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# CORBRIDGE MARKET PLACE CHAPEL

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD

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OCTOBER 2017



Prepared for: Mr Lee Stenhouse Roxburgh Environmental Limited
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By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
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Project code: AP17/30
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Stage: Final
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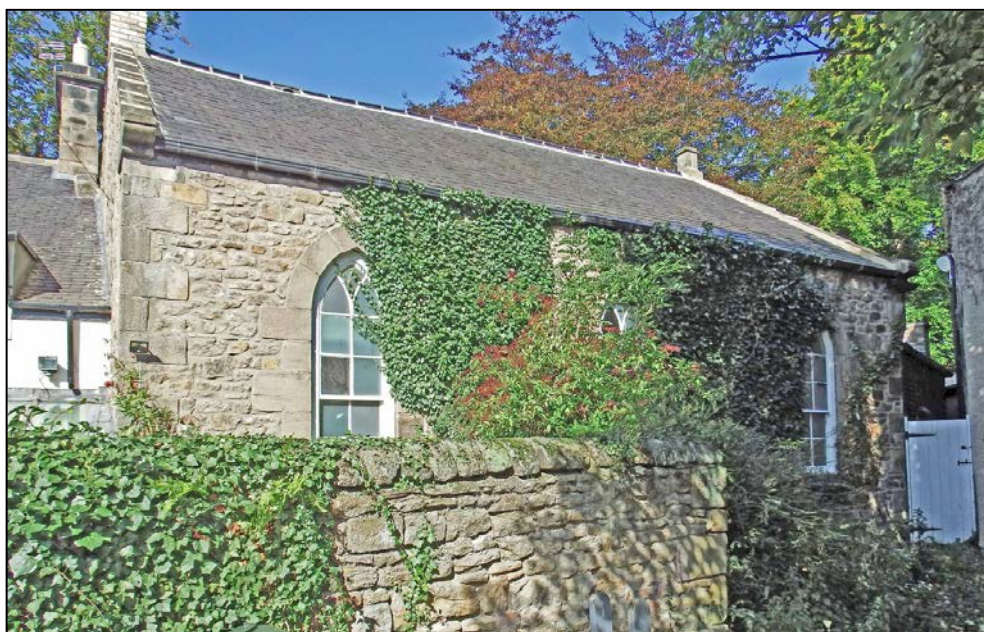
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Completion date: 16/10/17
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# CORBRIDGE MARKET PLACE CHAPEL

## Historic Buildings Record



*Frontispiece: Rear South-East Elevation looking north-west.*

Oasis Project No. *thearcha2-298644*  
Grid Ref.: *NY 98871 64404*

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## SUMMARY

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*A programme of building recording has been carried out for Mr Lee Stenhouse of Roxburgh Environmental Limited in advance of the refurbishment of a 19th century chapel facing onto the east side of the Market Place, Corbridge, Northumberland. The photographic record completed for this building consists of a total of 13 internal photographs the positions of which are keyed to a ground plan.*

*Externally unaltered, Market Place Chapel appears as a good example of a mid-Victorian nonconformist building chapel although its heritage value is obviously enhanced by its setting in a historic village centre so close to significant medieval structures. As a chapel it is of very standard form, although the manner in which it is entered through the polygonal porch block is a little unusual. Inside, a considerable amount of the original interior survives although some benches have been removed and the dais/pulpit (seen as original in the list description) is probably secondary. Contemporary features such as the benches, dado, cornice and ceiling vents are attractive but very standard for the period, although it should be borne in mind that nonconformist buildings as a genre are a fast-diminishing resource, with a relatively small proportion having been awarded statutory protection.*

*No further recording work is recommended on the standing buildings with respect to the Market Place chapel.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Project Background

Permission has been granted by Northumberland County Council for the refurbishment of the Grade II Listed Corbridge Market Place Chapel, a former Primitive Methodist Chapel standing on the east side of the Market Place, unusually close to the Parish Church for a nonconformist building, and in the shadow of the medieval Vicar's Pele which adjoins the churchyard wall.

As part of the Schedule of Conditions attached to the planning consent, it is stated that a programme of archaeological building recording must be carried out on the interior of the building in advance of the works (the exterior, being unchanged by the proposed plans, was not included in the Condition for recording). Accordingly, the current report has been carried out for Mr Lee Stenhouse of Roxburgh Environmental Limited in order to satisfy the terms of the planning condition.

At the time of survey the building comprised a front entrance lobby, main chapel, male and female toilets and a kitchen area.

