Written Scheme of Investigation

for a

Level 3 Historic Building Recording of

the Former Presbyterian Church, Castle Street, Holt, LL13 9YW

on behalf of the property owner

Dated : 20.11.24

Report Issue	1
Date issued	November 2024
Full Report to be Issued by	Heneb Archaeology (trading name of The Trust for Welsh Archaeology)
Notes	none

INDEX

Report Contents Non-Technical Summary

1. Introduction page 1

2. Historical Background page 1

3. Objectives of the Historic Building Recording page 1 & 2

4. Methodology page 2 & 3

5. Reporting and Archive page 3

6. Project Timetable page 3

Appendix 1 - Site Location

Appendix 2 - Existing Elevations

Appendix 3 - Existing Ground Floor Layout

1.Introduction Report Scope

1.1.1 This WSI is for a Level 3 Historic Building Recording (HBR) of the existing buildings on the site of the former Presbyterian Church, Castle Street, Holt, LL13 9YW (Figure 1.) and it has been commissioned by the planning applicant. It is hoped this WSI will be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority

1.1.2 The site comprises Grade II-listed buildings which lie within the Holt Conservation Area and the site was granted planning permission by Wrexham Council (P/2024/1078) on 22.10.24

1.1.3 This WSI has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance: • Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020, Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. • CADW - Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.

1.1.4 The results of the HBR will be presented in a suitable report and will present a summary on the character, development and significance of the building. The site archive will be deposited within 2 months of issuing the report.

2.Historical Background

2.1.1 A thorough description of the history of the Site is provided in the Heritage Statement (J Wetton Conservation Feb 2024). A summary is provided below, relevant to the existing buildings on the Site.

2.1.2 The former church is dated to 1865 and served as a place of worship from its construction until closure in 2012. The chief aspects of significance are considered to be the external survival of T. M. Lockwood's design dating from 1865, with the Gothic Revival style with bar tracery intact; the survival of much of Lockwood's internal scheme design, with a timber lobby, pulpit and pews, although some pews have been removed from their seatings; the association with the Rev. Ebenezer Powell, who opened the Academy School opposite and instigated construction of the church building; the association with monumental masons, Mossfords Memorials of Overton and now of Wrexham.

The former Presbyterian church and schoolroom are considered to be of high significance overall and to merit their national designation. However, the internal significance of both parts of the building is being negatively affected by their poor condition. Indeed, according to the CPAT Regional Historic Environment Record, the buildings appear on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register. In a hierarchy of elevations, the east front and north elevations are considered to be the most important as these contain the main entrance and are the most visible. The other elevations have all been altered or views are largely obscured and are less important.

3. Objectives of the Historic Building Recording

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the (HBR) have been highlighted in the decision notice for the consented redevelopment, stating the need for recording and historic analysis which addresses the buildings' structure and architectural detail, prior to its redevelopment.

3.1.2 The Level 3 building recording and survey will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic record with accompanying photographs and plans. This will allow the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure.

3.1.3 The final report will therefore present a thorough description of the buildings and their architectural features as well as the buildings' development and use. The record will include colour photographs to illustrate the buildings appearance and structure.

3.1.4 The objective of the buildings recording is in the short term to satisfy the pre commencement planning condition and in the long term to issue a descriptive and photographic record of the buildings.

The aims of the investigation are to:

• To undertake a photographic record of the buildings. The photographic record will include detailed and general shots of the interior and exterior fabric.

• To analyse and describe the fabric of the buildings before the commencement of the proposed work

• To report the results in a suitable form and publish a summary

4. Methodology

4.1.1 The HBR exercise will be undertaken to the Level 3 standard as detailed in the Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (CADW)

4.1.2 The archaeological contractor undertaking the works will be Heneb Archaeology who are suitably qualified and experienced

4.1.3 The Level 3 record will typically consist of drawings, photographic records and a written account

4.1.4 Measured plans and section plans (to scale) of the buildings as existing have been supplied to Wrexham Planning Department by the client

Photographic records

4.1.5 The photographic record will be thorough and detailed to capture:

• General views of the building

• The overall external appearance and principal elements

• The overall appearance of the principal rooms

• Any external or internal detail, structural, inscription, signage or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use. Any maps, drawings, views and photographs that illustrate its development.

4.1.6 A register of photographs and photographic location plan showing direction and frame numbers will be produced

Written account

4.1.7 The main components of the account will comprise as a minimum the items from the following list:

• The precise location of the building and its address.

• The date when the record was made, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and the location of any archive material.

