

Historic Building Recording at

SALEM CHAPEL RHOSLLANERCHRUGOG

For Blueprint Architectural

Joyce Heberden BA MSc

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Historic Building Recording at

SALEM CHAPEL RHOSLLANERCHRUGOG

Client: Blueprint Architectural

Local Authority: Wrexham County Borough Council

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

A trading name of L – P : Heritage LPP

York House | York Street | Chester | Cheshire, CH1 3LR | +44 [0]1244 313100 | chester@lparchaeology.com

www.lparchaeology.com

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Crynodeb

Cynhaliwyd arolwg adeiladau lefel 3 (PRN 213770) yng Nghapel Salem, Bank Street, Rhosllannerchrugog, ar 6 Gorffennaf 2022 gan L - P : Archaeology. Paratowyd y ddogfen hon gan Joyce Heberdenof L - P : Archaeology ar ran y cleient Blueprint Architectural. Ymgwymerwyd â'r gwaith mewn ymateb i amod caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer dymchwel yr adeilad presennol, capel segur, a chodi 2 dŷ domestig (P/2021/0543).

Roedd Capel Salem yn Gapel Annibynwyr a godwyd yn 1896 yn arddull pensaernïaeth Celf a Chrefft. Gwasanaethodd gymuned Annibynwyr Rhosllannerchrugog fel addoldy, un o lawer o gapeli a godwyd yn Rhosllannerchrugog yn ystod adfywiad yr arferiad Cristnogol anghydfurfiol yng Nghymru ar ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif.

O'r arolwg lefel 3 o Gapel Salem, wedi gweld un cam o'r gwaith, gyda mân waith atgyweirio ac adnewyddu mewnol dros y blynyddoedd. Roedd cynllun gwreiddiol a bwriadau'r dylunydd yn dal yn amlwg yn ei ffurf bresennol.

Abstract

A level 3 building survey (PRN 213770) was carried out at Salem Chapel, Bank Street, Rhosllanerchrugog, on the 6th July 2022 by L - P : Archaeology. This document has been prepared by Joyce Heberden of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of the client Blueprint Architectural. The work was undertaken in response to a condition of planning consent for the demolition of the existing building, a disused chapel, and erection of 2 domestic dwellings (P/2021/0543).

Salem Chapel was an Independent Chapel built in 1896 in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. It served the Congregationalist community of Rhosllanerchrugog as a place of worship, one of many chapels built in Rhosllanerchrugog during the revival of non-conformist Christian practice in late 19th century Wales.

From the level 3 survey of Salem Chapel, one phase of construction was identified, with minor internal repair and renovations over the years. The original layout and intentions of the designer were still apparent in its current form.

1.Introduction

- 1.1.This level 3 building survey report has been prepared by Joyce Heberden of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Blueprint Architectural at Salem Chapel, Bank Street, Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham, LL14 1EP (NGR 329375,346865, **FIGURE 1**). The approved (subject to discharged conditions) development comprises the demolition of the existing structures and the erection of two domestic dwellings (P/2021/0543).
- 1.2.The archaeological building recording was undertaken prior to the demolition of the structure, to fulfil a condition of the approved planning application. The Local Planning Authority is Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). The fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole, John Baker and Joyce Heberden of L – P : Archaeology on the 6th July 2022.
- 1.3.The work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (BAKER 2022) prepared by L – P : Archaeology and approved by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), the Code of Conduct as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2019) and the Cifa's Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (CIFA 2020). All works were carried out in accordance with Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2016).
- 1.4.The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is LP4070C. The HER event number supplied by CPAT prior to works commencing is PRN 213770.

2.Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

2.1.1. The Historic Environment (Wales) Act (WELSH GOVERNMENT 2016) is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment in Wales and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (HMSO 1979) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (DEPARTMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 1990). The 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.

2.1.2. When considering a planning application, Wrexham County Borough Council is bound by Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (February 2021) Section 6.1, and Technical advice note (TAN) 24: the historic environment (2017).

2.1.3. Currently Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) abide by the policies laid out in the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011 regarding archaeology and planning, in this case Policy EC11.

2.1.4. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment WCBC take impartial advice from CPAT.

2.1.5. This document represents a summary of the survey in line with a brief supplied by CPAT. As such this document will be supplied along with the formal photographic record to all relevant parties to satisfy the archaeological condition of the planning consent.

2.2.STATUTORY DESIGNATION

2.2.1. The study structure is not a listed building, nor does it lie within a

conservation area. However, the comment from CPAT regarding the site sets out its historic interest:

The building is described as a Welsh Independent Chapel built in the Arts and Crafts style in 1896. The chapel is currently well preserved with only minor damage to the brickwork and windows, and it retains a decorated with a rosette window, ornate tiles and string courses. Internally the layout is intact façade with a fine Arts and Crafts style roof. There appear to be intact dedication stones built into the front wall.

2.3.GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1. The underlying bedrock comprises of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, formed between 319 and 309.5 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. This is overlain by Till, Devensian – Daimicton, a superficial deposit formed in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2022). The overlying soils are classified as slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (LANDIS 2022).

2.3.2. The site (FIGURE 2) is located in the village of Rhosllanerchrugog, halfway between the townscapes of Wrexham to the north and Oswestry to the south. The site is situated on the north side of Bank Street. The site itself lies on fairly flat land at approximately 175m Ordnance Datum. The site comprises a sub rectangular parcel of land, which is bound by residential housing to the north, east and west, and Bank Street to the south.

3.Aims

3.1.The general aims of the investigation were:

- ◆ To promote the understanding and appreciation of the structure.
- ◆ To secure an understanding of the structure and its significance.
- ◆ To document the structure prior to demolition and to deposit a permanent record of the structure in a suitable archive.

3.2.The specific aims of the investigation were:

- ◆ To identify and objectively record by means of photographs and drawings any significant archaeological and architectural features and evidence for the original and subsequent form and function of the building at the site of Salem Chapel.

4.Archaeological & Historic Background

4.1.TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	1901AD
MODERN	1901	PRESENT

4.2.SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

PREHISTORIC

4.2.1. The earliest evidence of Prehistoric activity in the local area is a cairn encountered within the grounds of Ruabon Grammar School in 1917, 3.8 km to the south of site, the cairn contained human remains, an arrowhead and a bronze axe head. Other palstaves were found in Ruabon, but the find spots were not recorded.

4.2.2. Iron age activity is represented by the Hillfort at Y Gardden, 2.2 km south of site; it comprises an inner stone built rampart, a second earthen rampart and the residual remains of a third bank to the south and east of the mound. The material culture remains suggest the Hillfort was occupied until the Roman invasion c. 55AD (WREXHAM COUNCIL 2010).

ROMAN

- 4.2.3. Relatively little evidence of Roman activity has been discovered in the area. Potential Roman activity has been identified c. 4.5km to the east of site, at Middle Sontley, where cropmarks have been interpreted as possibly representing a deserted Medieval settlement or a possible Roman field system (RCAHMW 2019).

MEDIEVAL

- 4.2.4. Early medieval activity in the area is demonstrated by the remains of the earthworks known as Wat's and Offa's Dyke, 600 m east of site. These two dykes run parallel to each other on a north to south alignment and define early boundaries. Wat's Dyke is believed to have been constructed by the Anglo Saxons in the 5th century as a frontier. Offa's Dyke was constructed by King Offa of Mercia in the 8th century, the purpose of the dyke is disputed, and it may have functioned defensively or to serve as a boundary between the Saxon and Welsh Kingdoms, or perhaps both (WCBC 2010).
- 4.2.5. Located between the dykes and within the historic core of the village of Ruabon is the extant Church of St. Mary's. Taxation records of 1254 indicate a church in Ruabon dedicated to St. Collen, the foundation of which may date to the 7th century. The almost circular churchyard suggests the presence of an early medieval llan (enclosed cemetery). By the end of the 13th century the church was possessed by the Cistercian Abbey of Valle Crucis and rededicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. Prior to this the church was dedicated to St. Mabon, a local saint. The name Ruabon derives from the Welsh translation Rhiwabon, meaning Mabon's hill or slope (PALMER 1992).
- 4.2.6. After the Norman invasion of 1066 Ruabon was part of the kingdom of Powys in Bromfield. The year 1282 saw the conquest of Wales with part of the Kingdom of Powys Fadog becoming Marcher Lordship. Welsh and English law co-existed relatively peacefully in Ruabon (WCBC 2010).

POST MEDIEVAL

- 4.2.7. Under the Act of Union 1536, Henry VIII took control over the whole of Wales due to his concerns over the loyalty of the Marcher Lords following his break with the Catholic Church. Under the terms of the new laws Wales was granted

permission to be represented in Parliament and the Welsh gentry were able to acquire landed estates. Of particular note were the mansion houses of Watstay (now replaced by the Grade II* listed Wynnstay Hall) and Plas Newydd, a Grade II* listed building located at Pont Adam. The Eyton family built both properties (WCBC 2010). From the 1400s until the 19th century, the parish of Ruabon incorporated the Llanerchrugog estate, owned by the Jones family. In 1844 Morton Above, along with part of the neighbouring township of Dynhinlle Ucha, became part of the newly created parish of Rhosllanerchrugog, meaning “the Llanerchrugog moor”, named after the Llanerchrugog estate, but also literally translating to “moor, heath of the heather glade”.

4.2.8. Recorded 16th to 18th century structures in the area of Rhosllanerchrugog are Esclusham Hall which belonged for several generations to the Trevor family and the main structure is thought to have been built in the late 16th or early 17th century. Tan-y-Llan, a cottage incorporating a cruck in one gable end, built in the late 17th to early 18th centuries. Llannerchrugog Hall, originally a farmhouse, thought to have been built in early 18th century. And the Pentrebychan Hall Dovecote, built in 1721 (WREXHAM COUNCIL 2011).

4.2.9. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, widespread revival of nonconformist Christian religion swept across Wales. This created a demand in every Welsh community to serve the religious needs of various denominations— Baptists, Unitarians, Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians. Rhosllanerchrugog was one of these communities and the diversity of protestant denominations can be observed through its different listed buildings. Penuel Baptist Chapel, built in 1859, Bethlehem Independent Chapel built in the mid 19th century and Capel Mawr (Jerusalem Welsh Presbyterian Chapel) built in 1770 (EVANS 1959).

4.3. THE SITE

4.3.1. The original plot of the chapel, plot 265 of the 1845 Tithe Map (FIGURE 4), shows it as a vacant croft, within Moreton Above Township. It is described as arable land, owned by the Hon. Frederick West and occupied by Anne Evans (YATES 1845).

- 4.3.2. The plot shown on the first Ordnance Survey (OS) map from 1875 (FIGURE 5) shows the same agricultural plot of about 2373 m² before the chapel is built. Directly to the east of site, a very small shed-like structure stands alone. The only developments are houses on the south edge of Bank Street. More housing is present toward High Street, now known as Vinegar Hill, to the west and Grango Lane to the east.
- 4.3.3. The earliest available map to depict the structure is the 1900 25-inch OS map (FIGURE 6), the site is annotated as “Congregational Chapel”. The plot around it decreases to 655 m², the chapel occupies approximately 222 m² of this space. Through the dedication stones on the front elevation we know the chapel was built in 1896, and perhaps opened for use on the 18th of August. At this time the minister is the Reverend Robert Roberts, as shown through these dedication stones and a marriage certificate signed by himself in 1899.
- 4.3.4. In 1912, the County Series map (FIGURE 7) annotates it as “Capel Salem (Congl.)”. The shape of the chapel and its plot remain the same however the agricultural plots surrounding it divide into smaller housing plots. This seems to be a widespread phenomenon throughout Rhosllanerchrugog, as many other plots form.
- 4.3.5. On the 1959 to 1963 25-inch OS map (FIGURE 8), the chapel and its plot have not changed, the town continues to develop, the most noticeable change being a new neighbourhood on Park Road to the east. The farm plots near the village disappear and their borders are adjusted to the construction of new homes.
- 4.3.6. On the 1974 25-inch OS map (FIGURE 10), while the chapel is unchanged, leading away from it on Bank Street eastward, houses and businesses are demolished for the streets to be widened. Very little of the original layout of the houses between Bank Street and Johnson Street remains.
- 4.3.7. By the 1992 25-inch OS map (FIGURE 11), the empty plot across from the chapel is shown to have been replaced by Plas-y-delph, a nursing home, which was still present and in use at the time of the report. From 1992 onwards, the footprint of the structure or its environment do not change.

