

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1898
issued February 2023**

**Historic building recording at Boxted Methodist
Chapel, Chapel Road, Boxted, CO4 5RP**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/11i
CHER number: ECC4764**

**Historic building recording at Boxted Methodist
Chapel, Chapel Road, Boxted, CO4 5RP**

January 2023

NGR: TM 00342 31398

Planning ref.: 221753

**CAT project ref.: 2022/11i
CAT Report 1898**

**CHER number: ECC4764
OASIS id: colchest3-511214**

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Issued:	21/02/2023	

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims	1
4	Methodology	2
5	Historical background	2
6	Building recording descriptive record	7
7	Discussion	17
8	Acknowledgements	19
9	References	19
10	Abbreviations and glossary	20
11	Contents of archive	20
12	Archive deposition	20

Appendix 1	Full digital photographic record	22
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Figures	after p44
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CAT WSI

OASIS data collection form

List of maps

Map 1	Extract of John Speed's 1610 map of Essex with Boxted highlighted in blue.	4
Map 2	Extract of the Chapman and André map (1777) with the approximate area of Boxted Methodist chapel in blue.	4
Map 3	Extract of the 1841 tithe Map with the Methodist chapel highlighted in blue.	5
Map 4	Extract of the first edition 6-inch OS map (1880). Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted blue.	5
Map 5	Extract of the 1897 25-inch OS map. The chapel highlighted in blue.	6
Map 6	Extract of the 1923 25-inch OS map. Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted blue and the schoolhouse visible to the west.	6
Map 7	Extract of the 1946 6-inch OS map. Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted blue.	7

List of photographs reproduced in text

Cover:	Overview shot of chapel with former school building in foreground. Photograph taken facing south-east.	
Photograph 1	North elevation. Photograph taken facing south.	7
Photograph 2	Detail of door on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.	8
Photograph 3	Detail of decorative brickwork on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.	8
Photograph 4	East elevation. Photograph taken facing west.	9
Photograph 5	Detail of window on east elevation. Photograph taken facing west.	9
Photograph 6	South elevation. Photograph taken facing north-west.	10
Photograph 7	West elevation. Photograph taken facing east.	10
Photograph 8	Detail of window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.	11
Photograph 9	Detail of PVC window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.	11
Photograph 10	Internal view of main hall. Photograph taken facing north-west.	12
Photograph 11	Detail of ceiling vent, main room.	12
Photograph 12	Detail of internal door between main hall and entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north.	13
Photograph 13	Detail of preserved painting in main hall. Photograph taken	

	facing south..	13
Photograph 14	Detail of pulpit in main hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.	14
Photograph 15	Detail of gallery and balustrade as viewed from main hall. Photograph taken facing north.	14
Photograph 16	Internal view of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing south-east.	15
Photograph 17	Detail of door in north wall of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north.	15
Photograph 18	Internal detail of window on north wall of landing. Photograph facing north.	16
Photograph 19	Internal view of gallery. photograph taken facing north-east.	16
Photograph 20	Internal view of vestry. Photograph taken facing south-west.	17

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location.
- Fig 2 Ground floor plan. Location and direction of photographs reproduced in text show.
- Fig 3 First floor plan. Location and direction of photographs reproduced in text shown.
- Fig 4 Northern elevation. Graffiti in red.
- Fig 5 Eastern elevation.
- Fig 6 Southern elevation.
- Fig 7 Western elevation.

1 Summary

A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Boxted Methodist chapel, Chapel Road, Boxted in January 2023. The chapel was originally constructed in the early 19th century and was subsequently extended to the south, to add a vestry, and then the north, to add a porch and gallery. The chapel and extensions are built in three distinct architectural styles. It is the oldest surviving Wesleyan chapel in the borough of Colchester and is locally listed. It represents a good example of a rural non-conformist chapel of the late Georgian period, which evolved to adapt to a growing population. The chapel was used for worship from 1831 until 2019, after which the Boxted parishioners merged with the congregations from Mile end and West Bergholt to worship elsewhere.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report of a historic building recording carried out at Boxted Methodist chapel, Chapel Road, Boxted, CO4 5RP. The recording work was commissioned by Chris Marshall (Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd) on behalf of the homeowner and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 16th January 2023. The site is located at NGR TM 00342 31398 (Fig 1).

A planning application (planning ref. 221753) was submitted to Colchester City Council in July 2022 for the conversion of existing redundant Methodist church into a three bedroom private dwelling, replacement single storey rear extension, new single storey rear/side extension, internal and external alterations, new garage, change of use of adjacent land to.

In response to this application, the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA) recommended to the local planning authority that a Historic England building recording be made of the building prior to its conversion (CCC 2022). This recommendation was given based on the building's local listing. The recommendation was based on the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the building recording was prepared by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT 2022) and agreed with the CCCAA. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24). In addition, the guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) were followed.

3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the chapel building prior to conversion. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

“Level 3 is an analytical record and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.

The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building's broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group."

In particular the record considered:

- Plan and form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure(s).
- Original function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- The significance of the site in its immediate local context.

4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the site.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated and phased floor plan of the buildings at a scale of 1:50.
- A description of the buildings. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

5 Historical background (Fig 1)

By Dr Pip Parmenter

The following historical background draws on cartographic sources, the Essex Record Office (ERO) and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, DCC numbers) accessed via Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk) and Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

Methodism is a religious movement founded in the 18th century, that sought to reform the Church of England. Its founder, John Wesley, led an evangelical revival that grew rapidly among parishioners who felt neglected by the Church of England. Although it was not his intention to establish a new Christian denomination, Wesley's clandestine ordinations in 1784 made the separation inevitable. Wesley died in 1791 and four years later the Methodist Church officially split from the Church of England.

After Wesley's death, the Methodist movement became characterised by a series of divisions and separate revivals. The original movement became known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church to distinguish itself from these groups. The name remained in use until 1932, when the church re-united with the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church to form the current Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Boxted Methodist chapel (DCC26067) was a Wesleyan chapel and is locally listed. The listing reads:

The building lies alongside one of the old tracks across Boxted heath (now a public footpath), having been built before the enclosure of the heath and the construction of Boxted Straight Road.

The Chapel was opened on January 3rd 1831 and is the oldest Wesleyan Methodist chapel building in the Borough of Colchester. The cost of building was £350 in addition to the £6 paid for the plot of land, purchased from Mr. Jonathan Nevard, a local thatcher. Land for a burial ground was purchased later. The Chapel was erected by the Boxted Society of Methodists in response to the demand for a permanent place of worship. A substantial group of non-conformists had been meeting in a barn for services close to the site of the Chapel. All costs were met by donations from the Society members. The builder's name is not recorded. The main building measures 52' x 40' and is in the late Georgian style, constructed in red brick with a grey slate, low hipped roof, which overhangs the walls. There are two tall Roman arched windows with Georgian bars, on each side of the main building (East and west facing). These are of particular interest, being original and made from iron – an innovative and very modern feature of the period. Two smaller windows of the same style are on the north side above the vestry. The vestry itself has two plain Georgian windows facing west. This room was the original Wesleyan schoolroom and was built as part of the chapel. The front (South facing) entrance porch has a Gothic arched front double door with a small west facing Gothic window on the ground floor and a small south facing Gothic window on the first floor landing. The change in architectural style from the main building is due to the entrance porch being a later addition to the chapel, having been added along with the gallery inside to allow room for a staircase and landing. Inside the main building, rows of wooden pews face the altar area at the north end. These are not original, but are still of interest, as they were taken from the old Culver Street Methodist chapel in Colchester, which was demolished for the Lion Walk development.

The organ is situated centrally, covering a blocked doorway which was the original entrance from the vestry to the original central pulpit. A small panel shows a piece of the original interior wall decoration, discovered during work carried out in the 1980's. The present wooden pulpit is located in the north west corner, in front of the present doorway from the vestry.

The gallery covers approximately a third of the south end of the building, has a wooden front rail / front wall and is supported by two cast iron pillars. Access is gained by the aforementioned wooden staircase in the entrance porch. The gallery crosses the windows at the south end and is visible through the windows from the outside clearly indicating that it was a later addition.

Outside, at the north end, is the original burial ground containing many members of the founding families of the chapel. There are some original cast iron grave ornaments.

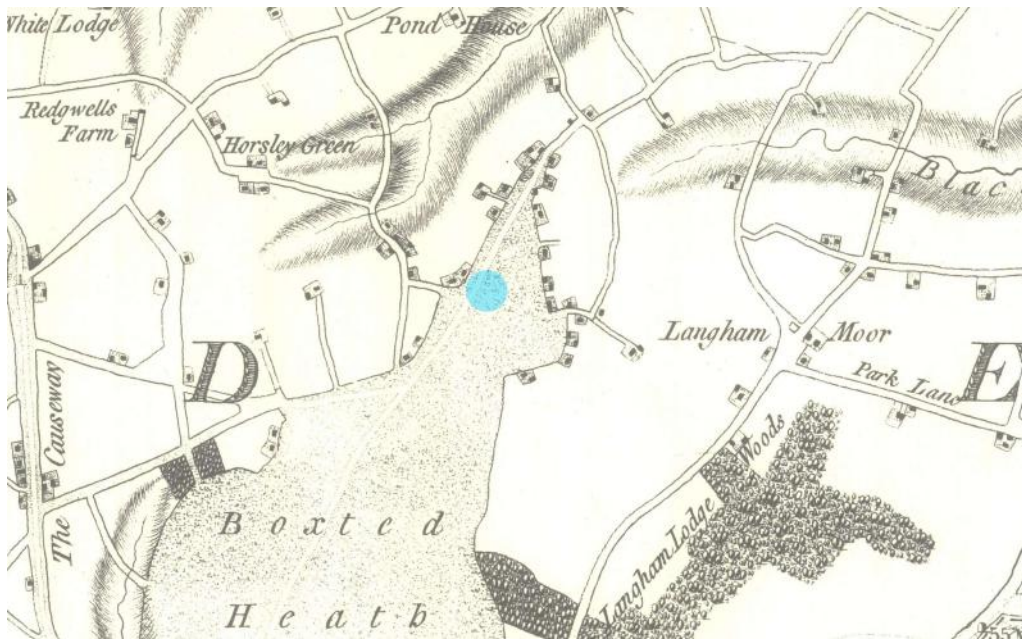
This chapel building is almost completely original and is a fine example of the architectural style of the early 19th Century. It stands as a landmark within the village of Boxted and the Borough of Colchester.

The Methodist Chapel is a really good example of an early C19 chapel with intact interior.



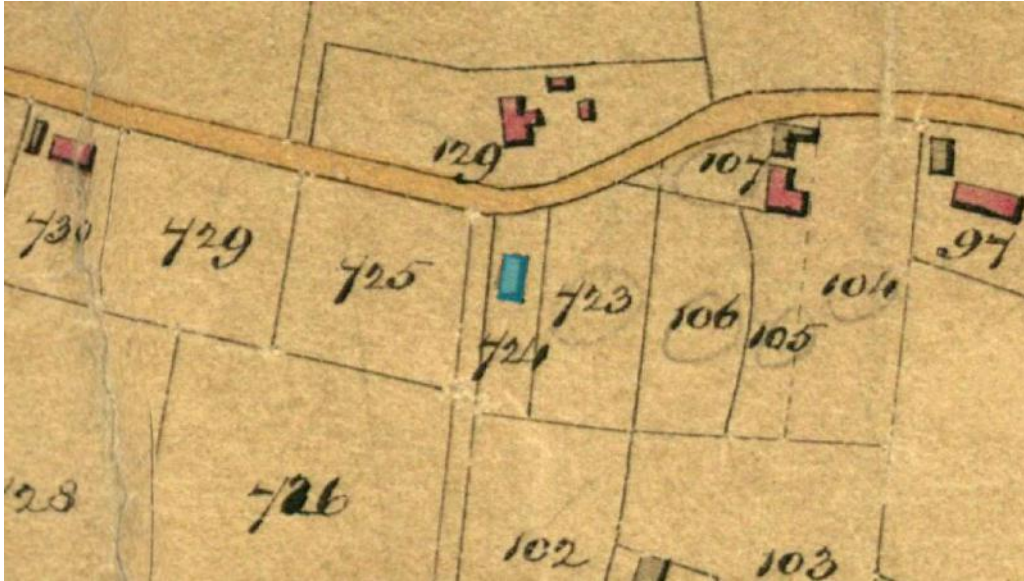
Map 1 Extract of John Speed's 1610 map of Essex with Boxted highlighted in blue.

