

**FORMER METHODIST CHAPEL, 2 COLLINS LANE,
WYKE REGIS, WEYMOUTH, DORSET
Archaeological Recording**



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**Former Methodist Chapel, 2 Collins Lane,
Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset**

Archaeological Recording, April 2003

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Former Methodist Chapel, 2 Collins Lane, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset

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SUMMARY

A rapid photographic record of the remains of the former Methodist Chapel in Collins Lane, Wyke Regis (SY66177747) was undertaken during demolition. The chapel was built in 1842 and was in use until 1903, when it was superseded by the present Methodist Chapel in Portland Road. The building was a simple single storey rectangular chapel, which had been much altered by its incorporation into a bakery in the later 20th century.

INTRODUCTION

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd to carry out a photographic record of the former Methodist Church in Collins Lane, Wyke Regis, prior to demolition in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The Planning Application 02/00712/FUL for the demolition of the existing buildings on the site and the erection of a detached bungalow has been approved by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, the local planning authority, subject to conditions including the archaeological photographic recording of the Methodist Chapel prior to demolition. This condition is based on advice from Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council, in line with Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

The former Methodist chapel is situated on the south side of Collins Lane on the southern edge of the historic core of Wyke Regis (NGR SY66177747). It was built in 1842 for the Wesleyans. In 1903, it was superseded by the present Methodist Chapel in Portland Road (Hollings 2002). The area in front of the chapel was later built up and was used as a bakery in the later 20th century. The chapel itself was used as a store.

The fieldwork was carried out on 22nd April 2003 by Peter Bellamy.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the following for their help and cooperation during this project: Des Lucas (Betterment Properties Ltd) and the groundworkers; and Steven Wallis (Dorset County Council).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the archaeological observations was to create a photographic record of the Methodist Chapel, prior to its total demolition.

METHODS

There was no Brief nor Specification produced but the scope of the works was discussed verbally with Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council.

The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct.

The scope of the work was to provide a basic photographic record of the structure, internally and externally, prior to demolition. Unfortunately, demolition was already underway prior to the recording taking place, consequently many details of the structure had been removed or were obscured by demolition debris during the course of the survey.

A series of monochrome and colour slide photographs were taken of the surviving elements of the structure. No access was gained to the exterior of the building on the south, east and west sides.

No attempt has been made to research the documentary history of this building.

The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum, Dorset County Museum.

RESULTS

Brief Description of Methodist Chapel

The chapel was a simple single storey rectangular building about 14 m by 6 m with a low pitched roof covered in modern tiles (Plates 1–2). It was constructed from squared coursed Portland Stone rubble.

The north external elevation had been incorporated into the later buildings on the site and consequently had been rendered and painted, thus obscuring most constructional details (Plates 3–4). There was a single sash window in the western half (Plate 5) and three doorways — two in the western end and one in the eastern half. This latter doorway appears to be a later insertion and is probably the remodelling of an original window opening judging from its position and the details of the lintel (Plate 6). Originally, the north elevation had two identical equally-space windows and an entrance in the northwest corner, though it is unclear whether both doorways are original. (Most likely the westernmost doorway was the original one but no evidence was recovered to confirm this.)

The south external elevation was not rendered but was not accessible during the site visit by the author. The description of the south elevation is based on photographs provided by the client (Plates 7–9). There are two window openings in the same position as the north elevation. Both these windows had lost their original fenestration (Plates 7 and 9).

The east and west external elevations were not seen during the survey (Plate 10).

Internally, the chapel comprised of a single large room with a gallery at the west end (Plates 11–14). There was a small round-headed niche at the west end with a window above (Plate 11). There was a small circular window high up in the west end (Plate 15). The floor was tiled and the walls were plastered. The ceilings had been removed by the time of the survey but some detail of them is shown in photographs provided by the client (Plates 16–18).

The gallery is probably a later insertion, supported on steel beams. There is a fairly rough wooden staircase along the west wall providing access to the gallery (Plate 19).

