



Heritage Impact Statement

Burton's Lodge (formerly Bethel Chapel)
 Aqueduct Terrace, Oakwood, Pontrhydyfen NPT, SA12 9SA



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The Vestry
Bethel Chapel
Oakwood
Pontrhydyfen
NPT SA12 9SA

Heritage statement to support planning application for conversion of former Welsh Baptist Chapel (Bethel Chapel) to business premises (Café business)

CADW listing reference no. 23021

Prepared in July/August 2020 by the property owner, Peter Bowen and Agent Leighton Thomas (Thomas Davies Associates Ltd.)

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INTRODUCTION

The following information contains information relating to proposed alterations to Bethel Chapel, which is located at Oakwood, Pontrhydyfen. The content of this assessment relates to the alterations to the main hall of the building, the vestry to the rear of the property has previously been converted for residential use.

Bethel Chapel was first built in 1850, then rebuilt in 1903

It is/was a Welsh Baptist chapel, attended by locals from Oakwood & Pontrhydyfen from its' inception, until the mid-1990's, when the congregation started to dwindle, from the hundreds of its' heyday, to several dozen faithful members by the turn of the 21st century.

The congregation continued to attend, albeit in the Vestry (at the rear of Bethel) until 2010 or so, when Bethel finally closed its' doors.

I purchased the building in 2012 from the Welsh Baptist Chapel and successfully applied for 'change of use' planning from 'place of worship' to 'place of dwelling' and proceeded to undertake a sympathetic restoration of the vestry into a 3-bedroom family home, where I have lived happily with my wife and two children, ever since.

It was always the intention to eventually convert the 'main hall' into a business premises and I feel that as the immediate area has no café business, currently, then this would be an ideal and appropriate use for the building. It will 'tick several boxes' for the local area...

Regeneration and preservation of an historic building.

Revitalisation of an area that has seen little or no investment in the 21st century

Creation of a community hub for locals and visitors alike to visit

Employment for between 4 and 8 people, depending upon seasonal requirements.

Potentially increase tourist footfall in the Afan valley.

CADW's six guiding conservation principles and my intentions to uphold them.

1. Historic assets will be managed to sustain their values

Conservation is about making sure that the special qualities of our historic assets are protected, enhanced, enjoyed and understood by everyone now and in the future. Any change to a historic asset and its special qualities should bring benefits that outweigh any loss or harm. Those benefits should protect and sustain the historic asset.

- *It is our full intention NOT to adversely affect any of the historic fabric of the building, but rather to repair, conserve and preserve its' features for this and future generations.*

2. Understanding the significance of historic assets is vital

Historic assets have many values that contribute to their significance. These include:

- their physical remains and surviving fabric
- pictorial and documentary records that help us understand them,
- their capacity to illuminate aspects of the past and connect us to it
- their aesthetic qualities
- the value they have to the people who relate to them.

The external shell of the chapel will remain unchanged, with all reparations being undertaken within CADW guidelines, i.e. lime mortar to replace cement patchwork repairs, timber windows in the original style, copper guttering in period style, Welsh slate roofing etc.

Pictorial records will be utilised to assist in the faithful restoration as well as being displayed in the interior as a kind of 'living museum'

Many items, historic artefacts and memorabilia have been promised by locals, neighbours and ex-parishioners.

3. The historic environment is a shared resource

The historic environment gives distinctiveness, meaning and quality to the places where we live. It is a social and economic asset and a resource for learning and enjoyment. This means that we all share a responsibility for making sure that everyone can use, enjoy and benefit from it, both now and in the future.

This is exactly the remit that we intend to fulfil – the revitalisation of the building will breathe new life into the village and we hope it will demonstrate, to both locals and visitors alike, how historic buildings, in general, and this one in particular, can be preserved by a sympathetic and responsible owner with the will to conserve for this and future generations.

4. Everyone will be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment

Caring for our historic environment depends on informed and active participation. We need access to specialist knowledge and expertise to tease out what's important about our historic assets and guide their management. We also need to share what we learn so that we raise awareness and understanding of heritage more widely. And we need to make sure that we develop, maintain and pass on the skills and knowledge that we need to care for the historic environment.

I am fortunate enough to know several local tradesmen who are keen to get involved with the 'project', two of whom specialise in 'traditonal' carpentry and are 'champing at the bit' to get involved in the restoration of Bethel. We

intend to utilise existing timber as much as is feasible (there are 88 pitch-pine pews at Bethel) and to re-use, recycle and transform these items into seating and furniture for the café.

We fully intend to transform the chapel into a thriving family-run business utilising the existing fabric and contents of the building, with minimal alteration to its current form, either internally, or externally, both to pay 'respect' to its' former incarnation and so as not significantly alter the feel and ethos of its' standing as a community hub and village focus.

5. Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent

We encourage owners and managers to get advice when preparing proposals for change and we expect public authorities to make decisions by applying their expertise, experience and judgement in a consistent and transparent way. Decisions about what to do and how to do it, and whether or not to give consent must always be well informed and carefully justified.

We intend to change as little as possible and to carry out as sympathetic, authentic and traditional a restoration and conversion as is feasible – there is no intent to 'modernise' or substantially alter the interior or exterior of the building, whatsoever.

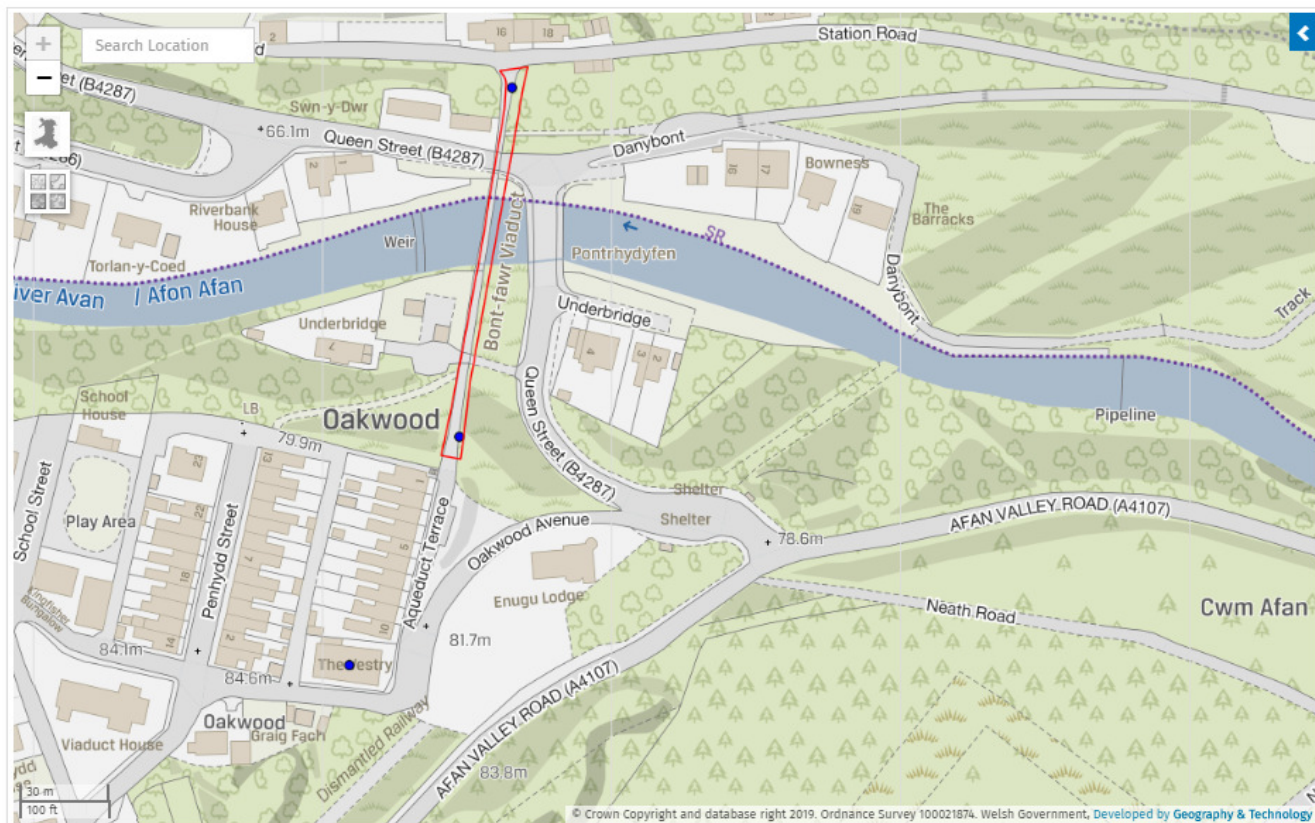
Any planned work, will of course be discussed and agreed with the local authority, and where necessary, CADW. The only change, planned, externally, is a proposed 'bike-shed' or cycle storage area on the North side of Bethel (adjacent to no.10, Aqueduct Terrace), which, in reality can be little more than a raised platform or 'deck' along with cycle racking for safe storage for customers arriving by bicycle. Dependent upon planning, whether this structure is roofed or 'open-plan'.

6. Documenting and learning from decisions is essential

During any conservation project, a lot of useful information will be gathered as the significance of the historic asset is assessed and understood. Recording any information that comes to light during the process of change is also important. Making sure that this information is deposited in a public archive means that it can contribute to shared learning in the future.

The records of decision-making should also be retained. Owners and managers of historic assets should monitor and evaluate the effect of any changes, and use their findings to inform future decisions. Where changes involve the loss of all or part of a historic asset, it is important to make sure that proper investigation and recording is carried out, and that the results are archived and made accessible.

As per point 5 (above), change will be limited, but any changes will, of course be documented and recorded, so that should any future owners decide to do so, the chapel can be returned to its' original state, in a timely, effective and cost-efficient manner. Any changes will certainly not involve any 'loss', either physically or to the inherent 'feel' of the building.



Briefly, a Heritage Statement should set out details of the **history and development** of the asset, using photographic, map, archival and fabric evidence. It should be accompanied by a **photographic record**, showing the site context and spaces and features which might be affected by the proposal, preferably cross-referenced to **survey drawings**. It should include an assessment of the archaeological, architectural, historical or other **significance** of the asset. It will also normally be necessary to include an assessment of the **impact** of the proposed works on the significance of the asset, and a statement of **justification** for those works, together with details of any **mitigation** measures proposed.

THE ASSESSMENT

Main Features (Existing Asset)

The chapel was been a focal point in Oakwood after its construction and was frequented by a thriving congregation until the late 1970's/early 1980's when the congregation had dwindled to fifty or sixty (according to local parishioners and neighbours who attended).

The chapel was used for the memorial service, shortly after Richard Burton's death in August 1984, when an estimated five hundred people crammed into the pews and aisles, with also an estimated three hundred people congregated outside the front of the chapel.