### 1.2 Methodology

The photographic recording of the chapel was undertaken in October 2017 using colour digital photography. Some of the interior had previously been stripped out by this time, resulting in the loss of decorative detail.

All elevations were photographed as far as possible face-on and from a consistent height and perspective. Where possible, all record photographs included a scaled ranging pole. Where it was not possible to capture an entire elevation in a single photograph because of the constricted nature of the site, a series of partial elevations were recorded along with an oblique overall view of the full elevation. In addition to the photographic record, a drawn record of the external elevations was made to accompany a written description by Peter Ryder.

A limited search was made for maps, documents and historic photographs pertaining to the history of the building, some of which are included in this report.

The English Heritage Listing Description is as follows:

*Chapel formerly Methodist, now Brethren, dated 1867. Snecked stone with tooled- and- margined rusticated dressings, north part brick to rear; Welsh slate roof with white brick stack. Cast-iron railings on squared stone wall. Street front in 2 parts: Main part 3 bays. Pointed-arched 8-pane sash windows with Gothic glazing in heads; stone tablet on right between windows PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL with date. Coped gables with moulded kneelers; small square finial on left end, later stack on right end. 3-bay lower set-back left part has left bay canted back to street. Boarded door on right, similar windows.*

*Largely contemporary interior has central box pulpit with pointed-arched sounding board behind. Simple pewing, boarded dado. Moulded plaster cornice.*

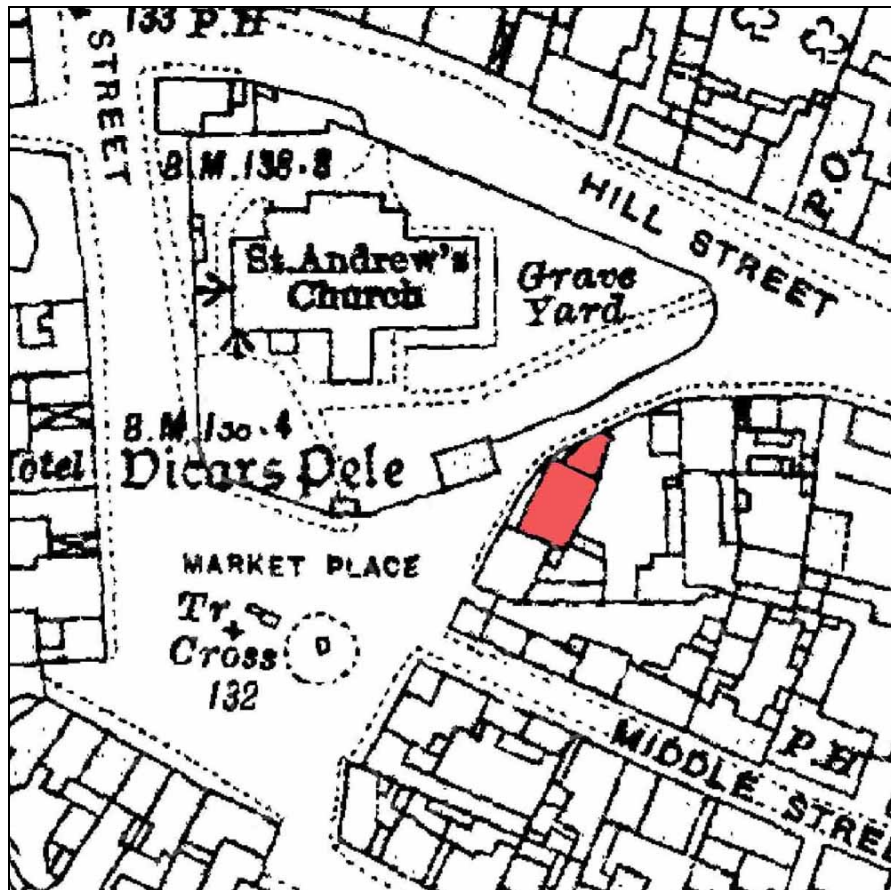
*Dwarf area wall with chamfered coping carrying rails with foliate standards; 2 gates with latticed half rails.*



## 2. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapel was built in 1867 at a cost of £420; prior to its construction local Primitive Methodists had met in each other's homes.<sup>1</sup> After Methodist Reunion in 1932 a congregation continued to meet here, until the building was sold to the Brethren in the 1980s who worshipped in it until c 2012; since this date it was used by independent Christian groups.