John Speed's 1610 map of Essex (Map 1) shows Boxted near the Essex and Suffolk borders, to the north of Colchester and between the settlements of Great Horkeley and Langham. The river Stour is marked as running along the county border until just to the north of Boxted, where it splits and runs north into Suffolk and south into Essex between Little and Great Horkeley.



Map 2 Extract of the Chapman and André map (1777) with the approximate area of Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted in blue.

The 1777 Chapman and André map (Map 2) shows the area in greater detail. In 1777, Chapel Road did not exist and the area in which the Methodist chapel would be built was part of Boxted Heath.



Map 3 Extract of the 1841 tithe Map with the Methodist chapel highlighted in blue.

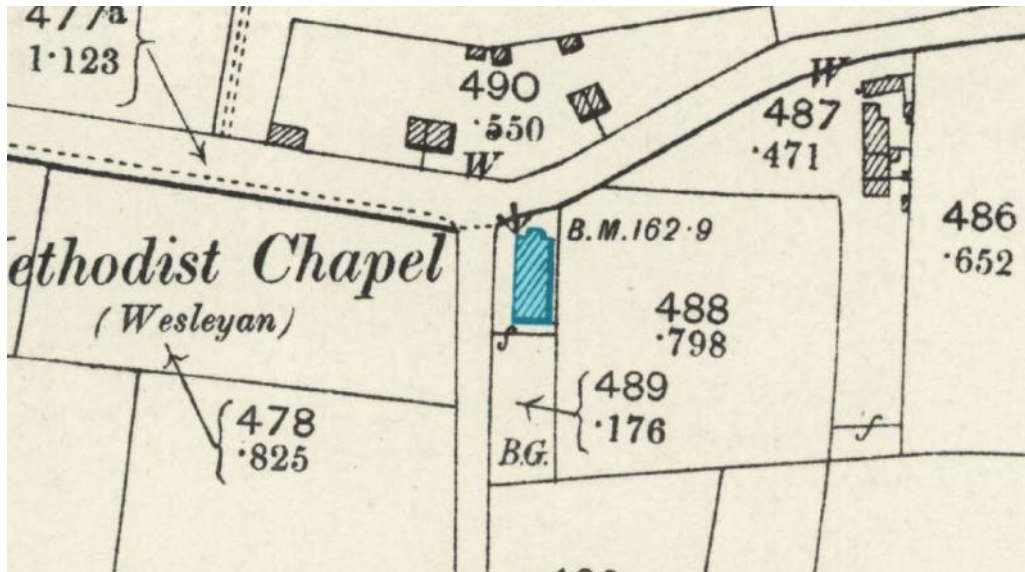
The tithe apportionment map (Map 3), produced in 1841, is the first piece of cartographic evidence for the existence of buildings in the area of the Methodist chapel. It appears as though the plot was bought in the early 1820s by the 'Trustees of Meeting House' in order to construct the chapel, which was opened in 1831. A plot of land to the rear of the chapel was later bought for a burial ground, unusual as few Methodist chapels have burial grounds.



Map 4 Extract of the first edition 6-inch OS map (1880). Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted blue.

Although it is difficult to tell, as the depiction of the chapel on the tithe map does not reflect the size and shape of building accurately, it seems likely it shows the chapel in its original single-celled state. Contrary to the CHER listing, the vestry appears to have been added sometime between 1841 and 1880, as shown by the chapel's size and shape on the 1880 OS map (Map 4).

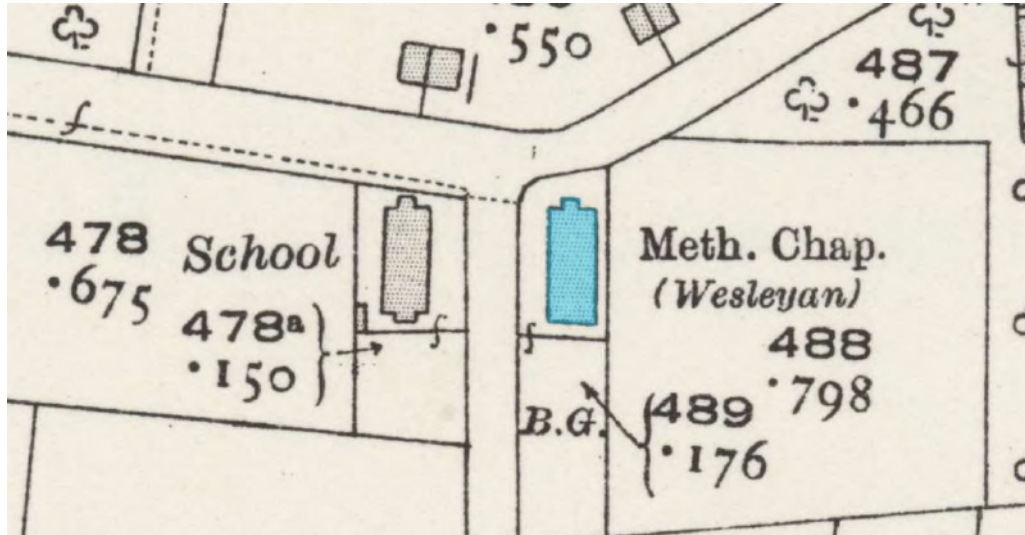
The cartographic evidence places the addition of the porch extension between 1880 and 1897 (Map 5). The chapel remains the same size and shape on subsequent mapping.



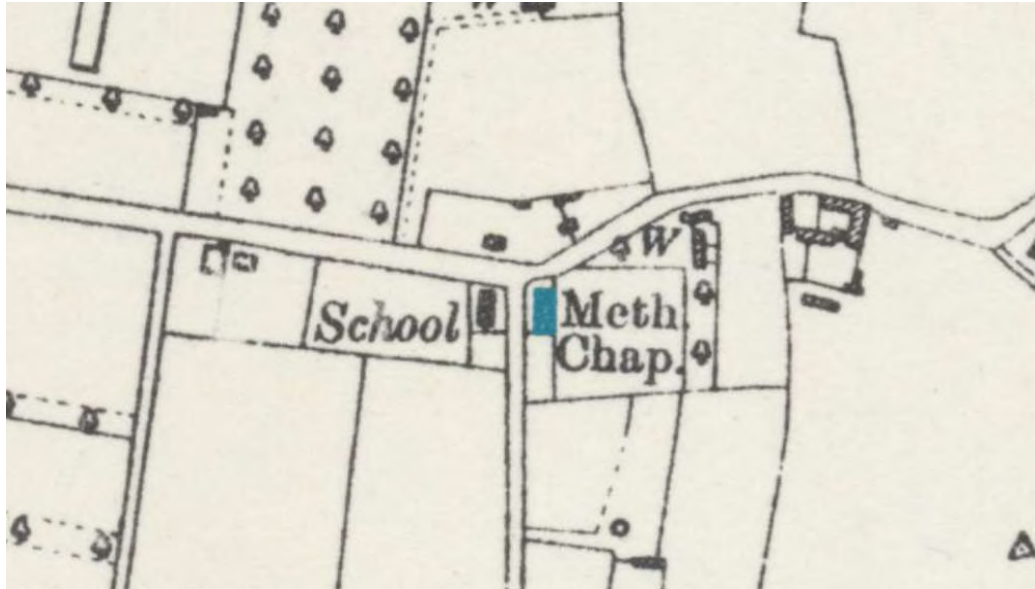
Map 5 Extract of the 1897 25-inch OS map. The chapel highlighted in blue.

In 1907, a Methodist school was opened in the plot adjacent to the chapel. This is marked on the 1921 Ordnance Survey map (Map 6) and is the only tangible change to the area immediately surrounding the Methodist chapel until the present day. The schoolhouse is also on the local list. The chapel ceased to be used for worship in the summer of 2019.

The addition of the lean-to is difficult to date using the cartographic evidence, as the chapel is always depicted as being rectangular at the southern end, but the construction materials indicate it a much later modern addition.



Map 6 Extract of the 1923 25-inch OS map. Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted blue and the schoolhouse visible to the west.



Map 7 Extract of the 1946 6-inch OS map. Boxted Methodist chapel highlighted blue.

6 Building recording descriptive record (Figs 2-7)

Boxted Methodist chapel is a brick-built structure comprising a two-storey main chapel hall with a two-storey porch extension to the north and a single-storey vestry extension to the south. The building is roughly rectangular in shape and is on a north/south alignment. It measures roughly 18.9m by 7.7m and covers an area of approximately 137m².

Exterior

The original chapel building and all extensions are constructed from weathered red brick laid in Flemish-bond, except the modern lean-to which is laid in stretcher-bond (brick measurements: chapel – 230 x 110 x 60mm, vestry – 230 x 110 x 60mm, porch – 220 x 110 65mm, lean-to – 220 x 65mm). All windows have a stone sill.



Photograph 1 North elevation. Photograph taken facing south.

The roof of the original chapel building is hipped with an overhang. The roof of the porch extension is gabled at the northern end and heel-gabled at the southern end where it meets the main chapel. The vestry extension also has a gabled roof with a parapet on the western elevation. The chapel, vestry and porch roofs are all clad in slate. The lean-to has a mono-pitch roof clad in corrugated metal sheeting.



Photograph 2 Detail of door on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.



Photograph 3 Detail of decorative brickwork on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.

On the northern elevation, the porch has a pointed-arched double door with a stone doorstep. On the first floor is a pointed-arched two-light sash window. Both have a point-arched lintel constructed from yellow and dark red bricks. There is a single course of ornamental moulded brickwork along the edge of the gable-end. Several

areas of carved graffiti are present on the main chapel (see Fig 4), along with a chiselled OS benchmark symbol.

On the eastern elevation, the chapel has two large 51-light round-headed windows, both with an arched brick lintel. These windows are set into an area of recessed brickwork. There is a single two-light fixed pointed-arch window located at ground-floor level on the porch that has a yellow and dark-red brick lintel. The lean-to is partially rendered with concrete.



Photograph 4 East elevation. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 5 Detail of window on east elevation. Photograph taken facing west.

There are two timber doors on the southern elevation – one that leads into the vestry and one that leads into the lean-to. The door to the vestry is inserted, probably at the

same time the lean-to was constructed. Two 36-light round-headed fixed windows are present on the chapel. Both have a brick arch lintel.



Photograph 6 South elevation. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The western elevation has five windows in total. The chapel and porch mirror the eastern elevation with two round-headed windows and a single point-arched window. The vestry has two rectangular windows – both replacement PVC – with a stone lintel. The vestry's parapet has three courses of protruding decorative brickwork and is topped with coping stones. It also has square pilasters on the north and south corner. The letters TD have been gratified on the western elevation of the chapel.



Photograph 7 West elevation. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 8 Detail of window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 9 Detail of PVC window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.

Interior

The interior of the building has been separated into rooms for ease of description, see Figs 2 and 3 for locations.

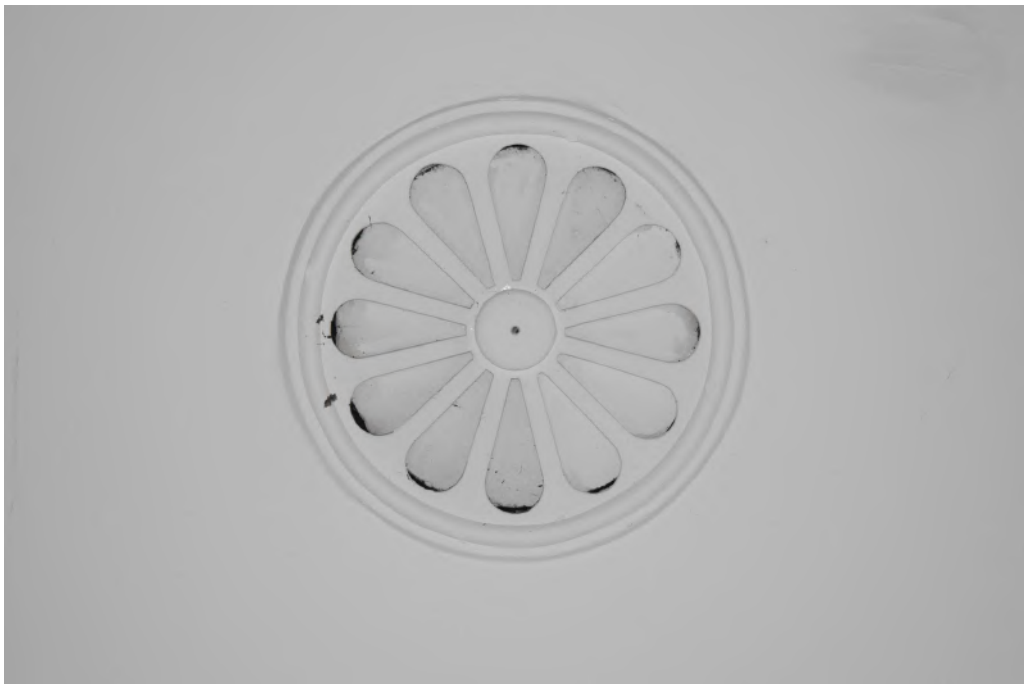
Main Hall

The main hall of the chapel is the largest room and is the original single-celled chapel building. The chancel is located at the southern end and is on a raised platform. The floor of the chancel and the central aisle is carpeted while the nave has varnished floorboards. The walls are plastered and painted white with varnished timber panelling at floor level.



