



Ebenezer Chapel, Neath Road, Rhos, Glamorgan.

Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording



By

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March 2023

HRS Wales
Report No: 265

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Neath Road, Rhos,
Glamorgan.**

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Prepared for:

Mr Chris Morgan

On behalf of:

Mr Richard Steadman
c/o Ebenezer Chapel.
Neath Road,
Rhos,
Glamorgan

Date: March 2023

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Non Technical Summary

This report details the results of a program of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) undertaken prior to the change of use and alteration to the Ebenezer Independent Chapel and Vestry, formerly the Sunday School and the earlier chapel building, Neath Road, Rhos, Pontardawe, Glamorgan (NGR: SN 73970 02989).

This report has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA) of Heritage Recording Services Wales (henceforth HRS Wales) for Mr Chris Morgan (Architect) on behalf of Mr Richard Steadman.

The specific objective of the work was to undertake a Level II archaeological standing building investigation and recording of the Ebenezer Chapel and accompanying Vestry building.

The archaeological Investigation and recording of the Ebenezer Chapel and accompanying Vestry building, formerly the earlier Ebenezer Chapel, managed to create a lasting photographic and graphic record of the chapel as it stands before any proposed alteration works. The rapid desk based assessment to inform the ABIR, although it didn't manage to reveal any significant histories associated with the church, it did nevertheless manage to extract a number of newspaper articles relating to both of the chapels as well as its likely association with the growth of the village of Rhos and its apparent workers link to the former Primrose Colliery that closed in 1910.

Crynoledb Annhechnolegol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn manylu ar ganlyniadau rhaglen o ymchwilio a chofnodi adeiladau archeolegol (ABIR) a gynhaliwyd cyn newid defnydd ac addasu Capel a Festri'r Annibynwyr Ebeneser, yr Ysgol Sul gynt ac adeilad cynharach y capel, Heol Castell-nedd, Rhos, Pontardawe. , Morgannwg (NGR: SN 73970 02989).

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA) o Wasanaethau Cofnodi Treftadaeth Cymru (HRS Cymru o hyn ymlaen) ar gyfer Mr Chris Morgan (Pensaer) ar ran Mr Richard Steadman.

Amcan penodol y gwaith oedd cynnal ymchwiliad adeilad sefyll archeolegol Lefel II a chofnodi Capel Ebeneser a'r Festri a oedd yn cyd-fynd ag ef.

Llwyddodd yr Ymchwiliad archaeolegol a'r gwaith cofnodi o Gapel Ebeneser a'r Festri a oedd yn cyd-fynd ag ef, sef Capel Ebeneser gynt, i greu cofnod ffotograffig a graffig parhaol o'r capel fel y mae cyn unrhyw waith addasu arfaethedig. Yr asesiad desg cyflym i hysbysu'r ABIR, er na llwyddodd i ddatgelu unrhyw hanesion arwyddocaol yn gysylltiedig â'r eglwys, llwyddodd serch hynny i dynnu nifer o erthyglau papur newydd yn ymwneud â'r ddau gapel yn ogystal â'i gysylltiad tebygol â twf pentref Rhos a'i weithwyr ymddangosiadol yn cysylltu â hen Lofa Primrose a gaeodd ym 1910.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of a program of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) undertaken prior to the change of use and alteration to the Ebenezer Independent Chapel and Vestry, formerly the Sunday School and the earlier chapel building, Neath Road, Rhos, Pontardawe, Glamorgan (NGR: SN 73970 02989).
- 1.2 This report has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones (*BA, MA, MCIfA*) of Heritage Recording Services Wales (henceforth HRS Wales) for Mr Chris Morgan (Architect) on behalf of Mr Richard Steadman..
- 1.3 The specific objectives of the work were to:
- Undertake a Level II archaeological standing building investigation and recording of the Ebenezer Chapel and accompanying Vestry building.
- 1.4 The Technical Appendices for this report contains the following information:
- *Appendix I: Figures;*
 - *Appendix II: Photo plates (selection only from over 190 photos)*
 - *Appendix III: Archive Cover Sheet*

Site Location & Description (*Figures 1-4*)

- 1.5 The Ebenezer Independent Chapel and accompanying Vestry building is located along the Neath Road in the village of Rhos, approximately 5km north of the centre of Neath and approximately 2km southeast of the centre of the town of Pontardawe in the Vale of Glamorgan (NGR: SN 73970 02989). The chapel's main front façade faces west looking over the Neath Road. To the rear of the main chapel building, built in 1904, is a smaller and earlier chapel building, built in 1883. Once the new and larger chapel was built in 1904, the smaller chapel building was reused as a Sunday School. This smaller chapel is accessible via an access track from the main road that also gives access to a large graveyard.
- 1.6 Neither of these two buildings are listed. However, the later chapel of 1904 is listed in Neath Port Talbot list of Buildings of Local Importance and Designated Canal Structures (Neath Port Talbot Council). Within the chapel, the accommodation comprises an entrance lobby which leads into the main congregational area with a small rear office and WC facilities to the rear. Within the vestry, there is a small entrance lobby, which leads into the main hall. A small fitted kitchen completes the accommodation.

Development Proposals

- 1.6 The main Chapel and accompanying Vestry's potential redevelopment
- 1.7 The works to convert both buildings will mainly involve the construction of an internal structure to accommodate living areas, kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms. No external changes are proposed apart from various masonry repairs / repointing works / vegetation removal and the removal of existing perished render to the side and rear elevation of the main chapel. The work will also involve upgrading

the thermal elements of the building, installing insulation within the loft and mezzanine floor and eventually replacing the windows and doors.

Planning Background

- 1.8 Following consultation with the NPTCBC regarding the preparation of a planning application, the NPTCBC advised that a Historic Building Record Survey Report (Level 2) will be required to accompany the application.
- 1.9 HRS Wales were commissioned to undertake the required ABIR Level 3 building survey.

2 Mitigation

Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 The specific objectives of this work were to undertake a program of archaeological standing building investigation and recording of the buildings prior to their alteration.
- 2.2 In order to mitigate against any potential negative effects as a result of the development proposals, the proposed archaeological works consisted of one element:

1) **Level 2** Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings. This is typically a photographic and a descriptive record. Both the exterior and the interior of each building was viewed, described and photographed. The record presents conclusions regarding the buildings development and use, but does not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. Interpretative ground plans and an external elevation drawing of the front façade of the main chapel was made were made, but the drawn record is not comprehensive.

The reasons for the standing building recording are:

- to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.

- 2.3 As well as photographic and drawn records of the buildings external and internal elevations, records were also made of all original and later historic features, fixtures and fittings within each of the buildings.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The archaeological building investigation and recording was undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice on the 9th March 2023.
- 3.2 All work was undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and followed the CIfA Standard and Guidance for

Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings (ClfA 2014). Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA) undertook and managed the project.

- 3.4 Photographs were taken in digital format, using a 24 mega-pixel DSLR camera, with all generated files stored in RAW format. All RAW formats were then exported into TIFF files in preparation for archiving.
- 3.5 All rooms within the interior of both buildings were investigated and photographed and photographs were also appropriated of any significant features and finds.

Sources Consulted

- Historic Environment Record (GGAT)
- RCAHMW Coflein
- National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- West Glamorgan Archive Service
- Local libraries and historical societies
- Internet searches

4 Historical & Archaeological Background

4.1 General Background

- 4.2 Ebenezer was a Welsh congregational chapel. It was evangelical and missionary-minded. Its membership and congregation was the largest in Wales.
- 4.3 The ethos of Non-conformity was a dominant force throughout Wales during this period. Chapels were at the heart of life in the community. As well as being the centre of its member's spiritual lives, the local chapel often formed the basis of its member's social lives.
- 4.4 Like most chapels Ebenezer provided a range of recreational activities for its members. Ebenezer Baptist Church remains a popular venue for worship in Swansea today.

Why were the chapels called Ebenezer?

- 4.5 The chapel they built was called Ebenezer, taking the name from the First book of Samuel, chapter 7 and verse 12 where Samuel put down a stone saying 'The Lord has helped us up to here' and Ebenezer means a stone of help.
- 4.6 The history of Ebenezer dates back to the late eighteenth century when a congregation including Independents and Calvinistic Methodists worshipped together in dwelling houses, and occasionally

succeeded in getting an ordained minister to visit them. The two denominations separated towards the end of 1799.

- 4.7 The Ebenezer Chapel and accompanying Vestry building, formerly the earlier Chapel, is recorded within the regional Historic Environment Record as PRN 09492w and described as 'a natural stone, relatively plain 20th century chapel building with stone quoins and detailing around windows and the main entrance. It is set above the road and bordered by a low wall below decorative railings. Dated 1904. Included in the Neath Port Talbot list of Buildings of Local Importance and Designated Canal Structures (Neath Port Talbot Council). No reference is made to the earlier chapel building.
- 4.8 Analysis of the historic mapping indicates that neither of the chapels are present on the tithe map of 1838 and neither were in existence from 1876 – 1883, the time of the OS first edition map. However, the smaller earlier chapel is present on the OS second edition map of 1900, the earlier chapel supposedly built in 1883 as indicated by a foundation plaque on its west facing front elevation.. The first chapel was very likely built to serve colliery workers and their families who worked at the former Primrose Colliery, that was positioned only approximately 1km to the southwest in the area currently known as Fforest Goch.
- 4.9 In order to place the chapels into historical context and to understand the wider historical landscape surrounding the buildings, an extract from Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary for Wales*, for his entry on the parish of *Cilybebill*, is included below. Following this is a short summary history of the Primrose Colliery and following this a number of newspaper extracts from the late 19th Century and early 20th Century are included. This is then followed by a section discussing the available cartographic sources.

Samuel Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Wales – Parish of Cilybebill

- 4.10 According to Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, the parish of:

".....KÎLYBEBILL (CÎL-PEBYLL), a parish, comprising the Upper and Lower divisions, in the union and hundred of Neath, county of Glamorgan, South Wales, 5 miles (N.) from Neath; containing 731 inhabitants, of whom 341 are in the Upper, and 390 in the Lower, division.

This place, the name of which signifies "the retreat of the tents," is situated in a pleasant glen, opening at its southern extremity into the Vale of Neath, and at its western extremity into the Vale of Tawy, the river Tawy separating the parish from that of Llanguicke on the west. The river is crossed here by a handsome stone bridge of one arch, called Pont-ar-Dawe, constructed by the self-taught architect of Pont-y-Pridd: the span of the arch is about eighty feet, and the whole structure, though inferior in its dimensions to Pont-y-Pridd, is superior to it in the beauty of its architecture.

Along this bridge passed the road from Neath to Llandilo-Vawr and Llandovery in Carmarthenshire. The parish comprises 4014a. 2r. 3p., consisting of pasture, arable, and woodland, the first of which is by far the largest in quantity; the soil, though stony, is fertile, and the surface in many parts diversified with oak, ash, and several other kinds of trees. Kilybebill Place, the ancient seat of the family of Herbert, from which sprang the powerful Earl of Pembroke, and now the property of Francis Edwardes Leach, Esq., a descendant of the Herberts, has been so completely modernised and greatly improved by its present proprietor, as scarcely to retain any vestige of its ancient character. The grounds are well disposed, and the house commands a good view of the sea, and of the abrupt knolls and eminences near Briton-Ferry. One of the ladies of the Herbert family was maid of honour to Catherine of Braganza, consort of Charles II., and was afterwards appointed mistress of the robes to that

queen, who presented her with one of the only two portraits of her majesty, painted by Sir Peter Lely, which is still preserved in the house. The parish forms a mineral district, and coal is sent in large quantities to the port of Swansea, where it is shipped for different parts of the kingdom.

The living is a discharged rectory, rated in the king's books at £4. 6. 8., augmented with £268 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Crown: the tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £115; and there is a glebe of nearly twelve acres, valued at £10 per annum. The church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, is a plain building, sixty feet long and twenty-five feet wide, with a massive square embattled tower, and contains 250 sittings, all of which are free. A school-house for a day and Sunday school in connexion with the Church, was built in 1838 by Howel Gwyn, Esq. There is a place of worship for Independents, with a Sunday school held in it. Mrs. Herbert, in 1740, bequeathed £5 per annum, which is regularly paid to the poor of this and the adjoining parish of Llanguicke" (from *Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1849*).

Summary History of the Primrose Colliery

- 4.11 These were two different pits that worked in the immediate area of Rhos in the 19th and 20th centuries. They both worked the Graigola Six-Foot seam, which had a thickness of 66 inches and an approximated depth of 220 yards. The earliest Primrose colliery was opened by one John Parsons in 1840 and was situated near the village of Rhos, which had not been firmly established at this time.
- 4.12 A tragic underground disaster occurred at the Old Primrose Colliery on the 13th of October 1858, when the fumes from an engine boiler suffocated 14 men and boys. At this time Messrs. Morgan and Lewis owned the colliery. At the inquest, following statements from the owners, colliery workers and all concerned with the accident, including the Coroner and the government Mines Inspector, and following much discussion regarding the properties of gas generated in coal mined, the jury consulted, and ultimately returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," through the door in the airway being left open by some persons unknown. The jury subsequently expressed an opinion that some one of the colliers, probably one of the deceased, had been prompted by curiosity to open the door, and had thus let in the deadly gas, which had been the cause of death of 14 persons. The jurors gave their fees towards the fund being raised for the widows of the deceased.
- 4.13 From a list of mines dated 1869, the Old Primrose Colliery was owned by one Sir Ralph Howard. At some time after 1884 the New Primrose colliery was opened, which co-incides with the foundation of the earlier Ebenezer Chapel. The owners of the mine and the name of the mine later changed to the Primrose Coal Company. According to the Inspector of Mines List dated 1896, the New Primrose colliery owned the South Wales Primrose Coal Co.Ltd and employed 307 men, producing Steam and Manufacturing coal. The mine was later taken over by the Main Colliery Co Ltd., and by 1908 it was kept for pumping only.
- 4.14 The old Primrose colliery is shown as "disused" in a map 1887 but was later reopened and it abandoned the Graigola seam in March 1907 and the Wernffraith seam in March 1910.