5.Methodology

5.1.The survey was carried out in line with a brief supplied by CPAT to a Level 3 standard as set out by Historic England in Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (2016). This level of survey should create an analytical record of the building, and includes:

- ◆ Description and photographic record of the exterior and the interior.
- ◆ Detailed account of type, construction, form, function.
- ◆ Phasing.
- ◆ Past and present use and relationship with setting.
- ◆ Identification and recording of original fixtures and fittings.
- ◆ Conclusions regarding the building's development and use.

5.2.The drawn record comprised annotated accurately measured plans supplied by the architect in order to form:

- ◆ Accurate, measured ground plan, elevations and cross-sections as appropriate (FIGURE 12, 13, 14 &15)
- ◆ Phase plans showing the development of the structure

5.3.A photographic record was made of:

- ◆ Views of elevations (FIGURE 16)
- ◆ Views of external appearance
- ◆ Views of all internal rooms (FIGURE 17)
- ◆ Internal and external structural detail
- ◆ Fixtures, fittings, machinery, related contents

5.4.The written record included a precise location of the building as an address, a note of any statutory designations associated with the structure and the date when the record was made, the name of the recorder and the location of any archive material.

5.5.A summary statement describing the building's setting, type or purpose, historically

and at present, its materials and possible dates so far as these are apparent from a visual inspection.

6.Results

6.1.A Level 3 historic building recording was carried out at Salem Chapel, Bank Street, Rhosllanerchrugog. Salem Chapel was built in one phase in 1896. The structure and layout of Salem Chapel have not been modified since its original construction.



Plate 1 - View of Salem Chapel, looking northeast

6.2.The building is an independent chapel of red brick, five bays north-south by three bays east-west. The structure is two storeys high, with a single storey and undercroft annex to the north. The building has a steep pitched slate roof, with gable ends at the north and south (PLATE 1).



Plate 2 - The setting of the chapel, looking northwest

6.3.The chapel lies in a residential area near the top of the hill (PLATE 2), with mid to late 20th century, and early 21st century, dwellings to the east, west and south, and the

northern yard of the chapel overlooking residential dwellings sited at a lower elevation.

6.4. The exterior of the building is discussed first, this is followed by the interior, and for ease the elevations are named to their nearest cardinal point.

6.5. RESULTS OF EXTERNAL SURVEY OF THE PRINCIPAL BUILDING

EXTERIOR WALL AND GATE

6.5.1. The exterior wall surrounding the plot (PLATE 3) was built contemporaneously to the chapel. Built with Ruabon brick of the Dennis Ruabon Tiles Ltd. company, and laid out in a traditional stretcher-bond style. The south facing sections of this wall, surrounding the gate, contain decorative ceramic panel inserts in the shape of rosettes.



Plate 3 - Exterior wall, brick detail



Plate 4 - Exterior wall, panel and fence detail

6.5.2. Resting upon the foundation brick wall are sandstone coping stones (PLATE 4), which themselves are overlain by ornate metal fencing, with a repeating geometric floral design. The sandstone used throughout the building of this wall and the chapel seem to be local, perhaps Cefn sandstone due to it's proximity to the historic Gardden Wood quarries.

6.5.3. The metal entrance gate is a similar height to the wall, with two simple, but ornate gates. The gate posts (PLATE 5) are made of sandstone and decorated with trefoil knots. They are topped with capping stones.



Plate 5 - Exterior wall, gate and gate post detail

SOUTH ELEVATION

- 6.5.4. The south elevation of the chapel is the most prominent and ornamental (PLATE 6). The façade is composed of Flemish bond, which rises to a gabled point to the roof.



Plate 6 - South elevation

- 6.5.5. A decorative metal weathervane sits at the apex of the gable. A sandstone trim borders the roof plate down to two sandstone blocks, on either side. These act as kneeler quoins, pushing out the roof plate to align it with the buttresses on each side of the building. The bottom sandstone block acting as a quoin is slightly ornamental in a cyma reversa profile. Two decorative panels, similar to the one of the exterior wall, run horizontally in the top and second thirds of the façade. On the bottom third of the façade, four dedication stones are laid out two-by-two on either side of the entrance. They read from west to east:

*This stone was laid by
The Revd. Robert Roberts
In Loving Memory
Of departed wife
Mrs M. Roberts
August 18th 1896*

This stone was laid
by
-- Thomas
--
August 18th 1896

This stone was laid by
Mr. William Williams
Manor House
--
August 18th 1896

This stone was laid
by
F.H Hawkins Esq. LL.B.
Eversley, Wrexham
August 18th 1896

6.5.6. The second panel of the façade is interrupted in its centre by a large multi-foil rosette stained glass window (PLATE 7). Plexiglass and modern bolts were attached to the front of it at a later time, perhaps as a protective measure. It is framed by sandstone with decorative foliate detailing at its base.



Plate 7 - South elevation, multi-foil rosette window

6.5.7. Two Norman-style single panelled windows (PLATE 8 & PLATE 9) with pointed apexes and keystones adorn the bottom third of the façade on either side of the

entrance. The glass used in the panelling is textured. The window on the east side has exterior metal framing, to simulate multiple window panels. All the windows are mantled by sandstone string courses.



Plate 8 - South elevation, east window



Plate 9 - South elevation, west window

6.5.8. The front entrance below the rosette window is capped by a gabled roof, creating a grand canopy. Similarly to the main roof, it has sandstone trim along its edge and a Jerusalem-style cross decoration at its apex. It also has the same kneeler quoins as the main roof with the bottom sandstone block in a cyma

reversa profile decoration. Four clasping buttresses are keyed in to the brickwork, one on the west side, two on the south, and one on the east, and are all covered by two sandstone plinth stretchers. Right below the gable, a plaque reflects the independent nature of the chapel, which reads:

SALEM – ADDOLDYR ANNIBYNWYR



Plate 10 - South elevation, grand canopy entrance

6.5.9. The main entrance door rests in a pointed Norman-style door frame, surrounded by sandstone trim, similar to the trim above the three windows, and a foliate decoration rests at the apex of the door frame (PLATE 10). The same decoration can be found above the two mirrored windows. The brick decoration surrounding the doors is laid out in a Gothic-inspired piped ornamental style. The door itself is not original, but the decorative strap hinges attached on all four sides are, albeit repainted. Three sandstone steps lead up to the entrance, the second of which has been repaired with concrete. Leading up to the entrance from the gate, are ceramic tiles, serving both decorative and utilitarian non-slip purposes (PLATE 11). At a later point, hand rails were attached to the east side of the entrance.



Plate 11 - Ceramic tiling leading up to the entrance of the chapel

6.5.10. The south elevation of the entrance of the vestry keys into the sixth buttress of the east elevation of the chapel (PLATE 12 & PLATE 13). It consists of Flemish-bond brickwork. The roof plate covering it is lined by a gutter at its bottom edge. The entrance of the vestry is thought to have been open originally, and that the door in its place was added at a later date.



Plate 12 - Vestry, looking north

6.5.11. Above the entrance is an ornamental arched brick string course. The steps

leading up to the entrance are made of sandstone and are enclosed to the east by a brick-made retaining wall, decorated at its base by a lamppost.



Plate 13 - South elevation, vestry entrance

EAST ELEVATION

6.5.12. The east elevation of the chapel (PLATE 14) is constructed in a Flemish-bond, in bright coloured, smooth, brickwork, with dark grey pointing.



Plate 14 - Eastern elevation

6.5.13. At the top of the elevation (PLATE 15), a metal gutter lines the bottom of the roof plate. Directly under the gutter, there is a decorative brick trim resembling a reeding moulding, and below this are faux beam end brick corbels forming a string course at wall plate level.



Plate 15 - East elevation, detail

6.5.14. Six clasping buttresses are keyed into the structure and are identical in shape to the buttresses on the south elevation. They consist of two levels, which are both capped by sandstone plinth stretchers.

6.5.15. There are five windows on this elevation with the same design which consists of a painted wooden frame, a rectangular sandstone sill and lintel. The paint colour on the muntins is slightly different from the lower horizontal muntin of the wooden frame, suggesting some repainting or other upkeep. The glass is textured, similarly to the glass of the south windows, and separated into three windowpanes by two muntins (PLATE 16).



Plate 16 - East elevation, southernmost window detail

6.5.16. A disconnected telephone line connection still rests atop the southernmost buttress, and the second buttress up still carries the brackets for the missing telephone wire. A down pipe branches off from the gutter on the north side of the fourth buttress. Some of its brackets are missing.

6.5.17. The base of the chapel has a stepped brick plinth, six courses high, topped by chamfered brick (PLATE 17). Below each window along the elevation, within the plinth, are set ceramic vents.



Plate 17 - Base of eastern elevation

6.5.18. The east elevation of the vestry end of the chapel is constructed in a

combination of Flemish-bond and stretcher-bond, ending upwards in a gable (PLATE 18). Directly below the roof plate are two purlins and two pole plates at equal distances from each other. A single window is found on this elevation toward the south end. It is made of textured glass, and framed by a sandstone sill, two muntins dividing the window into four window panes and brick arch at its top. It has been covered by a modern metal grate, judging by the newer bolts holding it on, and was perhaps added on later as security. A gas pipe has been fitted through the brickwork on the northern end of this elevation.



Plate 18 - East elevation of vestry

NORTH ELEVATION

6.5.19. The north elevation is the least ornamental. Below the gabled roof of the main chapel structure, the brickwork has been rendered on the top third of the wall (PLATE 19). The purlins of the roof are still visible through the plaster on either side. The bottom two thirds of the brick work are still exposed and show a Flemish-bond.



Plate 19 - North elevation, rendered wall and finial

6.5.20. As the lean-to roof of the vestry descends toward the north side, the roof plate ends at a gutter (PLATE 21). The brick-laying style of the vestry section of the north elevation is in an English garden wall bond. The bricks are non-decorative as patches are visible, creating an uneven colour on many of them as opposed to the uniformly coloured bricks on the south elevations (PLATE 20).



Plate 20 - Panoramic view of northern elevation

6.5.21. There are three windows on this elevation, all of different sizes but similar designs to the window on the east elevation of the vestry. The design includes a magnolia wooden frame, a sandstone sill, a brick arch at the top, two muntins in a cross dividing the window into four window panes and metal grating

attached to the exterior of the window (PLATE 21). On the middle window of the north elevation, a coarse concrete repair has been carried out on the sandstone sill.



Plate 21 - North elevation of vestry

6.5.22. Three lower windows are visible from the exterior, all of which have been closed off with breeze-blocks. Their design is similar to the windows that are still in use above.

WEST ELEVATION

6.5.23. The west elevation of the chapel is identical to the east elevation as seen in PLATE 22.



Plate 22 - West elevation of Salem Chapel

6.5.24. The west elevation of the function room demonstrates an English garden wall bond, consistent with its north elevation. A purlin is visible from the roof plate (PLATE 23). There is a single window, with a design consistent with the other windows of the vestry extension including a wooden frame, a sandstone sill, a brick arch at the top, two muntins dividing the window into four window panes and a metal grate on the exterior. Below this window is a cellar window which has been closed off with contemporary bricks.



Plate 23 - West elevation of vestry, with window

ROOF STRUCTURE

6.5.25. The roof of the chapel is composed of square slate tiles on a steep pitch (PLATE 24). The ridge of the gable is covered in ceramic ridge tiles from end to end. The south end of the gable is decorated with a metal weathervane, whereas the north end is decorated with a ceramic finial. Interrupting the ridge tiles in the middle of the roof is a zinc vent, perhaps connecting to the boiler system of the building.



Plate 24 - Salem Chapel, roof detail with weathervane, zinc chimney and finial (Right to left)

6.6. RESULTS OF INTERNAL SURVEY OF THE PRINCIPAL BUILDING

6.6.1. The interior of the principal structure is discussed by floor and sequentially by rooms.

GROUND FLOOR

Vestibule

6.6.2. The vestibule measures 2m². The floor is decorated with Ruabon quarry tile in a geometric Victorian style (PLATE 25). The west, south and east walls are panelled by dark wood slats and dark wood framing. It appears the wood is pine with dark staining and varnish. Lining the ceiling edges is a lighter coloured wood trim with reeding moulding details (PLATE 26).



