

# Tŷ Capel, Methodist Chapel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn Conwy LL22 8SS (0/47796).

**December 2021 V 1.0** 



Historical Building Record Level 2

Project Code: A0341.1

Report no. 0316

Event PRN: 213677





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Historic Building Record Level 2

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Project Code: A0341.1 Date: 03/12/2021 Client: Mr. Peter Allen

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Project Code: A0341.1 Date: 03/12/2021 Client: Mr. Peter Allen

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Mr Peter Allen, 'y Cleient' o hyn ymlaen, i gynnal cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol lefel 2 o'r hen Gapel Methodistaidd, Tŷ Capel, Ffordd Dinbych, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SS, (wedi'i ganoli ar NGR SH 92829 70062) cyn trosi ac addasu llety gwyliau.

Sicrhawyd caniatâd cynllunio llawn (cyf: 0/47796) gan y Cleient gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy, o hyn ymlaen 'y Cyngor', ar 10fed Mawrth 2021 gyda'r amodau cyn-cychwyn canlynol ynghylch archeoleg yn cael eu cymhwyso i'r cydsyniad:

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Peter Allen, hereafter 'the Client', to carry out a a level 2 historic building record of the former Methodist Chapel, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SS, (centred on **NGR SH 92829 70062**) in advance of conversion and alteration to holiday accommodation.

Full planning permission (**ref: 0/47796**) was secured by the Client from Conwy County Borough Council, hereafter 'the Council', on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 with the following precommencement conditions concerning archaeology being applied to the consent:

#### Condition 5

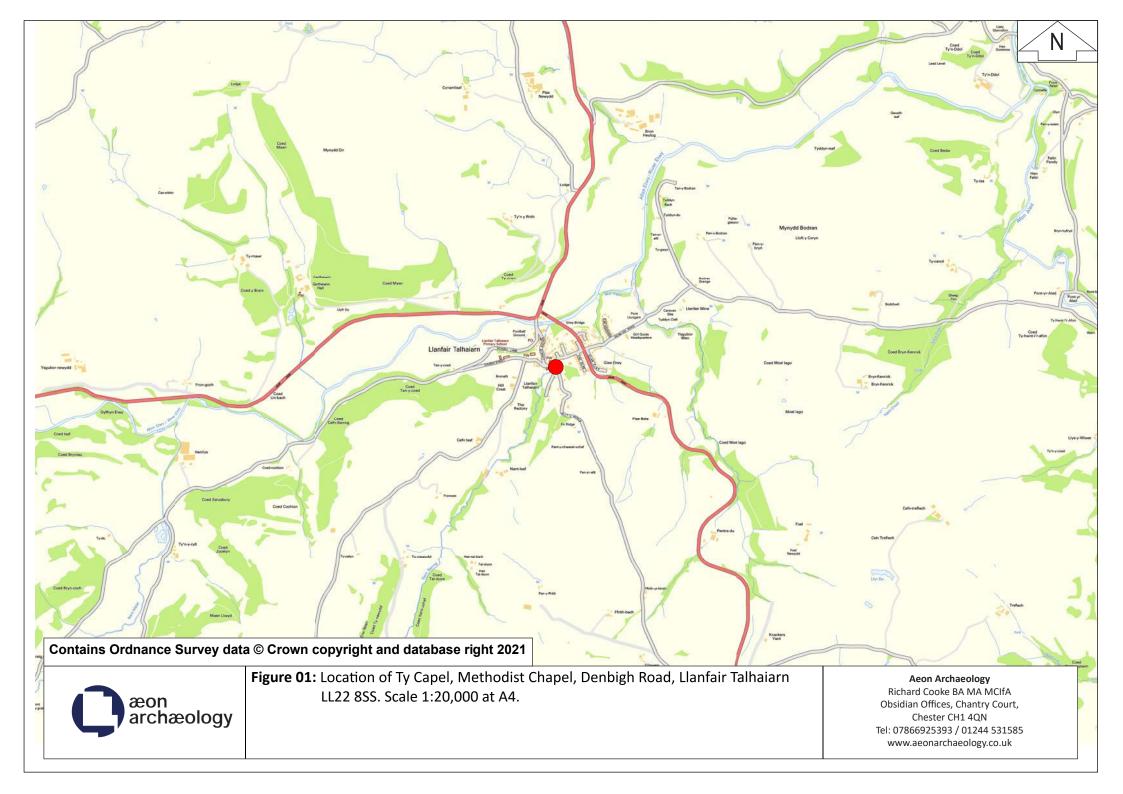
No development shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an Historic England Level 2 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by the local planning authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The survey will be completed by a professional archaeological contractor. 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.

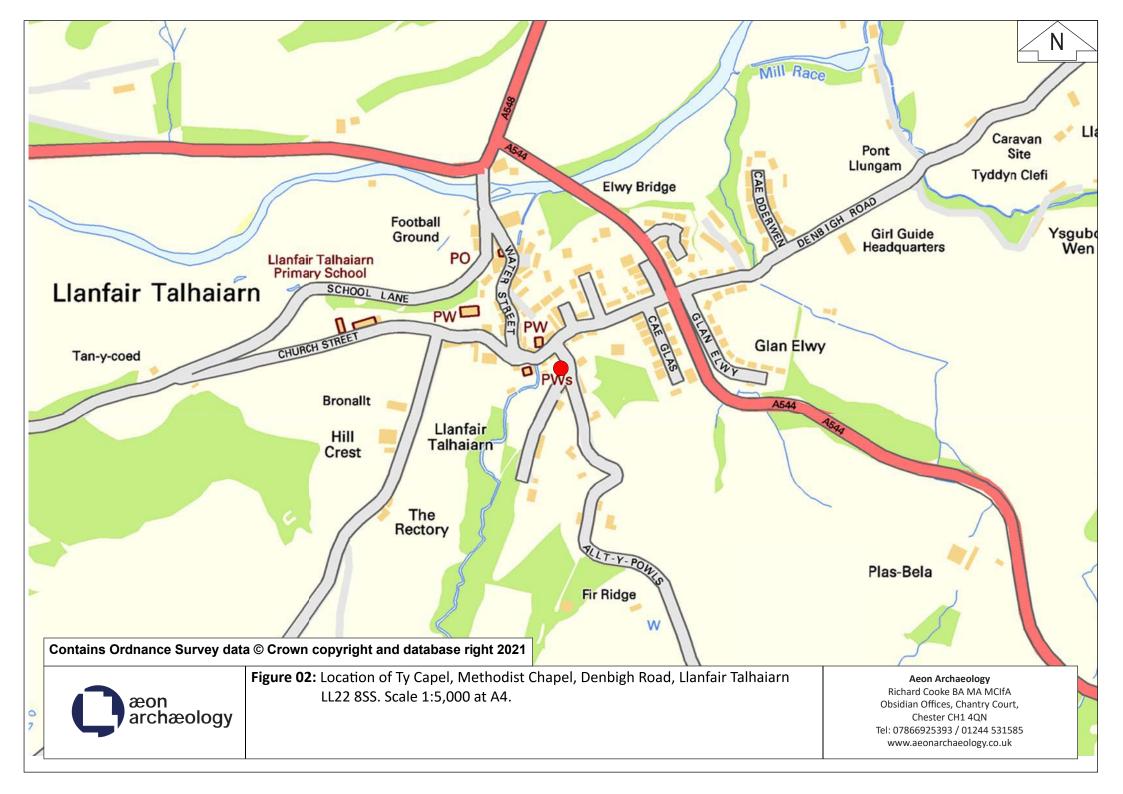
A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8RP Email: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). After approval by the Local Planning 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 converted, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

