

Former Methodist Chapel and Boys Brigade  
Hall, Bury Road, Hargrave  
HRG 010

**Building Recording Report**

SCCAS Report No. 2011/149

**Client: GS Property Projects**

Author: Rob Brooks

September/2011



Former Methodist Chapel and Boys Brigade  
Hall, Bury Road, Hargrave  
HRG 010

Building Recording Report  
SCCAS Report No. 2011/149  
Author: Rob Brooks  
Illustrator: Gemma Adams  
Editor: Richenda Goffin  
Report Date: September/2011



## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2011/149  
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**Client Reference:** N/A  
**Curatorial Officer:** Sarah Poppy  
**Project Officer:** Rob Brooks  
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<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Rob Brooks  
Date: 15th September, 2011

Approved By: Sarah Poppy  
Position: Conservation Officer  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

An English Heritage Level 1 building recording was carried out on the former Methodist Chapel and Boys Brigade Hall on Bury Road, Hargrave, Suffolk. The Methodist Chapel was built in 1926 and constructed from brick with concrete rendering. It was largely unaltered, except for the additions of central heating, electricity, a toilet, new kitchen facilities and the associated minor structural changes. The Boys Brigade Hall was a large, reused WWII Nissen hut that was also largely intact, despite central heating and a small extension having been added. The Nissen hut was built of brick, with a metal superstructure, including a corrugated metal roof.



## **1. Introduction**

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A building survey to record a Methodist Chapel and former Boys Brigade Hall was undertaken ahead of their demolition and the site's redevelopment. The buildings were located on the site east side of Bury Road, Hargrave, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was based on a Brief and Specification prepared by Sarah Poppy (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The work was carried out on the 11th July 2011 and was funded by GS Property Projects to fulfil a condition on planning application (SE/11/0601).

## **2. Site context and background**

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The site was located to the east of Bury Road, which is the main road running through Hargrave, Suffolk. The Methodist Chapel was a roughly rectangular building, set back slightly from the road behind hedges and between two domestic properties. To the rear of the chapel was the former Boys Brigade Hall/Drill Hall. The Methodist Chapel was built in 1926 and the Boys Brigade was a reused large WWII Nissen hut, originally from Newmarket, which was transported and rebuilt in the village by the Boys Brigade (Unknown author, 2010). It is not known when the buildings went out of use. Neither building was listed, but both were recognised as heritage assets that contributed to the character of the village. Following the building recording, the two buildings were demolished, after which an archaeological evaluation was carried out (Cass, 2011).

## **3. Methodology**

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Both buildings were open and surveyed on the same day. A photographic record was made of all the internal and external elevations using a digital SLR taking high resolution photographs at 300dpi x 300dpi (Appendix 2). A written record was also made regarding the construction methods and materials used for both structures, as well as any changes that had been made to them. Finally, measured sketch plans were made of each building (Fig. 2). Site data has been recorded using the Suffolk Historic Environment Record code HRG 010. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-104583) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).



Figure 1. Location of site



Figure 2. Building plans

## 4. Results and interpretations

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### 4.1 Methodist Chapel

#### Exterior

The chapel was rectangular in plan, aligned ESE-WNW and built of brick; the exterior being rendered with 'pebbledash' concrete, leaving certain brick details showing, comprising the intricate main doorway, gable end roof detail and two chimneys (Fig. 2). It was 13m long (ESE-WNW) x 5.45m wide (NNW-SSE). The original windows were wood, painted white. The roof was covered with slate tiles and to the rear/east, with the roofline dropping where three rooms led off from Room 1. On both sides of the main doorway were memorial plates, with that to the left of the door reading:

LAID TO  
THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND  
IN MEMORY OF  
M<sup>R</sup> AND M<sup>RS</sup>  
GEORGE W<sup>M</sup> PHILLIPS  
SEPT. 16<sup>TH</sup> 1926

The plate to the right of the door read:

LAID TO  
THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND  
IN MEMORY OF  
M<sup>R</sup> AND M<sup>RS</sup>  
JOSEPH BRADFIELD  
SEPT. 16<sup>TH</sup> 1926

#### Interior

Entrance to the chapel was via the doorway off Bury Road, leading immediately to a small entrance porch with two padded doors. This led to Room 1, the main congregational hall, which had wooden flooring and wooden wall cladding to the base of the windows. The roof construction was not enclosed and consisted of wooden trusses with metal fixings. There were three windows in the northern elevation and two in the south. The space for the third, central window in this elevation was taken up by a concrete block in the floor, which used to be the base for a fireplace, since replaced by central heating. In the eastern end of the hall the white painted wooden lectern stood.

