

# Ebenezer Chapel, Salter Road, Rotherhithe, London Borough of Southwark: Historic Building Record

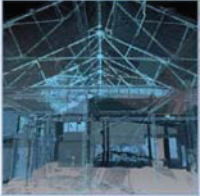
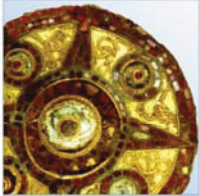
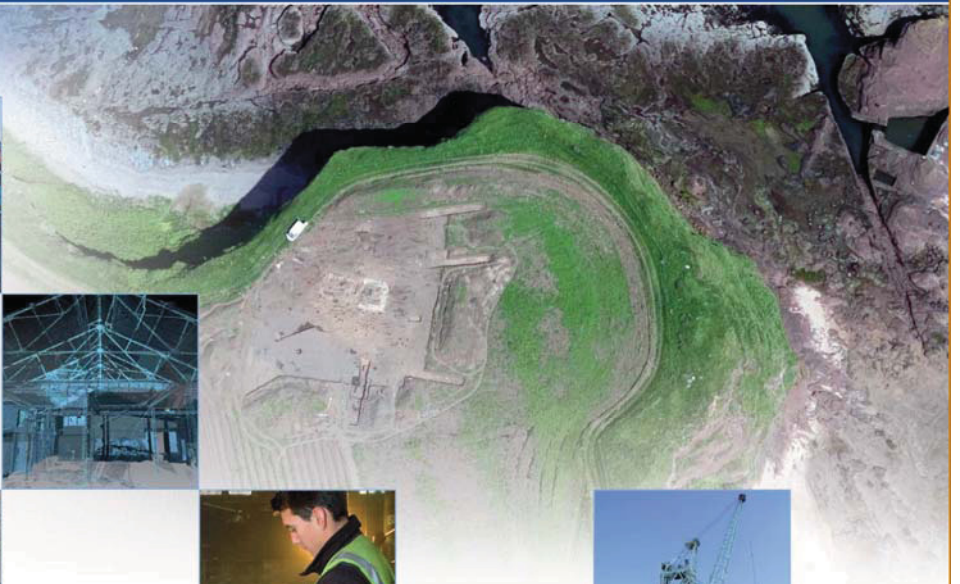
Planning Application: 11-AP-22421107

National Grid Reference: TQ 3648 7959

AOC Project No: 32077

Site Code: EZC 12

Date: July 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

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**Ebenezer Chapel, Salter Road, Rotherhithe,  
London Borough of Southwark:  
Historic Building Record**

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**On Behalf of:** **Denne**  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** **TQ 3648 7959**

**AOC Project No:** **32077**

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**Date:** **July 2012**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Summary

*A programme of Historic Building Recording at the Ebenezer Church in Rotherhithe was undertaken in advance of demolition. This was built in 1871 for the local Norwegian population. This building was recorded to Level 2 standard as defined by English Heritage Guidelines. Additional research was carried out to further enhance the historical background of the building.*

*The church has a rectangular nave with an apsidal chancel, constructed of brick. The only religious iconography remaining was a small external metal cross above the apse. This was opened in 1871; the foundation stone was clearly readable. On one side of the church were a group of rooms that would have been suitable for meetings and community groups. This block had been heavily modified and had lost much of its historic character.*

*The church has an associated dwelling house, originally for the pastor, and later used as the warden's house when the building was used by the Docklands Settlements Charity.*

*The lack of any iconography within the church may be the result of the pieces being transferred to a new Norwegian church in 1927, when this building was closed as a religious centre.*

*Architecturally, the church and dwelling have some interest, being a good example of a church of the period, however, the lack of original fittings has reduced their value, and considerable ground movement causing structural cracks was clearly apparent.*

*No further building recording is recommended for this property. The results will be published through the ADS website, and copies of the report available at the local studies library.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of a programme of Historic Building Recording carried out to Level 2 standard of the Ebenezer Chapel on Salter Street, Rotherhithe, in the London Borough of Southwark (Figure 1). The site is triangular in plan, and is located on the southeast side of Salter Street. Rotherhithe Street runs along the east and south sides (Figure 2). It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3648 7959.

## 2. Project Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Southwark. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer.
- 2.2 The proposed development involves the demolition of all existing buildings, to be replaced by 28 dwellings within a part 3-, part 4- storey building on the southern edge of site. The northern part will have a new single storey community building constructed, with a new sports pitch.
- 2.3 Planning for the development (Planning Application Ref: 11-AP-2242) was granted for the demolition of all buildings, to be replaced by residential and community properties. A condition placed on the granted application, was for the implementation of an archaeological building survey. Condition 3 stated:

*No demolition works shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of recording and historical analysis, which considers building structure and architectural detail/evidence. This shall be submitted by the applicant before works on site commence.*

*Reason: To ensure that the features of interest on the existing building are properly recorded, in accordance with Saved Policy 3.15 Conservation of the historic environment of the Southwark Plan 2007 and SP12 Design and Conservation of the Core Strategy 2011.*

- 2.4 The next stage in the process was the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work (AOC 2012). This detailed the methodology for recording and was approved by Dr Chris Constable. No desk-based assessment has been produced for this site.
- 2.5 The WSI conformed to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG 2010). The methodology was also designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
  - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Papers 2-4 London Region (EH 1998a-b).
  - English Heritage – Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (EH 2006)
  - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures (IfA 2008a).
  - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
  - Department for Communities and Local Government – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).
  - Museum of London/English Heritage – A Research Framework for London Archaeology (MoL/EH 2002).

### 3. Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey mapping (BGS 1979) of this area indicates that the solid geology underlying the site and surrounding area is the London Clay formation. This is an Eocene marine deposit, laid down c. 55 million years ago. This is overlain by a superficial geology of Kempton Park Gravel comprising sand and gravels formed in the Devensian period (c.110,000 - 25,000 years Before Present (BP)). The geological mapping furthermore indicates that the site lies near the boundary where alluvium associated with the River Thames overlies the gravels.
- 3.2 The site is located approximately 1km from the current southern bank of the River Thames, a focus of human activity from prehistory onwards, attested by numerous artefacts discovered from the River and its flood plains (e.g. MoLAS 2000).

### 4. Archaeological And Historical Background

- 4.1 The following background information is derived from the Written Scheme of Investigation, enhance by research at Southwark local Studies Library (AOC 2012).

#### **Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)**

- 4.2 Scattered flint and stone artefacts typify the earliest prehistoric activity recovered generally in Southwark, in the vicinity of the site, including stone axes and flint tools. No direct occupation appears to have occurred until the Bronze Age, when cultivation of the gravel islands further west began.

#### **Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)**

- 4.3 There was Roman occupation upon Bermondsey Eyot, quite far west of the site. More locally, abraded pottery has been recovered from Platform Wharf on Rotherhithe Eyot, and a ditch at Rupack Street, 1500m to the west contained a coin of Roman date. Roman settlement in Southwark is concentrated further west around Borough High Street and the waterfront at London Bridge (AOC 2007).