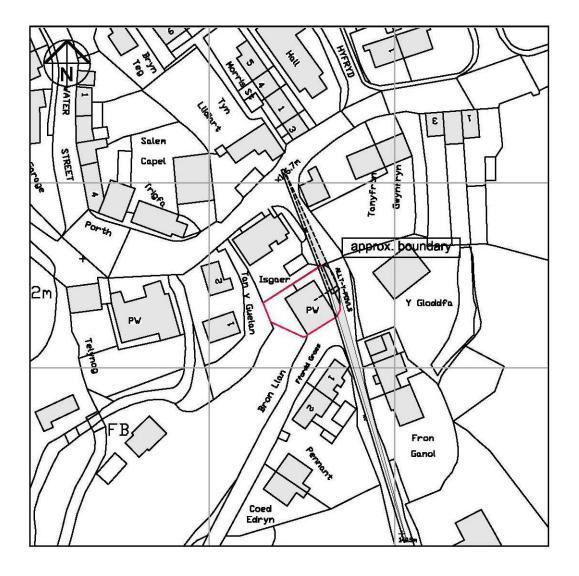
This design and all subsequent mitigation will conform to the guidelines specified in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2016) & Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

It is a requirement that a WSI was submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Officer and the Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) (Mr Mark Walters) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) prior to the works being undertaken.









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**Figure 03:** Location of Ty Capel, Methodist Chapel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn LL22 8SS. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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#### 2.0 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 countybased 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 polices 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 wellbeing 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

#### 3.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Due to the Covid 19 outbreak in the United Kingdom it has not been possible to visit the Conwy archives and record office at the Conwy Culture Centre and access the tithe map for the area, nor has it been possible to reproduce that map in this report – however, it was inspected digitally online (at https://places.library.wales/browse) and this website was accessed on 02/12/21.

The tithe map was dated 1842, produced by Claudeus Shaw and authored by Francis Marston. Following an inspection of the tithe map and apportionment it has been possible to ascertain that it depicts the chapel building as a 'rectangular' structure aligned northwest to southeast. The apportionment number 1163 refers to an *arable* plot named Roft, it was owned and occupied by  $Daniel\ Evan\ -\ Himself$  and measured  $1\ Acre$  and  $1\ Perch$  and valued at 3(s) shillings and 10(d) pence. The surrounding lands belonged to Lord Newborough although a number of other allotments in the area appeared to have had single owners – suggesting that there had been a number of purchases from the Lord's seat around Llanfair Talhaiarn at this time

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Denbighshire VII County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1876, 1:2500 scale, refers to the building as '*Mehodist Chapel - Wesleyen*' and the plot shares the same general form as it did on the tithe of 1842. In actuality the form of Tŷ Capel has persisted in perpetuity since at least 1842 and this is true on the 3rd edition 1913 County Series Ordnance Survey map.

## Settlement - Llanfair Talhaiarn

Llanfair Talhaiarn (*Llanfair Talhaearn - cymraeg*), derives its name from the church ("Llan") dedicated to Mary ("Mair", altered in this compound word to "Fair", hence "Llanfair"), that was founded by a monk called Talhaiarn who hailed from Valle Crucis Abbey (according to local legend). The earliest origins and history of the settlement are not known, though it is assumed that the church itself was established in the early medieval era (6<sup>th</sup> century), however evidence derived from the churchyard's morphology is not representative of that date. The history of the settlement throughout the Middle Ages is also poorly understood and largely obscure, with Pennant in 1781 describing Llanfair Talhaiarn as 'a village and a church at a small distance above the confluence of the Elwy and Aled' alludes only to its existence at this time.

The 1842 Tithe map appears to show a fairly compact settlement entirely on the south side of the River Elwy, with all the buildings lying to the east of the church. Only one bridge over the Elwy is shown. Roads run out of the village centre to the east (now Denbigh Road) and west (now Church St) and also to the south (now Allt y Powls). But neither this map nor the smaller-scale maps of the Ordnance Survey (1819) or of John Evans (1795) offer a clear view of the form of Llanfair in the 19th century and this is only provided in the large-scale mapping by the Ordnance Survey in the mid-1870s. The modern village has since spread much further to the east and a little to the south.

The poet and architect John Jones (January 1810 – October 1869) was born at the Harp Inn (now known as Hafod y Gân) in Llanfair. He took the bardic name "Talhaiarn", and there is a popular misconception that this was the origin of the name of the village. However, the name of the village is documented long before Jones's birth.

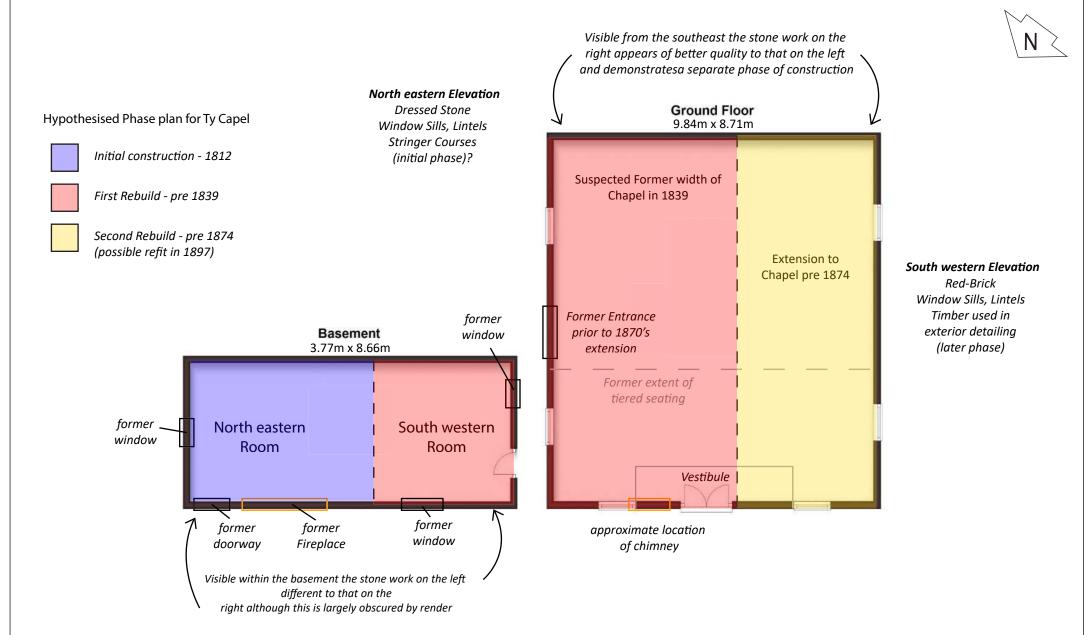
St Mary's church (*PRN 100513*) probably has some fabric dating back to the 15th century but there was considerable rebuilding in 1876 and all the windows date from that time. It is a double-naved structure, but not architecturally distinguished. The sole surviving late medieval

features are a few of the beams in the arched-braced roofs, and there are two disused font bowls. A range of funerary monuments memorialise the Wynnes of Garthewin, dating from 1692 to 1842. An unusual feature is a 19th-century tank for adult baptism set into the floor. The boundary of the churchyard (*PRN 105527*) on the north and east sides is dictated by the very steep slopes here, but on the south side, the boundary is slightly curved, hinting at an early curvilinear graveyard. There is a large western extension to the graveyard from 1879.