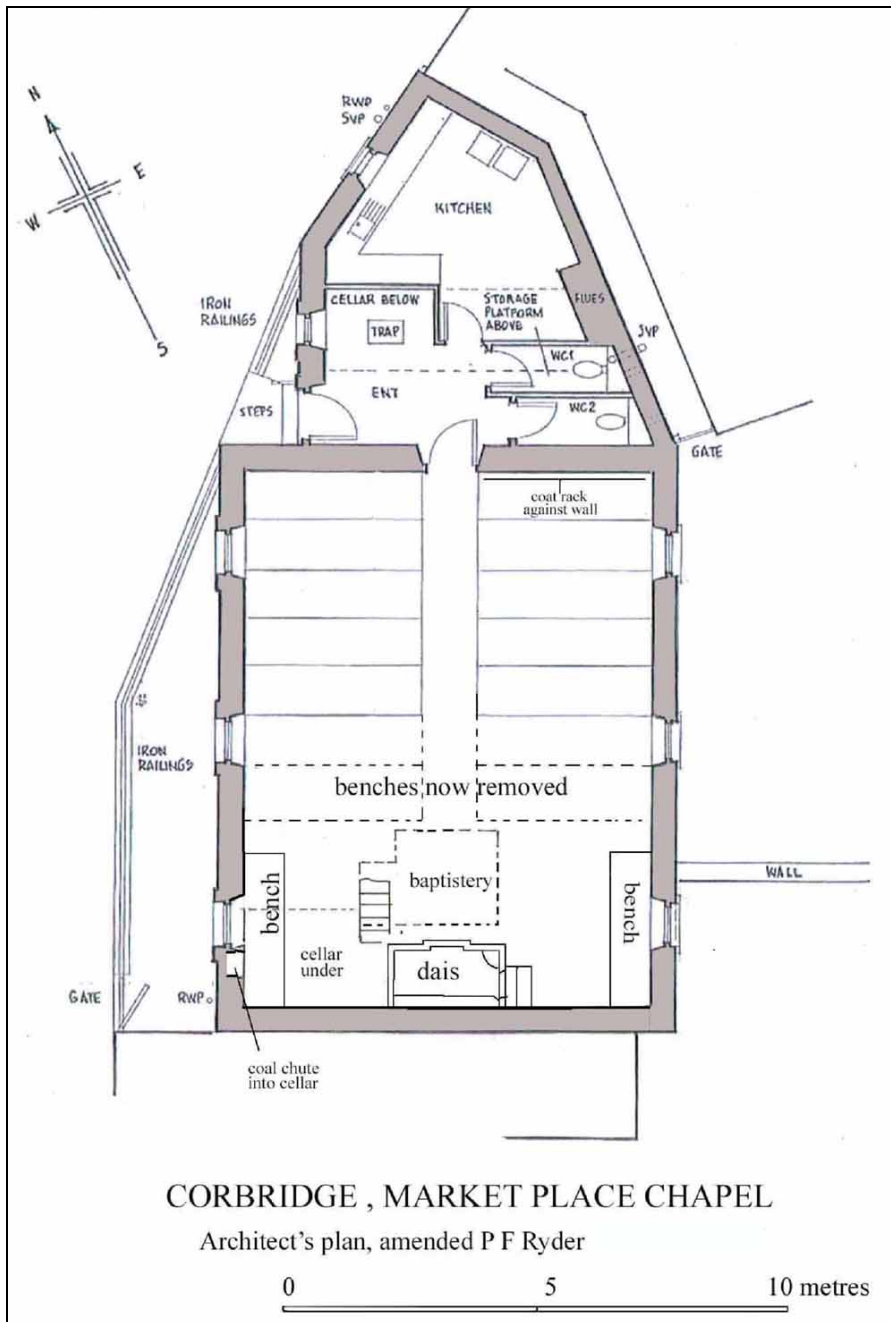
*Illus. 01:*

*The Location of the chapel on the east side of the Market Place.*

### 2.2 Description

The chapel consists of a main building 10.45 by 8.05 m internally, with at its north end a lower porch block of irregular five-sided plan. Set behind old railings on a chamfered ashlar plinth, the street elevations are of sneaked stone with rusticated ashlar quoins and dressings, whereas the rear elevation of the main building is of rubble with more roughly-cut dressings, and the rear walls of the porch brick. The roofs are of Welsh slate; that of the main building has coped gables with moulded kneelers, the southern gable being capped by a small white brick stack and the northern by a block-like ashlar finial.

<sup>1</sup> see Bulmer's *History and Directory of Northumberland* (1886, 454).



