



**Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street,
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys,
SY10 0JY.**

February 2022 V 1.0



Historic Building Record Level 2

Project Code: A0348.1

Report no. 0382

Event PRN: 213715



æon archaeology

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April 2022 v1.0

Report no. 0328 / Event PRN: 213715

Historic Building Record Level 2

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Date: 15/02/2022

Client: Daniel Smith

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Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys, SY10 0JY.

April 2022 v1.0

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Mr Daniel Smith, 'y Cleient' o hyn ymlaen, i gynnal cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol lefel 2 o hen Gapel y Methodistiaid Calфинаidd Cymraeg, Capel Bethesda, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY, (yn canolbwyntio ar NGR SJ 12387 26166) cyn trosi'n annedd breswyl a gwaith cysylltiedig.

Sicrhawyd caniatâd cynllunio llawn (cyf: 021/0375/FUL) gan y Cleient gan Gyngor Sir Powys, 'y Cyngor' o hyn ymlaen, ar 10 Mawrth 2021 gyda'r amodau cyn cychwyn canlynol yn ymwneud ag archeoleg yn cael eu gosod ar y caniatâd:

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Daniel Smith, hereafter 'the Client', to carry out a level 2 historic building record of the former Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY, (centred on **NGR SJ 12387 26166**) in advance of conversion to residential dwelling and associated works.

Full planning permission (**ref: 021/0375/FUL**) was secured by the Client from Powys County Council, hereafter 'the Council', on 10th March 2021 with the following pre-commencement conditions concerning archaeology being applied to the consent:

Condition 3

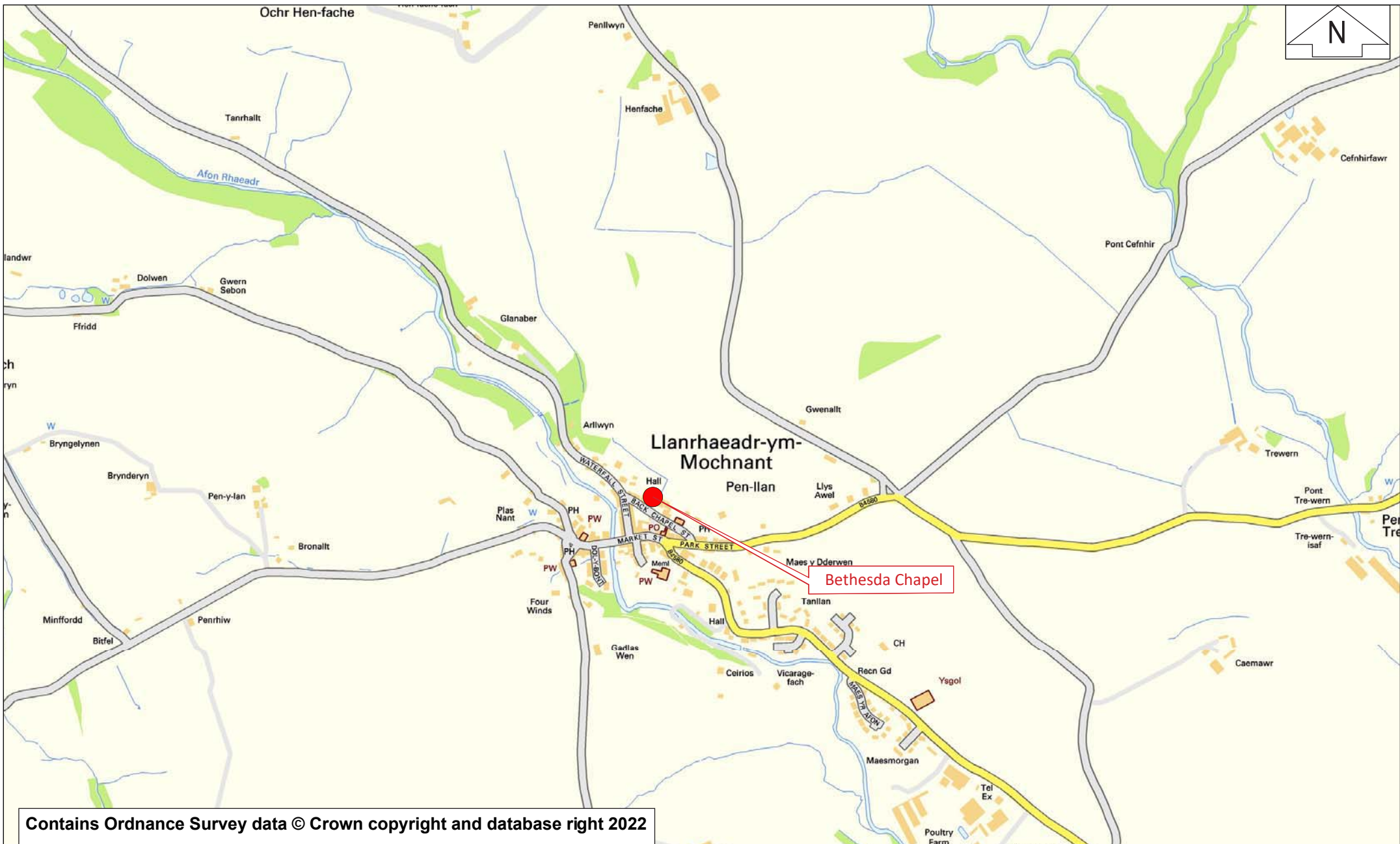
No development shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an Historic England Level 2 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by the local planning authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted 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 resulting report and digital archive should be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record and a copy of the report and whole project archive should also be sent to the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

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 01: Location of Methodist Chapel, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY (centred on NGR SJ 12387 26166)
Scale 1:10,000 @ A4.

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dd-bach

Maesydd



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Figure 02: Location of Methodist Chapel, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY (centred on NGR SJ 12387 26166)
Scale 1:5,000 @ A4.

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Figure 03: Location of Methodist Chapel, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY (centred on NGR SJ 12387 26166)
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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 Country Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

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

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

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

3.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Introduction

The large village of Llanrhaeadr is situated on the River Rhaeadr about 7.00km north of Llanfyllin and 17.00km roughly southwest of the historic market town Oswestry, at the place where several minor roads converge on the B4580 which terminates here. In its lower reaches, the Rhaeadr, a tributary of the River Tanat less than 2.00km away, occupies a shallow valley, but at the place where Llanrhaeadr has developed, the valley sides are steeper, particularly the southern slopes. The church and market place lie on the valley floor north and east of the river, and from this focus the settlement has expanded along the gentle slopes of the valley and less densely on the opposite bank of the river where there is steeper terrain. The settlement form has thus been dictated by the natural topography. The river passing through the village acted as the county boundary until recent years. Thus as recently as the 18th century the settlement will have been split between Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire (though this may not have been the case at the time of the Act of Union in 1536, according to a county map produced by John Speed in 1607). The two parts were only reunited with the creation of unitary authorities in 1996.

Bethesda Methodist Chapel – Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

According to the Coflein website (the online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales), (NMRW), The Bethesda Methodist Chapel (*NPRN 7780*) was built in 1828 and rebuilt in 1869, in the Gothic style with a gable-entry plan, to the design of architect William Henry Spaul of Oswestry. In addition Spaul was also responsible for the rebuild of St. Dogfans Parish Church in 1882 in the village.

Bethesda chapel has an inscribed slate mounted onto its south eastern elevation which is written in Welsh in its upper half and Latin in its lower half, it reads;

BETHESDA

Addoldy

Y

TREFNYDDION

CALVINAIDD

Adeiladwyd 1828

--

Si Deus nobiscum

quis contra nos

The initial Welsh inscription when translated into English reads; “*Bethesda, Calvinist Methodist Chapel – Built 1828*” this is followed by the Latin which translates; “*If God is with us who is against us*”. The date is interesting suggesting an early Victorian foundation. The tithe map - *Map of the several townships of Trerllan, Trewern, Banhadla, Trebrys Bach, Trefailen, Banhadla Issa, Trebrys Fawr and Gartheryr in the parish of Llanrhaidr yn Mochnant in the County of Denbigh* is dated 1841 and was authored by *Richard Yates - Surveyor and Enclosure Commissioner; of Whittington*. This map does not depict the village in specific detail to show the location of Bethesda Chapel. By the 6-inch edition Ordnance Survey map (1880), (*Denbighshire Sheet XLIII (inset XLV)*), the chapel is shown as having its main chapel body and its eastern Vestry extension.

