

A Photographic Survey Of the Old Baptist Chapel, Loddington Lane, Belton-in-Rutland, Rutland (NGR SK 8172 0151).

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Tempest to undertake a photographic survey of the Old Baptist Chapel, Belton-in-Rutland. Planning permission has been granted to convert the Chapel to residential use. The Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to Rutland County Council, recommended that a photographic survey of the building be undertaken prior to conversion.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Tempest to undertake a photographic survey of the Old Baptist Chapel, Loddington Lane, Belton-in-Rutland, Rutland (NGR SK 8172 0151). Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the Chapel to a dwelling house (Planning Application number: FUL/2005/0395/9). The Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisor to Rutland County Council recommended that a photographic survey of the building be undertaken prior to conversion.

The Chapel is dated to 1843, a relatively early date for a nonconformist chapel in this region and almost certainly built through local subscription. It originally had seating for 120 people. An examination of the Chapel minute books suggests that Belton had a vibrant Baptist community, which continued well into the later part of the twentieth century. However a dwindling congregation and the structural decay of the building caused the closer of the Chapel, with the last service being held on December 19th 2004.

All work follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct and adheres to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* has been adhered to. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* (3rd edition, 1996) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.

2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the photographic survey was to provide a permanent visual (photographic) record of the building in its current state, prior to alteration, to standards set down by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996).

The photographic survey was undertaken by Gerwyn Richards and Claire Strachan. Photographs, in 35mm monochrome negative and colour positive (slide)

formats covered items 1-6 of the RCHME guidelines (1996, 4; Appendix 4.1.2). The site visit was carried out on November 16th 2005.

The proposed development consists of a single detached building and for the purpose of this report all internal divisions have been allocated a number for identification. The terms 'left', 'right', 'rear' and 'back' are used in relation to the front elevation, facing Loddington Lane. Selected photographs are used to illustrate the following description of the building.

