

Methodist Church  
Carne Hill  
St Dennis  
Cornwall

A programme of  
Historic Building Recording

**REPORT**

October 2018



context one  
HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY



*Looking after the past, today...*



**Methodist Church  
Carne Hill  
St Dennis  
Cornwall**

*for*

**C1 project code: C1/SBR/18/CSC**

**Carne Hill Methodist Church**

#### REPORT

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Date	30/10/18

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Signed	
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Date	31/10/18
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Issue	01
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#### PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	PA17/05026
Local Planning Authority	Cornwall Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	TBC
Collecting Museum	Royal Cornwall Museum
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	contexto1-313589

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## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) has been instructed to carry out a programme of historic building recording as a condition of granting planning permission for demolition and re-development at the Methodist Church, Carne Hill, St Dennis, Cornwall. This will be followed by a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the east of the church during the subsequent construction phase.*

*The buildings subject to demolition are a late 19<sup>th</sup> century non-conformist church and Sunday School, which although de-listed in 1999 are of local historic interest and recognised as non-designated heritage assets. The building is infested with dry rot.*

*The Methodist Church is primarily a late Victorian place of worship comprising church and Sunday School hall, with a slightly earlier predecessor, and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century additions. Historic map regression analysis suggested a minimum of three phases in its development, however it is evident from the historic building recording that there are at least six phases to the complex. An 1872 date stone re-set in the present frontage appears to have derived from the original Bible Christian chapel, which was a smaller and likely more humble building than the large Methodist church that is now the predominant component of the complex. This chapel was either re-built or, more likely, substantially re-modelled between 1881 and 1893. While the relatively plain interior is befitting of the Methodist tradition it is interesting to note the decorative plasterwork on the large arch to the organ loft behind the choir and the timber furnishings which give the interior elegance and status. The pews and gallery would have provided seats for a considerably-sized congregation together with the choir benches for the singers. The Sunday School, added in 1893 after the church re-modelling had taken place, is almost as large as the church. This space has also been used for public performances until recent times; the original gallery indicates this was always the case as chapels often provided space for the performance of music, plays and bazaars. The last significant addition was a utilitarian extension of the 1920's/ 1930's, almost hidden from view behind the church. The provision of an outside W.C. as part of this extension was no doubt seen as a significant improvement to the comfort of the congregation, testimony to a thriving church community.*

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out a programme of historic building recording as a condition of granting planning permission for re-development at the Methodist Church, Carne Hill, St Dennis (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). This comprises demolition of the existing church with Sunday School and construction of a new church/community building, and ten new dwellings together with associated site works and parking areas. During the construction phase, a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording will be undertaken by C1 on land to the east of the church. The project has been commissioned by Mr Christopher Jones, Architect on behalf of Carne Hill Methodist Church.

1.2 In a consultation response dated 16 February 2018 from Historic Environment Planning (HEP) (West Majors) it was requested that building recording be carried out in advance of demolition of the church, which is infested with dry rot. A record of the work is to be deposited on a public database prior to the occupation of the new building, following guidelines set-out in *Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England, 2016). A further consultation response also dated 16 February 2018 from HEP (Archaeology) sets out the rationale for the recording work:

*"We have consulted the Cornwall & Scilly HER\* & studied the submitted HIA\*\*. We note that the Methodist Chapel was formerly a Grade II Listed building but was de-listed in 1999 because there are better examples of the type in the area. The Chapel appears to have been built by the 1880s and the associated Sunday school was built in 1893. Although they are not Listed buildings, the Chapel and Sunday school are of considerable local historic interest and considered worthy of recording prior to works (a Historic Buildings Record)."*

\*Heritage Impact Assessment carried out by C1 in August 2017 (Randall 2017).

\*\*Historic Environment Record

The historic building recording requirement is formalised in condition 4 of the Grant of Conditional Planning Permission (PA17/05026).

1.3 The programme of works comprises four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; historic building recording; illustrated report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.

1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012) section 12 and paragraph 141. This states:

*"Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted."*

1.5 It also accords with Policy 24 of the Cornwall Local Plan Strategic Policies 2010-2030 (adopted 2016) which states:

*"In those exceptional circumstances where harm to any heritage assets can be fully justified, and development would result in the partial or total loss of the asset and/ or its setting, the applicant will be required to secure a programme of recording and analysis of that asset.... and ensure the publication of that record to an appropriate standard in a public archive."*

## 2. The Site

2.1 The Site is on the northern edge of St Dennis, situated c. 8km to the north-west of St Austell, and occupies a broadly triangular plot (centred on SW 195148 58140), covering an area of c. 0.43ha. The Site is bounded to the north-west by open land, on the north-east by Church Road, and the south by the Carne Hill road, both of which are lined with residential housing.