The Old Harp Inn has not been dated in the records that refer to it, but looks to be of post-1750 origin. This holds true for other buildings in the village. The Old School for instance dates to 1836, and adjacent Glandwr was the schoolmaster's house and contemporary with the school. Plas-yn-llan on the opposite side of the road is broadly of the same period, while the former village hall, now known as Neuadd Elwy is of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date. Talhaiarn Farm, also termed Dolhaiaran Farm (*PRN 105528*), is on the east side of the village. The stone building, dating to the early 17th century is re-fronted and also has 18th- and 19th-century features. An associated stone barn dates to 1694.

Llanfair bridge (*PRN 105458*), built of rubble masonry, has three elliptical arches and cutwaters. It has generally been believed to be of 18th-century origin and recent work on the Quarter Sessions Records suggest that it was rebuilt in 1766. Melin Dolhaiarn on a tributary of the Elwy and beyond the eastern limits of the village was a stone-built corn mill, possibly dating from the 18th century, and was in use until about 1950. There are no recognised archaeological sites represented by earthworks in the vicinity of the village.

(Reproduced from the *Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust* Historic Settlement Survey – eastern Conwy – 2014)

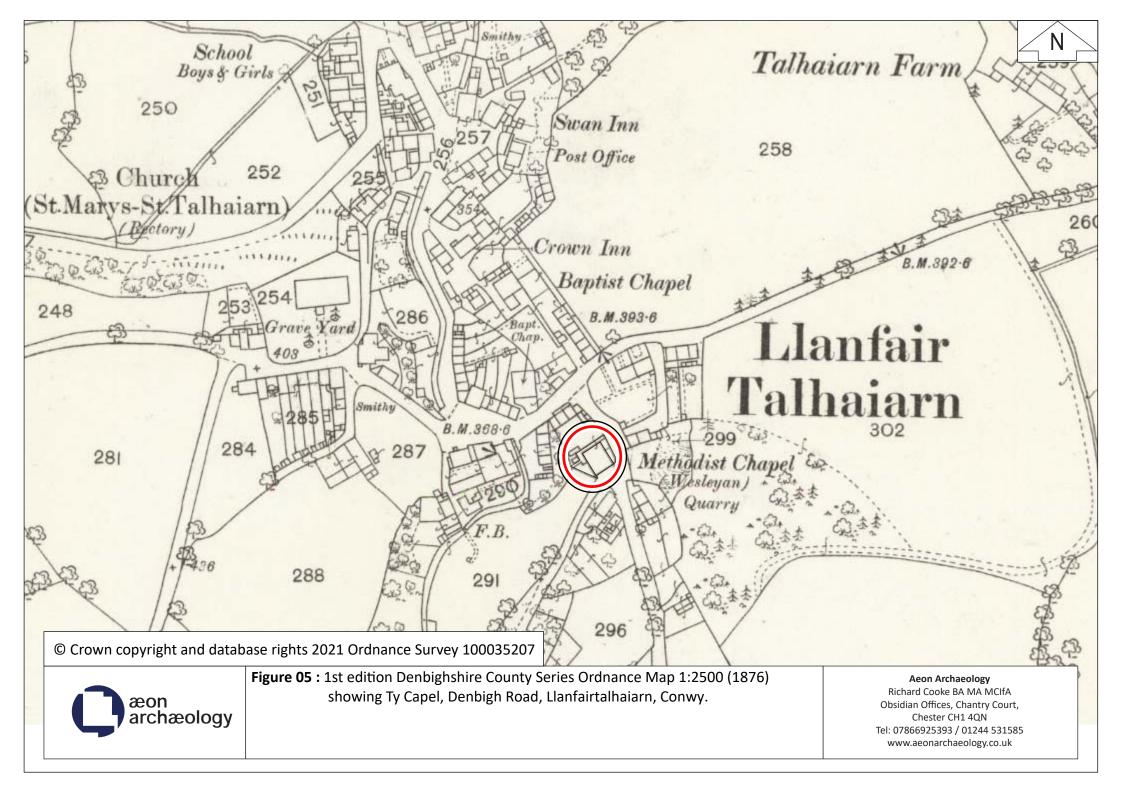


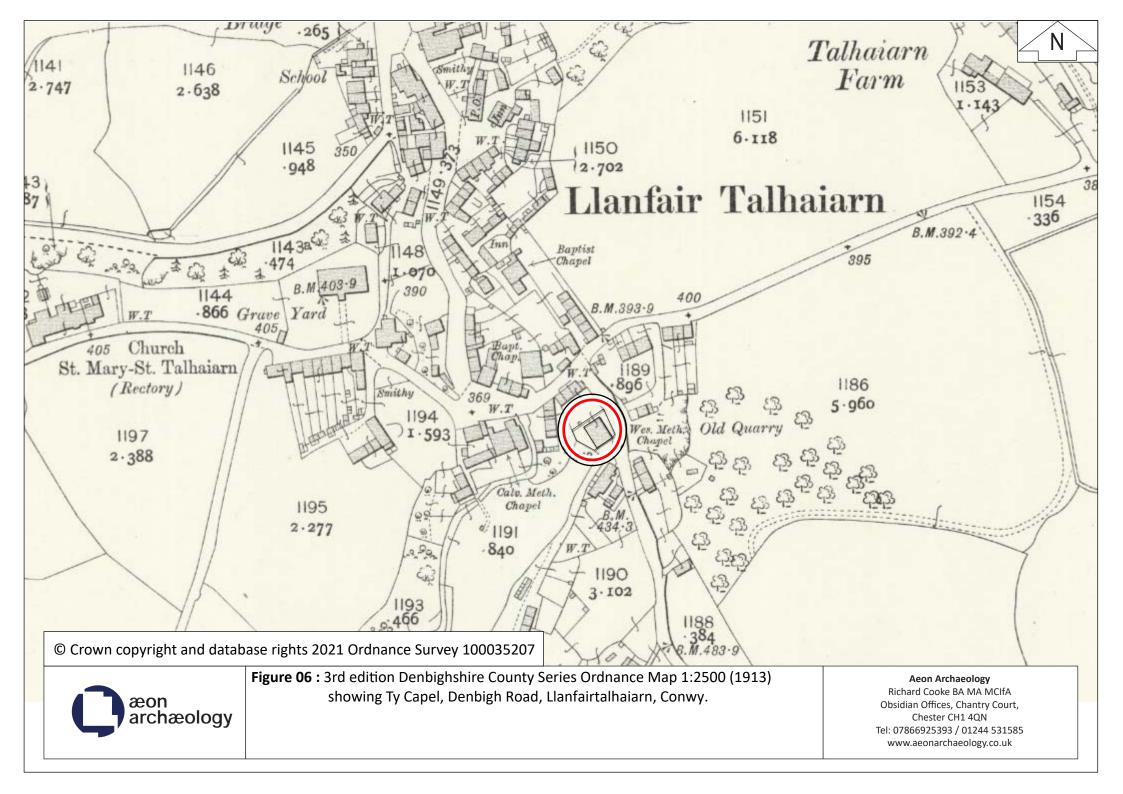


**Figure 04:** Ty Capel, Methodist Chapel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn LL22 8SS existing floor plan. Scale 1:100 at A4.