#### **Anglo-Saxon (c.AD 410 – 1066)**

- 4.4 Southwark does not appear to have been densely settled until the end of the Saxon period, and Rotherhithe lies to the east of the main settlement. The name 'Rotherhithe' derives from two Saxon words, *redhra* a mariner, and *hyth*, a haven. This indicates a focus towards the river rather than inland. The nearest archaeological evidence in the area is from the excavations at Platform Wharf, which revealed Saxon pottery of the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century (AOC 2007).

#### **Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)**

- 4.5 Rotherhithe was located within the royal manor of Bermondsey until 1089, when it was created as a separate manor. The centre of medieval Rotherhithe is thought likely to have been focused around a church which stood where the current 18<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Mary lies, 1.5km northwest of the site (AOC 2007). Almost half of Rotherhithe was given to Bermondsey Abbey in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century by King Henry I. The Abbey later acquired much of the rest of Rotherhithe, although all was taken from it following the dissolution of the monasteries.

#### **Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (AD 1536 – Present)**

- 4.6 The waterfront along Rotherhithe began to be developed with docks for shipbuilding and repair. Rotherhithe shipwrights petitioned Queen Elizabeth I in 1578 for the right to control the shipbuilding industry on the Thames, and in 1612 received a Royal Charter from King James I for the '*The*

*Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mystery of Shipwrights of Redriff in the County of Surrey* (Knowles 1821).

- 4.7 The principal historic development of this area of Rotherhithe is Surrey Commercial Docks. These are the only enclosed docks upon the south bank of the Thames. They were established in 1697, initially with great Howland Dock later Greenland Dock, some 200m south of the site. At the height of its use, the docks comprised nine docks, six timber ponds and a 3.5 mile canal. The earliest map available at the time of writing is Roque's map of 1738, which shows the site to be marshy fields with drainage ditches, and only the Howland Dock present, named 'Upper Wet Dock. Rogue's Lane, later Deptford Street (later part of Rotherhithe Street) runs along the south edge of the site.
- 4.8 The first road shown in the area of the site is depicted on William Horwood's Map of 1803, which shows a short section of Trinity Road (also later Rotherhithe Street) running north-south. A new Commercial Dock is also shown west of the site, later named Lady Dock. The site remains undeveloped.
- 4.9 The first edition Ordnance Survey Map, from 1875, shows the site to have been within land then occupied by Acorn Yard, on the eastern side of Lady Dock. Rotherhithe Street, also known as Bickley Row, is named by 1866, and with houses to the south and a creosote works east of the site. Ebenezer Church is first shown on the 1895 Ordnance Survey map, and identified by name, plus the information 'Norwegian Lutheran', 500 people. This was established as a seafarers mission. Otherwise, Acorn Yard remains undeveloped.
- 4.10 In 1927, Ebenezer Church was closed, and passed to the ownership of the Docklands Settlements, a charity established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to bring welfare and recreation to the youth of dockland areas.
- 4.11 The impact on the site of bomb damage from the Second World War is notable. Houses to the south of the site on Rotherhithe Street were demolished, and the bomb damage maps indicate that the church was damaged. The changing footprint of the church buildings is well represented in the cartographic evidence, with additional structures being added to the north and southwest. However, the exact extent of rebuilding, repair and modification is currently unclear. During the 1950s, Acorn Yard was developed with warehouses. During the later years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the docks were closed and infilled, and their warehouses demolished. Salter Road post-dates the closing of the docks.

### **The Scandinavian Churches**

- 4.12 The need for Scandinavian churches to minister to Scandinavians in London grew out of the trade in Baltic timber in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (Rowston 2009). The docks on the south side of the Thames were the focus for the imports, until the move to Tilbury in the 1960s. The first Danish/Norwegian church was built in Wapping, while the Swedish Church was established in 1711 (Rowston 2009). When Norway was ceded to Sweden in 1814, the Norwegian church closed. In 1842, The Norwegian Mission Society was founded, as an independent society within the church of Norway. It was not until 1868 that the Ebenezer Church new church was started, and was opened on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1871 (Rowston 2009).
- 4.13 Initially, the focus of the Ebenezer Church was the religious and moral welfare of the seaman abroad, but this developed into provision of reading rooms, entertainment, and a place where they could meet other Norwegians. Because most of the Scandinavian sailors arrived at Surrey Docks, it made sense for the missions to be based there. The importance of the church to the Norwegian community is recorded in *The Evening News* in 1917: "...at the tiny Norwegian Sailors Church in



Redriff Road, Mlle Alethe Vogt, daughter of the Norwegian Minister in London, was married to Mr Frederick Blom, of Christiana. The service, conducted by Pastor Heuch, was in Norwegian”.

- 4.14 The mission moved from Rotherhithe Street, near Commercial Dock pier, to a new St Olav’s church adjacent to the entrance to the Rotherhithe tunnel. When it opened on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1928, Crown Prince Olaf attended. The *Daily Chronicle* reported that “Hitherto the pastor of the Norwegian colony in London, the Rev J. Smidt, has made his headquarters at the sailors mission at Surrey Docks”. During the Second World War it was the place of worship for the Norwegian royal family in exile and acquired pro-cathedral status where priests were ordained for the free world and where King Haakon VII broadcast many of his speeches to the Norwegian people. Johannes Smidt received the Order of St Olaf in 1934.
- 4.15 More recently, with the opening up of Tilbury, and the use of 24-hour working, fast turn-around, and reduced crewing, seamen seldom leave their vessels and visit the church. Nowadays the emphasis of St Olav’s is less on the seafaring community and it is now primarily for Norwegians living in London (Rowston 2009).

### The Docklands Settlements

- 4.16 After the closure of the church in 1927, the site was used by the Dockland Settlements, which are of social interest. The Docklands Settlements (Plates 1 and 2) followed on from a Church of England school mission from Malvern in Worcestershire in 1895. Sir Reginald Kennedy Cox, a Malvern schoolboy later purchased property in Canning Town and The Isle of Dogs (1923), linked to the mission. It became known as The Dockland Settlement and Malvern Mission Boys’ Clubs, with Sir Reginald in charge. The Settlement was popular, and provided refuge from poverty of slum-dwelling. The first Dockland Settlement provided a nursery school and children’s clubs, and for the older unemployed, a carpentry workshop and a gymnasium. There was even a fully equipped dental surgery operating two evenings a week.

