Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Margam Road, Taibach, Port Talbot, Glamorgan.

Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording



By

Richard Scott Jones *(BA, MA, MCIfA)*

April 2025

HRS Wales
Report No: 307
(V1)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING INVESTIGATION & RECORDING

Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Margam Road, Taibach, Port Talbot, Glamorgan.

By

Richard Scott Jones *(BA Hons, MA, MCIfA)*

Prepared for:

Atrium Planning Consultants Ltd
12 Clarendon Rd,
Sketty,
Swansea SA2 0SR,

On behalf of:

Kyle Morgan
Margam Calvinistic Methodist Chapel
Margam Road
Taibach
SA13 2BN

Date: April 2025

HRSW Report No: 307 (V1)

Egwyl, Llwyn-y-groes, Tregaron, Ceredigion SY25 6QE
Tel: 01570 493759 Fax: 08712 428171 E-mail: richard@hrswales.co.uk

Contents

i) List of Illustrations and Photo plates

Non Technical Summary ..... *Page 01*

1. Introduction ..... *Page 02*

2. Mitigation ..... *Page 03*

3. Methodology ..... *Page 04*

4. Historical & Archaeological Background ..... *Page 04*

5. Cartographic Sources ..... *Page 07*

6. Results of Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording ..... *Page 07*

7. Conclusions ..... *Page 10*

8. Acknowledgements ..... *Page 10*

9. Bibliography & References ..... *Page 11*

Appendix I: Figures

Appendix II: Photo plates

Appendix III: Archive Cover Sheet

Copyright Notice:
Heritage Recording Services Wales retain copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to Mr Kyle Morgan to use and reproduce the material contained within.

The Ordnance Survey have granted Heritage Recording Services Wales a Copyright Licence (No. 100052823) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.

i) List of Illustrations

Figures

Fig 01: Location map (OS 1:50,000 Landranger)
Fig 02: Location map (OS 1:25,000 Explorer)
Fig 03: OS Aerial Photo 2023
Fig 04: OS First Edition Map (1883)
Fig 05. OS Second Edition Map (1900)
Fig 06: OS 1921 Edition Map
Fig 07: OS 1938 Edition Map.
Fig 08: OS 1951 Edition Map.
Fig 09: Ground Plan of Church
Fig 10: EXTERNAL Front Facade.
Fig 11: EXTERNAL Rear Facade
Fig 12: EXTERNAL SE Facing Side Elevation
Fig 13: EXTERNAL NW Facing Side Elevation
Fig 14: Example roof Truss
Fig 15: Newspaper Article 1926
Fig 16: Newspaper Article 1927
Fig 17: Old Photos 1935 - 1961
Fig 18: After Market Property Sales Photos
Fig 19: Photo Index Sheet - 1 of 2
Fig 20: Photo Index Sheet - 2 of 2

Photo Plates

Plates 01 - 02: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 03 - 07: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 08 - 09: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 10 - 11: Front enclosure wall
Plates 12 - 15: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 16 - 17: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 18 - 19: Foundation stones and Tracery window.
Plates 20 - 21: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 22 - 24: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 25 - 26: Exterior Views of Church and Church Hall.
Plates 27 - 30: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 31 - 33: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 34 - 36: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 40 - 41: Exterior Views of Church
Plates 42 - 49: Interior views of Church
Plates 50 - 54: Interior views of Church
Plates 55 - 56: Interior views of Church
Plates 57 - 60: Interior views of Church
Plates 61 - 65: Interior views of Church - Pulpit
Plates 66 - 73: Interior views of Church - Balconies
Plates 74 - 79: Interior views of Church - Details
Plates 80 - 87: Interior views of Church - Balconies
Plates 88 - 93: Interior views of Church - Balconies and Details
Plates 94 - 98: Interior views of Church - Tracery window and Vestry
Plates 99 - 100: Interior views of Church - Roof/Attic space
Plates 101 - 102: Church Hall

Non Technical Summary

This report details the results of a programme of Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording equivalent to Historic England Level 3 on the Margam Road Presbyterian Church, also known as the Margam Road Calvinistic Methodist Church or The Margam Road Methodist Chapel, Taibach, Port Talbot, Glamorgan (centered on OS grid reference SS 77697 88447), prior to it being converted into a residence.

This report has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA) of Heritage Recording Services Wales (henceforth HRS Wales) Neath Port Talbot Borough County Council.

The specific objectives of the work were to interpret and create a lasting record of the chapel prior to its conversion and to establish and make available information about the heritage resource existing on a site.

The archaeological building investigation and recording of the Margam Road Presbyterian Church managed to create a lasting record of the building prior to it being converted into a residence.

The investigation and recording noted no architectural features of any great significance within the church, apart from the rather striking timber lower sections of roof trusses with corbel supports visible throughout the interior. The investigation and recording managed to also create a lasting record of a number of interesting features on the exterior of the church, such as the four 1926 foundation stones at the front of the church, which are deteriorating fast given that they are constructed from sandstone and it's only a matter of time without some conservation work in the future, that these stones will likely become indecipherable.

Crynoldeb Annhechnolegol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn manylu ar ganlyniadau rhaglen o Ymchwilio a Chofnodi Adeiladau Archeolegol sy'n cyfateb i Historic England Lefel 3 ar Margam Road Presbyterian Church, a elwir hefyd yn Margam Road Calvinistic Methodist Church neu Margam Road Methodist Chapel, Taibach, Port Talbot, Morgannwg (yn ganolog ar gyfeirnod grid OS SS 77697 88447), cyn iddo gael ei droi'n breswylfa.

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA) o Wasanaethau Cofnodi Treftadaeth Cymru (HRS Wales) o hyn ymlaen Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot.

Amcanion penodol y gwaith oedd dehongli a chreu cofnod parhaol o'r capel cyn ei drawsnewid a sefydlu a sicrhau bod gwybodaeth ar gael am yr adnodd treftadaeth oedd yn bodoli ar safle.

Llwyddodd yr ymchwiliad adeilad archeolegol a chofnodi Margam Road Presbyterian Churchi greu cofnod parhaol o'r adeilad cyn iddo gael ei drawsnewid yn breswylfa.

Ni nododd yr ymchwiliad a'r cofnodi unrhyw nodweddion pensaernïol o bwys mawr o fewn yr eglwys, ar wahân i'r darnau isaf o bren trawiadol o gyplau gyda chynheiliaid corbel i'w gweld drwy'r tu mewn. Llwyddodd yr ymchwilio a chofnodi hefyd i greu cofnod parhaol o nifer o nodweddion diddorol tu allan i'r eglwys, megis y pedair carreg sylfaen o 1926 ar flaen yr eglwys, sy'n dirywio'n gyflym o ystyried eu bod wedi'u hadeiladu o dywodfaen a dim ond ychydig o amser heb rywfaint o waith cadwraeth yn y dyfodol y bydd y cerrig hyn yn debygol o ddod yn annealladwy.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report details the results of a programme of Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording equivalent to Historic England Level 3 on the Margam Road Presbyterian Church, also known as the Margam Road Calvinistic Methodist Church or The Margam Road Methodist Chapel, Taibach, Port Talbot, Glamorgan (centered on OS grid reference SS 77697 88447), prior to it being converted into a residence.

1.2 This report has been prepared by Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA) of Heritage Recording Services Wales (henceforth HRS Wales) Neath Port Talbot Borough County Council.

1.3 The specific objectives of the work were to:

- Interpret and create a lasting record of the chapel prior to its conversion;
- to establish and make available information about the heritage resource existing on a site.

1.4 The Technical Appendices for this report contains the following information:

- *Appendix I*: Figures;
- *Appendix II:* Photo plates (a selection from over 200 photos in total)
- *Appendix III:* Archive Cover Sheet

Site Location & Description *(Figures 1 - 5)*

1.5 The Margam Calvinistic Methodist Church, known when it was first built as the Margam Road Prebyterian Church (No. 39 Margam Road) is located along the Margam Road (A48), approximately 1.7 miles on the outskirts of Port Talbot, Swansea is some 10½ miles west and Cardiff approximately 35 miles to the east. The church sits within the community of Taibach and the within the old county of Glamorgan. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1926 in the gothic style with a gable entry design, built in tandem with the construction of the Margam Iron and Steel Works and the growing population of the area as a result of industrialisation, which required a number of religious houses being development as a consequence. The front facade of the church has a stone tracery arched headed doorway, fanlight with double doors. To the left and right of the doorway are two pairs of smaller trefoil headed stone windows. The front facade is dominated by a large perpendicular window with a decorative stone tracery. There are narrow buttresses to the front and side elevations. The building was still in use as a chapel in 1984.

1.6 Attached to the rear of the church is the modern church hall building of red brick construction.

1.7 The Church is not listed and is not within a conservation area, but is considered to be a building of local importance under Policy BE 2 of the 2011- 2026 LDP - The Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Proposed Scope of Works

1.8 The development proposes to convert, restore and adapt the church into a family home. There is no demolition to the exterior or interior of the church, other than the front boundary walls (to allow for off road parking). The interior proposals are mostly self-supporting structures being fitted within the original fabric of the building and are reversible.

1.9 The proposals will enhance the church's aesthetics through the restoration/conservation of the fabric of the building and will secure this assets future within the community. The proposed work to Calvinistic Methodist Church will ensure its future within a changing world, where adaptation and re-use of a structure should be seen as a positive intervention, as long as the asset isn't compromised and altered beyond recognition.

1.10 *Planning Background*

1.11 A planning application for the proposed works was submitted to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (henceforth NPTCBC) on the 6th August 2024 (Ref: P2024/0458). Full Planning permission for the scheme was granted on the 20th December 2024 but with the following archaeological condition (No.3):

> "No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
>
> The survey shall be undertaken in the form of a Level III survey as set out in "Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice", Historic England, 2016.
>
> **Reason:** As the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact".

1.12 HRS Wales were commissioned by Kyle Morgan, the current owner of the church, to undertake the Level 3 Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording.

2 Mitigation

Aims & Objectives

2.1 The key objective of the archaeological work at the site was to investigate the architecture of the church in its entirety and make an archaeological record of the building prior to the proposed change of use and any potential alterations. In order to mitigate against any potential negative effects as a result of the proposals, the proposed archaeological works consisted of only one main element:.

2.2 1)Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording (ABIR) (in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) - Prior to any works commencing on site the building underwent an Historic England equivalent Level 3 building recording. This is a photographic, descriptive and analytical record. Both the exterior and the interior of the building was inspected, described and photographed. The record presents conclusions regarding the building's development and use and discusses in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. Measured and annotated

plans have been produced of a ground plan of the church and of all of the exterior elevations. Within the interior photographs were obtained of all internal elevations and significant architectural features and a measured drawing was made of one of a number of identical roof trusses.

2.3 All work was carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CI*f*A) and will follow the CI*f*A Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (CIfA 2020).

2.4 The key reasons for the standing building recording was to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.

2.5 The ABIR will also included high resolution photography of each external and internal elevations where readily accessible and any significant features within them

3 Methodology

3.1 The archaeological building investigation & recording was undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice in April 2025.

3.2 All work was undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CI*f*A) and followed the CI*f*A Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings (CI*f*A 2014). Richard Scott Jones (*BA, MA, MCIfA)* undertook and managed the project.

3.3 Recording was carried out using HRS Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

3.4 Any required plans and sections were either drawn to a scale of 1:100, 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

3.5 All features identified will be tied in to the both the OS National Grid and all local site and ground plans.

3.6 Photographs were appropriated in digital format, using a 24 mega-pixel DSLR camera, with photographs stored in both RAW and high quality JPEG formats. All RAW formats were exported into TIFF files in preparation for archiving.