4.15 Newspaper Articles (1896 – 1910)

- 4.16 Newspaper articles were explored with reference to the opening of both the early Ebenezer Chapel of 1883 and the later Ebenezer Chapel of 1904. Unfortunately no articles were found relating to the opening of the earlier chapel. However a couple of articles were found in the 'Y Celt' and the 'Y Tyst' referencing meetings at the chapel in 1896 and 1897. However, an article was found referencing the ceremony of the founding of the later Ebenezer Chapel in 1904. These articles are shown below:

From 'Y Celt – 6th Nov 1896

Ebenezer, Rhos. FAREWELL MEETING - Thursday night, October 22nd, a farewell meeting was held in the chapel above for Mr D E Morgan and Mrs Griffiths, both from the Rhos, and facing the great American continent - each with his intention to perfect his education for the ministry, and the other to join his husband, who has been there for a while. The caair was taken by Rev. R Rees, Alltwn, their minister (who, until now, is in charge of the newly-formed church in Rhos, and a former branch of Elwys Independent Alltwn). The Chairman gave them the best compliment he could, and in particular to friend D E Morgan. He said that, from time to time, he had spoken to some leaving and facing the vast continents of Australia, Africa and the Americas, but, without exception, those who intended to work for the food they received but did not, until that night, having told anyone whose aim is to work for life will not end, like Mr Morgan. They knew about the difficulties he had to overcome. Ambeli 1.1 n was more fortunate; but he trusted that the brother would take the difficulties as steps to raise him to fame and to do a great work for our Lord, not among civilized nations, but that he would be instrumental in the Right of God to bring the light of Christ's gospel to all world savages, according to his original intention. For this reason he relied on the kindness and generosity of Newyrth Sam, and he trusted that his hopes would be realized. Cafwyn warm addresses, although saddened by their denial, from the deacons of the church, Mr A Harries, Samuel Edmunds, Thos. Thomas, and Josiah Lewis. They said they left a big gap behind them, especially Mr Morgan, who was present at almost every meeting - the preaching meetings, the Sabbath School, the prayer boards 8.'1: religious fellowships. Before his departure it could have been said, said one of them, Where Dafydd used to be but now with sadness they looked at his empty place. They hoped that they would find some of a similar spirit - obedient to do all the work in the School and the other boards. There will also be speeches from brothers from the Independent church in Alltwn, namely Mr PI Thomas, deacon TJI Thomas, deacon and assistant preacher; Owen Mathias and Mr David Jenkins (Urbanus), friend and, co-? a student of Mr Morgan, who is also a parotci for the ministry. He had a poetic speech. Solos were sung by Misses E and H Edmunds, and Mr D Jenkins, Tai'rysgol; and the Rhos and Gelmydd party sang very charmingly, under the direction of Mr J D Thomas. After the church, a beautiful Bible was presented to Mrs Griffiths by [Mr DI Thomas, and a sum of silver and a sum of money and a number of excellent books to Mr Morgan L by the Rev. R Rees on behalf of the church and friends They also received other valuable gifts from the many friends who came together, those who wished to find heaven over them.-One from the Place.

From 'Y Tyst' 15th Dec 1897

EBENEZER, ROSES, PONTARDAWE. ORDINATION MEETING. On Sabbath and Monday, December 5th and 6th, the Independent church which gathers together to worship in the above place held special meetings to appoint Mr David Jenkins (Urbanue), Alltwn, as minister. The Sabbath under-work was preached by Rev R Rees, Alltwn. Reverend J. Davies, Wern, Ystalyfera, would also have taken part in the work if he had been healthy but he was disabled by inflammation in one of his eyes. He trusts that he will get rid of his son, so that he can resume his work with his usual enthusiasm. The inauguration meeting was held on Monday at 10 o'clock. The service began with a reading and prayer by Reverend E. Afan Jenkins, Pantycrywe. A sermon was preached on the Nature of Church by Rev J. T. Davies, Pontardawe. The comments were asked by Rev D. Morgan, Onllwyn. The order prayer was offered by the Reverend F. Samuel, Swansea. Chaars were delivered to the minister by Rev R. Rees, Alltwn, and to the church by Rev

E. Owen, Clydaeb. At the end of the service, Dr G. Griffiths presented. Pontardawe, for the church of Ebenezer, 34 valuable volumes as a gift to Mr Jenkins. The Reverend R. Rees presented him with a sum of money to befets GelJi lydd- class belonging to his mother church, and informed that he had just received; the pleasure of doing the same to him drcs the other daspartbiids of the church. At 2, the service was started by the Reverend J. Rhys Price, Rhydyfro. and preached by the Reverend J. Evany, Glantwrch, and F. Samuel, Aber-tawe. At 6, the prayers were started by a young brother from Panteg, Ystalyfers, and preached by the Reverend Ben Davies, Panteg, and John Rees, Cwinllynfell. Besides those named, we saw present the Reverend W. C. Davies, Glais; J. Thomas, Gurnos; Jenkins, Gellionen (U), and various students. There was a wonderful meeting. The gatherings were very lively, and the ministry was powerful. We wish the church and the minister every success. CORRESPONDENT.

From 'Y Tyst' 25th June 1904

ROS, CLYBEBYLL. INSTALLED MBINI NEW CHAPEL. A day long remembered by the church in Ebenzer was May 26th, when the commemorative stones of the new chapel were laid in the the in the presence of a large crowd of witnesses. The chapel is to cost £2,000, and to be ready at the end of the year. At three o'clock, the minister, the Reverend D. Jenkins, read the well-known old verse, 'Set a tent in the land of Gosen,' &c., and after an easy declaration of it by the crowd the service was carried on in the following order: - Reading part of the Word of God, Reverend Evàns Jones, Sciwen pray, Reverend R. Rees, Alltwen; a sketch of the history of the church by the Reverend D. Jenkins; laying of the commemorative stones by Mr J. E. Moore Gwyn, Y.H., Dy fryn, and Dr G. Griffiths, Y.H., Pontardawe then there were speeches by the Reverend J. H. Parry, Llansamlet E. Owen, Clydach Seiriol Williams, Pontardawe; R. Rees, Alltwen; hymn singing by the congregation; and a prayer by Reverend E. A. Jenkins, Pantyerwys. Besides those already named, we saw present v Reverend J. Evans. Ynysmeudwv: D. G. Richards, Trebanos J. R. Price, Rhydyfro; D. H. Morgan, B.A., Swansea; Davies, B.A., curate, Alltwen laymen, Mr W. Lewis, Glais; E. Lewis, County Councillor, Craigypal Evan Williams, accountant, Clydach; William Davies, David Lewis, Pontardawe; R. Morgan, J. Williams, R. Walters, Alltwen, &(- At 6.30 o'clock, a sermon was preached purposely to a large crowd by Reverend J. H. Parry, Llan-samlet. During the meetings the SWUL of 33 p. unit was there.

From 'Y Tyst' 7th Oct 1908

EBENEZER, ROSES, PONTARDAWE. Eisteddfod. - A very successful Eisteddfod was held in the chapel above on Saturday a week to the last. Presided over by Mr J. Evans, and led by Mr James Hinkin. The judges were the music, Mr C. Meudwy Davies, Llanelli; and the poetry, Rev Ben Davies, Pant-teg. The main choral piece was won by Cor Meibion Pontardawe, led by Mr D. Daniel, the piece was 'The Crusaders,' (Protheroe), three choirs competing. There was a very prosperous Eisteddfod, keen competition, and a good profit towards the chapel's debt. Mr Jenkins and his people work well. JOHN.

From 'Y Tyst' 15th July 1914

Ebenezer, Rhos. This church held its preaching meeting on Sunday, June 14th. Preached by the Reverend W. Bowen, Penygroes, and E. Evans Llanbedr. Reverend W. Bowen also delivered a lecture in Ebenezer on Monday night, June 22nd, on the subject, 'The Man Who Lighted the Candle.' This is a religious, poetic and capable lecture. We had a high opinion of Mr Bowen before, but he has risen higher in his opinion after hearing this lecture. The chairman was Mr Evan Roberts (Tegfryn), Brynteg, Gwrexham. As the lecturer and the chairman were poets, there was a lot of poetry in all the proceedings. O. J. O.

Other Archaeological Sources Consulted

- 4.17 *Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)*
- 4.18 Unfortunately the only reference to the Ebenezer Chapel (NPRN 13405) in the RCAHMW Coflein is a very short description of the 1904 chapel, described thus.....'Ebenezer Independent Chapel was built in 1904 in the simple round-headed style with a gable entry plan'.
- 4.19 *Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) Historic Environment Record PRN Entry*
- 4.20 Reference to the Chapel (PRN 09492w) held in the Historic Environment Record is also scant, the chapel described as: 'A natural stone, relatively plain 20th century chapel building with stone quoins and detailing around windows and the main entrance. It is set above the road and bordered by a low wall below decorative railings. Dated 1904. Included in the Neath Port Talbot list of Buildings of Local Importance and Designated Canal Structures (Neath Port Talbot Council).
- 4.21 *West Glamorgan Archive Service*
- 4.22 A search made of the West Glamorgan Archive Service (WGAS) found very little reference to the Ebenezer Chapel at Rhos. What records there were included a planning application dated 1965 and a register of marriages dated 1993. No plans or photographs are held in the archive of the 1904 or 1883 chapels.

5. Cartographic Sources (see Figures 9 - 16)

- 5.1 *Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of Cilybebyll (1838)*
- 5.3 This mid 19th Century map for the parish of Cilybebyll shows that the location of the both chapels was formerly a meadow (No.159) called 'Roes Bryn Cur' which was occupied by one Richard Hopkin.
- 5.4 *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1876-1984)*
- 5.5 Although neither of the Ebenezer Chapels had been constructed by the time of the initial survey for the OS first edition map in 1876, the village of Rhos was already starting to establish itself with a small number of houses with accompanying strips of land appearing along the main Neath Road, as well as a public house called the Smiths Arms appearing to the east of the already well established Primrose Colliery to the southwest.
- 5.7 *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1897-1900)*
- 5.8 By the time of the OS second edition map in 1897, the village of Rhos was now becoming firmly established with workers housing appearing along the east side of the main Neath Road, along with the appearance of the first Ebenezer Chapel erected in 1883.

5.9 *Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map*

5.11 By the time of the OS 1921 edition map, the upgraded Ebenezer Chapel had already been open for 17 years, and it is clear from this map that the old chapel of 1883 had now become known as the Ebenezer Sunday School. By this time the Primrose Colliery had been closed for around 10 years.

5.12 *Ordnance Survey 1936 Edition Map*

5.13 No great change from the earlier map series apart from the continued growth of the village of Rhos.

5.14 *Ordnance Survey 1949 Edition Map*

5.15 No great change from the earlier map series apart from the continued growth of the village of Rhos.

5.16 *Ordnance Survey 1953 Edition Map*

5.17 No great change from the earlier map series apart from the continued growth of the village of Rhos.

6 Results of Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (See Figures 5 – 19 and Photo Plates 01 - 99)

6.1 The ABIR was undertaken at Level II on the 1904 and 1884 Ebenezer Chapel.

6.2 General Description

6.3 The main chapel was built in 1904. The front façade faces west looking over the Neath Road. To the rear of the main chapel building is a smaller and earlier chapel building, built in 1883. Once the new and larger chapel was built in 1904, the smaller chapel building was reused as a Sunday School. This smaller chapel is accessible via an access track from the main road that also gives access to a large graveyard.

6.4 Neither of these two buildings are listed. However, the later chapel of 1904 is listed in Neath Port Talbot list of Buildings of Local Importance and Designated Canal Structures (Neath Port Talbot Council). Within the chapel, the accommodation comprises an entrance lobby which leads into the main congregational area with a small rear office and WC facilities to the rear. Within the vestry, there is a small entrance lobby, which leads into the main hall. A small fitted kitchen completes the accommodation.

1) Ebenezer Chapel (1884)

Exterior

6.5 The earlier smaller Ebenezer Chapel was founded in 1883. The building is a fairly small structure measuring approximately 40ft x 25ft (12m x 7.6m) with an added porch at the western end measuring approximately 3m x 1.6m. This porch is the main entrance to the chapel. The building is constructed from locally sourced sandstone blocks, with bare stone on both the north, east and west facing elevations. However, the east facing elevation has been covered in a pebble dash cement render. All exposed stone elevations have quoin stone blocks lining the corners of the building. At the front west facing elevation the porch has a pointed arch doorway with round arched windows flanking each side,

with quoin stones at each of the corners. Above the porch there is a founders plaque with the words '*Ebenezer Erected 1883*'. Above this plaque is a small round oriel window. Although the south facing elevation has a pair of equally spaced rectangular windows, the north facing elevation, the elevation free of cement render, has a pair of segmental arch windows. Both these windows appear to be original, which suggests that the window openings in the south facing elevation have been altered in modern times. All of the fenestration in the 1883 chapel is modern UPVC. The roof on both the chapel and the porch is of purple/grey slate.