The main features of Bethel Chapel of historic interest are as follows (in no particular order):-

East facing external parapet, dressed stone wall and façade. (see figure 10, page 11)

Tongued & grooved planked ceiling. (see figure 15, page 13)

Cast-iron supporting pillars for the upstairs gallery. (see figure 17, page 15)

Ornate cast ironwork handrail around upper gallery. (see figure 13, page 12)

Pitch pine pews.

Plaster arch decorative feature on East facing internal wall (behind former pulpit).

Stained/coloured glass feature behind front doors. (see figure 16, page 14)

Large Baptismal font

Welsh-slate covered roof

There is no intent, during the conversion or at any time in the future to dispense with, damage, hide or otherwise alter any of these features but, rather, to utilise, preserve and save all of these items, so that future visitors & customers are under no illusion of what the former use of the building was i.e. a Welsh Baptist Chapel.

Some features may have to be altered to comply with building regulations, particularly those which require insulation to assist with the heating and ventilation of the structure.

Many of the original floorboards and planking have a combination of wet & dry rot, and/or woodworm, so may have to be treated and/or replaced, to prevent further spread of the aforementioned infestation/s. This is particularly prevalent on the ground floor and the intention is to strip & remove any/all affected timber from the ground floor, to salvage and re-use whatever is feasible for the upper storey flooring and to use any surplus to construct the 'coffee-bar' area.

The handrail around the upper level does not conform to modern building regulations, so the intention is to keep it, but to add another, secondary rail and/or glazed panels above it, so it is safe for customers to walk around the upper level, but to still reveal the ornate wrought ironwork of the existing handrail

As well as Victorian history (Bethel was first constructed in 1850, before a reconstruction in 1903) there is more recent history attached to the building, being, as it was, Richard Burton's family chapel, where he attended as a child, was baptised, and where his memorial service was held in 1984.

The intention, post-conversion, is to display Burton memorabilia, portraits, film posters etc., to celebrate his memory and his links with the village and the Afan valley, as a whole.

Also, several local, ex-parishioners, have photographs and artefacts from Bethel, which we could & would display on the walls of the café.

It is also my understanding that NPTCCBC also hold items of Burton memorabilia and ephemera which, with their permission and co-operation we could and would display within the walls of the chapel



Figure 1 - The image above was taken in 1903, during the reconstruction of Bethel Chapel

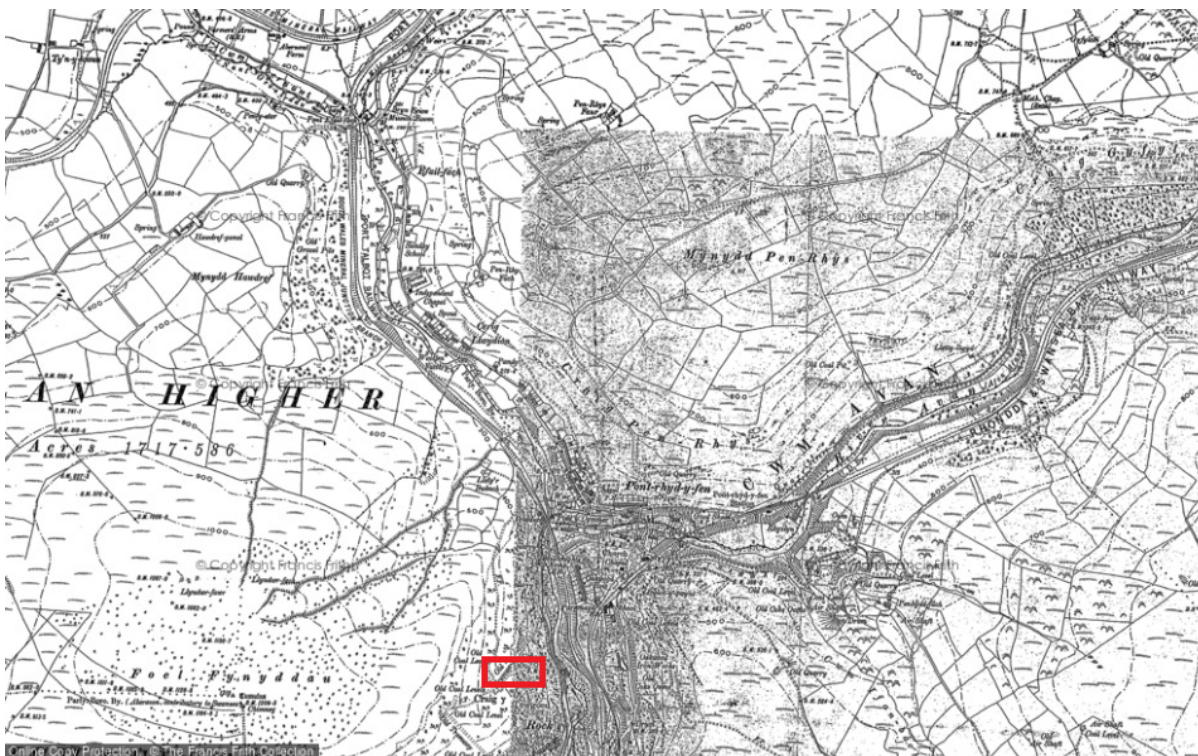


Figure 2 - 1875 OS Map of Pontrhydyfen, with Bethel highlighted by the red rectangle, bottom left



Figure 3 - Richard Burton on the aqueduct, with his father, with Bethel and Penhydd St. in the background, c.1950.

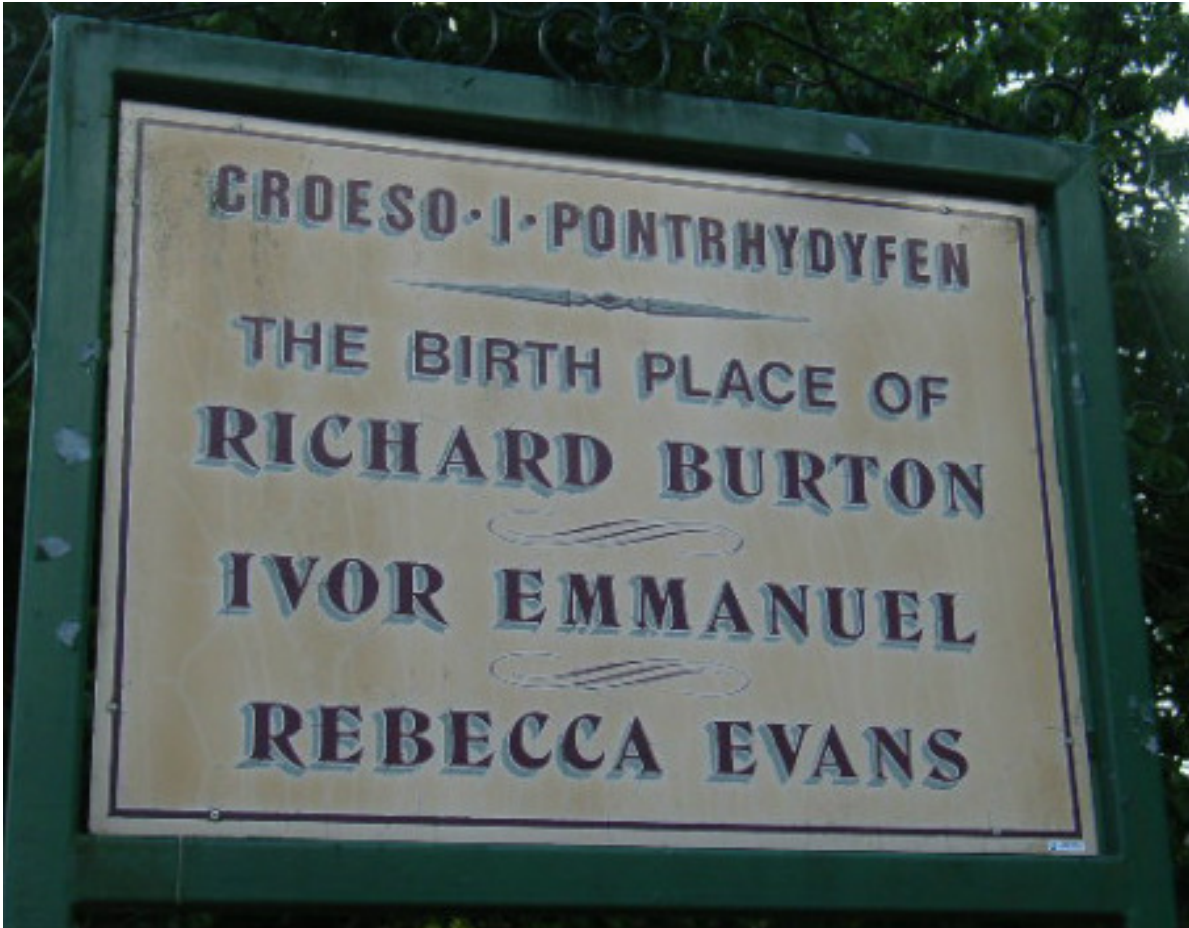


Figure 4 - The 'Croeso' sign under the aqueduct, leading into Pontrhydyfen



Figure 5 - The installation and construction of the new road bridge, near Dan-yBont in the 1960's



Figure 6 - Burton, on one of his regular visits to the Afan Valley, early 1970's



Figure 7 - Oakwood, taken c.1920, the roof of Bethel can be seen in the centre of the image

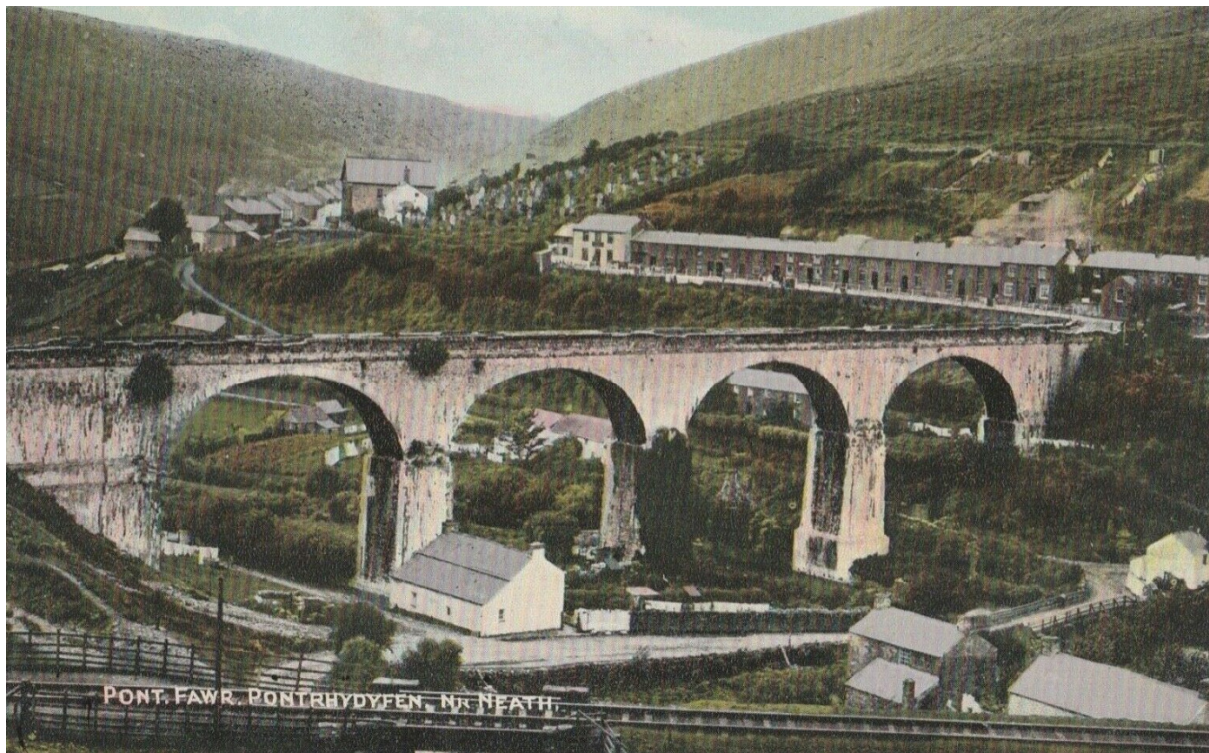


Figure 8 - How Pontrhydyfen looked in 1908, 5 years after Bethel was rebuilt.