Photograph 10 Internal view of main hall. Photograph taken facing north-west.

There are round-headed windows on the east, south and west walls. The eastern and western windows are 51-light and have a middle awning opening while the southern windows are 36-light and are fixed. In the ceiling are two lightly decorative round vents and a timber loft-hatch.



Photograph 11 Detail of ceiling vent, main room.

There are two doorways in the main hall: one in the northern wall and one in southern wall. The northern door is a double door, covered in red felt, with a rectangular fan-light. The southern door is single door with a step down into the vestry. The local listing suggests this door is inserted and the original door was located central to the southern wall.



Photograph 12 Detail of internal door between main hall and entrance hall.
Photograph taken facing north.

A small panel on the southern wall shows a piece of the original interior wall decoration, apparently discovered during work carried out in the 1980's. The painting is of oak leaves and acorns.



Photograph 13 Detail of preserved painting in main hall. Photograph taken facing south.

There is a simple timber balustrade between the chancel and the nave. Four rows of pews remain in the north-west corner of the nave and timber strips on the floor indicate the position of the removed pews. The CHER listing indicates the pews are not original to the building but were salvaged from the old Culver Street Methodist chapel in Colchester when it was demolished in the 1970's.

In the south-west corner of the chancel is a rectangular pulpit. It is constructed from timber with a carpeted base. A timber lectern, covered with a tapestry-style fabric, is present at the front of the pulpit. Against the southern wall is a free-standing timber organ. Neither appear to be original to the chapel.



Photograph 14 Detail of pulpit in main hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.

In the southern third of the main hall is an inserted gallery which is accessed via stairs in the porch. It is supported on two cast-iron posts and has a timber balustrade with decorative ironwork and a red felt backing.



Photograph 15 Detail of gallery and balustrade as viewed from main hall. Photograph taken facing north.

Entrance Hall

The entrance hall is in the ground-floor of the porch extension. The floor is timber floorboards and the walls plastered and painted white. There is a set of winder stairs in the west of the porch, under which a cupboard is located.

There are two sets of double doors in the entrance hall – one on the northern wall and one on southern. The northern doors are wooden and in a pointed-arch shape. The southern doors are covered in red felt and have a decorative brass handle. There is a fixed two-light pointed-arch window in the east and west walls. A Bakelite light-switch is present on the southern wall.



Photograph 16 Internal view of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 17 Detail of door in north wall of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north.

Landing

The landing is located on the first floor of the northern extension. The floor is covered in carpet and the walls are plastered and painted white. The stairs are located in the west of the landing and have a timber balustrade. There is a two-light sash pointed-arch window in the northern wall. On the southern wall there is a single timber door with three steps up into the gallery.



Photograph 18 Internal detail of window on north wall of landing. Photograph facing north.



Photograph 19 Internal view of gallery. photograph taken facing north-east.

Gallery

The gallery is suspended above the northern third of the main hall. It has a varnished timber stepped floor and timber balustrade with decorative ironwork. There is a single

door in the southern wall of the gallery. Four pews remain in the gallery, which have a simpler design from the ones in the main hall.

Vestry

The vestry is in a single-storey extension to the south. The floor is carpeted, and the walls are plastered and painted white. There are two replacement PVC windows on the western wall. Two timber doors are present in the vestry – one in the southern wall and one in the northern wall. Both are inserted. The eastern wall is dominated by a set of modern cupboards.

Lean-to

Access to the lean-to was very limited as the door was nailed shut. Observed through a gap was a bricked-up doorway on the western wall and a possible brick floor.



Photograph 20 Internal view of vestry. Photograph taken facing south-west.

7 Discussion

Boxted Methodist chapel opened in January 1831, and is the oldest surviving Wesleyan chapel in the Borough of Colchester. By this period, Methodism had 232,000 recorded members with a much wider circle of supporters without committed membership (potentially up to 800,000) (Field 1994).

The CHER records the building as costing £350 to construct, plus £6 for the cost of the land, which was purchased from a Mr Jonathan Nevard, a local thatcher. The money to buy the land and build the chapel was raised via donations (a common occurrence for non-conformist churches at this time), from members of the Boxted Society of Methodists. It was built in response to the demand for a permanent place of worship after a substantial group of parishioners were meeting in a local barn for services. On census Sunday in 1851, the chapel reported 115 people attending in the morning and 148 in the afternoon (Cooper 2001).

That a sizeable group of worshippers had formed in Colchester's hinterland is unsurprising; Wesleyan Methodism appealed to the working classes. For example, Wesley campaigned against the production of distilled spirits and excessive horse breeding by aristocrats, because he believed reserving grain for these purposes showed the upper classes disdain for the poor. This area of Essex was mainly cereal crop in the 19th century, with many of the inhabitants probably engaged with farming,

so it seems likely that this may have appealed to local farmers without bringing them into direct conflict with their employers unlike the Anti-Corn Law League¹. The Industrial Revolution also contributed to spreading Methodism to rural communities, the advent of widespread railways allowed travelling preachers to travel around the country and lead large, open-air sermons, with a view to entice new members.

Boxted Methodist chapel was used for worship up until 2019, after which the congregation merged with two others and started worship elsewhere. This was likely due to decreases in membership numbers in the Methodist church (The Methodist Church 2018).

Architecturally, smaller non-conformist chapels tend to be handsome but often unadorned buildings (Cruikshank 1985), which lends itself perfectly to a Georgian vernacular. The original chapel building is built in a typical Georgian style, plain yet elegant, with symmetrical elevations. It has a low-pitch hipped roof, as popularised when lightweight Welsh slate became widely available, with an overhang, another distinctive feature of this period (Yorke 2017).

Many non-conformist chapels show a degree of rejection of religious symbolism, such as a cross-shaped plan and a tall church spire, and use functionality as the driving force behind design (Bowyer 1977). chapel orientation is also unimportant, places of worship are instead designed to make the best use of the available space. This can be seen at Boxted Methodist chapel as the building dominates the plot it is constructed on and has no religious symbolism integrated into its fabric.

The differing architectural styles of the building are good indicators of the evolution of the chapel, along with the cartographic evidence. Contrary to what the local listing states, it appears the chapel was originally built as a single rectangular hall (as would be expected for a rural non-conformist chapel of this period) and the vestry was added later, sometime between 1841 and 1880.

The vestry is built in red brick laid in Flemish bond to emulate the main chapel body, but the architectural style is different. The vestry is constructed in a mid-Victorian Classical style. While the Classical style of architecture was losing favour during this period, it was still used for important public buildings (Yorke 2017). The windows are rectangular rather than round-headed and have a plain carved stone lintel instead of brick. This window style, as well as being popular at this time, was probably a cheaper alternative to round-headed windows. The use of pilasters, a parapet and the gabled roof are also features of Classical architecture.

The porch and internal gallery were added sometime between 1880 and 1897. Like the vestry extension, it has been constructed in red brick to imitate the main chapel building but in contrast is in Gothic style. The pointed-arch windows and doors are very typical of Gothic architecture, as well as the pointed gabled roof.

In the mid-19th century, the Reverend Frederick Jobson argued that Methodist architecture should be beautiful and perfect in design and execution but not have unnecessary adornment. His papers were presented to the Methodist Conference (the governing body of Methodism) who subsequently agreed. The influence of his writings was such that Gothic became the predominant style, particularly within Wesleyan Methodism (Serjeant 2004).

The internal layout of the original building is typical of a non-conformist chapel of this era: a simple rectangular preaching box with seats at one end of the hall facing a pulpit at the other (Curl 1995). The addition of the vestry and gallery, and later the detached school building, are an indication of an increase in congregation size. This is

- 1 The Anti-Corn Law League was a successful political movement that rallied against the unpopular Corn Laws. The Corn Laws were tariffs and restrictions on the import of food and corn, which ultimately lead to an increase in food prices and cost of living while enhancing the profits gained by landlords.

mirrored in national Methodist Church membership numbers: the church saw a constant increase in membership until around 1900.

Boxted Methodist chapel is a good example of a late Georgian non-conformist chapel. Built to fulfil the needs of local parishioners tempted away from the Church of England, likely by the Wesleyan focus on the working class and the almost flamboyant outdoor sermons and loud, joyous singing of hymns. The building is built in three distinct phases, which are easily identified by three distinct architectural styles, an indication of a chapel that was expanding and adjusting to accommodate an increasing congregation.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Chris Marshall (Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd) for commissioning and the homeowner for funding the historic building recording. The recording was carried out by Xander Smith and Sarah Veasey. Figures are by Sarah Veasey, based on original architectural drawings by Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd. The project was monitored by Simon Wood for Colchester City Council.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Bower, J	1977	<i>The Evolution of the Church Building</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an historic building recording at Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted, CO4 5RP</i> by S Veasey
CCC	2022	<i>Brief for Level 3 Historic Building Recording at Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted</i> by S Wood
CIfA	2014a (updated 2019)	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIfA	2014b (updated 2019)	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
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EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 24 by M Medlycott
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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Classical	Architectural style, popularised in the 17th century
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
ERO	Essex Records Office
Flemish-bond	a brickwork bond created from alternating headers and stretchers within a single course
Georgian	period between 1714 and 1837, named after the Hanoverian Kings George I, George II, George III and George IV
Gothic	an architectural style popular in the 18th and 19th centuries
HE	Historic Environment
header	a brick laid at right-angles to the face of the wall, i.e. widthways
Methodism	an 18th century religious movement which later became its own autonomous church
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
stretcher	a brick laid parallel to the face of the wall, i.e. lengthways
vernacular	a style of architecture used in the construction of domestic and functional buildings for ordinary people, as opposed to public or monumental buildings
Victorian	the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

12 Contents of digital archive

The CAT WSI
The report (CAT Report 1898)
Digital plans
Site digital photos and log

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Distribution list

The homeowner
Simon Wood, CCCAA
CHER

Appendix 1:

Full digital photographic record

ECC4764_Photo	North elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of door on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of decorative brickwork on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified 'C+P' on brickwork of north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified 'C+A' on brickwork of north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified 'FAR' on brickwork of north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified 'A' on brickwork of north elevation. photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of benchmark carving on north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified pattern on brickwork of north elevation. photograph taken facing South.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified 'W' on brickwork of north elevation. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	West elevation. Photograph taken facing east
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of PVC window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of PVC window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gratified 'TD' on brickwork on west elevation. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	South elevation. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	South elevation. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on south elevation. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on south elevation. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of door on south elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on south elevation. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	East elevation. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of window on east elevation. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of vestry. photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of vestry. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of vestry. photograph taken facing south-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of vestry. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on west wall of vestry. Photograph taken facing west.

ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on west wall of vestry. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of door of south wall of vestry. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of internal door between vestry and main hall (northern wall of vestry). Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of modern cupboards in east wall of vestry. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of main hall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of main hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of main hall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of main hall. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of internal door between vestry and main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of internal door between main hall and entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on south wall of main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on south wall of main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on east wall of main hall. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on east wall of main hall. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on west wall of main hall. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal detail of window on west wall of main hall. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of organ in main hall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of pulpit in main hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of pulpit in main hall. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of pulpit pew in main room. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of preserved painting in main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of wooden panelling in main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of wooden divider in main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of wooden divider in main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of pews in main hall. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of pew removal in main room. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of pew removal in main hall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gallery and balustrade as viewed from main hall. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of ceiling vent, main room.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of ceiling and lighting in main hall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Internal view of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing south-east.