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## 4.0 METHOD STATEMENT

## 4.1 Level 2 Building Record

The requirements are for an archaeological building record to be taken of the Methodist Chapel, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy prior to alteration into holiday accommodation, however should observations or desk-based research suggest the potential for significant features to be encountered during the demolition works, the archaeological contractor should make arrangements to undertake any appropriate supplementary recording work during the development. The CPAT Development Control Archaeologist has requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2016) Level 2.

#### 4.1.1 Written Account

The written account will include:

- 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.
- An introduction, setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its
  objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints which limited the
  achievement of objectives.
- Acknowledgements to all those who made significant contributions.
- A discussion of published sources relating to the building and its setting, an account
  of its history as given in published sources, an analysis of historic map evidence and a
  critical evaluation of previous records of the building, where they exist.
- An account of the building's overall form and its successive phases of development, together with the evidence supporting this analysis.
- An account of the past and present uses of the bulding and its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations.
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building.
- Full bibliographic and other references.

#### 4.1.2 Photographs

The photographic record will include:

- 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 rooms to be altered.
- Any internal or external detail.
- Any machinery or other plant, or evidence for its former existence.
- Any dates or other inscriptions.
- Any building contents or ephemera which have a significant bearing on the building's history.
- Copies of maps, drawings, views and photographs present in the building and illustrating its development or that of its site.

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

## 4.1.3 Drawings

The drawn record will include:

- A measured site plan showing the location and orientation of photographs. This will label all room spaces and indicate any architectural features of note.
- Measured elevation drawings of all external elevations.

## 4.2 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving

Following completion of the record as outlined above, a report will be 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.

#### 4.3 Archive and Dissemination

A full archive including photographs and written material has been prepared (see section 5.0). All photographs and descriptions have been labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged with the RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

Upon completion of the project, copies of the report will be sent to the Client, regional HER via the HEDDOS portal, and the DMA at CPAT with the original paper archive being deposited with the RCAHMW.

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (2018 updated 2022) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

#### 5.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 5.1 Type of study

Level 2 Historic Building Record of the former Wesleyen Methodist Chapel, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SS, (centred on **NGR SH 92829 70062**) in advance of conversion and alteration to holiday accommodation.

## 5.2 Data generated

File name	File Contents	Linked File(s)
A0341.1 Ty Capel,	PDF report	
Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy		
HBR2 1.0.PDF		
A0341_1_001 -		
A0341_1_104.JPG	JPEG site images	A0341.1_Metadata
A0341_1_001 -		
A0341_1_104.TIF	TIF site images	A0341.1_Metadata
	Excel file of photographic	A0341_1_001 -
A0341.1_Metadata.XLSX	metadata	A0341_1_104 (JPG and TIF)

All data generated during this project has been selected for archive.

#### 7.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code\_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

All written registers, pro-formas, and scaled drawings scanned as .PDF files.

## 7.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

- 3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.
- 3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance, in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

## 7.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation was controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This included the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

#### 7.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data was organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae project file systems and backed up to The Cloud using *Acronis Cyber Protect* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

#### 7.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata was created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) of all photographic plates.

## 7.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) (via HEDDOS), the RCAHMW and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to Acronis Cyber Protect.

## 7.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

## 7.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

#### 7.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (RCAHMW, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

### 7.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

## 7.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

## 7.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

## 7.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

## 7.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2020
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2020
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2020
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2020
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

#### 6.0 LEVEL 2 HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

### External descriptions – Tŷ Capel, Llanfair Talhaiarn

This is a rectangular building orientated northwest to southeast measuring 10.22m by 9.08m. The building has an acute hipped roof of blue slate with blue slate ridge tiles. A white painted plastic PVC gutter runs around the base of the roof at eaves height, with white plastic downpipes visible at the corners. The walls are all pebble-dashed (coarse plaster surface) with decorative white painted dressed quoins at the corners band and with two dressed stone stringer courses of dressed stone (painted white); these are level with the top of the window aperture and located about halfway up the elevation on three sides (northeast, northwest and southwest)

#### The north western external elevation

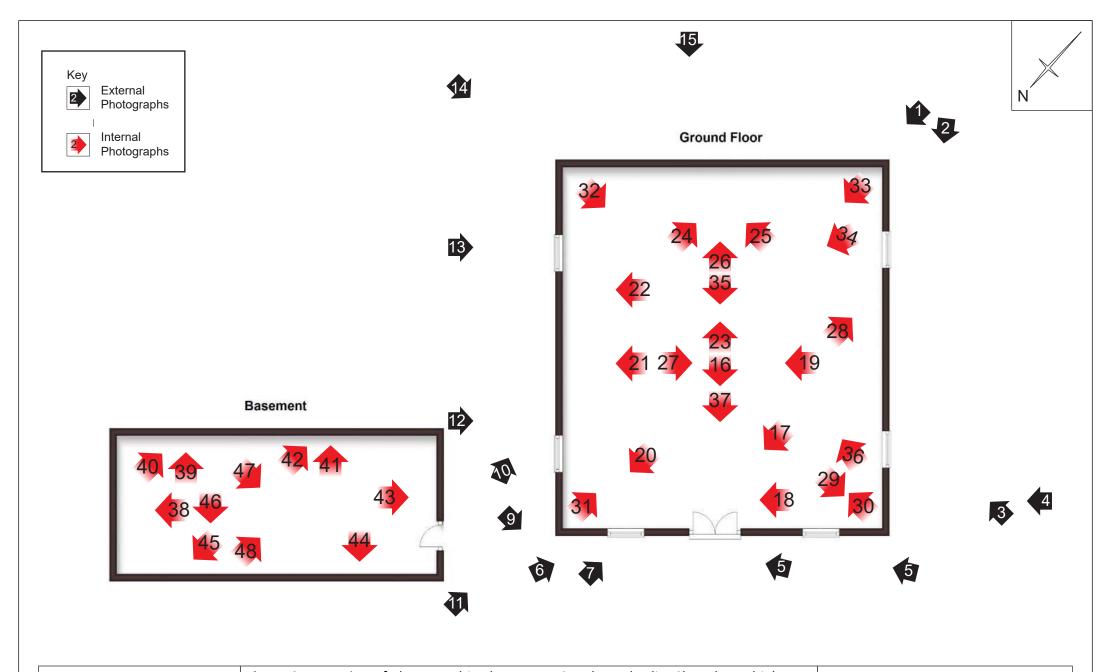
This is to be considered the principal elevation and presents with a centralised doorway with a large transom window light, flanked to left and right by two large window openings. Visible at the top of the elevation beneath the white PVC gutter is a white painted wooden fascia board to which the gutter is attached. Located below this is a white, painted, dressed stone, stringer course that runs horizontally across the length of the elevation and which serves to frame the uppermost portions of the windows and the doors, similar vertical detailing bands frame the windows and the doors also, with a second stringer course running horizontally along the base of the window line – although this is interrupted by the doorway. At the base of the elevation on the left-hand side there is a similar detail which respects the rise of the ground level to the doorway suggesting that this was a design choice.