*Illus. 02: Plan of Corbridge Market Place Chapel.*

### 2.2.1 The Exterior

Each side wall has three Gothic-arched windows in alternating-block surrounds (rusticated on the front), holding 8-pane sashes with Y-traceried heads. In between the northern and central windows on the front is an ashlar tablet inscribed 'PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL 1867'. The porch block has a similar arched doorway (the boarded door has good contemporary ironwork) set close to the main block, and a 6-pane sash again in a Gothic surround further north.

### 2.2.2 The Interior

The interior of the porch has been altered, and has no old features other than a chimney breast with a plain square-headed fireplace on the east. On the south a Gothic arched doorway with an old boarded door in a splayed surround opens into the chapel itself. This is laid out in a very standard nonconformist manner. A central aisle divides



five pairs of varnished pine benches, with shaped ends, each set on a 60mm step, so that the floor to the rear bench is 0.30m above that of the central aisle, which remains level. The backs to the benches are slightly raked, and have at their rear a small shelf for the benefit of the occupants of the bench behind. Two further benches on the level flooring in front of these were removed some years ago; slight traces of them remain on the boarded dado. At the rear of the chapel the dado is taller, and the central doorway has a surround with two narrow chamfers and a moulded roundel at the apex. Set behind the eastern bench is a coat rack carried on three posts (see drawings).

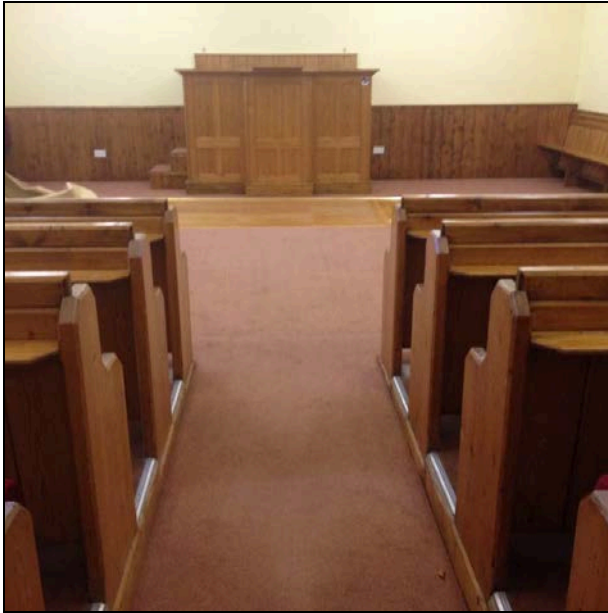
Set centrally at the front of the chapel is the dais/pulpit, gained by two steps on its east side and an outward-opening door hung on a pair of interesting projecting hinges. The dais, 2.10 by 1.18 m internally, has a bench seat at the rear, a semicircular shelf at the north-east corner and an inclined lectern desk. Externally it has stop-chamfered uprights and rails and a moulded top cornice. It is constructed of quite yellow wood, and is probably of earlier 20th century date. At the back, above the seat, is a section of the older boarded dado, probably reused in its present position, and above that, on the wall, the faint outline of a raised sounding board in the form of a Gothic arch, mentioned in the c1985 list description but removed at some subsequent date. On either side of the dais is an inward-facing bench, without any front.

The level open area of floor between the dais and remaining benches is now carpeted; in front of the dais are a series of panels which can be lifted to open the baptistery, a fiberglass tank for total-immersion baptisms, installed c1994; at the west end of this a smaller trapdoor reveals a narrow flight of stone steps leading down to a small cellar 2.7 by 1.9 m, its floor 1.4m below that of the chapel. In its west wall is an opening with a chute, probably for coal. On the east is modern block work walling, and beyond it a rough mass of old masonry beneath the dais, perhaps a remnant of some earlier structure. When the baptistery was installed a considerable amount of medieval pottery, along with burnt material, was found, and there are clearly significant archaeological deposits close at hand.

Returning to the main chapel, there is a broad hollow-moulded plaster cornice all round, and in the underdrawn ceiling are two plaster roundels enclosing what appear to be opening vents.