ECC4764_Photograph_063.JPG	Internal view of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_064.JPG	Internal view of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_065.JPG	Internal view of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_066.JPG	Detail of door in north wall of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north.
ECC4764_Photograph_067.JPG	Detail internal door between entrance hall and main hall, south wall of porch. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photograph_068.JPG	Detail internal door between entrance hall and main hall, south wall of porch. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photograph_069.JPG	Internal detail of window of west wall of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photograph_070.JPG	Detail of ornate door handle on internal door between entrance hall and main hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_071.JPG	Detail of cupboard door in entrance hall. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photograph_072.JPG	Detail of under stair cupboard in entrance hall. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photograph_073.JPG	Detail of Bakelite light switch in entrance hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_074.JPG	Detail of internal windows above door leading between entrance hall and main hall. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photograph_075.JPG	Detail of stairs between entrance hall and landing. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photograph_076.JPG	Internal detail of window east wall of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_077.JPG	Detail of stairs between landing and entrance hall. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photograph_078.JPG	Internal view of landing. Photograph taken facing south-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_079.JPG	Internal view of landing. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_080.JPG	Internal view of landing. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_081.JPG	Internal view of landing. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_082.JPG	Detail of internal door between landing and gallery on south wall of landing. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photograph_083.JPG	Internal detail of window on north wall of landing. Photograph facing north.
ECC4764_Photograph_084.JPG	Internal view of gallery. Photograph taken facing south-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_085.JPG	Internal view of gallery. photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_086.JPG	Internal view of gallery. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_087.JPG	Detail of window on west wall in gallery. Photograph taken facing west.
ECC4764_Photograph_088.JPG	Detail of window in east wall of gallery. Photograph taken facing east.
ECC4764_Photograph_089.JPG	Detail of pews in gallery. Photograph taken facing north-east.
ECC4764_Photograph_090.JPG	Detail of pews in gallery. Photograph taken facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photograph_091.JPG	Detail of gallery steps. Photograph facing north.

ECC4764_Photo	View of main hall from gallery. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gallery balustrade in gallery. Photograph facing south,
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of attic access in gallery ceiling.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of gallery balustrade. Photograph facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of main hall, pulpit and organ, as viewed from gallery. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of ceiling vent, main hall.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade (gallery). Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of internal door between gallery and landing in north wall of gallery. Photograph facing north.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on main hall pew. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of graffiti on main hall pew. Photograph taken facing south.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of shelf in main room. Photograph facing south-east.
ECC4764_Photo	Detail of shelf in main room. Photograph taken facing south-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Interior of lean-to. Photograph facing north-west.
ECC4764_Photo	Overview shot of church with former school building in foreground. Photograph taken facing south-east.

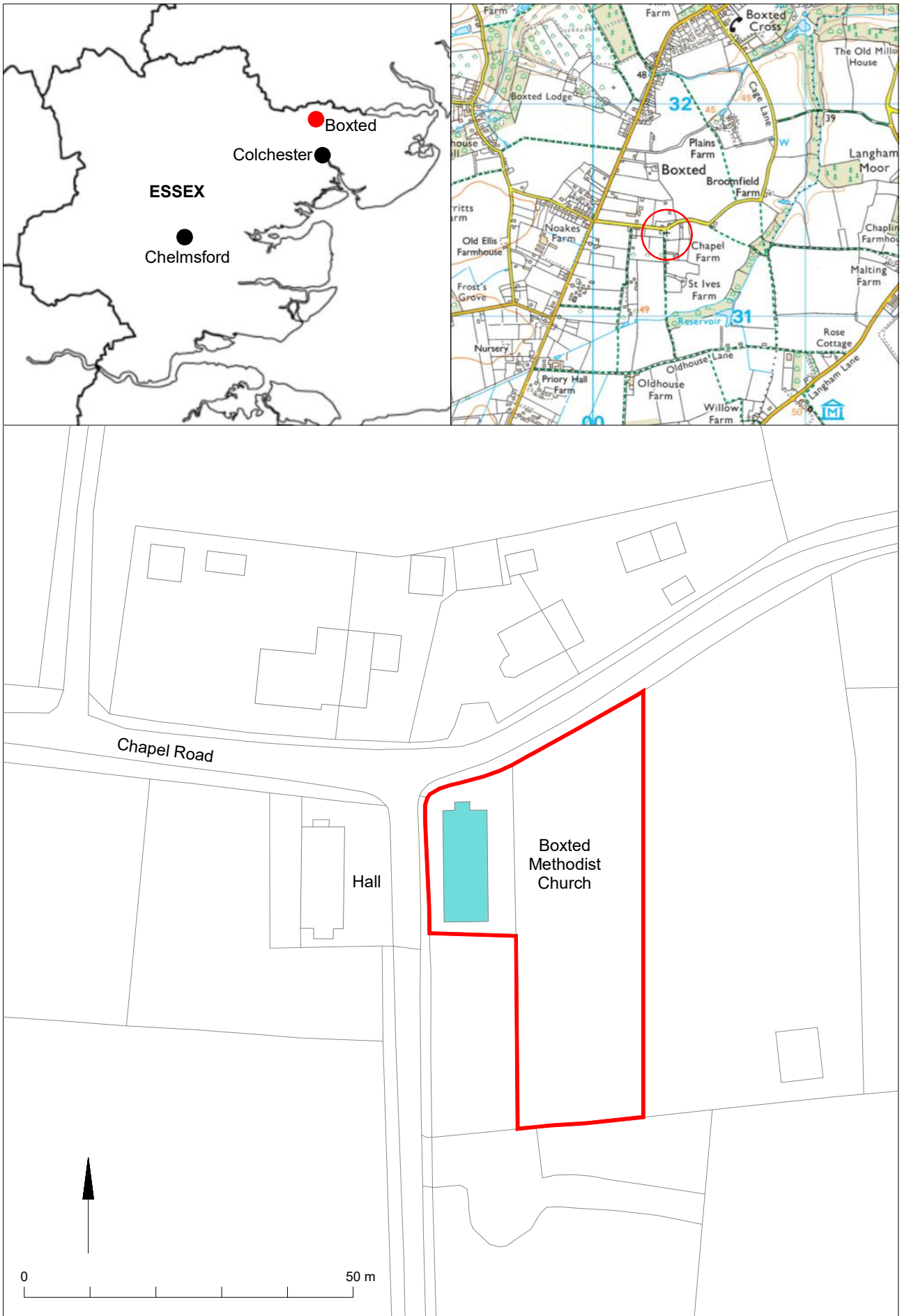


Fig 1 Site location.

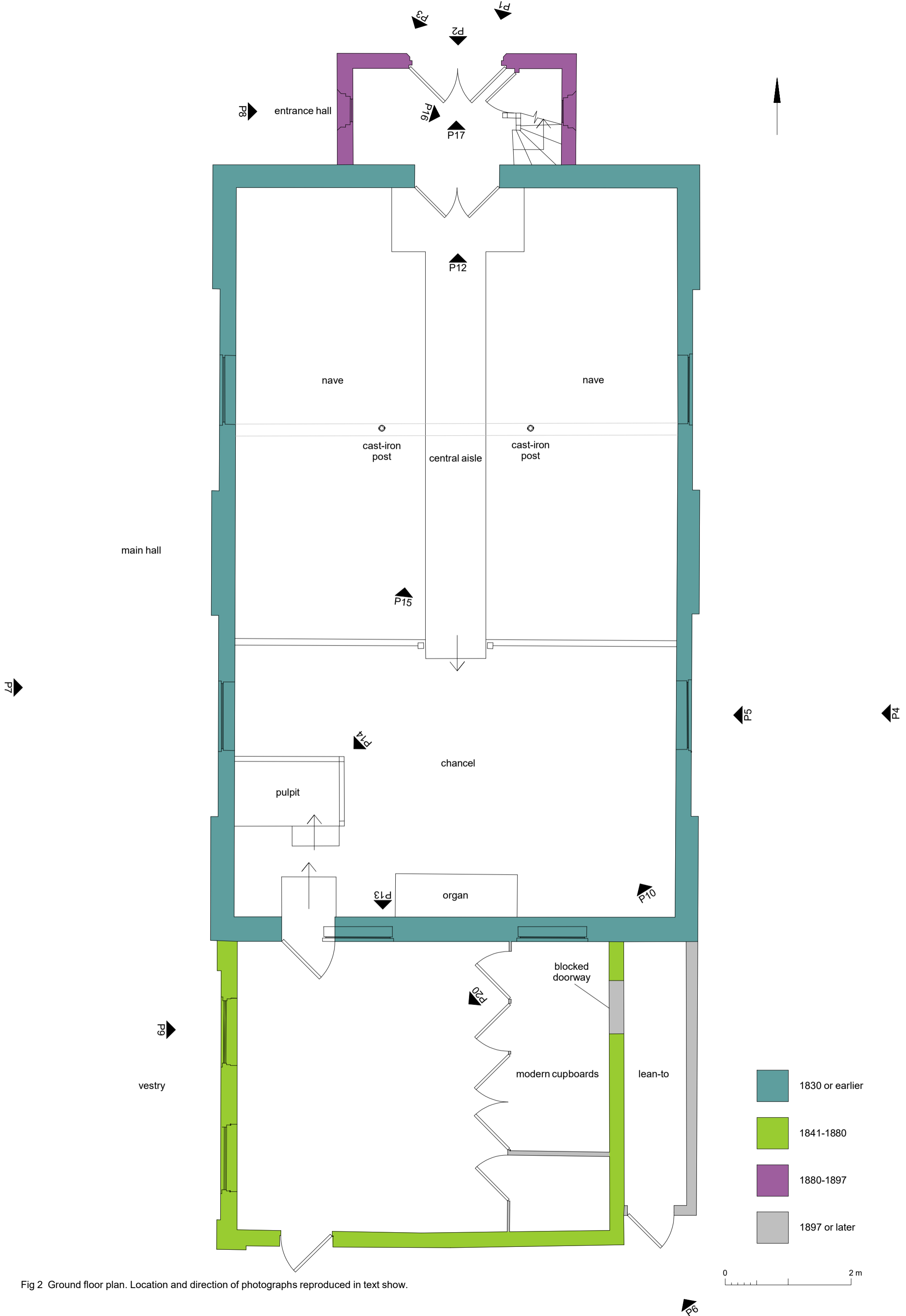


Fig 2 Ground floor plan. Location and direction of photographs reproduced in text show.

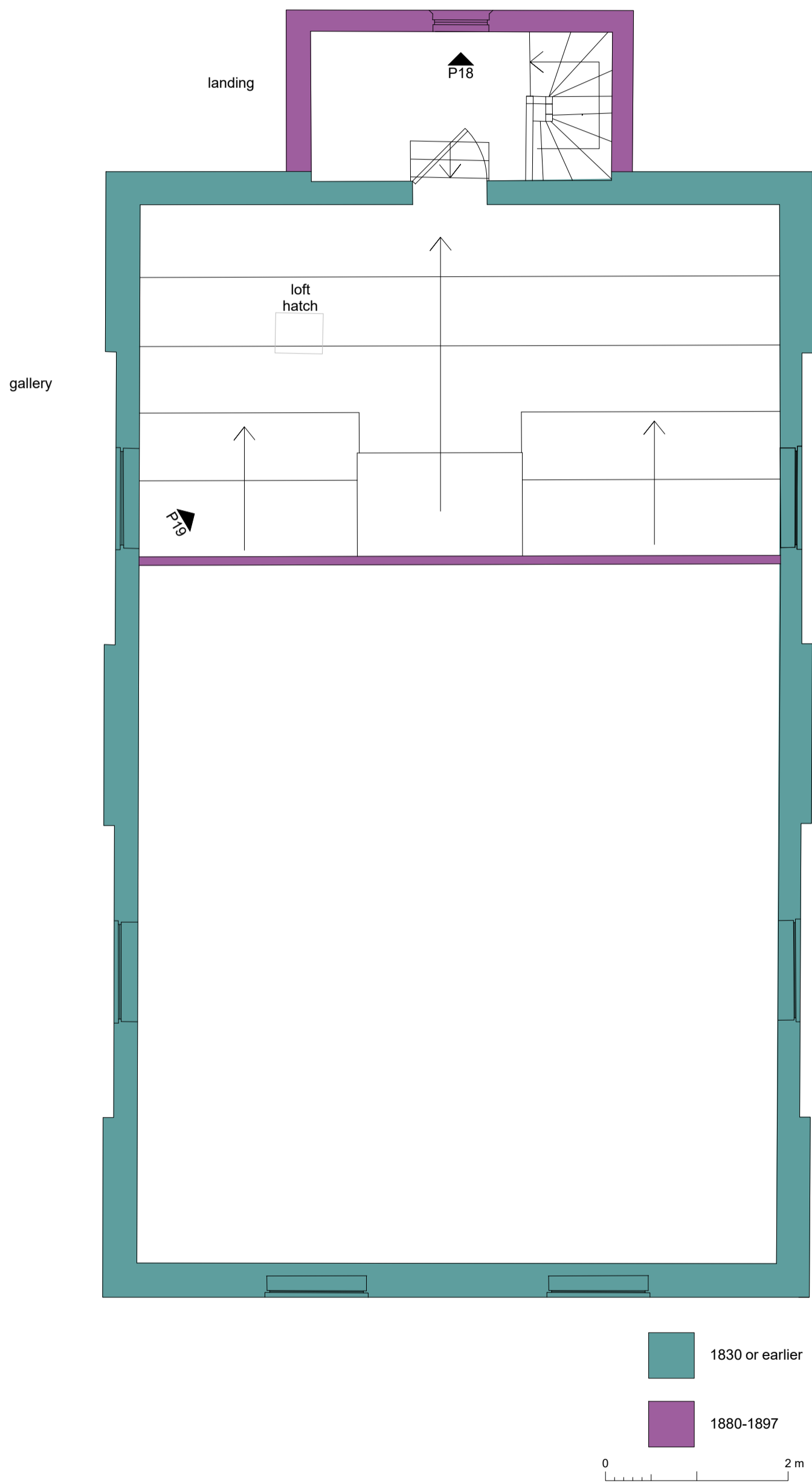


Fig 3 First floor plan. Location and direction of photographs reproduced in text shown.