4. Historical & Archaeological Background

4.1 The Margam Road Presbyterian Church, as it was first known when it was built in 1926, has a gable entry design with a gothic style façade. The church was built at the same time as the Margam Iron and Steel Works, to accommodate an ever growing population as a consequence of industrialisation, an increasing demographic requiring a number of religious houses to be developed.

4.2 Steelmaking at the Port Talbot complex began with the Margam Iron and Steel Works (NPRN 408513), completed between 1923 and 1926 and closed in 1953.

4.3 After the Second World War, a group of south Wales steelmakers formed the Steel Company of Wales to erect a modern integrated steelmaking site using imported ore on the Port Talbot site. The new Abbey Works was planned in 1947, opened in 1951 and fully operational by 1953. By the 1960s, the works was the largest steelworks in Europe. In 1967, the company was nationalised and became a part of British Steel.

4.4 By 2000, following privatisation, the works was part of Corus. Together with Llanwern works (NPRN 86821), the plants produced up to 3.5 million tonnes of hot rolled steel strip per year. The output was taken by railway to Shotton (NPRN 300212) for coating, to Trostre (NPRN 300213) for tinplating, to Ebbw Vale (NPRN 34135) for rolling and coating, or direct to the Midlands motor industry.

4.5 In 2007 Corus was taken over by the Tata Group. By January 2008, 3600 employees were producing some 4.7 million tonnes of steel a year, rolling about 3 million tonnes at Abbey Works and sending the rest to Llanwern for rolling.

4.6 The original four storey office block, dating from the early 1950s, still stands at National Grid Reference SS 78150 86920.

4.7 The initial thoughts for the construction of the Presbyterian Church began at the same time as the beginnings of the iron and steel works in the early 1920s, with four foundation stones for the church eventually being laid in a ceremony on the 30th July 1926. Today each of these foundation stones still survive along with their dedications, laid by one William Mainwaring, one Mrs Fletcher, one Evan Davies and one Johhn Dummer. Each of these stones are made of sandstone and each are starting to show signs of weathering and have been touched up by rather amateur hands in the recent past. One of these dedication foundation stones has now unfortunately become so weathered that the greater part of its lower letters are unfortunately now indecipherable *(see Figures 10 and 15 and Photos 17 and 18).* Following the church's construction, the church was finally opened with ceremony on May 20th 1927. A newspaper article *(Figure 16)* in the Port Talbot Guardian names the church as the Margam Road English Presbyterian Church.

4.8 The front facade of the church has a stone tracery arched headed doorway, fanlight with double doors. To the left and right of the doorway are two pairs of smaller trefoil headed stone windows. The front facade is dominated by a large perpendicular window with a decorative stone tracery. There are narrow buttresses to the front and side elevations. The building was still in use as a chapel in 1984.

4.9 The Church is not listed and is not within a conservation area, but it is considered to be a building of local importance (Ref TAI001) under Policy BE 2 of the 2011- 2026 LDP - The Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Methodism in Wales

4.10 Protestant Dissent in Wales was in the 17th century dominated by the twin movements of the Independents or Congregationalists and the Baptists, but in the 18th century the religious landscape was transformed by the coming of Methodism. This was part of a much wider international religious

movement which can be traced to the growth of evangelical Pietism in continental Europe from the later 17th century onwards. Its emphasis on intense personal devotion, nurtured by preaching, which spoke directly to the individual heart, formed the basis for movements which spread to Britain and also to the American colonies. In Wales it resulted in two major denominations, Calvinistic Methodism, later also known as Presbyterianism, and Wesleyan Methodism, or simply Methodism. Unlike English Methodism, Presbyterianism adopted a Calvinistic theological perspective, distinguishing it from other branches of Methodism. The church experienced significant growth in the 19th century, leading the Welsh Religious Revival of 1904-05 and playing a key role in Welsh society.

4.11 *Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (Coflein Entry)*

4.12 The National Monuments Record held by the RCHAMW is has only a brief record of the church. The RCHAMW Coflein states that the Margam Road Methodist Chapel (NPRN: 9862) was built in 1926 in the Gothic style, as a gable entry type. The front facade is dominated by a large perpendicular window with stone tracery. Below is a round-headed doorway with a fanlight, again furnished with stone tracery. There are narrow buttresses to the front and side elevations. The building was still in use as a chapel in 1984. (RCAHMW, March 2008).

4.13 *Heneb (Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology) - Historic Environment Record Entry*

4.14 The summary HER description of the Margam Road Methodist Church describes the church as a "stone-built traditional church building (PRN: 09318w) with feature entrance and main window. Built in 1926 in the Gothic style, as a gable entry type. A stone-built traditional church building with feature entrance and main window. Built in 1926 in the Gothic style, as a gable entry type. The front facade is dominated by a large perpendicular window with stone tracery. Included in the Neath Port Talbot list of Buildings of Local Importance and Designated Canal Structures (Neath Port Talbot Council).

West Glamorgan Archive Service

4.15 Again, there is very little on the Margam Road Presbyterian Church held within the Glamorgan Records, and what there is is confined to later mid – late 20th Century records, such as letters relating to the schoolroom regarding the school meals service and numerous accounts relating to services at the church over the years. There is however a photo of the front of the church dated to c. 1930, which is the same as the photo shown in the Western Mail newspaper from the Port Talbot Guardian dated 20th May 1927 (see Figure 16).

4.16 *Newspaper Articles 1926 – 1927*

4.17 Newspaper articles detailing the foundation stone laying on 30th July 1926 in the Western Mail and the opening ceremony of the church on the 20th May 1927 in the Port Talbot Guardian are included in Figures 15 and 16.

5. Cartographic Sources *(see Figures 4 - 8)*

5.1 *Tithe Map and apportionment of the parish of Margam (1840s)*

5.2 Unfortunately there is no copy of the tithe and apportionment for the parish of Margam held in the National Library of Wales.

.

5.3 *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1883) (1:10,560) (Figure 4)*

5.4 The first edition OS map of 1883 shows that the site of the later church was occupied by an access track leading to the brick works attached to the Margam Copper Works.

5.5 *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1900) (1:10,560) (Figure 5)*

5.6 By 1900 the Margam Copper Works was disused but the former access track leading to the works was still present.

5.7 *Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map (1:25,000) (Figure 6)*

5.8 By 1921 it is clear to see that Margam West is beginning to grow with workers housing appearing southwest of the later Margam Road Presbyterian Church, which is still to be built. The former access tarck that once led to the Margam Copper Works brick works, now leads to a new gas works.

5.9 *Ordnance Survey 1938 Edition Map (1:10560) (Figure 7)*

5.10 Interestingly, by the time of the OS 1938 edition map series, although the Presbyterian Church had been constructed over a decade earlier, the church is still not shown on this map series. In it splace instead is a series of unroofed 'planned' structures' as shown by the inclusion of the new iron and steel works.

5.11 *Ordnance Survey 1951 Edition Map (1:10560) (Figure 8)*

5.12 The church, along with the Margam Iron and steel works are now clearly shown on this map series.

6 Results of Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording *(See Figures 9 - 14)*

6.1 The ABIR was undertaken at Level III

1) Exterior

6.2 The ground plan of the church is a cross design, orientated NE – SW. The first view of the church from the Margam Road is of a gothic style gable entry with narrow buttresses at each end front façade. Entrance to the church is gained through a wrought iron decorative double gate supported by a low stone wall of sandstone blocks with a pair of repeating stone supporting piers each capped by stone. This low wall extends the whole length of the church grounds and forms the enclosure boundary on the road side. The decorative ironwork is currently painted a light blue with gold paint highlighting parts of the scrolled ironwork.

6.3 Once through the entrance gate, the visitor is confronted by a gothic style front façade with a gable

entry constructed from sandstone blockwork with cement block quoin stones. Each side is flanked by a narrow buttress. This façade is typical of a 19th Century church of this type, so it is interesting to see the same façade being used at such a late date of 1926. The varnished oak double door gable entry is enclosed by a repeating fluted round arch with a recessed leaf design above. This rounded archway is enclosed by a gable porch. Flanking this porch is a pair of two small lancet windows with a decorative tre-foil design. Each of the fenestrations is held in place by modern UPVC frames imitating wood. Directly below each of these pair of windows are two foundation stones made of sandstone, so four foundation stones in total. The engraved commemorations on three of these stones are fairly weathered and the writing having been restored poorly. The remaining fourth stone still holds it surviving lead (Pb) letters. One of these stones is also very weathered, so much so that its lower letters are now indecipherable.

6.4 Directly above these ground floor features, built into the central part of the façade, is a large tracery window with seven tall lancet windows capped with trefoil and cusp design, covered on their inside with metal grill panels. This row of lancet windows is surmounted by rows of small lancet openings with decorative *mouchette* tracery. Each of the lancet windows has leaded stained glass floral designs. All of the tracery windows stonework is cement stone blocks with iron rebar. A number of the cement blocks being used as the tracery has the iron rebar exposed.

6.5 Directly above the tracery window at the point of the gable is a small decorative cement stone imitation lancet window, similar in design to the lower pair of lancet windows that flank the gabled porch.

6.6 Each side of the church is flanked by a narrow buttress at its end on the corner of the front façade, mirroring the buttresses in the front façade. The side elevations are the same as the front façade, being built using sandstone blocks with cement block quoin stones. The exterior of the Nave, the side walls are punctuated by three large square headed windows, each holding modern UPVC sash windows with privacy glass. Between each of these windows is a small rectangular iron air ventilation grill. A further series of air vent grills are also positioned at ground floor level, providing ventilation below the internal floor.

6.7 Both Transepts on either side of the church accommodate 4 large square headed windows, two pairs above each other, in their end walls, each occupied by imitation UPVC frames holding privacy glass with imitation leaded windows. A pair of identical air vent grills is also positioned between these windows. A further large square headed window with the same UPVC windows also exists set within each transepts side walls, front facing only.

6.8 The rear wall of the church has no fenestration and is completely constructed from sandstone blocks with cement quoin stones. Attached to the rear of the church is an extension kitchen and toilet, both contemporary with the main church and accessed via a flight of stone steps with iron railings. Attached to the rear of these additional rooms is the modern brick built Church Hall and Kitchen extension used at the time of the site visit for storage.

2) Interior

6.9 Once inside the church from the front porch, the visitor is met with a wooden paneled lobby with a wooden paneled doorway leading into the main hall or Nave of the church. Flanking each side of this lobby is a Kitchen Room and a W.C both modern inside and with replacement modern wooden fire doors rather than the original wooden paneled doors. From here, access to the main Nave is through a wooden paneled varnished double swing door with leaded glass panels. Unfortunately the NE end of the Nave was partitioned off and used as a small school room in the late 20th Century complete with modern flat roofed tiled ceiling thus hiding the front stained glass window from view. Much of the walls have been covered in a modern *formica* paneling. However, ignoring this partitioned room, access to the remaining Nave of the church is gained through another swing door. Once inside the Nave the visitor is met with a large open church space with all pews having been removed, all walls are painted white with all architectural wall mouldings and visible roof timber trusses having been painted in a purple/pink paint with chamfered edges highlighted in a gold paint. The only surviving loose furniture at the ground floor level is a large wooden pulpit complete with wooden staircase leading to the lectern at the SW end with an enclosed chancel area with low decorative iron railings. This pulpit is framed behind it by a rounded rolled architectural moulded arch set within the rear SW wall, again painted a purple/pink colour with highlights of gold and flanked by two tall pilasters. Lining most of the walls at ground floor level of the church are the remains of wooden paneling or wainscot that has been painted with an imitation wood grain paint. Against the NW transept is a Second World War memorial plaque made of polished marble or granite. Alongside this memorial plaque is a doorway into the former Vestry. This room has all original features still surviving including coat hooks with rails, a wooden cupboard and an original fireplace.