Figure 9 - Bethel, recent view from Rhyslyn car park, including the aqueduct (Y Bont Fawr)

Proposed Alterations

Externally there will very little impact to the current appearance of the building. Sympathetic restoration has already been carried out to stabilise the parapet of the front elevation, and gates and railings to the front of the property (which were unsafe as fall restraint and too badly corroded to be salvaged) have been replaced with those of a similar appearance (see figures 11 & 12).

Existing softwood windows, which have succumbed to extensive wet rot, will be replaced with hardwood windows, for increased durability.

There is currently a footpath to the south face of the building constructed from concrete and brick. We propose to lay a new concrete or tarmac footpath to facilitate disabled access (from the rear gate entrance).



Figure 10 – Recently taken photograph of Bethel – the intention is to replace the damaged fanlight above the front door with stained glass, including the Burton name.



Figure 11 – Replacement gates, installed Dec '19



Figure 12 – Replacement railings, installed Dec'19

Internally at ground floor level we intend to remove all rotten floor joists and boards and replace with similar new. New partition walls are to be installed to create rooms and stalls/exhibition areas beneath the terraces (see drawing PB-005 in the appendix), these are to be fixed to the floor and ceiling, no fixings will penetrate the columns or external walls. External walls are to be covered with plasterboard which will be bonded to the walls, leaving the original surface intact. As no sanitary provisions currently exist within the main chapel, it is proposed that toilet facilities are to be located at the south west corner of the main hall. Old electric heating will be replaced with a biomass heater located at the north west corner of the hall, with its extract flue being either located within or adjacent to the existing brick chimney.

At first floor level (in order to comply with current fall protection regulations) a new handrail is proposed to be installed above the existing cast iron balustrade (see drawing PB-008 in the appendix), the new handrail will be independent to the original balustrade, and will be supported on new steel posts. New flooring is to be laid over the existing terrace floors of the upper balconies (see drawing PB-007 in the appendix), thus sealing in and preserving the original feature. New handrails will be fitted to the edges of all new raised floors in accordance with safety regulations.



Figure 13 - Decorative, cast-iron handrails around the upper gallery of Bethel



Figure 14 - Decorative, cast-iron handrails and ceiling



Figure 15 - Decorative, pitch pine planked ceiling, complete with two large ceiling roses



Figure 16 - Decorative, stained-glass window divider, between foyer and chapel



Figure 17 – One of the nine decorative, supportive cast-iron columns...

Impact

The restoration of the building aims to be as sympathetic as possible and doesn't propose to alter or remove any of the main features listed previously (see "Main Features (Existing Asset)"). Unfortunately most of the timbers of the ground floor have become rotten. Unavoidably it has been recommended that failure to replace these will likely lead to further spread of infection throughout the building. External visual impact will be very minimal and propose to

provide internal fixtures and fittings which will not impact on the integrity of the listed features or original fabric of the building.

Conclusion

The chapel's original use (as a place of worship), no longer attracts sufficient interest to sustain the building in a habitable condition. We intend to create a cafe with space for local arts and craft producers to display their wares and aim to once again provide a much needed facility for members of the community and visitors to the Afan Valley to enjoy. Much of the proposed works (replacement windows, improved heating etc.) are intended to maintain the building in a habitable condition and to preserve the asset for future generations. We have had discussions with a local consultant who (for efficiency for the large volume space) advises the use of a biomass heating system, for which we hope to source fuel locally. Externally we propose to create disabled access, which was previously unavailable.

HERITAGE VALUES

The following section makes reference to the TAN-24 historic environment document (Technical advice Note 24) – published May 2017

Within the document (above) are outlined, four heritage values;

Evidential value – best described as the potential of a building to yield evidence of historical activity. There is, alas, relatively little of this, other than one or two historical photographs, taken by neighbours and former parishioners which we would, with their permission, display on the walls of the café. Other than the baptismal font – still evident, and one or two artefacts – Bibles, hymn books, a collection tray, hymn number board and of course, the pitch-pine pews, there is relatively little in the way of physical evidence within the Chapel to preserve, conserve or display. As mentioned earlier, we would, of course preserve the ceiling, the ornate wrought ironwork handrailing, coloured glass panel and the decorative plasterwork, along with the support columns.

Historical value – this cannot be understated – the Chapel was the hub of the community up until its' demise in the early 21st century, and was well attended up until the mid-late 1980's. It was utilised for weddings, funerals, baptisms and memorial services (most notably that of Burton himself, in 1984) and is still held in fond regard by former chapel-goers and locals alike. We intend to keep this historical value alive, by both renovating and saving the building from dereliction and eventual collapse by re-purposing it and re-inventing it as a café.

Aesthetic value – Whilst not, by my own admission, the most attractive of Chapels, it is, nonetheless impressive, with its' towering parapet wall hovering over its' dressed stone frontage. As mentioned, previously, there is no intention to physically alter the façade or indeed any other exterior aspect of the building, other than to replace the timber-framed windows, and to consolidate the stonework by re-pointing with lime mortar. Damaged Welsh slate roof tiles will be replaced by like-for-like items and poorly repaired and replaced rainwater goods will be renovated and replaced with more period-appropriate fascias, barge-boards, guttering & downpipes.

Communal value – an entire (mostly older) generation of locals grew up with Bethel as a landmark feature of the village of Oakwood, whilst unfortunately a younger generation will never have seen its' doors open or its' interior filled with worshippers, this century. We (my wife & I) , as owners, have a moral and cultural responsibility, not only to Bethel, but to Oakwood and its' current inhabitants to open its' doors to locals and visitors, alike and to breathe new life into the building, its' environs and the community, which since the closure of the local junior school, several years back, is in desperate need of a community hub.

Local Development Plan References

The following section makes reference to several key features within the LDP (Local development plan) which we consider the development of Bethel Chapel into a Tourist and community café will positively impact upon.

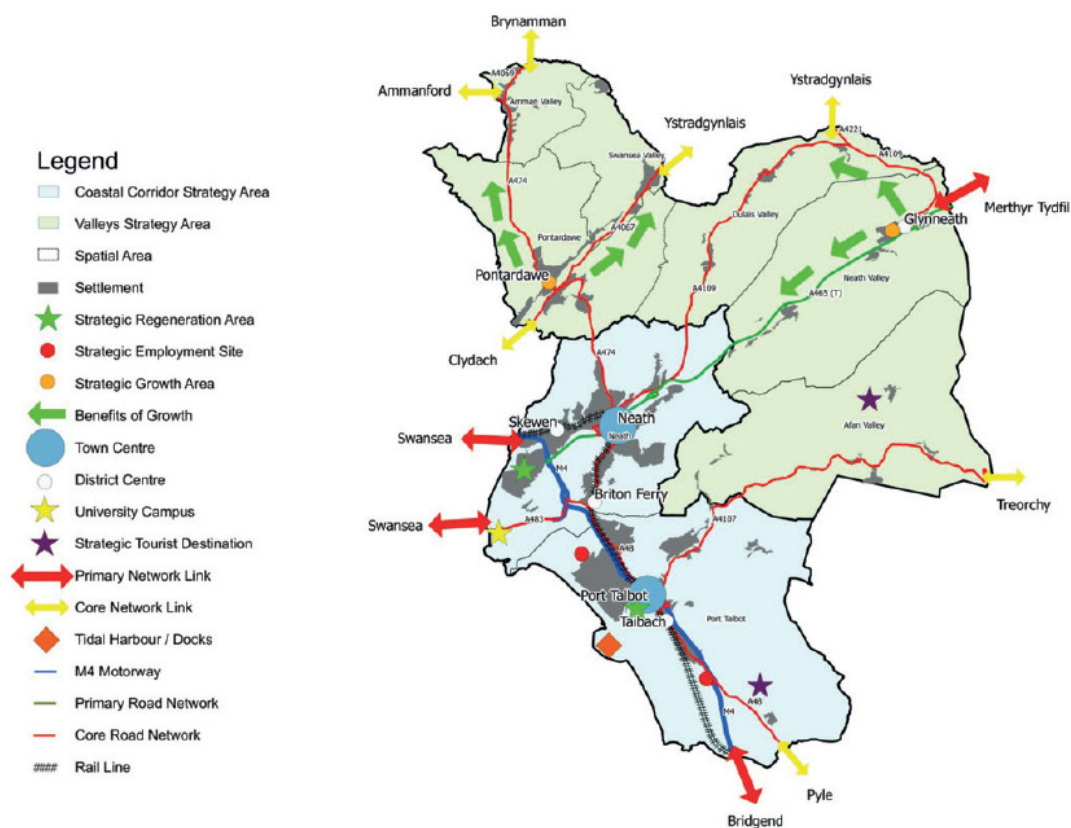
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The Afan Valley has, rightly been designated a 'strategic tourist destination', by the local authority

It has, from Port Talbot at its' base, to the Bwlch at its' apex a unique topography in the region which attracts road cyclists, mountain-bikers, walkers, hikers, runners and fishermen.

It's rich history, local celebrities and storied industrial heritage lend it an air of importance rivalled only by the Gower in South Wales.

We plan to capitalise on the tourist influx for any/all of the above activities by providing a first class 'active-tourist' destination for visitors and those from closer to home, being located as we are at the gateway to Afan Forest Park.