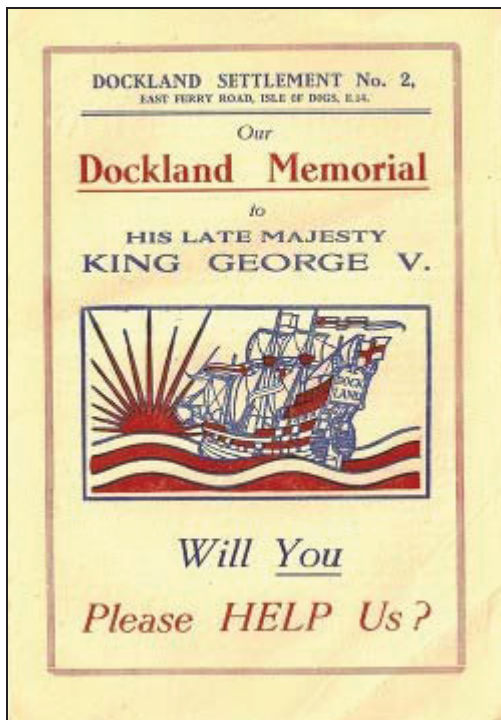


Plate 1: Dockland Settlement Pamphlet from 1936, Featuring their Logotype

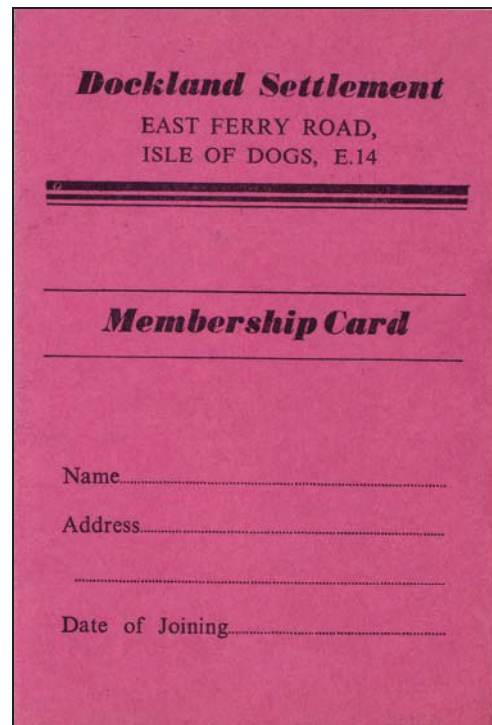


Plate 2: Modern Membership Card

4.17 Throughout the Second World War, the Dockland Settlements played a major role in maintaining a community spirit. The pastor's house is currently occupied by a beauty salon, and a worker there noted that her family were taught in the church after their school was bombed. The success of these proto-Community Centres continued into the 1950's and 1960's, but, as local authorities developed their own facilities and withdrew essential funding, a large number of settlements across the country were forced into closure (Docklands Settlements 2012). The Docklands Settlements are still extant (Plate 2).

## **5. Strategy**

### **5.1 Aims of the Investigation**

5.1.1 The aims of the Historic Building Recording were defined as being:

- To determine the buildings' development and use.
- A written account of the buildings form, function, date and sequence of development.
- To photograph the exterior of the buildings to create a permanent archive record.
- To photograph the overall appearance of the principle rooms and circulation areas.
- To create measured and sketched plans and sections, as appropriate, in line with Level 2 standards.
- To make a Level 2 drawing of any pieces of architectural decorations, structural features and details.
- To conduct background research on the site to place the building within its historical context

5.1.2 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### **5.2 Methodology**

5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012). All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2008a-c, IfA 2000).

5.2.2 The historic building record conformed to published guidelines (English Heritage 2006)

5.2.3 Prior to commencing work, a unique site code (EZC 12) for the project was agreed in consultation with the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) as the site identifier.

5.2.4 The archaeological work was carried out on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

5.2.5 The site work was supervised by Les Capon under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director.. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Chris Constable, Senior Archaeology Officer of the London Borough of Southwark. Chris Constable visited the site during the works and confirmed that the Level 2 record was appropriate and no further recoding was required.

## 6. Historic Building Record

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The building comprises an apsidal-ended church with a dwelling house at its southwest end. On the northwest side is a contemporary two storey build which has undergone modification and repair. Newer builds at both ends of the church contain offices and changing rooms relating to the latter use by the Docklands Settlements. The land to the north of the chapel is currently overgrown but contains semi-mature trees and a small football pitch. The southeast elevation of the chapel is obscured by semi-mature trees.

6.1.2 The church building has a foundation stone (Plate 12) citing a verse from the Old Testament (1 Sam 7.12). This verse reads: *'Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us'*. The name 'Eben-ezer' translates as 'the stone of help'. A commentary on this passage notes that the stone records a victory, a memorial to the glory of God, and to encourage Israel. *"Through successive generations, the church of God has had cause to set up Eben-ezers for renewed deliverances; neither persecution nor corruptions have prevailed against the church, for the lord will help eternally'* (Henry 1706).

### 6.2 The Church (Figures 3-5, Plates 3 – 7)



Plate 3: External View of Church

6.2.1 The principal room in the building, and the main function, is the church (**Room 1**). The nave has been partitioned and a floor inserted, but the original aspect is largely present. Externally, modern extensions providing toilet facilities and changing rooms have detracted slightly from its setting. Internally, the church is a rectangular building with a floor space measuring 13.5m by 7.25m. It is oriented northeast-southwest. The northwest side of the nave has four wide openings to the range of

rooms beyond. The walls of the nave are constructed of yellow brick, measuring 230mm by 100mm by 60mm, laid in English Bond, are 0.48m wide. The lower courses of the walls step out on the exterior, using red sill bricks to soften the angles.

- 6.2.2 The nave is lit by four lancet arched windows in the southeast wall. Each window has a stone sill, cut at 70°. All windows bar one are plate glass between lead glazing bars. Only one has part of its original glazing apparent: the third window has a lead-glazed window with textured opaque diamond panels. There is an outer row of amber glass panes. The window arches are formed of three rows of headers. Additional light was provided by three smaller windows in the southwest gable, but these are now boarded up and the upper end partitioned off. One of the windows has a crack on the lancet arch, which is held together by a metal tie.



Plate 4: Porch on Southeast side of Nave

- 6.2.3 The southeast wall is supported by six stepped brick buttresses, with angled red brick dressing. These are 0.95m long and 0.50m wide. A porch on this side is located to the front end is also brick, with a pitched slate roof, and has a lancet-arched red brick opening. The inner course of the arch has concave-moulded bricks. Above the entrance is an eroded painted sign reading 'Settlement Chapel' (Plate 4).
- 6.2.4 Internally, the nave has a wooden floor. The modern partition at the rear is formed of boards over a frame, with a pair of doors in the middle. The newly formed rear room (**Room 2**) is clad on all sides by plasterboard over a wooden frame. There is one blocked opening, with bullnose brick reveals and a segmental arch, was is an original opening. There is a second opening, also in the southwest wall, with sharp corners, leading to the outside. This is a newer doorway. A second addition to the room is a breezeblock storeroom with shelving (**Room 39**). The southwest end wall of the nave was formerly the end wall of the building, and it seems likely that the foundation stone was formerly in this wall.