6.10 At first floor level via a flight of wooden stairs within each transept is a balcony area with surviving pews on the NW side but absent of pews on the SE side. Each of these balconies is fronted by varnished wooden paneling with gold painted highlights and supported from below by a single cast iron pillar with decorative capital and a timber cross truss.

6.11 Other than the architectural features mentioned above, perhaps the most significant feature within the interior of the church is the series of impressive corbel supported timber roof trusses within the Nave *(see Figure 14).* In total there are three of these roof trusses spanning the Nave and one on either side of each Transept. The roof trusses and clamped to vertical support timbers with bolted iron brackets, but each truss only has its lower sections visible, the remaining trusses hidden within the roof/attic space. Inspection of these roof trusses within roof space revealed that each truss has a single King Post with diagonal support timbers. Each King Post is clamped with an iron bracket.

6.12 Inspection of the roof space revealed that the ceiling in the Nave does appear to be original, the first thought being that it was a later insertion given that the height of ceiling partly hides the tracery window in the front NE facing elevation. However, it was noted that to accommodate the tracery window and the ceiling, in order to avoid the view of the tracery window being compromised by the ceiling a clever recessed section of ceiling has been created in the ceiling in front of the window, so that when viewed from ground level it appears that the whole window is in view without any obstruction. This said

however, the greater part of views of the front tracery window have now been compromised by the creation of the small school room in the Nave itself, with the only readily available views of the tracery window being from the outside and from the two first floor balconies.

6.13 The only other rooms not yet described are the two W.C rooms, one just off the former Vestry and the other just off the rear entrance to the building. Other than a small cupboard room beneath the staircase leading to the balcony in the NE Transept there are no further rooms to discuss.

7 Conclusions

7.1 The archaeological building investigation and recording of the Margam Road Presbyterian Church managed to create a lasting record of the building prior to it being converted into a residence.

7.2 The investigation and recording noted no architectural features of any great significance within the church, apart from the rather striking timber lower sections of roof trusses with corbel supports visible throughout the interior. The investigation and recording managed to also create a lasting record of a number of interesting features on the exterior of the church, such as the four 1926 foundation stones at the front of the church, which are deteriorating fast given that they are constructed from sandstone and it's only a matter of time without some conservation work in the future, that these stones will likely become indecipherable.

8 Acknowledgements

Thanks to: Kyle Morgan for allowing access to the church for investigation and recording and hence the compilation of a lasting record for historical archiving purposes.

9 Bibliography & References

Collins, K, J (ed). 2006. *A Wesley Bibliography* (5th ed, First Fruits Press)

Lewis, S. 1833. *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

Scourfield, R. 2006. *Methodist Chapel Building in Wales,* in Buildings of Wales - Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion.

Searjant, I. 2004. *Historic Methodist Architecture and its Protection*, in Historic Churches (2004)

Wilkinson, K. 2013. *The Vernacular Origin of Welsh Nonconformist Chapels*. ProQuest.

Other Sources

The Port Talbot Guardian article. May 20th 1927

The Western Mail article. 30th July 1926

Methodist Church Buildings July 1st 1940, *Statistical Returns including seating accommodation*. The Department For Chapel Affairs.

Cartographic Sources

- *Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1883) (1:10560)*
- *Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1900) (1:10560)*
- *Ordnance Survey 1921 Edition Map (1:2500)*
- *Ordnance Survey 1938 Edition Map (1:10560)*
- *Ordnance Survey 1953 Edition Map (1:10560)*
- *OS Landranger (1:50,000)*
- *OS Explorer (1:25,000)*

Internet Sources

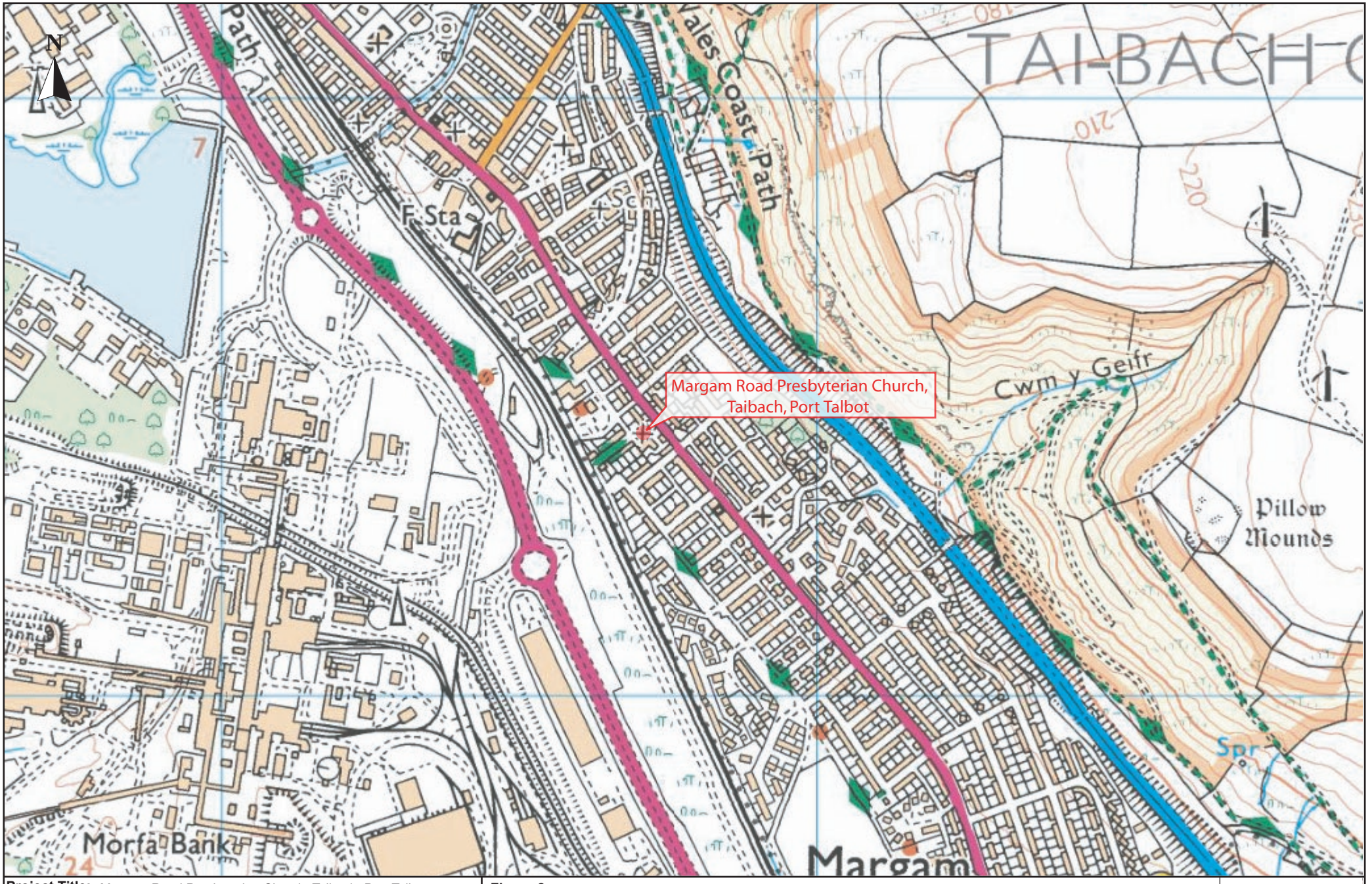
www.welshchapels.org

www.mymethodisthistory.org

APPENDIX I:
Figures



Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 1.**	Location Map (OS Landranger 1:50,000)
Date:	April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**	
Drawn by:		**Drawing No.**	



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**

Figure 2.

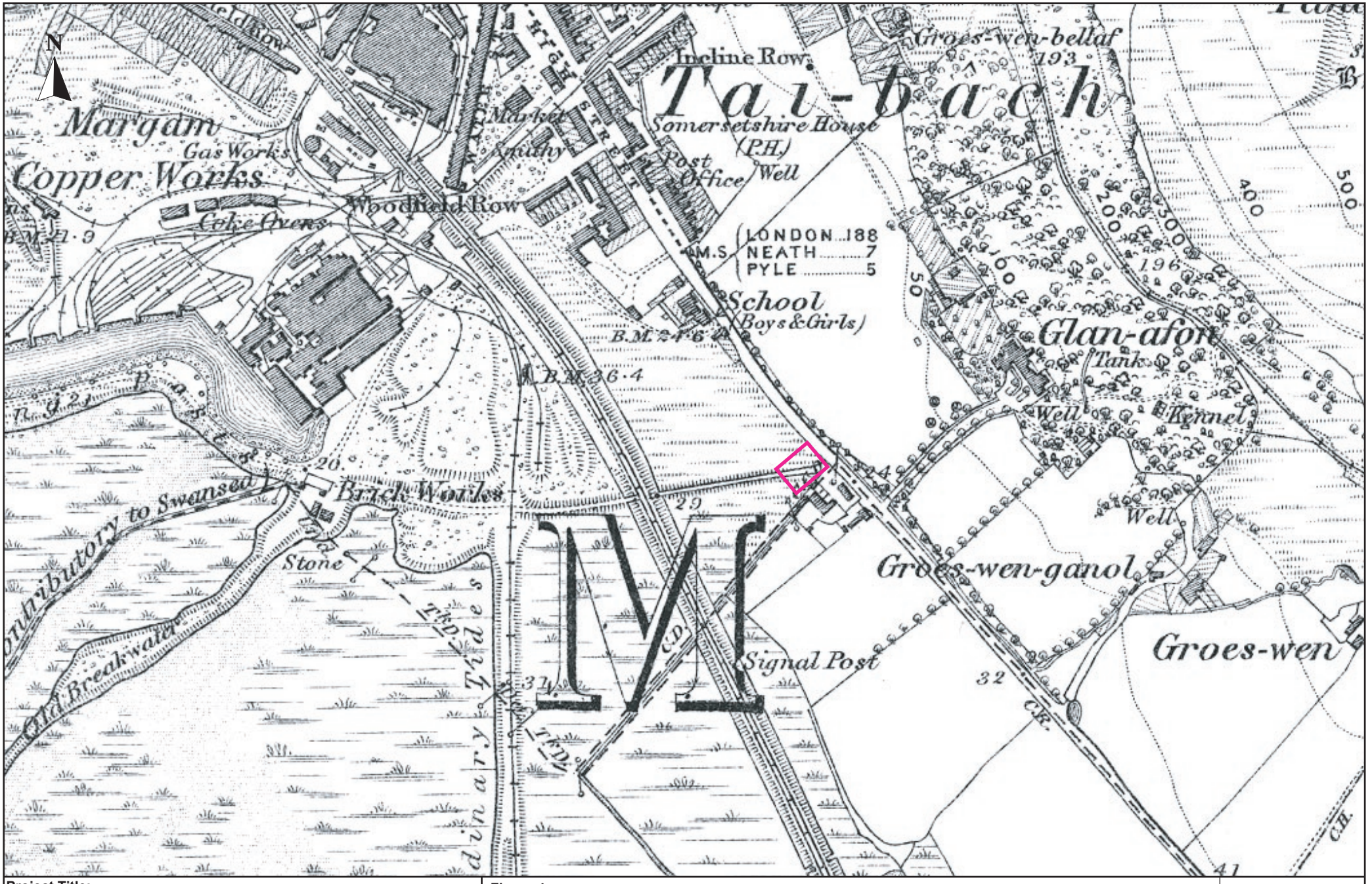
Location Map (OS Explorer 1:25,000)



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Figure 3.