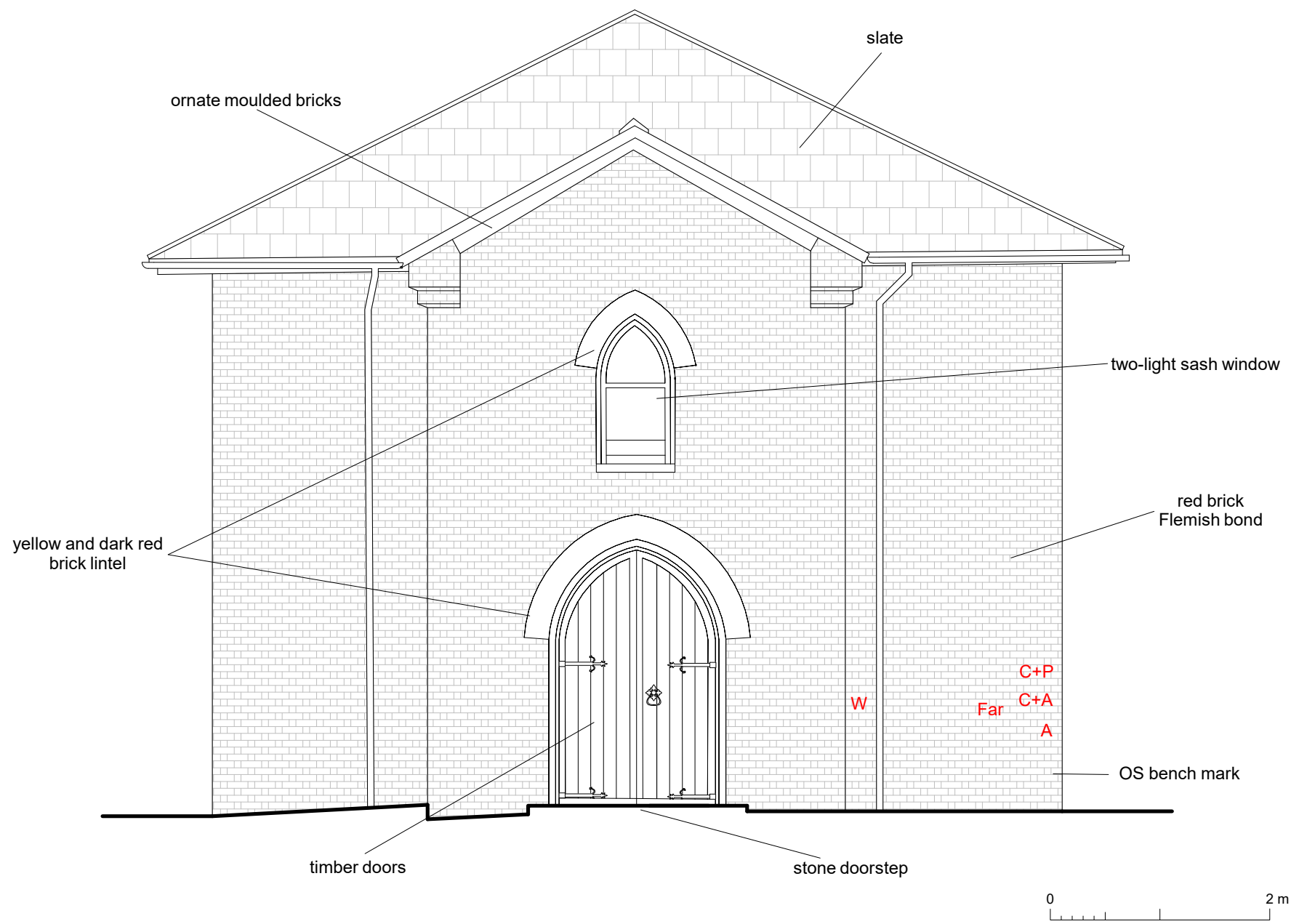


Fig 4 Northern elevation. Graffiti in red.

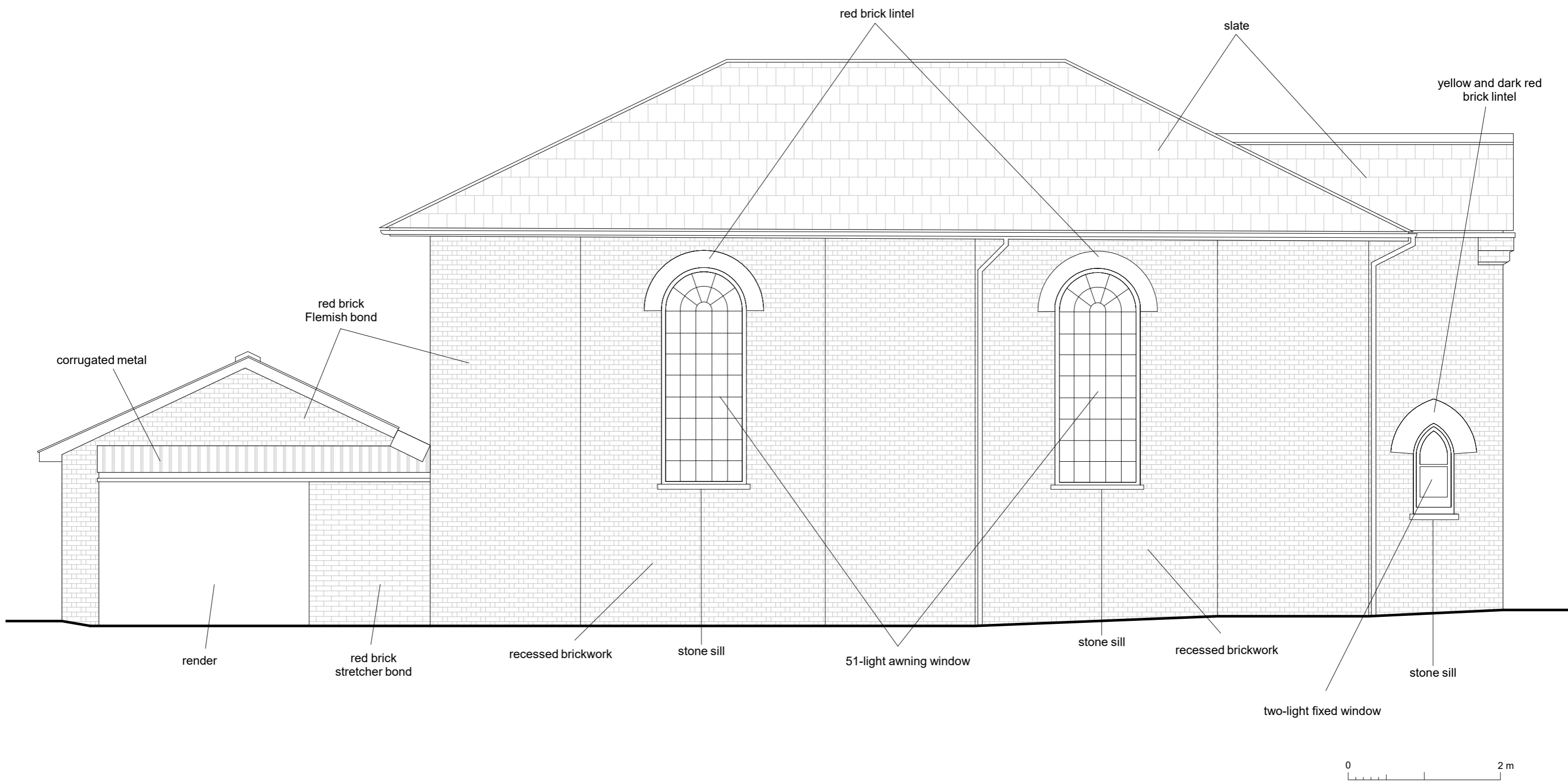


Fig 4 Eastern elevation.

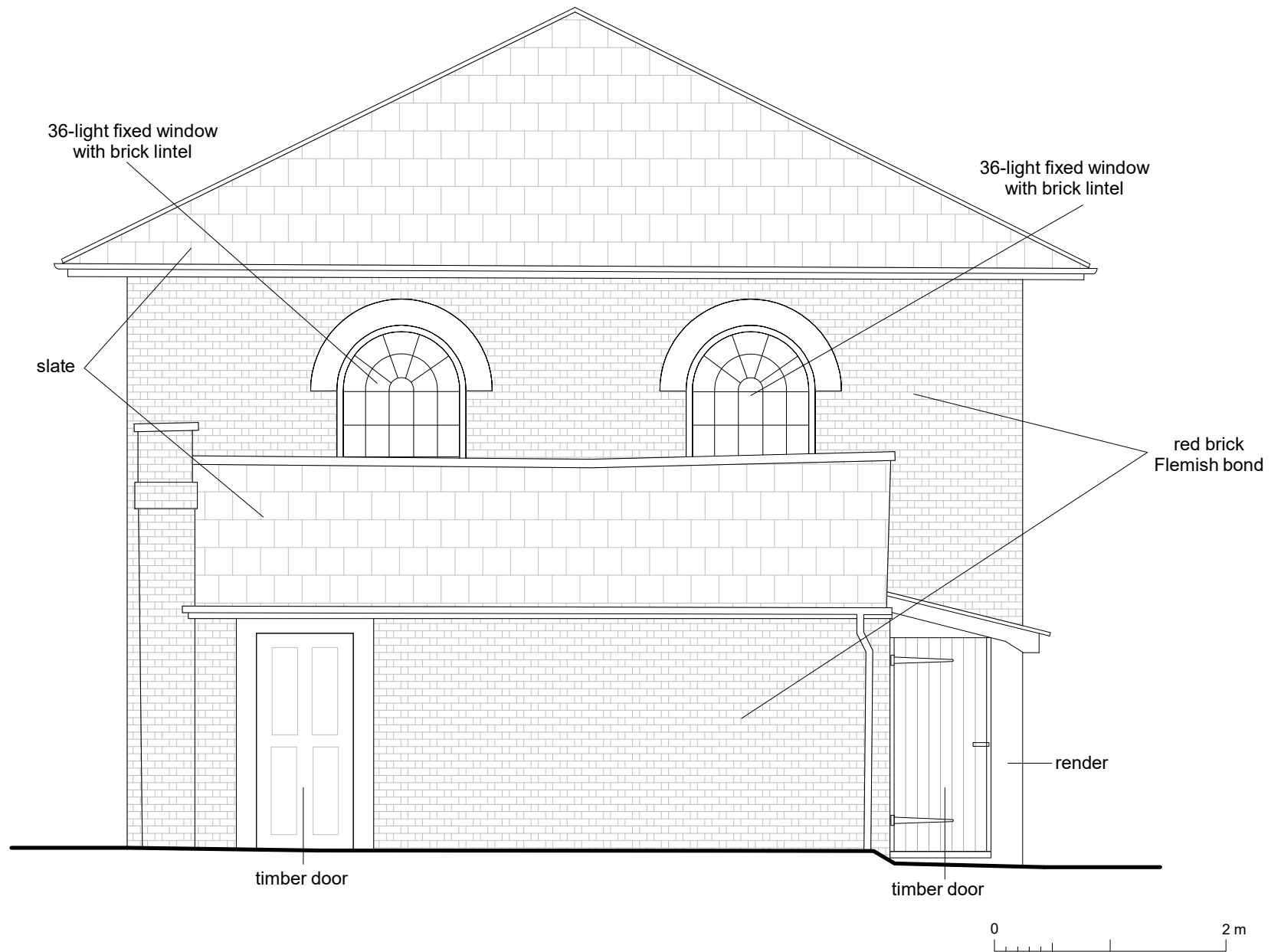


Fig 4 Southern elevation.