Plate 25 - Vestibule floor detail

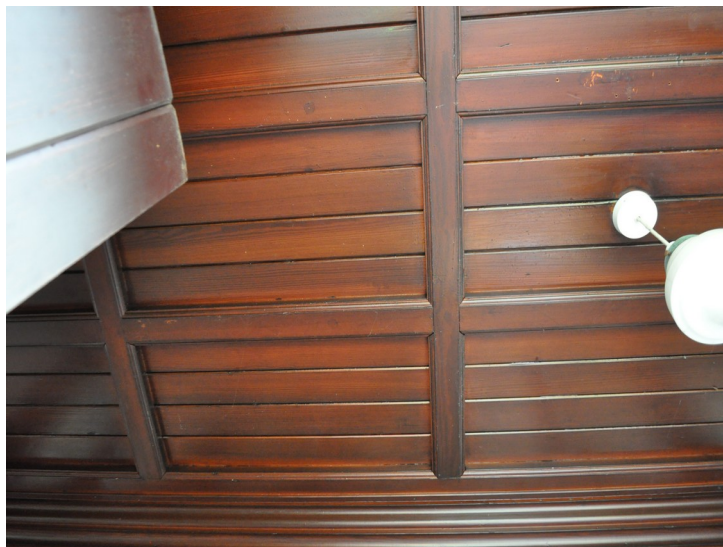


Plate 26 - Vestibule ceiling panelling detail

6.6.3. The west and east sides of the vestibule both have wooden doors of a similar colour to the panelling on the ceiling and walls (PLATE 27). The north facing wall carrying the entrance door is painted lime green. The vestibule, on its west, south and east walls, is enclosed in the top two-thirds of its walls by geometric stained glass windows.

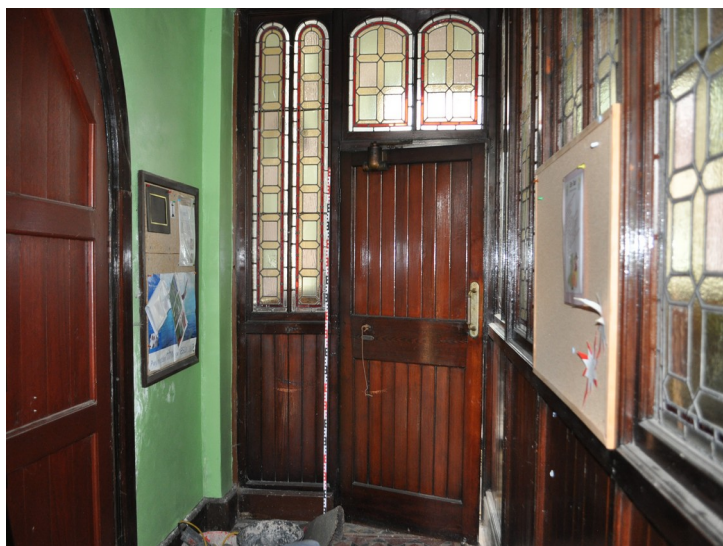


Plate 27 - Vestibule, panelling, door and windows detailing

Chapel

6.6.4. The main chapel space measures 135m² with a ceiling height of 7.32m (PLATE 28). The floor is of parquet flooring, covered by geometric-patterned runner rugs along the lengths of the pews. The widest seven pew stalls, directly facing the pulpit, sit upon a 10 cm raised parquet floor. On either side of the main pew stalls are two narrower pew stalls, of seven rows each. To the east side of the pulpit are two rows of pews facing it.



Plate 28 - Main chapel

6.6.5. The pulpit rests upon a raised dais, by about 30 cm, enclosed by a dark wood balustrade, which itself sits on a raised carpeted floor of about 10 cm, which is also enclosed by a handrail with ornamental metal fixtures (PLATE 29).



Plate 29 - Handrail detail

6.6.6. Behind the pulpit on the main wall is an inset pointed arch recess, mirroring the entrance to the chapel (PLATE 30). Its sides are decorated by piping details ending in two Corinthian style pillars on either side, for a total of four pillars. The background of the arch is painted the same lime green found in the vestibule. The top of the arch is mantled by a painted faux-banderole reading Worship the Lord in Welsh:

ADDOLWCHYR ARLWYDD



Plate 30 - Main chapel pulpit and dais, balustrade detail

6.6.7. The walls in the chapel, apart from the decorative arch, are all painted white. The bottom section of the walls is decorated with simple wood panelling similar to the wood in the vestibule. The windows on east and west faces are rectangular in form with chamfered sides forming a recess (PLATE 31). This recess form can also be seen on the south face arched windows.



Plate 31 - Window form and wainscotting in chapel

6.6.8. The roof of the chapel is supported by five dark wood hammer beams following the rafters, which end inferiorly in white corbels with cyma recta moulding motifs. These beams themselves are supported by horizontal white metal tie-beams. At the intersection of the tie-beams are decorative star-shaped

fixtures. The ceiling itself has two ceiling vents, with ornamental circular motifs. There are a total of eighteen pendant light fixtures hanging from the ceiling, none of which are original (PLATE 32).



Plate 32 - Hammer beams, tie-beams, ceiling vents and lighting detail

6.6.9. Access to the northern annex is via a doorway to the east of the Dias, which has a thick frame, showing that this is via a structurally load bearing wall (PLATE 33). There is no evidence that this has been inserted, in terms of ghosting or damage surrounding the doorway, indicating an original feature.



Plate 33 - North wall with alcove and access to annex

Function Room

6.6.10. The function room north of the chapel measures 24.27m² and is accessed via the chapel area to the south and corridor. The floor is covered in a red carpet and topped by a simple white skirting board (PLATE 34). The centre of the walls is divided by a white trim horizontally, mimicking simple wainscotting.



Plate 34 - Function room

6.6.11. The windows are all wooden frame, square, sash windows. A dog leg in the eastern wall allows for the kitchen area to reach into the room, and a small hatch is present to allow communication between the kitchen and function room (PLATE 35).



Plate 35 - Function room, looking east

Kitchen

6.6.12. The kitchen east of the function room measures 8.26m². The door at the entrance is a white plank and batten door (PLATE 36). A single window occupies the northern wall, and the hatch between the kitchen and function room can be seen on the western wall.



Plate 36 - Kitchen, looking west

6.6.13. The walls appear to match the exterior wall bricklaying, only painted in a magnolia colour. There are simple cabinets and a sink (PLATE 37).



Plate 37 - Kitchen

W.C.

6.6.14. The water-closet room, east of the kitchen, measures 2.74m². The door at its entrance is a white plank and batten door (PLATE 38). Similarly to the kitchen, the walls seem to match the exterior brick-laying, painted magnolia. Toward the entrance of the water-closet is a hatch door leading down to the cellar (FIGURE 12).

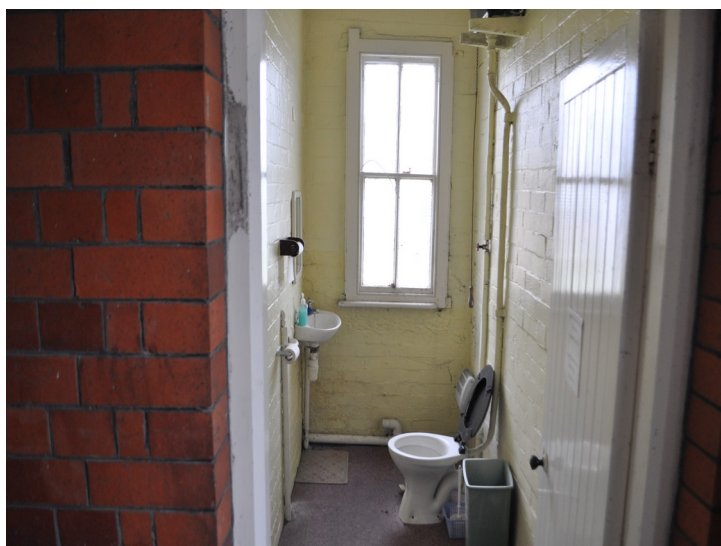


Plate 38 - Water-closet

Corridor

6.6.15. The corridor, south of the kitchen and water-closet room allows access to the chapel and function room, from the east, and, measures 5.38m². It is thought it was originally open and the door was added at a later point, hence the external appearance of the brickwork. The walls are composed of unpainted bricks, similar in composition to the exterior walls, in a Flemish-bond (PLATE 39 & PLATE 40).



Plate 39 - Corridor, facing east



Plate 40 - Corridor, looking west

Roof

6.6.16. An access hatch at the entrance between the corridor and function room allowed a view of the roof construction. This was of machine cut timber, and appears to be original (PLATE 41).



Plate 41 - Roof structure in annex

CELLAR

6.6.17. The cellar is divided into three main sections: the entrance from the hatch in the water-closet room, the main cellar room below the function room, and the crawlspace below the main chapel. Throughout the entire cellar the height of the ceiling is 1.95m (PLATE 42).



Plate 42 - Access to cellar, looking east

6.6.18. The entrance from the hatch gives into a small room of 11m². The walls are composed of a stretcher-bond, painted white (PLATE 44). The southwest corner of this room encloses the boiler (PLATE 43). An arched wooden doorway leads

into the larger cellar room.



Plate 43 - Cellar boiler detail



Plate 44 - Cellar entrance



Plate 45 - Breeze blocked window on north wall of cellar

6.6.19. The larger cellar room under the function room measures 24m². The walls of this room are composed of an English garden wall bond, painted white. The floor is composed of grey bricks, laid out in a stretcher-bond style. The west wall shows a bricked-up window (PLATE 46), while the other windows in the cellar are closed off with breeze-blocks (PLATE 45), this window was closed off with bricks similar in form to the chapel's construction material. The south wall of this room gives entrance to the crawlspace (PLATE 47).



Plate 46 - Main cellar room

6.6.20. The crawlspace encompasses the entirety of the chapel, measuring at roughly 135m². From the doorway, bricks laid out in a chequered pattern can be seen

running southward, as a measure to evenly distribute heat from the boiler. The boiler itself being positioned in alignment with the entrance to the crawlspace.



Plate 47 - Crawlspace

7. Analysis & Conclusions

7.1. ANALYSIS

- 7.1.1. Salem Chapel was constructed in a single phase, in 1896. Most of the original fittings and structural elements still exist on the exterior sections and main chapel.
- 7.1.2. The later alterations to Salem Chapel can be observed in three manners: the addition, repair, and removal of furnishing. Additions can be observed on the windows as metal grates, the vestry entrance door, the plexiglass protecting the rosette window on the south elevation, and the closing off of the cellar windows with breeze-blocks. Some access additions were carried out in the form of handrails on the east side of the main entrance.
- 7.1.3. Furnishing updating or repairs could be observed in the pendant light fixtures in the chapel, the coarse concrete window sill in the kitchen, the retro-fitted fixtures in the kitchen and water-closet and the repaired front steps.
- 7.1.4. Furnishing removal could be seen in the absence of the telephone line on the east elevation of the chapel, and the missing top of the lamp post.

7.2. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.2.1. The archaeological building recording undertaken by L - P : Archaeology at Salem Chapel has confirmed that the site was constructed in one phase and has not changed structurally since its construction. It was in use from the late 19th century up until the early 21st century.
- 7.2.2. This survey confirmed Salem Chapel as representative of one of the revivals of non-conformist Christian worship in 19th century Wales. Through its Arts and Crafts architectural style, described as artful yet affordable, it represents an urgent need in the community for a place of worship for the Congregational community of Rhosllanerchrugog. The bricks used for its construction were Ruabon brick, high quality but affordable construction material in line with the Arts and Crafts ethos of simple materials providing a solid foundation for artful craftsmanship (WATKIN 2001). The use of decorative brick-laying in the facade and sides of the structure in opposition to the backside demonstrates a

pragmatism in its construction, saving the craftsmanship for what the congregation could observe. Its architecture was in line with the rest of the village, fitting in visually and, by extension, culturally.

7.3.RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

7.3.1. Relevant areas of research have been listed below, these have been taken from the Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales' (RFAW) 2017 Later Post Medieval & Industrial 1750 to 1900 paper (GERRARD & BAILEY 2017).

- ◆ The extent to which the proliferation of social infrastructure and communal institutions such as chapels, churches, institutes is a distinctive feature of the period and in what ways these structures might be distinctive to Wales.
- ◆ There are opportunities to study the daily lives of those living in this period more closely.