William Henry Spaul

(Reproduced from website Manchester Victorian Architects – see section 07 for reference)

William Henry Spaul was born circa. 1839, at Colchester, to Barnard Spaul and Jane Spaul (born Cross), and married Maria Spaul (born Mickleburgh) on 12 April 1866, at Montgomery. There were three children. He was articled to architect Edward Salter - Faulkner, then W & A Moseley and commenced practice in 1862 briefly joining into partnership with George Bidlake of Wolverhampton as architects and surveyors, under the style or firm of Bidlake and Spaul. This partnership was dissolved by mutual consent on 1 July 1863. William Henry Spaul died on 8 May 1915 at Shrewsbury as a result of a road traffic accident. His obituary in Building News noted:

“Mr. William Henry Spaul, JP., FRIBA., of The Gables, Upper Brook street, Oswestry, an alderman and ex-mayor of that town, was knocked down by a trap at Shrewsbury on Saturday, and died in Salop Infirmary the same afternoon, without regaining consciousness. Alderman Spaul, who was seventy-five years old, was diocesan surveyor for the diocese of St. Asaph. In Free Masonry he was provincial grand secretary for Shropshire, director of ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of England, and celebrated his Masonic jubilee only last week. He had carried out much work in Shropshire and had been a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects since 1890”

Archaeological History – Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant

Approximately 1.56km to the southeast of the village there is scheduled ancient monument (SAM) known as the Meusydd. Ariel photography over the last 60/70 years initially identified the area as having possible Bronze Age sites; *Maesmochanant* - possible ring ditch (**PRN 101827**), *Maesmochanant* - ring ditch / bronze age pit circle (**PRN 7948**), and the *Maesmochanant ring ditches I, II, III, IV & V* (**PRN 101480, 101827, 70855, 70862 & 70863**), *Maesmochanant Isaf* - possible ring barrow (**PRN 106398**), *Llanarmon Mynydd Mawr* round barrow (**PRN 101426**) opened in 1773/74 as well as the *Maesydd ring ditches I, II, III & IV* (**PRN 101479, 101733, 102652 & 70856**).

Specifically of note are *Meusydd I - a Neolithic timber circle / Neolithic pit circle* (**PRN 101724**) and *Meusydd II - a Bronze Age ring ditch or Neolithic Henge* (**PRN 101071**). The excavations at Meusydd demonstrated that this is a henge monument which is multi-phase, comprising of the following elements: a large ditch - 2.80m wide, 1.15m deep and 19.00m in external diameter; with a possible external bank up to 3.00m wide; an internal turf mound around 9.00m in diameter, retained by a timber palisade; and a series of large pits or post-holes, some of which may predate the mound suggesting Neolithic origins. An environmental sample from the site was dated to 2480 - 2211 .cal BC placing it in the early Bronze Age. Furthermore, a total of 121 sherds of Beaker pottery were also recovered, which when analysed were found to produce part of a coil-built vessel or *beaker* which may well have been locally produced given its similarity to another vessel found during excavations at Coedy-Dinas henge at Welshpool. These sherds (vessel) were stylistically dated to 2100 - 1700 cal. BC, further augmenting a likely date of early to-mid Bronze Age – making Neolithic origins to this site a real possibility.

A few Bronze Age finds have also been recorded in the immediate environs of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant; a fragment of a late Bronze-Age socketed axe head (**PRN 54708**) – comprising of part of the curved cutting edge of an axe with the very base of the socket also surviving.

Also of note is a 'bronze celt' or palstave axe head known as the Brithdir Celt (**PRN 70320**) which was found northwest of the village. A perforated stone mace head (**PRN 101064**) apparently from a Dyfed (Southwest Wales) source of stone, this was classified as an *ovoid b type* – and measured 6.30cm long by 5cm wide. This was found in the River Iwrch immediately to the north of *Pont Maes Mochnant*.

A series of standing stones are also to be found in various locations around the village - these are believed to have been removed from their original context; in 1871 T. W. Hancock a Victorian antiquarian recorded the existence of two large stones with long narrow grooves on an hill (location unknown) in Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant parish (**PRN 10142**). The *Maesmochnant standing stone* (**PRN 101060**) is the tallest surviving standing stone in Montgomeryshire and is located close to the River Tanat. It measures 3.65m high by 0.60m at its wide at widest point. It stands in a field called *Erw y Garreg* and is likely not in its original position. The *Green School standing stone* (**PRN 101044**) is 2.70m tall and has been reused as 18th century mile stone and is inscribed with a date of 1770. This is understood to have formerly stood on the summit of mound, this site is now occupied by the 19th century Green School but traditionally this stone is said to have come from *Rhos Maen Criafol* on the northern road to *Maengwynedd Valley* – and therefore may have been moved several times. The *Waterloo Stone* (**PRN 3953**) is an unworked monolith 1.30m high (approx.) with a base circumference of between 1.20m and 1.00m - having '*cae waterloo 1815*' carved on one face. Local tradition states that its original site was a *mabsant field* (festival field) until circa. 18th century, the stone was removed from this site before 1984.

The Iron Age period in the area is not as well represented with a single Spindlewhorl (**PRN 13083**) stray find, possibly of Iron Age date, found during fieldwalking in 1996. It has a diameter of 4.00cm, is 1.00cm thick and has an 'hourglass-shaped' hole in the middle. The *Henfache enclosure* (**PRN 101049**) is a suspected Iron Age cropmark located 500m to the north of the village and appears as a small oval enclosure marked by single line. Situated on flat ground with good views to south and west.

The Romano British era represents an interesting period with regards to the locale and is deserving of more study. The *Maesmochanant Isaf* field enclosure (**PRN 101699**) – is a large rectilinear enclosure 1.72km southeast of the village and although the sides of the enclosure are not totally equidistant, there is a possible 'Roman military' appearance to the size and location of the enclosure – the aforementioned Spindlewhorl was found to the northwest of this enclosure. *Tomen Cefn Glaniwrch* motte, enclosure (**PRN 123908**) is recognised as being of medieval date but may be predated by a Roman Fort enclosure – this has been suggested by Hugh Toller from studying LiDAR coverage. *Glaniwrch, Pottery Sherd II* (**PRN 120635**) two pottery sherds of suspected grey core ceramic were found to the southwest of the suspected fort. Also there have been reports since the early 2000's that Roman material including tiles and mosaics were being ploughed up in the fields belonging to Glaniwrch Farm (**PRN 39361**) and these finds would contribute to a pattern of Roman activity approximately 2.55km southwest of the village. Furthermore, in 1921 during the excavation of post holes for a new gate, it was reported that a cobbled surface was encountered about 0.90m to 1.20m below the ground level and that further excavation revealed more cobbling to the east and west – this has been suggested as evidence for a Roman Road (**PRN 101061**).

The early medieval origins for the village are represented by the presence of the *Early Medieval/Medieval, Meusydd Cemetery (PRN 102775)*. Excavations by CPAT in 2010 investigated an area of 7.50m by 5.50m, uncovering six complete graves, including one of a presumed child burial, and four partial graves. Two of the graves were totally excavated, although there was no surviving skeletal remains or artefactual evidence recovered (Jones and Hankinson 2011). The distribution of the graves is significant since they not only conform consistently to an east/west alignment, but appear to fall into distinct groups. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that any of the graves are intercutting. The implication is, that the cemetery may have been in use for a relatively short period, such that existing graves were still visible, or had some form of marker, when later internments were made. The apparent grouping of graves may also suggest either family groups, or perhaps individuals who died at or around the same time. *The Early Medieval Cross (PRN 101048)* at St. Dogfan's is a rectangular cross slab commemorating *Gwgam son of Elstan*, possibly dating to the 9th - 10th centuries though the inscription might be 11th century. Discovered in August 1879 during restoration of the church, built into the southwest portion of the wall of the south aisle and set up in the church. It was erected in its present location prior to 1957. This was recategorized as cylindrical shaft fragment when reassessed by Edwards (CPAT 2021) who considers it to have an architectural function and could be a pillar of 9th century Mercian type. *Pont Glan Tanat Ucaf inscribed stones (PRN 5989)* Two stones bearing an incised cross within a circle, used as coping stones on the parapets of Pont Glan Tanat, suggested to be of early medieval date. However, some doubt over the date of these stones has been raised and they are now considered suspicious. There are no similarities between the stone heads and cross at Glantanat Isaf, even to the extent of differing rock types and they have a similar appearance to stones used in a cider press. Finally, it is thought that an Early Medieval Clas of monks founded a *Monastery at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (PRN 101051)* although no evidence for this has been found it may be that this earlier ecclesiastical foundation lies beneath the current parish church of St. Dogfans.

CPAT's Historic Survey of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant

(The following synopsis has been reproduced from Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, Historic Settlement Survey website (see section 7.0 for the reference)– Montgomeryshire - for Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (2012).

A mother church, probably with a clas community, was established here in the early medieval period, with its precinct slotted in to a bend on the north side of the river. The ecclesiastical centre of the commote of Mochnant - it may have been founded as early as the 6th century and it has been claimed that it continued until at least 1291, for later medieval records refer to a community of clergy here during Edward I's reign. Llanracarder the name first appears in 1254 and as Thlanrather in Meuhenhand in 1284. A more intelligible form, Lanraiader en Mochnant is documented between 1344 and 1357. In English the meaning would be 'the church of the waterfall in Mochnant'. During the medieval period if not earlier, settlement must have developed around it, with what appears to be a market place created just to the north of the church. It has been suggested that this was one of the churches with its village, recorded by Giraldus Cambrensis, that was burnt by an English expedition in 1165, but this can only be speculation. The extent of that medieval settlement cannot be gauged from current knowledge though it is not likely to have been large. Its development in Tudor and Jacobean times is similarly unrecorded. A small-scale manuscript map of around 1780 depicts a compact settlement on the north-west side of the churchyard. The 'market triangle' is shown

but the network of lanes to the southwest has changed slightly. In particular Church Street is shown as a broader thoroughfare than today, leading to the church gate, and a modern map appears to confirm there has been infilling there. The spread of houses on to the west and south bank of the river cannot be dated but we may suspect that it was a feature of the post-medieval era. The bridge which is dated to around 1775 (apparently replacing a timber one) and the road south westwards to Penybontfawr (which though it has the appearance of 18th century turnpike trust work cannot be corroborated as such, and may indeed be much older) may have encouraged the construction of dwellings on this side of the river. There is also some evidence that an attempt may have been made to introduce a separate market on this side of the river somewhat earlier, in the reign of William III at the end of the 17th century, but this came to nothing.