- 2.2 The Methodist Church occupies the south-western side of the Site and directly borders Carne Hill, the church building facing St Dennis towards the south-east. As such, the front of the building is immediately visible upon leaving the village in this direction and cresting Carne Hill. The Sunday School building is attached to the north-west corner of the church, and therefore situated directly behind. Due to this significant offset in alignment between the two buildings, much of the Sunday School comes into view upon rounding the slight bend in Carne Hill outside the church entrance with the south-west flank hugging the road (see **front cover image**). In the re-entrant angle between the church and Sunday School is an early extension. At the north-west end of the church is a small square rectangular building housing the organ, and at the northern end of the north-east facing elevation is a long extension containing offices and toilets, with an attached lean-to at the end. Porches are present to the front of the church, and at the northern end of the Sunday School providing independent access from the road.

### 3. Aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the historic building recording work were:
- to provide a descriptive record of the buildings and historic fabric;
  - to provide a detailed photographic record showing overall form, architectural features, and to illustrate the descriptive record;
  - to provide an account of the origins, development and use
- 3.2 The research objectives were:
- to provide an historical record of the Methodist Church and associated Sunday School that will contribute to our understanding of this type of building and its relationship with the community that it served

### 4. Methodology

#### Historic Building Recording

- 4.1 The historic building recording was carried out as a Level 2 survey with elements of Level 3 in accordance with *Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England, 2016), and *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in 2014. COAS adhered to the Code of Conduct of the CIfA (2014) and the Regulations for Professional Conduct (2014, revised 2015), at all times during the course of the investigation. The current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 4.2 A Level 2 survey is summarised as:
- “5.2.1 This is a descriptive record, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require a more detailed record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.”*
- 4.3 A Level 3 survey is summarised as:
- 5.3.1 Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.*
- 5.3.2 The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion of the*



*building's broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group. A Level 3 record may also be appropriate when the fabric of a building is under threat, but time or resources are insufficient to allow for detailed documentary research, or where the scope for such research is limited."*

- 4.4 In accordance with the requirements set out above, the work comprised a drawn record of the building including plans and elevations; full photographic survey including architectural features; and a description of the building and structural/architectural components. The survey used architects plans and elevations as a basis for annotation and for checking key measurements
- 4.5 The overall form of the buildings, individual elevations and historic features were photographed, involving the sole use of digital images captured using a Nikon DS40 SLR camera. Aerial images were captured using a DJI Mavic Pro drone. The digital photographs were taken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines for Digital Image and Capture (<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/digital-image-capture-and-file-storage/>). All photographs illustrating architectural details featured an appropriately sized scale wherever possible. The photographic survey is accompanied by a photographic register.

## 5. Historical background

### **General background**

- 5.1 St Dennis is situated within the core area of the china clay industry; its origins lie in a number of smaller settlements, but takes its name from the dedication of the church of St Dennis, which is situated outside the settlement within an Iron Age hillfort on the summit of a hill c. 500m to the north of the village centre. Evidence indicates that this was an early medieval foundation. The china clay industry led to the expansion of these rural settlements in the 19<sup>th</sup> century following interest in use of the clay from the likes of Josiah Wedgwood. A railway branch line servicing the china clay and stone industry, which terminated to the south-west of the village, was constructed in 1869.

### **Site specific background**

- 5.2 The late Victorian non-conformist Chapel (HER No. MCO33045) and associated Sunday School (HER No. MCO52318) comprise the only heritage assets on the Site. Formerly designated as a Grade II Listed building the buildings were de-listed in 1999 on the premise that there were better examples of the type in the area, and the Cornwall and Scilly HER now records them as being of local importance only. The chapel was in existence by the 1880s, having originated as a Bible Christian chapel. The associated Sunday School was constructed in 1893.
- 5.3 Historic map regression carried out during the Heritage Impact Assessment demonstrated that prior to the construction of the Bible Christian Chapel, which became known as Carne Hill Methodist Church, the Site appears to have been open land (Randall 2017). Historic Landscape Characterisation shows that the Site lies within an area designated as post-medieval Enclosed Land, generally taken in from that which was previously Upland Rough Ground or medieval commons (*ibid.*).
- 5.4 The maps referred to in the following account are held at the Cornwall Records Office, or are available in digital format, and are listed in **Appendix 1**. Extracts of selected maps are presented in **Figure 2**. The earliest available map is an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1810 (**Figure 2, a**), which is small in scale but shows no buildings. The 1842 St Dennis Tithe Map (**Figure 2, b**) shows the Site as part of a large field as opposed to open ground. The current Carne Hill Road, only extended down from the north-west as far as the north-western corner of the current Site, where it met a track which ran north-east to south-west along what is now the north-west boundary of the Site (*ibid.*). The south-west boundary of the Site is similar to the line of the field boundary shown on the Tithe map, and a small building is shown midway along it. The parcel is not numbered and may have represented waste ground.
- 5.5 The 'Bible Christian Chapel' is first depicted on the 1881 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 3, c**) in the current location of the church, with a substantial porch or annex adjoining the northern end of the south-west flank and extending to the road. The chapel measured c. 14m long and just over c. 10m wide, while the