• An introduction briefly setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints. A record of any statutory designation.

• Acknowledgements to all those who have made a significant contribution to the making of the record, or who have given permission for copyright items to be reproduced.

4.1.8 Any Handwritten notes taken on Site to record the findings will be submitted with the archive

5. Reporting and Archive Post-fieldwork reporting and dissemination

5.1. This WSI will be issued for approval to neil.bayliss@cpat.org.uk before any work will commence

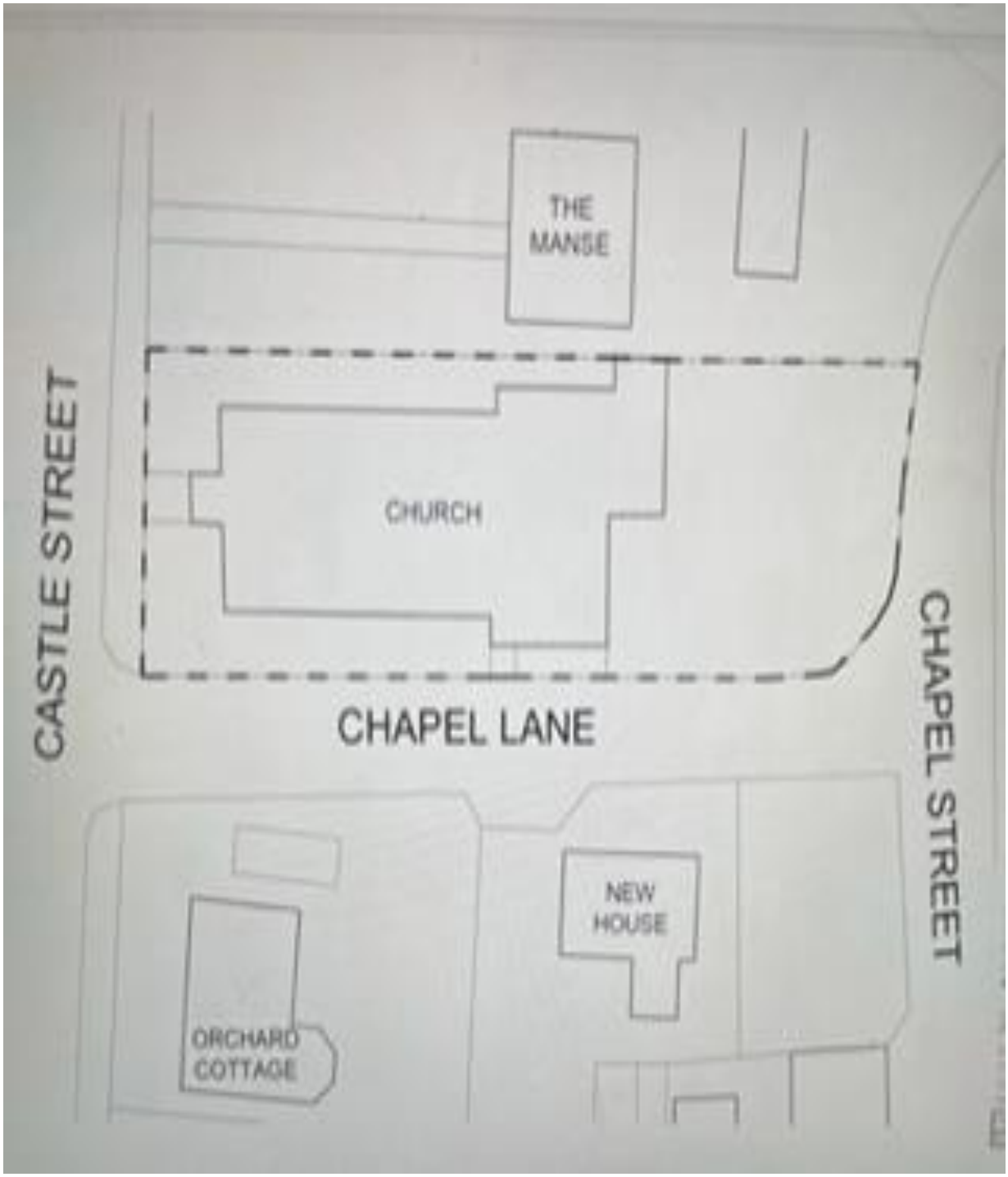
5.2 The HBR will be issued for approval by Wrexham Planning Authority and the Planning Archaeologist, Heneb: Clwyd-Powys Archaeology.
After approval by the Wrexham Planning Authority, a copy of the resulting report and photographs will also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Heneb: Clwyd Powys Archaeology for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record and a copy of the report and full digital archive will also be sent to the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