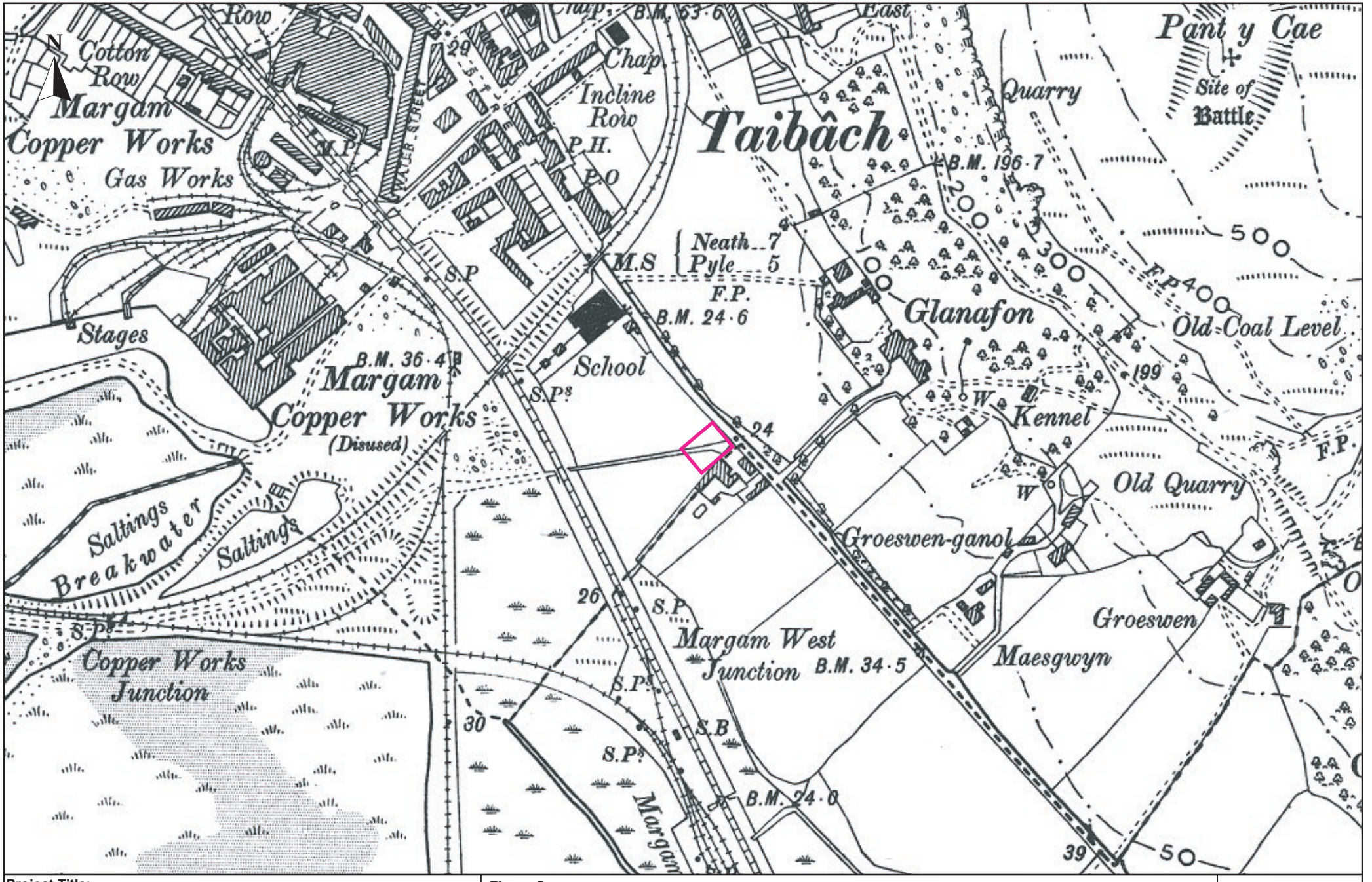
OS Aerial Photo (2023)



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**

Figure 4.

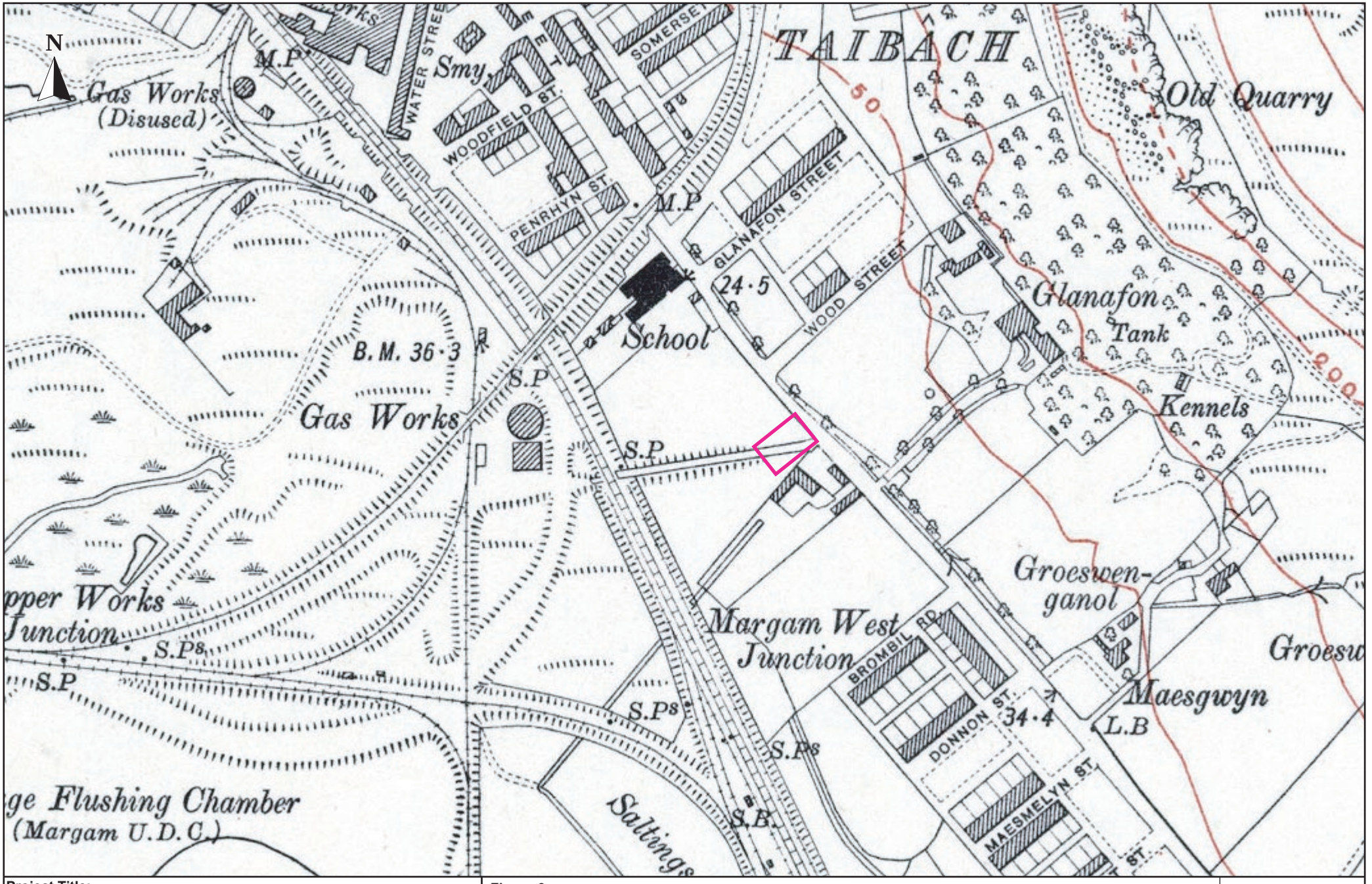
OS First Edition Map (1883)(Approximate position of Church highlighted in pink).



Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Figure 5.

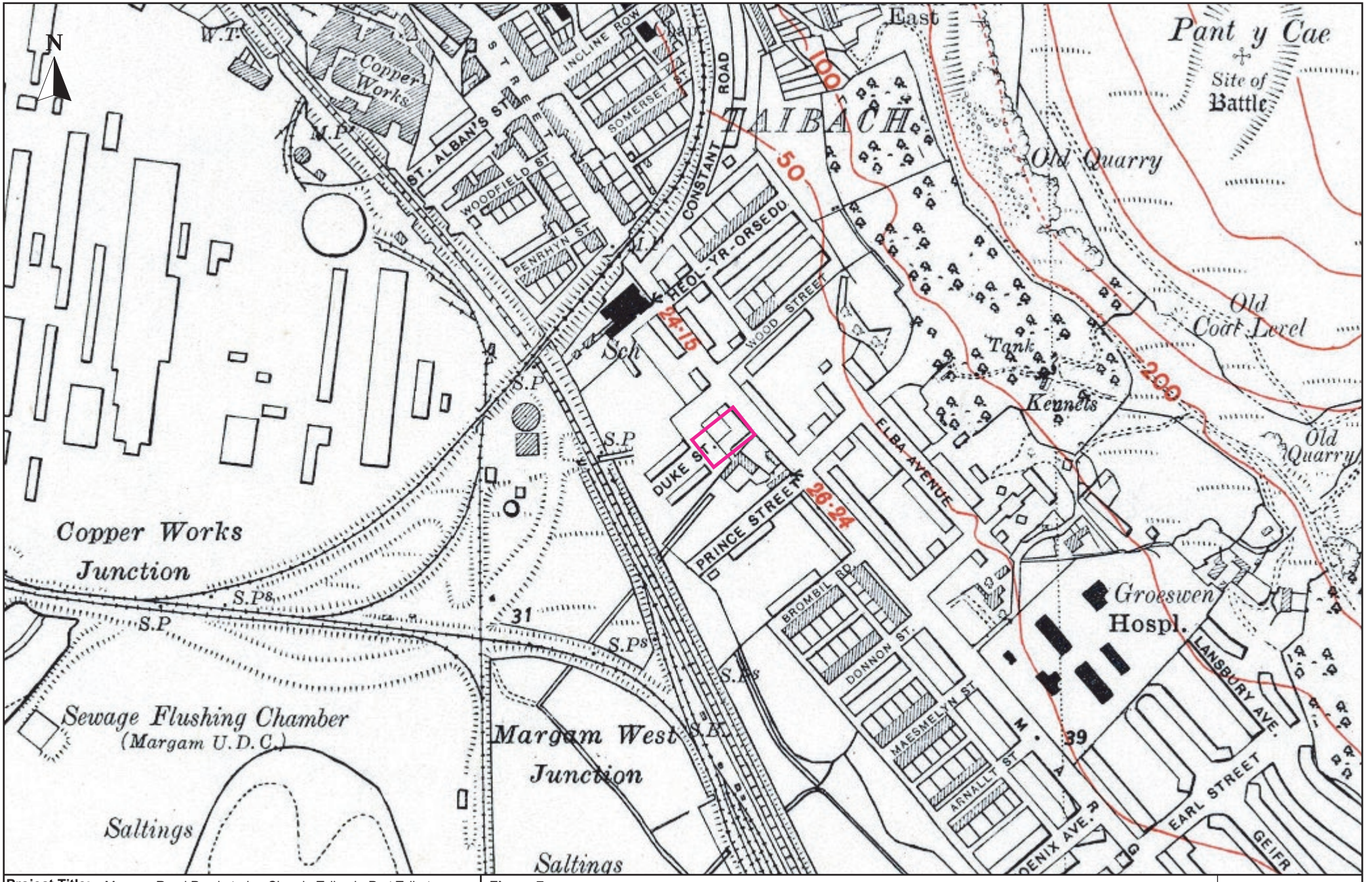
OS Second Edition Map (1900) (Approximate position of Church highlighted in pink).



