m tall to the side (12m wide). The lower storey has two windows either side of the central entrance, while the upper storey has three windows, with a larger one to the centre.

The front elevation is principally constructed of rough finished coursed stone. The blocks vary slightly in size, averaging 0.08m high by 0.36m long. It shows evidence of significant alterations to the original façade. There are scars on the façade where the original Classical style pilasters, string courses and other decorative elements (as visible in Photo 3) were located. Where earlier decorative stonework has been removed it has been replaced by concrete render to mimic the appearance of the surrounding stonework. This includes around the window surrounds, where there were originally quoins.

The windows have been blocked with concrete and have a plain concrete surround with slightly raised sills. The entrance is recessed with a concrete moulded architrave in a mock-Classical style. It has fluted pilasters to the sides and an arched pediment with a recessed keystone. Above the doorway is decorative ironwork including 'Nebo 1904' (Photo 4). The door itself is modern wood effect uPVC.

To either side of the entrance are foundation stones laid by members of the chapel, four to the right-hand side (Photo 5) and three to the left (Photo 6). The stones are inscribed with the name of the individual, where they are from, and the date:

### GOSODWYD Y GARREG HON GAN MRS ANN REES GLYNCORRWG CHWEFROR 3<sup>RD</sup> 1904

[THIS STONE WAS LAID BY MRS ANN REES GLYNCORRWG FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> 1904].

Other names recorded are Mr Daniel King of Abergwyner, Mrs Ann Rees of Glyncorrwg, Mr W.M.Matthias of Glyncorrwg, Mrs Mary Jenkins of Bronyderi, Mr D.T.Williams of Glyncorrwg, Walters of Glyncorrwg, the remaining two being illegible.

There is an enclosed frontage across the whole of the front elevation (Photo 7), extending 2.8m out from the front wall. It is enclosed by a low rough finished coursed stone wall topped with cast iron railings and a cast iron gate and two pillars to either end with a plain cap stone. The area is currently overgrown but the flooring was coloured patterned red concrete with a black star in a circle (Photo 8).

#### NORTH-WEST ELEVATION (Photo 9)

The north-west elevation, which is on Bryn Road, is two storeys high with four bays (Photo 9). It is plain rendered with no decoration.

The windows are flush to the wall with protruding stone sills and lintels. They are wooden framed six pane rectangular windows to the ground floor, and six pane with decorative surrounds and swept arches to the upper floor. The second from the left window to the upper floor is eight pane and probably a later replacement.

The roof is gabled and tiled with slate.

REAR ELEVATION: NORTH-EAST FACING (Photos 10 - 11)

The north-east elevation is a single gabled end with no windows or other features. It is constructed of random uncoursed stone of varying sizes (Photo 10).

To the right-hand side the render used on the north-west elevation wraps round and end in a quoin style. To the left-hand side a quoin design is created in red brick (Photo 11).

#### SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION (Photos 12 - 13)

The south-east elevation is plain rendered and is two storey (Photo 12).

It appears to have originally had four windows to the upper storey which have been blocked with concrete. Their stone sills are still visible although partially removed.

The ground floor also shows evidence of some modification, although the original features are less easily identified. There are two darker patches in the render which correspond to the blocked windows encountered in the interior of the chapel (see below). There is no evidence of the blocked doorway observed in the chapel interior towards the rear of the building, indicating that this was blocked before the elevation was rendered.

To the exterior of the elevation is an enclosed area surrounded by a stone wall with cast iron fencing (Photo 13). This area is now overgrown, and is the location of the former neighbouring building observed during the map regression.

#### BUILDING INTERIOR (Figure 5)

#### **GROUND FLOOR**

The ground floor consists of the chapel entrance vestibule and main room. The rooms are generally in good condition and all areas except the right-hand (south-east) stairwell were accessible.

Vestibule: The vestibule is a rectangular room accessed from the front gabled end elevation (Photo 14). It measures 6.4m by 1.56m, and is 3.37m high.

The floor is tiled with original floor tiles, with red octagonal tiles and mustard yellow diamond dot tiles (Photo 15).

The south-western (exterior) wall is rendered in concrete to give the appearance of large coursed ashlar blocks. The north-eastern wall, to the chapel interior, is a wood and glass screen, consisting of vertical wooden boards to the bottom half and patterned glass panes above. There are eight large panes separated by mullions, each with two small square transom panes of yellow glass above. Two wooden doors in the same style at either end of the screen led into the chapel. They were narrow double doors, 2.12m high and 0.98m wide, with brass handles and single patterned glass panes to the upper part (Photo 16). Each has two light windows above.

The ceiling is concrete and a more modern addition.

To either side of the room are staircases leading up to the gallery/upper level (Photos 17 and 18), those to the right (southeast) inaccessible due to dry-rot.

Chapel: The main chapel is a rectangular room 12.34m long by 10.74m wide. There are pews to the centre and down both sides, with two aisles running all the way to the pulpit against the rear wall (Photos 19 and 20).

The floor consists of wooden floorboards, which in places have become subject to dry-rot. The south-east aisle retains a red carpet, while the other is now bare (Photo 21). The areas of the pews are slightly raised above the aisle, the central area 0.15m higher and the sides 0.08m higher. There are 10 pews in the central area, which are parallel to the rear wall. The pews are of wood with carved bench ends, with a spacing of 0.8m. There are alternating off-centre partitions in each pew (Photo 22). Those pews on the sides are placed at a slight angle to the side walls, so that they face the pulpit. They are spaced at 1m between each pew. There are nine pews along the left-hand (north-western) side (Photo 23). Only six remain on the right-hand side, but it is possible to see the scars on the wall where the missing three would have originally been (Photo 24).