7.3.2. This report has sought to address, as far as possible with the information gathered, relevant issues and areas of potential research highlighted in the research frameworks.

7.3.3. This report has identified and discussed the development of the structural elements of the site whilst also including aspects of its social history, to aid in producing a meaningful narrative of Salem Chapel alongside the descriptive recording of the structural remains, resulting in a more comprehensive record of the site for its preservation by record, as required by the level 3 analytical recording. This archaeological body of work has not encountered any historical remains or new information relating to the structure which would alter the pre-determined significance of the structure. The loss of any identified historic fabric has been mitigated through this level 3 analytical record of the structure.

8. Crynodeb & Casgliad

8.1.CASGLIAD

- 8.1.1. Adeiladwyd Capel Salem mewn un cyfnod, yn 1896. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r gosodiadau gwreiddiol a'r elfennau strwythurol yn dal i fodoli ar y rhannau allanol a'r prif gapel.
- 8.1.2. Gellir arsylwi ar y newidiadau diweddarach i Gapel Salem mewn tri dull: ychwanegu, gwneud iawn a thynnu dodrefn. Gellir gweld ychwanegiadau ar y ffenestri fel gratiau metel, drws mynediad y festri, y plexiglass yn amddiffyn y ffenestr rhoséd ar y drychiad deheuol, a chau ffenestri'r seler gyda blociau awel. Gwnaed rhai ychwanegiadau mynediad ar ffurf canllawiau ar ochr ddwyreiniol y brif fynedfa.
- 8.1.3. Roedd modd gweld gwaith diweddarau neu wneud iawn yn y gosodiadau golau crog yn y capel, y silff ffenestr goncrit fras yn y gegin, y gosodiadau ôl-osod yn y gegin a'r cwpwrdd dwr a'r grisiau blaen wedi'u hatgyweirio.
- 8.1.4. Roedd y dodrefn i'w weld yn cael ei dynnu yn absenoldeb y llinell ffôn ar ddrychiad dwyreiniol y capel, a phen coll y polyn lamp.

8.2.CRYNODEB

- 8.2.1. Mae'r cofnodion adeiladu archeolegol a wnaed gan L - P : Archaeology yng Nghapel Salem wedi cadarnhau bod y safle wedi'i adeiladu mewn un cyfnod ac nad yw wedi newid yn strwythurol ers ei adeiladu. Roedd yn cael ei ddefnyddio o ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif hyd at ddechrau'r 21ain ganrif.
- 8.2.2. Cadarnhaodd yr arolwg hwn fod Capel Salem yn cynrychioli un o adfywiadau addoliad Cristnogol anghydfurfiol yng Nghymru'r 19eg ganrif. Trwy ei arddull bensaernïol Celf a Chrefft, a ddisgrifir fel celfydd ond fforddiadwy, mae'n cynrychioli angen dybryd yn y gymuned am addoldy i gymuned Annibynwyr Rhosllannerchrugog. Y brics a ddefnyddiwyd ar gyfer ei adeiladu oedd brics Rhiwabon, deunydd adeiladu fforddiadwy o ansawdd uchel yn unol ag ethos Celf a Chrefft o ddeunyddiau syml sy'n darparu sylfaen gadarn ar gyfer crefftwaith celfydd (WATKIN 2001). Mae'r defnydd o osod brics addurniadol yn ffasâd ac ochrau'r strwythur mewn gwrthwynebiad i'r ochr gefn yn dangos

pragmatiaeth yn ei wneuthuriad, gan arbed y crefftwaith ar gyfer yr hyn y gallai'r gynulleidfa ei weld. Roedd ei bensaernïaeth yn cyd-fynd â gweddill y pentref, yn ffitio i mewn yn weledol a, thrwy estyniad, yn ddiwylliannol.

8.3.FRAMWAITH YMCHWIL

8.3.1. Mae meysydd ymchwil perthnasol wedi'u rhestru isod, mae'r rhain wedi'u cymryd o'r Fframwaith Ymchwil ar gyfer Archaeoleg Cymru (RFAW) 2017 Ôl-ganoloesol Diweddarach 1750 i 1900 papur (GERRARD & BAILEY 2017).

- ◆ I ba raddau y mae'r doreth o seilwaith cymdeithasol a sefydliadau cymunedol megis capeli, eglwysi, athrofeydd yn nodwedd nodedig o'r cyfnod ac ym mha ffyrdd y gallai'r strwythurau hyn fod yn nodweddiadol i Gymru.
- ◆ Mae cyfleoedd i astudio bywydau beunyddiol y rhai sy'n byw yn y cyfnod hwn yn agosach.

8.3.2. Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ceisio mynd i'r afael, cyn belled â phosibl â'r wybodaeth a gasglwyd, â materion perthnasol a meysydd ymchwil posibl a amlygwyd yn y fframweithiau ymchwil.

8.3.3. Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi nodi a thrafod datblygiad elfennau strwythurol y safle tra hefyd yn cynnwys agweddau o'i hanes cymdeithasol, er mwyn cynorthwyo i gynhyrchu naratif ystyrllon o Gapel Salem ochr yn ochr â chofnodi disgrifiadol o'r olion strwythurol, gan arwain at gofnod mwy cynhwysfawr o y safle ar gyfer ei gadw trwy gofnod, fel sy'n ofynnol gan y recordiad dadansoddol lefel 3. Nid yw'r corff archeolegol hwn o waith wedi dod ar draws unrhyw olion hanesyddol na gwybodaeth newydd yn ymwneud â'r strwythur a fyddai'n newid arwyddocâd y strwythur a bennwyd ymlaen llaw. Mae colli unrhyw adeiladwaith hanesyddol a nodwyd wedi'i liniaru trwy'r cofnod dadansoddol lefel 3 hwn o'r strwythur.

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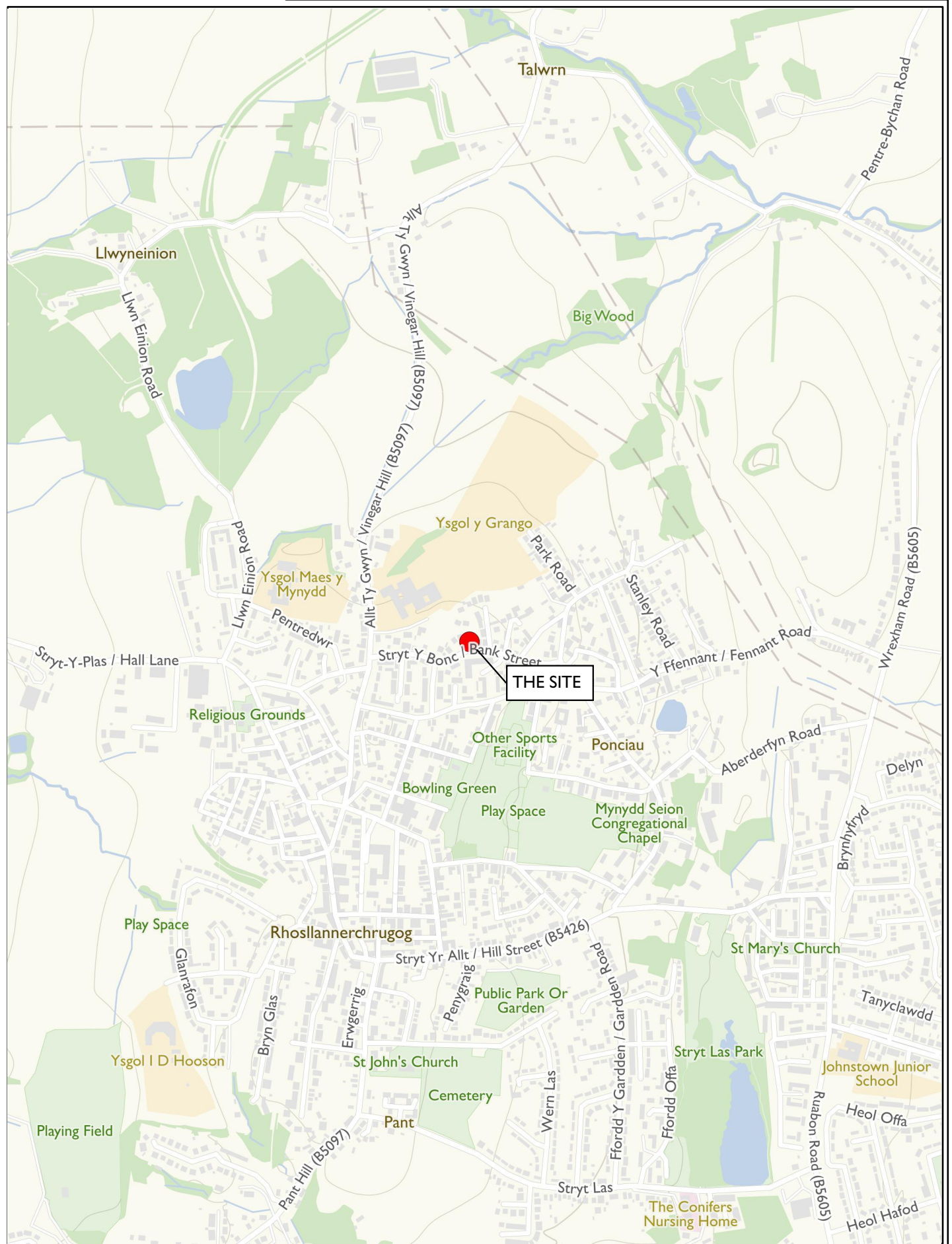
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[Accessed July 12, 2022].

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location - General



PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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DOC REF: LP4070C-HBR-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



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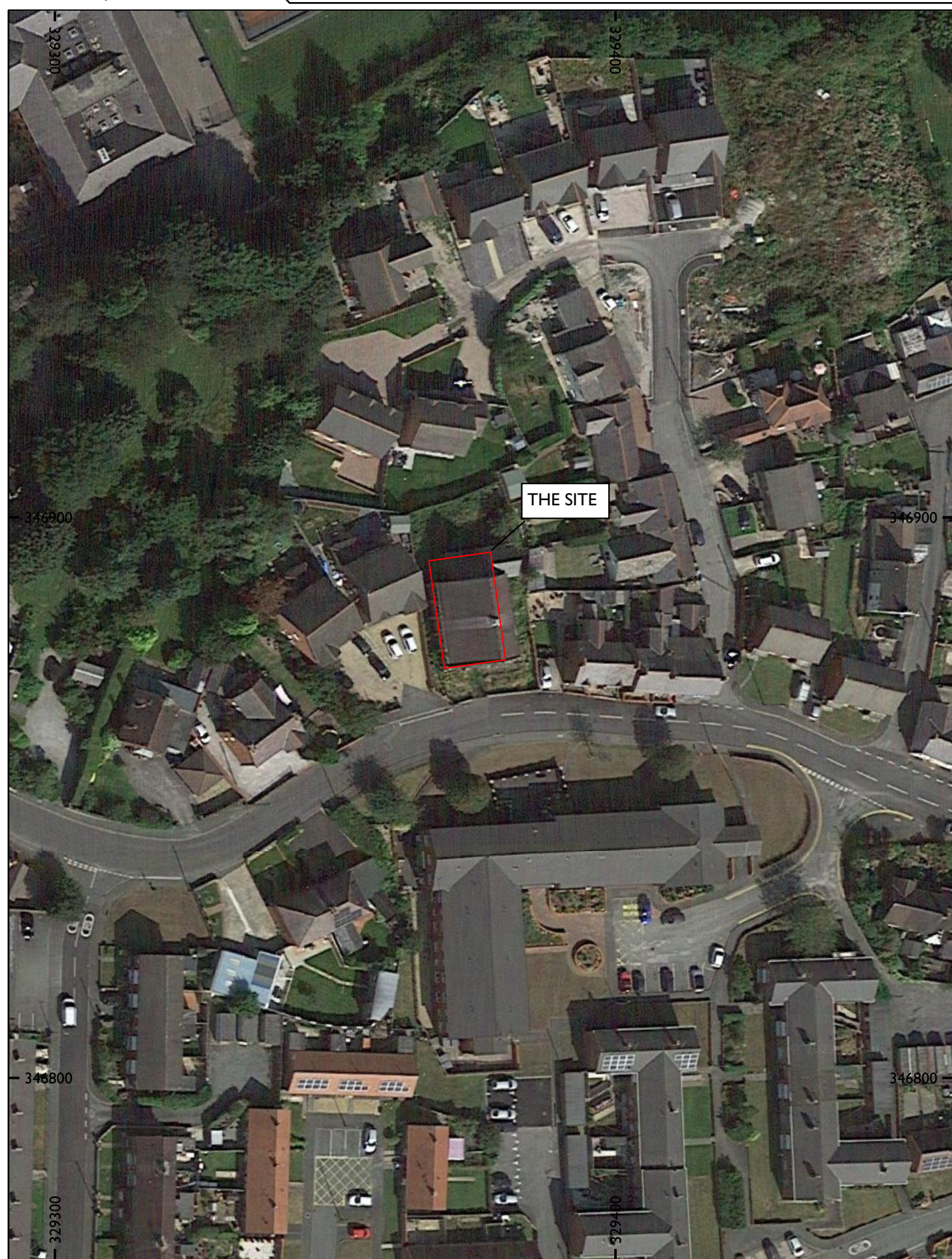
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FIGURE 3 // Study Structure



