

Historic Building Recording
St David's Chapel
Stormontfield
PERTH & KINROSS

GZ02



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**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
ST DAVID'S CHAPEL
STORMONTFIELD**

GZ02

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Plan and exterior elevations, St David's Chapel, Stormontfield

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology carried out a basic Historic Building Recording of a disused late Victorian chapel at NGR NO 10853 29794 in advance of conversion to a dwelling house. The work (site code GZ02) was conducted on 14th October 2019.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Kepranich Developments Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an Historic Building Recording of a disused Victorian chapel at Stormontfield, near Guildtown, Perth & Kinross. The chapel, to be converted to a dwelling house, was centred on NGR NO 10853 29794. The work (site code GZ02) was undertaken on 14th October, 2019, in misty weather conditions. The requirement was create a basic photographic and narrative record of the building prior to conversion work.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application references 19/01331/LBC and 19/01330/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to preserve by record the building in its present condition and setting, as required by the Terms of Reference issued by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust on 8th October, 2019.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this Historic Building Recording. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This historic building recording is designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Messrs Rawson Senior & Junior for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Kepranich Developments Ltd funded this Historic Building Recording.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

St David's Chapel occupies a plot at the E end of a single row of housing immediately W of Cambusmichael Road on the E bank of the River Tay opposite Luncarty. The main centre of Stormontfield lies W of this row, against the river. The chapel stands on largely flat ground, with a gentle gradient from W to E which becomes steeper towards the road and again towards the neighbouring house. The plot is largely enclosed by trees, with a house immediately to the W. The chapel is freestanding and aligned approximately E-W (the actual orientation being between this and ENE-SSW).

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The B-listed chapel was constructed in 1897 to a design by A. Marshall Mackenzie at a cost of £603. It was intended to provide a place of worship for workers at the bleach mill at Stormontfield, who had been hitherto obliged to walk to Scone. The feu for the land was granted by the Earl of Mansfield and the chapel opened on 30th July, 1897. It continued to serve the local community until 1971, when a fire destroyed the bleach mill and the village population collapsed. The chapel finally closed in 2017. There is no attached burial ground and no other known archaeology in the immediate vicinity.

2.3 Archaeological Method

A full photographic record was made of all external and internal elevations, along with location shots and features of interest. Measured, annotated illustrations were made using architect's drawings of the building plan and elevations. A narrative account was made of the building's form, location, fabric and features, noting details of phasing.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Exterior

The building, constructed in the Gothic Revival style, was of simple rectangular plan aligned approximately E-W, with a small extension to the N containing the vestry. The main entrance was a double width doorway below a moulded Norman arch at the W end of the S elevation, reached via a semicircular flight of four stone steps from a flagged pathway spanning the garden plot from the road into Stormontfield (Kirk Loan). A secondary entrance directly accessed the vestry from the W side of the extension.

The majority of the building fabric was stugged sandstone in ashlar blocks sneaked to give the effect of a rubble wall, with unstugged quoins and window casings. The double-pitched roof was of grey slate, with a stone ball finial at the W end and a stone cross finial at the E end, above the altar. A skylight was positioned at the E end of the N side of the roof, over a tank which formerly gravity-fed the boiler, located in turn in a cellar beneath the vestry (this was unsafe and not accessed). Iron guttering on the long elevations may have been original.

The S elevation contained four stained glass windows spaced along the nave, each with curved shoulders and a repeating foliate green and yellow pattern in a black lead lattice. An additional pair of windows, in the same style but immediately adjacent with a dividing mullion, was positioned to illuminate the chancel. To the W of the door, at the far W end of the elevation, was a war memorial rectangular plaque in pink marble, dedicated to the fallen of the parish with nine names from 1914-1918 and one from 1939-1945. E of the door was a sundial on a square plaque inlaid with glass and copper alloy and bearing the inscription: "Tak tent o' time ere time be tint for time will no return."

The N elevation was largely blank, with no windows or doors along the main building; however, the vestry featured a single foliate-pattern window of similar style to those in the S elevation.

The W elevation featured two tall lancet windows with Gothic arches, bearing the same repeating foliate pattern in lead lattice, with the ball finial crowning the gable above.

The E elevation featured two tall lancet windows similar to those in the W elevation but spaced either side of a taller central lancet featuring a stained glass image of Christ bearing a lantern below the legend, "Lux Veritas". At the bottom of the window a dedication read: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Raimes of Wheldrake Yorkshire and Bonnington Park Edinburgh who died at Stormontfield 9th April 1891 this window is dedicated by Margaret Catherine MacDuff Duncan his widow anno 1897." The window was thus an original feature installed when the chapel was constructed. A circular vent was centrally positioned above the window.