To the rear (northeast) of the building along either side of the pulpit are the pews of the choir. These were perpendicular to the rear wall, and had three rows. In front of the left-hand side choir pews is a piano in poor condition (Photo 25). To the front of the pulpit is the chancel, which is a rectangular space bounded by a single row of pews (Photo 26). An organ is located in front of the chancel (Photo 27).

The pulpit is reached by steps up from the aisles on either side. It is of wood panels with wooden balustrades (Photo 28 & 30). The stairs and pulpit are carpeted with red carpet (Photo 31). There is a pew along the rear wall (Photo 32) and a small cupboard to the right-hand side (Photo 33).

The front wall consists of the screen wall to the vestibule.

The side and rear walls have vertical wood panelling to the lower half, up to 1.2m high, with painted plaster above. Both sides have metal fittings between each window which may have been related to earlier lighting and ventilation in the chapel but have since been painted over (Photo 35). Under these are modern radiators.

The left-hand wall has four wooden framed windows recessed into the wall. The south-western two windows consisted of six panes of clear glass with coloured glass surrounds and are probably original (Photo 36). The north-eastern two consist of six panes of clear glass, some of them patterned, and are probably later replacements (Photo 37).

The right-hand (south-eastern) wall has recesses for two windows, which have been blocked-up and plastered over. The recesses are 1.5m wide and retain the wooden window sills. Towards the rear of the building on the right-hand wall is a wooden door which originally led to another building (as seen in the map regression) which is now demolished. The doorway is blocked but

the wooden door and frame have been retained (Photo 38).

The rear gable wall (north-eastern) is abutted by the structure of the pulpit to the lower centre. Like most chapels of this period there is no window behind the pulpit. Instead there is a large arch, the top of which now extends above the modern ceiling addition, filled with decorative embossed paper panels with a foliage design (Photo 39). It has fluted plasterwork pilasters.

The chapel ceiling consists of two parts. The outer, which runs around the front and sides but not the rear wall is original, and is the base of the galleries above. These are supported by wooden buttresses and cast iron columns – four down either side and one to the rear of the chapel (Photos 40 & 41). The pillars are in the Doric style, and painted brown to the lower and white to the upper halves. The central part of the ceiling, which covers the rest of the space, is a modern suspended ceiling constructed from plasterboard. This ceiling sits above the wrought iron decorated screen of the balcony, which has carved wood beams to the bottom, with fluted plasterwork and then decorated ironwork above (Photos 42 & 43). It has been boarded with MDF board behind. Modern (*circa* 1980s) electric heaters have been installed along the balcony, and four modern light fittings are suspended from the modern ceiling.

To the left-hand front corner of the chapel is a small under stair room with a wooden panel door and surround (Photo 44). The room has a rough concrete floor, and uncoursed rubble stone walls. The ceiling is formed from the underside of the stairs.

#### 1st FLOOR

The former gallery is accessed via the two staircases either side of the vestibule. The area was not accessed beyond the doorway at the top of the stairs due to health and safety concerns.

The upper floor is dominated by the modern ceiling addition in the centre (Photo 45). This is raised approximately 0.6m from the floor level in the centre of the space, extending all the way back to the rear wall. The construction of the ceiling is not visible as it is entirely covered by fibre glass insulation. Fibre glass also obscures the floors on the outer original gallery area. Where it is not covered the floor can be seen to consist of wooden boards.

The gallery extends along both long walls and the front wall of the chapel. Along the side was there are two rows of pews (Photo 46), and along the front wall there are four (Photo 47). The pews are tiered, stepping up with each pew, so that they would have had a clear view of the pulpit. The pews are constructed in the same style as those in the main chapel below.

The walls are painted plaster in a poor state of repair. On the north-west wall part of the wall above the left-hand window has collapsed, revealing the rubble stone construction and lime mortar with coal inclusions (Photo 48). On the front wall large areas of plaster have fallen, behind which is a brick wall (Photo 49). The bricks are red brick with mortar, in a stretcher bond. They show clear signs of damp with mould growing in places.

The front wall has three large recessed window openings that have been blocked up with breeze blocks and concrete, most likely in the 1980s. The original wooden window frames are still in place in the central window, although in poor repair. It is mullion and transom, with sash windows to either side of the mullion, although only the left-hand side panel panes are extant. This has eight panes with clear patterned glass. The window is recessed, and has plain stone lintels and sills. The side windows do not retain the window frames, although a simple wooden frame is still in place (Photo 50). The side windows have no lintel and have a red brick sill.

The long walls both have four windows. They are all in the same style, recessed with a single band plaster detail to the edge of the opening (Photo 51). They are swept head with flat wooden sills. The windows have a central six light section of clear glass with a transom above and coloured border of red textured glass with green corner pieces. On the south-west wall the far left-hand window has been partially blocked at the bottom, shortening the height of the window.

The rear wall is plain painted plaster with the continuation of the decorative arch seen in the chapel below to the centre. The tops of the pilasters have an Acanthus scroll capital. The arch is round topped with a fluted keystone. It has the same decorative embossed paper to the interior panel with painted foliage design.

The roof is four bay, chamfered (Photos 52 & 53), with carved detail decoration on the ceiling joists. The ceiling is painted lath and plaster in poor state of repair. In places the plaster has collapsed, revealing the laths behind. To the centre of the ceiling is a decorative medallion in a stylised floral motif. Two light bulbs hang from the central bay on long wires with no fittings.

To the front of the building a wooden ladder leads up to a square loft hatch to access the loft space. This area was not accessed due to health and safety concerns.