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**

Figure 6.

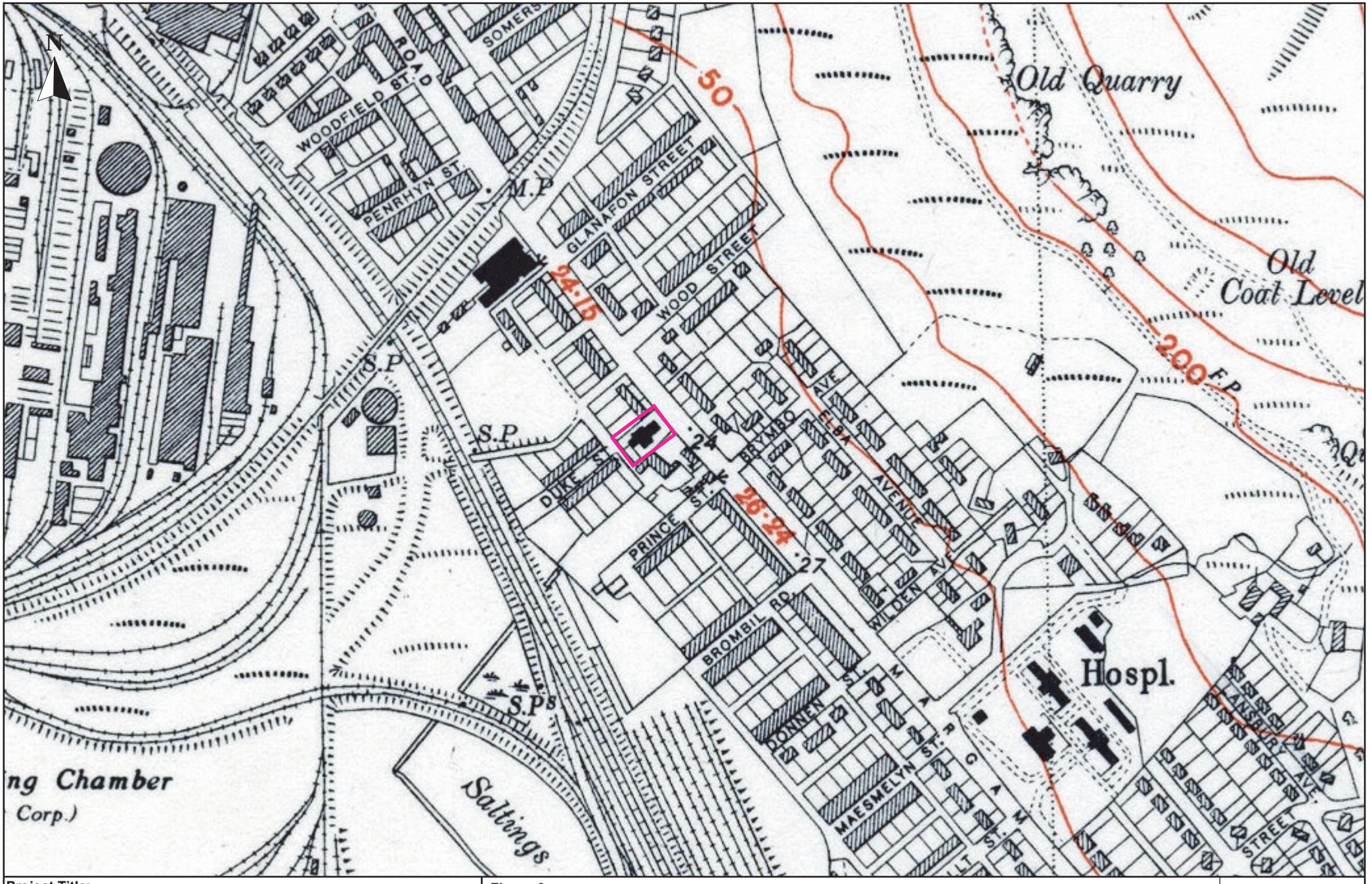
OS 1921 Edition Map (Approximate position of Church highlighted in pink).



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**

Figure 7.

OS 1938 Edition Map (Approximate position of Church highlighted in pink).



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Figure 8.** OS 1951 Edition Map (Church highlighted in pink)
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Meters

Meters

SCALE 1:100

NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY

SIDE GARDEN AREA AND PATH

UP.

Seating Area 1.

Transept

Str1.

L2.

WC1.

Vestry

xRWP.

UP.

Hall DWC.

DWC.

FRONT ENTRANCE RAMP

Church Hall.

Hall Kitchen.

Chancel

NAVE

School Room

Lobby

RAMP UP.

Outside Store

WC2.

Kitchen.

UP.

Seating Area 2.

Transept

Str2.

UP.

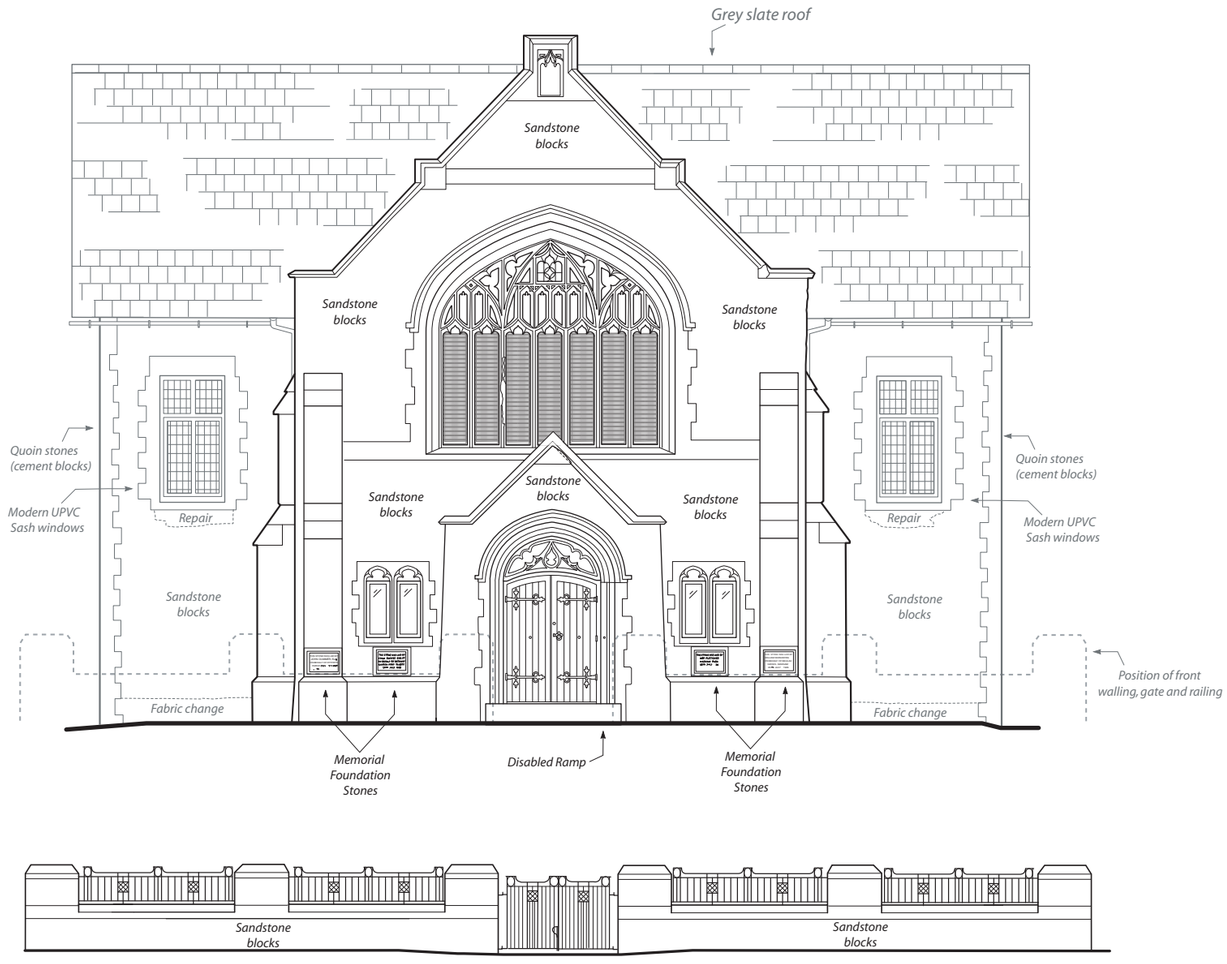
xRWP.

xRWP.

SIDE GARDEN AREA AND PATH

Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 9.**	
Date:	11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3):	1:100
Drawn by:	RSJ	**Drawing No.**	

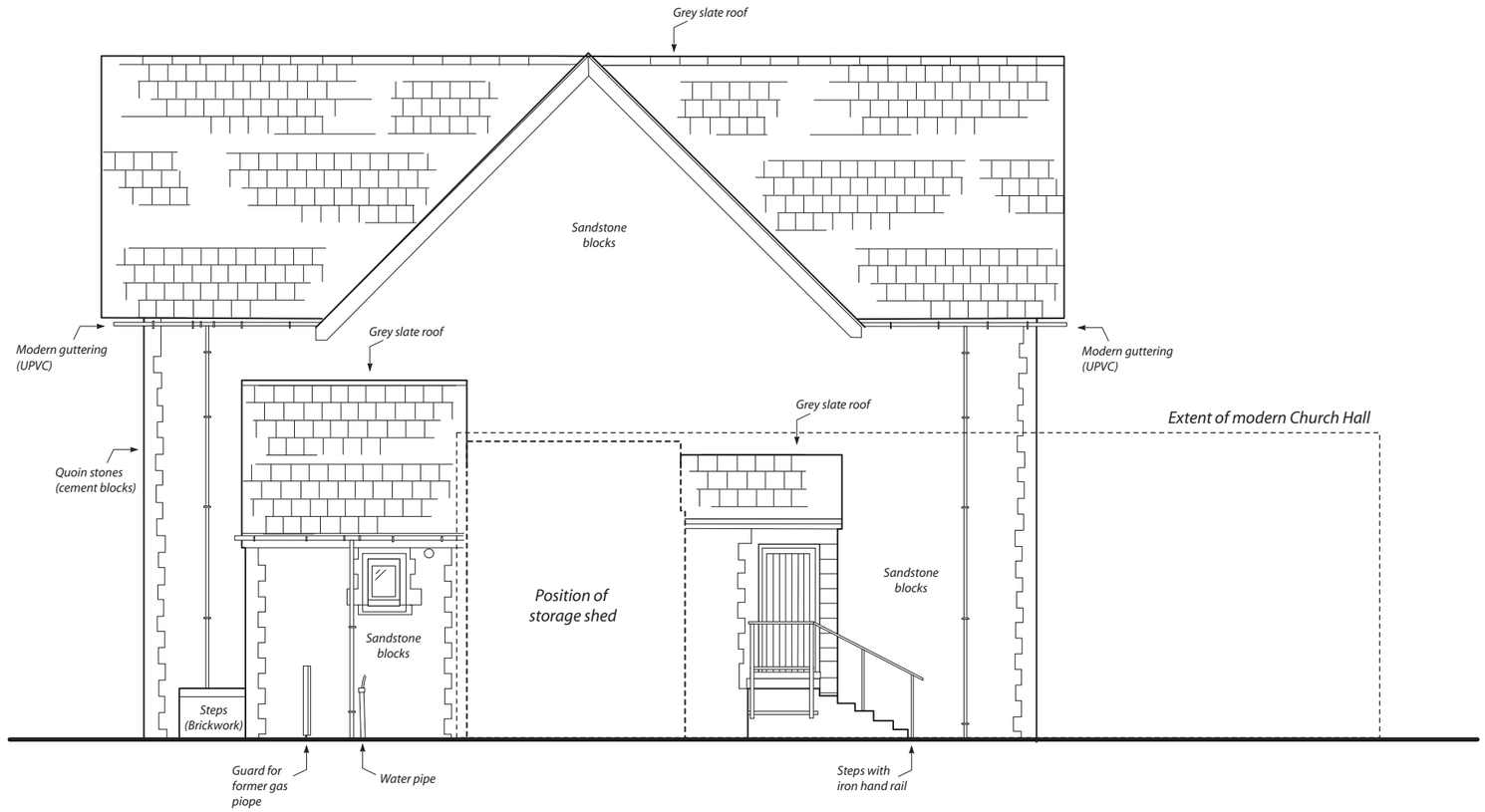
Ground Plan (Architects Plan)