0 50 m



PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // Study Structure

DOC REF: LP4070C-HBR-vI

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FIGURE 4 // 1845 Tithe Map



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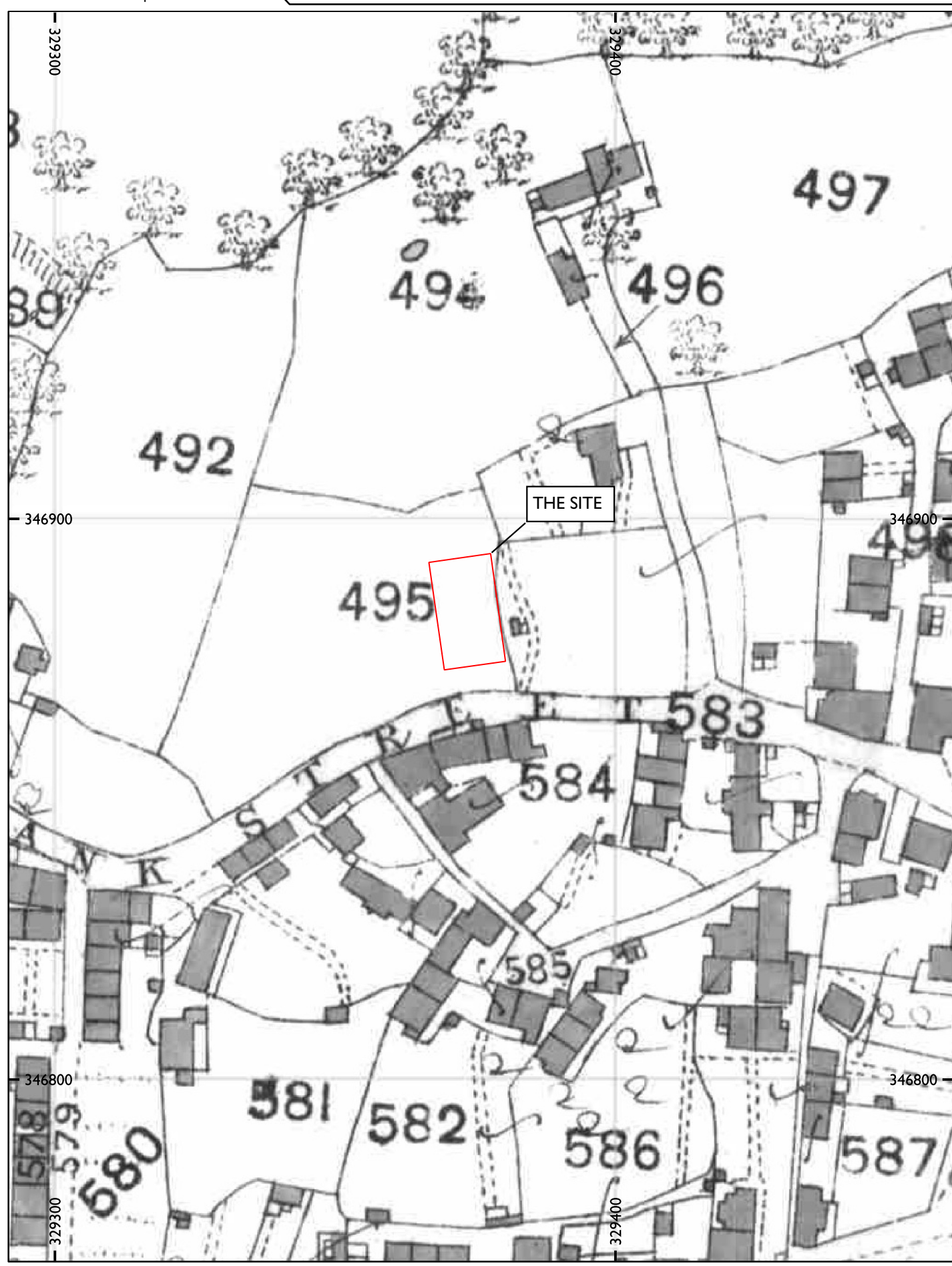
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FIGURE // 1875 OS Map



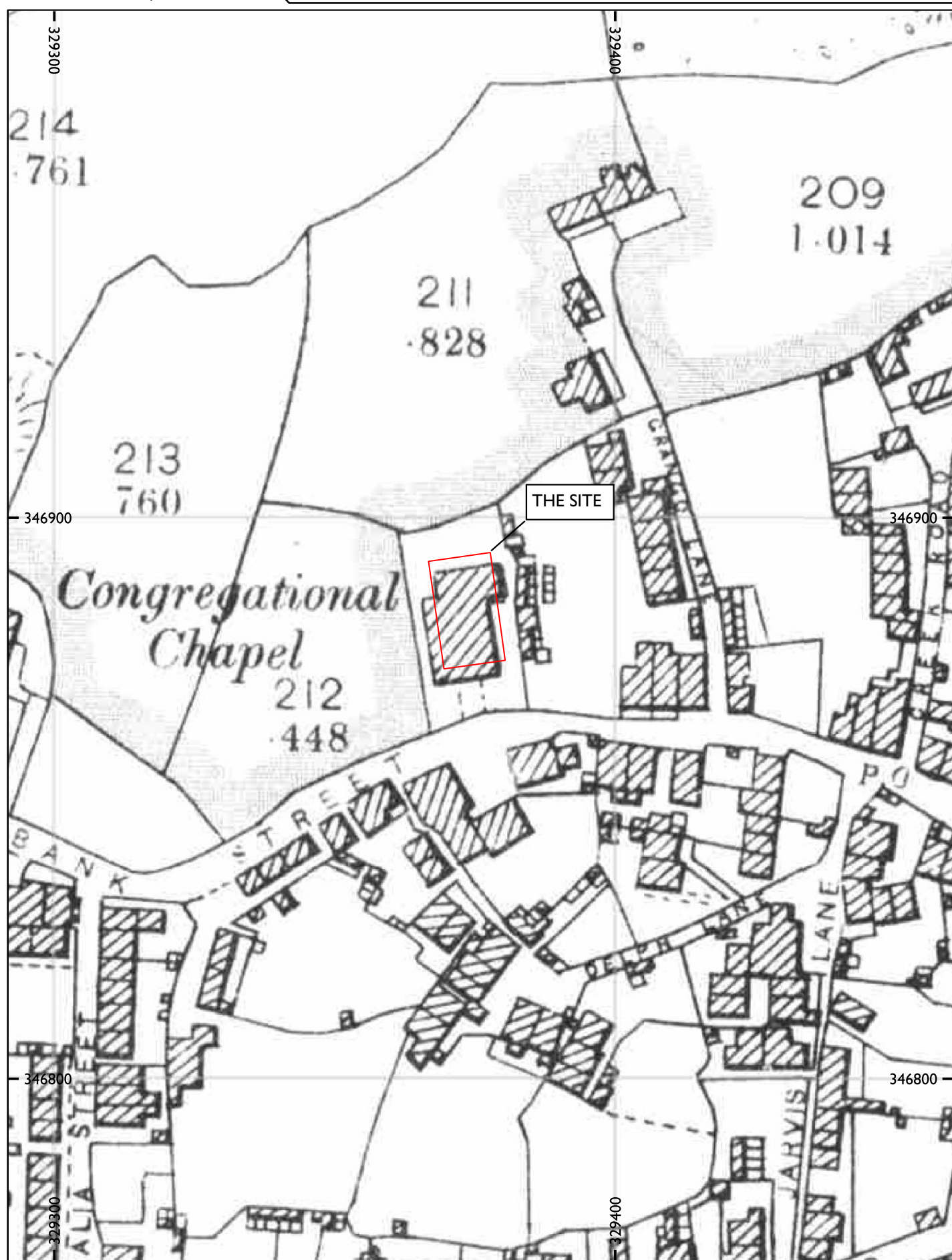
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FIGURE 6 // 1900 OS Map



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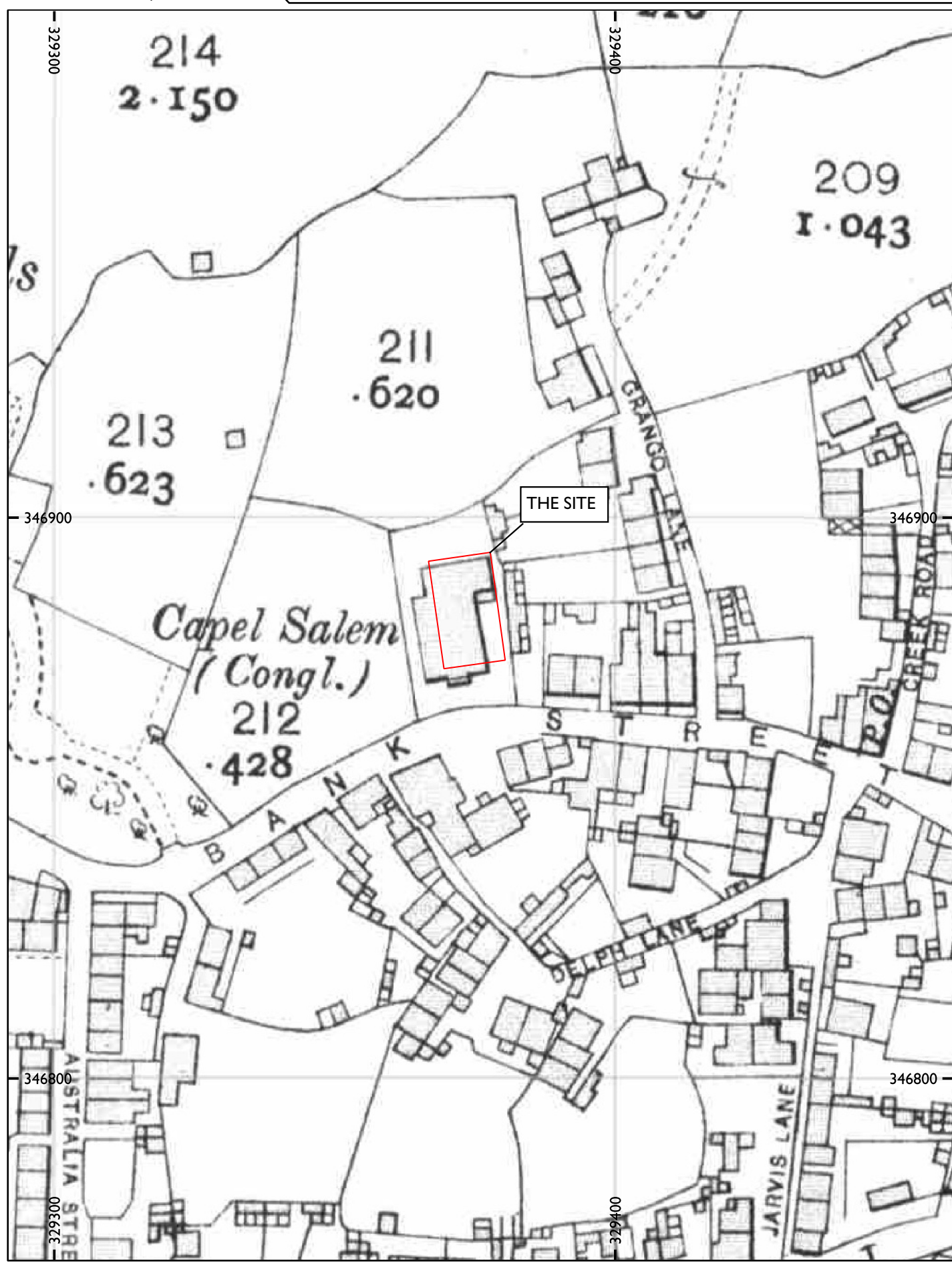
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FIGURE 7 // 1912 OS Map