Policy SP 2

Health

The following measures will be taken in relation to the high levels of poor long term health and sickness in Neath Port Talbot:

1. The development of sustainable, safe and confident communities will be promoted through the co-location of jobs and facilities and the development of community facilities and services in accordance with the settlement framework;

Relevant Key Policies: SC1-SC2; I1; EC1-EC6; BE1.

2. People's exposure to those elements that can have an adverse impact on their health (such as their social, economic or physical environment) will be reduced where possible through consideration of the environmental and safety impacts of new developments;

Relevant Key Policies: H1; AH1-AH2; GT1-GT2; OS1-OS2; EN8-EN10; W1; BE1.

3. Healthier, more active and safer lifestyles will be encouraged through the retention of a range of accessible leisure, recreational, health, retail, social, cultural and community facilities throughout the County Borough;

Relevant Key Policies: OS1-OS2; SC2; I1; R1-R3; BE1.

4. Accessibility within and between communities will be improved to encourage active travel;

Relevant Key Policies: TR1-TR2; BE1.

5. The provision of new employment opportunities will be promoted to reduce unemployment and economic inactivity rates.

Relevant Key Policies: EC1-EC6.

The above policy content could be positively impacted by the development of Bethel, encouraging & promoting, as we will, healthy eating, a healthy lifestyle and providing fuel for outdoor activities, in the form of food, snacks and drinks for pre-, post- and inter-activity breaks.

Policy SP 13 (below) is applicable to our proposal as we intend to be a high quality tourist destination as well as providing the same standard of service and fare for locals, too.

Point 2 (below) – we will need to be flexible, to succeed, changing menus, opening times, and services to suit the consumer

Policy SP 13

Tourism

The economic prosperity of Neath Port Talbot will be promoted through encouraging continued growth in the tourist sector by:

1. Encouraging high quality, sustainable tourism development;
2. Providing a flexible approach to the development and conversions to tourism facilities;
3. Resisting, where appropriate, proposals which would result in the loss of tourism facilities;
4. Supporting tourism proposals through the allocation of land for tourism development.

Policy TO4 (below) is closest to my heart – I am a regular road cyclist and mountain biker and know the roads & trails of the Afan Valley like the back of my hand, and would feel well-qualified to recommend to visitors to our café trails or routes to suit the type of riding they are interested in. We are, as mentioned, at the foot of all the trails in Afan, on the route of the Dragon ride and ideally positioned to serve cyclists, cycle-tourists and mountain bikers from near and far.

Policy TO 4

Walking and Cycling Routes

Reference	Site
TO4/1	Wales Coast Path
TO4/2	Cognition Mountain Bike Trails
TO4/3	Great Dragon Ride Route

Policy BE 1

Design

All development proposals will be expected to demonstrate high quality design which fully takes into account the natural, historic and built environmental context and contributes to the creation of attractive, sustainable places.

Proposals will only be permitted where all of the following criteria, where relevant, are satisfied:

1. It complements and enhances the character and appearance of the site, building or area in terms of siting, appearance, scale, height, massing and elevation treatment;
2. It respects the context of the site and its place within the local landscape, including its impact on the important arterial gateways into the County Borough, its effects on townscape and the local historic and cultural heritage and it takes account of the site topography and prominent skylines or ridges;
3. It utilises materials appropriate to its surroundings and incorporates hard and soft landscaping and screening where appropriate;
4. It would not have a significant adverse impact on highway safety, the amenity of occupiers of adjacent land or the community;
5. Important local features (including buildings, amenity areas, green spaces and green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecological connectivity) are retained and enhanced as far as possible;
6. It achieves and creates attractive, safe places and public spaces, taking account of 'Secured by Design' principles (including where appropriate natural surveillance, visibility, well lit environments and areas of public movement);
7. It plays a full role in achieving and enhancing an integrated transport and communications network promoting the interests of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and ensures linkages with the existing surrounding community;
8. It uses resources, including land and energy, as efficiently as possible through:
 - (a) Making the best and most efficient use of the land available through being of appropriate density taking into account the character and appearance of the area, normally a minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area or a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare in the Valleys Strategy Area;
 - (b) The layout and form of the development does not preclude the reasonable use of other adjacent land;
 - (c) Developing brownfield land in preference to greenfield land where possible;
 - (d) Minimising building exposure while maximising solar gain.
9. Its drainage systems are designed to limit surface water run-off and flood risk and prevent pollution;
10. The layout and design of the development achieves inclusive design by ensuring barrier free environments, allowing access by all and making full provision for people with disabilities.

As far as policy BE1 (Design) is concerned – we aim to meet as many of the criteria as possible, from the information on the previous page;

1. The interior design and layout will complement the buildings' former use
2. It will respect the context of the site – the building has been present for longer than most of the rest of the village.
3. As mentioned earlier – materials for the interior conversion will be predominantly timber with no discernible change to the exterior appearance
4. No significant, adverse affect on highway safety – we anticipate the bulk of our clientele arriving by bike, or on foot.
5. The appearance of Bethel will be enhanced by the addition of new windows, repainted and re-conditioned front doors, new lime-mortar pointing and improved frontage, complete with new gates & railings.
6. We anticipate it will, indeed, achieve our aim of being an attractive & safe place to visit.
7. We believe that it will create a hub for cyclists, walkers and tourists and provide a link from the Burton trail, the national cycle network and the village of Oakwood to the Afan valley and beyond.
8. We do plan to use resources as effectively and efficiently as possible – we are aiming to reduce our carbon footprint to a minimum, through the use of biomass, rainwater recycling, composting etc.
9. Drainage systems are in place (from the former chapel) to cope with the anticipated number of visitors.
10. Inclusive design will be achieved by disability access from the rear and south side of the property.

APPENDIX.

Full Report for Listed Buildings

+ Cadw



Summary Description of a Listed Buildings

Reference Number	Building Number	Grade	Status	Date of Designation	Date of Amendment
13021		II	Designated	21/03/2000	21/03/2000

Name of Property	Address
Isithel Chapel	

Location

Unitary Authority	Community	Town	Locality	Easting	Northing
Isle of Anglesey	Cwmavon	Port Talbot	Pontrhydyfen	279523	193996

Street Side	Location
V	The chapel faces E at the corner of Aqueduct Terrace. Set within a rubble stone enclosure wall with square gate piers to entrance, iron gates and flanking railings

Description

Broad Class	Period
Religious, Ritual and Funerary	

History

Dated 1903 and replacing an earlier chapel of 1850. (A boundary wall appears to incorporate remains of the earlier chapel.) The style is classical, with parapet out of proportion to the main elevation. A memorial service was held here for Richard Burton in 1984.

Exterior

Three-bay 2-storey end-entry facade constructed of grey coursed rock-faced stone with prominent red sandstone dressings. The entrance facade has an over-high square-headed attic and is divided into 3 bays by red sandstone pilasters which rise off a sill band forming the coping to a high 2-tier plinth. Moulded string course between tiers above which are 6 foundation stones. The lower tier is battered. The pilasters have moulded bases and very large Corinthian capitals which support a pediment, above which is a wide moulded band. The outer pilasters rise to the top of the attic frieze which has a moulded red sandstone coping. In the centre of the frieze is a red sandstone tablet with arched head reading 'Bethel'. The inscription states that the chapel was built in 1850 and rebuilt in 1903. Between the central pilasters is a heavily moulded round-headed doorway, the jambs partly obscured by the pilasters. The arch rises off impostes with foliage in high relief. It contains double panelled wooden doors and an overlight with radial glazing, set back. The windows are in a similar style; narrow moulded arches rise off square jambs with moulded bases and foliate impostes. One window to each bay and storey, a smaller window above the door. Each has 2 lights, those to the lower storey with a horizontal glazing bar, and overlights with radial glazing. The sides and rear are of rubble stone with large quoins under a pitched slate roof with boarded eaves. Lean-to to rear. Two-storey 4-window side walls. Each window has 4 panes and an overlight in a red brick surround with segmental head. The lintel of the upper R window is replaced in concrete. The rear lean-to has a 6-over-6-pane sash window to the S side and 2 similar windows to the rear, one partially boarded over. To the L of the lean-to is a small corrugated tin porch containing a boarded door. Side stack to N side and yellow brick window surrounds.

Interior

Vestibule with straight stair to each side leading to gallery. Two panelled doors lead into the chapel with a window between. Three-sided U-shaped gallery supported on fluted cast iron columns with oversized foliate capitals. Bellied gallery front of open ironwork on a wooden plinth supported on brackets with horizontal bands. The ironwork consists of scrollwork with Tudor flowers and a lattice frieze along the base. Five rows of pews to gallery. Three banks of planked pews below with curved bench ends; planked wainscot. To the front is a blind moulded arch; the jambs have recessed panels lined with egg and dart moulding and foliate bosses. Capitals with dentils, and a hollow-moulded round arch with egg and dart and foliate friezes, and a scrolled keystone with foliate decoration. Wooden ceiling with diagonal planking and 2 decorated plaster ceiling roses. In front is a wide pulpit, the central section advanced, with a straight ironwork screen above wooden panelling. The open ironwork is in the same style as the gallery. Around the pulpit is the set fawr with thin widely-spaced fluted balusters and a moulded hand rail. Turned balusters to angles with finials. Two panelled doors flanking the pulpit lead to the vestry which is open to the roof with a dado and wainscot panelling.

Reason for designation

Listed for its unusual classical style and fine interior. The over-large features, such as the capitals, impart special character to the building.