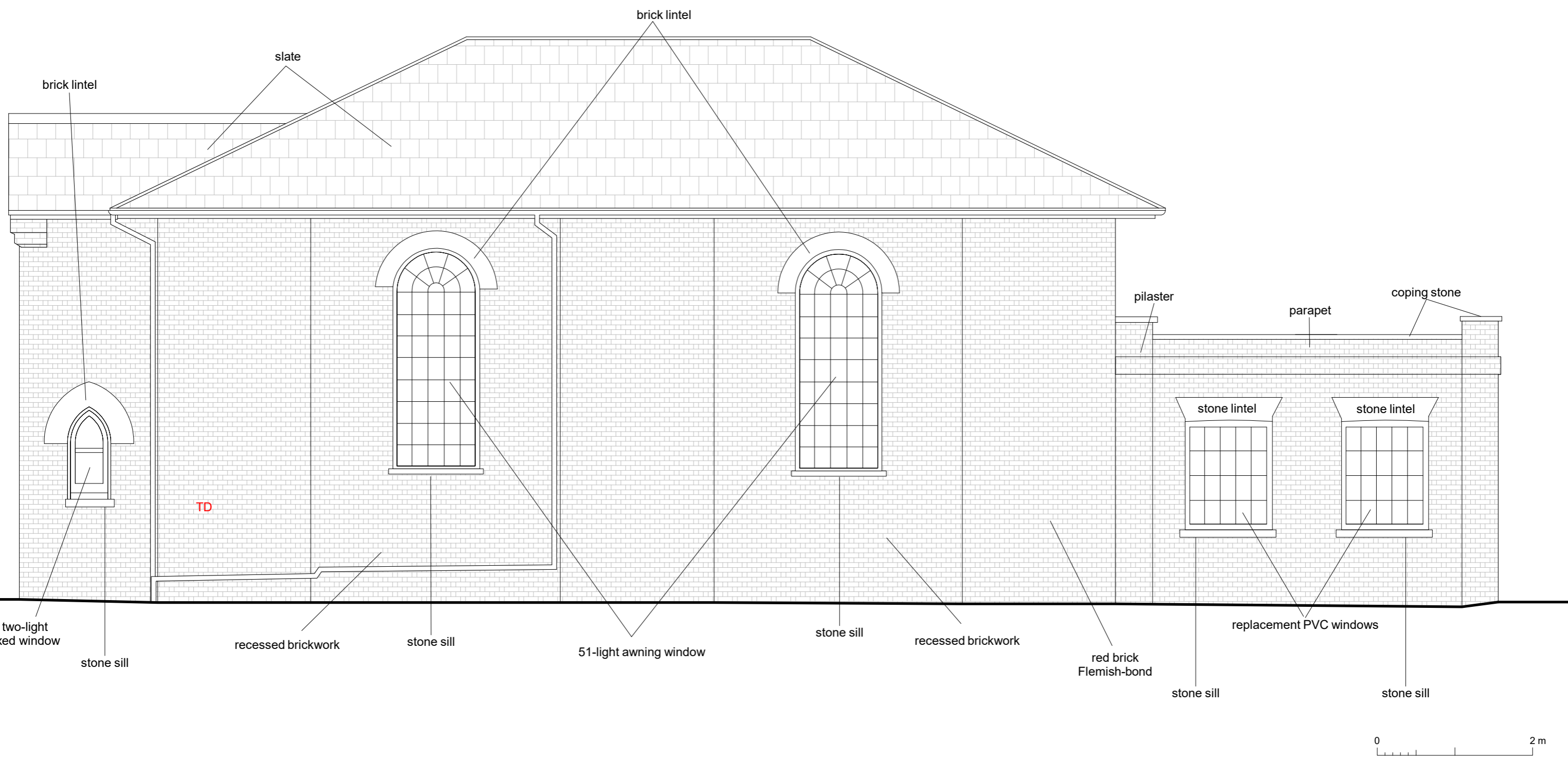


Fig 4 Western elevation. Graffiti in red.



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_003Detail of window on north elevation. Photo... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_004Detail of decorative brickwork on north elev...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_005Detail of graffitied 'C+P' on brickwork of nor... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_006Detail of graffitied 'C+A' on brickwork of nor...







ECC4764_PhotoGraph_015Detail of window on west elevation. Photog... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_016Detail of window on west elevation. Photog...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_017Detail of window on west elevation. Photog... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_018Detail of graffitied 'TD' on brickwork on wes...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_021Detail of window on south elevation. Photo... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_022Detail of window on south elevation. Photo...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_023Detail of door on south elevation. Photo... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_024Detail of window on south elevation. Photo...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_027Internal view of vestry. photograph taken fa... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_028Internal view of vestry. Photograph taken fa...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_029Internal view of vestry. photograph taken fa... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_030Internal view of vestry. Photograph taken fa...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_033Internal detail of door of south wall of vestr... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_034Detail of internal door between vestry and ...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_035Detail of modern cupboards in east wall of ... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_036Internal view of main hall. Photograph take...



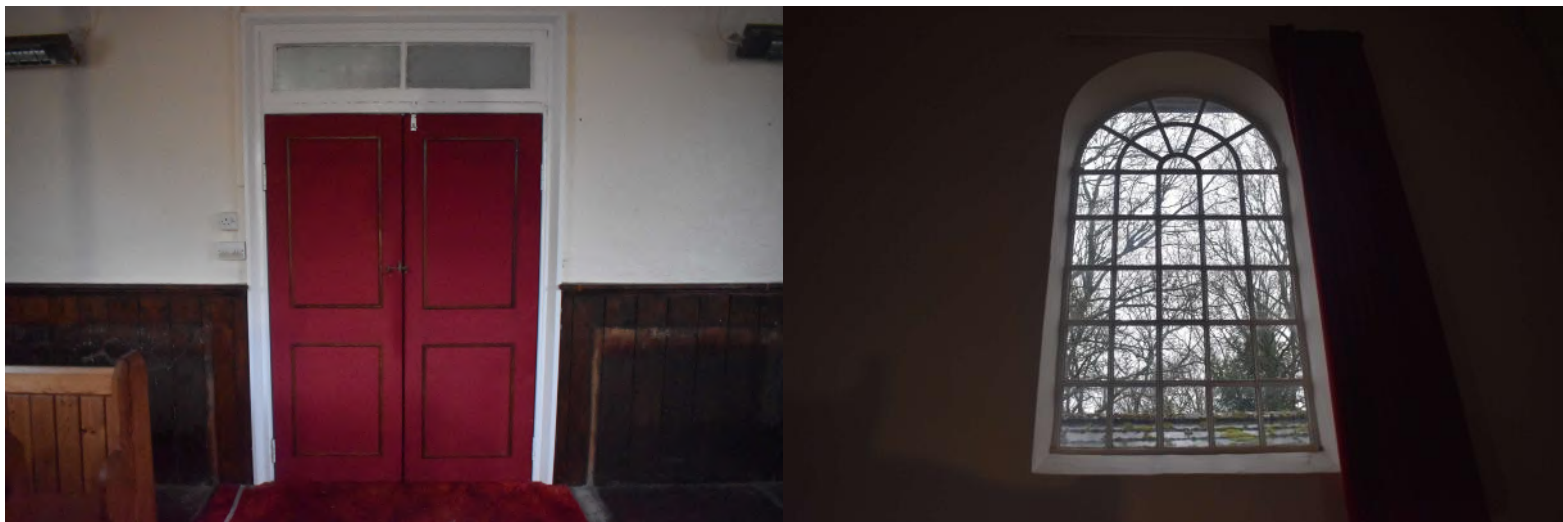
ECC4764_PhotoGraph_037Internal view of main hall. Photograph take... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_038Internal view of main hall. Photograph take...

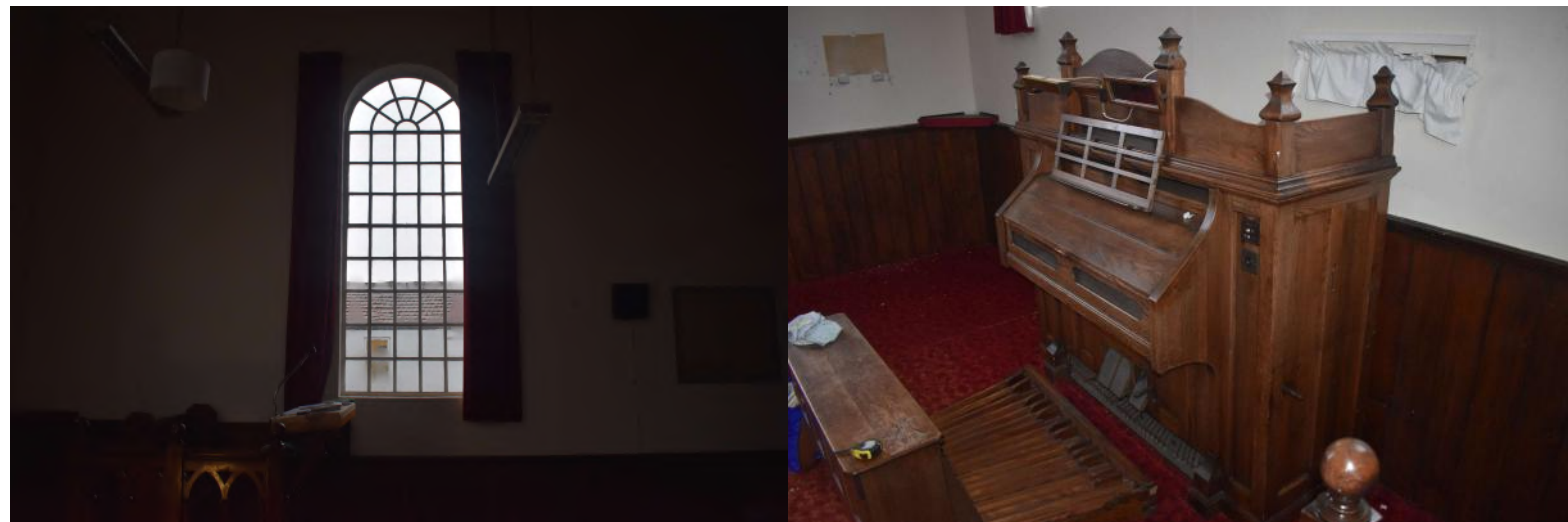
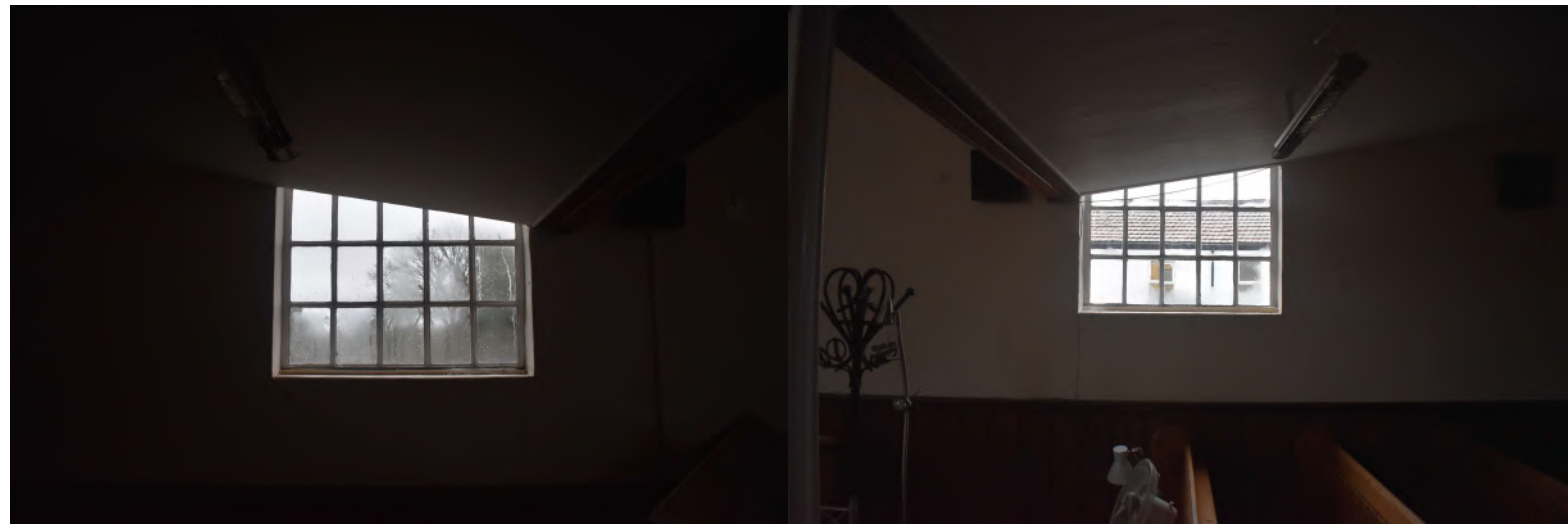
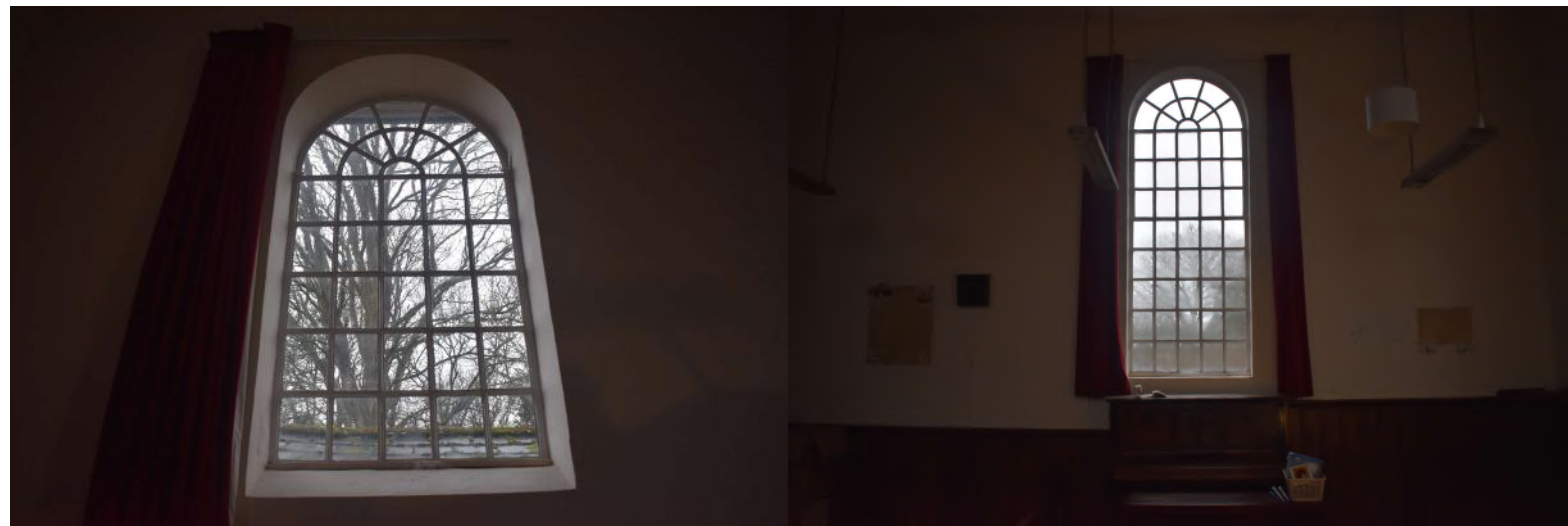