None of the original seating was present. A string-pull operated vent was recorded above the main doorway.

A single door to the north of the lectern led into Room 2. This was a small room, but it had one full-sized window and had not been heavily altered. The floor was carpeted, the walls also had the wooden cladding seen in Room 1 and the ceiling was wooden planking. There was a fireplace in the south-eastern corner of the room.

On the southern side of Room 2 was the kitchen. This was carpeted above the original tiles. It had one original window and the walls were painted brickwork. The ceiling was white painted wooden boarding. A later insertion partition wall divided this room from the WC. It had several modern cupboards and a sink.

The WC also had painted brickwork, a wooden boarded ceiling and tile floors. A later window had been inserted, as well as woodwork to house the fuse box when electricity had been installed. A later exit door had also been added into the external wall immediately outside the WC, presumably to meet fire regulations.

## Interpretation

The chapel was largely in its original state, although alterations had occurred. Room 1 was clearly the focus of activity, being the seating area for the chapel, but Room 2 was also clearly of some importance, as despite its size it had its own fireplace and the same wooden cladding as seen in Room 1. The function of this room was uncertain although it may have been a small office or private meeting room of some kind.

## 4.2 Nissen Hut

### Exterior

The Nissen hut was rectangular in plan, aligned ESE-WNW, measuring 15.15m long x 9.4m wide (Fig. 2). The east and west walls were constructed from brick (painted white) and the whole structure was covered by corrugated metal sheeting, painted black and riveted to the girder structure underneath. Single concrete chimneys emerged from the eastern and western wall, which were thought to be original, although the example on the eastern end had largely been removed. On the southern side of the hut a single long window emerged. This had a white wooden frame, with black wooden boarding on each

side where it emerged from the main structure. Two smaller windows of the same style were present on the northern side.

At the eastern end of the hut a recent breeze block structure with metal roof had been added.

## Interior

The flooring was made up of wooden boards, with wooden wall cladding up to just below the windows. A chipboard-type material made up the roof between the metal girders. In the north-west corner of the main room were a further two rooms. These were currently used for shelving, cupboards, etc. and the gas boiler, which was a later addition. It was clear that the dividing wall between these two rooms was also a later insertion as it met the external wall midway along the length of the window and the woodwork used here was clearly not original. The floor in these rooms was slightly lower than in the main hall, and carpeted. The space above the ceiling of the rooms and the main structure roof was used for storage. In the eastern elevation of the main hall a doorway led to the breeze block structure. This opening had clearly been widened as the lintel was only as wide as the doorway.

Along the southern wall of the main hall five north-south aligned slots in the floor had been infilled with later wooden boarding. These were regularly spaced. Close to the west end of where the infilled slots finished, two runners for a pulley system were present in the roof, aligned N-S.

## Interpretation

The Nissen hut was still largely intact, despite presumably having been moved from its original site. Its original heating system, or at least that installed in its new incarnation as the Boys Brigade hut, may have been indicated by the now defunct chimneys at each end. Internally, the small rooms in the north-west corner seemed to be an original feature, hence the presence of the wooden cladding on their external walls and the sunken floor, which would have been difficult features to add if the rooms were later additions. However, the partition wall between the two rooms was an inserted feature. The slots in the floor along the southern edge of the hut presumably indicated removed wall structures/dividers, with the runners in the ceiling possibly functioning as part of a curtain system to screen this area.



## 5. Archive deposition

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Paper archive: SCCAS Ipswich.