6. Project Timetable

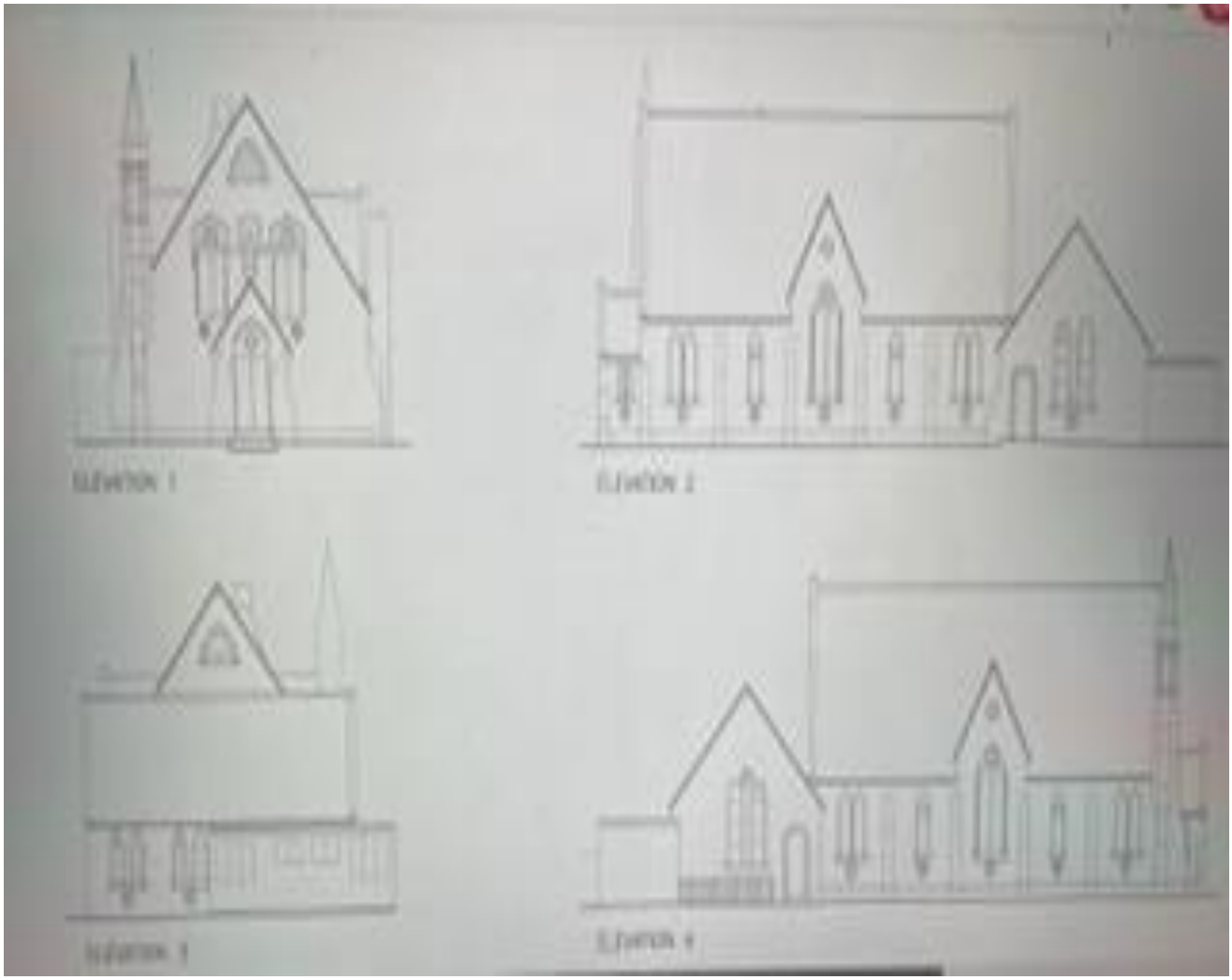
6.1.1 The HBR can commence once the WSI has been approved by the Wrexham Planning Authority's archaeological advisor.

6.1.2 It is estimated the physical on-site recording will be undertaken within 2 -3 weeks from the date of approval by the Wrexham Planning authority of this WSI.

Appendix 1 Site Location



Appendix 2 - Existing Elevations



Appendix 3 - Existing Ground Floor Layout