Bethel Chapel, Aqueduct Terrace, Pontrhydyfen, Neath Port Talbot, SA12 9SA

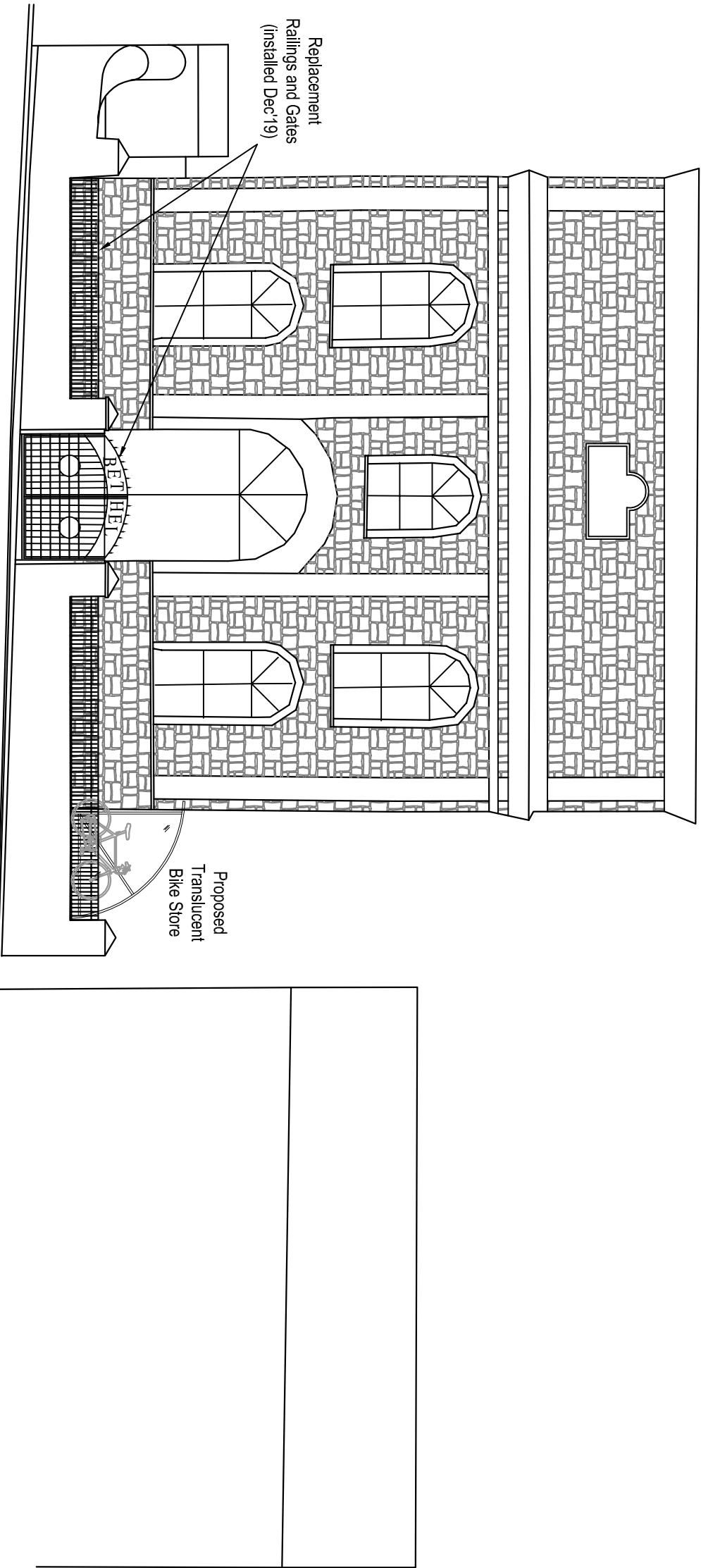


Site Plan shows area bounded by: 279453.19, 193925.47 279594.61, 194066.89 (at a scale of 1:1250), OSGridRef: S679529399. The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

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Notes:



EXISTING FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION



EXISTING SIDE (SOUTH) ELEVATION

A2	Gate and railings added.	18/10/20
A1	Bike shelter added.	23/09/20
Revision	Description	Date
Drawing Status		
REPORT		

Thomas Davies Associates Ltd.

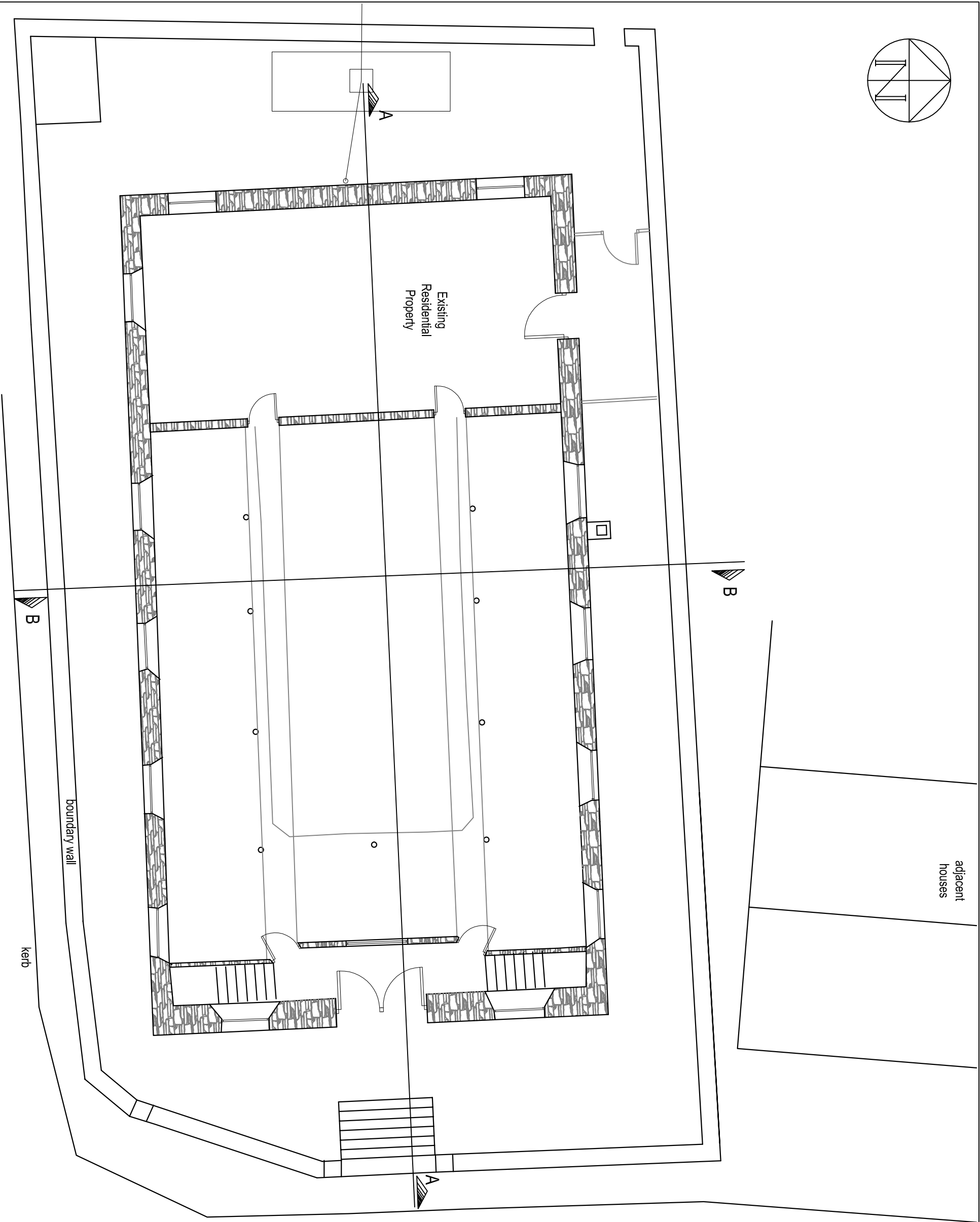
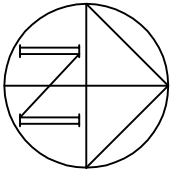
16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE

Tel: 01792 465889



Project		
Bethel Chapel, Pontrydyfen, Neath Port Talbot		
Title		
Existing Elevations		

Designed by	Drawn by	Checked by
LT	WJD	LT
Drawing Number	Revision	Scale
PB-001	A2	1:100 @ A3
		Date
		02/02/2019



EXISTING GROUND FLOOR LAYOUT

Notes:

Revision	Description	Date
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Drawing Status	REPORT
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Thomas Davies Associates Ltd.

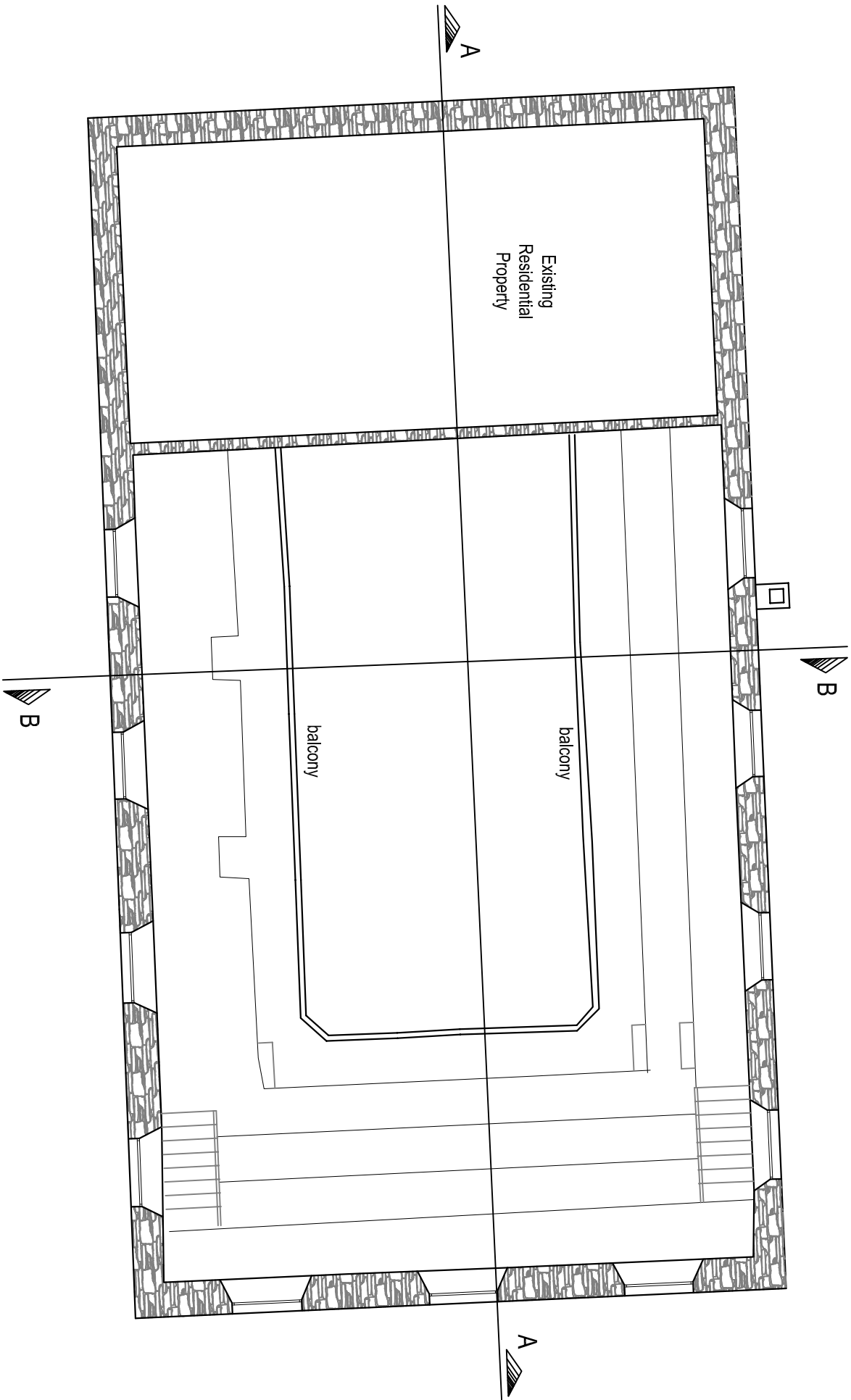
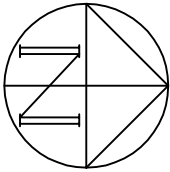
16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE

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Project	Bethel Chapel, Pontnydyfen, Neath Port Talbot
Title	Existing Ground Floor Layout

Designed by	LT	Drawn by	WJD	Checked by	LT
Drawing Number	PB-002	Revision	A0	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Date	02/02/2019		



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT

Notes:

Revision	Description	Date
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Drawing Status	REPORT
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Thomas Davies Associates Ltd.