The heritage to 1750 The church (**PRN 101047**) is dedicated to St Dogfan (or St Doewen) and was perhaps built in the 11th or 12th century within the precinct of the mother church. Extended in the 14th or 15th century, it was restored in 1882. It has an aisleless nave but curiously a chancel with aisles, and a west tower. Internally there is a fragment of a 9th or early 10th century cylindrical shaft of Mercian type, an 11th century (or earlier) rectangular cross-slab commemorating Gwgan, son of Elstan (**PRN 101048**), and fragments of a Romanesque shrine. There is also a 17th century font, an 18th century chest and altar table, and re-used pew panels, as well as a good range of 18th century memorials. It is set on a level platform rising above the churchyard on the south and east.

The churchyard (**PRN 19793**) is large and slopes down to the river, but the original enclosure of the mother church is reflected in the even larger elongated enclosure lying between the road and the river, with the churchyard at its western end and the lane to Vicarage-fach on the east. The open triangle immediately to the north of the churchyard formed the market place. Inside it at the end of the 19th century lay a town hall (demolished in 1901), but this was termed the market hall in the middle of the century. Markets were held here as late as the 19th century and there were also five annual fairs. However, the market itself goes back into the Middle Ages for Edward I granted Roger Mortimer of Chirk the right to hold a weekly market and two annual fairs in Llanrhaeadr in 1284. It can be assumed that the market as a weekly event continued largely uninterrupted into the 19th century, though as a revenue raiser for the lord of the manor there were times when it was not very successful. West and north of the market place houses are packed in to a reasonably regular gridded layout of small streets. There could be some element of planning here, and though it would be stretching the evidence too far to argue that this was of medieval design, it is not impossible. No particularly early vernacular buildings have survived in the village. However, Llys Morgan (**PRN 59462**), formerly known as the Old Vicarage though broadly 18th and 19th century in build contains a re-used collar and tie-beam truss of 16th or 17th century date, presumably salvaged from a hall-house which might have been on or close to the site. Timber-framed Minafon (**PRN 42555**) on Church Street is probably early 17th century in date. Y Bwthyn (**PRN 42566**) on Park Street, is of stone construction, probably from the 18th century, while the timber-framing of its neighbour, Trigfan (**PRN 42564**), could indicate 17th century work.

4.0 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Level 2 Building Record

The requirements are for an archaeological building record to be taken of the former Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys prior to conversion to residential dwelling and associated works, 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 building 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 and report

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.
- An updated Data Management Plan (DMP) and an archive content list with updated archive Selection Strategy will be included.

4.3 Dissemination and Archiving

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and will include an updated Data Management Plan (DMP) and an archive content list with updated archive Selection Strategy. A copy of the report will be sent to the Client and the DMA at CPAT for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Digital copies of the report and archive will be sent to the regional HER and the DMA at CPAT, with the original paper and digital archive being deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to Archaeology in Wales for publication.

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

A level 2 historic building record of the former Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY, (centred on NGR SJ 12387 26166).

5.2 Types of data

File name	File Contents	Linked File(s)	No. of files
A0348.1 Bethesda Chapel HBR2 1.0.PDF	PDF report		1
A0348_1_001 - A0348_1_103.JPG	JPEG site images	A0348.1_Metadata	103
A0348_1_001 - A0348_1_103.TIF	TIF site images	A0348.1_Metadata	103
A0348.1_Metadata.XLSX	Excel file of photographic metadata	A0348_1_001 - A0348_1_103 (JPG and TIF)	1

All data generated during this project has been selected for archive

5.3 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*).

5.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data was 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* (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

5.5 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.

5.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

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

5.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

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

5.8 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) and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to The Cloud.

5.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 7.8) 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.

5.10 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).

5.11 Governance of access

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

5.12 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.

5.13 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.

5.14 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.

5.15 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.

5.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

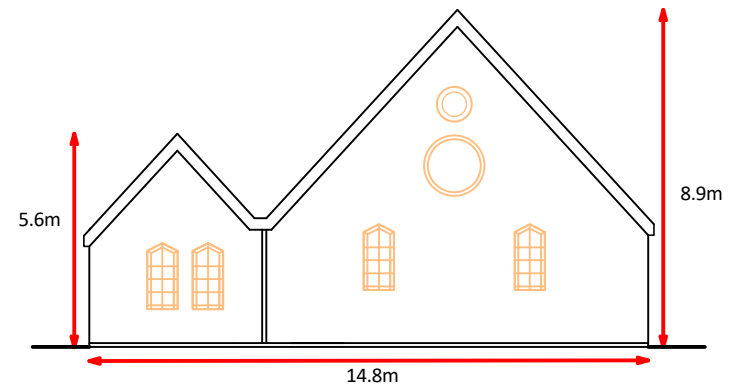
The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- 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