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Hargrave\HRG 010 Building recording

## 6. Acknowledgements

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The project was managed by John Craven and directed by Rob Brooks. The building recording was carried out by Rob Brooks from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Report figures were produced by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

## 7. Bibliography

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Cass, S., 2011, *Former Methodist Chapel and Boys Brigade Hall, Bury Road, Hargrave, HRG 010, Archaeological Evaluation Report*, SCCAS Report No. 2011/145, SCCAS: Ipswich

Unknown author, 2010, *Hargrave, Planning and Architecture*, available at: <http://www.one.suffolk.co.uk/HargravePC/History/>, last updated 02/01/2010



# Appendix 1. Brief and specification

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## Economy, Skills and Environment

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The Archaeological Service  
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Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2AR

### **Brief and Specification for Historic Building Recording FORMER HARGRAVE METHODIST CHAPEL AND BOYS BRIGADE HALL, BURY ROAD, HARGRAVE (SE/11/0601 & 0602)**

1. **Background**
- 1.1 Planning permission has been sought from St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SE/11/0601 & 0602) for the demolition of Hargrave Methodist Chapel and Boys Brigade Hall at Bury Road, Hargrave (TL 769 596) in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The proposal involves the demolition of a Methodist chapel dating to 1926 and the Boys Brigade Hall/Drill Hall, which occupies a former WWII Nissen Hut. Both these are heritage assets of local importance, and the buildings will retain important information concerning the construction, character, date, context and use.
- 1.4 **This brief describes part of a two-part programme of work, and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying brief and specification for archaeological evaluation.**
- 1.5 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute for Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 741230) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.6 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the building photographic record and the production and deposition of an acceptable report – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

- 1.7 Before commencing work the assessment contractor should carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.8 It is the recording contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

## 2. Brief for Historic Building Recording

Historic building recording, as specified in Sections 3, is to be carried.

The objective will be to compile a descriptive and photographic record (English Heritage Level 1) of the two buildings.

The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the nature of the buildings, and to provide the historical context and significance of the buildings.

## 3. Specification for Archaeological Recording

The survey methodology will form part of the WSI and is to be agreed in detail before the project commences; defined minimum criteria in this outline are to be met or exceeded. Any variation from these standards can only be made by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.

- 3.1 English Heritage level 1 recording must be carried on the two buildings. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed. Any distinctive features must be both described and photographed.
- 3.2 A map should be produced to locate the buildings within their immediate context.
- 3.3 The record will present conclusions regarding the location, form, date, development and use of the buildings.

## 4. Report Requirements

- 4.1 An archive of all records is to be prepared consistent with the principles contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006), particularly section 7. This should be deposited with the County HER within six months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 4.2 The recording contractor should consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain a HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 4.3 The recording contractor should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage).
- 4.4 The report should include a brief history of the two buildings, relating them to historic map or photographic evidence where applicable. Illustrations should be reproduced at a sufficient scale and quality for the buildings to be identifiable. **Please remember that copyright permissions should be sought from the Suffolk Record Office, and/or other document owners or holders, for items included in the report.** The report should include a description of the building fabric(s), their structural use and any particular features. It should also present the available evidence for the dating and use of the structure(s). The photographs should be listed with a description of the viewpoint and included on a CD to accompany the report.

- 4.5 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, should be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT. Following approval, two hard copies, as well as a digital copy, of the report should be presented to SCCAS/CT and a single copy to the Conservation Officer of St Edmundsbury Borough Council.
- 4.6 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 4.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> should be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 4.8 All parts of the OASIS online form should be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 27 June 2011

Reference: SpecHBR\_FormerHargraveMethodistChapel\_2011

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority must be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**As the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**



**Appendix 2. Photographic record**



Plate 1. Methodist Chapel, front elevation leading onto Bury Road



Plate 2. Methodist Chapel, Room 1/congregational hall, facing ESE



Plate 3. Methodist Chapel, Room 2, facing ESE



Plates 4 and 5. Methodist Chapel, left- unaltered window frame in Room 2, right- vent mechanism above main doorway





Plate 6. Nissen hut, front and side elevation, facing ENE



Plate 7. Nissen hut, facing NE



Plate 8. Nissen hut, looking towards entrance and internal rooms, facing WNW



Plate 9. View from Methodist Chapel to Nissen hut, facing E





# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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