- 6.6 Attached to the northeast corner of the early chapel is a modern kitchen block with cement render elevations. A single doorway and a small rectangular window punctuate the west facing elevation. The window has a red brick lined sill suggestive of a 1930s – 1950s date. A further small rectangular window exists in the north facing elevation. Both windows have security bars fitted to their fronts.

Interior

- 6.7 Unfortunately the interior of the early chapel of 1883 was being used as storage and as such was filled with household items, which hindered investigation and recording. However, what was visible suggested that the walls were plain, painted in a light green emulsion, with no features or fittings evident on any of the walls. At the far eastern end of the building was a raised platform or stage, presumably the former sanctuary or podium for the minister. This was accessible via a small flight of carpeted steps that also gave access to the modern kitchen room at the northeast corner of the chapel. The kitchen was accessible through a pair of double doors painted in green gloss paint. Both the doors were reminiscent of the 1940s/1950s.
- 6.8 At ceiling height in the main chapel, the roofing beams were seen to be protruding through the ceiling at equally spaced intervals, suggesting that the ceiling may be a later improvement insertion for improved insulation. This may imply that in 1883 the roofing space may well have originally been open to the congregational hall, which would have been supported by the oriel window in the west facing elevation above the porch.
- 6.9 The modern kitchen has magnolia emulsion painted walls with a modern fitted kitchen units and modern domestic appliances.

2) Ebenezer Chapel (1904)

- 6.10 The later and much larger Ebenezer Chapel was founded in 1904 and was likely a result of a growing population in the village of Rhos.
- 6.11 Externally the main chapel measures approximately 54.29ft x 38.9ft (16.55m x 11.8m). This includes both the main congregational hall and the entrance lobby. The chapel stands to a height of approximately 36.4ft (11.12m). The main entrance to the chapel is from the western entrance facing the Neath Road. This main façade is a simple round headed plain style with a gable entry plan. It is built from natural stone, with stone quoins and detailing around windows and the main entrance. It is set

above the road and bordered by a low wall below decorative railings. Flanking the main double door entrance is a pair of round arched window and above these is a series of three further round arched windows. Above these three windows is a projecting drip plinth and above this a founders plaque with the words '*Ebenezer Capel Annibynwyr 1904*' (Ebenezer Independent Chapel 1904). Directly below each of the ground floor windows in the front façade are two further founding plaques, one dedicated to J.E.Moore Gwyn Esq (JP and DL). and the other to one Dr Griffiths (JP). Both plaques were laid on 26th May 1904.

- 6.12 The south facing side elevation is completely covered in a modern pebble dash cement render, hiding the original stonework. In total there are eight segmental arch windows in the side south facing elevation, four at ground level and four at upper floor level. All of the windows in this elevation are modern UPVC.
- 6.13 The north facing elevation is entirely of stone construction with no cement render. For viewing and recording this elevation is hard to access due to only a narrow access path flanked by hedgerow. However, it is clear from inspection of this elevation, that it also has eight windows, four at ground level and four at upper floor level, with each window opening having a segmental arch formed by red bricks. This elevation reveals that the other south facing elevation would have been identical to this one if it hadn't been cement rendered. Again all fenestration is modern UPVC.
- 6.14 The rear of the chapel is again pebble dash cement rendered, but also has a modern single storey kitchen extension attached, with a further toilet and storage extension at the far northeast end. The kitchen extension is very similar in style and build to the kitchen extension attached to the earlier chapel building. However, the smaller kitchen and storage extension at the northeast end of the 1904 chapel is very probably Edwardian in date and original to the founding of the chapel itself.

Interior

- 6.15 The interior to the main chapel can be accessed from either the main gable entry entrance in the front west facing façade or else through a single door in the rear east facing elevation. However, access through the main gable entry point opens out into a narrow lobby with a black and white tiled floor and a rectangular mottled stain glass paned window giving light to the main hall. At both the north and south ends are entrance doorways into the main congregational hall, as well as a flight of stairs allowing access to the balcony area. Although the south facing stairs are safe to access, the northern stairs were taped off due to the flooring being compromised by general wear and decay. Once inside the main hall, the first thing to notice is the absence of any pews in the ground floor. These were all removed and sold a few years ago with only the old heaters remaining in their positions below each former seat location. The main hall is surrounded by an overlooking balcony supported by a series of nine cast iron fluted pillars with decorative forged capitals, four each side and one supporting the western balcony end. Below the balcony area at ground floor level is an aisle each side with stone memorial plaques at the far eastern end, one dedicated to soldiers of the Second World War in the northern aisle and two dedicated

to former Minsters of the church in the southern aisle, including David Jenkins, John John and Benjamin Davies.

- 6.16 Perhaps the most impressive feature in the interior of the hall is the hand painted floral decoration that repeats itself around the front edge of the balcony. This floral decoration is topped by a cast iron decorative lattice balcony rail, which runs the entire length encircling the balcony area.
- 6.17 At the far east end of the hall at ground level is the main sanctuary area occupied by a large timber Edwardian built pulpit accessed via a flights of wooden steps, each carpeted in red, from each side of the pulpit. An old bible was found placed at the podium dated 1960. On each side of the podium at ground level is a small storage cupboard, the northern side was locked, but the southern side was open and contained a safe made by Samuel Withers and Co. a well known Victorian and Edwardian safe producer (*see Figure 18*).
- 6.18 Above the podium is a tall plaster formed arch with the words 'Molwch yr Arglwydd' (Praise the Lord) painted in gold lettering.
- 6.19 Access to the balcony area is via a pair of stairs either side of the lobby entrance. Once in the balcony area you are confronted by line upon line of original wooden pews, each varnished and numbered and each fitted with a brass handle that appears to have been provided to store umbrellas when required. Along each north and south side are two rows of pews and a standing area and along the west facing side are three rows of pews and a standing area behind. As well as the decorative lattice ironwork balcony rail, the other impressive feature of the upper floor level is the decorative timber ceiling still in good condition and well preserved.
- 6.20 Once out of the main hall through the rear doorway, a toilet room exists attached to the northeast corner of the building. This has been modernised and has no original Edwardian features. A further storage room is attached to the toilet room. However access to this small room for investigation was compromised by stored materials etc. but what was visible made it clear that this room hadn't been decorated or used in earlier decades for a long time, with all walls having no plaster and all bare stonework. Directly opposite the W.C room is a further modern extension room, with all walls plastered and modern fixtures and fittings.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological Investigation and recording of the Ebenezer Chapel and accompanying Vestry building, formerly the earlier Ebenezer Chapel, managed to create a lasting photographic and graphic record of the chapel as it stands before any proposed alteration works. The rapid desk based assessment to inform the ABIR, although it didn't manage to reveal any significant histories associated with the church, it did nevertheless manage to extract a number of newspaper articles relating to both of the chapels as well as its likely association with the growth of the village of Rhos and its apparent workers link to the former Primrose Colliery that closed in 1910.

8 Acknowledgements

Thanks to: Richard Steadman for allowing access to the building for investigation and recording and hence the compilation of a lasting record of the building for historical archiving purposes.

9 Bibliography & References

Evans. J. 2002. *A Gazetteer of Lock and Key Makers*

Lewis, S. 1849. *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

Other Sources

Y Celt Newspaper Article, dated 6th Nov 1896

Y Tyst Newspaper Article dated 15th Dec 1897

Y Tyst Newspaper Article dated 25th June 1904

Y Tyst Newspaper Article dated 15th July 1914

Y Tyst Newspaper Article dated 7th Oct 1908

Cartographic Sources

- *Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of Cylybebyll (1838)*
- *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (176 - 1884)*
- *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1896-1900)*
- *Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map*
- *Ordnance Survey 1936 Edition Map*
- *Ordnance Survey 1949 Edition Map*
- *Ordnance Survey 1953 Edition Map*
- *OS Landranger (1:50,000)*
- *OS Explorer (1:25,000)*
- *OS Aerial Photo (OS 2022)*

Internet Sources

www.welshcoalmines.co.uk

www.welshchapels.org

APPENDIX I:

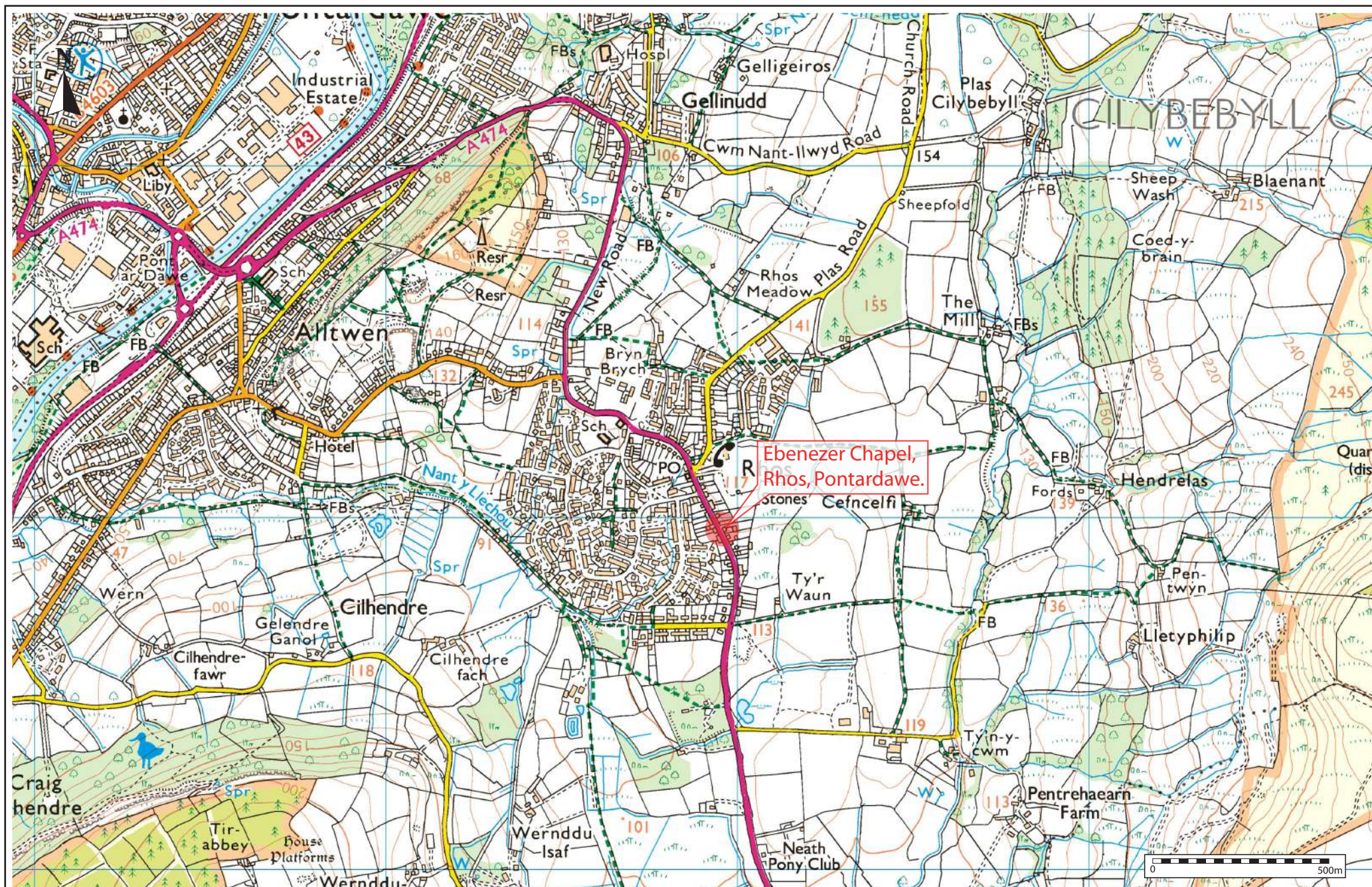
Figures



Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 1.
Location Map (OS 1:50,000 Landranger)





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 2.

Location Map (OS 1:25,000 Explorer)





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 3.

OS Aerial Photo (2022)





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SITE LOCATION PLAN
Scale 1:1000



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EXISTING BLOCK PLAN
Scale 1:500

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Date: 13th March 2023

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Figure 4.