Plate 5: Roof Trusses of Nave

- 6.2.5 The roof of the nave is pitched slate, with the ridge surmounted by ornamental ridge tiles. Each alternate tile has a flange pierced by three circular holes. The gable-ends of the pitch are surmounted by stone coping, and there is a capstone at the northeastern end that may once have held a stone cross. The southwest gable end is lit by three smaller arched windows. The roof is supported on four trusses. Each truss is of the same form; a collar beam supported by pairs of scissor braces. The trusses rest on projecting stone corbels with concave undersides. Each scissor brace is lap jointed, and meets a central vertical beam across the collar, like an unsupported kingpost. Apart from lap joints, the principal technology shown is simple: the individual elements of the trusses are bolted together with square-headed bolts (Plate 5).
- 6.2.6 The partition at the southwestern end has a floor inserted above. This is partitioned into two rooms (**Rooms 10** and **11**); this is not an original feature. The rooms are accessed from a short landing at the top of stairs on the northwest face of the nave. Two steps lead from the landing, and both are stone. This is a rare building material for the church. The stones and entrance are probably original features. This suggests that there may have been a limited gallery at the back end of the church. It would not have had a full floor, since the present floor bisects the nave windows.
- 6.2.7 The chancel has an apsidal end with a radius of 3.24m, set back by 1.7m (Plate 6). The opening from the nave to the arch is formed by a high, almost Romanesque arch. The arch springs from a pier on each side with two decorative stone corbels. The lower stones are larger, and both are decorated with floral designs (Plate 7). The chancel is lit by eleven high level lancet-arched windows, each 0.48m wide, at regular intervals. Two on the northwestern side are blocked up.
- 6.2.8 The roof of the apse is formed of rafters radiating from a central ridge. They are supported on a curving wall plate around the edge of the apse. A wooden former has been inserted within the arch. This is adding support, since a significant crack in the brickwork near the apex is indicating structural failure.
- 6.2.9 A metal cross is surmounted on the point of the roof of the apse. This is an iron cross within a mandala.



Plate 6: Nave and Chancel



Plate 7: Carved Stone Blocks

6.2.10 Two doors lead off the apse. One, to the northwest leads to a small cupboard (**Room 30**). The other leads to a newer part of the building with an external door. This is also a store (**Room 31**). The bricks of the newer part are yellow, with red brick coursing.

### 6.3 Ancillary blocks (Figure 3-4, Plates 8-12)

- 6.3.1 The northwestern side of the nave has a two-storey range built next to it. This block measures 16m by 6m, parallel to the nave. The block is yellow brick, consistent with a 19<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the windows facing northwest have all been modified: the sills are wooden, and the lintels are red brick or concrete with steel beams behind. There is also some rebuild of the associated brickwork above the lintels (Plate 8). The windows themselves have plastic frames. There is one blocked opening in the northwest wall on the ground floor: this was formerly a door. Another door is still in use, and accesses the rear plot of land.



Plate 8: Northwest Upper Floor, Elevation of Ancillary Block: Church Roof Beyond.

- 6.3.2 The ground floor has one large room (**Room 3**) (Plate 9), with a kitchen partitioned from it (**Room 4**). The walls of the main room are plastered and painted. One historic feature is a fireplace in the northwestern wall, northeast of the kitchen. This has no chimneystack above roof height, and must have been taken down. The fireplace has a segmental arch spanning the opening (Plate 10). The kitchen contains an oven, hob and sinks, all modern fittings. It has glazed white tiles on the internal walls, obscuring potential historic fabric. There are two doorways in the southwestern end of the room, both with bullnose brick reveals and segmental arched lintels. One is blocked, the other leads to and from the modern main entrance past the administration office.



Plate 9: General View of Room 3 Looking Northeast



Plate 10: Chimneybreast in Room 3

- 6.3.3 The southeast wall of the block has two double-doored openings into the church; both are set in modern frames attached to thin wooden panels. Two other gaps in the brickwork are infilled with cupboards with doors painted on the inside. The doors may be original to the build, but the backs of the cupboards are modern plasterboard.
- 6.3.4 The first floor of this ancillary block is accessed up a stairway rising next to the nave. This accesses the upstairs rooms at the end of the nave, as well as the first floor of the ancillary block. The stairs are wooden, and are partitioned from the main room by a semi-glazed lightweight partition. They decamp to a short landing, and there is doorway on the northwest side and a modern partition wall, semi glazed. The door leads to a large room (**Room 12**) which is formed from a larger space with modern partitions at each end. These have formed a smaller room to the northeast (**Room 14**) and a narrow cupboard to the southwest (**Room 25**). The chimneystack seen on the ground floor rises



through the northeastern room. The partitioning of the room for the cupboard has hidden a small corner-set chimneystack with no equivalent on the ground floor. This would provide limited heat to this southwestern end of the first floor. The roof above here is flat.

- 6.3.5 On the ground floor, the first room southwest of the large one in the ancillary block is little more than an antechamber (**Room 7**) on the way through the building. To the southwest of it is small room with a toilet in it (**Room 8**), with a storeroom (**Room 29**) beyond. Both of these rooms have blocked windows in their southeast walls showing that these were once external walls. An arch spanning the end of Room 7 is quite high, and again has bullnose bricks (Plate 11).



Plate 11: Archway Through to Room 38, Looking Southeast

- 6.3.6 Southeast of these three rooms is a large room (**Room 38**) partitioned to form office space (**Room 9**). This has a plate window facing southeast and a large door. Both have their glazing reinforced with wire. The walls of this section are added to the original build. There is a foundation stone set within the new walls, and this is assumed to have been removed from the original outside wall and been incorporated when this was built (Plate 12).



Plate 12: Foundation Stone

6.3.7 North of this group of rooms is a range of additional structures housing showers, changing rooms and toilets, each with separate accesses for both sexes: the Ladies (**Room 6**) is to the south with a changing room (**Room 32**) and Shower (**Room 34**) beyond. The Gents lie to the north (**Room 5**), with a changing room (**Room 33**) and Shower (**Room 35**) beyond it. At the end of the block is a storeroom (**Room 37**). The block that houses these is oriented with the northern arm of Rotherhithe Street, and angled at 45° to the rest of the building. It is constructed of yellow bricks with red brick stringcourses, and is clearly of modern date. It has no historical value. This is a two-storey addition, with the first floor containing a bar (**Room 15**) with a serving counter (**Room 41**) Two toilets (**Rooms 26 and 28**) and the stairs of a new fire escape lie beyond (**Room 27**). The roof is part-pitched, part hipped, and is tiled.

6.3.8 A second additional block is single storey, built against the north wall of the facilities' block. It has a flat roof (**Room 36**).

#### 6.4 Dwelling (Figure 3, Plates 13 – 17)

6.4.1 To the southwest of the church building is a two-storey house with a hipped slate roof. It abuts the church and is probably contemporary with it. The building is irregular in plan, but is basically a rectangular building measuring 14m by 4.5m, oriented northeast-southwest. A polygonal section of the building projects southeastwards, and a second square bay is shared with the church. The external walls are rendered and painted white over bricks (Plate 13). The bricks measure 220mm by 100mm by 70mm. Although this obscures much detail relating to the buildings form, its 1870s date is clear. Each external window has a brick lintel forming a segmental arch, and the sills are red glazed bullnose bricks, although these have been painted black, to contrast with the white render. All windows are casement windows. The hipped roof has two chimneystacks rising above it, both on the southeast side. This building was probably the residence of the Norwegian pastor, and more recently for the warden of the Docklands Settlements.