## 5. Discussion and Interpretation

Nebo Independent Chapel is a rectangular stone-built gable-end chapel, built in a Classical style. It was constructed in 1904, a rebuild of a pre-existing chapel, to designs by the Maesteg-born architect William Beddoe Rees, who designed a number of early-20<sup>th</sup> century chapels in the South Wales valleys region. This chapel belongs to the last great period of chapel building in Wales, demonstrating a well-established layout and design by that time. External decorative elements were largely confined to the gable entry wall, with decorative banding, pilasters, pediments and quoins, although many of these had been removed in the later 20th century. Internally a narrow vestibule with glazed wooden screen opens into the main chapel building, with a wide central banks of pews, and a further bank of pews along the walls to either side. The wooden pulpit is placed centrally against the north-eastern wall, backed by a large recessed arch filled with decorative embossed paper panels. A 1st floor gallery extends around three sides of the chapel facing the pulpit, with a decorative iron screen. A later ceiling has been inserted across the open space between the galleries. The chapel has clearly undergone alterations throughout the later 20th century in an attempt to keep it in use, but the site has been unused since around 2000, and although many original and some subsequent features survive, the structure is in a deteriorating state and dry-rot is prevalent throughout.

During the survey three main phases of use were identified from the architectural remains:

- 1) The original construction, layout and use of the chapel from 1903. This is seen in the structure of the building itself, its original openings and some original window fittings, and in the layout of the interior. The pews and pulpit may also date from this period.
- 2) A phase of alteration associated with the continued use. This may date to several periods, but appears largely late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This alteration includes the removal of adjacent building and infill of first floor window openings, subsequent rendering of long walls, removal of decorative elements to the front, insertion of internal ceiling across galleries (and abandonment of those galleries) and modern heating within.
- 3) Final phase of use and closure, prior to 2000, including blocking of gable ground floor windows, replacement of front door and removal of date stone.

#### 6. Bibliography and references

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Historic England. 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings*, English Heritage.

James, B.Ll. 1989. 'Sir William Beddoe Rees (1877-1931)' in Capel, Newsletter No. 9, pp. 1-3

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#### Maps

- Tithe map, Parish of Aberdare in the County of Glamorgan, 1847
- OS County Series Glamorganshire 1868, 1.2500
- OS County Series Glamorganshire 1900, 1.2500
- OS County Series Glamorganshire 1919-20, 1.2500
- OS plan 1956, 1.2500

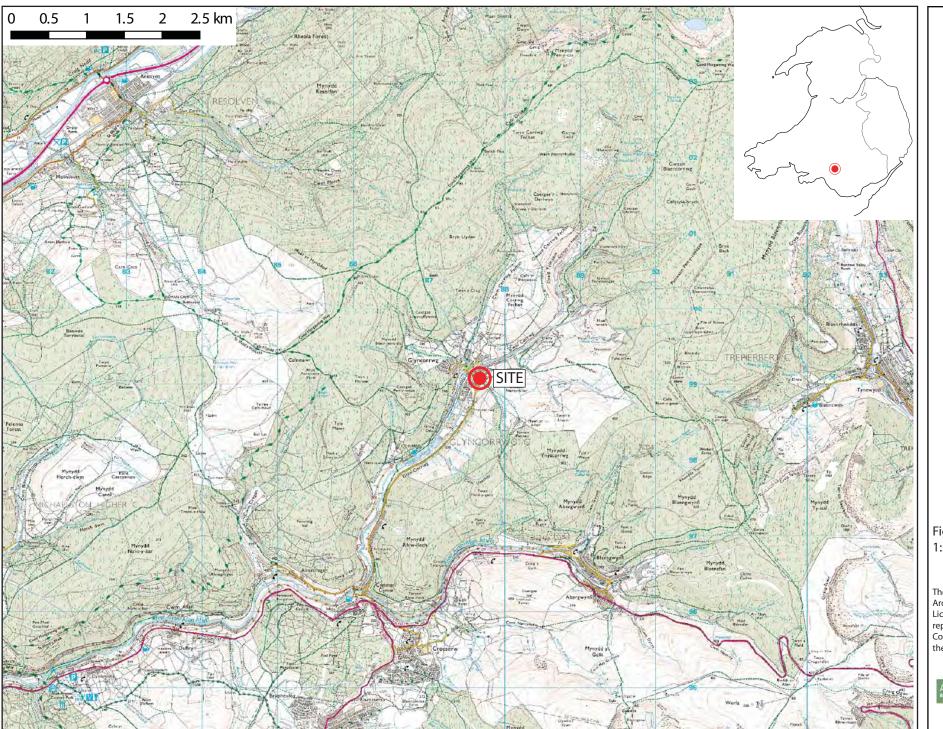
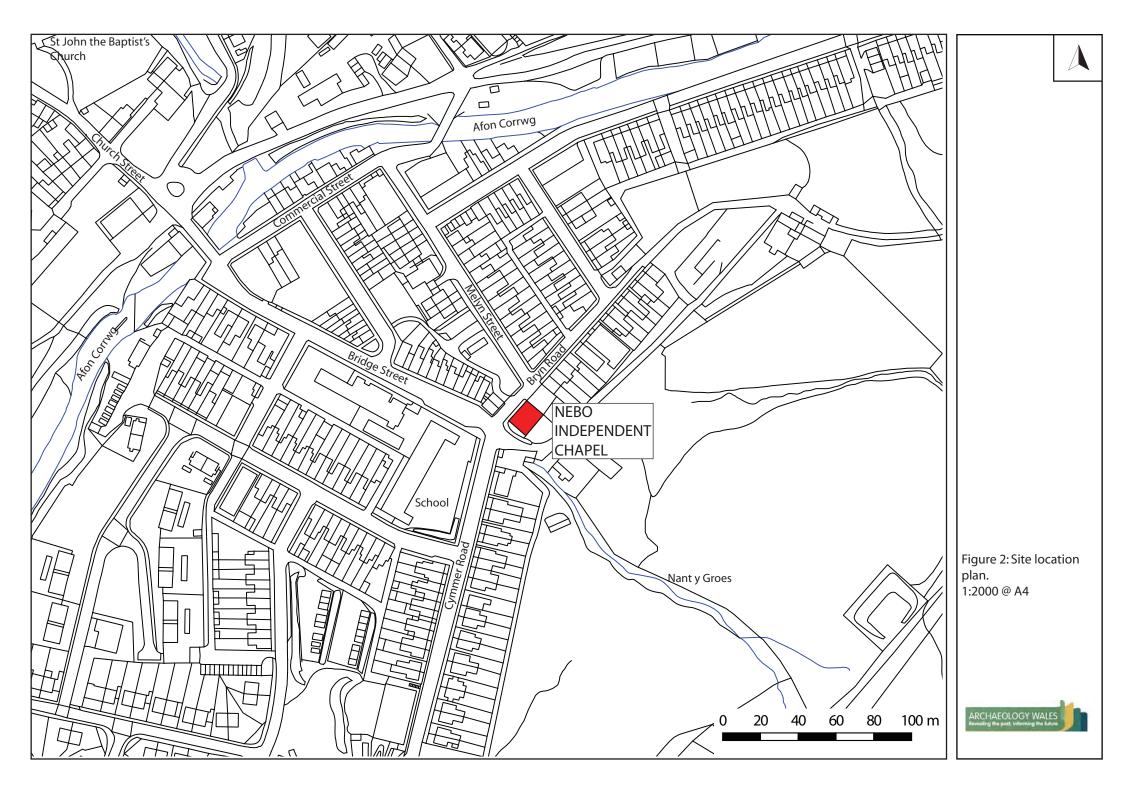