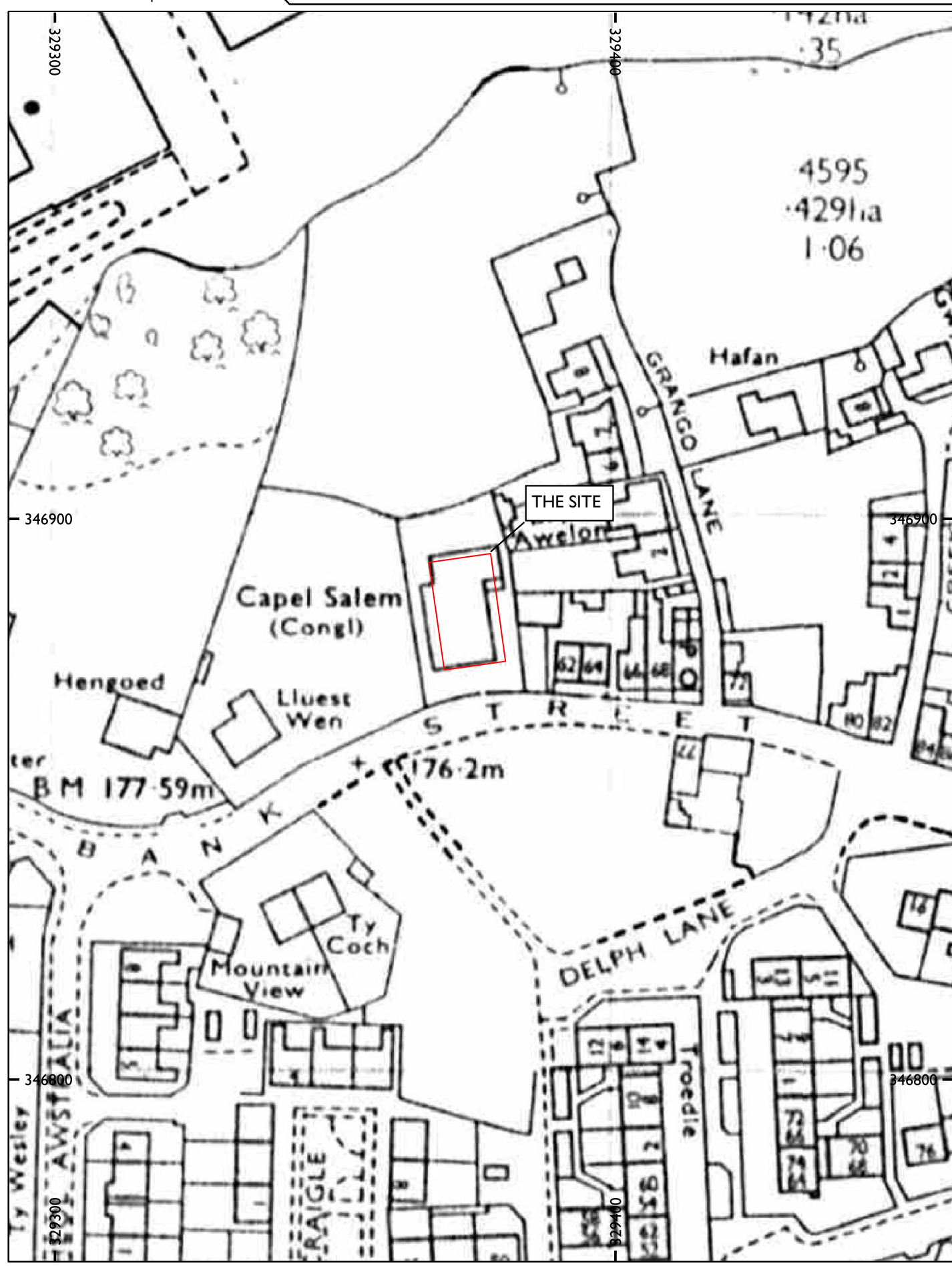
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FIGURE 8 // 1959 OS Map



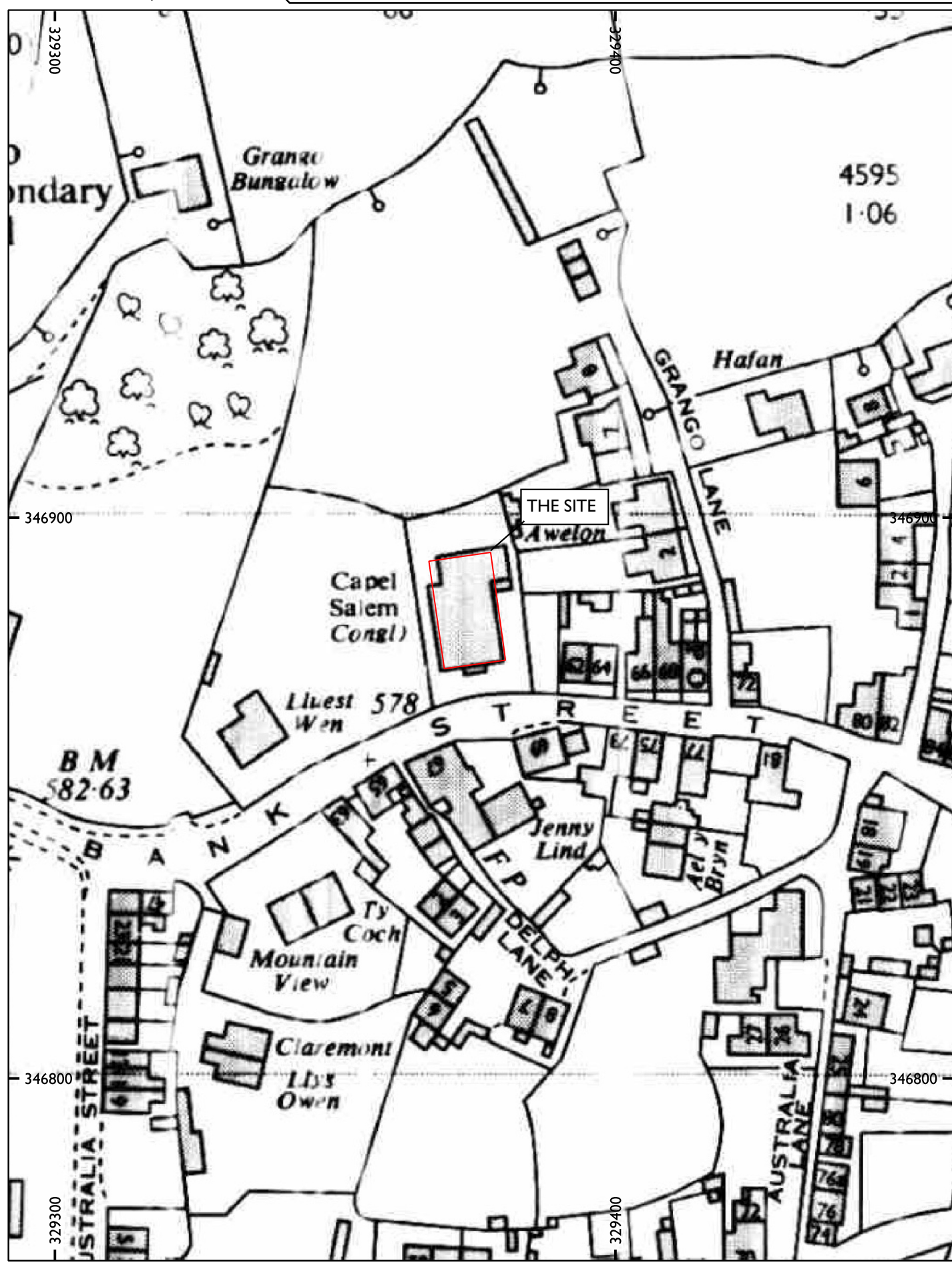
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FIGURE 9 // 1963 OS Map



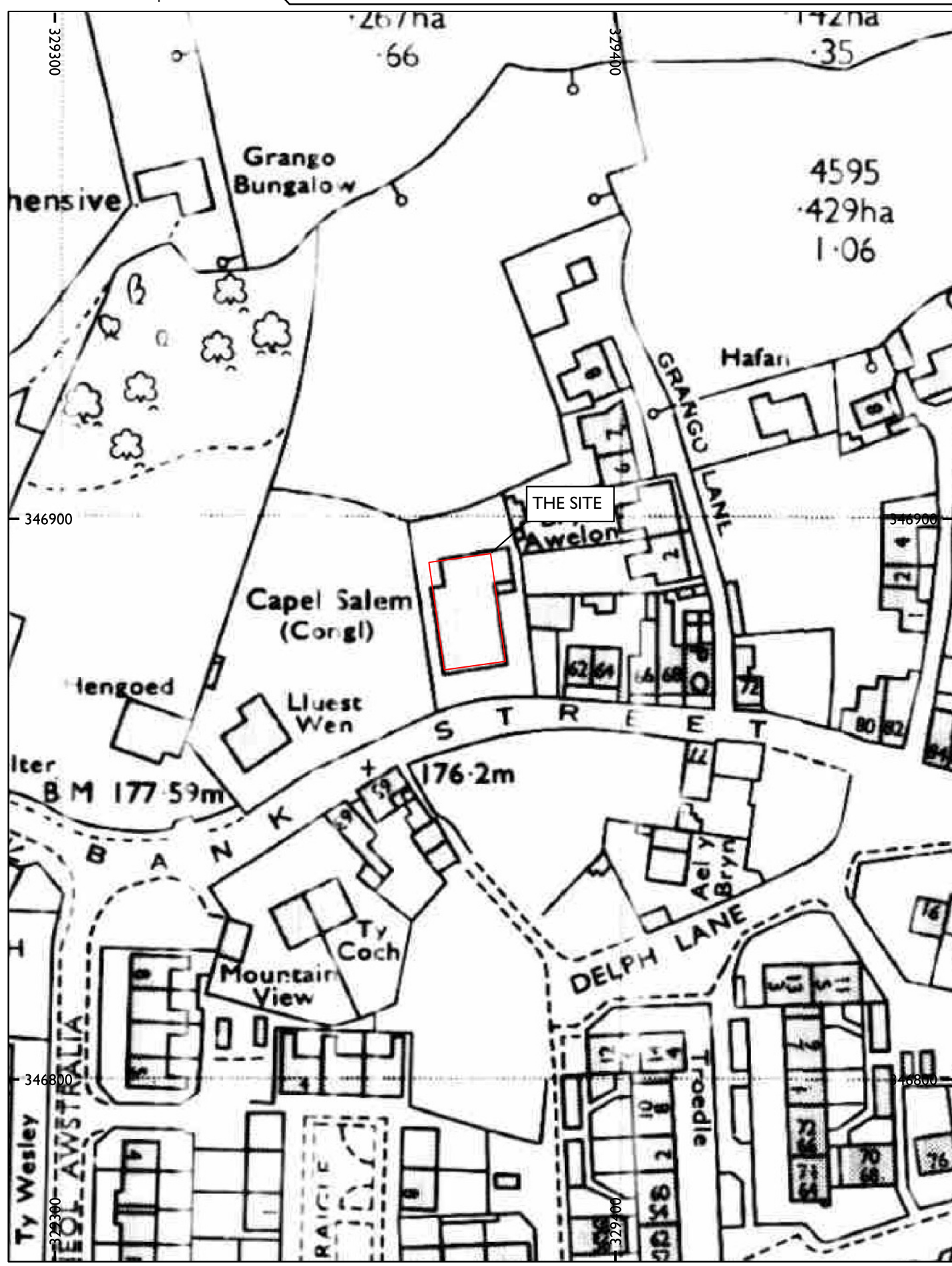
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FIGURE 10 // 1974 OS Map



PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

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FIGURE 11 // 1992 OS Map



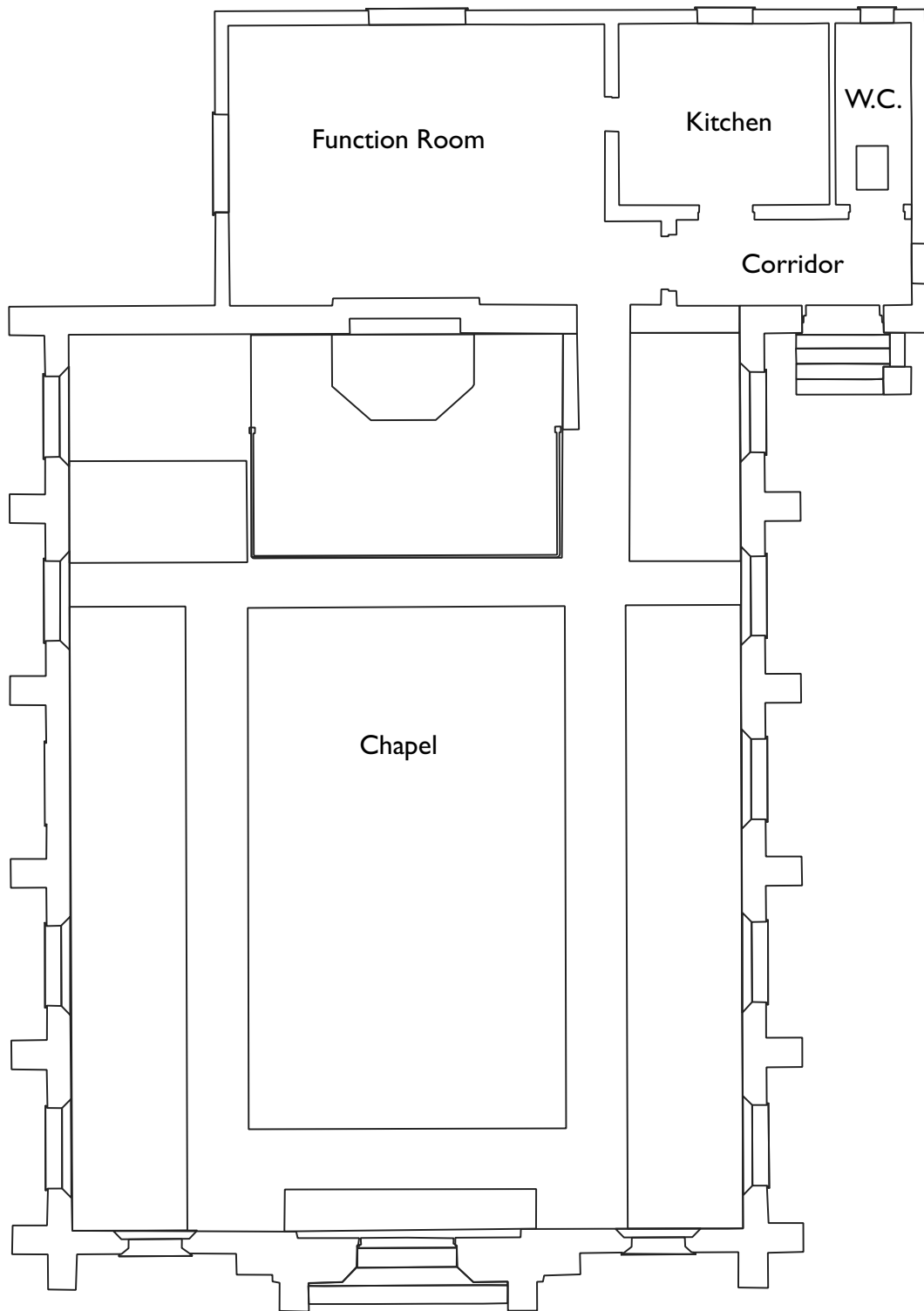
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FIGURE 12 // Ground Floor Plan



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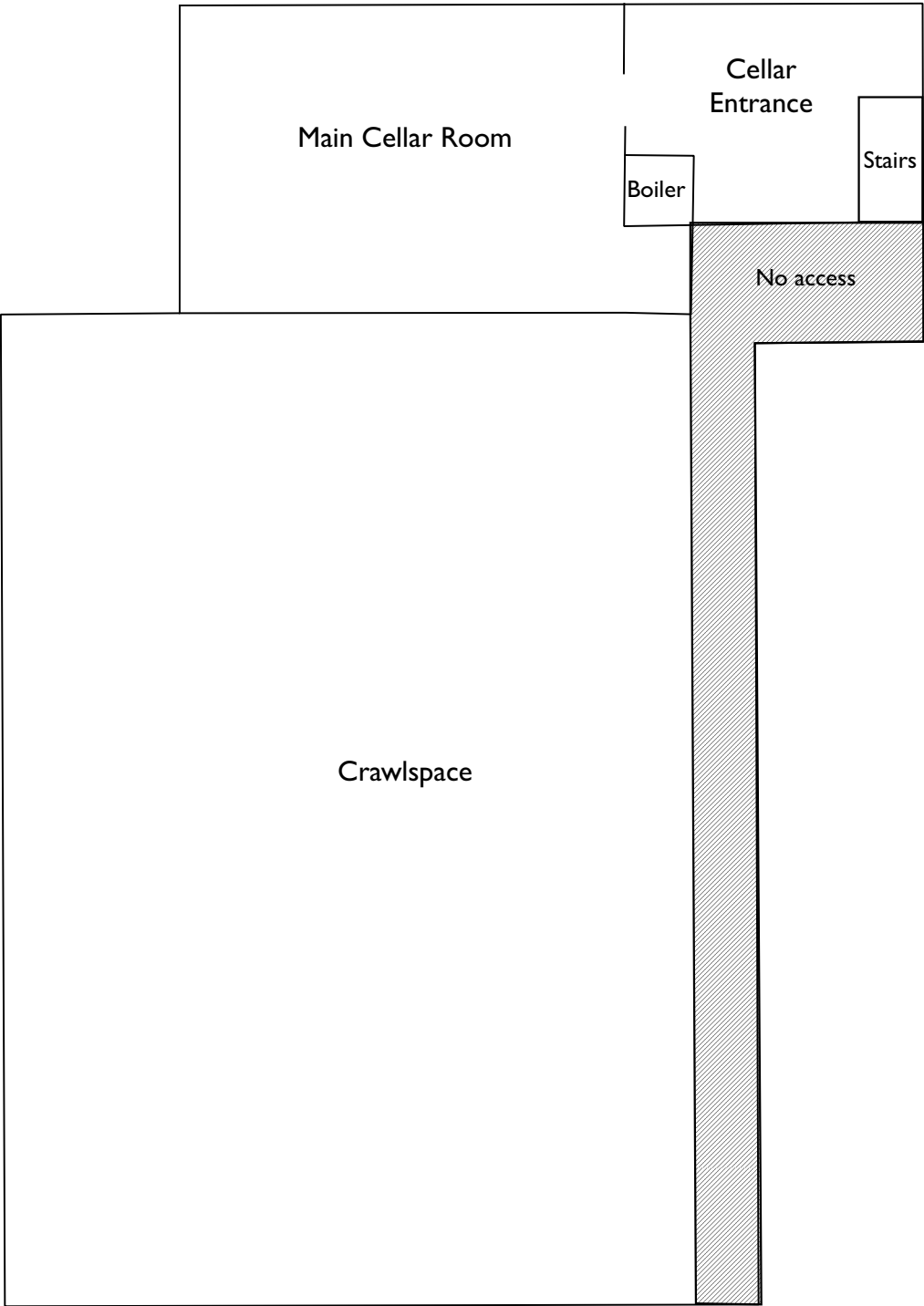
PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // Ground Floor Plan

DOC REF: LP4070C-HBR-v1

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FIGURE 13 // Cellar Plan



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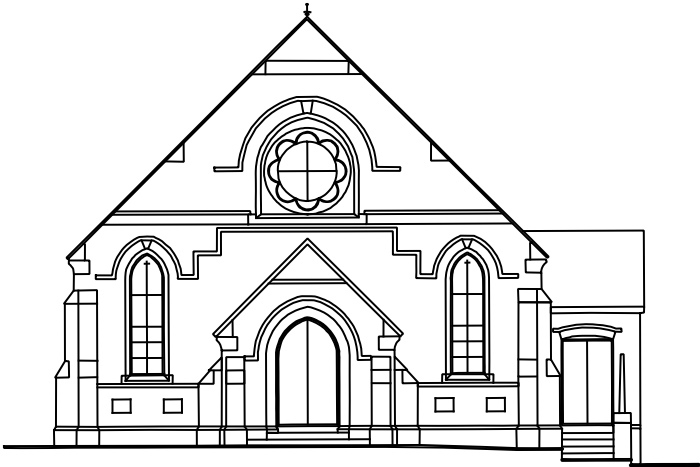
PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // Cellar Plan

DOC REF: LP4070C-HBR-vI

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FIGURE 14 // Salem Chapel Elevations



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

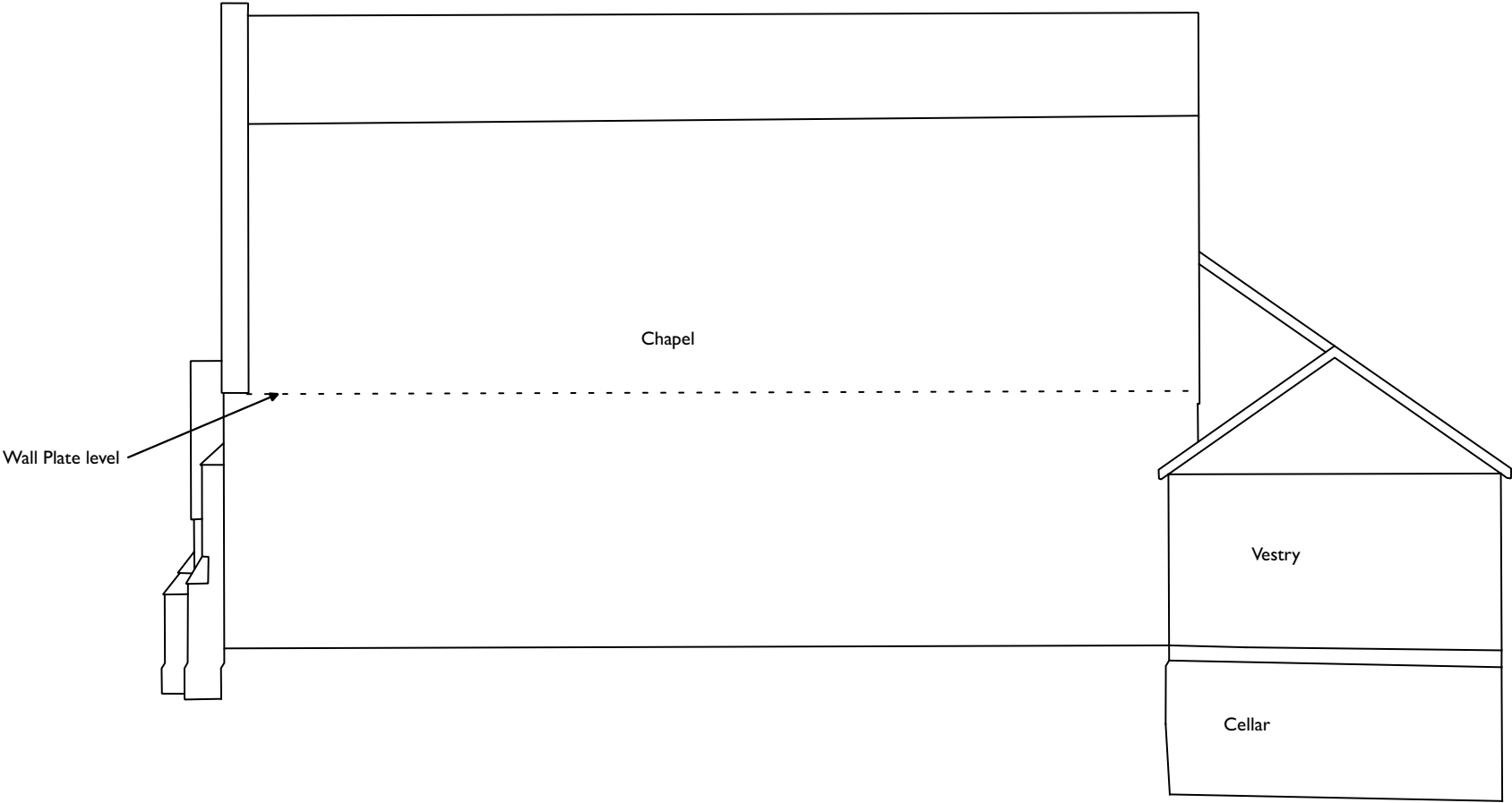
PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // South, East, North and West