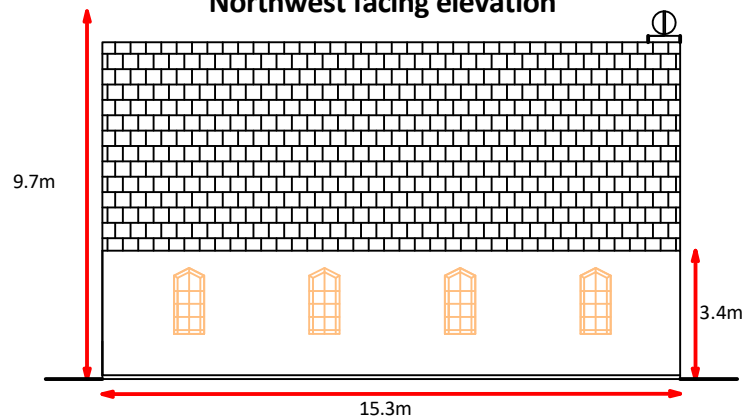
Southwest facing (Principal) elevation



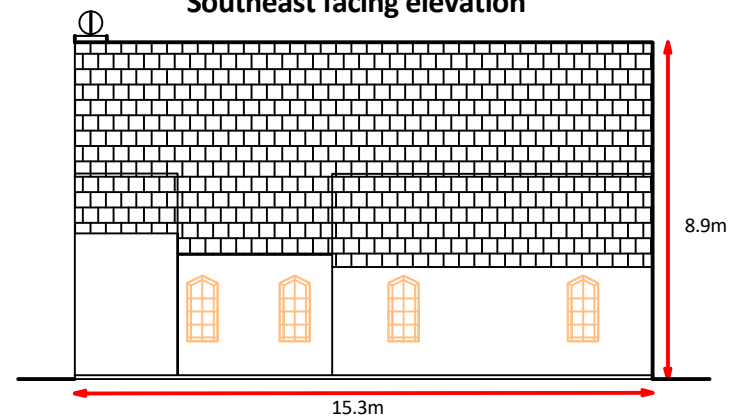
Northeast facing elevation



Northwest facing elevation



Southeast facing elevation



**Bethesa Chapel,
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant**

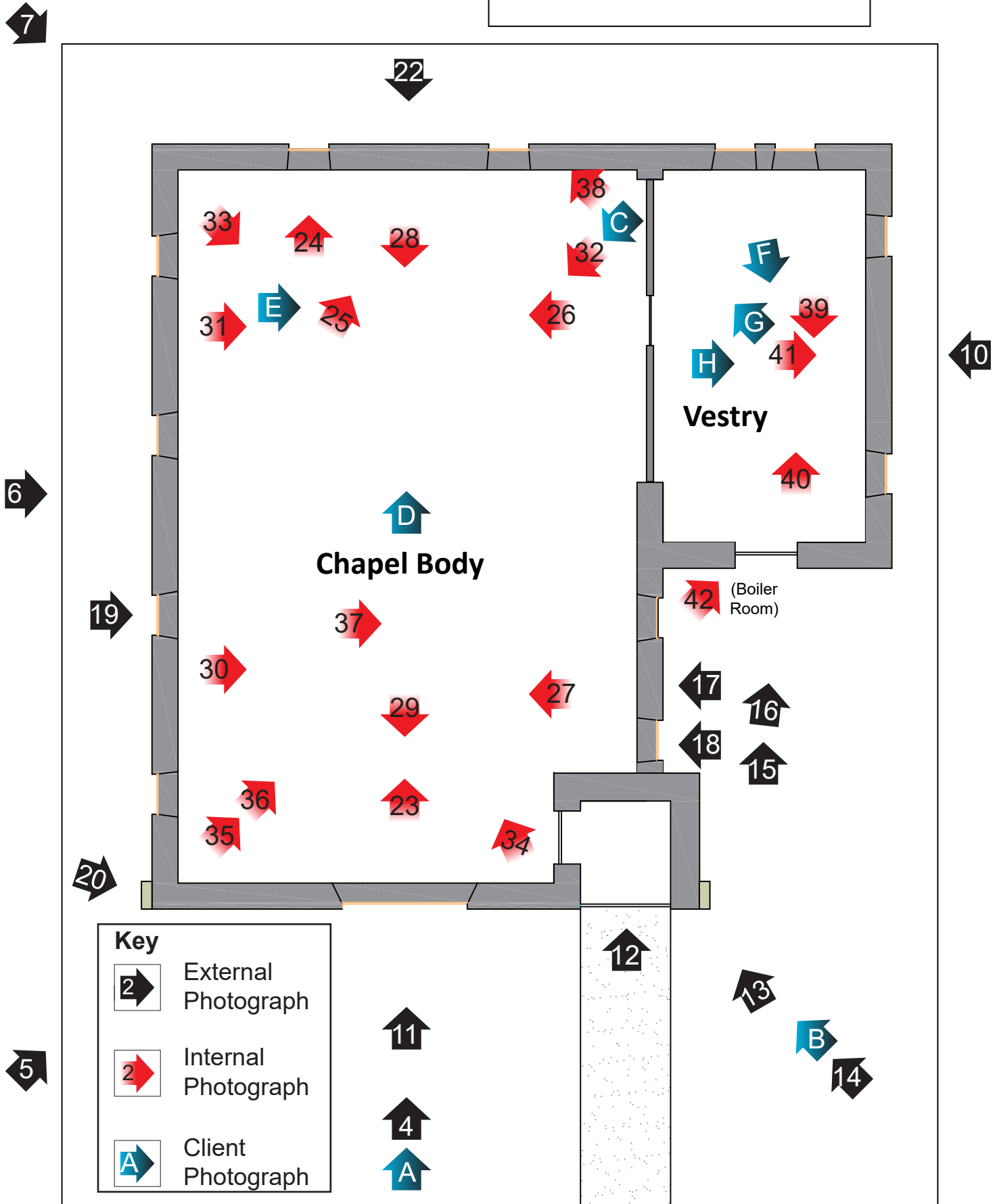


Figure 05: Plan of Bethesda Chapel and location of archaeological plates (external, internal & client) on Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Powys, SY10 0 JY. Scale 1:200 @ A4.

6.0 LEVEL 2 HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

The Chapel & Vestry, Bethesda Chapel

External descriptions (Plates 1 – 22)

The chapel is a broad, rectangular building orientated north by northwest - south by southeast and measures 29.92m long by 19.98m wide (98ft & 2” by 65ft & 6½”). The main building (chapel body) was built in 1828, subsequently the building was extended on the eastern elevation towards the rear by a *Vestry* extension. This has a date stone above the doorway which reads; 1868 - on the southern elevation. The building has been roofed with reclaimed (the original slates) Welsh slate and blue clay rolltop ridge tiles. The building has a gabled roof with steep 43° slopes. With a shallower slope denoting where a former Spire/tower once stood above the porch. The tower above this porch was removed in 1994 due to fears of collapse.

The Southern (primary) elevation

This elevation faces onto an open area of ground which once featured a pathway, flanked by grass lawns, leading to the front door of the chapel. At the roadside (Back Chapel Street) and fronting onto the street, there was also once a stone rubble wall with a cast iron, black painted gated entrance, which currently has been removed, but which will ultimately be reinstated, albeit further back from the roadside in order to facilitate parking spaces.

This primary elevation is comprised of rough-cut ashlar masonry and is dominated by a central feature window (see description below). A prominent feature of this elevation is the presence of two, distinct stringer courses which add an element of design to the façade. These are of, red ashlar sandstone blocks which occur midway up the height of the window and also at a lower-level correlating with the window sill – in both examples the stringer course is interrupted by the window opening. At the lowest part of the elevation nearest the ground level, there are two courses of red bricks bonded by Portland cement - the upper course is a cut, header/soldier brick-on-end whilst the lower course is formed from alternating header and stretcher bricks.

The main window is an example of a stone surround window and the window form is created by a dressed sandstone framework; the window aperture is formed from a traditional gothic style arch – this then forms three lancet window openings (via two mullions), The central lancet has a lower arch with a softly curved top, whereas the two other lancet window arches form sharp spear points – reminiscent of traditional gothic windows. The window panes themselves are glazed with a repeating pattern of diamonds formed by a latticework of lead comes. Above these windows there is a feature pane (*rose window*) which is a *hexafoil* (*six-sided* shape) formed by six *ousp* (*lobes*) around a centralised circular aperture. Furthermore, located at the apex of the two stone mullions (which form the upright surrounds for the lancet windows) two circular details have been sculpted into the sandstone.

At the summit of the frontage gable roof there is a small finial detail which forms a cast iron sphere – constructed from two curving bands of iron. Upon inspection, the upper third of the elevation appears to have been rebuilt at some point in the past (see *plate A*: a third red sandstone string a course is present - denoting the upper third of the elevation). In addition, there are four ceramic ventilation bricks arranged in a diamond shape within the apex of the elevation, however in *plate A* this is shown as a upside-down heart louver surrounded by sandstone.

The lower right-hand side of the elevation forms a porch with a large gothic arch doorway permitting access to the interior. This door is a large, arched wooden board door (ledged and braced – interior) supported by decorative *arts and crafts style*, cast iron hinges (ivy and vegetation design). There is also a similar (*arts and crafts*) decorative cast iron handle for the

door which is mounted onto a cast iron scratch plate - forming a circle within a decorative cross (each point forming a trefoil). The arch and the door jambs for the doorway are formed from well-dressed sandstone, which has been faced on all three of its visible sides. The door jambs themselves are situated on sandstone block footings – forming a grand entrance. This doorway is accessed via a shallow slate step with a slate-built threshold. To the right of the doorway there is a decorative, angled sandstone buttress which has been integrated into the stonework.

Immediately above the doorway the ashlar masonry has been rebuilt – evident by a pronounced vertical line of mortar and although this is prominent the rebuild is well constructed. In 1994 a former spire which was once in this location was removed due to concerns of collapse (see plate B).

The eastern elevation of the chapel.

The roof pitch is visible from the east and has once more been roofed with reclaimed Welsh slate. There is a black painted wooden fascia board at eaves height. This wall is of rough-cut ashlar masonry and the two red stringer courses of sandstone visible on the primary elevation continue onto the left-hand side of this elevation – the portion of the elevation which represents the porch. In the bottom left-hand corner of the elevation there is the decorative cut sandstone buttress which is footed upon two courses of red bricks.

To the right of the tower/porch elevation is the recessed elevation of the chapel proper (chapel body). This features two equally spaced window openings with ashlar, dimension stone voussoirs and sloped sandstone sills. Both of these windows are formed from 22 glass panes with lead comes and a distinctive white putty which fixes the frames. The window is formed from eight large central panes which are then surrounded by 14 smaller decorative panes of glass.

Situated in a centralised location between these two windows is a slate dedication mounted on four cast-iron hooks this reads (*see section 3.0* for translation);

BETHESDA

Addoldy

Y

TREFNYDDION

CALVINAIDD

Adeiladwyd 1828

Si Deus nobiscum

quis contra nos

Above the slate dedication and slightly to the right of centre there is a cast iron ventilation grate. Located to the right-hand of the elevation and in front of the wall are a set of brick steps leading down to a basement level/former boiler room.

The southern elevation of the vestry

This is once again roofed with blue Welsh slate and has a black painted wooden fascia board. At the apex of the roof is an instance of sandstone detailing, immediately below which is a small red ceramic ventilation grate.

In the centre of the elevation about above the doorway is a dressed sandstone commemoration stone with the date 1868 carved into it. Below this is a small cast-iron ventilation grate. Within the centre of the elevation at ground floor level there is a single doorway opening

which permits access to the interior of the chapel Vestry. This comprises of a wooden board door (ledged and braced) and which has been painted orange, this is set within orange painted wooden frames. Above this door is a substantial carved sandstone lintel and the door has a slate threshold. To the left of the doorway opening and below ground level there is a single doorway opening permitting access to the basement/boiler room this has a red brick wall to the left hand side and a shallow blue brick voussoirs was above.

The western elevation of the chapel

The western elevation presents as a long, uniform elevation with the steep pitch of the roof dominating the upper two-thirds of the building's aspect from the northwest. This roof is comprised of blue slate surmounted by blue roll top ridge tiles. At the right-hand side of the ridge there is the sandstone finial with a cast iron sphere decoration. Furthermore there are two skylights visible on the left-hand side of the roof.

The construction of this elevation contrasts with the primary façade as it is comprised from stone rubble bonded by lime mortar – and not ashlar masonry. At the right-hand end of the elevation there is a second sandstone buttress which is footed by two courses of redbrick. Upon closer inspection of the masonry on this elevation there appears to be a defined '*build-line*' of masonry located just below the base of the window sills; which suggests the elevation may have been built up to this level initially before being extended higher.

Equally spaced along the elevation are four identical window openings each with decorative, ashlar/dimension stone voussoirs and sloped sandstone sills. Each of the windows comprises of 22 glass panes and are configured in the same way as the windows observed on the eastern elevation. This serves to create a symmetrical aesthetic for the elevation

The northern elevation of the chapel and vestry.

Visible again is the Welsh blue slate roof and at eaves height there is a black painted fascia board. The left-hand end of the elevation (the Vestry) appears much lower in comparison to the chapel. It is understood that the vestry was a later extension to the chapel, however the stonework/masonry is largely similar to that found in the construction of the chapel. Both constructions when viewed from this elevation comprise of stone rubble bonded by lime mortar and the corners have rough-cut dressed stone quoins.

On the left-hand side of the elevation (the Vestry) there are two centralised, equally spaced window openings. These have ashlar stone voussoirs and sloped sandstone sills, although the windows have been removed and are currently closed off with corrugated iron sheeting.