*Illus. 03: Historic view of interior, looking north-west*



*Illus. 04: Historic view of interior looking east to dais/pulpit*

### **2.3 Discussion**

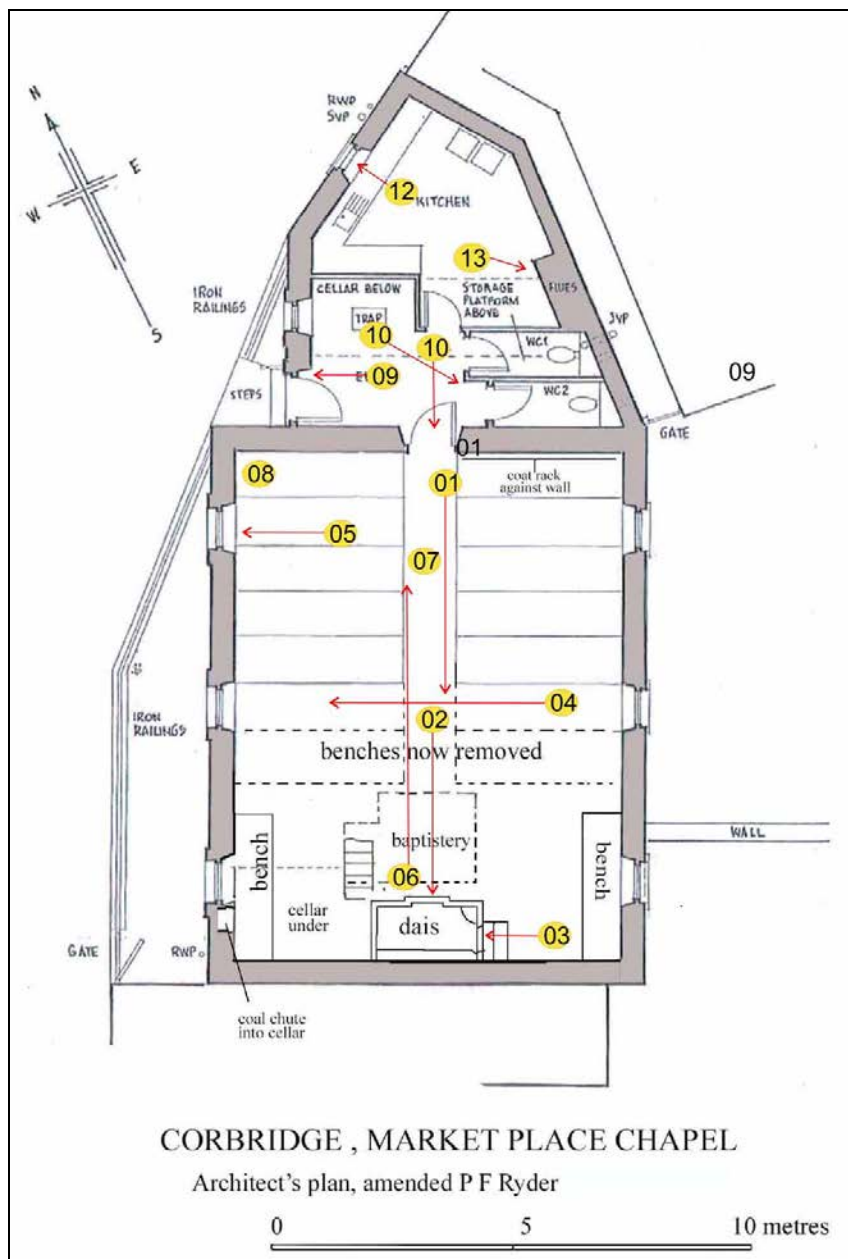
Externally unaltered, Market Place Chapel appears as a good example of a mid-Victorian nonconformist building chapel although its heritage value is obviously enhanced by its setting in a historic village centre so close to significant medieval structures. As a chapel it is of very standard form, although the manner in which it is entered through the polygonal porch block is a little unusual. Inside, a considerable amount of the original interior survives although some benches have been removed and the dais/pulpit (seen as original in the list description) is probably secondary. Contemporary features such as the benches, dado, cornice and ceiling vents are attractive but very standard for the period, although it should be borne in mind that nonconformist buildings as a genre are a fast-diminishing resource, with a relatively small proportion having been awarded statutory protection.

The post-listing loss of the distinctive sounding board behind the dais, which probably was contemporary with the fabric, is unfortunate.

### 3. THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

The photographic recording of Corbridge Market Place Chapel was undertaken in October 2017 using colour digital photography, with all internal elevations photographed as far as possible face-on and from a consistent height and perspective, where possible including a scaled ranging pole.

The photographic record is keyed to a floor plan of the building showing the positions of photographs taken externally and at internal ground floor level. A total of 13 internal photographs are included in the record, the positions of which are keyed to a ground plan (*Illus. 05*).