16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE

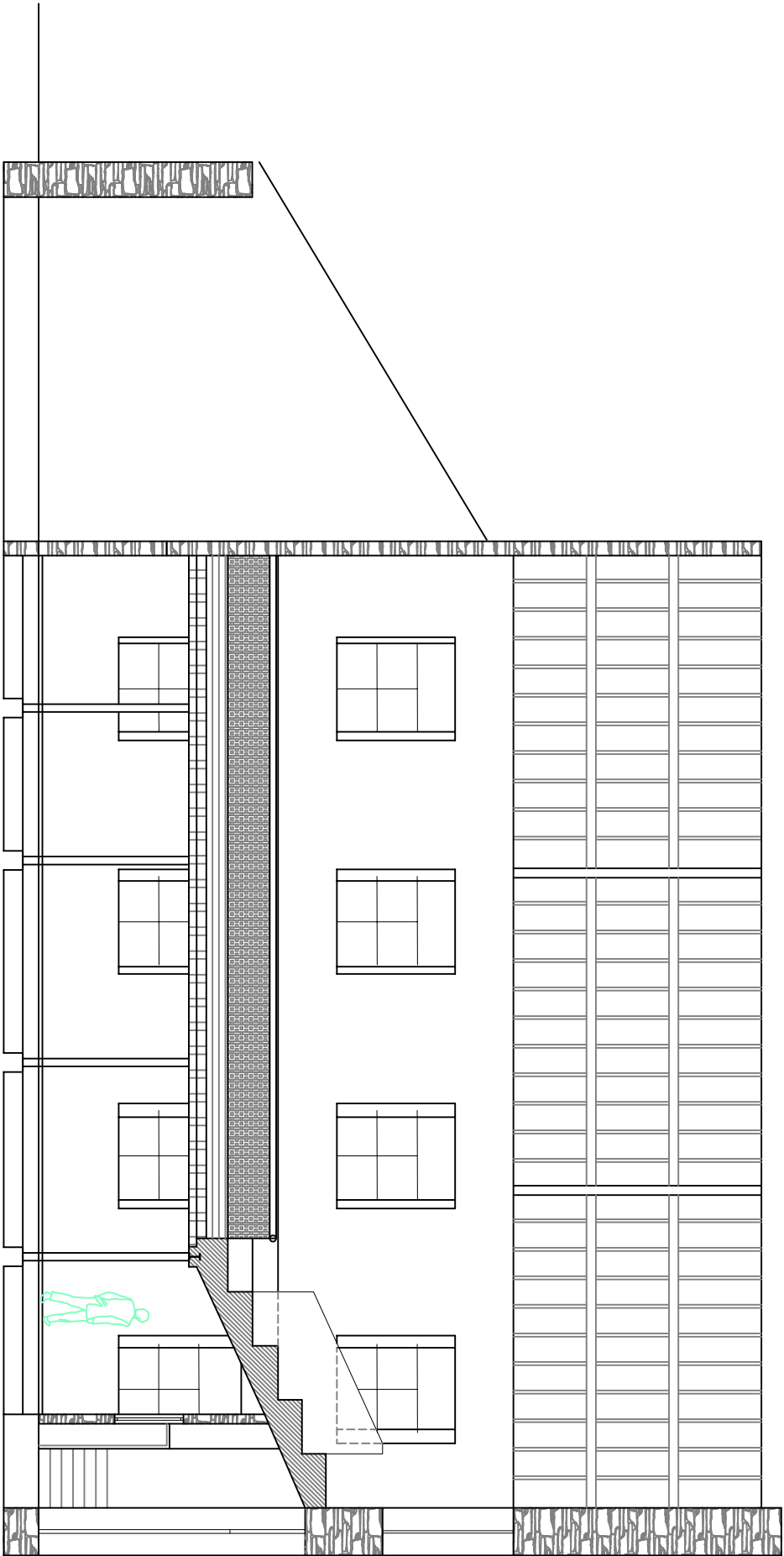
Tel: 01792 465889



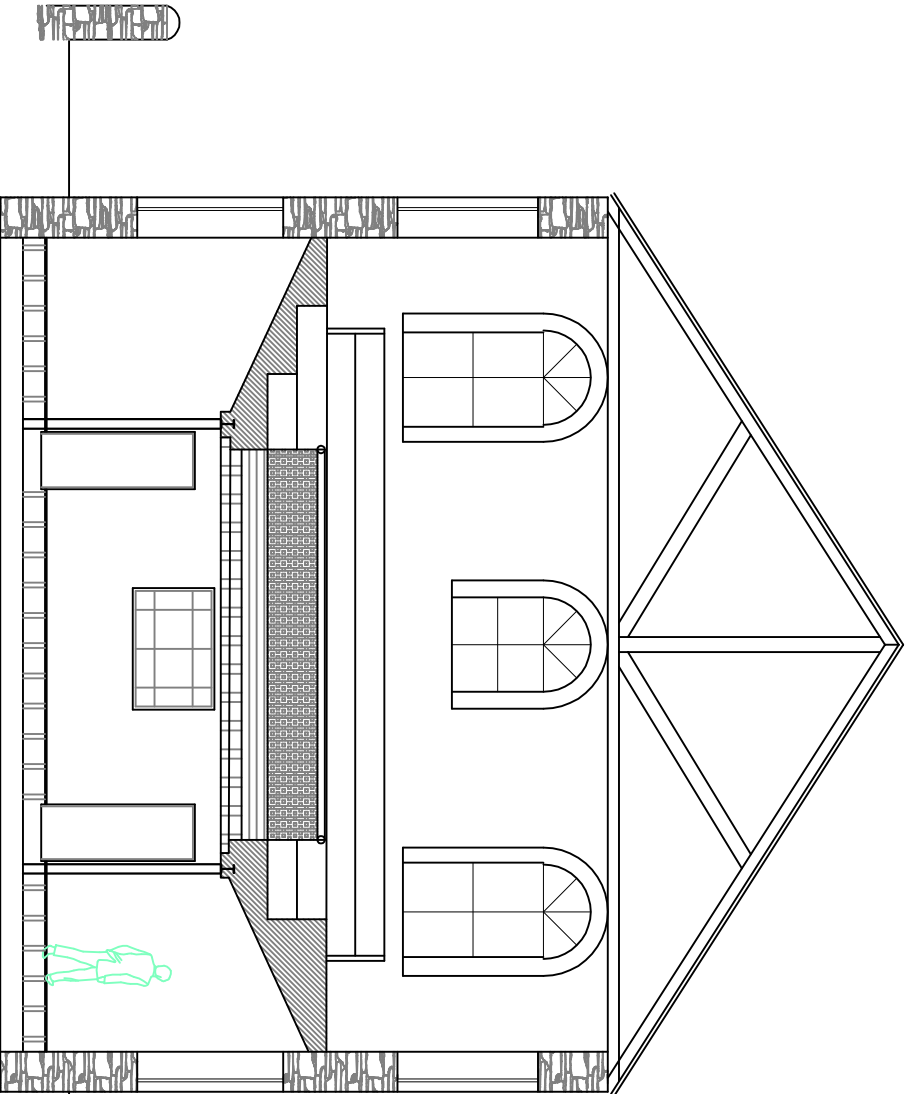
Project	Bethel Chapel, Ponttrydyfen, Neath Port Talbot
Title	Existing First Floor Layout

Designed by	LT	Drawn by	WJD	Checked by	LT
Drawing Number	PB-003	Revision	A0	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Date	02/02/2019		

Notes:

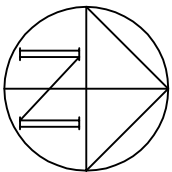


EXISTING SECTION A:A



EXISTING SECTION B:B

Revision		Description		Date	
Drawing Status					
REPORT					
Thomas Davies Associates Ltd. 16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE Tel: 01792 465889					
					
Project Bethel Chapel, Pontrydyfen, Neath Port Talbot					
Title Existing Sections					
Designed by LT		Drawn by WJD		Checked by LT	
Drawing Number PB-004		Revision A0		Scale 1:100 @ A3	
		Date 02/02/2019			