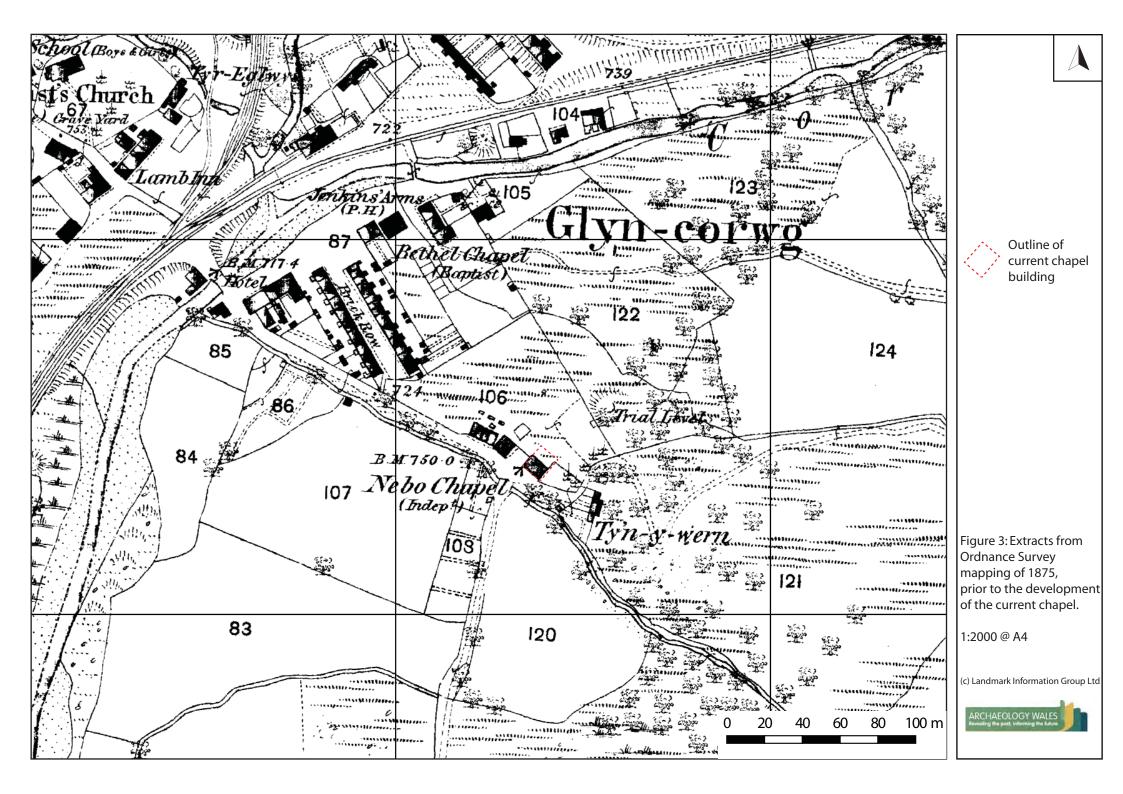


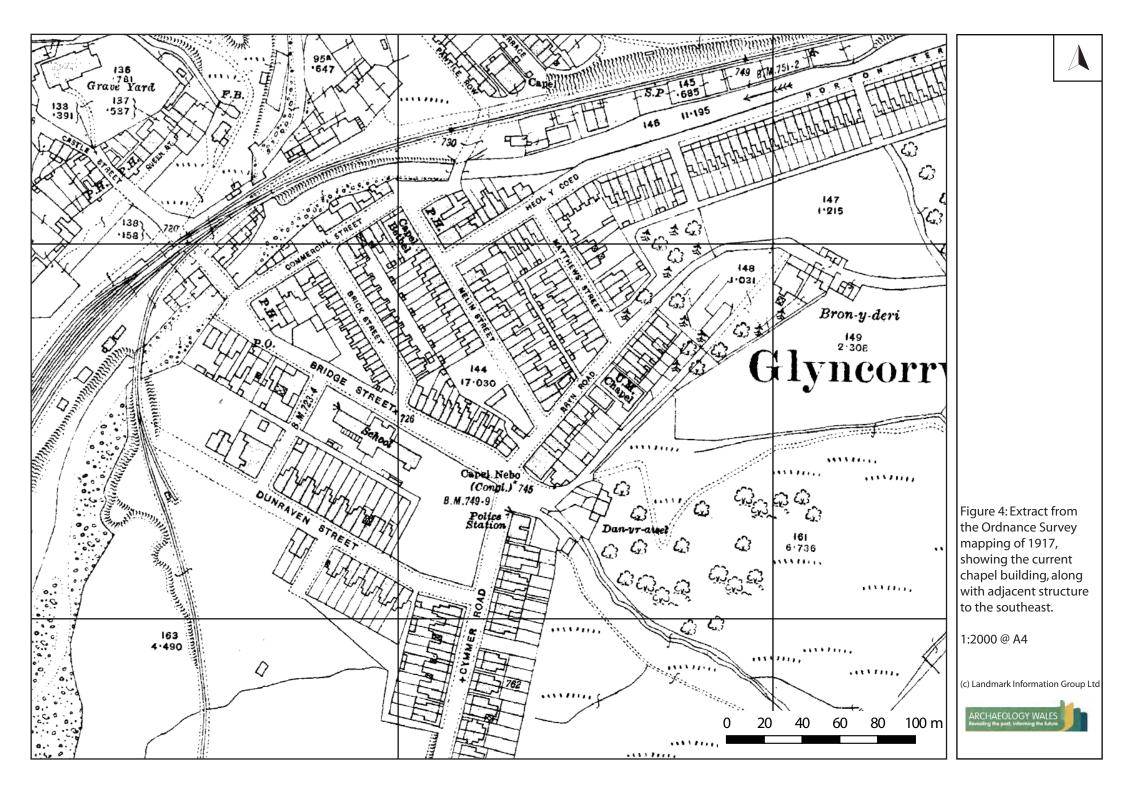
Figure 1: Location map, 1:50,000 @ A4

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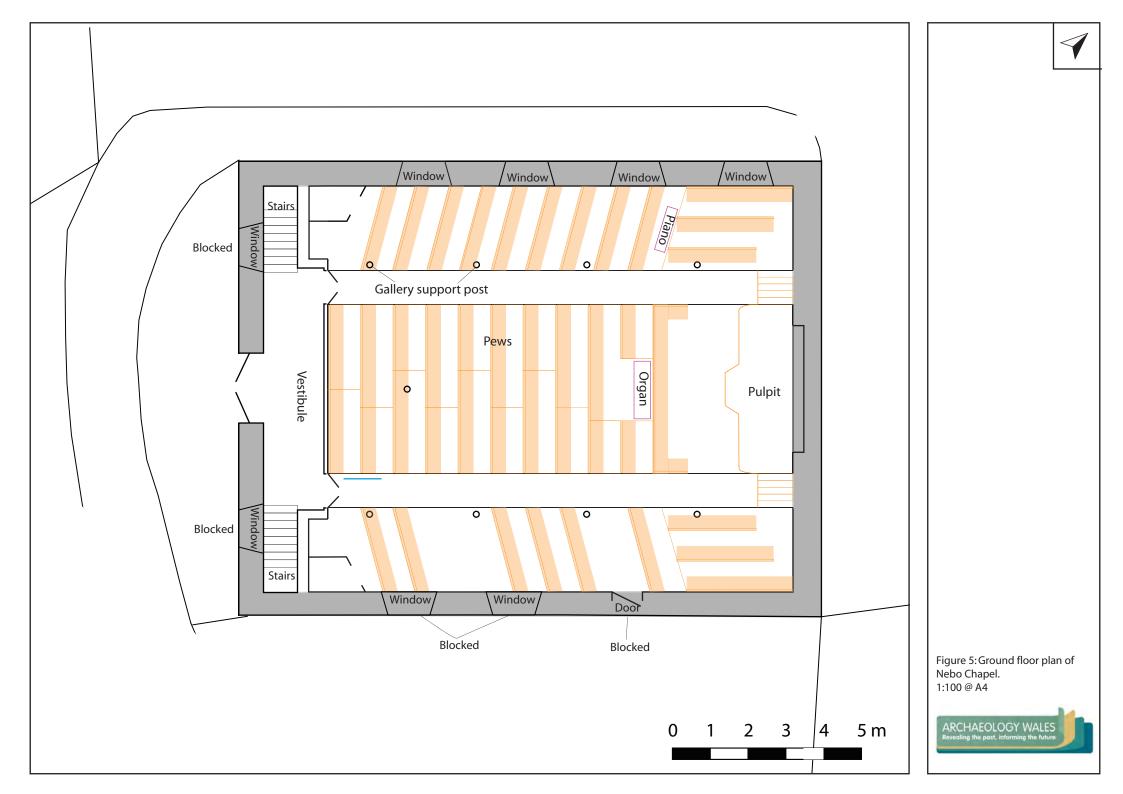






Photo 1: Undated photos, but showing the original frontage of Nebo Chapel



Photo 2: Also undated, but believed to be later 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. Note the removal of the decorative elements and the roof parapet and central chimney, and blocking of upper windows.



Photo 3: Current frontage to Nebo Chapel. Note the blocking of all windows openings, the removal of the date plaque, and replacement of the front door. View northeast, 2m scale.



Photo 4: Entrance door to Nebo Chapel. View northeast, 2m scale.



Photo 5: Foundation plaques on front wall (also showing undergrowth in front). View east.