Later Structures

The later structures associated with the bakery had already been demolished prior to the site visit. No building remains could be seen other than the remnants of a toilet block on the northwest side of the chapel.

PROJECT ARCHIVE

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. 53129) will be deposited with Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

REFERENCES

Hollings, D., 2002

A History of Wyke Regis. 2nd edition.

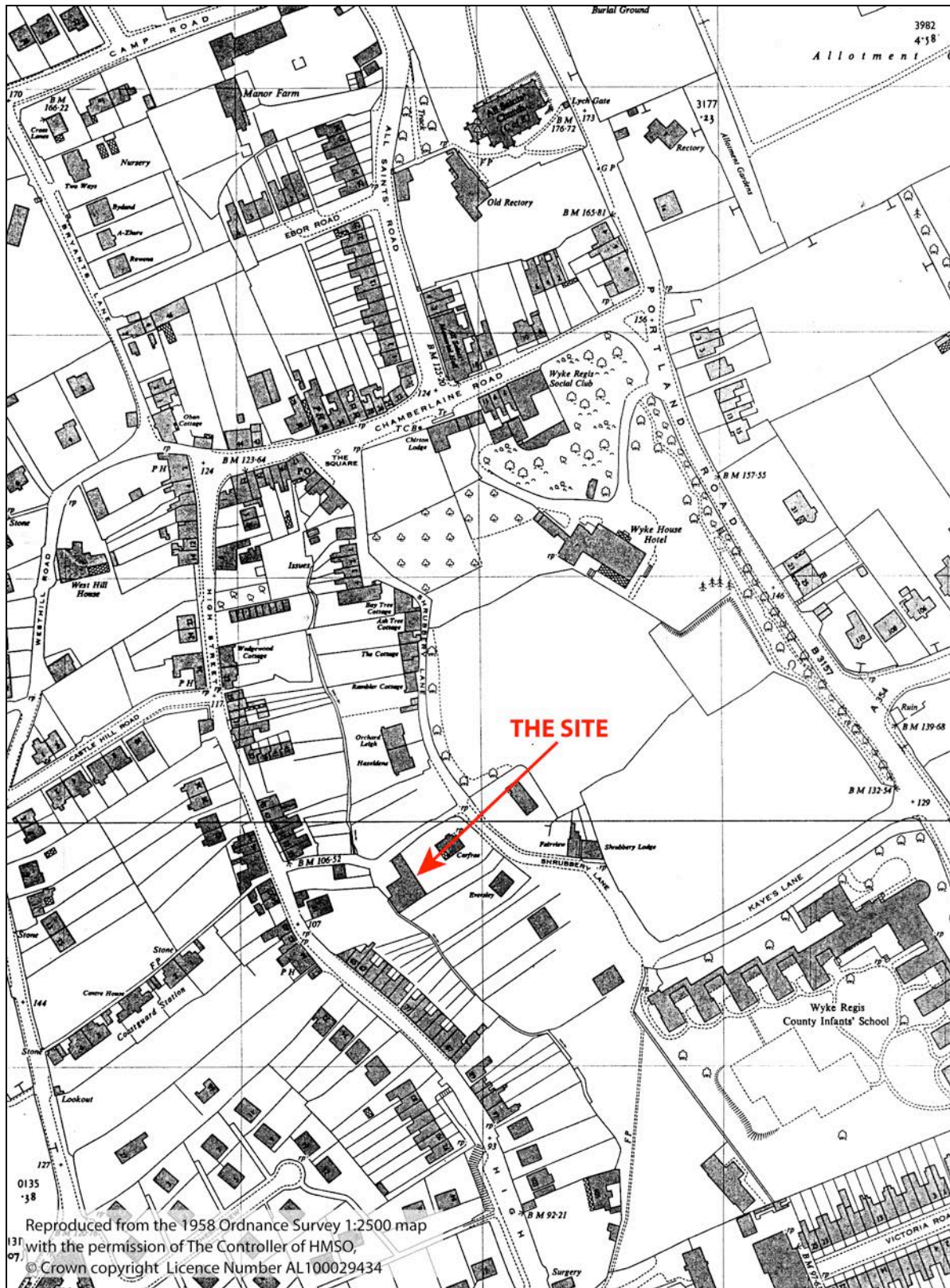


Figure 1: Location map

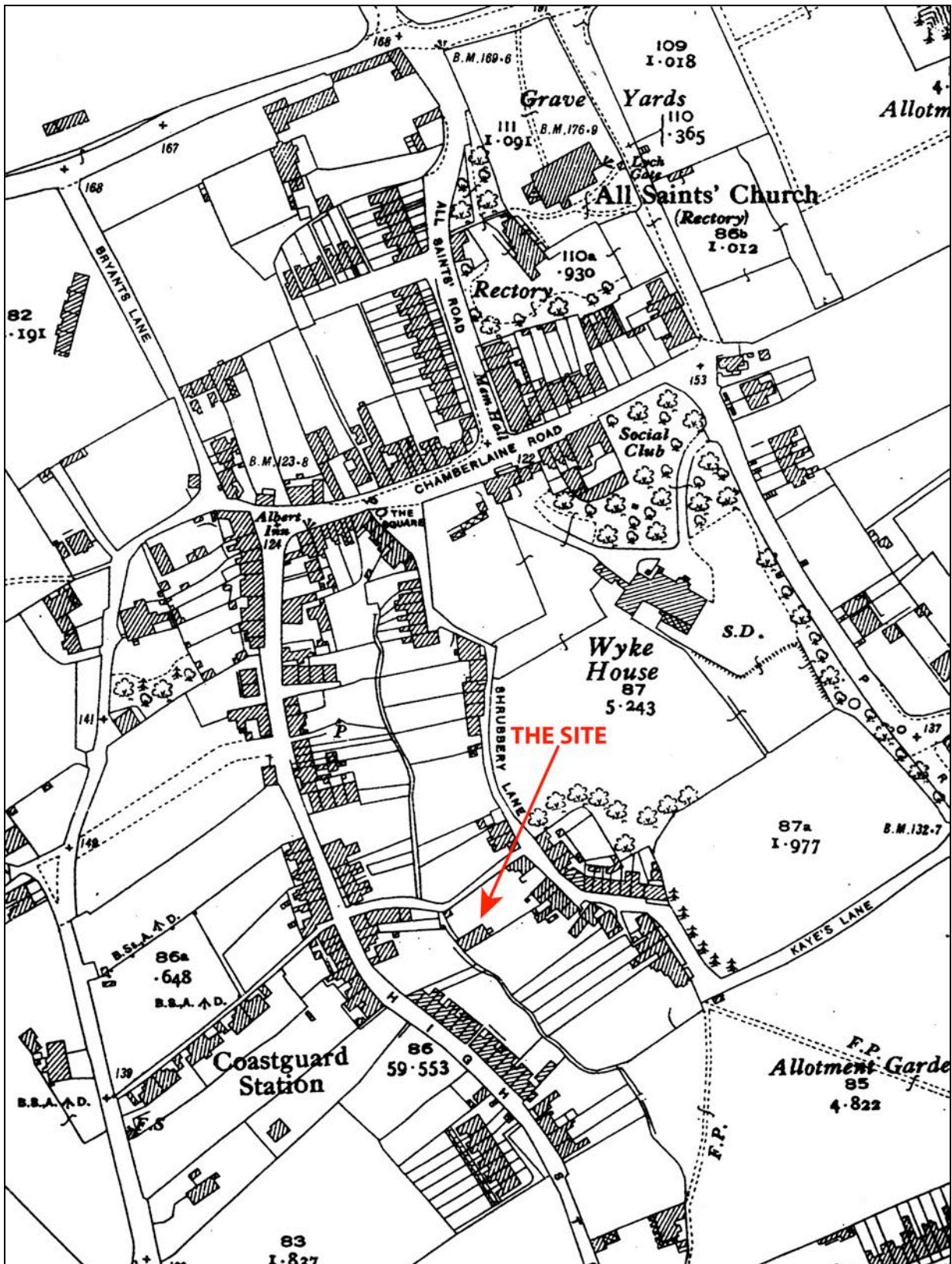


Figure 2: Extract from 1929 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (© Crown Copyright Reserved).