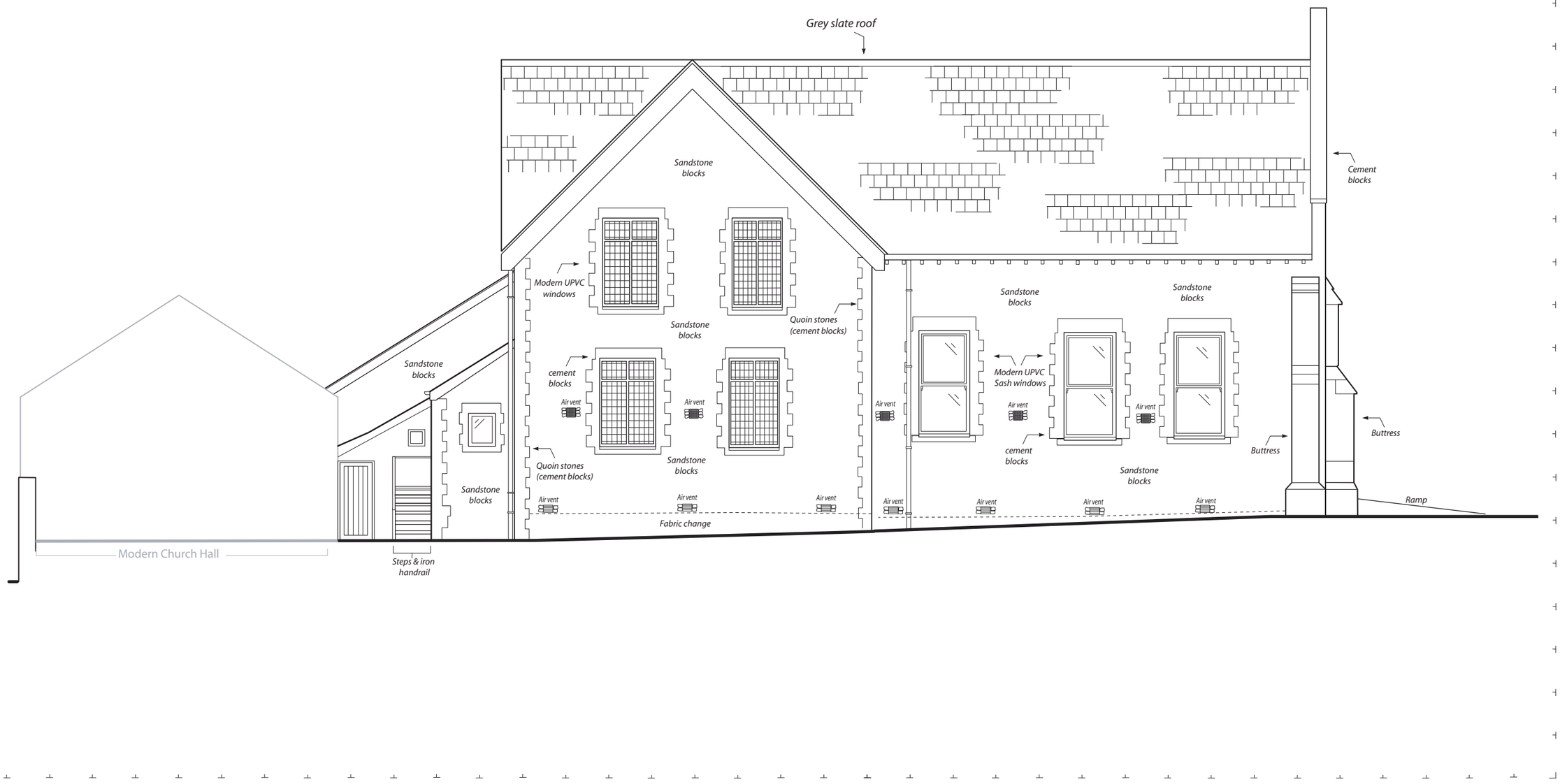
Front walling, gate and railings

Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 10.** External Northeast Facing Front Facade.	
Date: 11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3)**:** 1:100		
Drawn by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		

Meters



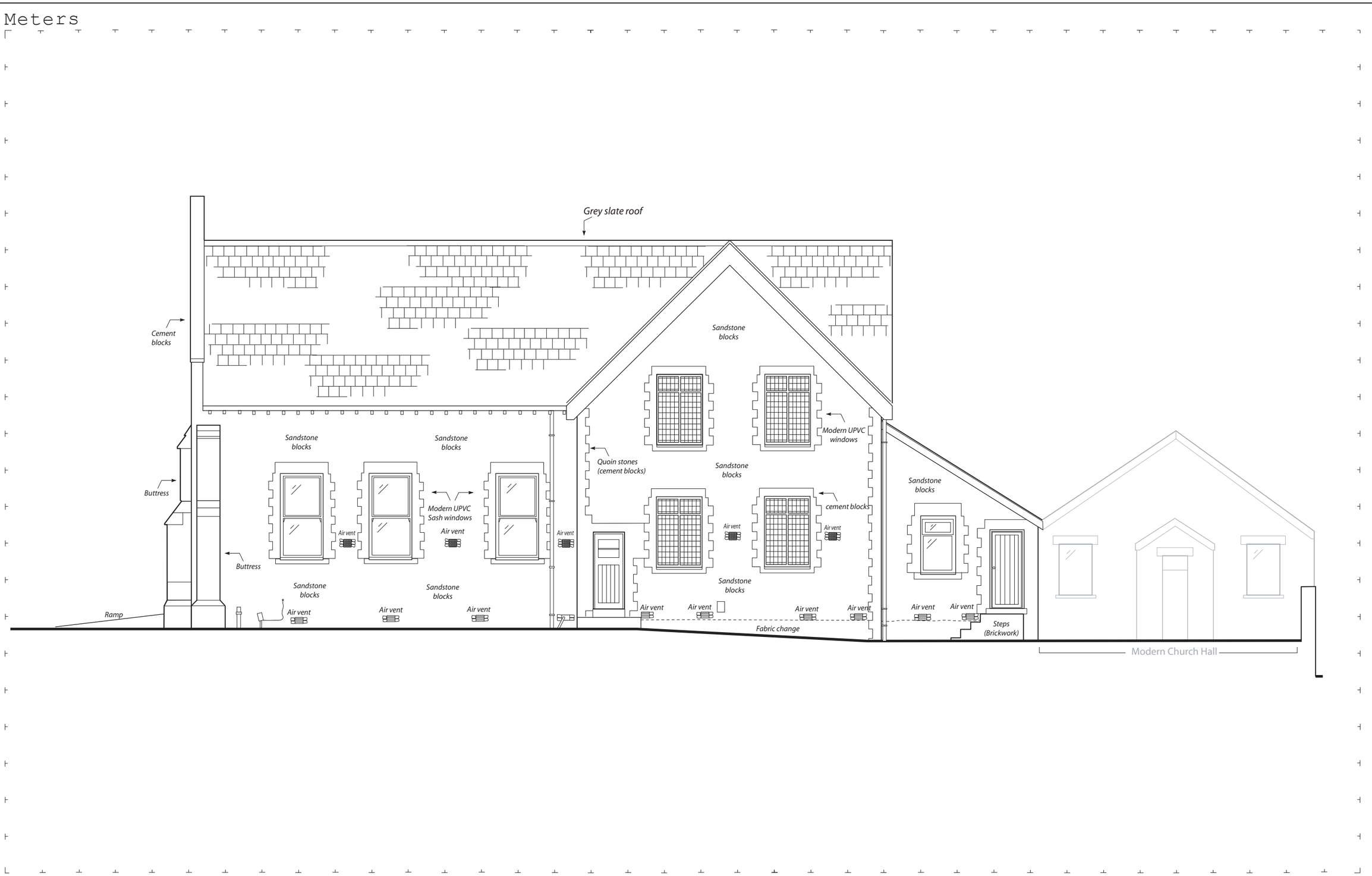
Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 11.**	
Date: 11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3)**:** 1:100	External South-west Facing Rear Elevation.	
Drawn by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		
Date:	11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3)**:**	1:100
Drawn by:	RSJ	**Drawing No.**	

Figure 12.

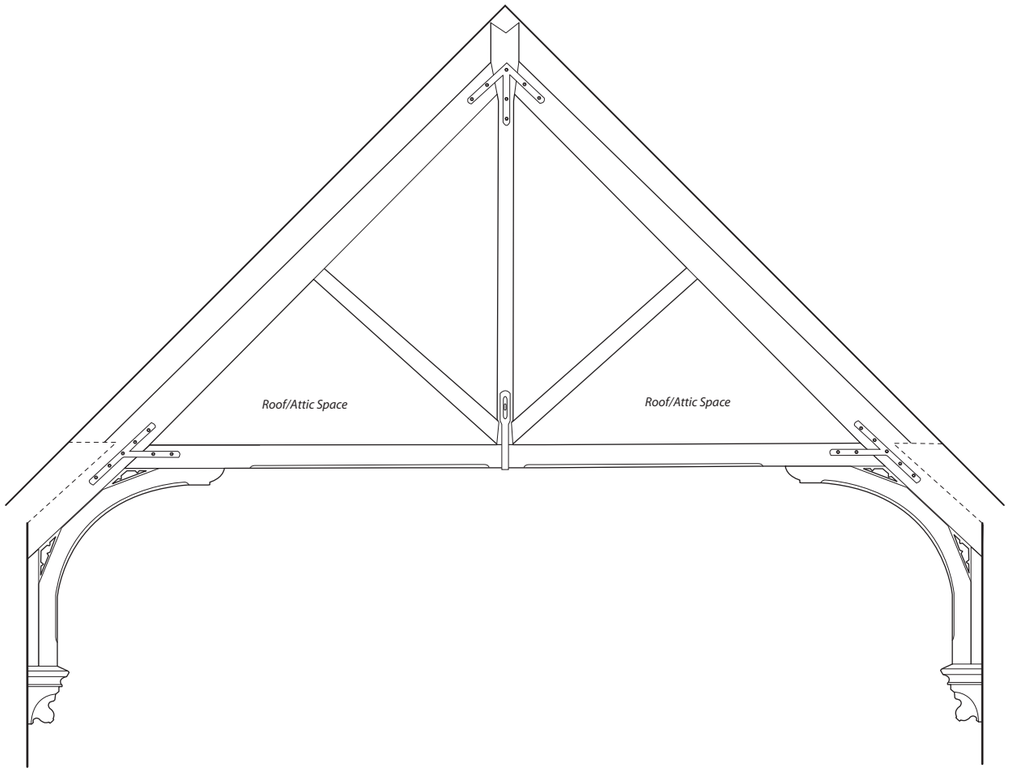
External South-east Facing Side Elevation.



Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 13.**	
Date:	11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3)**:** 1:100	External North-west Facing Side Elevation.
Drawn by:	RSJ	**Drawing No.**	

Meters

Meters



Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 14.** Example of internal timber roof truss.	HRS
Date: 11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3)**:** 1:50		
Drawn by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



WESTERN MAIL, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1926.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT PORT TALBOT.—Mrs. E. U. David laying a foundation-stone on behalf of Mrs. Andrew Fletcher, Margam Castle, who was unable to be present. [*Western Mail* photo.

The Rev. Philip Jones, Pontypridd (centre), speaking at the ceremony. Behind him are Mr. Evan Davies, J.P., and Mr. John Dummer, who also laid foundation-stones. [*Western Mail* photo.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**

Figure 15.

Newspaper article from the Western Mail dated 30th July 1926. Laying of the foundation stones for the church.

TAIBACH PRESBY-TERIAN'S PROGRESS.

OPFNING SERVICES AT NEW CHURCH.

Glorious weather favoured the opening services of the Margam Road English Presbyterian Church, Port Talbot, on Thursday.

There was a large crowd outsidt the church at 3 p.m. when Mrs. I. Vaughan John, of Park View, Port Talbot, presented a key to Mr. David Lewis, of Baglan Road, Aberavon, who performed the formal opening : f the church, and he, having unlocked the door the congregation filed into the building which was quickly filled to its fullest capacity.

The Rev. F. W. Cole, of Penarth, ascended the pulpit in company with the Rev. D. Pugh Bevan (president of the Free Church Council). On the platform around the pulpit were the Rev. B. Jones, Brynmenyn, Rev. W. Bailey Roberts, M.A., Bethany, Rev. Philip Evans, Rev. Thomas Williams Briton Ferry, Rev. R. B. Owen, Kenfig Hill, Councillor George Harris, M.C., Messrs. Evan Davies, J.P., W. J. Williams, J.P., Sam Clement, W. Mainwaring, Fenkes Williams (Kenfig), W. Maddocks (Margam), Tom Davies (Neath) George Tapp, D. E. Thomas (Neath), James Skyrme, John Thomas (building fund chairman), H. S. Sheppard (treasurer), John Hanson (secretary), Thomas Morris (financial secretary), and John Ivor Hanson (building fund treasurer).

After a short prayer, a hymn "Be with us, gracious Lord, to-day" was sung, and the Rev. F. W. Cole read the lesson. This was followed by another hymn, "Sweet is the solemn voice that calls."

Mr. Evan Davies, J.P., gave a history of the church, in the course of which he stated that in 1910 some of the members of Bethany who lived in Taibach made an application as to the possibility of starting a cause in Taibach. They talked the matter over and they got into consultation with their friends at "Dyffryn" with the result that in February 12th, 1911, the members of the new church met for services in the Co-operative Society's Hall. After that an application was made to the Glamorgan Presbytery and they sent a deputation on April 27th of the same year, who constituted it as a church. At that time the membership was 39, with eleven Sunday School teachers and 125 scholars. They next moved to the Carnegie Free Library where they were generously dealt with in regard to the use of a room for their services. Up to the opening ceremony performed that day they had been lodgers but now they had come into possession of a splendid house of their own. Mr. Davies made special reference to the fact that their thanks were due to the Agent of the Margam Estate, Councillor E. U. David, J.P., for his good services in connection with their present site. They had viewed many, but none was so good and suitable as that one. Having referred to the success of their stone-laying ceremony at which the collections amounted to £700, through the generosity of a respected friend who gave £100, he stated that the cost of the building was £4,058, and he was sure the congregation thanked the architect and the contractor for the excellency of their work.

The hymn "Teach me, O Lord, to follow Him who trod" having been sung, the Rev. F. W. Cole preached an impressive sermon from Revelations iii, 20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

The service concluded with the singing of "In heavenly love abiding" and the "Benediction."

Later in the evening another service was held at which the Rev. F. W. Coles again conducted the service and preached an acceptable sermon.

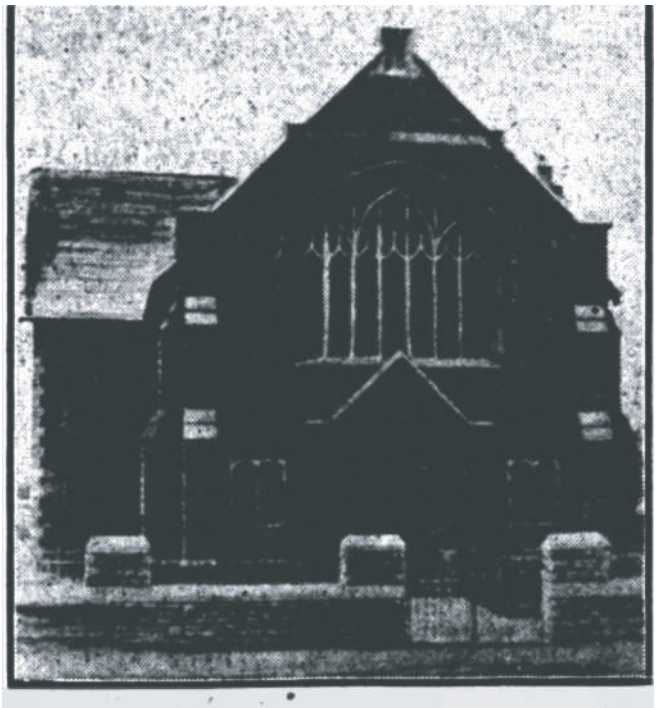
On Friday evening Dr. R. R. Davies of Neath, preached at a special service, and the musical portion of the service was assisted in by the Neath Mission Choir.

On Saturday evening the Rev. I. Morris, B.A., B.D., of Cwmavon, was the preacher. On Sunday sermons were preached by the Rev. M. J. Mills, of Nantymoel, and the Rev. D. W. Stephens, B.A., of Dyffryn Church. On Monday by the Rev. H. G. Howell, of Newport; on Tuesday by Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd Jones, M.D., F.R.C.P., of "Bethlehem," Sandfields, and on Wednesday by the Rev. C. Vincent Williams, M.A., of Llanelly.

There was also a special Welsh service in "Dyffryn" C.M. church on Monday evening when a sermon was preached by the Rev. Philip Jones, of Pontypridd (ex-Moderator of the Presbytery).

interest in this new church shows an increase rather than a decrease as the services enumerated as being held during this week have been well attended and the sermons all of a ter. With such a promising initiation the congregation who have worked so earnestly and assidiously to obtain a meeting place of their own, should go on prospering as it is in a neighbourhood of a rapidly growing character, where its influence and ministrations will have plenty of scope for helping those who probably but for the fact of having a place of worship close at their own doors, would go nowhere. At a time when there is such a spirit of unrest and a longing desire for pleasure, such a church and its following has a splendid opportunity to bring about a more desirable moral and spiritual mentality.

The church is to also be congratulated on having, for so young a movement, a splendid War Roll of Honour, of which they may be justly proud. The names inscribed are:—Sergt. W. Lucas, R.H.A.; Pioneer J. Cochin, R.E.; Pioneer W. Greenwood, R.E.; Sapper C. Granage, R.E.; Private J. Skyrme, R.A.S.C.; Gunner W. Bishop, R.F.A.; V.P.O. B. Singleton, R.N.; Sapper T. Harris, R.E.; Signaller J. L. Hanson, R.F.A.; Private T. E. Morris, R.W.F.; Private C. E. Harris, M.G.C.; Private J. G. Harris, Cheshire Regt.; Pioneer W. R. Llewellyn, R.A.C.C.; Private D. Nurton, S.W.B.; Stoker R. Hunt, R.N.; Private R. Evans, Mon. Regt.



The new Margam-road English Presbyterian Church, Port Talbot, which will be opened to-day (Thursday) by Mr. David Lewis, Baglan-road, Port Talbot.

Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 16.** Article from the Port Talbot Guardian dates 20th May 1927. The Opening Service of the Church.	
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):		
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**		

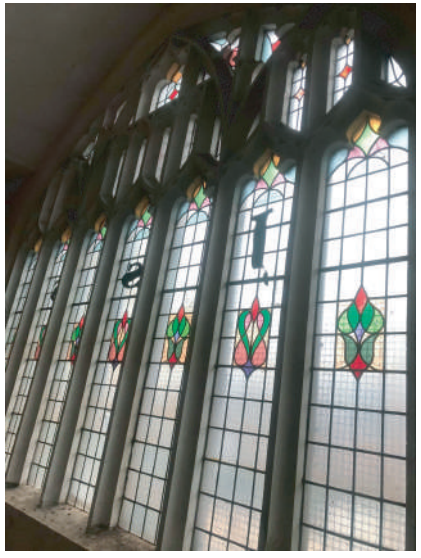


a) Minister and Elders - 1961



b) Sisterhood Commitee - 1935 - 1936

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Figure 17.** Old Photographs of Sisterhood Committee and Minister and Elders.	HRS HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT AND CONTRACTOR
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**		
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**		







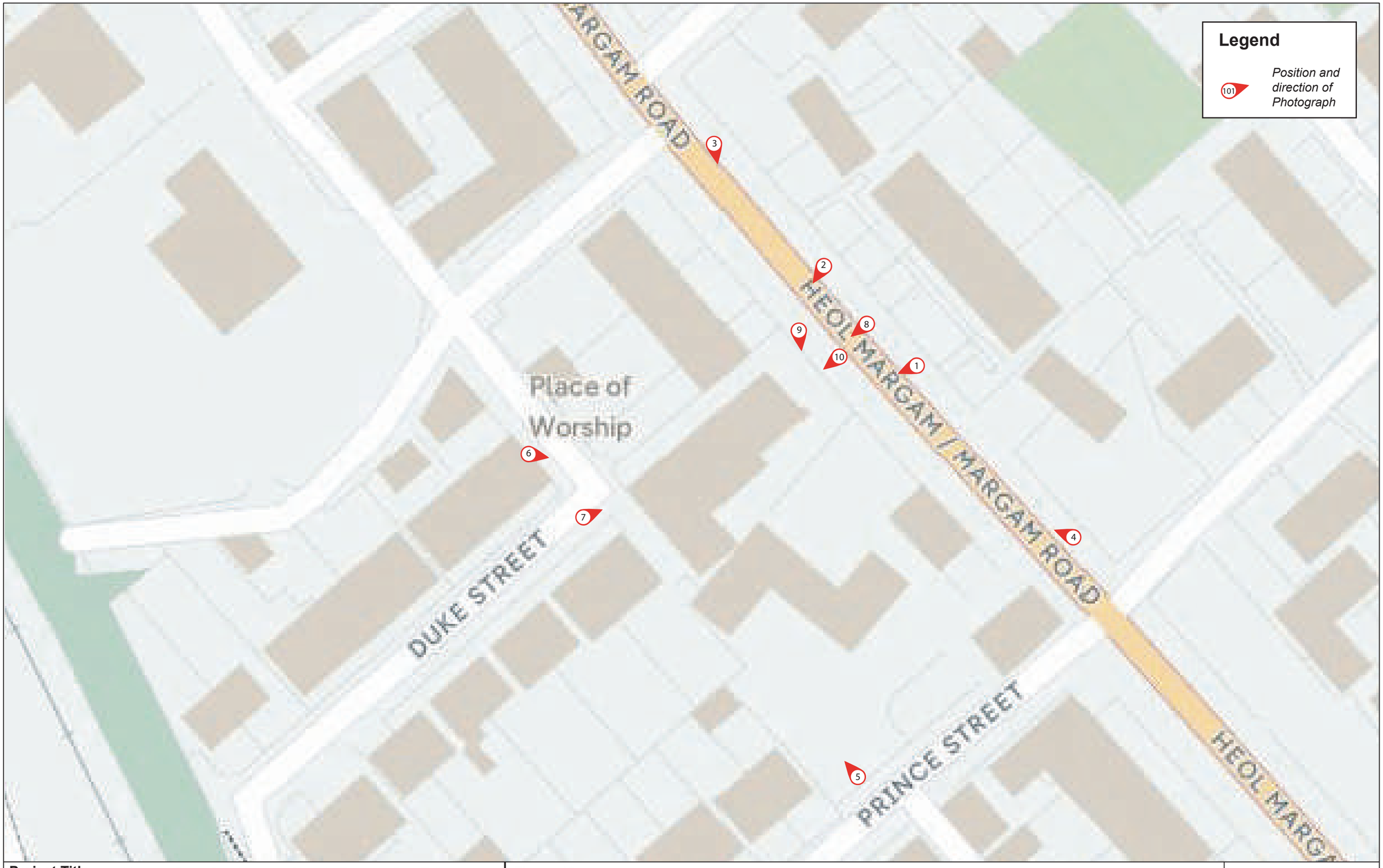



Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		
Date: April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4)**:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Figure 18.