Plate 13: View of Pastor's House, Looking North

- 6.4.2 The dwelling's main entrance faces southeast, along a short covered passage immediately south of the offices and entrance, past the foundation stone. There is an additional external door at the rear of the building, opening northeastwards. The door opens into an entrance hall (**Room 18**), with a door to the left, and an opening at the end leading to stairs to the first floor, and doors to two other ground floor rooms. The doorway into the hall has an original frame, lined with two square bead mouldings and an ogee wave between. The doorway is surmounted by a fanlight with a curved top. The fanlight is decorated with an etched and painted marine design showing a ship sailing towards a sunburst: this is the logotype for the Docklands Settlement (Plate 14). The door is an original fitting, with a glazed pane now boarded. Two large bolts at the top and bottom are probably original. The skirting in the hall is plain.



Plate 14: Fanlight from Interior

- 6.4.3 The polygonal room south of the hall is now used as a storeroom, and may originally have been a drawing room (**Room 19**). This has two windows and a corner-set chimneystack that is shared with the adjacent room. The fireplace is boarded over, and a lightly moulded mantelpiece remains. The room has a partial skirting board with a concave mould at the base, and a suspended ceiling in the room conceals a plain concave cornice. There is a cupboard in the north corner of the room, which may have been a doorway, which is now blocked.
- 6.4.4 In the southwest corner of the building, a larger room (**Room 20**) may have been the dining room. This had been refurbished quite recently. A suspended ceiling hides potential details, but there is no skirting, the doorframe is plain, and a chimneybreast in the southeast wall had had its hearth and fireplace removed.



Plate 15: Kitchen, Room 17 Looking East

- 6.4.5 At the northeastern end of the ground floor is a large room (**Room 17**) which was the kitchen of the property (Plate 15). This has a 2.3m wide chimneybreast in the side wall, suitable for holding a large stove or range. The room has generally been refurbished, and few original details remain. The floor seems solid and may be tiled beneath modern finishes. The skirting is totally plain, simply a flat-topped board. The doorframes are also plain. This may express the functional needs of the kitchen rather than being modern décor. At the end of the room, a pair of double doors lead towards a small secondary, modern block, which opens into the grounds to the rear (**Room 39**). This extension is clearly a much later addition.
- 6.4.6 The stairs to the first floor of the house are a dogleg stair with a landing. They rise up the centre of the long block. The newel posts are square in profile, with incised bands and a circular cap. The balusters are also square in profile, with two incised bands above the plinth and a single incised band at the capital. The skirting around the stairs and the landing (**Room 21**) has a stepped convex mould at the top. The landing leads to all rooms of the first floor (Plate 16).



Plate 16: Room 21, Overview

- 6.4.7 Above the kitchen is one of the larger rooms (**Room 22**). This has the chimneystack rising from the kitchen below, and part of the mantelpiece is still present, although the fireplace is boarded up. The mantelpiece is a narrow board, supported by low relief pilasters on either side. The pilasters are carved with three narrow square columns, with squared capitals. Apart from this, the room has an unmoulded skirting board and a plain doorframe with a simple chamfered reveal. Between the columns, a frieze has a square grid pattern with two stylised roses.
- 6.4.8 Southwest of the landing is another large room (**Room 25**). This has a chimneystack rising up the southeast wall that has no fireplace remaining. The room has a rounded picture rail with stepped ogee below. The skirting board has a stepped concave mould. Of note is a crack across along the northwest wall plate, another next to the chimneystack and a third above the window in the southwest wall, which are indicating structural failure. The floor slopes notably down southwestwards.

- 6.4.9 At the top of the landing, an opening leads towards the other rooms. This is an arched opening flanked by a wide roll mould rising from a square plinth on each side. Beyond here, the polygonal bay to the southeast has a small room within (**Room 24**), with a corner-set chimneystack, its surround is still present. The outer surround has a geometric edge with an internal ogee mould, whilst the inner frame has a stepped edge and a convex upper edge (Plate 17). The mantelpiece has a stepped convex moulding below. The skirting around the room has a convex mould at the base. That across the chimneybreast is slightly wider.



Plate 17: Fireplace, Room 24

- 6.4.10 Above the hall is a small room subdivided into toilet cubicles (**Room 23**). This is an original feature, the windows are opaque, textured glass. The final room on this floor was not accessible, but was felt unlikely to contain significant architectural features (**Room 40**).

## 7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The building at Rotherhithe is a good example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel, with attendant hall and pastor's house built using largely brick and tile, with occasional stone elements lifting it above the purely functional. Internally, the prime reason for the building: its use as a church, is not represented by any iconography or fittings indicative of the Norwegian Church. Possibly, all were taken to the new St Olav's Church, located near the entrance to Rotherhithe Tunnel.
- 7.2 The attendant hall has been clearly modified, especially the northwest face, with new windows and lintels inserted into the 19<sup>th</sup> century wall. The flat roof of the block may also be part of a repair. As such, its value is much reduced. The only fixtures remaining of interest are a pair of chimneystacks on each floor in the northwest wall, and a small corner-set chimney at the south corner of the first floor, now hidden by a cupboard. The newer blocks that house changing rooms and toilet facilities are of no historical value. The use of red stringcourses in the walls makes them slightly more attractive externally than a plain wall would have.
- 7.3 The pastor's house is a well-proportioned building, laid out symmetrically around the staircase. Occasional survivals of historic late 19<sup>th</sup> century fabric include several fireplace surrounds, but it seems likely that the fireplaces themselves have been removed. Fittings such as skirting boards, picture rails and doorframes are those as may be found on a typical middle class house of the

period, entirely suitable for a pastor. It may be assumed that the upper rooms are the bedrooms, the ground floor rooms a kitchen, reception room and dining room. The fanlight above the front door is of interest, containing the logotype of the Docklands Settlements.

- 7.4 Structurally, the buildings are showing signs of deterioration. The church itself has a large crack in the main arch between the nave and the chancel. There is additional cracking on two external window arches, and another crack on the southwest end, where the window had been patched with an iron tie. The pastor's house, later warden's house, has severe subsidence in the southwest room, with a crack up much of the end wall, shown by movement around the chimneystack and along the wall line. The reason for the structural weakness is unproven, but may relate to altering ground conditions after many of the local docks were infilled.
- 7.5 The disuse by the Norwegian Church is not a symptom of the lack of a Scandinavian Congregation; it is the result of a new church being constructed at Rotherhithe. The site is still in the possession of the Docklands Settlements, and a new range of buildings is planned.

## **8 Archive Deposition and Publication**

### **Archive**

- 8.1 On completion of the project, the developer/landowner will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the Museum of London. Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the LAARC. The building archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR) before post-excavation analysis begins or as soon after as can be arranged.
- 8.2 The full photographic record will be deposited with the archive.
- 8.3 The site archive will comprise all environmental samples and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990) and (Brown & AAF 2007).