*Illus. 05:*

*Plan of Corbridge Market Place Chapel with a key to record photographs.*

**RECORD PHOTOGRAPHS:**



*01: View towards internal SW wall and pulpit*



*02: Pulpit against the SW wall*





*03: Pulpit/dais viewed from the south-east.*



*04: The inner face of the north-west wall.*



*05: Window in the north-west wall.*

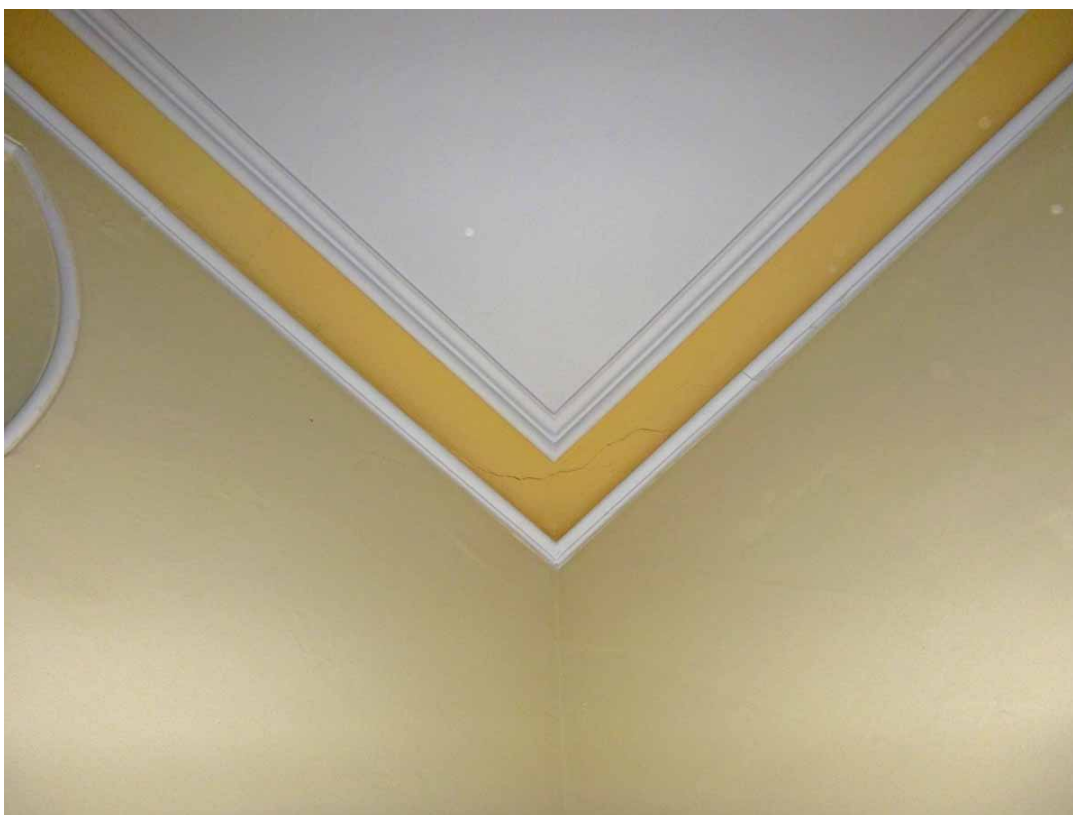


*06: View from the dais/pulpit towards the entrance from the porch block at the north-east end of the main space.*