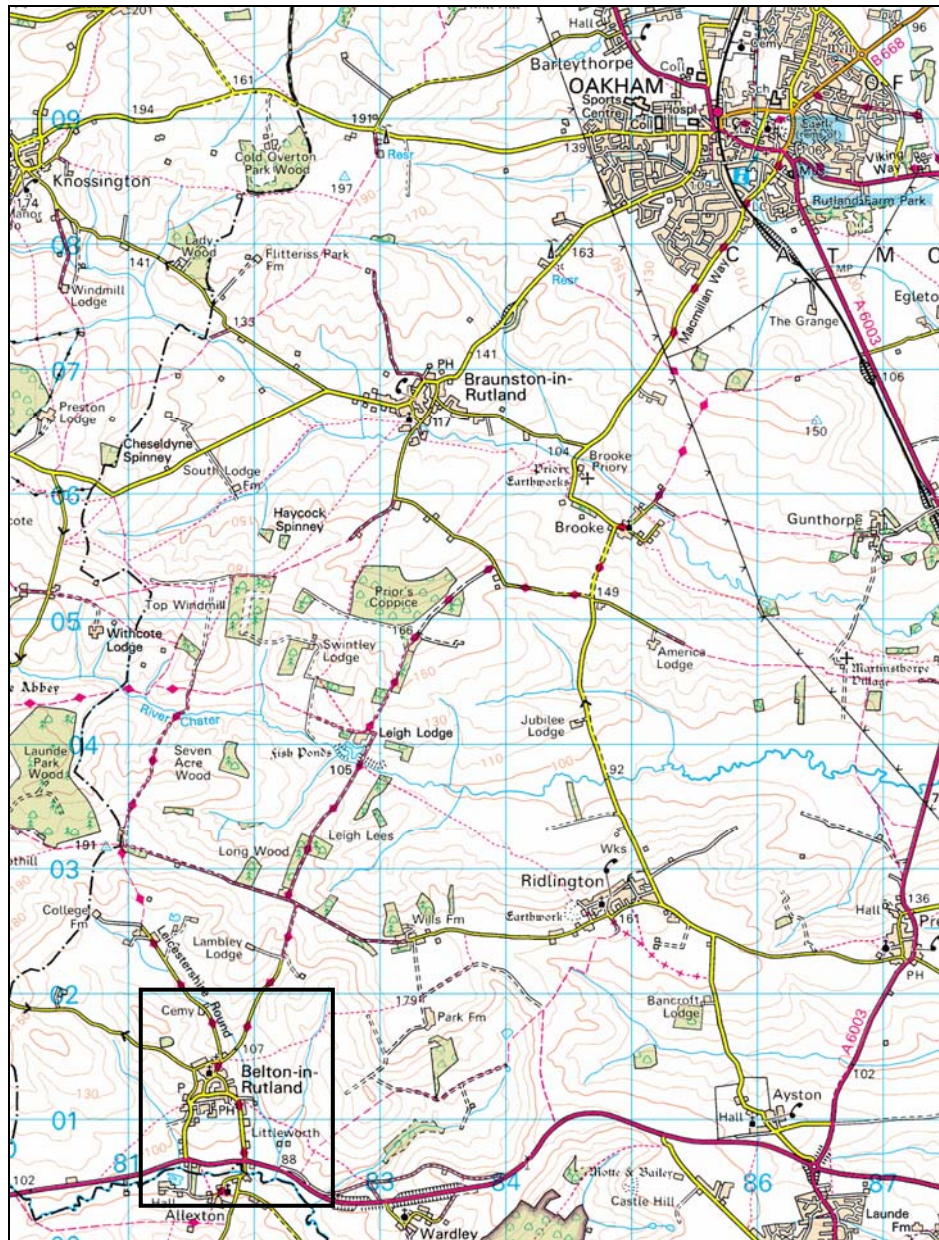


Figure 1: Site Location

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3. Description of the Building

The Chapel itself (*Colour Plate 1*) consists of a single storey rectangular Chapel house of red brick with a hipped roof of apparently Welsh slate. There is a smaller schoolroom at the rear of the Chapel onto which a brick built lean-to has been added. There are clearly different types of brickwork within the build, most notably the top eighteen courses of the right wall; probably as a result of being built by subscription and using whatever materials were available.

The Chapel house (*Room 1*) has six timber framed windows, two on the front wall and two each on the left and right walls, the sills have been plated with hammered tin, probably in an attempt to prevent the further decay of the timber originals below. Entry is via a central door on the front wall, above which is a Thomas Thomas arch (*Colour Plate 3*), over this is a date stone of local sandstone, inscribed *Baptist Chapel Erected 1843*. The date stone was not in place when the Chapel was photographed in 1910 (*Black & White 1*) and must, therefore, be a twentieth century addition.



Black & White Photograph 1. The Chapel in 1910. (Hickman, T., *Britain In Old Photographs Around Rutland.*)

The roof is hipped and appeared to be of Welsh slate (the low winter sun reflecting of the damp slates made definite identification impossible). The original roof would undoubtedly been of local Swithland slate; the Chapel minutes of February 1944 allocates funds to replace the rotted Swithland slates on the roof facing the road, it is unclear whether the road mentioned is Loddington Lane or Farm Lane on the right of the Chapel. In all likelihood, however, the entire Chapel has been re-roofed at some stage.

The schoolroom (*Room 2*) to the rear is of the same red brick construction with a simple ridge roof construction of the same slate covering as the Chapel. There is a central chimney-stack on the back wall with no externally visible chimney breast.

There are two timber-framed windows on the back wall and a single window on the left wall. The small lean-to (*Room 3*) is of the same brick and slate construction as the rest of the building and abuts the right hand wall of the schoolroom.

Internally there has been much alteration and very little of the original fixtures remain; within the Chapel House both the pews and the pulpit have been stripped out, but the outline of the pews are visible on the remaining wall panelling on the right wall (*Colour Plate 5*). The Baptistry, however, is still open (*Colour Plate 4*) and there is a small cast iron stove on the right wall, the flue of which can also be seen on the 1910 photograph.

Entry to the schoolroom is via a door to the right of the pulpit; the floor level within schoolroom is approximately 500mm lower than the Chapel House. The room is dominated by a modern oil-fired stove on the front wall, there is no mention of this in the minute book, but it is probably a 1980s addition. On the right wall there are three sandstone dedication plaques (*Colour Plate 2*), inscribed left to right with “*THIS STONE WAS LAID BY ^{RV} REYNOLDS OF LEIGHFIELD OCT 21 1889, E. CORBY AND SON J.E CORBY*” and “*THIS STONE WAS LAID BY A. PEARSON OF UPPINGHAM OCT 21 1889*”.

The access from the schoolroom to the lean-to is via a door to the front of the right wall. The lean-to has been divided into two cubicles off a short corridor and appears to have been toilets although there are no fixtures or fittings remaining. Unlike the other rooms, the walls have remained un-rendered. There is an exterior door on the front of the lean-to leading into the burial ground.

4. Photographic Index

Photograph No	B & W	Col Slide	Room	Description	Dir
001	X	X	01	Rear Wall, Interior.	
002	X	X	01	Rear Wall, Interior.	
003	X	X	01	Front Wall, Interior.	
004	X	X	01	Front Wall, Interior.	
005	X	X	01	Right Wall, Interior.	
006	X	X	01	Right Wall, Interior.	
007	X	X	01	Left Wall, Interior.	
008	X	X	01	Left Wall, Interior.	
009	X	X	01	Right Wall, Interior.	
010	X	X	01	Right Wall, Interior.	
011	X	X	01	Front Door, Interior.	
012	X	X	01	Front Door, Interior.	
013	X	X	01	Detail of Wood Panelling	
014	X	X	01	Detail of Wood Panelling	
015	X	X	01	Baptistery.	
016	X	X	01	Baptistery.	
017	X	X	01	Stove, Probably Not Original Position.	
018	X	X	01	Stove, Probably Not Original Position.	
019	X	X	01	Detail of Stove Top, Made by Romesse (Trade Mark).	
020	X	X	01	Detail of Stove Top, Made by Romesse (Trade Mark).	
021	X	X	01	Partial Wooden Plaque.	
022	X	X	01	Partial Wooden Plaque.	
023	X	X	01	Abandoned Interior Door.	
024	X	X	01	Abandoned Interior Door.	
025	X	X	01	Fine Wood Moulding.	
026	X	X	01	Fine Wood Moulding.	