porch measured c. 7m long and c. 5m wide. The Carne Hill Road had been extended to the south-east, the Site now occupying the fork between Carne Hill and the new Church Road. A boundary wall is shown connecting the south-west corner of the church and the south-east corner of the porch.

- 5.6 The 1907 OS map (**Figure 2, d**) reveals that by this time the chapel had either been elongated or re-built on a longer plan with the frontage situated c. 5.5m further to the south-west and closer to the road, giving a total length of c. 19.5m, although the width remained the same. A porch had been added to the chapel frontage, along with an extension to the north-west end, slightly narrower in width than the main body of the church. Combined this gives a total length of c. 25m for the church building with additions. The Sunday School clasped the north-west corner of the church extension, adjoining the original porch or annex at the north end of the south-west elevation. This also had a small porch at the north end of its south-west elevation, again bordering the road. The 1973 OS map (**Figure 2, f**) shows further expansion of the church building, now labelled Carne Hill Methodist Church, with a north-east extension to the northern end. This is bordered by a parallel line representing the retaining wall continuing along the north-east side of the driveway. A small rectangular outbuilding is depicted on the north-east side of this wall.



## 6. Results

6.1 The Historic Building Recording took place on 15 May 2018 during overcast weather conditions. Photo viewpoints are displayed on **Figure 3**, except where photographs were taken at a greater distance from the building.

### *Exterior*

6.2 The church building is a large rectangular structure with gabled roof aligned north-west to south-east, measuring c. 20m long and just over 10m wide, with front porch and rear extension housing the organ. Although the roofing materials have been covered by a thin layer of bitumen, the underlying slates are clearly visible (although in a degraded condition) with stone eaves and plain clay ridge tiles. Excepting two windows in the frontage and one in the rear, all the windows share the same design as detailed within the description below and have been replaced with white UPVC Victorian imitations.

6.3 The imposing façade of the Methodist Church is visible along the south-eastern approach of Carne Hill, the ground in front defined on either side by a rubble wall enclosing hard standing (**Plate 1**). Also visible from this angle is the 20<sup>th</sup> century extension and detached outbuildings on the north-east side of the main church. The frontage is handsomely constructed and well-proportioned, faced with coursed dressed granite of variable sizes and quoins of large granite side-alternating blocks, standing slightly proud of the main wall and defined by chamfered edges (**Plate 2**). Two rows of windows are separated by a string-course with upper straight chamfer; the two lower windows on either side of the porch are rectangular with monumental granite lintels and sills, while the three upper windows are round-headed with radiating granite voussoirs of alternating larger and smaller sizes, the central window being of grander proportions.



Plate 1. Methodist Church from Carne Hill (1 x 2m scale; from SE)

*Methodist Church, Carne Hill, St Dennis, Cornwall*



Plate 2. Church frontage with porch & date stone AD 1872 (1 x 2m scale; from SE)



Plate 3. Date stone in gable of church frontage (from SE)



Plate 4. Front porch (1 x 2m scale; from NE)



Plate 5. SW side of church from road (1 x 2m scale; from SW)



Plate 6. Aerial view showing NE side of church & frontage (from ENE)



- 6.4 Within the gable apex, directly above the larger central window, is a circular stone comprising a central roundel carved with the date AD 1872, surrounded by three radiating orders comprising a concave recess, then a raised flat surface with traces of eroded letters, and finally a quarter roll mould with billet (**Plate 3**). The small porch emulates the same design as the frontage, with radiating voussoirs of alternating sizes above the round-headed door and gable roof with stone eaves, which also have a straight chamfer identical to those used for the main roof (**Plate 4**). Decorative clay ridge tiles provide additional ornamentation.
- 6.5 Each of the long flanks contain three of the round-headed windows (**Plates 5 & 6**) although the sills of the two north-western windows are higher (making the windows shorter) due to the presence of internal doors below leading to the kitchen on the south-west side (**Plate 7**) and the north-east extension on the opposing side (**Plate 8**). The south-west flank is rendered with concrete however the rubble facing of the north-east wall is exposed. The stone surrounds of the windows are visible and are notably simpler than the precisely cut window dressings in the frontage. A change in the render at the southern window of the south-west flank is coterminous with the position of the frontage shown on the 1881 OS map, prior to the church being extended/ re-built to its current length (**Plate 5**). This also corresponds with the north-east return of the boundary wall constructed of random rubble and depicted on mapping from 1881 (**Plate 9**). Importantly, a corresponding change in fabric is not evident in the north-easterly wall, where the rubble facing is identical throughout (**Plate 6**).