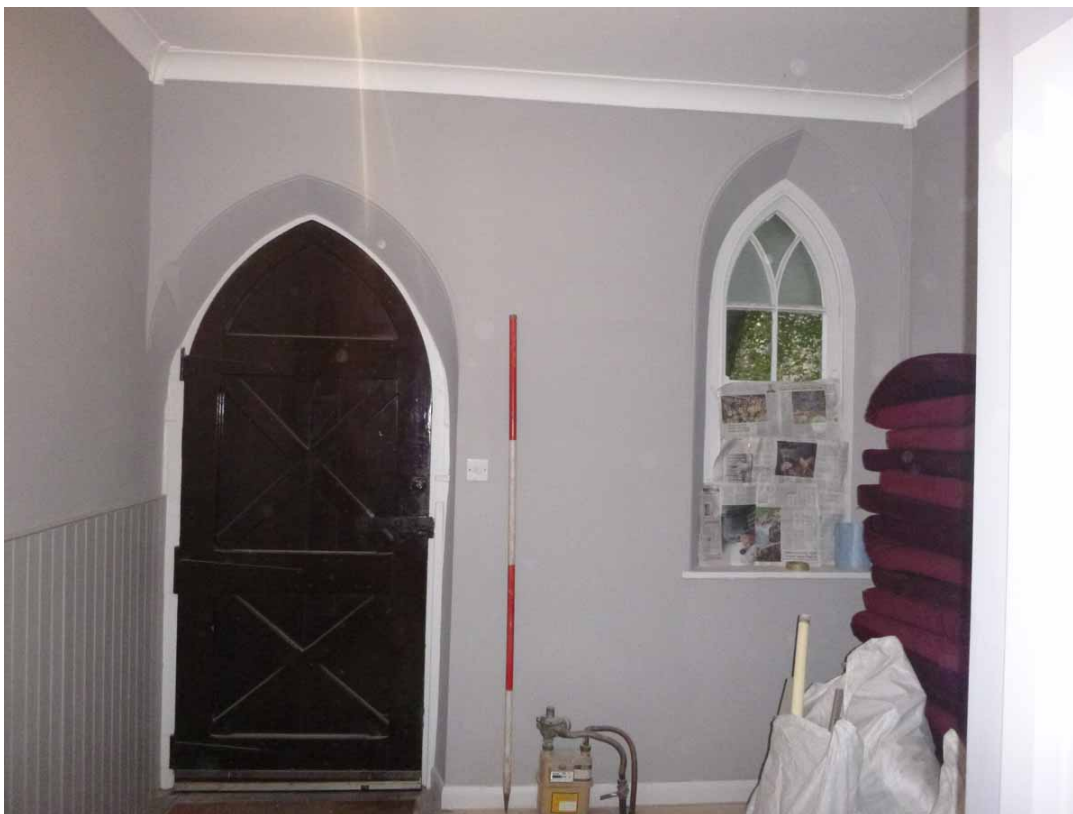




*07: Ceiling ventilator In main chapel*



*08: Cornice in the north-west corner of the main chapel.*



*09: View north-west towards Porch Block entrance door and window*



*10 (Bottom to left of view): View from NW in SW part of Porch Block towards main chapel entrance door and former WC entrance.*



11 (Bottom to left of view): Entrance door to Main Chapel, viewed from NE within the Porch Block.



12 (Bottom to left of view): Window in NW wall of kitchen area n the north part of the Porch Block.



*13 (Bottom to left of view): Redundant chimney breast on the east side of the Porch Block (kitchen area), viewed from the north-west.*

**Appendix 1: CORBRIDGE MARKET PLACE CHAPEL, NORTHUMBERLAND -**  
Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Building Recording and  
Archaeological Works, *Prepared by* The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 This document is provided as a written scheme of investigation, or project design, for a programme of historic buildings recording at Corbridge Market Place Chapel, in order to mitigate the impacts of development works on the upstanding masonry of this street-front building.

1.1.2 It is proposed to refurbish the building internally without altering it externally.

1.1.3 With respect to the current planning proposals, the Northumberland Assistant County Archaeologist has stipulated that a condition of work carried out on the historic standing building is that a record of those parts of the building to be altered should be carried out by a recognised historic buildings specialist in order to identify and record any historically-significant features of the building

## **2 METHOD OF BUILDING RECORDING**

The programme of building recording will be carried out to the standards of an *English Heritage* (EH) Level 2 historic buildings record, following the guidelines issued by *EH* in 2006 and will comply with the standard guidelines issues by *Northumberland Conservation* for the recording of churches and chapels..

### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 The Field Investigation will be carried out by means of Archaeological Record.

2.1.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

2.1.3 All archaeological staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Before commencement of work they will have been made aware of what work is required under the specification and they will understand the aims and methodologies of the project.

2.1.4 Each elevation of any upstanding built features identified as important, either during advance examination or during monitoring of works in progress, will be considered for recording by drawing and/or photography. Specifically, this will include any previously unrecognized features or features made apparent during stripping or other internal or external works will also be recorded appropriately.

2.1.5 An appropriate control network for the survey of any archaeological remains revealed will be established.

2.1.6 The survey control network will be related to the OS grid.

2.1.7 The survey control network and the position of recorded structures, will be located on a map of an appropriate scale (1:2500 or 1:500)

2.1.8 At least one absolute height value related to OD will be recorded for each archaeological context.

2.1.9 All processing, storage and conservation of any artifacts recovered will be carried out in compliance with the relevant IFA and UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation) guidelines.