The window frames on this elevation are *seven* pane with *six* of these arranged as a fixed window frame with a single horizontal pivot pane at the top - and these wooden window frames have all been painted white. The dressed stone lintel above the windows has been incorporated into the horizontal design banding and the dressed stone sills are also of dressed stone and has also been painted white. The door mentioned earlier is a brown painted wooden board door set within a brown painted wooden frame and the transom window comprises of a single large pane of patterned wavy glass.

This elevation is accessed via a north eastern gateway and the ground level from the roadway slowly rises from northeast to southwest in order to meet the concrete pad for the entranceway. This pathway is bounded to the north-east by stone built retaining walls with hard brick pillars, which frame a decorative cast iron fence which has been painted metallic grey. This area affords views across the village towards St. Mary's Church.

#### The south western elevation

This elevation follows the same design as seen on the primary elevation with the two horizontal stringer course of white painted dressed stone running horizontally across the elevation framing two windows which have horizontal, white painted dressed stone columns to either side. These windows have *seven* panes with *six* fixed panes and a single pane on a horizontal pivot. These are set within white painted wooden frames. Once again the elevation has been pebble dashed.





**Figure 07:** Location of photographic plates at Ty Capel, Methodist Chapel, Denbigh Road, Llanfair Talhaiarn. no Scale

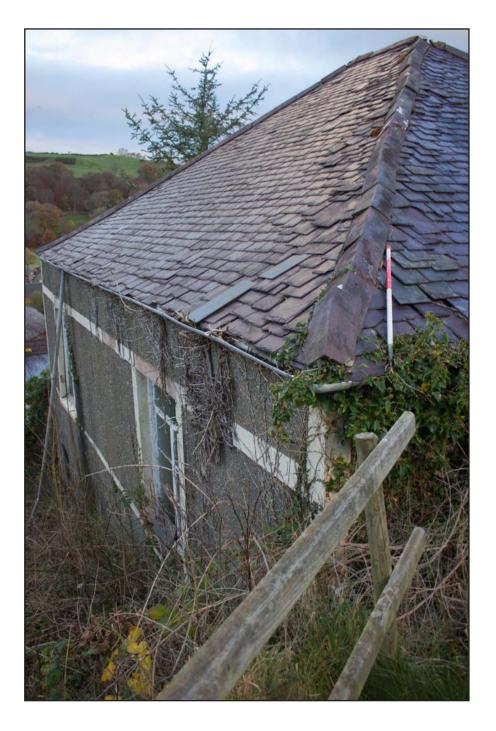
#### Aeon Archaeology

Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA
Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court, Chester CH1 4QN
Tel: 07866925393
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



**Plate 01:** External oblique shot of south eastern and south western elevations, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale





**Plate 02:** External oblique shot of south western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale





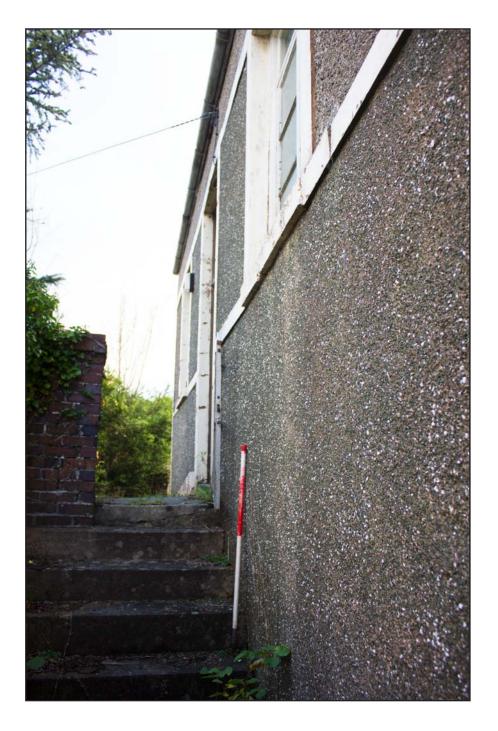
Plate 03: External oblique shot of south western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - no scale





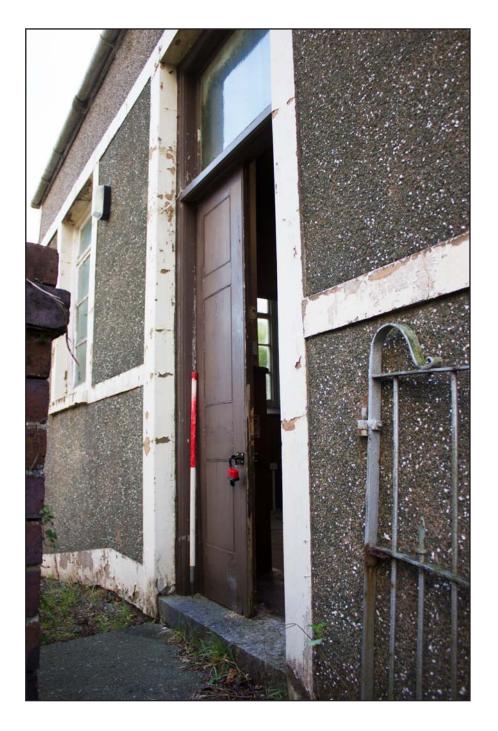
**Plate 04:** Door access to basement at left end of south western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale





**Plate 05:** External oblique shot of north western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - no scale





**Plate 06:** Door access to chapel at centre of north western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m scale





**Plate 07:** External oblique shot of north western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale





 $\textbf{Plate 08:} \ \ \textbf{Window on north western elevation, T\^{y} \ \textbf{Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy-from the northwest-1.00m}$ 





**Plate 09:** Cast iron railings to northwest of the Primary elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale





**Plate 10:** External oblique shot of north eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale





**Plate 11:** External oblique shot of north eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale





**Plate 12:** External shot of north eastern elevation (right), Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale





**Plate 13:** External shot of north eastern elevation (left), Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale





**Plate 14:** External oblique shot of north eastern and south eastern elevations, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale





**Plate 15:** External shot of south eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



The ground level which rests against this elevation slowly climbs from northwest to southeast slowly rising to meet the road (*Fordd Groes*). At the left-hand end of the elevation at basement level there is a doorway opening with brown painted wooden board door set within brown painted wooden frames which permits access to the basement. Apart from this the elevation is featureless.

Of note on this elevation is that the sill of the southern window is comprised of red brick and also visible beneath the coarse render more brick work was visible. This suggests that there may have been a replacement window in this corner or that an entirely new window was inserted at this location for whatever reason – for symmetry or simply to afford more light to enter the chapel in this location.

## The north eastern elevation

This elevation presents onto the road *Allt Y Powls* although is separated from it by a stepped stone rubble wall bonded by cement and segmented by brick-built pillars; at the right-hand end there is a decorative cast iron gate painted metallic grey which permits access to the chapel property. Also mounted on top of the stone walls and situated between the brick pillars are lengths of cast iron decorative fencing which have also been painted metallic grey. At the left-hand end this wall curves to meet the elevation of the road and subsequently permits a more open corner; which branches off down *Fordd Groes* at this point.