Site Location Block Plans





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

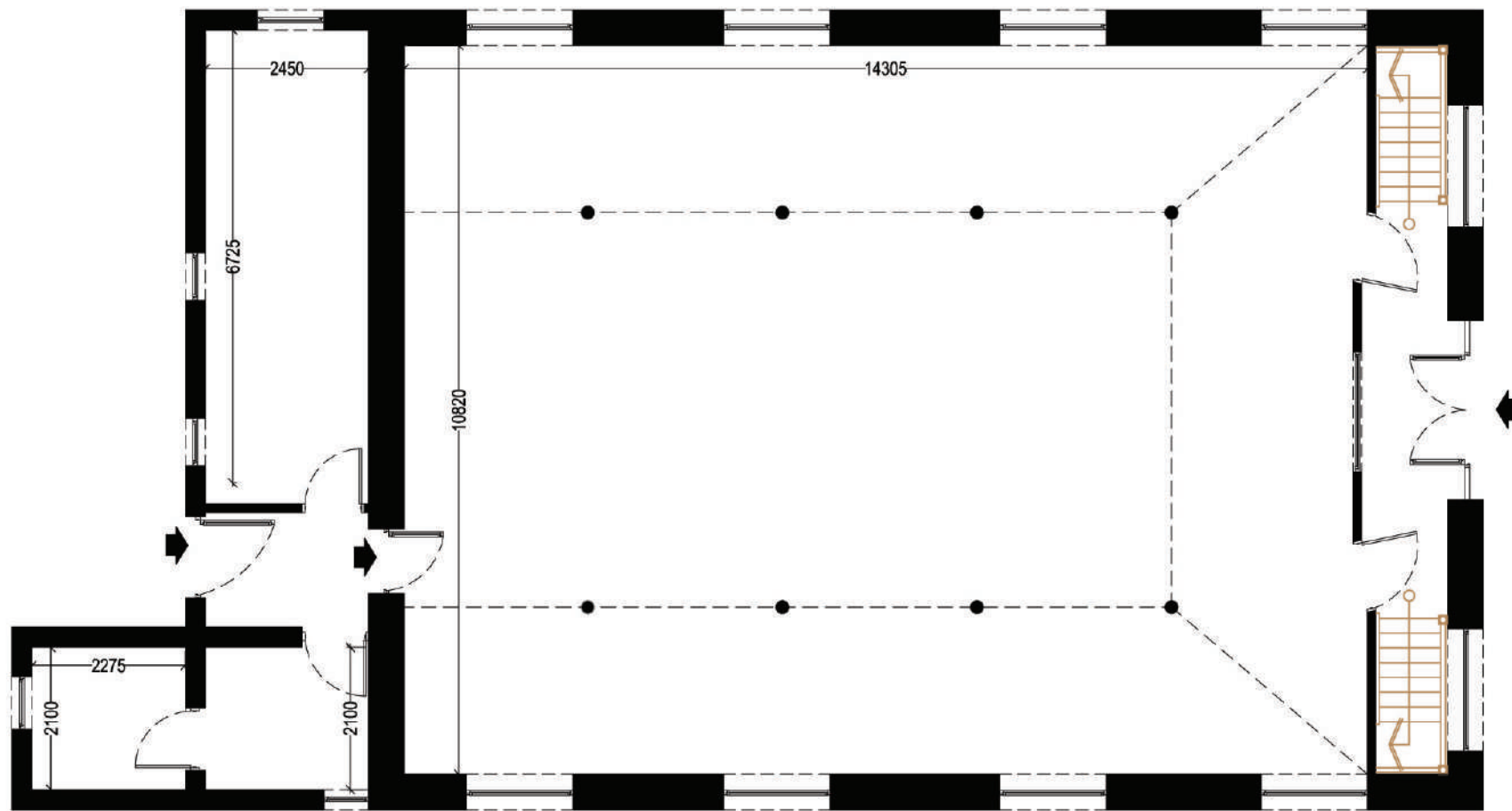
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 5.

Architects Elevation Plans of Ebenezer Chapel built 1904.





EXISTING FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1:100

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

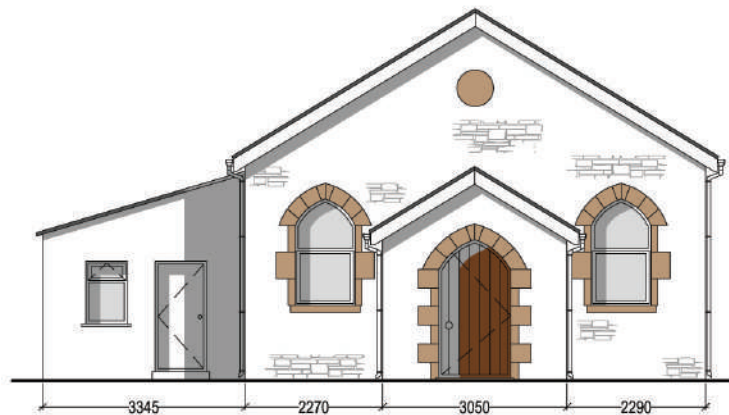
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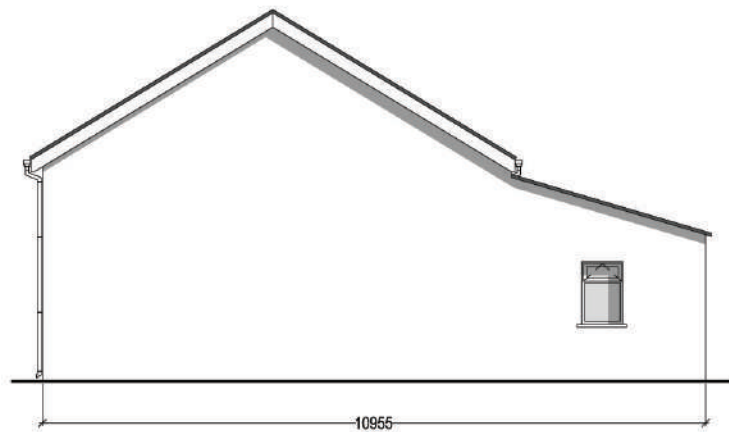
Figure 6.

Architects Ground Plan of Ebenezer Chapel built 1904.

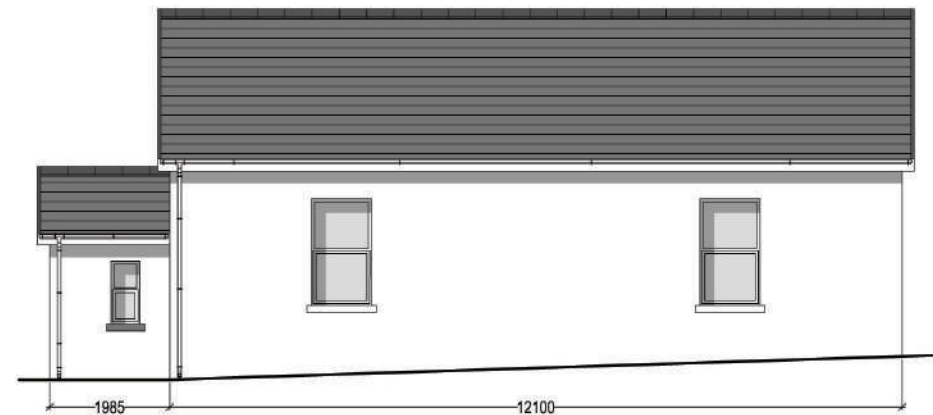




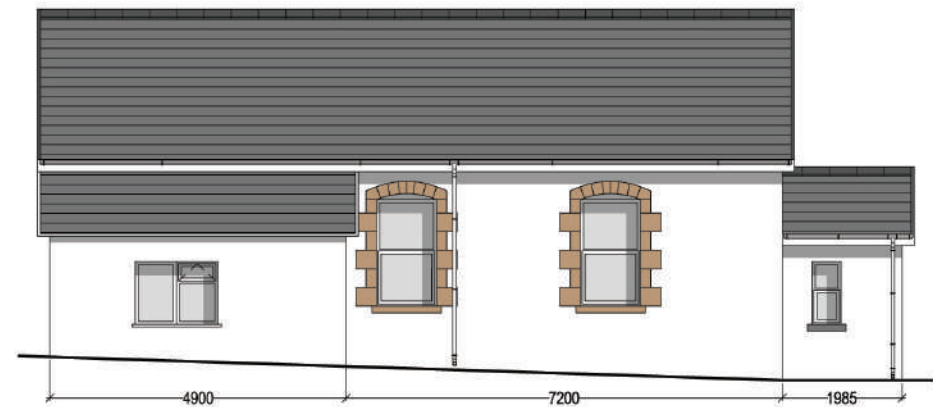
EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION
Scale 1:100



EXISTING REAR ELEVATION
Scale 1:100



EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION
Scale 1:100



EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION
Scale 1:100

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

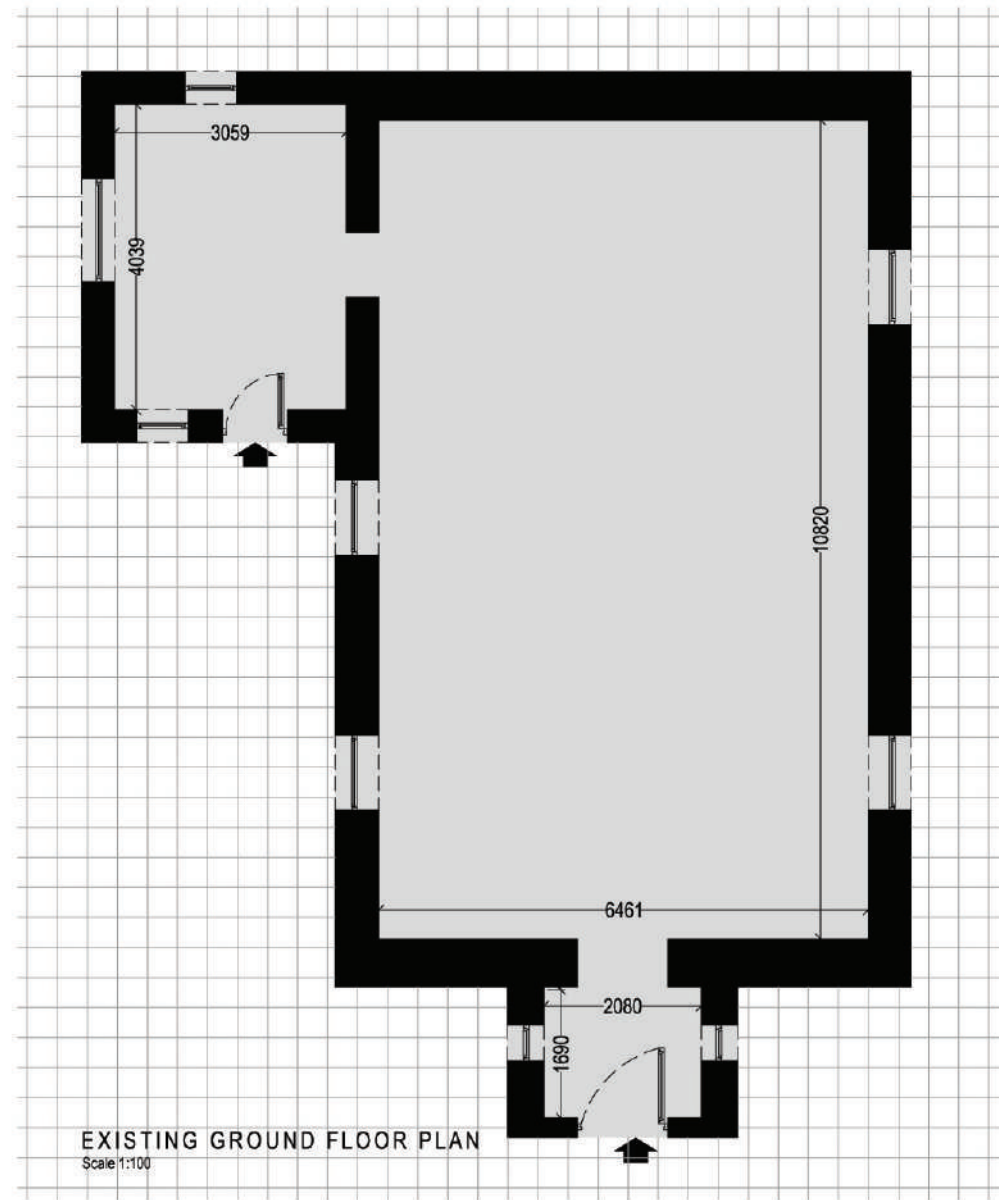
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 7.

Architects Elevation Plans of earlier Ebenezer Chapel built 1883.