Plate 7. SW side of church showing short window above kitchen & boundary wall (1 x 2m scale; from SW)



Plate 8. Short window in NE side of church above C20 extension (from ESE)



Plate 9. SW side showing rubble wall enclosing attached structure (from SW)



Plate 10. NE side showing organ loft clasped by Sunday School (1 x 2m scale; from NNW)

- 6.6 Attached to the south-west flank of the church is a small structure with crested clay ridge tiles; this looks historic from the outside but is actually constructed of concrete blocks (**Plate 9**). There is no connecting door to the interior. The organ housing is certainly a later addition; externally this is only visible from the field behind the church (**Plate 10**). Although historic mapping shows it first present by 1907, the same as the Sunday School, the north-east wall of the latter (dated 1893) clasps the north-west corner of the organ loft (**Plate 11**). Constructed of coursed random rubble with a single hatched window opening with depressed arch, the fabric is notably different from the small rubble and wider mortar joints of the Sunday School building (**Plate 12**). Inside the organ loft, the original 6-pane vertical sliding sash is extant behind the shutter. The north-east flank of the Sunday School contains two rectangular-headed windows with simple granite surrounds; there are an identical two windows in the north-west end and three further identical windows in the south-west elevation, although the surrounds of the latter are obscured by render (**Plate 13**). This is also true of the south-east facing wall above the lean-to roof of the kitchen, which contains a single arched window (**Plate 9**). A series of seven memorial plaques are ranged high-up along the wall; some words and names can be made-out but they are largely illegible (**Plate 14**). The use of smaller rubble for the porch, as evident in the exposed stone walling of the north-west face, might suggest a slightly later addition that provided the children with a separate entrance, the door facing south-east therefore not leading directly onto the road. Chimneys of grey bricks are present at either end of the Sunday School roof, evidence for the provision of heating within this part of the church.





Plate 11. Organ loft & Sunday School (1 x 2m scale; from NE)



Plate 12. Organ loft clasped by NE wall of Sunday School (1 x 2m scale; from NW)



Plate 13. Sunday School (1 x 2m scale; from W)



Plate 14. Memorial stones in SW wall of Sunday School (from SW)

- 6.7 The 20<sup>th</sup> century extension to the north-east is terraced into the rising ground towards the east (**Plates 15 & 16**). The gabled roof has a single chimney at the north-east end, and the roof material is slate. There are two wooden double-framed windows with top-openers and one modern UPVC window in the south-east flank (**Plate 17**), and two wooden single-framed windows with top openers in the north-west elevation (**Plate 10**) (dense foliage may obscure a third window, also concealed on the interior by modern cladding). The utilitarian form of the building indicates a 1920's/ 1930's construction date, although the windows are later; the two wooden frames in the south-east flank sit within openings that have been shortened, with evidence of blocking beneath the sills. An identical window is also present in the south-west wall of the kitchen. The lean-to at the north-east end of the north-east extension, housing an outside W.C. and store, is probably similar in date. Access is via a walkway alongside the north-east flank of the church, with a retaining wall enclosing a grassed area with detached gabled outhouse of similar date to the extension, and a further store constructed of corrugated metal sheets (**Plates 15-17**).



Plate 15. NE side of church showing mid-C20 extension & detached stores in foreground (from NE)



Plate 16. NE side showing extension with lean-to & retaining wall around walkway (from NE)





Plate 17. Walkway from front of church to outside w.c. & store (1 x 2m scales; from SE)



Plate 18. Front porch to church  
(1 x 2m scale; from SE)