The elevation of the property is of an identical design to that seen on the previous elevations with the same horizontal banding and vertical columns framing the windows. The two windows have *seven* panes with *six* fixed panes with the uppermost, single pane on a horizontal pivot, set within white painted wooden frames. Apart from this the elevation featureless.

#### The south eastern elevation

The majority of this elevation is obscured by the roadway which rises up to obscure the lower 2/3's of the elevation. Visible here is the stone rubble construction of the wall which has been bonded by lime mortar – the quality of the masonry on the right-hand side appears to be of slightly higher quality. Also visible in patches are areas where the wall may have previously been previously rendered, but which now has largely come away. Also dominating this view of the elevation is the acute hipped roof which prominently rises up to the narrow roof pitch.

# Internal descriptions - Tŷ Capel, Llanfair Talhaiarn

This is a rectangular room orientated northwest to southeast measuring 9.84m by 8.71m. The room has a ceiling which has been has been papered and painted read/salmon. Located above this the roof is of a post and beam construction with two purlins running around at about a third intervals. The ceiling is divided into half by a timber *boxed in* beam running northeast to southwest. The two portions created to either side of the beam have decorative wooden cornices which have been painted off white. Situated at the centre within the two halves of the ceiling are two decorative ceiling roses. These are almost identical and are of a circular form with a decorative outer border; at the centre there is visible ventilation mesh which is surrounded by plaster flowers which appear to be daffodils and daisies. The central design of the ceiling rose has another inner circle which has been painted the same salmon colour as the ceiling – creating a central banded border. The floor of the chapel is comprised from tongue and groove boards which have been laid northeast to southwest. The use of this width of



**Plate 16:** Internal shot Chapel entrance with wooden partition vestibule, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale





Plate 17: Internal shot Chapel entrance with wooden partition vestibule, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale





**Plate 18:** Internal shot of wooden partition vestibule, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale





**Plate 19:** Internal shot of northeast elevation within Chapel, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale





Plate 20: Internal shot, plaster line on north eastern elevation showing where tiered seating was previously located,

Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale





**Plate 21:** Internal shot, suspected former entranceway on north eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale





**Plate 22:** Internal shot, stencil visible below dado line on north eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale





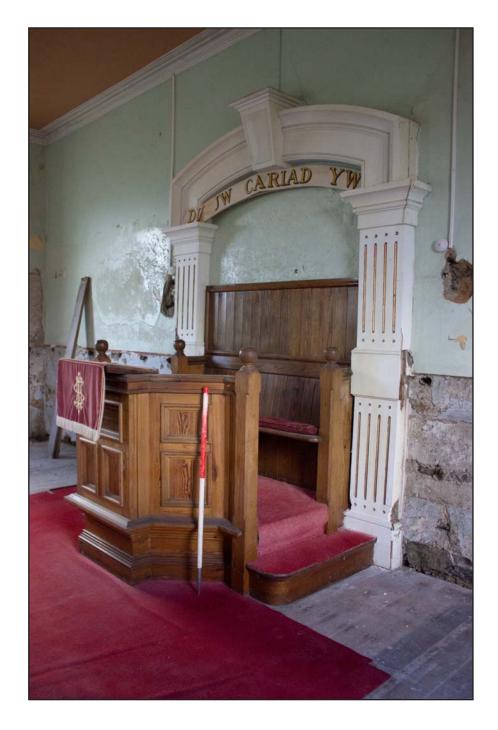
**Plate 23:** Internal shot south eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - 1.00m scale





**Plate 24:** Oblique shot of pulpit on south eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale





**Plate 25:** Oblique shot of pulpit on south eastern elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m scale





**Plate 26:** Painted banner above pulpit "DUW CARIAD YW", Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - no scale





**Plate 27:** Internal shot south western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale





**Plate 28:** Example of pine timber panelling on south western elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale





Plate 29: Internal shot, plaster line on south western elevation showing where tiered seating was previously located,

Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale





Plate 30: Oblique shot of chapel floor, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m scale





Plate 31: Oblique shot of chapel floor, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale





Plate 32: Oblique shot of chapel floor, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale





Plate 33: Oblique shot of chapel floor, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale





Plate 34: Internal shot of southern ceiling, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - no scale





Plate 35: Internal shot of southern ceiling rose, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - no scale





Plate 36: Internal shot of northern ceiling, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - no scale



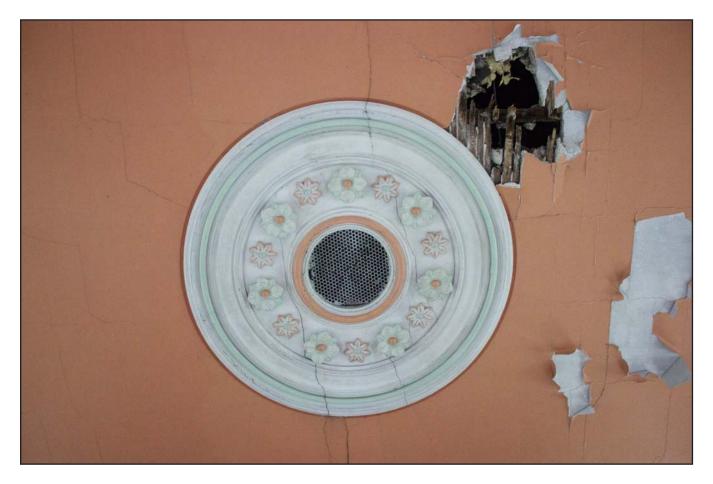


Plate 37: Internal shot of southern ceiling rose, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - no scale



wooden boards (6-8 inches) as flooring becomes more commonplace although near the end of the 19th century (Coles 2014). In certain locations the tongue and groove boards have been laid on end in order to achieve spacing between the former pews and the aisles.

The north western elevation, the primary access elevation is dominated by a wooden vestibule which is common on gable ended chapels (Wilkinson 2009) or inner porch. This conceals the entrance from the chapel body; within the vestibule the northern elevation is dominated by the large, brown painted, panel door set within brown painted frames. This door permits access to the exterior of the building. Visible on the north western elevation of the vestibule is a wooden dado below which horizontal timber panels cover the lower elevation. Above this the wall has been painted a light red/salmon colour. Visible and centralised within the Vestibule's south east facing elevation is a frosted window light with diamond decoration.

Flanking the doorway and the Vestibule and located to either side are two window openings which have *seven* pane fixed windows with a single horizontal pivot pane the top, these are set within white painted wooden frames and are recessed back from the main face of the elevation with the wall cheeks flaring outward. The wall surrounding these windows in its upper half has been painted a light sage green colour. The lower half has had the plaster chipped away and reveals the stone rubble masonry bonded by lime mortar which constitutes the wall construction. Furthermore, visible in this lower portion of the wall is a line of plaster that traces the former pitch of the suspected tiered seating which once inhabited the location; this line is visible on the north eastern and south eastern elevations (see below for the description)

## The northeast elevation

In its upper half the north east elevation has been painted a light sage green but has been separated about one third up along its height by a wooden dado rail. Beneath this once again the stone rubble masonry is visible. There is an element of vertical timber panelling which remains suggesting that this had previously been boarded out along its lower third. Situated at the left-hand and right-hand ends of the elevation are two recessed window openings which contain two seven pane fixed windows with a horizontal pivot light at the top.