Interior

The nave was devoid of pews, these already having been removed upon the closure of the church for worship, except for a full width wooden bench against the W elevation. Wooden panel wainscoting ran around all four elevations at a height of 1.61m from the floor, which was currently bare screed but bore traces of adhesive suggesting carpeting had formerly been present or simply indicated the positions of the pews. An outline in the centre of the floor opposite the entrance indicated the former position of the stone font, removed by the kirk elders prior to the commencement of development works.

The interior measured 5.48m high (floor to nave ceiling) and 4.67m wide x 15.86m long, with 2.98m at the E end containing the raised chancel within stone railings. Accessed via flight of three stone steps, the chancel floor was tiled in a herringbone pattern and the side elevations featured wooden choir stalls. Almost against the E elevation was a stone altar featuring a bas relief floriated cross in a disc depression. Suspended above the chancel was a brass gas light in the style of a sanctuary lamp, with sculpted glass flame. Opposite this in the centre of the nave was a brass six-point chandelier, also gas-powered. The gas fittings had clearly been superseded by brass, candle-stick style electric lights, six pairs of which were spaced around the nave (two on the W elevation, two each along the long sides). Electric bar heaters had also been installed around the wallheads, replacing or supplementing the boiler system. On the N side of the chancel steps, a wooden lectern was set on a stone base moulded as part of the stone rail. Slight subsidence had parted the N end of the rail from the N elevation, revealing that the rails abutted the walls rather than being keyed in. The nave floor immediately in front of the rails featured inlaid iron vent covers indicating the underfloor heating system connected to the cellar boiler.

All windows were set within embrasures. The S elevation windows were 1.00m high from the top of the wooden wainscoting, which here extended to the cills. The embrasures measured 0.46m wide at the front (window width) and 1.11m wide at the rear. The flanking altar lancets were set within embrasures 2.02m high and 0.99m wide, with the windows themselves 1.73m high and 0.330m wide. The embrasure for the central lancet was 3.23m high and 0.99m wide, with the window itself 2.98m high and 0.35m wide. The W end lancets were set in embrasures 3.10m high and 1.05m wide, with the windows 3.02m high and 0.41m wide.

The ceiling was of wooden beam scissor truss construction and shouldered A-frame profile, with the interstices between the bottom cords filled with white-painted plaster. A central panel ran the length of the building.

The vestry, accessed via a door to the N of the chancel rail on the nave side, measured 2.64m E-W x 1.56m N-S. The window, positioned centrally in the N elevation, was set within an embrasure 0.46m wide but which continued outwards on the E side only, the W side being cut to accommodate a wooden store cupboard extending to ceiling height, with an adjoining cupboard positioned beneath the window. The window itself was 1.78m high and 0.35m wide. The entire vestry was wood-panelled, including the ceiling. The secondary entrance from the garden was located in the W elevation, beside the cupboard.

3 Interpretation

The chapel was a small but well-executed example of late nineteenth century Neo-Gothic architecture, with good use of light exemplified by the illumination afforded by the beautifully coloured central altar window. It had been constructed in a single phase and had remained largely unaltered, apart from minor additions such as the war memorial panel and the installation of electric light and heating.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

Alder Archaeology consider that the terms of reference for the Historic Building Recording have been met and do not recommend further work in association with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

| <i>Image No</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>View</i> |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 0001-2 | General views, interior, nave, oblique | NE, SE |
| 0003 | E elevation, interior | E |
| 0004-5 | Chancel, E elevation, interior | E |
| 0006 | Altar, E elevation, interior | E |
| 0007 | Windows, E elevation, interior | E |
| 0008-10 | W elevation, interior | W |
| 0011 | N elevation, interior, oblique | NE |
| 0012 | W end of N elevation, nave, interior | N |
| 0013-14 | Mid-section of N elevation, nave, interior | N |
| 0015-16 | E end of N elevation, nave (vestry door), interior | N |
| 0017 | N elevation, chancel | N |
| 0018 | S elevation, chancel | S |
| 0019 | S elevation, interior, oblique | SW |
| 0020 | E end of S elevation, nave, interior | S |
| 0021 | Mid-section of S elevation, nave (windows), interior | S |
| 0022-23 | W end of S elevation, nave (door), interior | S |
| 0024 | Window/N elevation, vestry, interior, oblique | NE |
| 0025 | E elevation, vestry, interior | E |
| 0026-27 | S elevation, exterior | N |
| 0028 | War memorial, W end of S elevation, exterior | N |
| 0029-30 | Sun dial, W end of S elevation, exterior | N |
| 0031-32 | E elevation, exterior | W |
| 0033 | E end of N elevation (vestry), exterior | S |
| 0034 | W elevation of vestry, exterior | E |
| 0035-36 | N elevation, exterior, oblique | SW, SE |

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------------|
| 0037 | W end of N elevation, exterior | S |
| 0038-39 | W elevation, exterior | E |
| 0040-41 | Noticeboard, history of St David's | S |
| 0042-48 | Location shots, chapel in current setting | NE, N, NW, W, SW |
| 0049 | Location shot, "Kirk Loan" road sign | N |