The right-hand end of the elevation forms the northern gable of the chapel - this appears much larger in aspect when compared to the vestry extension. At eaves height the timber roof purlins are visible projecting outwards from the face of the elevation - there are three of these on each side forming six purlin ends which have been painted black. Near the apex of the Gable there is a small oculus window which has been surrounded with blue bricks bonded by Portland cement. Just below this there is a larger oculus window (*rose window*) which has been surrounded by dressed sandstone forming a *quatrefoil* (*four-sided* shape) with four *ousp* (*lobes*). Just below rose window and at ground floor level there are two equally spaced window openings; these windows comprise of 22 glass panes and take the same form as the windows seen on both the western and eastern elevations – continuing the regularity which the windows afford the overall design of the chapel. To the right and left of these windows are two small cast iron vents.

The eastern elevation of the vestry

The roof again is formed from Welsh blue slate surmounted by rolltop blue slate ridge tiles and at eaves height there is a brown/black painted fascia board upon which a black PVC gutter has been mounted.

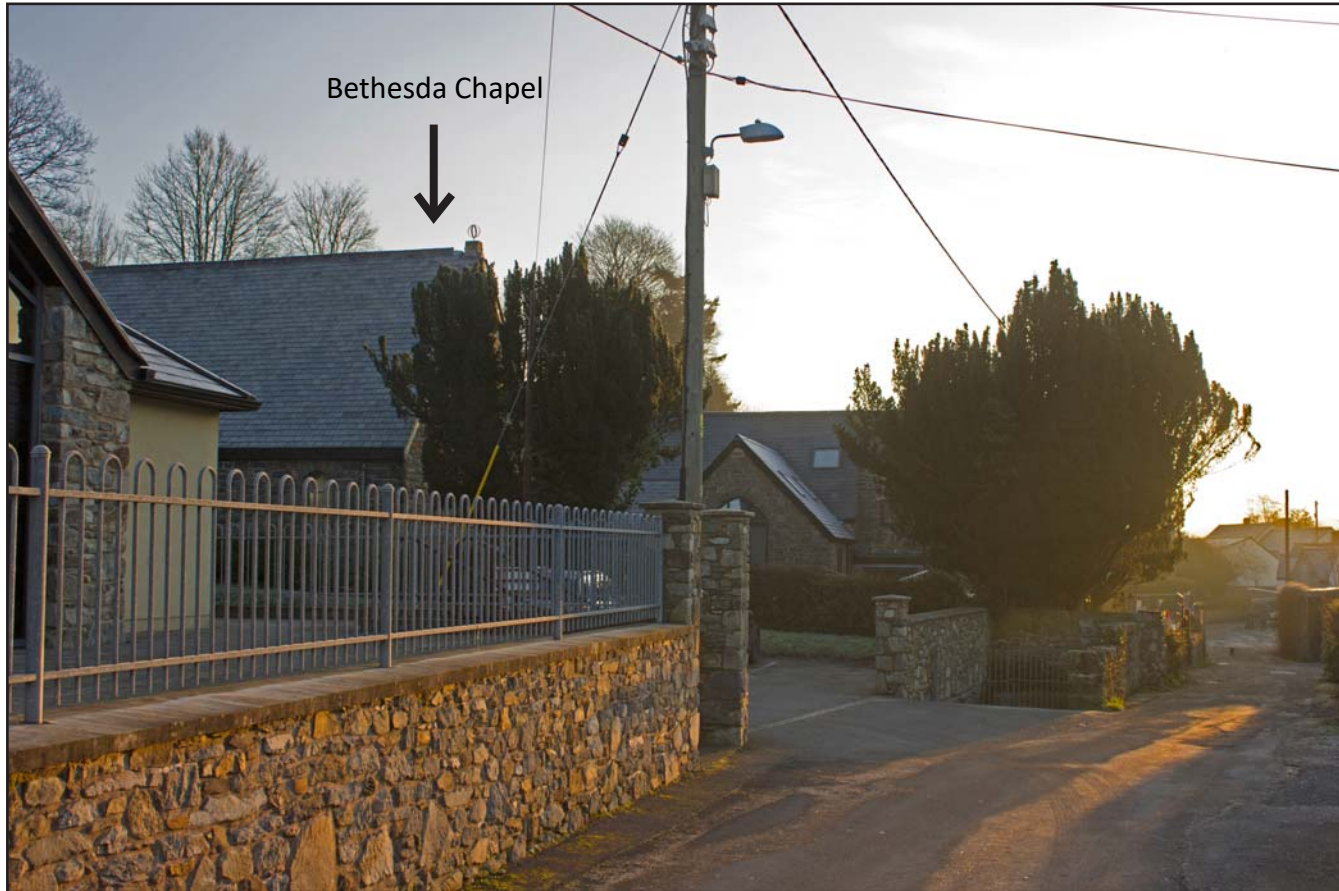


Plate 01: Context shot of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - no scale



Plate 02: Context shot of Bethesda Chapel from Chapel Street, looking onto Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - no scale



Plate 03: Context shot of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - no scale



Plate 04: Southwest facing (Principal) elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the south/southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 05: Oblique shot of southwest and northwest facing elevations of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - no scale



Plate 06: Northwest facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the west/northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 07: Oblique shot of northwest and northwest facing elevations of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - no scale



Plate 08: Northeast facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the north/northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 09: Oblique shot of northeast and south facing elevations of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northeast - no scale



Plate 10: Southeast facing elevation of the Vestry at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - 1.00m scale

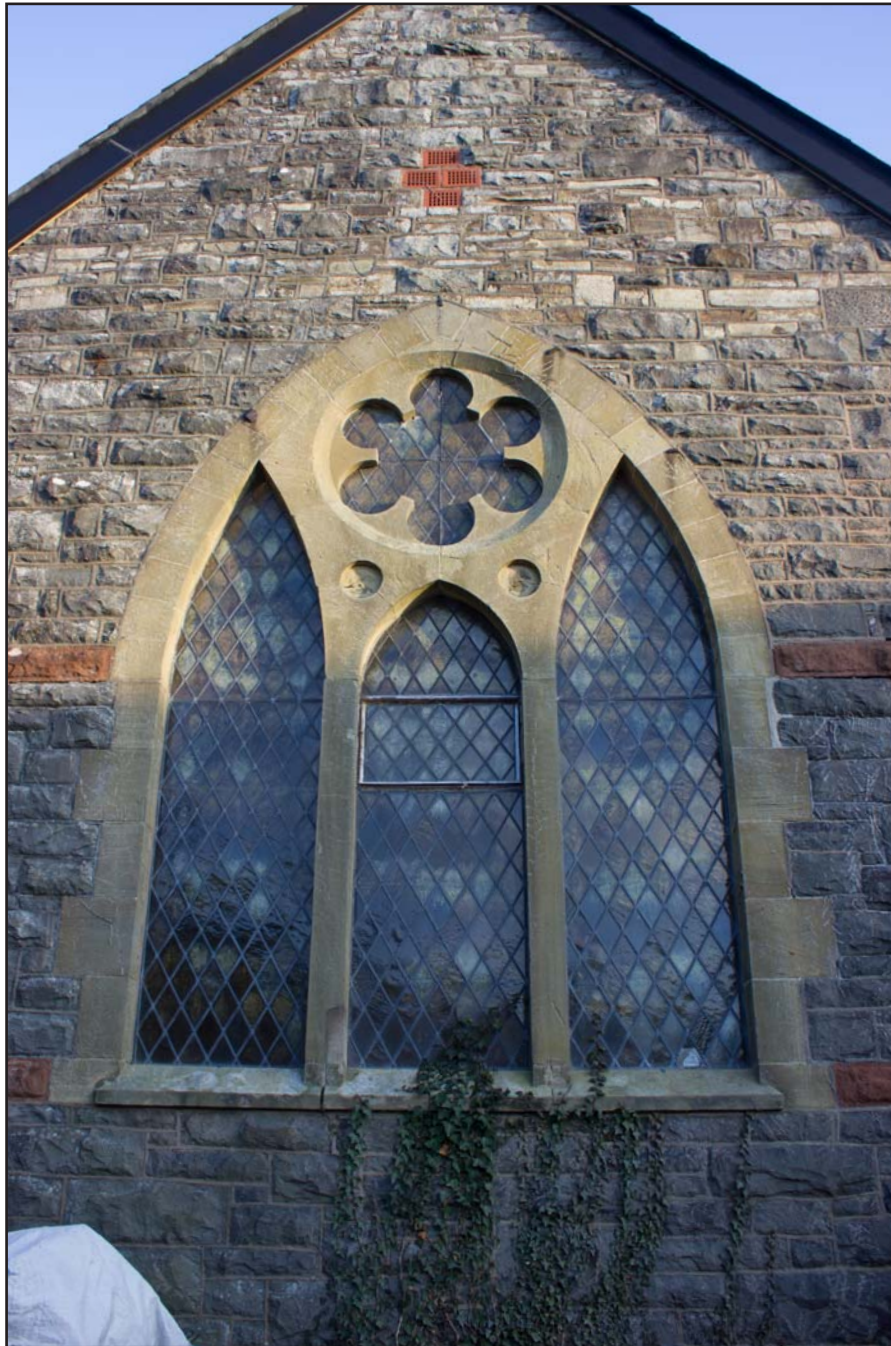


Plate 11: Main window in Southwest facing (Principal) elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the south/southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 12: Main entrance in Southwest facing (Principal) elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the south/southwest - no scale



Plate 13: Oblique shot of porch beyond to southeast facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - 1.00m