### **Publication**

- 8.4 Copies of the report will be issued to the Archaeological Advisor, the Local Planning Authority, the client, and LAARC on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time; any document relating to the planning process is a public document. Copies will also be supplied to the Borough High Street Local Studies Library and to the Library of the Surrey Archaeological Society.
- 8.5 The OASIS form (Appendix A) will be uploaded, and an electronic copy of the report deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

### **Further Work**

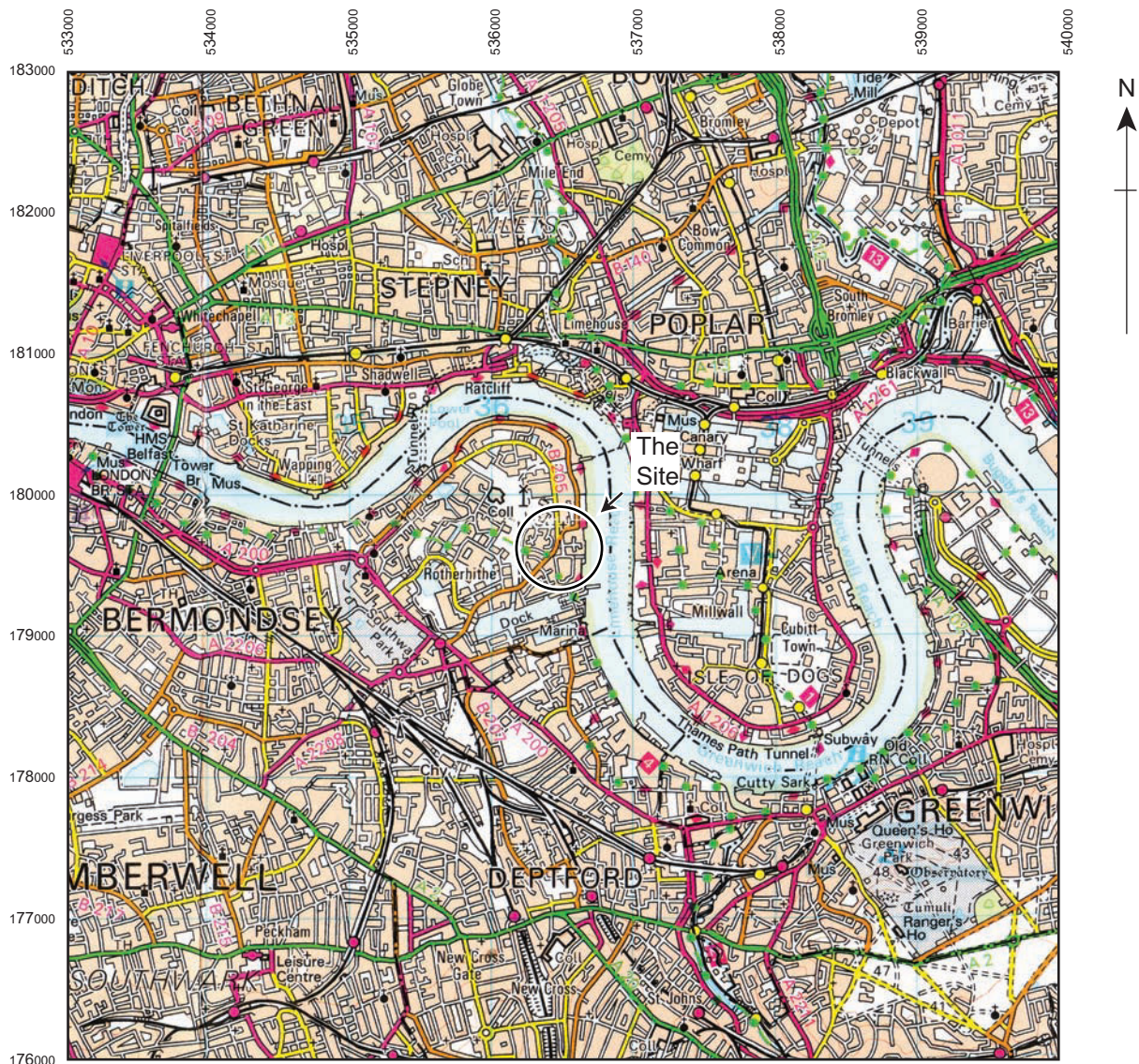
- 8.6 No further work on the Ebenezer Church is recommended in regards to the archaeological planning condition.

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EBENEZER CHAPEL, SALTER ROAD, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Site Location Within London



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2004 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. WL100023757

500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

**Figure 1:** Site Location



EBENEZER CHAPEL, SALTER ROAD, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