### **Interior**

- 6.8 The floor of the front porch is laid with decorated Victorian tiles (**Plate 18**), providing the only access to a handsomely proportioned entrance vestibule floored with the same tile pattern (**Plate 19**). The vestibule is symmetrical with a staircase in each corner leading to the tiered gallery, the sloping underside of which is supported on ornate iron columns. The vestibule is separated from the main body of the church by a decorative timber partition, with two pairs of doors giving access to the two aisles and centrally placed glazing providing a view of proceedings (**Plate 20**).
- 6.9 Looking north-west from the gallery the interior décor is of one period, with no evidence of a building-break adjacent to the southern windows and, similarly, no interruption to the coricing or string-course (**Plate 21**). The windows have a continuous single straight splay and a flat sill. The church furniture is predominantly of one period and utilizing pine, stained red; the Victorians used an ochre-based dye to achieve this colour. The panels surrounding the gallery, rostrum and choir stalls are of the same design, as are the bull-nose pew ends for the congregational seating, gallery tiers and choir benches (see **Plates 22 & 23**), the latter equipped with fold-down seats between the benches. Diagonal panelling in the vestibule partition is also present in the rostrum panelling, however the lighter-coloured pine in the former is replacement timber (**Plate 23**). The altar table sits on a hexagonal platform with front rail. Decorative foliate plasterwork adorns the inner order of the rounded arch for the organ housing, with a row of acanthus leaves below the imposts (**Plate 24**). The area beneath the choir stalls and organ loft is accessed from the Sunday School room, and is filled with a robust timber framework to support the weight above; dry rot was observed to be extensive across these timbers. A door is positioned below each of the opposing shorter northern windows, their symmetrical positions and the joinery style perhaps suggesting they formed part of the Victorian design.





Plate 19. Entrance vestibule (1 x 2m scale; from SW)



Plate 20. View from choir to gallery above entrance vestibule (1 x 2m scale; from NW)



Plate 21. View from gallery to altar, rostrum & choir (1 x 2m scale; from SE)



Plate 22. Altar, rostrum & choir (1 x 2m scale; from SE)



Plate 23. View from choir stalls to gallery showing pews (1 x 2m scale; from NNW)

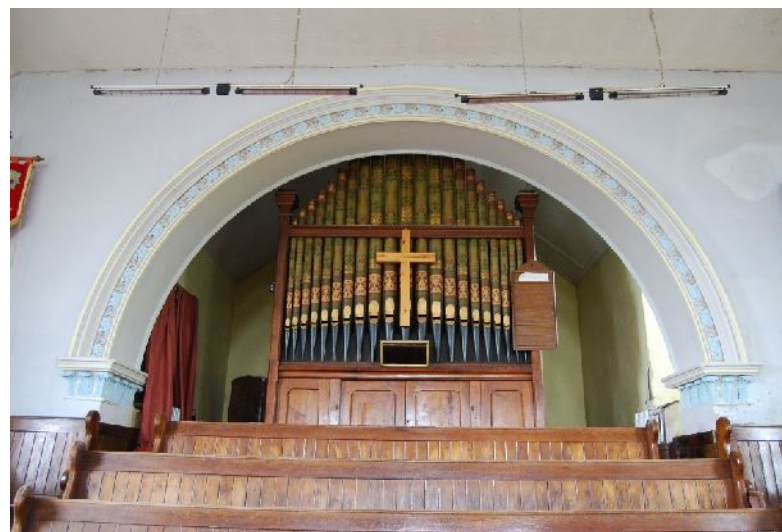


Plate 24. Decorative arch for organ housing, with bullnose choir bench ends (from SE)

- 6.10 The door in the south-west flank of the church leads to a kitchen (**Plate 25**), formerly a porch, and through to the large hall that is the Sunday School room (**Plate 26**). A further door in the south-east corner provides access to the support structure beneath the organ loft and choir stalls of the church. A gallery is located across the north-west end of the Sunday School hall supported on decorative iron columns (**Plate 27**); the original panels forming the balcony frontage are extant, although the height has been raised using plywood. The windows have single straight splays to each side and a sloping sill, with a flat lintel above, and the exposed roof structure comprises scissor trusses (**Plate 28**). A scar in the north-east corner of the building shows the location of the original stairs to the gallery, (**Plate 29**), now replaced by a wooden staircase on the opposite side. The grey render of the hall is painted with regular black lines to emulate masonry.
- 6.11 The door in the north-east flank of the church leads to the north-east extension (**Plate 21**); it is identical to the opposing door in the south-west flank and is therefore likely to pre-date the 20<sup>th</sup> century extension. A staircase provides access to the first-floor (the space below was not viewed but may not have a function), which contains a pine-panelled room (**Plate 30**) and more recent partitions to create a W.C. and offices.