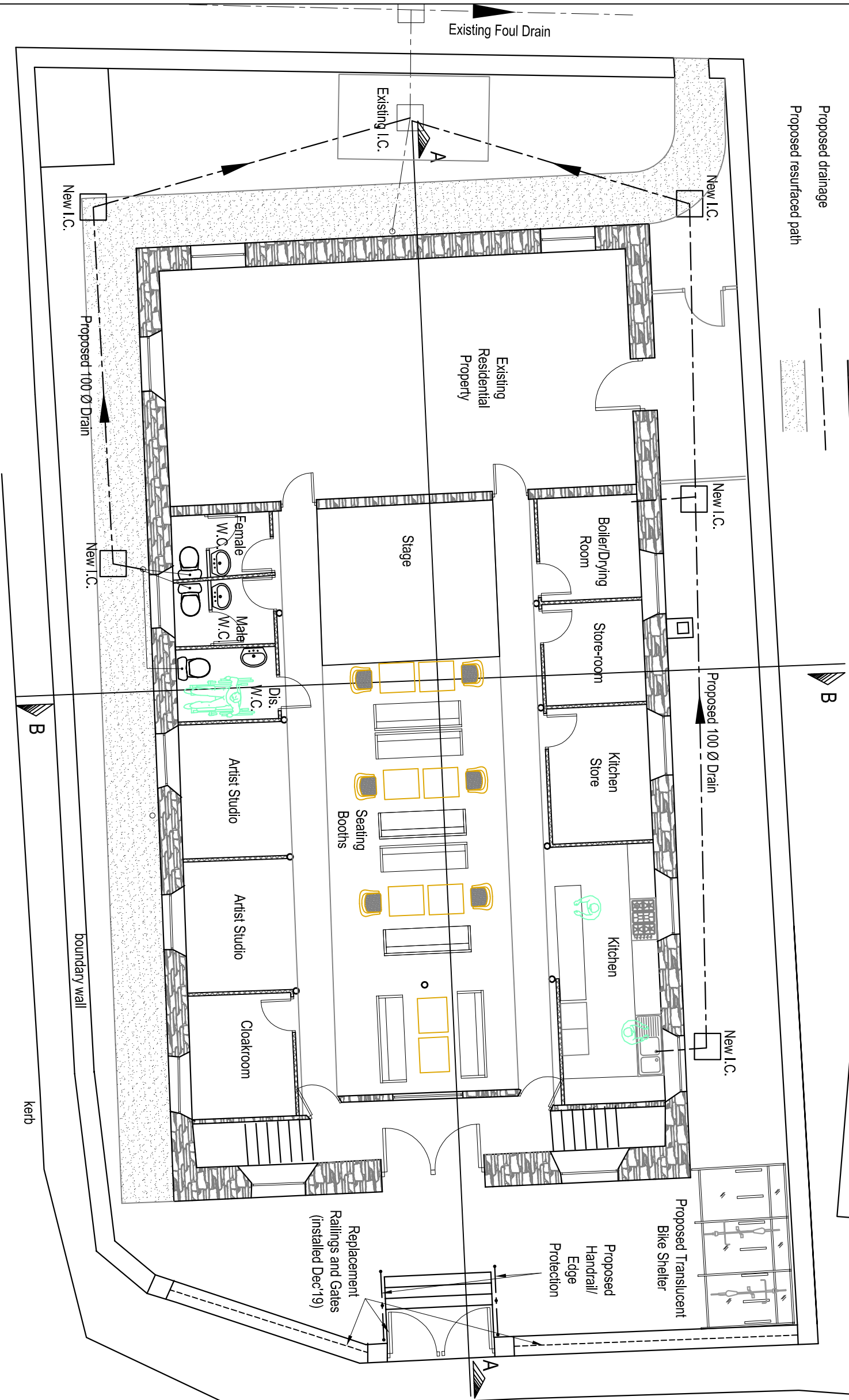
KEY

Proposed 90mm stud walls vertical spanning from floor to balcony ceiling.

Existing stone walls.

Proposed drainage

Proposed resurfaced path



PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR LAYOUT

Notes:

- Proposed Changes to Ground Floor.
1. New internal walls to be 90mm stud wall fixed top and bottom with no fixings required into the external walls or to the internal columns for support.
 2. Existing cement render internal finish of external walls to be overclad with bonded timber stud and plasterboard.
 3. New WCs to the south-west and new sink/washbasin to the north-east of the main hall. Foul drainage to discharge to the existing foul sewer to the west of the property. Foul drainage to be fitted with air admittance valves to avoid the necessity for new high level soil stacks.
 4. New biomass boiler to be located in the boiler/drying room with flue to be located either adjacent to or within the existing brick chimney stack.
 5. New tubular steel handrail/fall protection adjacent to the east stepped access.
 6. Existing concrete and brick footpath to be re-surfaced to the west and south elevations, with concrete or tarmacadam, for wheelchair access.

A2	Gate and railings added.	18/10/20
A1	Bike shelter added.	23/09/20
Revision	Description	Date

REPORT

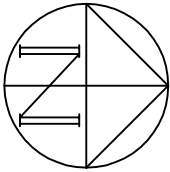
Thomas Davies Associates Ltd.
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Tel: 01792 465889



Project
Bethel Chapel, Pontrydyfen, Neath Port Talbot

Title
Proposed Ground Floor Layout

Designed by	Drawn by	Checked by
LT	WJD	LT
Drawing Number	Revision	Scale
PB-005	A2	1:100 @ A3
	Date	
	02/02/2019	

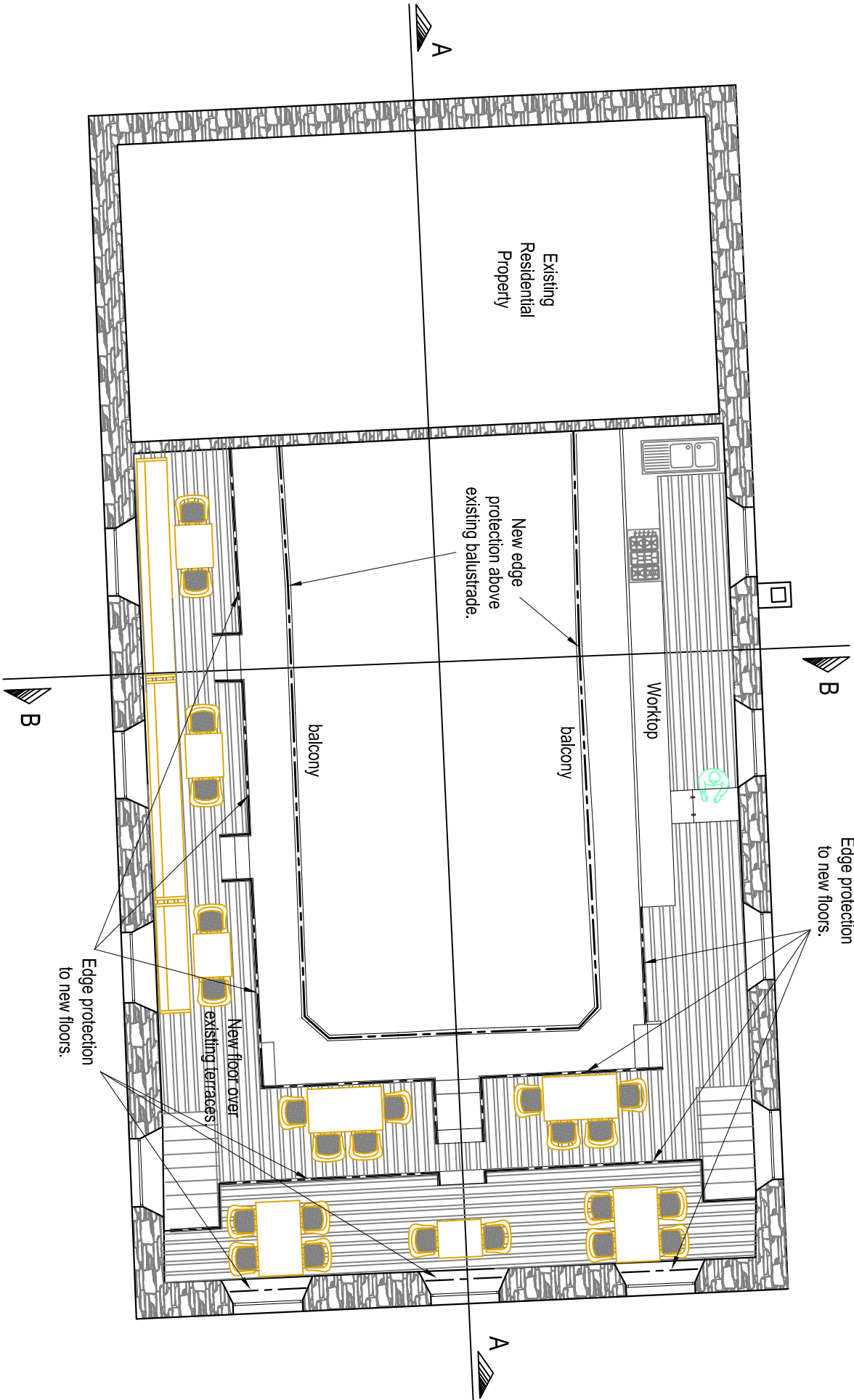


KEY

Proposed timber floors constructed over existing terracing.



Proposed edge protection.



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT

Notes:

- Proposed Changes to First Floor.
1. New timber floors to be installed over the existing timber terracing, encapsulating the existing feature.
 2. Existing cement render / internal finish of external walls to be overclad with timber panelling.
 3. A new edge protection barrier is to be installed above the existing cast iron balustrade to comply with current safety legislation. Additional edge protection will also be installed at edges of new floors.

Revision	Description	Date
Drawing Status		
REPORT		

Thomas Davies Associates Ltd.
16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE
Tel: 01792 465889



Project		
Bethel Chapel, Pontnydyfen, Neath Port Talbot		
Title		
Proposed First Floor Layout		

Designed by	Drawn by	Checked by	
LT	WJD	LT	
Drawing Number	Revision	Scale	
PB-006	A0	1:100 @ A3	
		Date	
		02/02/2019	

Notes:

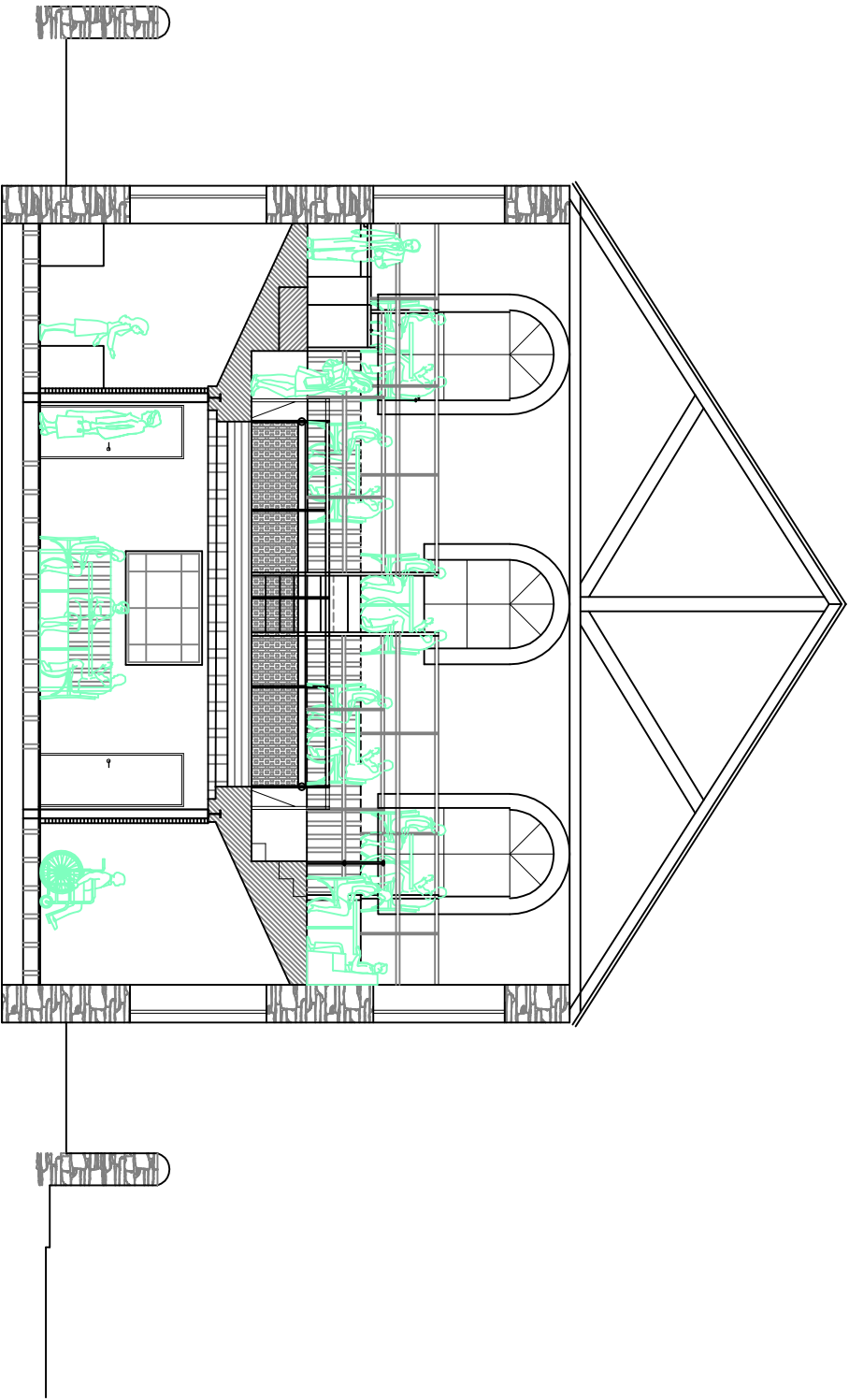
Proposed Changes to Ground Floor.