Photo 6: Foundation plaques on front wall. View north.



Photo 7: Enclosure wall around front of the chapel. View north, 2m scale.



Photo 8: Coloured concrete flooring in front of chapel, showing a black star in circle. View southwest, 1m scale.



Photo 9: North-west elevation on Bryn Road. View southeast.



Photo 10: North-east gable elevation. View south.



Photo 11: North-east gable elevation. View southwest, 2m scale.



Photo 12: South-east elevation, with blocked openings. Those to the ground floor appear to have been blocked prior to rendering. View northwest.



Photo 13: Overgrown area to the southeast of the chapel, former site of building seen in Photo 1. View northeast.



Photo 14: View of the vestibule and the wood and glass screen to the main chapel on the left. View southeast.



Photo 15: Floor of the vestibule.



Photo 16: Doorway (one of two) giving access from the vestibule to the main chapel. View northeast.



Photo 17: Staircase to the first floor on the southeast end of the vestibule, inaccessible due to rot.



Photo 18: View down the staircase on the northwest side. View southwest.

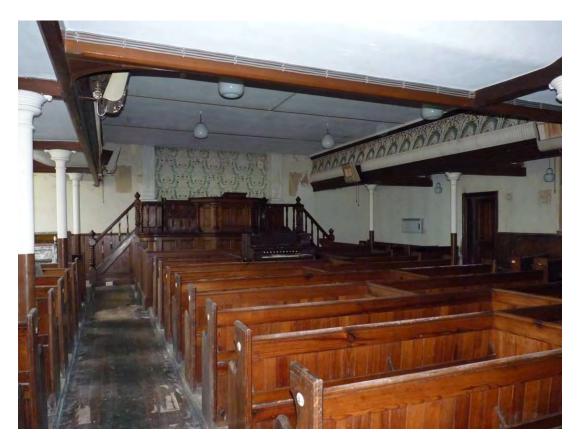


Photo 19: View across the main chapel area towards the pulpit. View northeast.

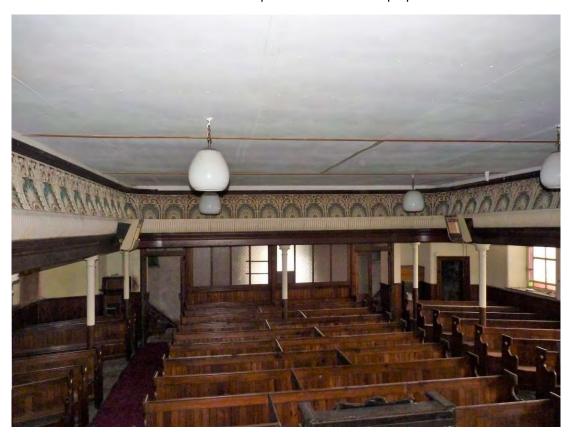


Photo 20: View from the pulpit back across the main chapel area, also note the inserted ceiling) across the gallery railings. View southwest.



Photo 21: Flooring (wooden floorboards) within the chapel area. View northeast, 2m scale.



Photo 22: The central pew area, showing off-centre partitions. View north.



Photo 23: Pews along the northwest wall, also note the pillars and buttresses holding the gallery above. View southwest.



Photo 24: Pews along the southeast wall, partly removed. View northeast.



Photo 25: Piano along the northwest wall.



Photo 26: Chancel area in front of the pulpit. View south.



Photo 27: Organ, placed centrally behind the chancel area. View northeast.

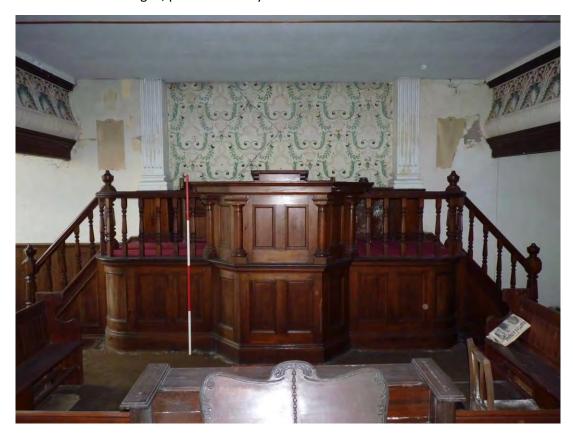


Photo 28: The pulpit. View northeast, 2m scale.

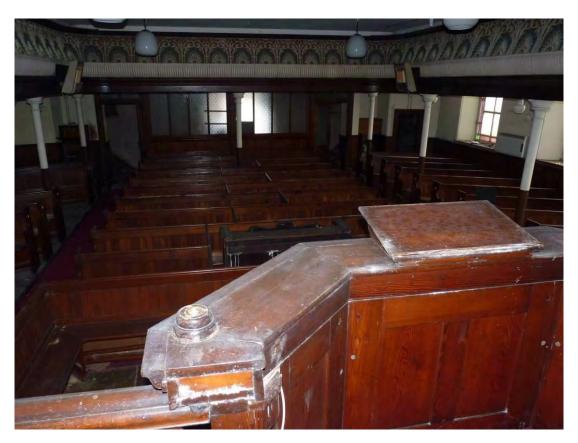


Photo 29: View from the pulpit. View southwest.



Photo 30: Wooden balustrades to the pulpit. View east.



Photo 31: Stairs to the pulpit. View southeast.



Photo 32: Pew along the rear wall of the pulpit. Also not the recessed wall with decorative paper tiles. View north.



Photo 33: Small cupboard at the rear of the pulpit.



Photo 34: Photo of the pulpit area in use from WGRO, undated but likely later 20<sup>th</sup> century given the presence of the inserted ceiling above.