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

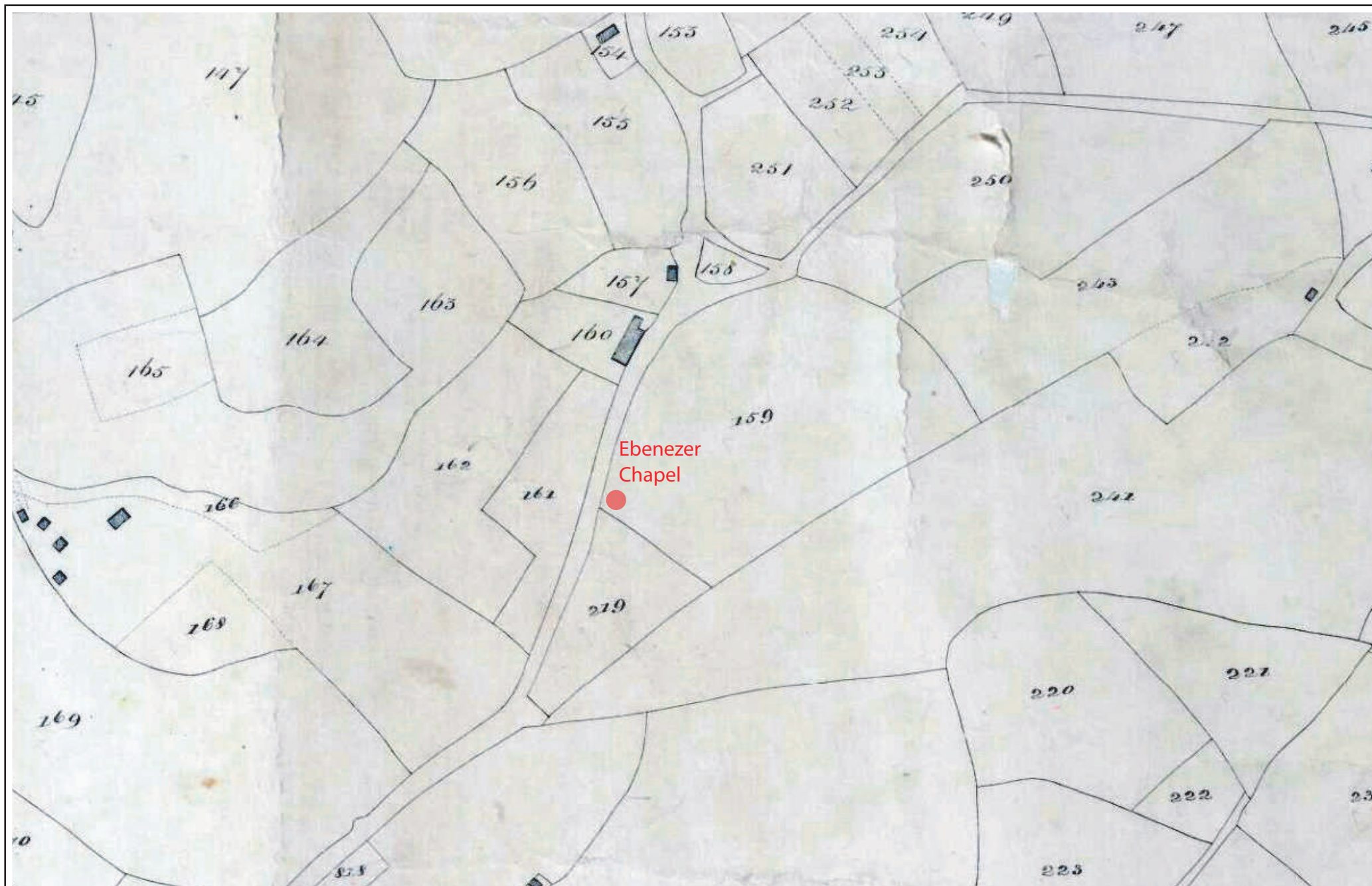
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 8.

Architects Ground Plan of earlier Ebenezer Chapel built 1883.





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 9.
Part of Tithe Map for Cilybebyll Parish (1838)



LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES IN STATUTE MEASURE.			Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and Payable to Rector.		
					A.	R.	P.	£.	s.	d.
			<i>Howen uchaf or penrallt Yhen Farm</i>							
		112	<i>lwr graig</i>	<i>stubble</i>	2	3	10			
		114	<i>lwr heod</i>			1	9			
		115	<i>Larnen uchaf</i>	<i>pasture</i>	2	1	1			
		116	<i>Larnen uchaf</i>	<i>pasture</i>	2	1	6			
		117	<i>Larnen uchaf</i>	<i>stubble</i>	2	2	23			
		118	<i>lwr penrallt</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	2	3	10			
		119	<i>lwr rhyg</i>	<i>pasture</i>	2	1	9			
		120	<i>Heolheod</i>			2	21			
		121	<i>Meadow</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	2	-	29			
		122	<i>Larnen byn cause</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	3	1	11			
		123	<i>Larnen byn cause</i>			-	33			
		124	<i>lwr quarter</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	3	2	1			
	<i>Apian Richard</i>	125	<i>lwr byn lwr</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	9	-	10			
		126	<i>lwr rhyg byn lwr</i>	<i>stubble</i>	1	3	27			
		127	<i>lwr pabst</i>	<i>Meadow</i>		2	29			
		128	<i>lwr cat</i>	<i>pasture</i>	2	2	10			
		129	<i>lwr gress</i>	<i>stubble</i>	4	1	7			
		130	<i>lwr gress uchaf</i>	<i>stubble</i>	3	-	21			
		131	<i>lwr scutler ychaf</i>	<i>stubble</i>	3	-	9			
<i>Gwyn Hwyl</i>		132	<i>lwr scutler uchaf</i>	<i>pasture</i>	2	-	11			
<i>Penrallt</i>		133	<i>lwr byn cause</i>	<i>Heol</i>	1	3	37			
		134	<i>stubble</i>	<i>stubble</i>	6	1	0			
		135	<i>lwr</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	1	2	36			
		136	<i>lwr quarter</i>	<i>Meadow</i>		3	30			
					14	-	9	3	10	

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

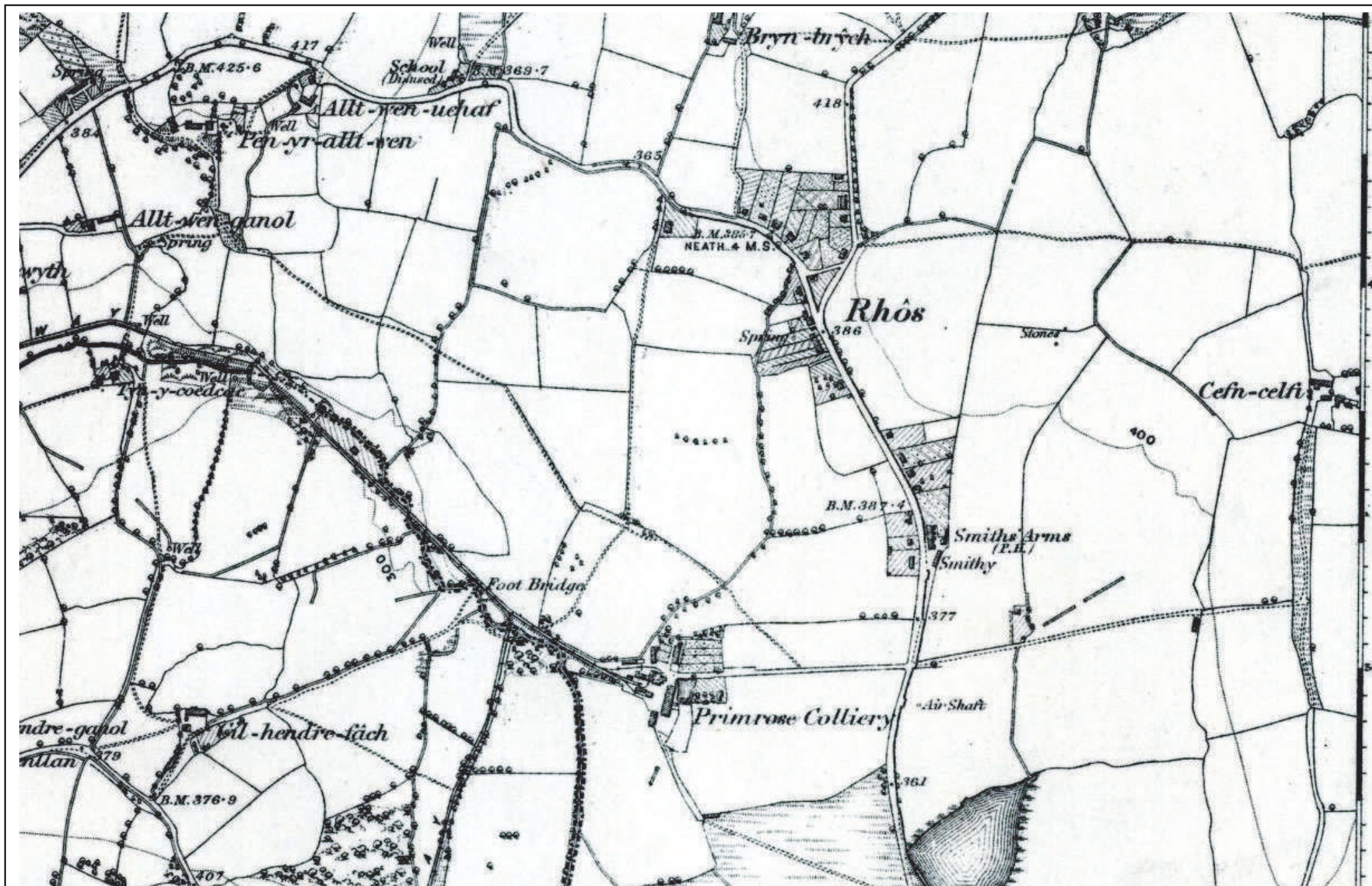
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Drawing No.

Figure 10.

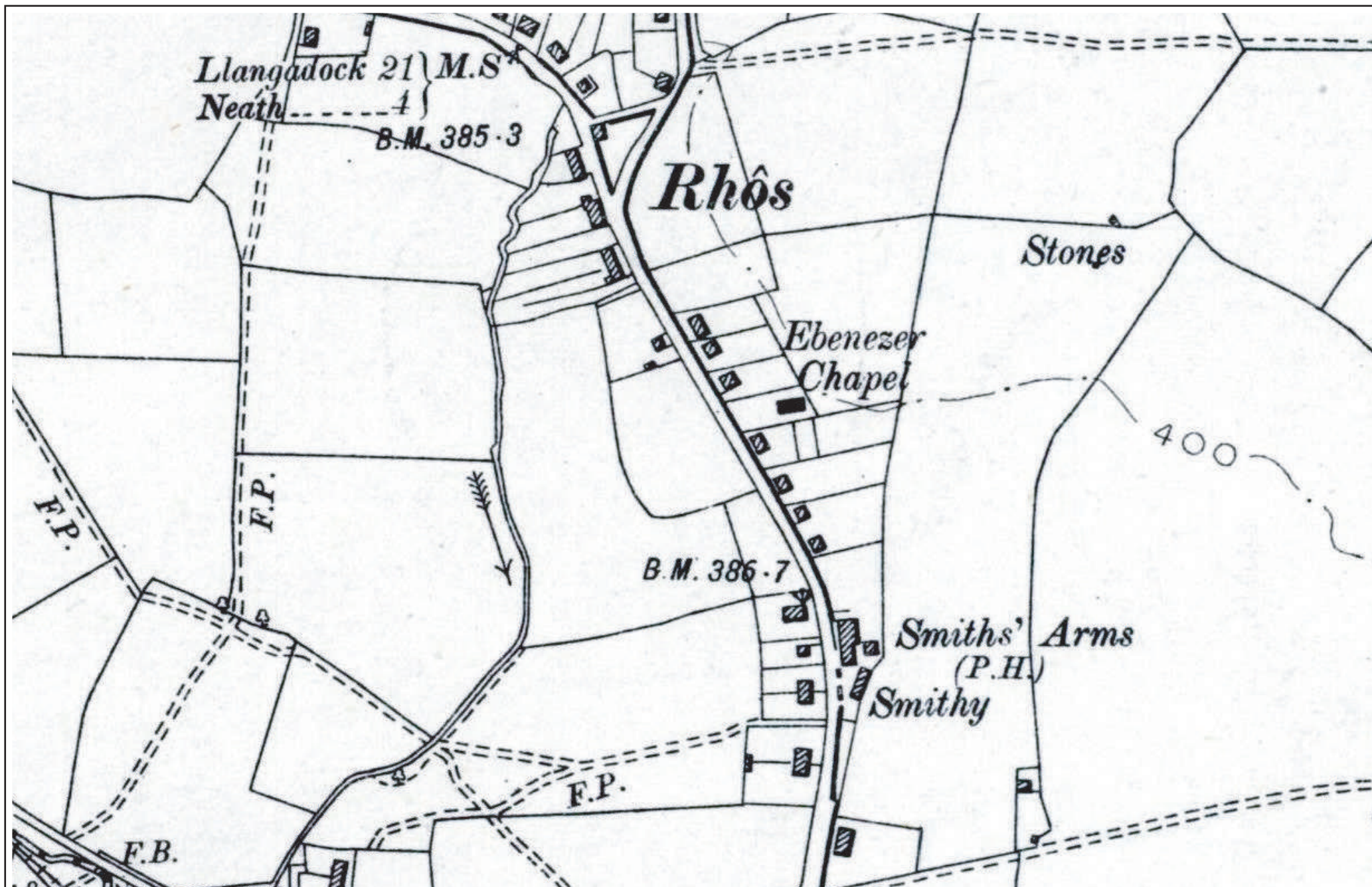
Tithe Apportionment Details for No. 159 for Cilybebyll Parish (1838)