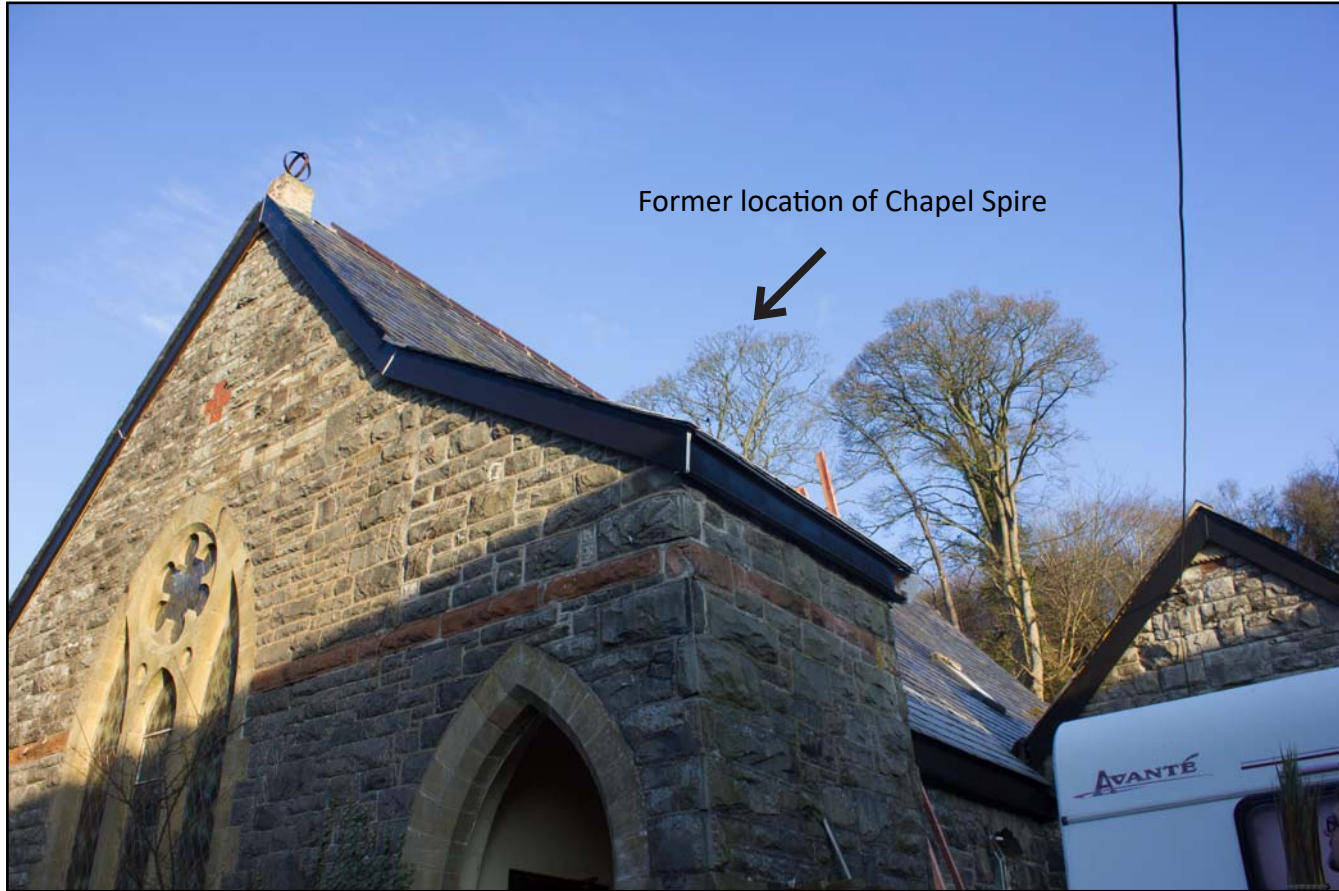


Plate 14: View of chapel where former chapel spire was located at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - no scale



Plate 15: Southwest facing elevation of the Vestry at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 16: Date stone on southwest elevation of the Vestry extension at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhoadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - no scale



Plate 17: Slate inscribed plaque on southeast facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - no scale



Plate 18: Example of window on southeast facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - no scale



Plate 19: Example of window on northwest facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - no scale



Plate 20: Decorative buttress on southwest corner of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - no scale



Plate 21: Window arrangement on northeast facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northeast - no scale



Plate 22: Rose/occulus (lower quatrefoil) windows on northeast facing elevation of Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northeast - no scale

This elevation comprises of stone rubble masonry bonded by lime cement and dressed stone quoins are visible at the left- and right-hand ends. Also equally spaced on the elevation are two windows with ashlar voussoirs and sloped sandstone sills. These windows are formed from 22 glass panes and are identical to the windows found on the western, eastern and northern (chapel side) elevations of the building. Apart from this the elevation is largely featureless. To the east of this elevation there is a small stone rubble wall bonded by lime mortar which forms the boundary with the former primary school of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochant (*Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochant*).

Internal descriptions (Plates 23 – 44)

The main body of the chapel forms a single large, rectangular room measuring 27.88m long by 17.94m wide (91ft & 5½” by 58ft & 10”) with the smaller vestry room accessible via the left-hand side of the south eastern elevation. This smaller Vestry room measures 14.56m long by 7.92m (47ft & 9½” by 25ft & 12”).

The ceiling of the chapel body is supported by three “A-frame trusses” which in turn support six sawn timber purlins - these support the chapel roof above. The upper portion of the truss is hidden by a suspended ceiling which presents as a series of timber frames and filled with white painted timber panelling - where these boards have come away *lath and plaster* is visible behind, these panels have been attached to horizontal ceiling joists. This suspended ceiling has been formed from four sets of horizontal timber beams situated between the trusses. The central spine of ceiling panels (aligned the northeast to southwest) are punctuated by four detailed timber ventilation panels. These panels have been cut with a decorative cross in the centre and with circular cut-outs located at the points of the cross – in between the cut outs and situated at each corner of the panel are four trefoils. Suspended from the central point of the tie beam on each of the three trusses there is a cast iron wall stay; these are formed from a single vertical piece of cast iron with a block end – from this end two horizontal/diagonal cast iron stays spread out to the elevations (north western and south eastern); these appear to partially support the weight of the walls by tying them into the roof trusses. Situated below the tie beams of the trusses, at either end, are decorative carved timber braces with three circular cut-outs and a single trefoil cut-out.

The southern elevation

This elevation is dominated by the large principal window which is located slightly to the left of centre (see above for detailed description). To the left-hand side and projecting outward into the room are the tower/porch elevations. On the west facing elevation of the tower there is a single doorway opening permitting access to the porch, this is a wooden panelled door which has been stained and is set within dark stained wooden frame. This wall has been rendered and painted white in its upper two-thirds and dark red in its lower third. Previously the wall appears to have been painted blue with some vestiges of an earlier yellow paint also visible. Within the porch the walls are all painted white and there is a decorative red and black tiled floor. The interior face of the main window has splayed cheeks and a sloping window sill. The glass panes in the diamond shaped openings of the window appear as alternating between rows of faded blue and red when viewed from the inside.

The western elevation

This elevation has been rendered and painted white in its upper two-thirds and dark red/brown in its lower third. The wall has previously been painted blue with vestiges of yellow paint also visible. The timber trusses of the ceiling sit on timber pads behind the initial internal face of the wall and these are also where the cast iron wall ties attach to the wall.

This elevation features four equally spaced window openings with similar splayed, rendered cheeks and sloping sills. Each of these windows comprises of 22 panes; The central portion of the window is formed from eight equally sized glass panes the upper two of which form an

opening light and these lights are opened via an iron latch. Sixteen smaller glass panes detail border around the window. Centrally located in the wall there is an opening for the cast iron vent visible on the exterior of the building – these were once covered with decorative, tin ventilation shields and there were operated by a fist shaped lever. Also visible on this elevation are the impressions of where pews used to be situated, two timber wall plugs are visible in the spaces where the pews used to be fixed.

The northern elevation

The northern elevation has been rendered and previously was painted white, blue and some vestiges of yellow paint are also visible in the upper two-thirds. The lower third has been painted a dark red/brown colour.

The upper portion of this elevation is obscured by the suspended ceiling. Immediately below this and centrally located is a large rose window which has a *quatrefoil* (*four-sided* shape) design with four *ousp* (*lobes*), this window aperture formed from sandstone. Beneath this and located to the left- and right-hand side of the elevation, are two equally spaced, further window openings. These are comprised of 22 glass panes and are the same configuration as those described on the western elevation. To the left- and right-hand side of the windows are two examples of the decorative tin vent concealers (as described).

Previously located between these two windows was the area of the former pulpit the impression of a timber backing (*or reredos*) is still visible here. Also applied to the render and surrounding this timber was a painted detail of presumed arches, now difficult to discern due to the deterioration of the paint. At the right-hand side of the elevation there is a stone-built pillar, which previously formed the north eastern corner of the chapel prior to the creation of the vestry.

The eastern elevation

The left-hand side of the elevation is open permitting access to the Vestry space – this area was once covered by a timber panel wall (*plate E*). Now visible following the removal of the panels is a timber wall plate now supported by metal acro props and a central timber pillar. To the right of this is the remainder of the chapel elevation which has been rendered and painted white.

Observable on the left-hand side - the northern most roof truss is seated upon the timber wall plate. The central and southern trusses are situated upon the chapel wall. Located to the right of centre are two equally spaced window openings which consist of 22 glass panes, these windows are the same as those previously described. In between these two windows is a single tin ventilation concealer. At the right-hand end of the elevation and projecting out with into the room slightly is the porch which is accessed via the door as previously described.