Plate 25. Kitchen (former porch) looking through to church, with Sunday School door on left (from SW)



Plate 26. Sunday School hall from gallery, with door to kitchen (1 x 2m scale; from NW)



Plate 27. Gallery above Sunday School hall (1 x 2m scale; from SE)



Plate 28. Scissor trusses of Sunday School hall (from SE)



Plate 29. Position of former stairs to gallery of Sunday School hall (1 x 2m scale; from SW)



Plate 30. NE extension (1 x 1m scale; from NE)



## 7. Discussion

- 7.1 The Methodist Church at Carne Hill is primarily a late Victorian place of worship comprising church and Sunday School hall, with a slightly earlier predecessor, and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century additions (see phasing on **Figures 3 & 4**). Historic map regression analysis suggested a minimum of three phases in its development, however it is evident from the historic building recording that there are at least six phases to the complex.
- 7.2 The church building and Sunday School are both depicted in their current plan form on the 1907 OS map, however all elements of the Victorian church were present by 1893 which is when the Sunday School hall was built. As this was the latest addition to the Victorian complex (Phase 4), abutting the organ housing added to the north-west end of the church, we can be certain that the full length of the church, also including front porch, were all in place prior to this date but only up to 12 years before (Phase 3). We know this because the 1881 OS map shows a church building sharing the same width as that depicted on the 1907 map, but the south-east elevation terminated where the roadside boundary wall (Phase 2) returns to meet the church wall. As such, the Bible Christian chapel (constructed in 1872, Phase 1) was considerably shorter than the present church (occupying the central and north-western portions), the 1872 date stone re-set in the Phase 3 façade. This earlier church also had a porch attached to the northern end of the south-west flank (Phase 2), probably constructed on completion of the church or soon afterwards.



Plate 31. Photograph of the quarterly meeting at Carne Hill Chapel, St Dennis held on the 23rd June 1908

- 7.3 Clues for an extension were sought in the long walls; although vertical cracks are present in the concrete render above and below the southern window of the south-west flank, crucially these are not replicated in the north-east flank where there is no change to the facing material on either side of the southern window. This might suggest that the 1872 Bible Christian chapel (Phase 1) was completely swept away by the larger

Methodist Church. Alternatively, between 1881 and 1893 the building underwent a radical overhaul and the north-east flank was re-faced, obscuring the extension line. Interestingly, the width of the additional space correlates with the width of the Phase 3 entrance vestibule, perhaps reinforcing the likelihood of an extension as opposed to wholesale re-building. With the window surrounds in the new frontage being identical to those along the two side walls, the improvements must have seen the cannibalisation of the original openings for which no evidence remains. All the present interior décor and furnishings relate to the late Victorian phase (Phase 3), including the large decorative archway between the choir and organ loft. The church had two side entrances near the north-west end, one leading to the earlier porch (Phase 2) and the other giving direct access to the exterior. In the 1920's/ 1930's the latter was encompassed by the north-east extension, providing additional space and an outside W.C. (Phase 5). A retaining wall formalised the space between the church and the rising ground to the north-east, creating a passageway to reach these facilities. Modern interventions have been minimal (Phase 6), mostly relating to maintenance, the replacement of windows in the north-east extension and kitchen, and the more recent replacement of the Victorian windows (except the hidden sash in the organ loft). A photograph dated 1908 taken on the north-east side of the Sunday School building (**Plate 31**) shows the original 9-pane vertical sash windows, now replaced by UPVC, and 62 gentlemen in their Sunday best. Perhaps some of the elder members were the benefactors of the late Victorian church. The photograph dates to 1908, the year after the Bible Christians, the Methodist New Connexion, the Welsh Methodists and the United Free Methodists were united as the United Methodist Church (HE 2015, 25).

- 7.4 To conclude, the 1872 date stone re-set in the present frontage appears to have derived from the original chapel, recorded as a Bible Christian place of worship. This was a smaller and likely more humble building than the large Methodist church that is now the predominant component of the complex. It had a porch leading directly from the road, the space between the porch and the south-east end of the church enclosed by a boundary wall which appears to have survived to the present day. Where this wall adjoins the church it also delineates the original south-eastern extent of the 1872 church, prior to the significant re-building carried out between 1881 and 1893. This accords with a wave of chapel re-fronting, often to a template, and re-modelling that occurred in Cornwall after the 1880s, reflecting a growing confidence and enhanced aspirations within their communities (*ibid.*, 12). Often this was achieved by extending one end and accompanied re-windowing and the addition of porches (*ibid.*), as appears to be the case at Carne Hill. While the relatively plain interior is befitting of the Methodist tradition it is interesting to note the decorative plasterwork on the large arch to the organ loft behind the choir. However, it is the timber furnishings which give the interior elegance and status, with the pews and gallery providing seats for a considerably-sized congregation together with the choir benches for the singers. The Sunday School, added in 1893 after the church re-modelling had taken place, is almost as large as the church, testimony to the number of children the Methodist's accommodated. This space has also been used for public performances until recent times; the original gallery indicates this was always the case as chapels often provided space for the performance of music, plays and bazaars (*ibid.*). The last significant addition was a utilitarian extension of the 1920's/ 1930's, almost hidden from view behind the church. The provision of an outside W.C. as part of this extension was no doubt seen as a significant improvement to the comfort of the congregation, testimony to a thriving church community.