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027	X	X	01	Ghost Pews on Right Wall, Interior.
028	X	X	01	Ghost Pews on Right Wall, Interior.
029	X	X	01	Central Wooden Floor.
030	X	X	01	Central Wooden Floor.
031	X	X	01	Subsidence Cracks, Left Wall, Interior.
032	X	X	01	Subsidence Cracks, Left Wall, Interior.
033	X	X	01	Detail Of Interior Lights.
034	X	X	01	Detail Of Interior Lights.
035	X	X	02	Stone Plaques, Right Wall, Interior.
035	X	X	02	Stone Plaques, Right Wall, Interior.
036	X	X	02	Detail Of Plaque 1.
037	X	X	02	Detail Of Plaque 1.
038	X	X	02	Detail Of Plaque 2.
039	X	X	02	Detail Of Plaque 2.
040	X	X	02	Detail Of Plaque 3.
041	X	X	02	Detail Of Plaque 3.
042	X	X	02	Left Wall, Interior.
043	X	X	02	Left Wall, Interior.
044	X	X	02	Door Leading To Small Eastern Annexe.
045	X	X	02	Door Leading To Small Eastern Annexe.
046	X	X	02	Modern Oil Fired Boiler, Manufactured by Lincoln Warm Air Heating Ltd, East Grinstead.
047	X	X	02	Modern Oil Fired Boiler, Manufactured by Lincoln Warm Air Heating Ltd, East Grinstead.
048	X	X	02	Interior Door Between Rooms 01 & 02.
049	X	X	02	Interior Door Between Rooms 01 & 02.
050	X	X	01	Wood Panelling Behind Pulpit.
051	X	X	01	Wood Panelling Behind Pulpit.
052	X	X	01	Window Detail, Interior.
053	X	X	01	Window Detail, Interior.
054	X	X		Possible 1810 Grave Stone.

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055	X	X	Possible 1810 Grave Stone.	
056	X	X	Front Wall, Exterior.	N
057	X	X	Front Wall, Exterior.	N
058	X	X	Exterior Date Stone.	
059	X	X	Exterior Date Stone.	
060	X	X	Detail Of Front Door, Exterior View.	
061	X	X	Detail Of Front Door, Exterior View.	
062	X	X	Detail Of Arched Window Above Door.	
063	X	X	Detail Of Arched Window Above Door.	
064	X	X	Window Detail, Exterior.	
065	X	X	Window Detail, Exterior.	
066	X	X	Right Wall, Exterior.	NW
067	X	X	Right Wall, Exterior.	NW
068	X	X	Detail Of Air Bricks and Subsidence Cracks.	
069	X	X	Detail Of Air Bricks and Subsidence Cracks.	
070	X	X	Detail Of Rear-most Chimney.	NW
071	X	X	Detail Of Rear-most Chimney.	NW
072	X	X	Detail Of Eastern-most Retaining Wall and Railings.	W
073	X	X	Detail Of Eastern-most Retaining Wall and Railings.	W
074	X	X	Detail Of Decorative Iron Work on Front Railings.	
075	X	X	Detail Of Decorative Iron Work on Front Railings.	
076	X	X	Front Railings, General.	N
077	X	X	Front Railings, General.	N
078	X	X	Detail Of Gate.	
079	X	X	Detail Of Gate.	
080	X	X	Left Wall, Exterior	SE
081	X	X	Left Wall, Exterior	SE
082	X	X	Rear Wall, Exterior.	S
083	X	X	Rear Wall, Exterior.	S
084	X	X	Western-most Retaining Wall and Grave Stones.	W

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085	X	X	Western-most Retaining Wall and Grave Stones.	W
086	X	X	Detail Of Hinge On Front Door.	
087	X	X	Detail Of Hinge On Front Door.	

5. Colour Plates



Colour Plate 1 Belton Baptist Chapel (Front).



Colour Plate 2 Belton Baptist Chapel (Front & Right).



Colour Plate 3 Belton Baptist Chapel Left Wall.



Colour Plate 4 Right Wall, Showing Changes in Brickwork.



Colour Plate 5 Dedication Plaques in the Schoolroom



Colour Plate 6 Front Door



Colour Plate 7 The Baptistry



Colour Plate 8 Outline of Lost Pews.

6. Archive and Publication

The site archive comprises:

110 colour slides
105 monochrome negative and contact prints
photographic index
field notes
a copy of this report

This will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team.

A summary of the results of this report will be submitted to the editor of Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society for inclusion in the annual summary of archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland.

7. Bibliography

Brunskill. R.W, *Brick Building In Britain.* London 1990.

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