The Vestry

The southern elevation

The southern elevation of the vestry is dominated by a centralised wooden, ledged and braced door which has been stained brown and is set within brown stained frame. The wall in its lowest portion has been painted black with the rest of the upper portion of the wall painted white and visible at the apex of the gable is the exposed masonry. Located immediately above the door is the electrical consumer unit.

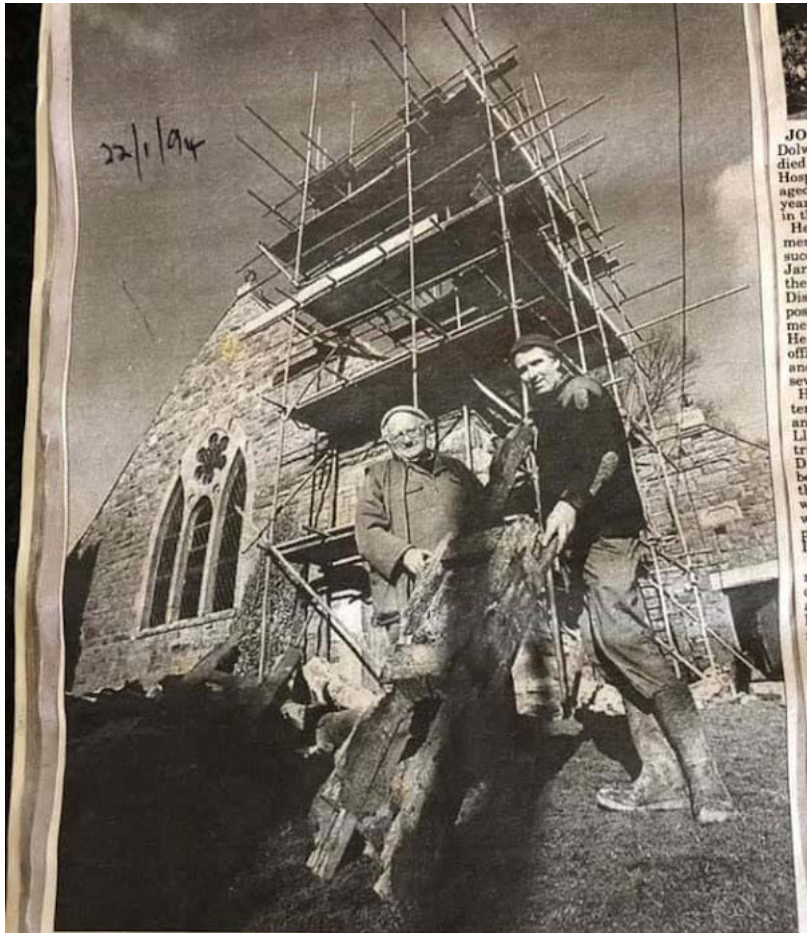
The eastern elevation

Centrally located within the eastern elevation is a former chimney breast comprised of stone rubble bonded by lime mortar. The fireplace opening is surmounted by a brick arch, and the fireplace has a tiled hearth. To the left and right of this chimney breast the walls have been rendered and painted white. Furthermore, there are two window openings flanking the chimney breast and each of these comprise of 22 glass panes, as previously described. To the



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Plate A: Photograph showing former spire above the porch (1885) - photograph provided by client.



□ Demolition job - Emlyn Evans and Hywel Jones show the tower's rotten timbers
 Picture: VIC CLEVELLEY

Damaged tower demolished

A CHAPEL'S tower, damaged in recent gales, has been taken down because of fears that it might fall down right into a nearby school yard.

The gales had ripped slates off the tower of the Bethesda Presbyterian Chapel, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, in the Tanat Valley and when the tower was inspected workmen

found that its timbers had rotted and that there was also a crack in the stonework.

Because of the danger to the school, the chapel authorities decided to demolish it.

Emlyn Evans, the deacon, said: "Nobody wanted to see the tower come down because it was part of the village. Some people who saw it thought it was a church."

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Plate B: Clipping from Shropshire Star newspaper showing date of demolition (22/1/94) - photograph provided by client.



Plate 23: Internal shot across chapel body within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 24: Example of internal view of window on northeast elevation within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 25: Internal view of rose/oculus window on northeast elevation within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the south - no scale



Plate 26: Internal shot of right side of northwest elevation within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 27: Internal shot of left side of northwest elevation within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 28: Internal shot across chapel body to Main Window within southwest elevation at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 29: Internal view of main window within southwest (principal) elevation within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 30: Internal shot of right side of southeast elevation within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 31: Internal shot of left side of southeast elevation (where wooden screen was formerly located) within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 32: Oblique shot across chapel body within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 33: Oblique shot across chapel body within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 34: Oblique shot across chapel body within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 35: Oblique shot across chapel body within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 36: Shot of ceiling within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - no scale



Plate 37: Example of detail on wooden panel within ceiling at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - no scale



Plate 38: Decorative tin sconse ventilation brick cover within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southeast - no scale



Plate 39: Internal shot of Vestry extension within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest - no scale



Plate 40: Internal shot of Vestry extension within Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northeast - no scale



Plate 41: Fireplace within Vestry extension at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the northwest- 1.00m scale



Plate 42: Boiler room/basement level below Vestry extension at Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - from the southwest- 1.00m scale



Plate 43: Graffiti on reverse of arched timber reredos found Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - no scale

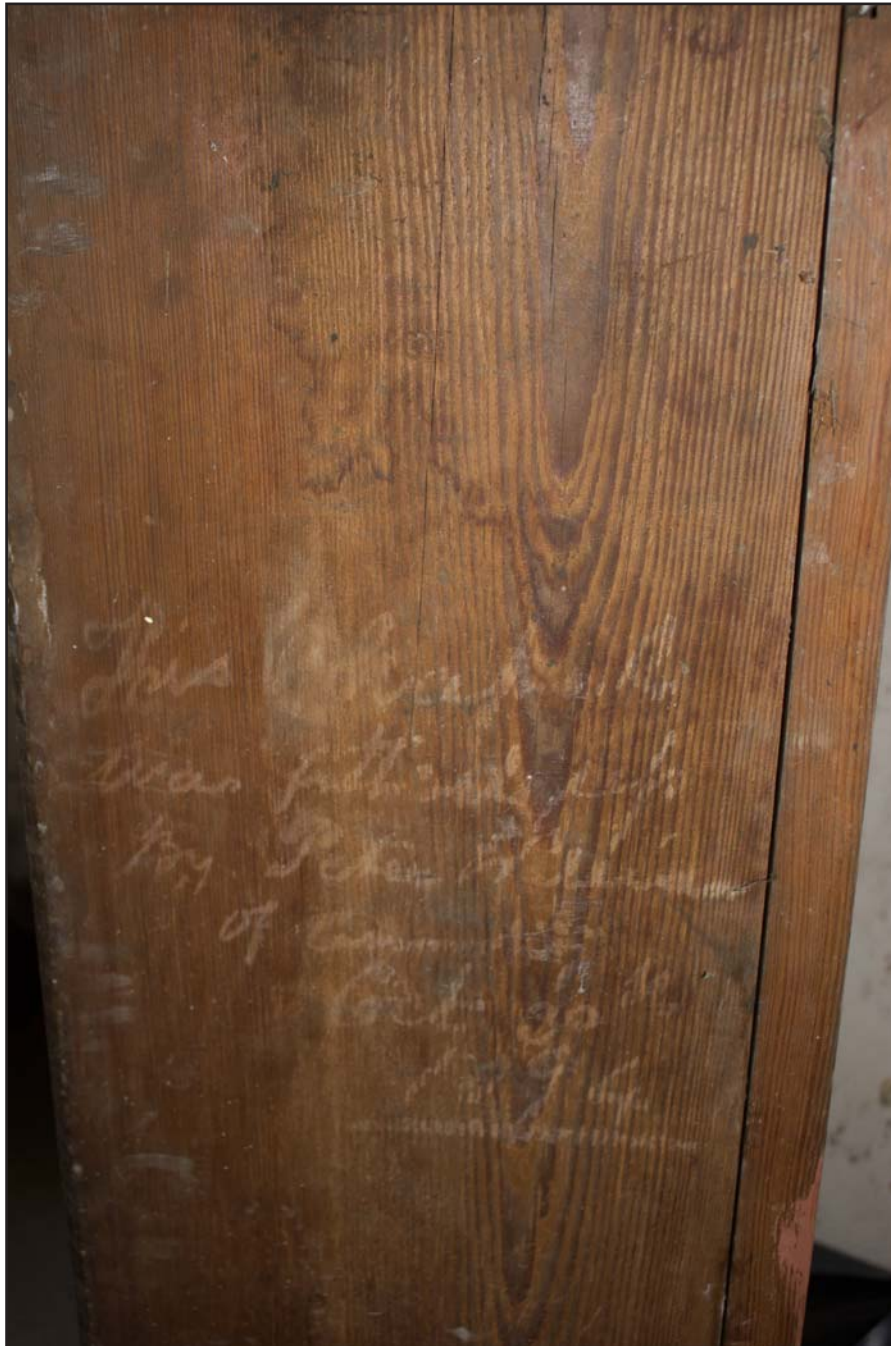
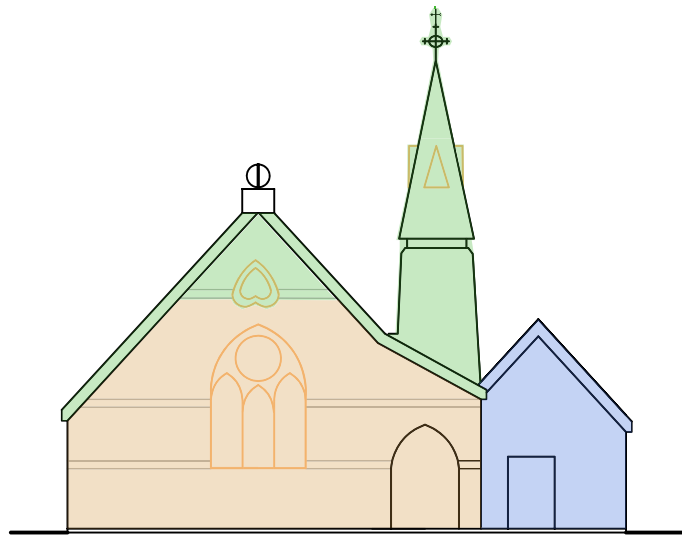