## 8. Archive

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 141). The archive normally comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

### Paper/digital archive

- 8.2 The archive generated from the historic building recording comprises photographs in born-digital data format. All site generated drawings and notes are incorporated into this historic building report.
- 8.3 Within three months of the conclusion of the project, the digital archive will be transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.

**Dissemination: report**

- 8.4 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:
- client and/or agent
  - the HEP so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
  - the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

**Dissemination: publication**

- 8.5 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

## 9. Bibliography

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|--|---|
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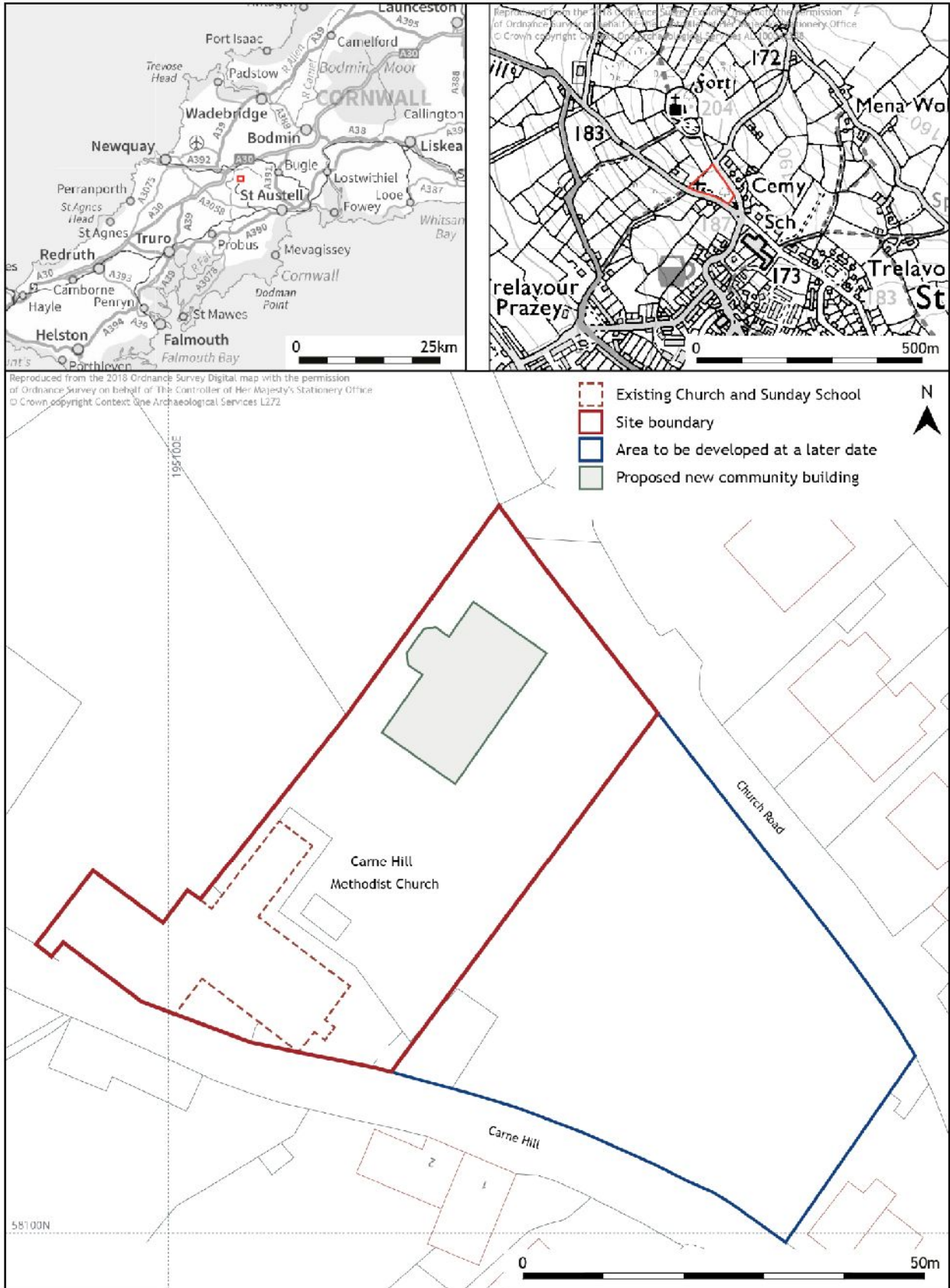