Photographs of interior of church following closure and on property market.

HRS
HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT AND CONTRACTOR



Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 19.**	
Date:	11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3): 1:100	Phot Index Sheet - 1 of 2
Drawn by:	RSJ	**Drawing No.**	

HRS

Meters

NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY

SIDE GARDEN AREA AND PATH

Hall DWC.

Church Hall

Hall Kitchen.

Outside Store

WC1.

L2.

Robe Room.

WC2.

UP.

Seating Area 1.

Str1.

xRWP.

Main Worship Area.

Seating Area 2.

Str2.

Reception Area.

DWC.

Lobby.

Kitchen.

FRONT ENTRANCE RAMP

RAMP UP.

SIDE GARDEN AREA AND PATH

Legend

Position and direction of Photograph

Project Title:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot	**Figure 20.**	
Date:	11th April 2024	**Approx. Scale** (@ A3):	1:100
Drawn by:	RSJ	**Drawing No.**	Phot Index Sheet - 2 of 2

APPENDIX II:
Photo plates



Plate 01. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church from public road. Looking NW.



Plate 02. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church from public road. Looking S.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 1 - 2	HRS
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 03. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church from public road. Looking S.



Plate 04. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church. Looking NW



Plate 05. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church. Looking NW



Plate 06. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church. Looking E.



Plate 07. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church. Looking NE.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	3 - 7	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 08. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of front NE facing facade. Looking SW.



Plate 09. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of church enclosure stone wall and iron railings. Looking S.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 8 - 9	HRS
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 10. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of access gate. Looking SW.



Plate 11. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of church enclosure stone wall and iron railings. Looking NE.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	10 - 11	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 12. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of front NE facing facade. Looking SW.



Plate 13. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of front entrance into church. Looking SW.



Plate 14. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of front entrance into church. Looking S.



Plate 15. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Oblique view of church front facade. Looking W.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 12 - 15
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



late 16. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Oblique view of front NE facing facade. Looking S.



Plate 17. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of memorial foundation stones on right side of front facade of church. Looking SW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	16 - 17	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 18. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of memorial foundation stones on left side of front facade of church. Looking SW.



Plate 19. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of gothic tracery window in front facade. Looking SW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	18 -19	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 20. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing external elevation of church. Looking W.



Plate 21. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NE end of SE facing external elevation of church. Looking NE.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	20 - 21	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 22. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing external elevation of church. Looking N.



Plate 23. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NE facing section of SW end of church. Looking SW.



Plate 24. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing section of SW end of church. Looking N.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 22 - 24
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



Plate 25. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing external elevation of church. Looking N.



Plate 26. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of brick built Church Hall. Looking NW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 25 - 26	HRS
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 27. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing external elevation of church. Looking N.



Plate 28. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of area at rear of church. Looking NW.



Plate 29. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of buttress attached to NE end of SW facing elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 30. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NW facing elevation. Looking SW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	HRS
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	27 - 30	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 31. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NE end of NW section of church. Looking E.



Plate 32. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing external elevation. Looking W.



Plate 33. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SE facing external elevation. Looking W.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	31 - 33	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 34. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NE facing section of NW facing elevation. Looking SW.



Plate 35. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NW facing elevation. Looking SW.



Plate 36. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NW facing elevation. Looking NE.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	34 - 36	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 37. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of central section of NW facing elevation. Looking NE..



Plate 38. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SW facing rear elevation. Looking NE.



Plate 39. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NW facing rear section of NW facing elevation. Looking SE..

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	37 - 39	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 40. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NW end of Church Hall. Looking S.



Plate 41. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NW end of Church Hall. Looking SE..

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	40 - 41	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 42. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Reception Hall. Looking W



Plate 43. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Reception Hall. Looking NE



Plate 44. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Reception Hall. Looking NW.



Plate 45. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Reception Hall. Looking SE..



Plate 46. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Reception Hall. Looking S.



Plate 47. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Reception Hall. Looking SW.



Plate 48. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - W.C. Looking NW..



Plate 49. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Kitchen.. Looking SE..

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 42 - 49	HRS
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 50. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Playschool partitioned room. Looking NW.



Plate 51. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Playschool partitioned room. Looking N.



Plate 52. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Playschool partitioned room. Looking SE.



Plate 53. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Playschool partitioned room. Looking SW.



Plate 54. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Main Hall. Looking SW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 50 - 54	HRS
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):		
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 55. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Main Hall. Looking SW.



Plate 56. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Main Hall. Looking W.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	55 - 56	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 57. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Main Hall. Looking S.



Plate 58. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Main Hall. Looking SW.



Plate 59. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Pulpit in Main Hall. Looking S.



Plate 60. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Pulpit in Main Hall. Looking S.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 57 - 60
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



Plate 61. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Pulpit. Looking SW.



Plate 62. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Pulpit. Looking W.



Plate 63. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Pulpit. Looking NW.



Plate 64. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Pulpit. Looking NW.

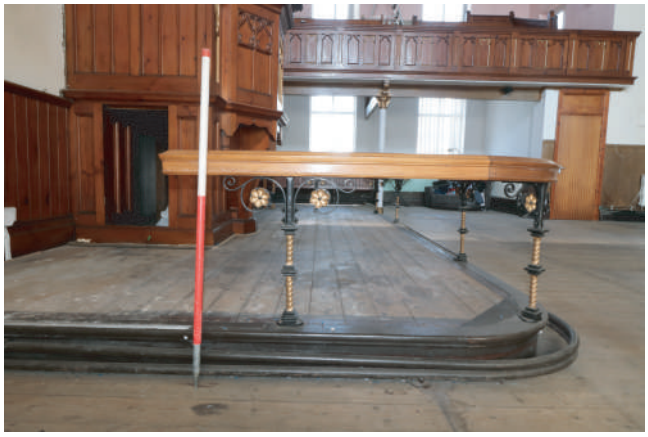


Plate 65. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of decorative handrail around pulpit. Looking NW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 61 - 65
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



Plate 66. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NE end of Main Hall. Looking NE.



Plate 67. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of NE end of Main Hall. Looking E.



Plate 68. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of balcony on NW side of church. Looking NW.



Plate 69. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of balcony on NW side of church. Looking NW.



Plate 70. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of balcony on NW side of church. Looking NW.



Plate 71. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of balcony on SE side of church. Looking SE.



Plate 72. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of balcony on SE side of church. Looking SE.



Plate 73. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of balcony on SE side of church. Looking S

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 66 - 73
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



Plate 74. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of SW facing wall in church. Looking NE.



Plate 75. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of war memorial wall at SE end of church. Looking SE.



Plate 76. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - War memorial plaque at SE end of church. Looking SE.



Plate 77. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Detail of cast iron balcony support pilllars.



Plate 78. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Detaill of decorative corbels supporting roof trusses



Plates 79. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Detail of balcony support timbers.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	74 - 79	HRS
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 80. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of panelled balcony at NW side of church. Looking W.



Plate 82. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View from balcony at NW side of church. Looking E.



Plate 81. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Staircase leadimg to balcony on NW side of church. Looking NW



Plate 83. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View from balcony at NW side of church. Looking E.



Plate 84. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View from balcony at NW side of church. Looking S.



Plate 85. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Viewof opposing balcony from NW balcony. Looking SE.



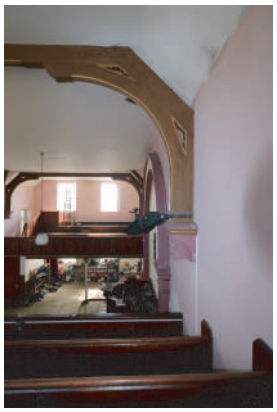


Plate 86 & 87. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Details of roof truss from balcony.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates** 80 - 87
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



Plate 88. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View from balcony on SE side. Looking N.



Plate 89. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View from balcony on SE side. Looking NW.



Plate 90. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of decorative arch against SW wall of church. Looking W.



Plate 91. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of stain glass window from balcony on SE side. Looking NW.



Plate 92. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Detail of decorative scrolled corbel support roof truss. Looking N.



Plate 93. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of staircase leading to balcony on SE side of church. Looking NW

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	88 - 93	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 94. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of stained glass window from balcony on SE side. Looking N.



Plate 95. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Former Vestry room. Looking W.



Plate 96. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Former Vestry room. Looking E.



Plate 97. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - Former Vestry room. Looking N. Detail of fireplace.



Plate 98. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - W.C at far SW end of church.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	94 - 98	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		



Plate 99. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of attic roof space from NW end balcony. Looking SE.



Plate 100. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of attic roof space from NW end balcony. Looking SE.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	99 - 100
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**	



Plate 101. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church Hall. Looking SE.



Plate 102. Margam Road Presbyterian Church - View of Church Hall. Looking NW.

Project Title: Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot		**Photo Plates**	
Date Taken: 10th April 2025	**Approx. Scale** (@ A4):	101 - 102	
Appropriated by: RSJ	**Drawing No.**		

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Margam Road Presbyterian Church,
Taibach, Port Talbot, Glamorgan.

ARCHIVE DESTINATION - RCAHMW

Site Name:	Margam Road Presbyterian Church, Taibach, Port Talbot, Glamorgan.
Site Code:	MRPC/2025/ABIR
NPRN:	9862
PRN:	09318w
SAM No.	-
Listed Builing:	-
Other Ref No.	HRSW Rpt No. 307
NGR:	SS 77697 88447
Site Type:	Early 20th Century Presbyterian Church
Project Type:	Archaeological Building Investigation & Recording
Project Manager:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Date(s):	April 2025
Categories Present:	None
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of Duplicate Archive:	HER (GGA)
Number of Find Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Ref:	N/A
Copyright:	HRS Wales
Restrictions to Access:	None



Egwyl, Llwyn-y-groes, Tregaron, Ceredigion SY25 6QE

Tel: 01570 493759 Fax: 08712 428171 E-mail: richard@hrswales.co.uk