Plate 44: Graffiti on base of timber pew from Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant - no scale



Southwest facing (Principal) elevation

-  Phase 1 - Bethesda Chapel body built -1828
-  Phase 2 - Vestry built by Spaul -1868
-  Phase 3 - Carpentry refit -1882-1894
-  Phase 4 - Demolition of Spire and rebuild of upper part of gable / possible reroofing- 1994
-  Phase 5 - Removal of Pews, Pulpit & Timber Division - 2022

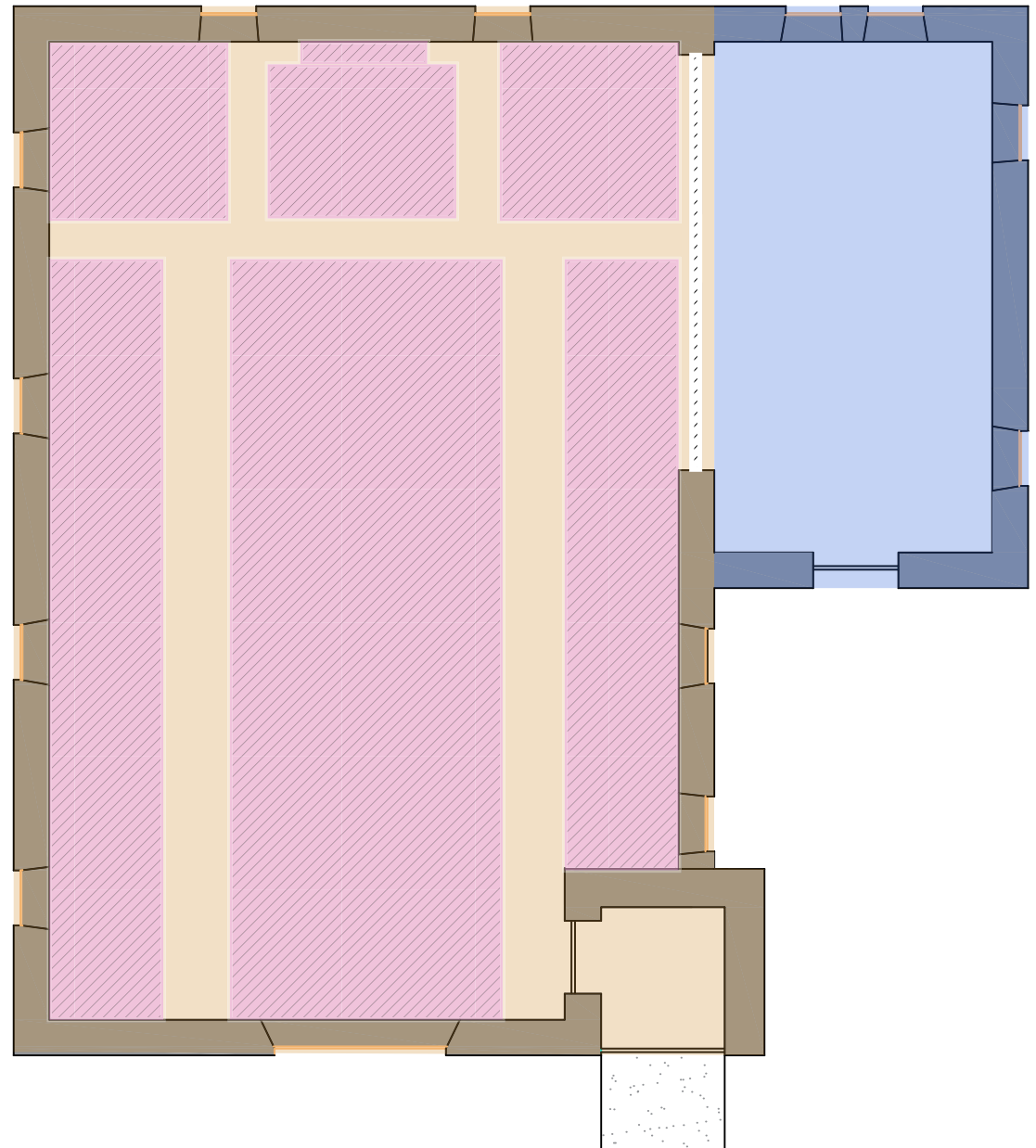


Figure 06: Building phase plan showing known phases of building's construction, Bethesda Chapel, Back Chapel Street, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Powys SY10 0JY. Elevation - Scale 1:500 at A4, Plan - Scale 1:200 at A4.



Plate C: View across chapel body showing the arrangement of pews - from the northeast.



Plate D: View showing location of pulpit and reredos at northern end of chapel - from the southwest.



Plate E: View of (left end) south eastern elevation showing wooden screen and doorway to Vestry - from the northwest.



Plate F: View of the Vestry prior to removal of fixtures and fittings - from the north.



Plate H: Former fireplace within the Vestry - from the northwest.

immediate right of the chimney breast there is a portion of exposed stonework which has been stained black, (pers. comm) this area was once bricked up and presumably was a flu for the boiler downstairs the black wall being the result of the soot.

The northern elevation

The northern elevation is currently obscured by storage materials, however there are two window openings and a ventilation slot visible. To the south of the vestry the floor is of timber boards supported by a floating timber floor. On the northern portion of the room is a beaten earth floor.

The vestry basement/ boiler room

This is a rectangular room orientated east to west measuring 14.56m long by 7.92m (47ft & 9½” by 25ft & 12”). The western portion of the ceiling comprises of sawn timber joists with a wooden floor above. The eastern portion of the room has a slate ceiling supported by cast iron beams - presumably this is because this is where the boiler was once housed and acted as a heat shield to the floor above.

The southern elevation of the basement is comprised of red-brick bonded by Portland cement and at the right-hand end of the elevation there is a single doorway opening permitting access to the exterior and steps which lead upward to ground level. This is a wooden board door set within wooden board frame. To left-hand side of the elevation there is a small square aperture with timber lintel which may once of housed a coal shoot for the boiler.

The western, northern and eastern elevations are comprised of red-brick bonded by Portland cement. Apart from this the elevations are featureless. Visible on the northern elevation are two holes for pipework which once fed from the boiler up into the vestry above. Also on the eastern elevation there is another hole permitting access to the boiler flu to exhaust to the exterior. The floor is of poured concrete.

Discussion on phasing

The main building was built in 1828 as a Calvinist Methodist place of worship. This building was then allegedly rebuilt in 1868/69 by William Henry Spaul presumably this is when it was expanded with the Vestry (marked 1868) to the southeast. During the period 1882 – 1894 the building experienced refits by carpenters; in 1882 the wooden reredos was fitted behind the pulpit by joiner - *Charles Hughes of Penybont Fawr* and 12 years later in 1894 new pews were “fitted up by Peter Williams of ??Croesoswallt?? Oct 30th 1894”. Then in 1994 the chapel spire above the porch was demolished due to fears that it may collapse during high winds, being as it was perilously close to the formerly adjacent school yard (*Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr*) – upon inspection it was found that the timber structure of the tower had rotted and that there was a large crack in the masonry – *Emlyn Evans* (the Deacon) and a local builder *Hywel Jones* can be seen posing for the Shropshire Star Newspaper holding a rotten piece of the timber structure (Plate B) – the paper was dated the 22/1/94. This building survey was conducted on the 22/1/22 prior to the conversion of the chapel into a dwelling (*plates C-H*).

There is evidence for a large increase in Methodist membership numbers (and in non-conformist religious membership in general) throughout the mid to late 19th century in Wales. Evidence for this postulated following on from critiques targeted at 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 which may have resulted in generalised claims over population categories (Crockett 1998, Levitan 2008). Even so there is a widely accepted

narrative within historical of the Methodist movement in Wales that the zenith for religious membership came in the late 1800's. The expansion of Bethesda Chapel in 1868 may correlate with this accepted theory, and the later Victorian refit during the 12 years 1882 to 1894 would insinuate that the congregation was growing during the latter part of the 19th century.

7.0 SOURCES

Maps.

Denbighshire VII

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1880, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1886, 1:2,500 scale.

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

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1902, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1914, 1:2,500 scale.

County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1953, 1:2,500 scale.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SH NW12, NE12, SE12 and SW12.

Map of the several townships of Trellan, Trewern, Banhadla, Trebrys Bach, Trefailen, Banhadla Issa, Trebrys Fawr and Gartheryr in the parish of Llanrhaidr yn Mochnant in the County of Denbigh, (1841). Available at: <https://places.library.wales/browse> - (Accessed: 11 Feb 2022).

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