Figure 1. Site setting and development area



Figure 2. Historic map regression

- By 1881
- 1881 - 1893
- 1893
- Early to mid C20
- Modern

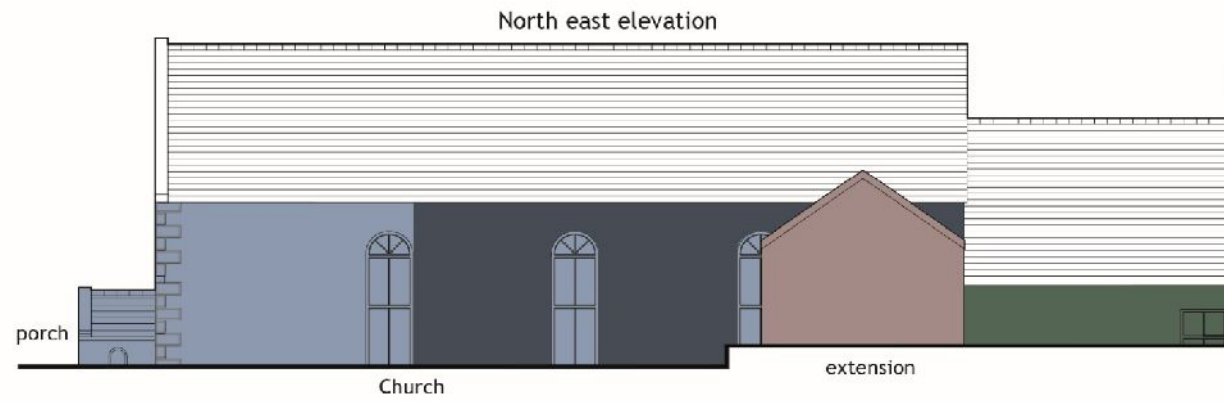
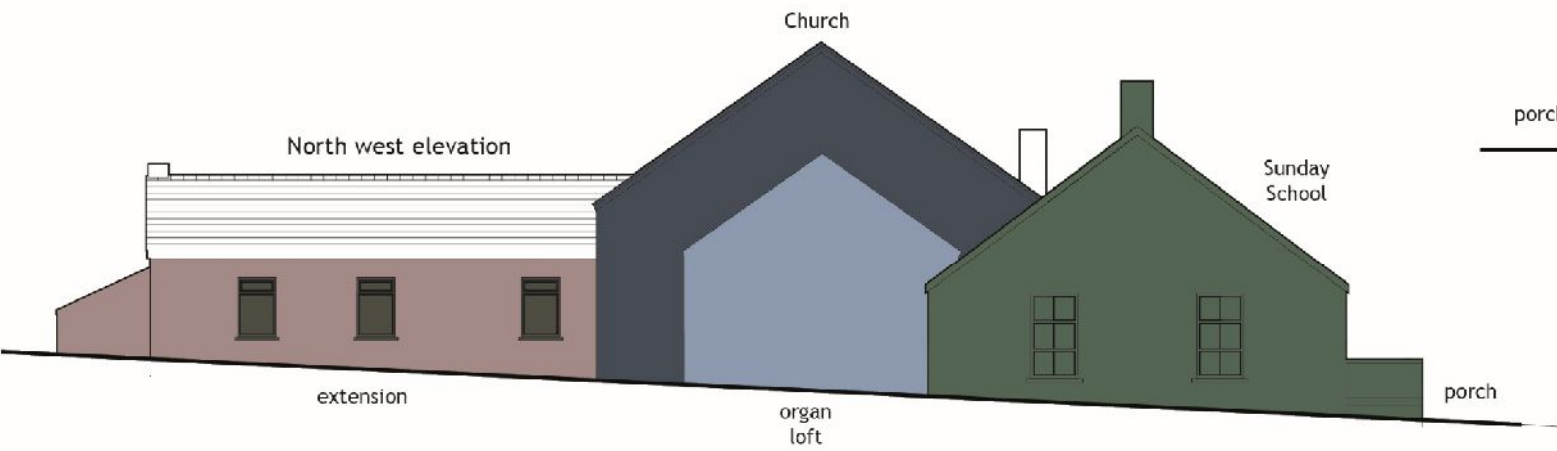
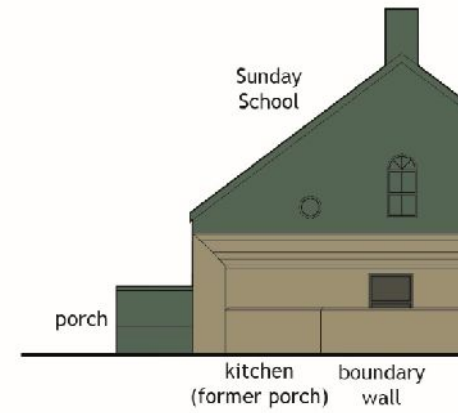
X Photo viewpoints



Ground floor







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