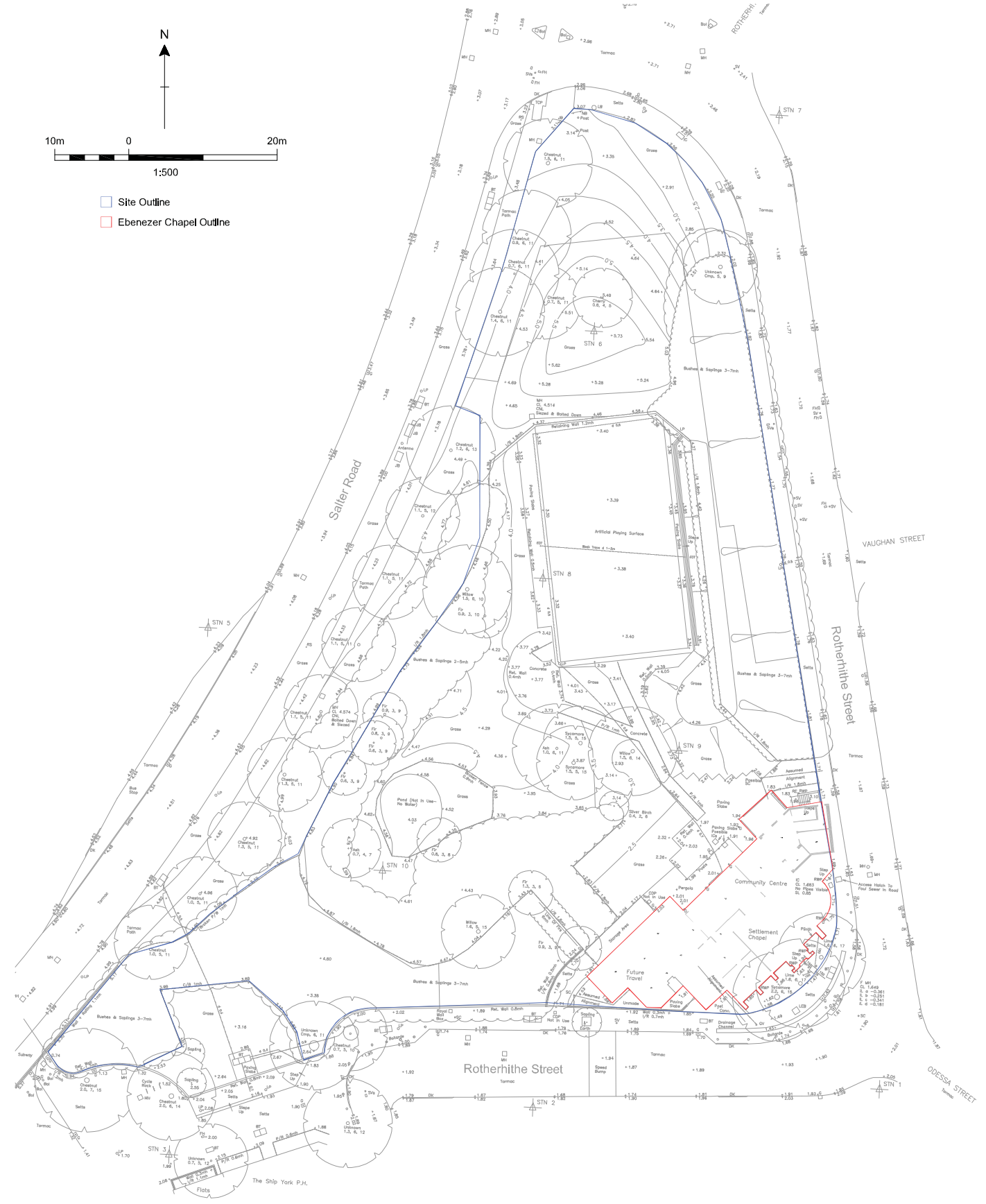


Figure 2: Detailed Site and Building Location Plan

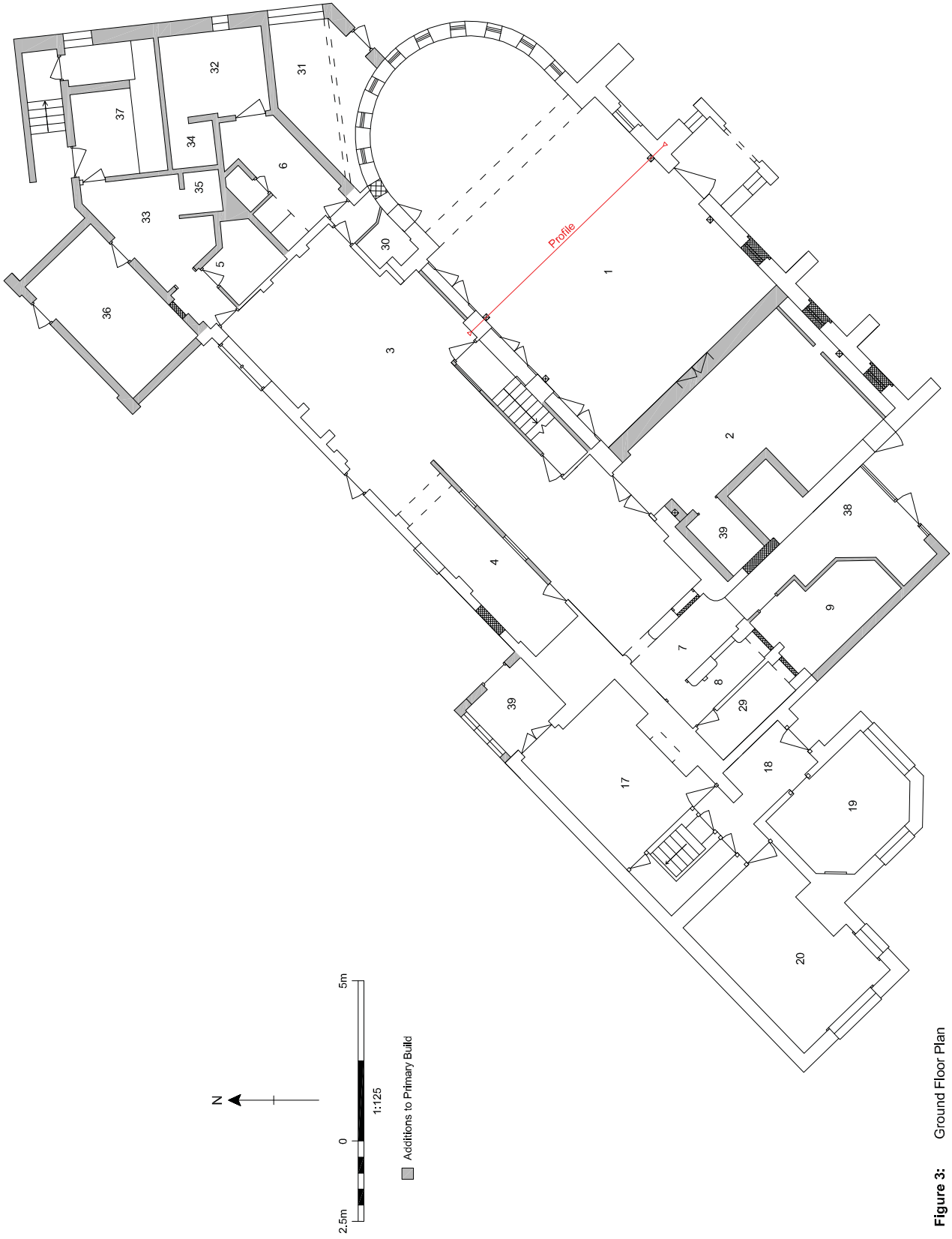


Figure 3: Ground Floor Plan

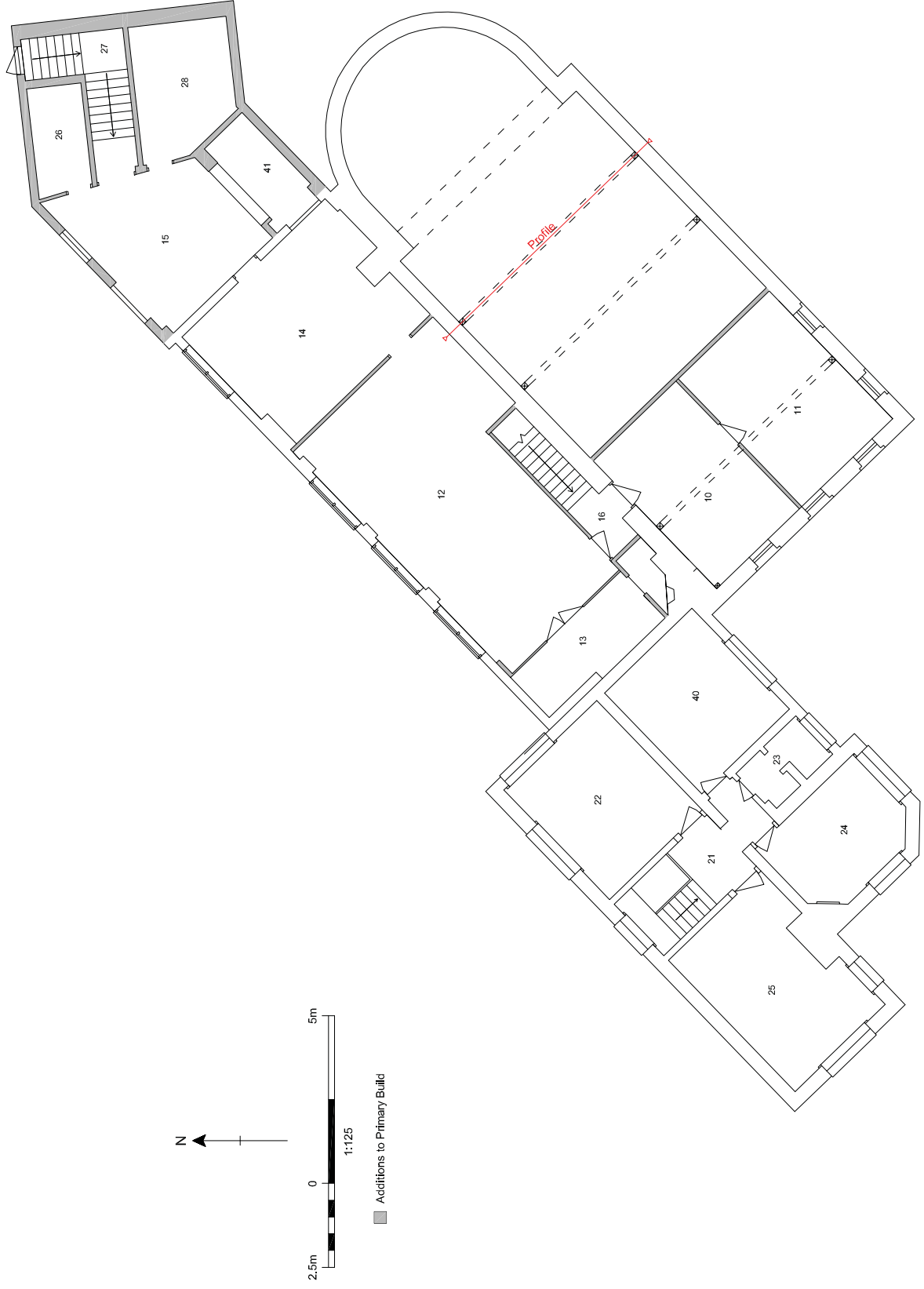
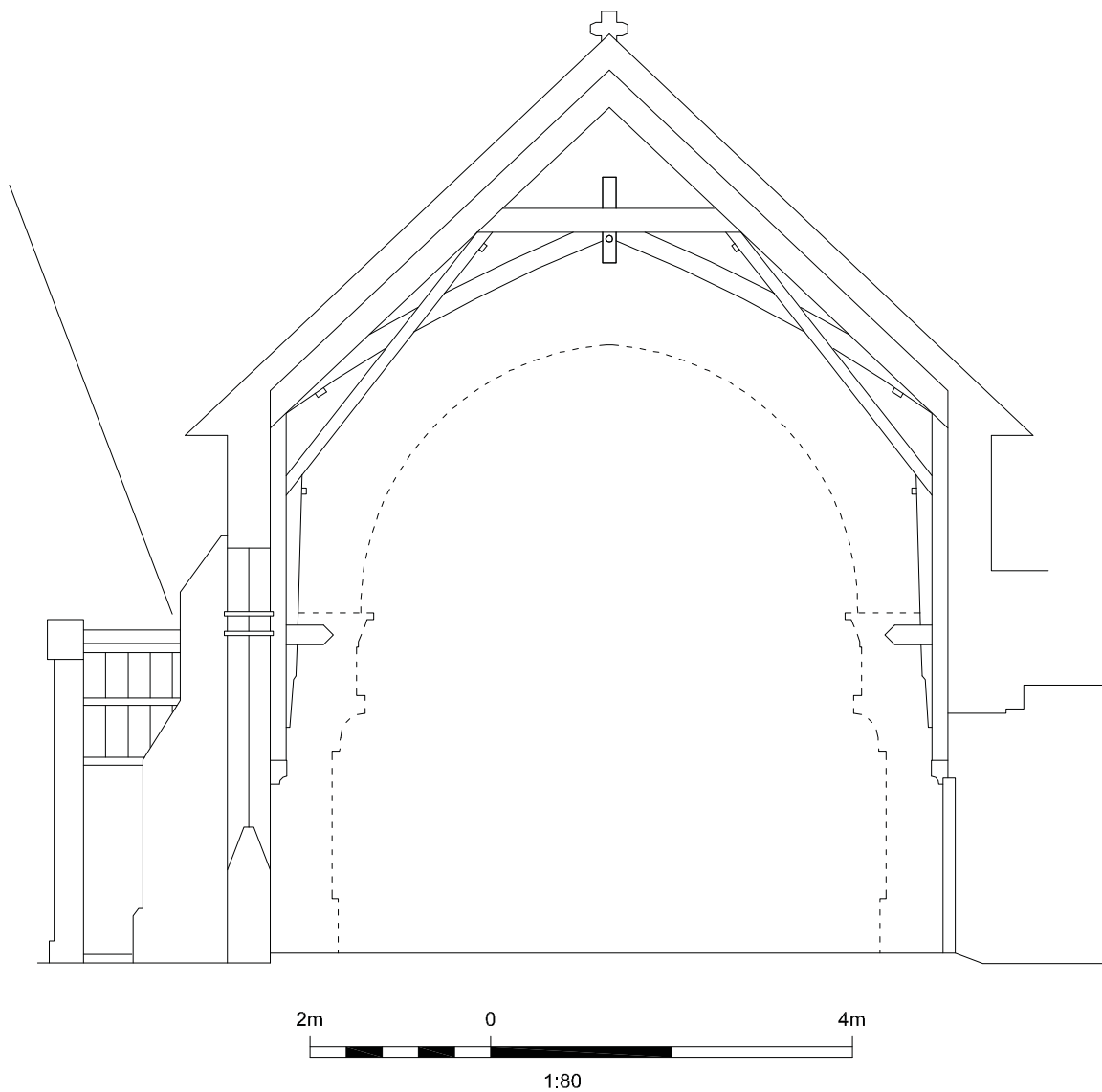


Figure 4: First Floor Plan

EBENEZER CHAPEL, SALTER ROAD, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

NW

SE



--- Profile at Chancel

**Figure 5:** Profile Through Church

## Appendices

## Appendix A – OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-129013**

### Project details

Project name	Ebenezer Chapel, Rotherhithe
Short description of the project	A Historic Building Record of the Norwegian Church in Rotherhithe to Level 2 standard. The building was constructed in 1871, and included a hall and pastor's house. The nave is small, with an apsidal chancel.
Project dates	Start: 30-06-2012 End: 18-07-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	EZC 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	30277 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	SEAMENS MISSION Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Photographic Survey"", ""Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"", ""Measured Survey""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
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Site location	Greater London. Southwark. Bermondsey. Rotherhithe And Southwark. Ebenezer Chapel
Postcode	SE16
Study area	665.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3648 7959 51 0 51 29 53 N 000 02 00 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Southwark Council
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Melissa Melikian
Project supervisor	Capon, L.
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC
Digital Archive ID	EZC 12
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography",' 'Images vector", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer

Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London-LAARC
Paper Archive ID	EZC 12
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer

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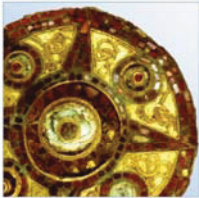
### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Ebenezer Chapel, Salter Road, Rotherhithe, London Borough of Southwark: Historic Building Record
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capon, L.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4, 30 pages, 17 plates, 4 figures

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Entered on	24 July 2012





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