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Perth & Kinross |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | St David's Chapel, Stormontfield |
| PROJECT CODE: | GZ02 |
| PARISH: | Scone |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | C Fyles |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Alder Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | HBR |
| NMRS NO(S): | NO12NW 98 |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Chapel, War Memorial |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | |
| START DATE (this season) | 14/10/19 |
| END DATE (this season) | 14/10/19 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | A basic Historic Building Record was carried out of a late Victorian chapel in advance of conversion to a dwelling house. The chapel was constructed in 1897 to a Gothic Revival design by A Marshall Mackenzie to serve local workers at a bleach mill and closed in 2017. There was no associated burial ground. Stained glass and exterior detailing is to be retained, font and pews have already been removed. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | - |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Kepranich Developments Ltd |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | director@alderarchaeology.co.uk |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | HES (intended) |

Illus1

St David's Chapel
Stormontfield

GZ02

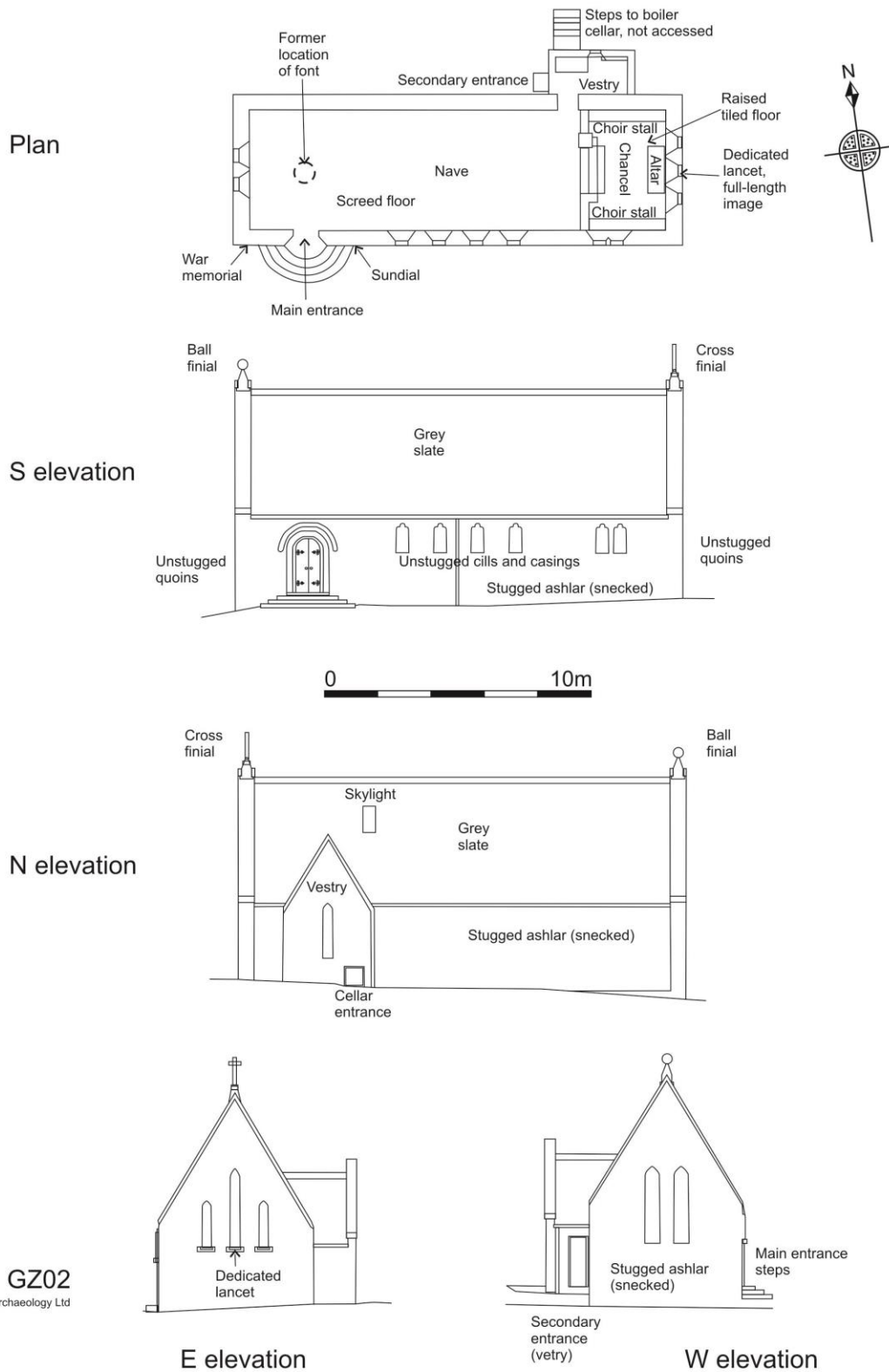
Site Location



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Illus 2 Plan and external elevations, St David's Chapel, Stormontfield



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