Photo 35: Original fittings on the wall of the main chapel.



Photo 36: Possible original ground floor windows within the chapel, in the northwest wall. View northwest, 1m scale (along base).



Photo 37: Possible later replacement ground floor windows within the chapel, in the northwest wall. View northwest.

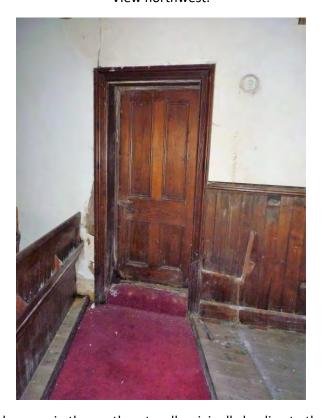


Photo 38: Blocked doorway in the southeast wall, originally leading to the adjacent building.



Photo 39: Detail of the decoration in the recessed wall behind the pulpit.



Photo 40: Buttresses and columns holding the gallery above. View northeast, 2m scale.



Photo 41: Butresses and columns holding the gallery above, at the southwest end of the chapel. View west, 2m scale.



Photo 42: Decorated screen to the gallery. View west.



Photo 43: As above, in detail.



Photo 44: Understair room in the west corner of the chapel.

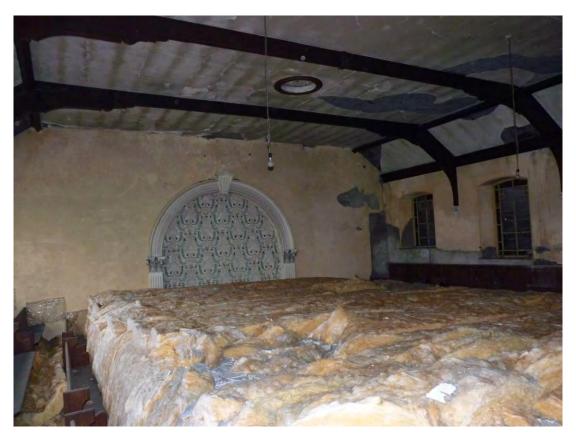


Photo 45: View from the top of the  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  floor access stairs, showing the insulation-covered inserted ceiling. View east.



Photo 46: 1st floor gallery along the northwest wall. View northeast.



Photo 47: 1<sup>st</sup> floor gallery against the southwest gable wall, over vestibule and edge of the chapel, facing the pulpit. View south.



Photo 48: 1st floor window in northwest wall, with collapsed lintel. View north.



Photo 49: Inner face of the southwest gable wall, showing brick lining, blocked windows, and roof access. View south.



Photo 50: Blocked window opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, southwest gable wall. View southwest.



Photo 51:  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  floor windows along the northwest wall. View north.



Photo 52: Ceiling detail, showing the ceiling joists against the northwest wall.



Photo 53: Ceiling detail, showing the lathe and plasterwork and the central decorative medallion.

# Archaeology Wales

# APPENDIX I: Written Scheme of Investigation



#### Archaeology Wales Ltd

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# **Written Scheme of Investigation**

# For an Archaeological Building Recording Level 3

Αt

Nebo Independent Chapel, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AU

Prepared For: Ty Magpie Ltd

**Project No: 2686** 

December 2018



Archaeology Wales Limited The Reading Room, Town Hall, Great Oak Street Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BN Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371 Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

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Figure 1. Map With Location Of Site

## **Summary**

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological building recording to be undertaken by archaeology wales Itd at the request of Ty Magpie Ltd.

The archaeological building recording will consist of a Level 3 standard according to Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings' guidelines. It will be undertaken prior to the commencement of works associated with the proposed development at Nebo Independent Chapel, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AU. The associated planning application number is P2016/0128.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the chartered institute for archaeologists (2014).

#### 1. Introduction And Planning Background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of archaeological building recording, level 3 to be undertaken in association with the proposed development at Nebo Independent Chapel, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AU. The associated planning application number is P2016/0128.

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust – Planning Division (GGAT – PD) has recommended that a Level 3 building recording of the building is undertaken to support a forthcoming planning application to assess and mitigate the impact of the proposed redevelopment on the archaeological resource. In their later dated 17 May 2016 to the local planning authority they state:

No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority

Reason: as the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact.

The purpose of the level 3 archaeological building recording is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in technical advice note (TAN) 24: the historic environment 2017. The work is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the affected building are fully investigated and recorded if they are to be disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

This WSI has been prepared by Rowena Hart MCIfA of Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Ty Magpie Ltd (henceforth – the client).

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust – Planning Division (GGAT – PD), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

#### 2. Site Description

The chapel is bounded to the north-west by Bryn Road and to the south-west a small track continuing from Bridge Street. To the east is a small wooded area and to the north-east are houses.

#### 3. Historical Background

The GGAT-PD letter of 17 My 2016 details some of the buildings history:

'Information in the Historic Environment Record, curated by this Trust, notes that Nebo Independent Chapel was first built in 1861 and then rebuilt in 1868 by the architect Thomas Thomas of Landore. The chapel was rebuilt again in 1904, by architect William Beddoe Rees of Cardiff, in the Classical style with a gable-entry plan. This later chapel had integrated columns and pilasters, triangular pediments to the upper windows, a large keystone to the central windows, heavily decorated with foliate designs, and a segmental pediment over with similar decoration. However all this decoration was stripped off the facade during the twentieth century leaving bare stonework. The only remaining feature is a later Plaque with the inscription "NEBO CAPEL Y ANNIBYNWYR ADEILADWYD 1866 AIL ADEILADWYD 1904".

However, despite these later alterations, it is our opinion that the building is of historic importance, although there is no indication of any associated cemetery.'