1. New internal walls to be 90mm stud wall fixed top and bottom with no fixings required into the external walls or to the internal columns for support.
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3. New WCs to the south-west and new sink/washbasin to the north-east of the main hall. Foul drainage to discharge to the existing foul sewer to the west of the property. Foul drainage to be fitted with air admittance valves to avoid the necessity for new high level soil stacks.
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6. Existing concrete and brick footpath to be re-surfaced to the west and south elevations, with concrete or tarmacadam, for wheelchair access.

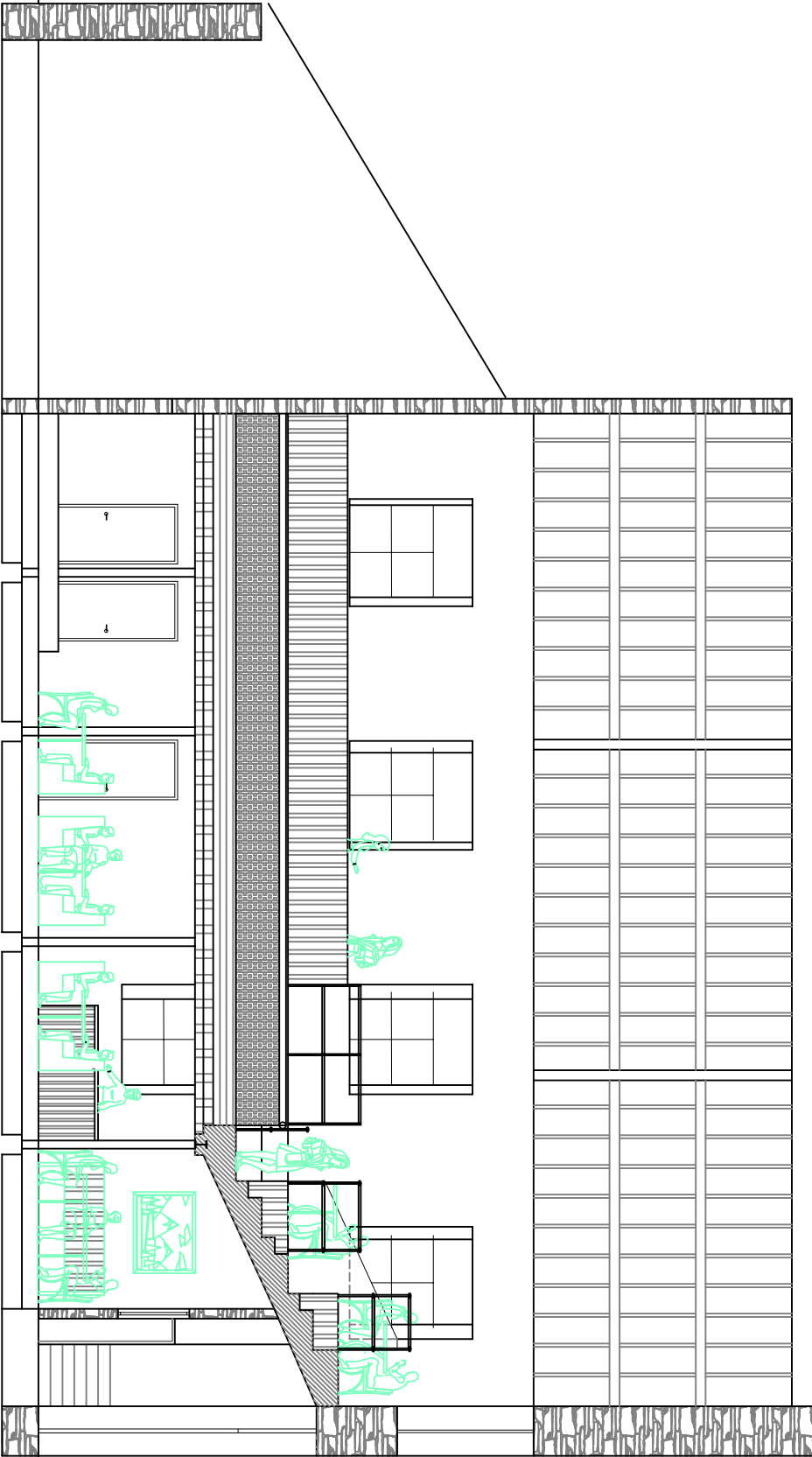
Proposed Changes to First Floor.

1. New timber floors to be installed over the existing timber terracing, encapsulating the existing feature.
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3. A new edge protection barrier is to be installed above the existing cast iron balustrade to comply with current safety legislation. Additional edge protection will also be installed at edges of new floors.

Revision	Description	Date
Drawing Status		
REPORT		
Thomas Davies Associates Ltd. 16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE Tel: 01792 465889		
Project Bethel Chapel, Pontrydyfen, Neath Port Talbot		
Title Proposed First Floor Layout		
Designed by LT	Drawn by WJD	Checked by LT
Drawing Number PB-006	Revision A0	Scale 1:100 @ A3 Date 02/02/2019



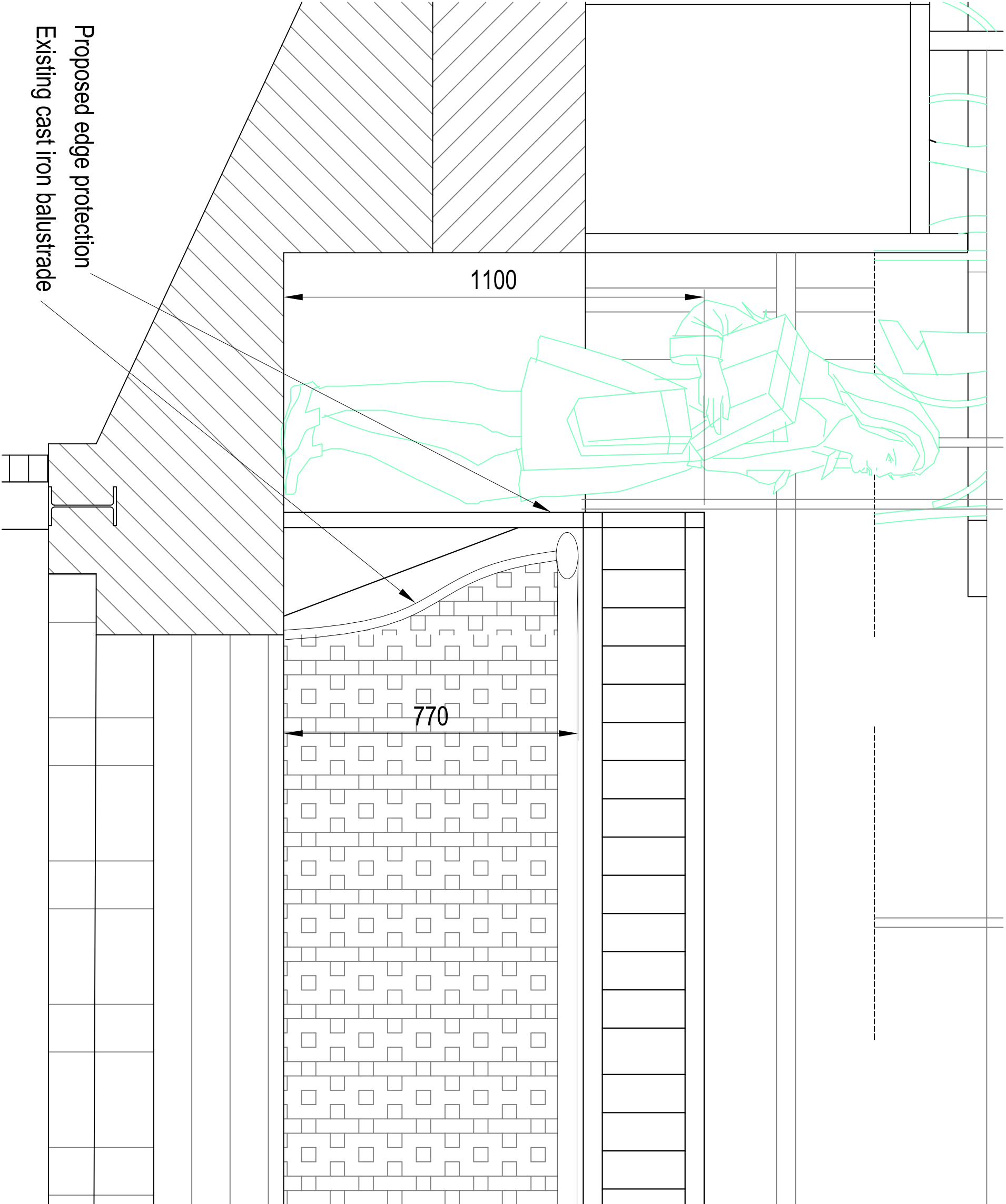
PROPOSED SECTION B:B



PROPOSED SECTION A:A

Notes:

- Proposed Changes to First Floor.
1. A new edge protection barrier is to be installed above the existing cast iron balustrade to comply with current safety legislation.



Revision	Description	Date
Drawing Status		
REPORT		
Thomas Davies Associates Ltd. 16A Nicholl Street, Swansea SA1 4HE Tel: 01792 465889		
		
Project Bethel Chapel, Pontnydyfen, Neath Port Talbot		
Title Proposed First Floor Layout		
Designed by LT	Drawn by WJD	Checked by LT
Drawing Number PB-006	Revision A0	Scale 1:100 @ A3 Date 02/02/2019