Plate 1: East end of north elevation (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 2: West end of north elevation (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 3: East end of north elevation after removal of the roof



Plate 4: West end of North elevation during removal of roof.



Plate 5: Detail of surviving window in north elevation.



Plate 6: Detail of blocked window and inserted doorway in east end of north elevation.



Plate 7: East end of south elevation (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 8: Central part of south elevation (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 9: West end of south elevation (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 10: West Gable



Plate 11: View of east end of interior of chapel



Plate 12: View of west end of interior



Plate 13: North internal wall from gallery



Plate 14: South internal wall from gallery



Plate 15: Detail of window in west gable



Plate 16: East end of interior prior to removal of ceiling (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 17: West end of interior and gallery prior to removal of ceilings (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)

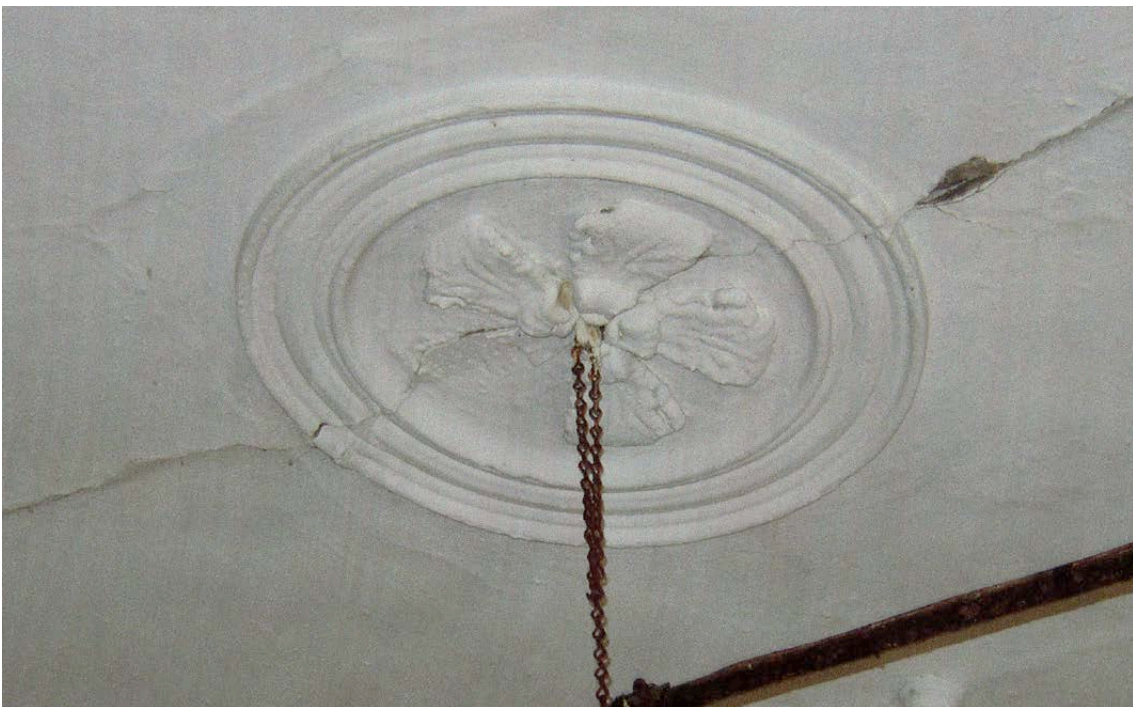


Plate 18: Detail of ceiling rose (photo by Betterment Properties (Weymouth) Ltd)



Plate 19: Detail of stairs to gallery