Some features have been revealed on the lower third of the wall beneath the dado rail level and previously hidden by vertical timber panels. At the left-hand end there is a visible line of plaster running from northwest and sloping to southeast along the wall. Furthermore, there are patches of blue painted plaster work which seem to simulate levels along the wall - it is possible that at this location there was once tiered seating arranged against the wall - the floor at this location also slopes upwards to the northwest elevation suggesting that it once facilitated these seats. Within the centre of the elevation there appears to be a former doorway opening which has been blocked up and the timber lintel of which is now visible beneath the chipped away sage green plaster. This may represent the original entrance to the chapel where tiered seating would've been accessed to the right.

To the right of this doorway opening and located upon the blue painted plaster is an example of stencil work. This exists as a single example on the wall and is not seen elsewhere in the room suggesting that it may have been an initial design choice which was then rejected in favour of the wooden dado and panel construction.

## The southeast elevation

The southeast elevation follows a similar design to that seen elsewhere in the room; with the other 2/3 being plastered and painted a light sage green and lower third has been plastered and painted blue although in areas the stone rubble construction is visible beneath. Situated at the centre of the elevation and serving as the main focus for the chapel space is the wooden pulpit. This is framed against the elevation by a fabricated archway of *lath and plaster*, which has been painted white; at the top of the archway is a decorative wooden moulded pediment and at either end it is supported upon two rudimentary Doric style columns also constructed from *lath and plaster* with vertical detailing which has been painted gold. Below the archway and emblazoned in gold leaf lettering is the phrase;

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"Duw Cariad Yw" ~God Is Love~
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The wooden pulpit is raised onto a narrow dais by two steps and has a wooden pew set below the archway which has been furnished with red cushions and a red carpet; The lectern also has a red cover with a IHS insignia visible; In Latin-speaking Christianity among Catholics and many Protestants, the most common Christogram or Monogram became "IHS" or "IHC", denoting the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus,  $IH\Sigma OY\Sigma$ , iota-eta-sigma, or  $IH\Sigma$  – the monogram is an intertwined version of these letters (Donnelly 2005). Situated in front of this and further into the body of the room there is a long pew which faces the lectern and this area is carpeted also with red carpet. This area is accessed via a half step up form the main chapel floor.

## The south western elevation

This elevation largely mirrors the north eastern elevation. The upper two thirds of the wall comprises of green painted plaster, whilst the lower third reveals the stone rubble construction – this area having previously been hidden by wooden panelling. Two recessed window openings with flared cheeks are situated to the left and right of the windows and these are comprised of *seven* pain fixed windows with a single horizontal pivot light at the top, these are set within white painted timber frames. At the right-hand end of the elevation there is a similar slope within the plasterwork which was seen on the north eastern elevation suggesting that this side of the room once also had tiered seating; the same slope in the floor level is observed here rising from southeast to northwest.

## **Internal descriptions – basement**

This is a rectangular room orientated northeast to southwest and measuring 8.66m by 3.77m. This area was formally bisected into two separate rooms by a wall which ran northwest to southeast. This wall was constructed from stone rubble bonded by lime mortar but which has since been demolished - when viewed from the southwest this wall appears to have had a former doorway opening on the left-hand side which once permitted access to the north eastern room. Therefore, the south western room measures 3.65m long by 3.48m in width and was aligned lined northwest to southeast, whereas the north eastern room measured 4.80m long by 3.58m wide and was aligned northeast to southwest. The height of this room has been truncated by the floor of the chapel above and the floor joists and tongue and groove boarding are visible.

## Former south western room

Today the basement room is accessed via a doorway opening on the south eastern elevation on the right-hand side. This correlates with the former elevation of the south western room which appears to have been formally lime rendered and plastered, although now the stone rubble construction is visible beneath. Furthermore, there is a blocked-up window opening visible to the left of centre. The upper half of this window is obscured by the floor.

The north western elevation appears to have formally been lime rendered and then plastered and then painted white. Located to the right of centre within the wall is a recessed window opening with a low bench sill although no timber is present and the window opening has been blocked up by red-brick. Once more the upper portion of the window is obscured by the chapel floor and a newly inserted timber lintel is visible below the joist height of the floor above. Suggesting the ceiling height of this room was once higher.

The former north eastern elevation of this former south western room has been demolished, although it appears that this to had been lime rendered and plastered. As mentioned earlier a doorway opening to left-hand side of this elevation may once a permitted access to the north-eastern room. Visible along the base of the elevation is black paint. The south eastern elevation is in a better state of preservation with regards to its lime render and plaster, furthermore there are remnants of green floral wallpaper which appear on top of the plaster although now this is in a very poor state of repair.

## Former north eastern room

The former north eastern room's north western elevation has been left exposed as a stone rubble wall bonded by lime mortar. Therefore, it is possible to discern some features within this wall although the phasing is unclear; The timber ceiling has been inserted into the wall at a later date — which supports the theory that this ceiling is the most recent alteration to the room, perhaps associated with a rebuilding phase in 1897 (Coflein 2009) given the presence of tongue and groove flooring which would suggest a later 19<sup>th</sup> century date. At the right-hand side of the north eastern elevation there is a blocked-up door recess (stone rubble and lime mortar) where a former timber lintel is visible above the doorway. There are remnants to the left and right of this former doorway of curved plaster; which insinuate that this was an opening — the location of the doorway is logical given the proximity to Allt Y Powls roadway to the northeast. To the left of this is a blocked-up fireplace where the shallow radiating brick voussoirs is still visible, here it appears that to either side the walls have been plastered and perhaps painted black in order to frame the fireplace. Furthermore the wall is discoloured in this area.

To the left of this there is another former recess which appears to have been blocked up with stone rubble bonded by lime mortar. It is likely that this was an alcove and not a doorway due to proximity to the fireplace. The south eastern elevation is once again lime rendered and plastered and in places a red floral wallpaper is visible once again in a very poor state of repair. Located to the left of centre within the elevation there is a blocked-up window (stone rubble and lime mortar), The upper portion of which is now obscured by the floor of the chapel above. Remnants of black paint are visible at the very base of the elevation

The south eastern elevation has a better state of preservation with regards to the lime render and plaster and more vivid examples of the red floral wallpaper visible in the centre and at the



Plate 38: North eastern elevation within basement, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale





Plate 39: South eastern elevation (left) within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - 1.00m scale





Plate 40: Example of wall paper on southeast elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - 1.00m scale





Plate 41: South eastern elevation (right) within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - 1.00m scale





Plate 42: Example of wall paper on southeast elevation, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - 1.00m scale





Plate 43: South western elevation within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale





Plate 44: North western elevation (left) within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale