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

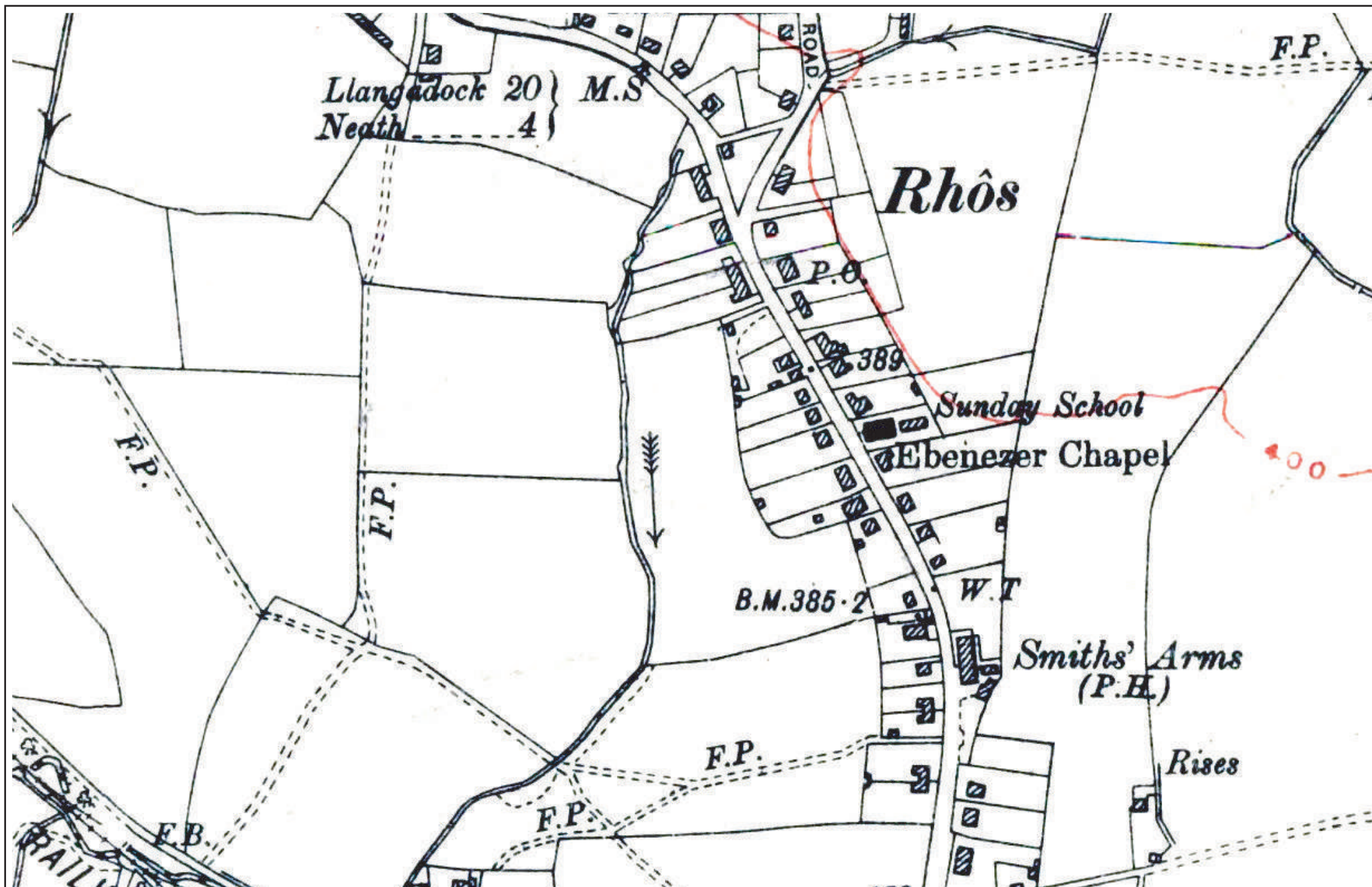
Figure 11.
OS First Edition Map (1876 - 1884)



Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 12.
OS Second Edition Map (1897 - 1900)

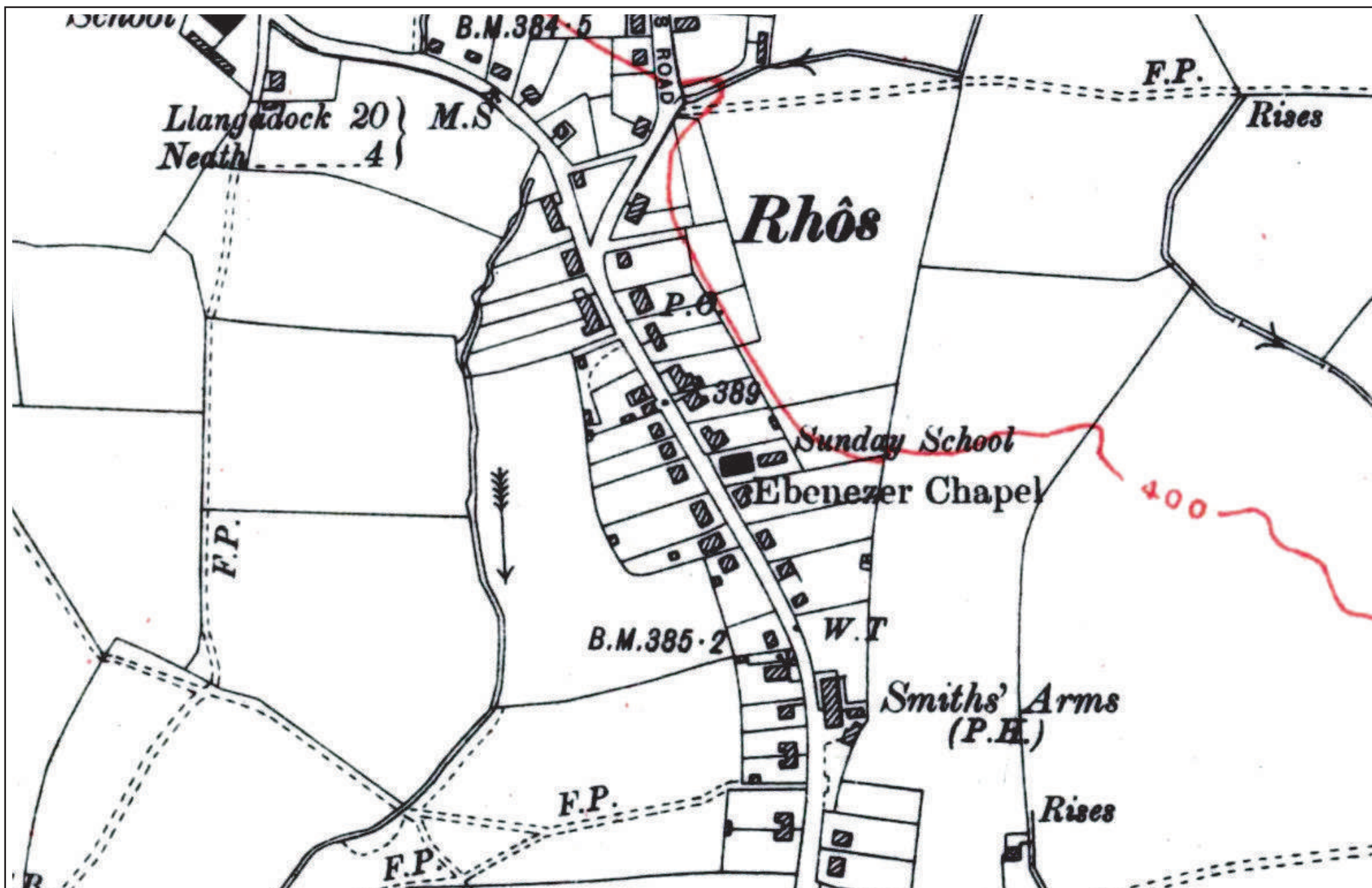




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Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
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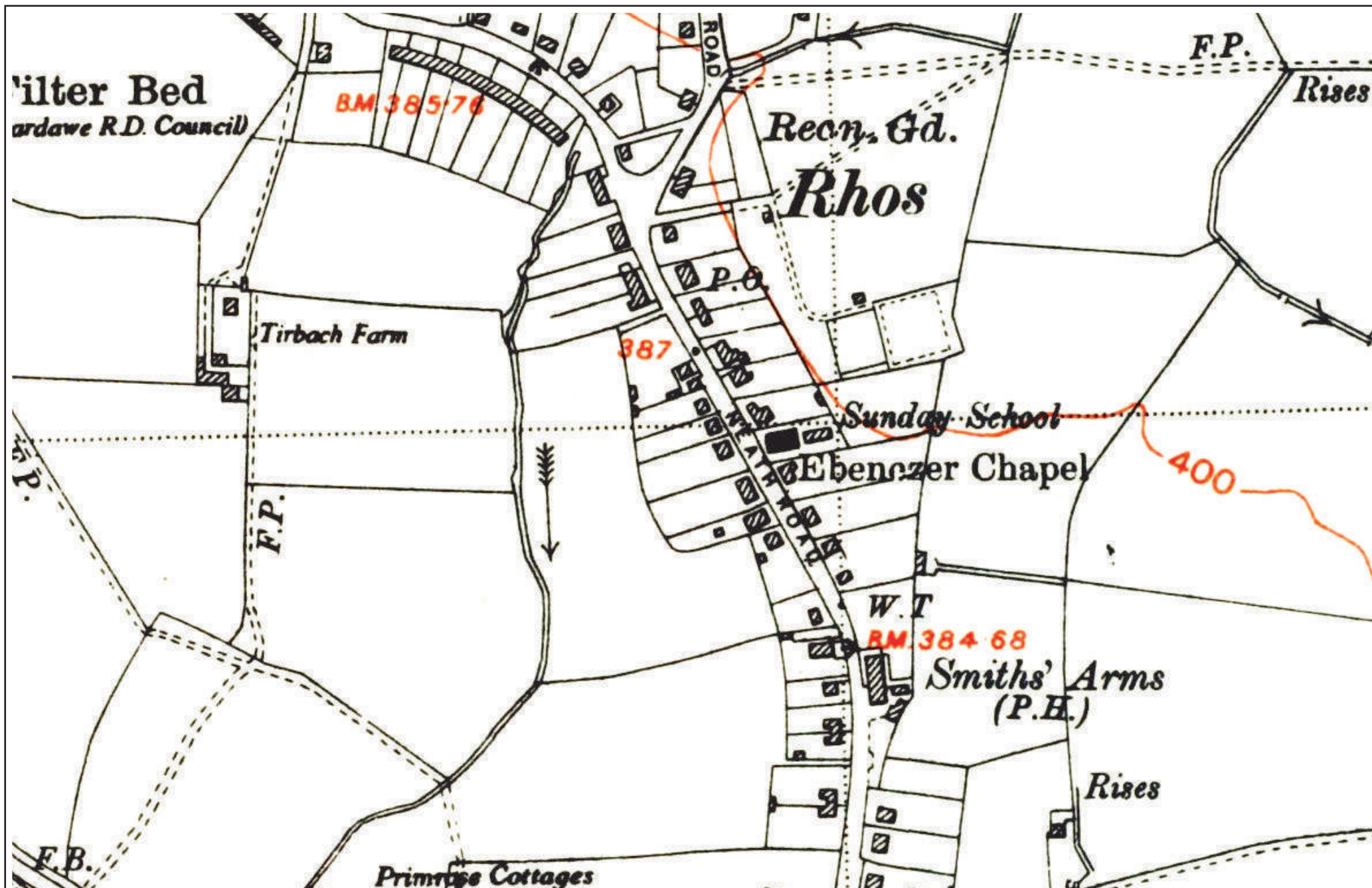
Figure 13.
OS 1921 Edition Map





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 14.
OS 1936 Edition Map



Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

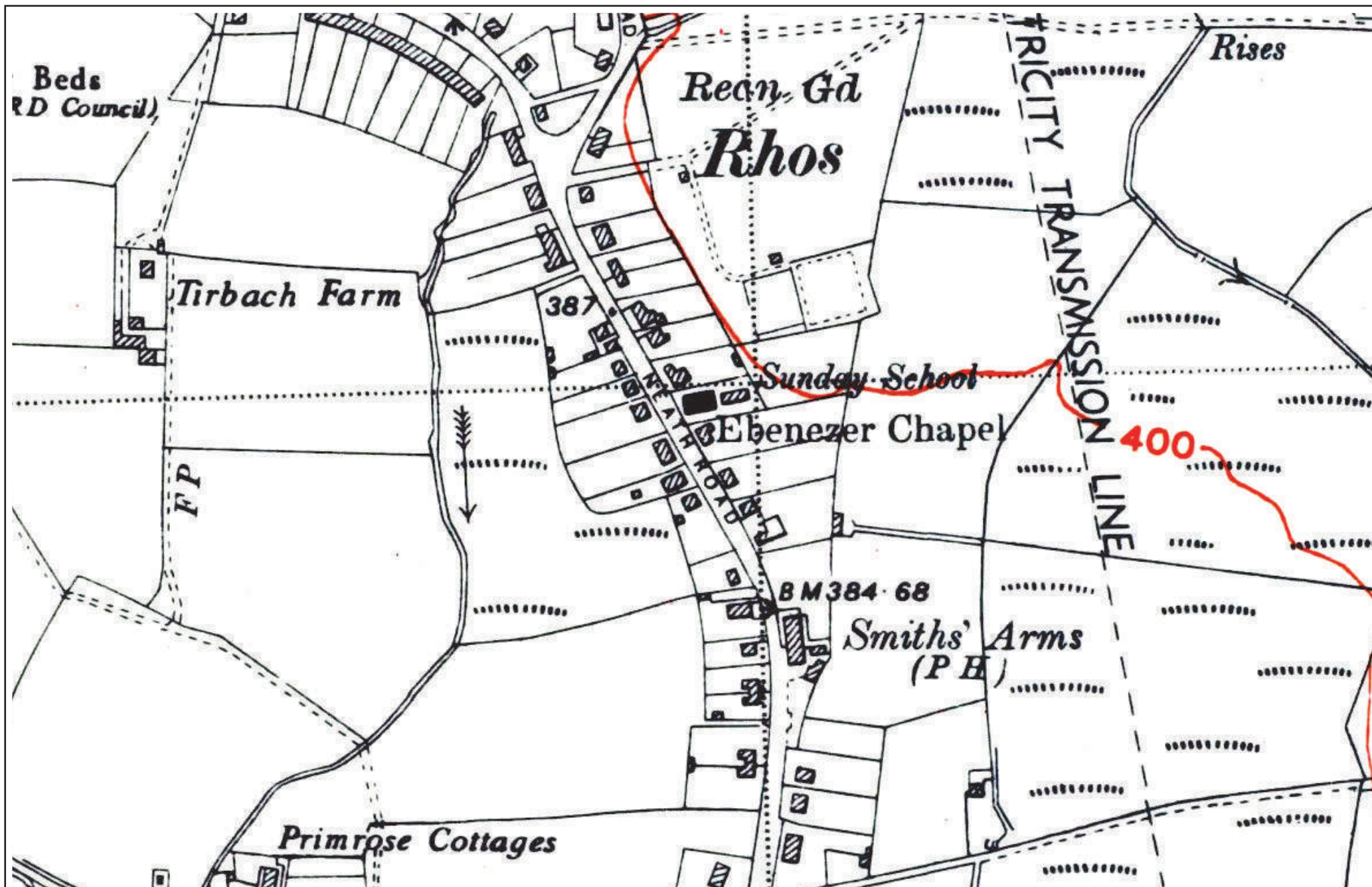
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 15.