ECC4764_PhotoGraph_039Internal view of main hall. Photograph take... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_040Detail of internal door between vestry and ...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_041Detail of internal door between main hall a... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_042Internal detail of window on south wall of m...









ECC4764_PhotoGraph_057Detail of pew removal in main room. Photo... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_058Detail of pew removal in main hall. Photogr...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_059Detail of gallery and balustrad as viewed fr...

ECC4764_PhotoGraph_060Detail of ceiling vent, main room.







ECC4764_PhotoGraph_069Internal detail of window of west wall of ent... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_070Detail of ornate doorhandle on internal doo...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_071Detail of cupboard door in entrance hall. P... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_072Detail of understair cupboard in entrance h...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_075Detail of stairs between entrance hall and l... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_076Internal detail of window east wall of entran...

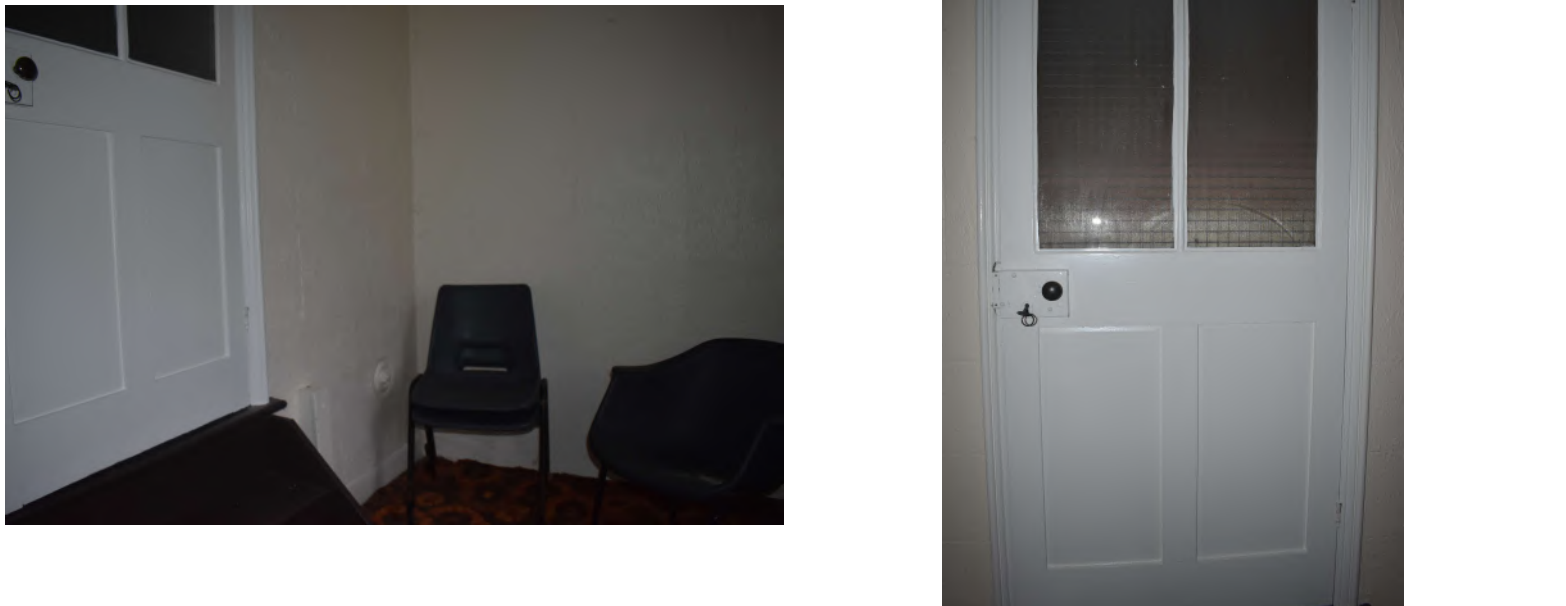


ECC4764_PhotoGraph_077Detail of stairs between landing and entran... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_078Internal view of landing. Photograph taken ...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_081Internal view of landing. Photograph taken ... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_082Detail of internal door between landing and...

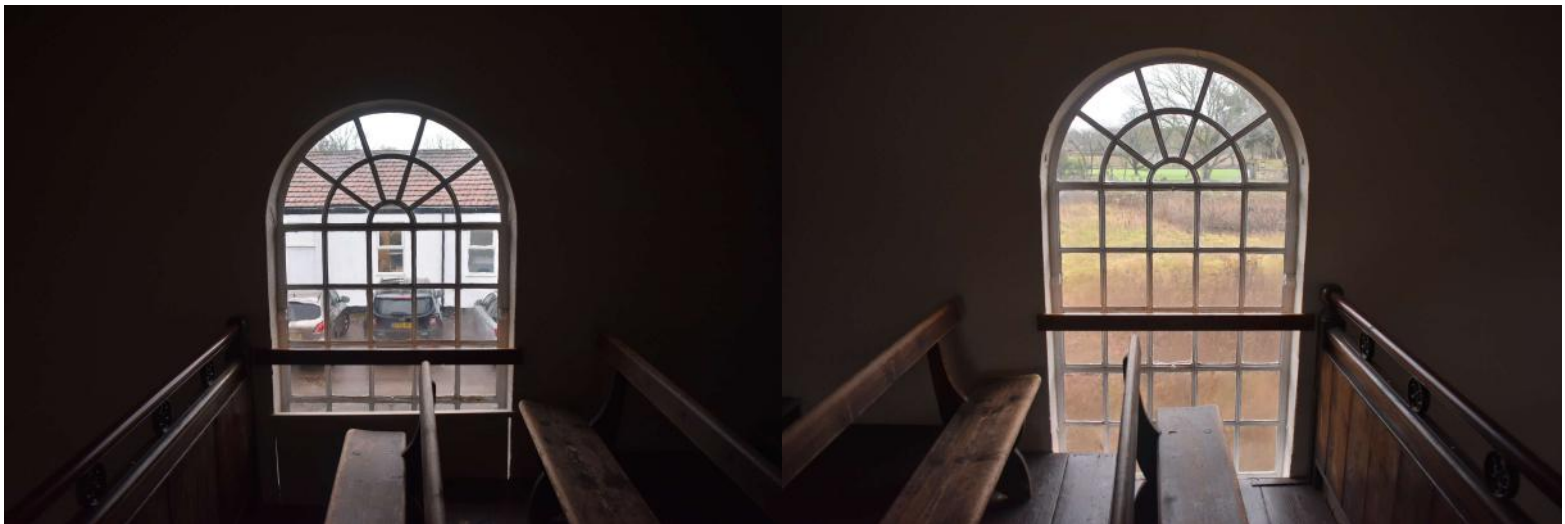


ECC4764_PhotoGraph_083Internal detail of window on north wall of la... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_084Internal view of gallery. Photograph taken f...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_087Detail of window on west wall in gallery. Ph... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_088Detail of window in east wall of gallery. Pho...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_089Detail of pews in gallery. Photograph taken... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_090Detail of pews in gallery. Photograph taken...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_093Detail of gallery balustrade in gallery. Phot...

ECC4764_PhotoGraph_094Detail of attic access in gallery ceiling.



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_095Detail of gallery balustrade. Photograph fa...

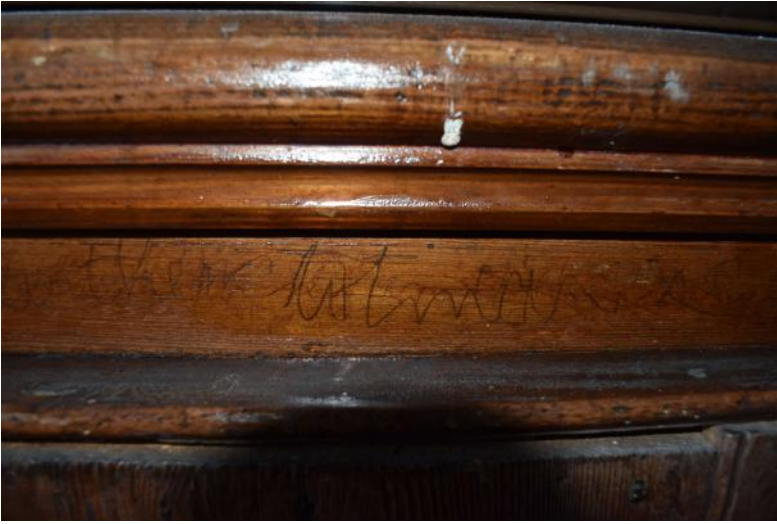
ECC4764_PhotoGraph_096Detail of main hall, pulpit and organ, as vie...





ECC4764_PhotoGraph_099Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Phot...

ECC4764_PhotoGraph_100Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Phot...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_101Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Phot...

ECC4764_PhotoGraph_102Detail of graffiti on gallery balustrade. Phot...