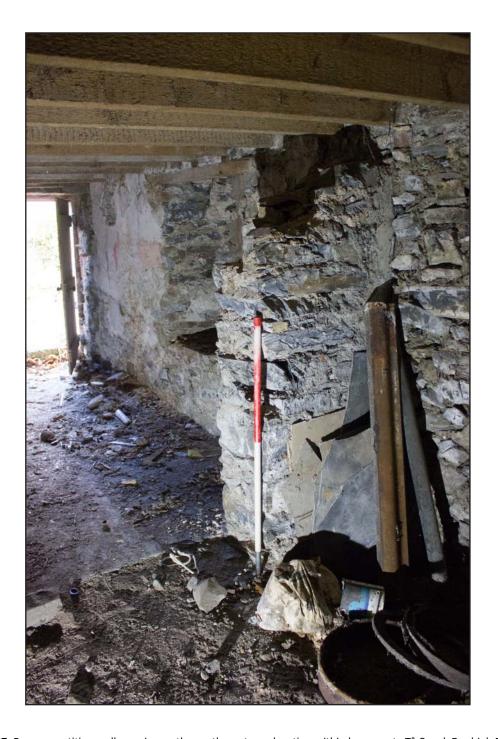
Plate 45: North western elevation (right) within basement, Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale





**Plate 46:** Former fireplace on the south eastern elevation within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale





**Plate 47:** Former partition wall remains on the north western elevation within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale





**Plate 48:** Former partition wall remains on the south eastern elevation within basement , Tŷ Capel, Denbigh Road, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale



base of the wall the same black paint is visible. The wall along this elevation in both rooms has been truncated in order to facilitate the floor above. When viewed from the southwest or the northeast the floor of the chapel above visibly slopes from northwest to southeast, insinuating that the full height of this room has been truncated turn to in order to facilitate the tiered seating of the chapel above. The floor of the south western room is of large stone flags, whereas in the north eastern room it is of beaten earth and exposed broken slate debris.

## **Discussion on possible Phasing**

The following suggestions on construction phases for Tŷ Capel are made from a combination of observation, research and historic maps. Initially, when the chapel was built in 1812 it likely presented as a much smaller, narrower structure which may have been orientated northeast to southwest. This building could have originally been a small crofter's cottage, where perhaps a form of early non-conformist preaching began.

Then in 1839 it is possible that the cottage was extended to the southwest creating an extra room as demonstrated by the different stonework observed in the basement level. Furthermore, a new chapel building was constructed to the rear of the cottage (southeast). This building would have been partially incorporated onto the cottage's north eastern portion; the chimney of the cottage would have been extended upwards into this new building - the red-brick chimney breast is still visible above the current ceiling within the chapel pers comm. (although the ceiling height of the basement room was likely respected given the existence of the window in the north eastern elevation of the basement). The building was smartly constructed with large, regular sized pieces of stone rubble, bonded by mortar and the windows were finished with dressed stone sills, lintels and cheeks. Therefore, when viewed from the road - Tan Y Powls, the chapel building would have appeared to have a generally lower, narrower profile with a visible chimney stack extending upward at the north western elevation. During this time the chapel was accessed from the northeast via the now blocked up door in the north eastern elevation.

In 1897 the chapel is said to have experienced a rebuild – however by the 1874 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map the building appears to have already changed. Therefore, this major rebuild probably took place prior to 1874; the building was extended to the southwest effectively doubling the size of the chapel's floor space and now covering the footprint of the previously extended cottage – which was partially reduced. The use of red-brick in the south western window sills suggests a new phase of construction when compared with the dressed stone sills seen in the north eastern elevation (the use of red brick is also seen in the basement blocking up the right-hand window in the north western elevation). The building received a new roof of post and beam construction, and new tongue and groove flooring was installed along with wooden panelling on the internal elevations (although a stencilled design was considered prior). The new floor effectively reduced the ceiling height of the former cottage making this redundant as a dwelling. The north eastern entrance was blocked up and a new doorway was situated in the north western gable. At this time or likely soon after tiered wooden seating was installed to the left and right of this new door.

## Discussion on the Evidence

The apportionment for the tithe map - Map of the townships of Prysllygoed, Barog, Melai, Drefach, Petrual, Cornwal and Talhaiarn in the parish of Llanfair Talhaearn in the County of Denbigh (1842)- details the that owner of plot 1163 was Lord Newborough and the occupier

was *Daniel Evans* – also listed as *Himself*. The name and description of the plot is listed as *Roft* likely a soft mutation of the Welsh word *grofft* – which means croft in English. The land is listed as arable and measures 1 acre, 0 roods, 2 perches. Shown in the north eastern corner of the plot is a narrow building shown as a black rectangle which is orientated northwest to southeast. The narrow profile of this building appears to be a semi-accurate representation for this map as other buildings in the village of Llanfair Talhaiarn are distinguished by different shapes, shown variously as squares or in 'L-shapes'. Therefore, at this time the building appears to be in a narrow form following the initial rebuild (1839) as is stated on the Coflein Website.

The second rebuild/expansion (*pre-1874*) of the chapel might correlate with the widely held belief that there was an enormous increase in Wesleyen membership (and with regards to nonconformist religion in general) throughout mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century Wales. A key piece of evidence for this is cited as being the detail by the 1851 Population census and Religious Census of the same year. There remains some controversy with regards to the usefulness of these censuses as they are often associated with corruption due to political and religious interference and generalised claims over population categories (Crockett 1998, Levitan 2008). However, given that there is a widely accepted narrative that the zenith for religious membership came in the late 1800's, it is conceivable that *Tŷ Capel, Llanfair Talhaiarn* could have experienced a large renovation enhancement *pre-1874* in response to an increased need for worshipping space.

During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a mine known as the *Tyddyn Clefi Mine* which mined Lead,Zinc and Copper (1891-1905). This probably resulted in a minor population boom for the area during the very end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, it was also known to have been operational on a smaller scale earlier in the century. The mine came under the auspices of the Llanfair Company in 1891; when two north-south lodes were worked, the main veins being the Morgan Lode and the New Lode. These produced only a small tonnage of lead, zinc and copper ores (Archer 1959). Therefore, the area was worked probably as far back as the early 19th century. Despite considerable investment in plant by the Llanfair Company the workings only continued for a small number of years. The main mine area was later partly quarried out at the end of the track from Pont Llungam, which passes the renovated houses of Tyddyn Clefi and Ysgwbor Wen.

Disused levels and shafts were located along the trackway to the renovated mine buildings and on either side of the stream which falls north to meet the River Elwy. Water still runs from an adit level west of the Morgan's Shaft area (CPAT 1993) that has been cleared. Adits also run eastwards into the hillside of Moel Iago amid areas of spoil. Ore was transported by horse and cart to Abergele; the return journey brought coal to power the mine machinery. Two reservoir-pools also appear to have served the sett (legal claim).

Given this industrial activity which was taking place in the area combined with established agricultural operations there is the possibility of larger Methodist congregations being present in the Village; which may have been suitable motivation for the expansion of  $T\hat{y}$  Capel during the mid to late 1800's. The preparation of the necessary mining infrastructure in terms of excavating reservoirs and operating and maintaining machinery, the excavation of shafts and adits into Morgan Lode and New Lode, and the need to establish regular trade routes between

Llanfair Talhaiarn and Abergele would have attracted a large workforce to the area at a time when non-conformist religious worship was arguably at its most popular.	

## 7.0 SOURCES

Maps.

Denbighshire VII

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1878, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1900, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1912, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1966, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1989, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1994, 1:2,500 scale.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SH NW97, NE97, SE97 and SW97.

Map of the townships of Prysllygoed, Barog, Melai, Drefach, Petrual, Cornwal and Talhaiarn in the parish of Llanfair Talhaearn in the County of Denbigh, (1842). Available at: https://places.library.wales/browse - (Accessed: 02 Dec 2021).

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