OS 1949 Edition Map





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by:

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 16.

OS 1953 Edition Map





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

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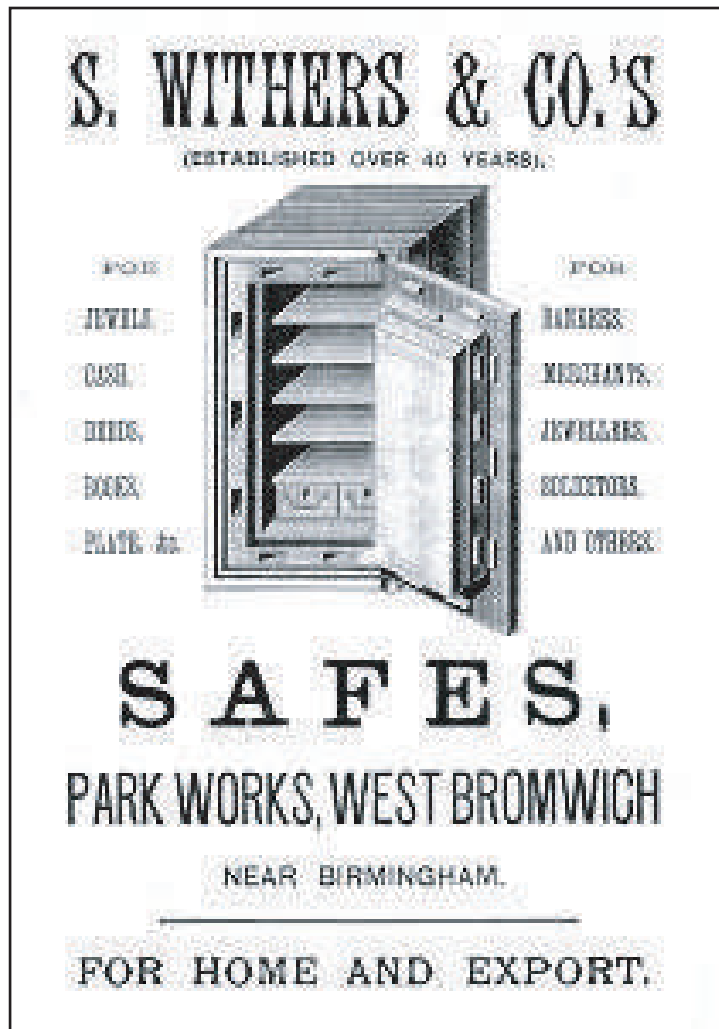
Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Figure 17.

Deacons of Ebenezer Chapel in 1936.





a) A Samuel Withers advert from a Wolverhampton Trade Directory of 1896.



b) A Samuel Withers advert from a trades directory c. 1900



c) A Samuel Withers & Co brass safe plate.

GUARD AGAINST FIRE & THIEVES

SAMUEL WITHERS

At the Original Park Works, ROEBUCK STREET, WEST BROMWICH

Manufacturers of fire, Drill, and Wedge Proof Safes for home and exportation, and Iron Doors for Strong Rooms.

Maker of every Description of SAFES for the Indian and colonial Trade, also to the Principal Banks in the United Kingdom and United States. Price Lists on Application.

The following is one of the many Testimonials received: Broad Street, Birmingham, February 5th 1868.

An Iron Safe in our Office, made by Messrs. Withers, has been subject to the Drill and a portion of Gunpowder placed in the Lock by the hands of some one at present unknown to us; It appears to have stood the test well, as a quantity of the broken Drills were found in the Lock, the safe unopened. CHARLES WINN & CO., for HENRY EDWARDS

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 18.

Samuel Withers adverts for safes c.1900





Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Drawn by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

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Figure 19.

Front West Facing Elevation of Ebenezer Chapel built 1904.





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Legend



Position and
direction of
Photograph



SITE LOCATION PLAN
Scale 1:1000

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Figure 20.

Ebenezer Chapel - Wider landscape views - Photo Index Plan - Exterior Views

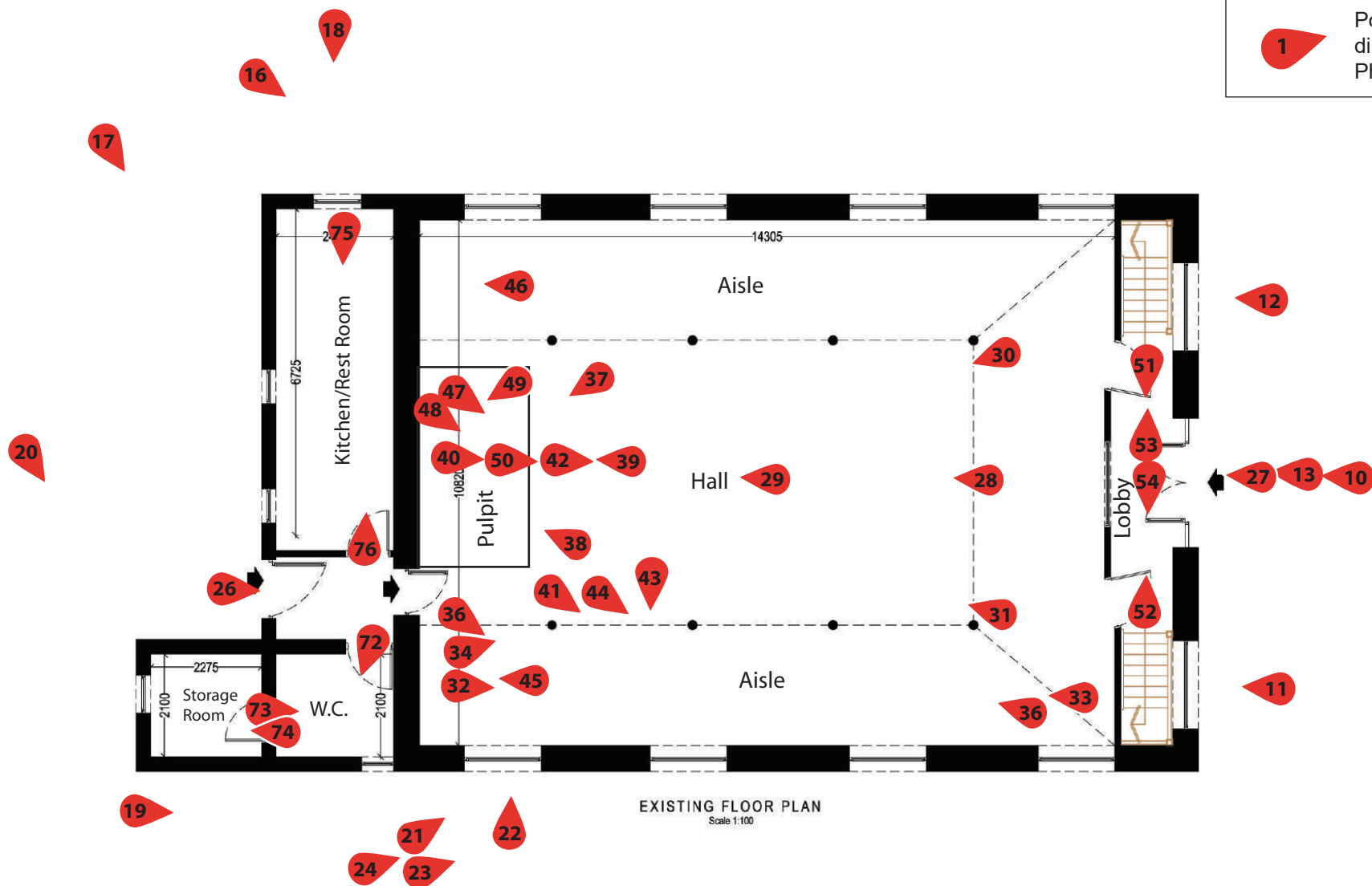




Legend

1

Position and direction of Photograph



Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe	
Date: 13th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
Drawn by:	Drawing No.

Figure 21.
Ebenezer Chapel (1904) - Photo Index Plan - External and Internal views - Ground Floor



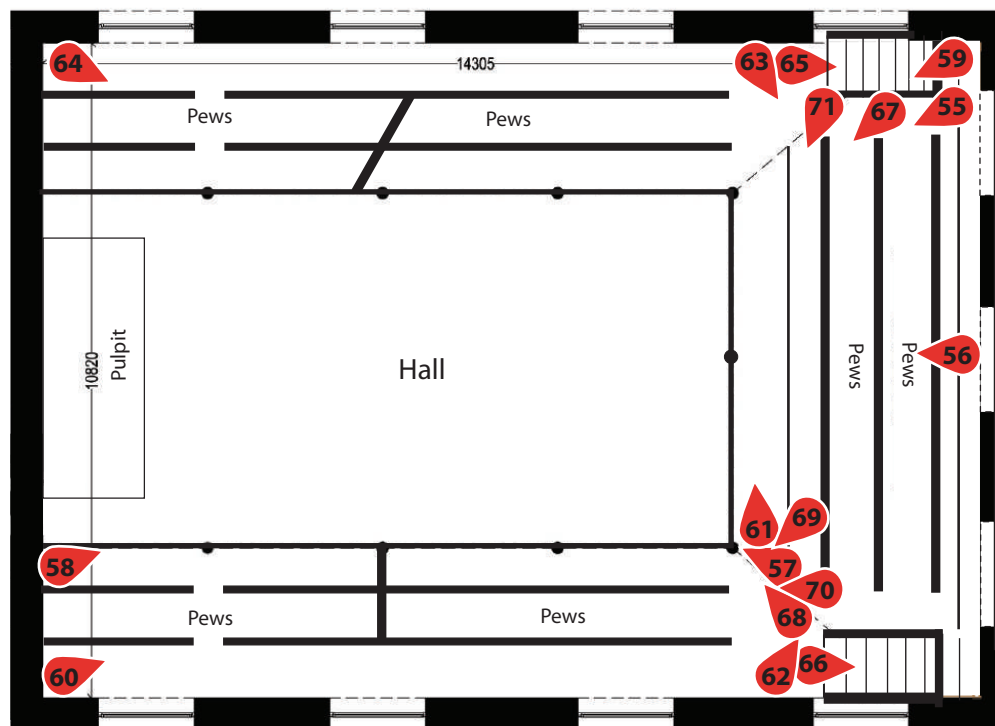


N

Legend



Position and
direction of
Photograph



Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Figure 22.

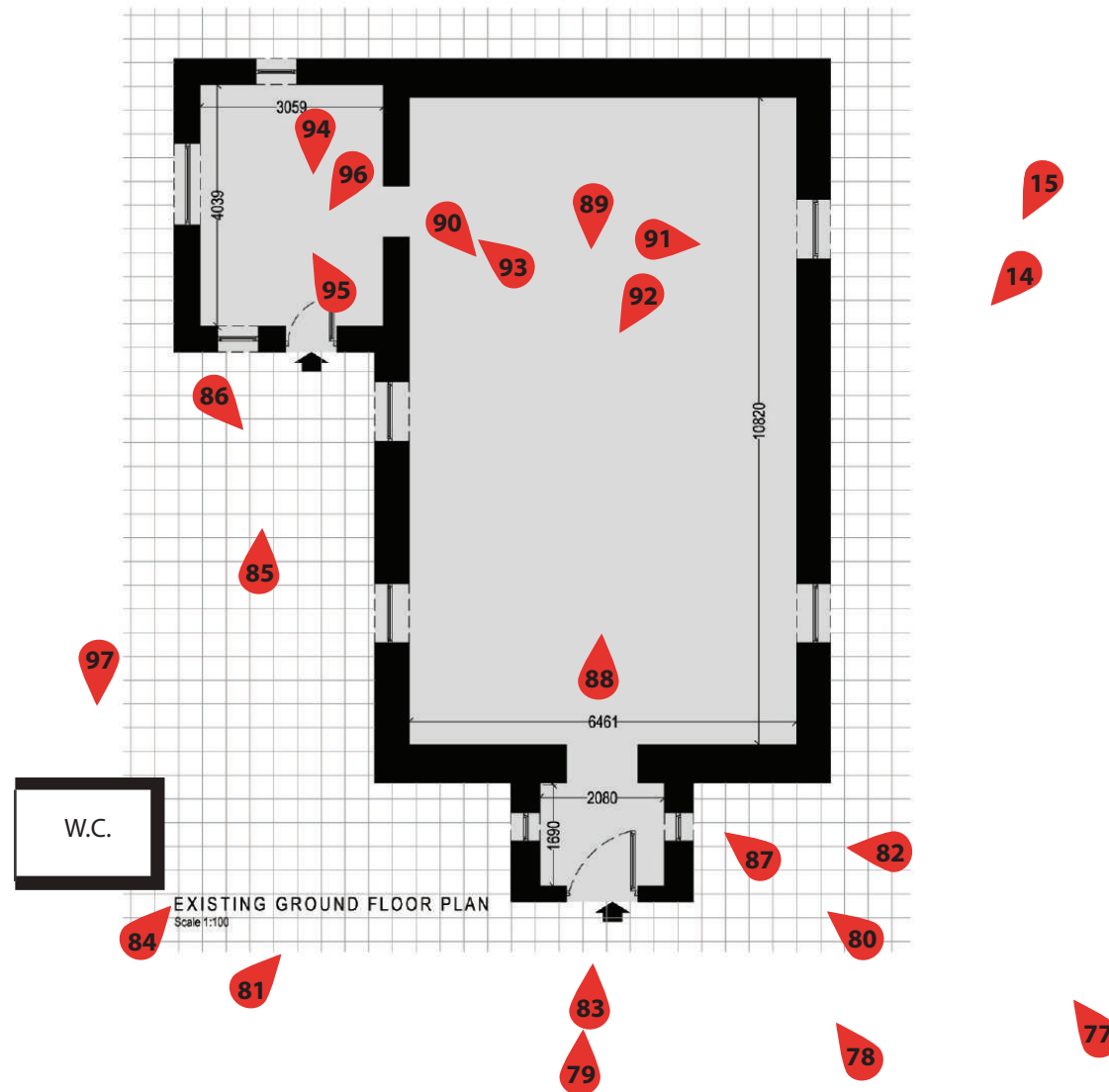
Ebenezer Chapel (1904) - Photo Index Plan - Internal views - Balcony





Legend

- 1 Position and direction of Photograph



Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel. Rhos, Pontardawe

Date: 13th March 2023

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Figure 23.