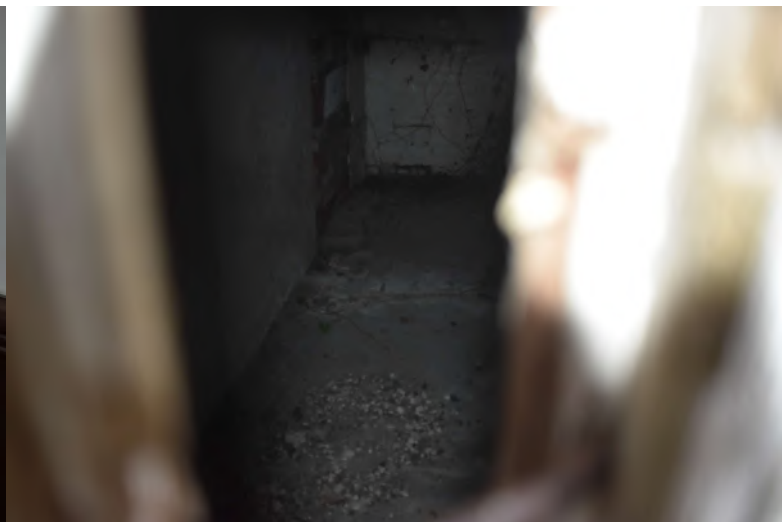




ECC4764_PhotoGraph_105Detail of graffiti on main hall pew. Photogra... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_106Detail of shelf in main room. Photograph fa...



ECC4764_PhotoGraph_107Detail of shelf in main room. Photograph ta... ECC4764_PhotoGraph_108Interior of lean-to. Photograph facing north-...





Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation for an historic
building recording at Boxted Methodist Church,
Chapel Road, Boxted, CO4 5RP**

November 2022

**CAT project ref.: 2022/11i
CHER event number: [tbc](#)**

**Written scheme of investigation for an historic
building recording at Boxted Methodist Church,
Chapel Road, Boxted, CO4 5RP**

November 2022

NGR: TM 00342 31398

**Planning district.: Colchester
Planning ref.: 221753**

CAT project ref.: 2022/11i

**CHER number: [tbc](#)
CBC monitor: Simon Wood
OASIS id: colchest3-511214**

**WSI prepared by: Sarah Veasey
Figures by: Chris Lister**

**commissioned by: Chris Marshall
(Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd)
on behalf of: Homeowner**

Prepared by:	Sarah Veasey	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	21/11/2022	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

web: www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk

sv@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road Boxted, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred at National grid reference (NGR) TM 00342 31398.

Proposed work

The planning application proposes the conversion of the redundant Methodist church into a three bedroom private dwelling with single storey extensions to the side and rear.

Historical background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC/DCC numbers, which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

Methodism is an 18th-century religious movement that sought to reform the Church of England. Its founder, John Wesley, led an evangelical revival that grew rapidly among parishioners who felt neglected by the Church of England. Although it was not his intention to establish a new Christian denomination, Wesley's clandestine ordinations in 1784 made the separation inevitable. Wesley died in 1791 and four years later the Methodist Church officially split from the Church of England.

After Wesley's death, the Methodist movement became characterised by a series of divisions and separate revivals. The original movement became known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church to distinguish itself from these groups. The name remained in use until 1932, when the church re-united with the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church to form the current Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Boxted Methodist Church (DCC26067) was opened in 1831 and is the oldest Wesleyan Methodist church in the Borough of Colchester. It was erected by the Boxted Society of Methodists in response to the demand for a permanent place of worship.

The main building is in a late Georgian style, built from red brick with a hipped roof clad in slate. There are two original arched windows with bars, on each side of the main building. Two smaller windows of the same style are on the north side above the vestry. The vestry itself has two plain windows facing west and was the original schoolroom. The front entrance porch is a later addition and has an arched front double door with a small west facing window on the ground floor and a small south facing window on the first floor landing. The porch is built in a Gothic style and was added along with the gallery inside to allow room for a staircase and landing.

This chapel building is almost completely original and is a fine example of the architectural style of the early 19th Century. It stands as a landmark within the village of Boxted and the Borough of Colchester.



Map 1 Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS Map. Boxted Methodist Church highlighted in green.

Planning background

A planning application (221753) was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in July 2022 for the *conversion of existing redundant Methodist church into a three bedroom private dwelling, replacement single storey rear extension, new single storey rear/side extension, internal and external alterations, new garage, change of use of adjacent land to.*

As the site is highlighted by the CHER as being locally-listed, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work (Figs 1)

The required archaeological work will consist of a Historic England Level 3 historic building recording prior to the conversion. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (*Brief for Level 3 Historic Building Recording at Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted – CBC 2022*).

Specifically, the record will consider:

- Plan form of the site
- Materials and method of construction
- A measured survey including floor plans, elevation and sections
- Photographic record accompanied by appropriate photographic register
- Date(s) of the structure
- Function and internal layout
- Fixtures and fittings
- The significance of the site on a regional context

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b and c)

- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by CBC Historic Environment Advisor (CBCAA 2022)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to ECCHEA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows:

- one historic building recorder for one day

In charge of historic building recording: Sarah Veasey

Historic building recording methodology

A Historic England Level 3 building survey will be carried out prior to the conversion of the redundant church building. The resultant report will include the following:

A brief documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the building and the site will be made. Sources consulted will include:

- Colchester Historic Environment Record.
- Essex Records Office.
- Local Studies Library
- The site owner/developer.

A large-scale block plan will be made of the site using existing architect's drawings or the current OS 1:2500 map extract. The position of the building will be shown and any adjacent buildings will be given a unique identifier noting date of construction and function (where known).

The building will be described in as much detail as possible. The description will address materials, dimensions, method of construction, joinery, fenestration, spatial configuration, phasing, and any evidence of original fixtures/fittings.

Based on existing architect's plans and using Historic England (2016 and RCHME 1996) conventions floor plans at scale 1:100 will be made of the building/s affected by the proposals. Doors, windows, internal divisions, truss positions, together with any surviving fixtures/fittings will be shown together with any evidence of phasing.

A full photographic record will be made comprising both general and detailed shots (external and internal/features/joinery/timber marks/etc). A photographic scale will be included in photographs. The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of shot; where possible, the photographic record will be tied into the drawn record.

The guidelines contained in Historic England: *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice* (2016) will be adhered to. In addition, RCHME: *Descriptive Specification* 3rd Edition, ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2015) and the appropriate sections of the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper **14**, 2003) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA **24**, 2011) and *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE, 2015) will be used for additional guidance in the design of the project specification, the contents of the report, and for the general execution of the project..

Results

Notification will be given to the CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015).

A report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork (one for the historic building record and one for the evaluation), with copies supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as single PDFs.

The historic building recording report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
- A brief history of the buildings and their context, including the development of the site, its original design, the date, the form and function of the building and any significant modifications.
- Location maps, plans and annotated drawings tied into the OS Grid.
- Labelled re-productions of a representative sample of the photographs.
- Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>. Of particular relevance to this site is the study of farmsteads to understand the East Anglian landscape, which is a research agenda for Framework question 2 'how best can we synthesise what we already know about the post-medieval period?'
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the CBCAA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the *Essex Archaeology and History Journal* for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The CBCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre 2013) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the CBCAA at the time of their deposition.

Monitoring

The CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CBC | 2022 | <i>Brief for Level 3 Historic Building Recording at Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted</i> by S Wood |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.</i> Updated Dec 2020 |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology.</i> Revised Oct 2021 |
| ClfA | 2014c | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020 |
| ClfA | 2014d | <i>Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology.</i> Revised Oct 2021 |
| Davies, R | 2022 | <i>Methodism</i>
https://www.britannica.com/topic/Methodism accessed on 21/11/2022 |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013 | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Historic England (HE) | 2016a | <i>Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice.</i> By R Lane |
| Historic England (HE) | 2016b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 |

MHCLG	2021	(EAA 24) <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
RCHME	1996	Recording historic buildings, a descriptive specification

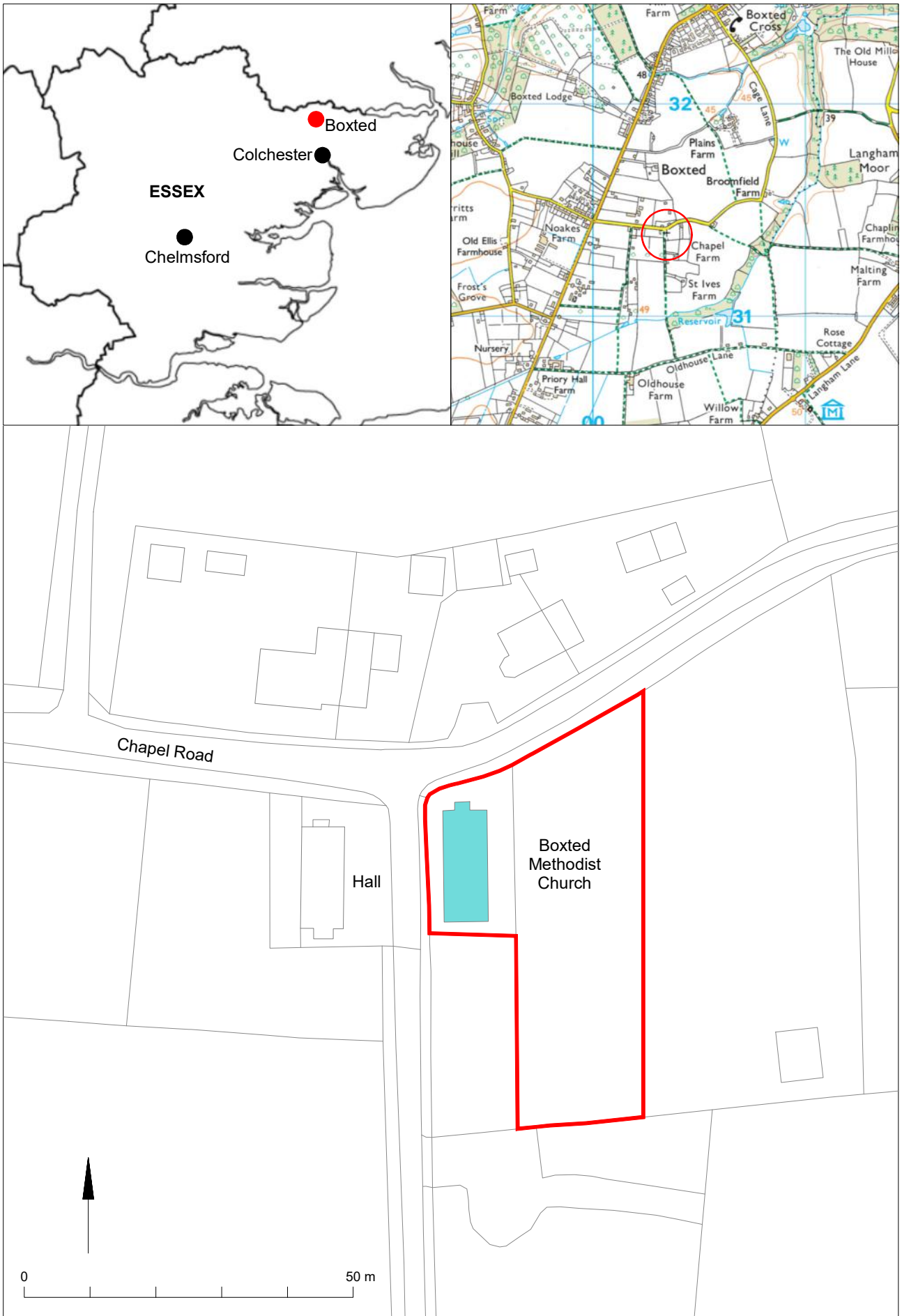


Fig 1 Site location.

Summary for colchest3-511214

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-511214
Project Name	Historic Building Recording of Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted, Essex, CO4 5RP
Sitename	Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted
Activity type	Analytical Buildings Record (Level 3)
Project Identifier(s)	2022/11i
Planning Id	221753
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	16-Jan-2023 - 16-Jan-2023
Location	Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Boxted NGR : TM 00342 31398 LL : 51.9449926610407, 0.913522292376846 12 Fig : 600342,231398
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Boxted
Project Methodology	The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the chapel building prior to conversion. In particular the record considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and form of the site. • Materials and method of construction. • Date(s) of the structure(s). • Original function and layout. • Original and later fixtures and fittings. • The significance of the site in its immediate local context.
Project Results	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Boxted Methodist chapel, Chapel Road, Boxted in January 2023. The chapel was originally constructed in the early 19th century and was subsequently extended to the south, to add a vestry, and then the north, to add a porch and gallery. The chapel and extensions are built in three distinct architectural styles. It is the oldest surviving Wesleyan chapel in the borough of Colchester and is locally listed. It represents a good example of a rural non-conformist chapel of the late Georgian period, which evolved to adapt to a growing population. The chapel was used for worship from 1831 until 2019, after which the Boxted parishioners merged with the congregations from Mile end and West Bergholt to worship elsewhere.
Keywords	Methodist Chapel - Georgian - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4764
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;