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FIGURE 15 // Cross Section



PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // Façade and Vestry entrance

DOC REF: LP4070C-HBR-vI

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FIGURE 16 // External Photos



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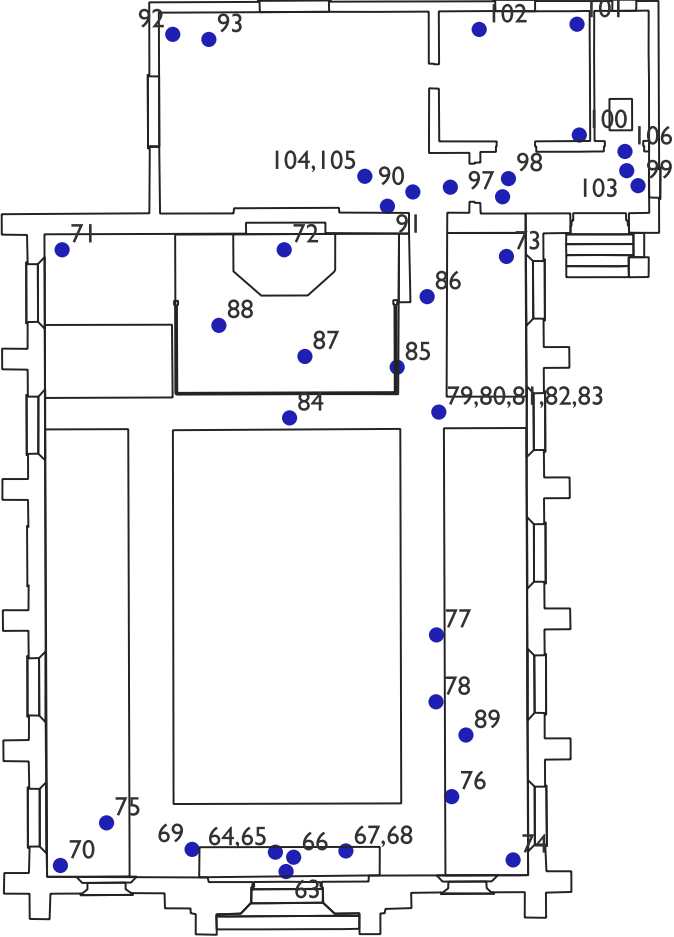
PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // External shots of Salem Chapel

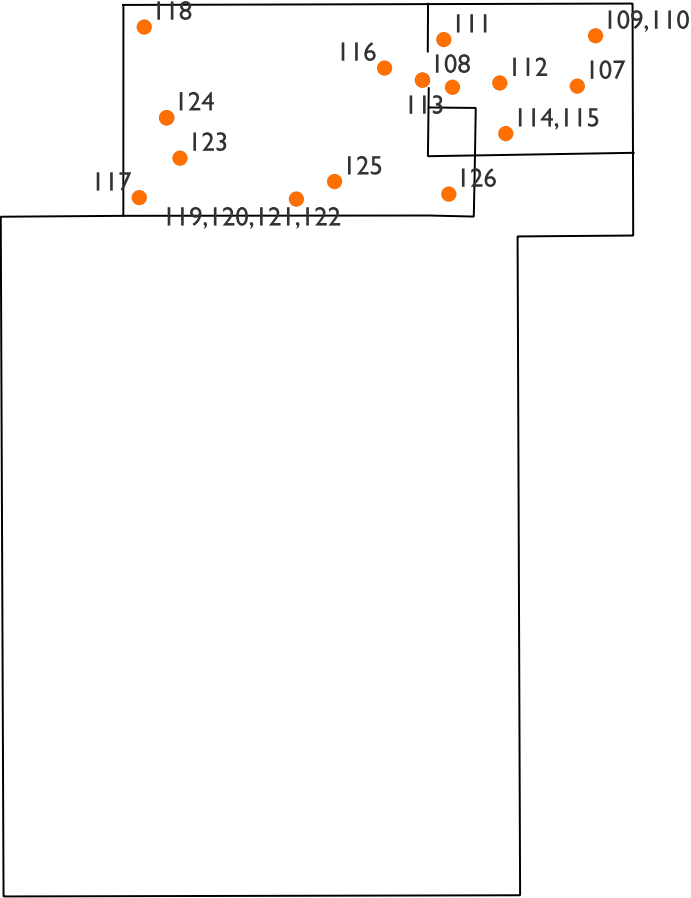
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FIGURE 17 // Internal Photos



Ground Floor



Cellar



PROJECT // 4070C - Salem Chapel

DESCRIPTION // Internal shots of the ground floor and the cellar.

DOC REF: LP4070C-HBR-vI

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

APPENDIX I



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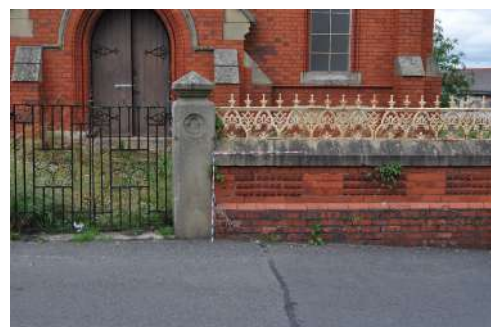
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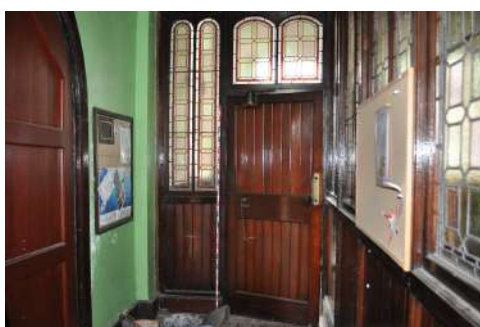
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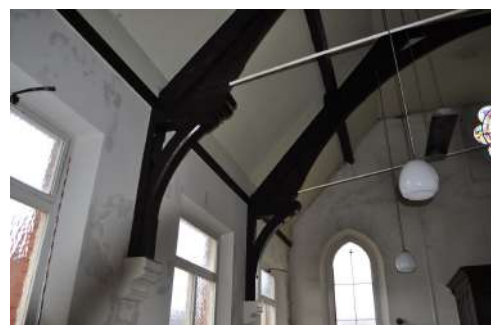
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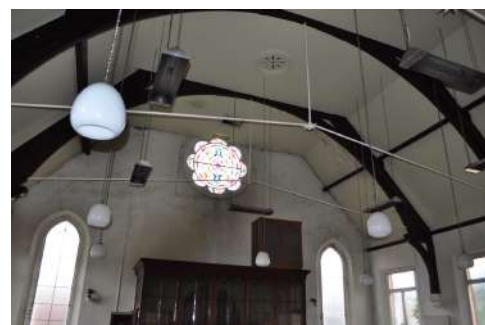
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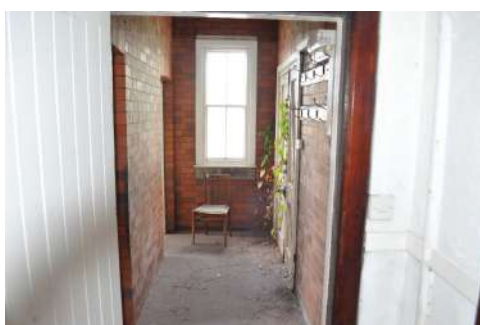
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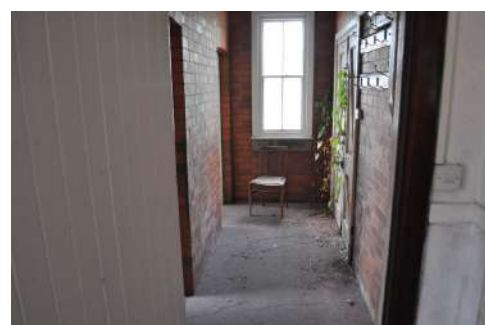
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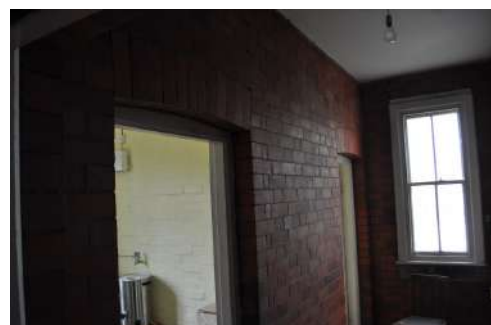
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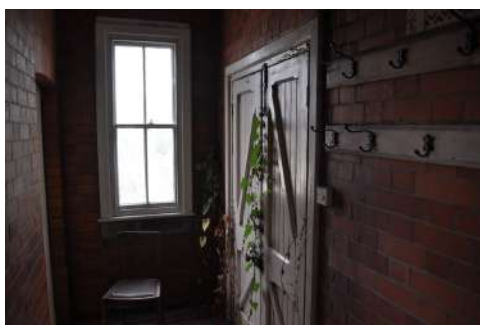
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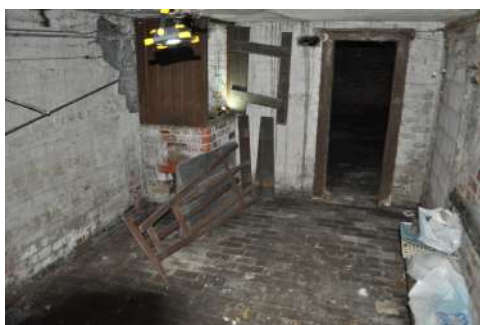
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

APPENDIX 2

Abutting – A wall or feature touching or joining another wall or feature.

Apex – The highest point or peak in the gable front.

Baluster – A vertical rod that acts as the infill between the handrails and base-rail.

Balustrade – A row of balusters.

Capping stone – Stone which sits above a wall or feature to demarcate or protect it.

Course – A single row of bricks or masonry.

Cyma recta – A molding whose concave part projects beyond the convex part

Cyma reversa – A molding that (in section) has the shape of an S with the convex part above and the concave part below.

Dais – A raised platform at the front of a room or hall.

Elevation – Any face of a building or side of a room.

English-cross – A pattern of bricks in a wall where there is a combination of alternating courses of stretchers and headers

Façade – The principal front of a structure.

Finial – The termination of an object finished as an ornamentation.

Flemish-bond – A pattern of bricks in a wall in which each course consists of alternate headers and stretchers

Foliate – Leaf or leaflike motif decoration.

Gable – The triangular upper part of a wall at the end of a ridged roof.

Joist – A length of timber supporting part of the structure of a building, typically arranged in parallel series to support a floor or ceiling.

Keyed – A joint between two walls which have been interlocked together with masonry or brick.

Lean-to – A building sharing one wall with a larger building, and having a roof that leans against that wall

Lintel – A stone or brick support over an opening, window or door.

Mantel – A structure of wood, marble, or stone above and around a fireplace.

Muntin – A bar or rigid supporting strip between adjacent panes of glass.

Pitched – A roof that slopes downwards in two parts at an angle from a central ridge

Plank and batten door – Vertical boards held together with horizontal 'battens', also known as ledges.

Plinth – The base course of a building, or projecting base of a wall.

Purlin – A horizontal beam along the length of a roof, resting on principals and supporting the common rafters or boards.

Quoin – Stone blocks on the corner of a building or structure.

Render – Plaster applied to the external brick or stone surface.

Sill – Stone, brick or other material located below an opening, window or doorway.

Skirting – A wooden board running along the base of an interior wall.

Strap hinge – A hinge with long leaves for attaching on to the surface of a door.

stretcher-bond – A brickwork pattern comprising stretchers only (the long narrow side of the brick).

Stringcourse – A decorative horizontal band on the exterior wall of a building.

Tie-beam – A horizontal beam forming the base of a triangular truss for a pitched roof, connecting the two side walls and supporting a pair of principal rafters.

Vestibule – An antechamber, hall, or lobby next to the outer door of a building.

Vestry – A room or building attached to a church, used as an office and for changing into ceremonial vestments.

Wainscotting – The interior side of a wall or room lined with wooden panelling.