Ebenezer Chapel (1884) - Photo Index Plan - Exterior and Interior Views.



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 01. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel from Neath Road. Looking NE.



Plate 02. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel front west facing and north facing elevation from Neath Road. Looking SE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

1 - 2





Plate 03. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel front west facing and south facing elevation from Neath Road. Looking NE.



Plate 04. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel front west facing and south facing elevation from Neath Road. Looking NE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 3 - 4	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 05. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel front west facing and north facing elevation from Neath Road. Looking SE.



Plate 06. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel front west facing elevation from Neath Road. Looking E.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 5 - 6	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 07. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ebenezer Chapel front west facing elevation from Neath Road. Looking E.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 7	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 08. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Stone walling and wrought iron railings at front of chapel. Looking N.



Plate 09. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Wrought iron railings at front of chapel. Looking NE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 8 - 9	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 10. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Front entrance gate and steps. Looking E.



Plate 11. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Foundation stone on N side of entrance. Laid by one J.E. Moore Gwyn.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

10 - 11





Plate 12. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Foundation stone on south side of entrance. Laid by one Dr Griffiths J.P of Bryncelyn, Pontardawe on 26th May 1904.. Looking E.

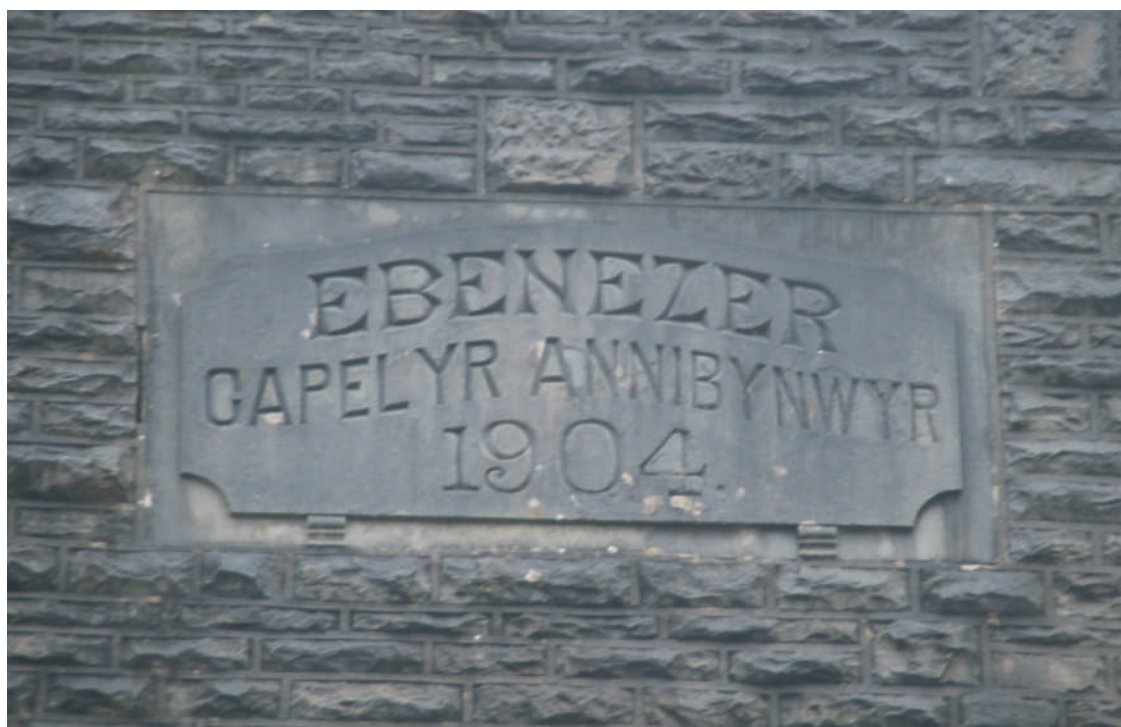


Plate 13. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Dedication plaque detailing date of construction of Independent Chapel as 1904.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 12 - 13	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 14. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Rear east facing and south facing elevation of chapel. Looking W.



Plate 15. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Rear east facing and south facing elevation of chapel. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 14 - 15	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 17. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - South facing elevation. Looking NW.



Plate 18. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Rear kitchen extension against east facing rear elevation. Looking NW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 17 - 18	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 18. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Side view of rear kitchen extension. Looking N.



Plate 19. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - View down strip of land alongside north facing side elevation. Looking W.



Plate 20. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Rear extension at NE corner of rear of chapel (Store Room). Looking NW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

18 - 20





Plate 21 Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Side north facing elevation window detail. Looking SW.



Plate 22. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Side north facing elevation window detail. Looking W.



Plate 23. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Side north facing elevation. Looking SW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 21 - 23	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 24 Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Side north facing elevation window detail. Looking W.



Plate 25. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Side north and west facing elevations. Looking E.



Plate 26. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Rear entrance into Chapel. Looking W.



Plate 27. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Front entrance into Chapel. Looking E.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

24 - 27





Plate 28. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of main hall. Looking W.



Plate 29. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of main hall. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 28 - 29	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 30. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of main hall. Looking W.



Plate 31. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of main hall. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 30 - 31	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 32. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of north aisle. Looking W.



Plate 33. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of north aisle. Looking E..



Plate 34. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of Nave from northern aisle. Looking southeast.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

32 - 34





Plate 35. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of Nave and north aisle. Looking E.



Plate 36. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of north aisle. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

35 - 36





Plate 37. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of Nave and podium. Looking NE.



Plate 38. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of Nave and podium. Looking SE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by:

RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

37 - 38





Plate 39. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Podium/Sanctuary at east end of Nave. Looking E.



Plate 40. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of Nave from podium/sanctuary. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 39 - 40	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 41. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Detail of balcony decoration. Looking NW.



Plate 42. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - View of Nave from Chancel area. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

41 - 42





Plate 43. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Detail of balcony decoration. Looking N.



Plate 44. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Detail of balcony decoration. Looking NW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 43 - 44	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 45. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Memorial plaque to WWII against east wall on north side aisle. Looking E.



Plate 46. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Memorial plaques to David Jenkins, John John and Benjamin Davies against the east wall in southern aisle. Looking E.



Plate 47. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Chapel Bible.

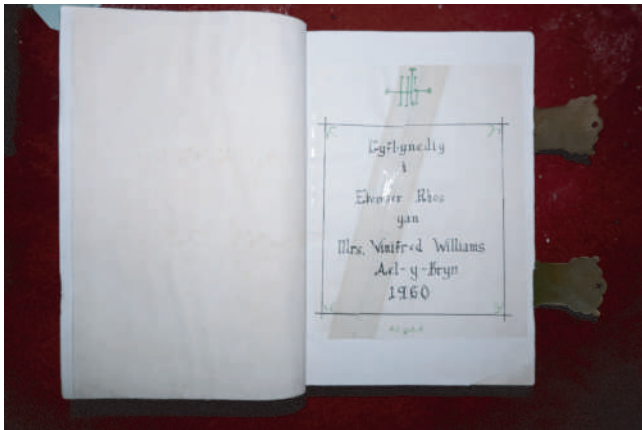


Plate 48. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Chapel Bible given to church in 1960.



Plate 49. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Safe stored beneath pulpit.



Plate 50. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Parquet ceiling of main hall

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 45 - 50	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 51. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Entrance Hall to Chapel. Looking N.



Plate 52. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Entrance Hall to Chapel. Looking S.



Plate 53. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Stairs on southern side of entrance hall. Looking S.



Plate 54. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Tiled floor in Entrance Hall. Looking N.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.			Photo Plates 51 - 54	
Date Taken:	9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 55. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking NE.



Plate 56. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking E.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 55 - 56	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 57. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking E.



Plate 58. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 57 - 58	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 59. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking NE.



Plate 60. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking SW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 59 - 60	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 61. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking W.



Plate 62. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking SW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 61 - 62	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 63. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking NW.



Plate 64. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view from Balcony area. Looking W.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 63 - 64	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 65. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of access stairs from balcony to entrance hall on S side of hall. Looking west.



Plate 66. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of access stairs from balcony to entrance hall on S side of hall. Looking west.



Plate 67. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of decorative timber ceiling. Looking NE.



Plate 68. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Detail of balcony railings. Looking SE.



Plate 69. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Detail of pews sides showing brass furniture for holding umbrellas. Looking E.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 65 - 69	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 70. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Pew detail.



Plate 71. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Ceiling detail.



Plate 72. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Toilet Room. Looking N.



Plate 73. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Toilet Room. Looking W.



Plate 74. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Interior view of Storage Room at far NE corner of chapel. Looking E.

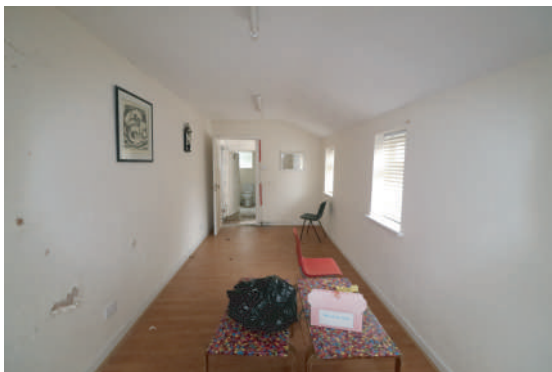


Plate 75. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Former Meeting Room at far east end of Chapel. Looking N.



Plate 76. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Former Meeting Room at far east end of Chapel. Looking S.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.

Date Taken: 9th March 2023

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plates

70 - 76





Plate 77. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel used as Sunday School. Looking NE.



Plate 78. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel used as Sunday School. Looking NE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 77 - 78	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 79. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel used as Sunday School. Front west facing elevation. Looking E.



Plate 80. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Front entrance porch. Looking NE.



Plate 81. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Front entrance porch. Looking SE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 79 - 81	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 82. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. South facing elevation of porch. Looking N.



Plate 83. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. West facing elevation of porch. Looking E.



Plate 84. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. North facing elevation. Looking SE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 82 - 84	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 85. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Kitchen extension attached to NE corner of Sunday School building. West facing elevation. Looking E.



Plate 86. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. North facing elevation. Looking SW.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 85 - 86	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 87. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Foundation plaque dated 1884. Looking NE.



Plate 88. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Interior view. Looking E.



Plate 89. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Interior view. Looking W.



Plate 90. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Interior view. Looking SW.



Plate 91. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Interior view. Looking E..



Plate 92. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Detail of ceiling within Sunday School building. Looking NW.



Plate 93. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Double doors into Kitchen extension at NE end of school.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 87 - 93	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		



Plate 94. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Kitchen. Looking W.



Plate 95. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Kitchen. Looking NE.



Plate 96. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Earlier Chapel. Kitchen. Looking NW.



Plate 97. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - Former outside W.C. Looking W.



Plate 98. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - View of Ebenezer Chapel Cemetery. Looking NW.



Plate 99. Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos - View of Ebenezer Chapel Cemetery. Looking NE.

Project Title: Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe.		Photo Plates 94 - 99	
Date Taken: 9th March 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	Drawing No.		

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe, Glamorgan

ARCHIVE DESTINATION - RCAHMW

Site Name:	Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos, Pontardawe, Glamorgan
Site Code:	EC/2023/ABIR
NPRN:	13405
PRN:	09492w
SAM No.	
Other Ref No.	HRSW Rpt No. 265
NGR:	SN 73970 02989
Site Type:	Victorian and Edwardian Ebenezer Chapel
Project Type:	Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording
Project Manager:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Date(s):	March 2023
Categories Present:	None
Location of Original Archive:	RCAMHW
Location of Duplicate Archive:	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Number of Find Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Ref:	N/A
Copyright:	HRS Wales
Restrictions to Access:	None



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