## 4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the level 3 archaeological building recording will meet the standard required by the Chartered Institute For Archaeologist's Standard And Guidance For Archaeological Building Investigation And Recording (2014) and According To Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide To Good Recording Practice (2016).

The primary objective of the building recording will be to describe and record, by means of high resolution digital photography and measured drawings, all of the key internal and external components of the affected building(s) so that a permanent record survives prior to demolition or renovation. This will be completed by means of an English Heritage Level 3 building survey.

Level 3 is an analytical record and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail.

It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.

Other recent structures existing on the site will be recorded by means of digital photography.

The work will result in a report, which will provide a comprehensive record of all the work undertaken.

#### 5. Timetable of Works

#### 5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of level 3 archaeological building recording will be undertaken prior to the commencement of works associated with the proposed development. Archaeology Wales will update GGAT with the exact date.

#### 5.2. Report Delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to GGAT within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional her.

#### 6. Details of Work

#### 6.1. Desktop Research Phase

The research will consider the building to be investigated and its relationship to other archaeological and historical sites within its setting, by means of search of various primary sources:

- 1. Designated areas (Historic Landscapes, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks & Gardens, Registered Battlefields)
- 2. Non-designated sites And Listed Buildings.
- 3. Excavation reports and archives affecting the site and its setting.
- 4. Relevant extant aerial photographic (ap) evidence.
- 5. Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. all editions of the ordnance survey county series, tithe and early estate maps (as available).
- 6. Place name evidence
- 7. Internet sourced satellite imagery
- 8. Historic documents (e.g. charters, registers, estate papers).

#### 6.2. Building Investigation

The Level 3 archaeological building recording will be undertaken by a suitably experienced building recording archaeologist who will be able to 'read' the structure and record the important details. The photographic and drawn record will be a comprehensive record to archive standard of the existing buildings and structures, both externally and internally. The following will be considered:

- site layout and organisation
- function
- materials, method of construction
- fenestration
- internal arrangements
- original fixtures and fittings
- subsequent fixtures and fittings
- evidence of use and status
- date/period of initial build and subsequent alterations

The building has been in active use until 2008 and it is understood that the interior of the structure is in relatively good condition and accessible. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant constraint to the ability to record the exterior or interior of the structure. Should this prove to be the case however further consultation with GGAT will be undertaken on the appropriate level of internal recording required.

The work will be completed in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014) and to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 3 (Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' 2016).

All photographs will be taken in a high resolution digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

A site plan and measured plans of the buildings will be produced. Wherever possible, existing plans and elevations will be used to supplement the report and further measured plans and elevations may also be provided to illustrate features not more readily obtained by photography. Plans will be used to highlight photographic locations within the final report.

#### 6.3. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to ordnance survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12mp camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

### 7. Monitoring

GGAT will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological survey works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to GGAT for approval on behalf of planning authority.

Representatives of GGAT will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the building recording.

## 8. Archive and Reporting Programme

#### 8.1. Archive

#### 8.1.1. Site Archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: management of research projects in the historic environment (MORPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the national monuments record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014).

#### 8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the building/s assessed by the building recording, with all structures and features investigated
- Plan and elevation drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all structural features identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features.

- Conclusion(s) as appropriate of all the structural remains investigated.
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the building by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional her as appropriate.
- Appendices as appropriate including maps, drawings and photographs taken.

#### 8.2. Reports and Archive Deposition

#### 8.2.1. Report to Client

Copies of all reports associated with the building survey, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client, the local planning authority and the GGAT. On approval the final report should be submitted in high resolution PDF format to the historic environment record officer for inclusion within the historic environment record.

#### 8.2.2. Additional Reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

#### 8.2.3. Summary Reports for Publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

#### 8.2.4. Notification of Important Remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

#### 8.2.5. Archive Deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant local authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to GGAT.

#### 9. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher MCIfA (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Susan Stratton from Archaeology Wales Ltd. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT and the client.

#### **Additional Considerations**

#### 10. Health and Safety

#### 10.1. Risk Assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal health and safety risk assessment in accordance with *The Management Of Health And Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

#### 10.2. Other Guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to health and safety in archaeology as set out in the Fame (Federation Of Archaeological Managers And Employers) Health And Safety Manual *Health And Safety In Field Archaeology (2002)*.

#### 11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the survey work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media. This will be discussed with and in agreement with the client. The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

#### 12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

### 13. Quality Control

#### 13.1. Professional Standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute For Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute For Archaeologists' *Code of conduct, code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* and the *standard and guidance for archaeological building investigation and recording* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the chartered institute for archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these codes and standards during their employment.

#### 13.2. Project Tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

#### 14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme For The Institute For Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

#### 15. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014: Standard and Guidance For The Archaeological Investigation And Recording Of Standing Buildings Or Structures.

# Archaeology Wales

**APPENDIX II: Archive Cover Sheet** 

# ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

# Nebo Independent Chapel building, Bryn Road, Glyncorrwg

Site Name:	Nebo Independent Chapel	
Site Code:	NIC/19/BR	
PRN:	-	
NPRN:	9617	
SAM:	-	
Other Ref No:	-	
NGR:	NGR SS 87674 99088	
Site Type:	Level 3 Building Recording at an early 20 <sup>th</sup> century chapel, still intact and accessible, but no longer in use.	
Project Type:	Building Recording (Level 3)	
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher	
Project Dates:	January 2019 - February 2019	
Categories Present:	-	
Location of Original Archive:	AW	
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW, Aberystwyth	
Number of Finds Boxes:	-	
Location of Finds:	-	
Museum Reference:	-	
Copyright:	AW	
Restrictions to access:	None	

# Archaeology Wales

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