2.1.10 Portable remains will be removed by hand; all artefacts encountered will be recovered.

2.1.11 Written descriptions - each built feature or archaeological context will be recorded on a pro-forma sheet. Minimum recorded details will consist of the following: a unique identifier; The National Grid reference of the building and details of listing or scheduling; the date when the record was made and the name of the recorder; an objective description which includes measurements of extent and details of colour and composition; an interpretative estimate of function, clearly identified as such; at least one absolute height value; the identifiers of related contexts and a description of the relationship with such contexts (for preference, executed as a mini Harris matrix); references to other recording media in which representations of the context are held (plans, sections, photographs). Also included will be a summary of the building's plan, type and purpose, materials used in construction and so far as is possible, the date of construction along with the names of architects, builders, patrons and owners (if known).

2.1.12 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for recording historic buildings and a curriculum vitae will be supplied if requested to the Northumberland Conservation for approval prior to work commencing. Furthermore, all staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site and with the work required, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.

## **2.2 Drawn Record**

2.2.1 The report will show the form and location of any structural features of historic significance, using scale plans of floor plans if appropriate. Drawn sections should illustrate the vertical relationships within the buildings.

2.2.2 Areas of modern disturbance should be noted on plans and/or elevations as this will help to identify areas where impact on historic fabric can be reduced in future applications within the buildings

2.2.3 Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Architect's plans and elevations will be used, providing that they are at a recognisable planning scale and show sufficient structural detail. Any additional features and any discrepancies found on site must be amended on the plan.

2.2.4 The recorded buildings should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.

## **2.3 Photography**



2.3.1 Any features of archaeological note will be recorded on using digital photography. A system will be used for identifying the archaeological features photographed. The record will include, in addition to detailed views of specific features, the context of the feature and the relationship of the feature and its context to the wider setting and, where appropriate, to other buildings, sites or viewpoints. Therefore, both general photographs of the interior and exterior of the building and detailed shots of fabric, fixtures and/or fittings that will be affected by the proposed development will be included, particularly those of liturgical or denominational significance

2.3.2 All photographs will be in sharp focus, well lit and will include a clearly visible 1 m or 2 m scale.

2.3.3 Digital photographs will be taken using a camera of at least 10 megapixels using a Single Lens Reflex to take photographs in TIFF format or JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) format with the camera set for the largest image size with least compression. JPEG will be converted to TIFF before they are deposited with the HER and ADS archive.

2.3.4 The positions of the record photographs will be placed in the context of the buildings complex as a whole by providing a plan of their locations and record photographs of the features in relation to other buildings and features.

### **3 ANALYSIS AND REPORTING OF RECOVERED DATA**

**3.1** Following the completion of the Field Investigation and reporting, an archive (the Site Archive) containing all the data gathered during fieldwork will be prepared.

**3.2** Following completion of the Field Investigation, a full report will be prepared collating and synthesizing the structural, artefactual and environmental data relating to each agreed constituent part of the evaluation works.

### **4. PRODUCTION OF FINAL REPORT**

**4.1** Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the Client and Northumberland County Archaeologist (for consideration and deposition in the HER). An additional digital copy of the report will be lodged with the Northumberland County HER.

**4.2** One bound copy of the report will be provided to the Planning Authority, with each page and heading numbered. Any further copies required will be produced electronically. The report will include as a minimum the following:

The report will include as a minimum the following:

1. Planning application number, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
2. A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
3. A location plan of the extent of the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
4. Plans and elevations of the building, cross-referenced in the text
5. A summary statement of the results
6. A detailed description of the results
7. Photographs of the building including both internal and external shots and detailed photographs of significant fabric, fixtures and fittings

8. An appendix comprising a register of all colour transparencies and black and white prints
9. A copy of this brief

**Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted**

**4.3** Following completion of the analysis and publication phase of the work, arrangements will be made to deposit the Site Archive and the Research Archive with the designated repository within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. Additionally, a copy shall be offered to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

**4.4** Should the results of the work merit full publication, a paper on the findings will be offered to an appropriate regional or national journal, such as *Archaeologia Aeliana*, while summary reports of the project will be prepared for inclusion in the appropriate Notices, Annual Reviews, Northumberland Archaeology (the Northumberland County Council Annual Reports Series), etc.

## **5. ARCHIVING**

**5.1 ADS** - The Archaeological Contractor will carry out online archiving of the digital record photographs with Archaeological Data Services (ADS), York.

**5.2 OASIS** - The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with the Northumberland County Archaeologist. The Contractor agrees to the procedure whereby the information on the form will be placed in the public domain on the OASIS website, following submission to or incorporation of the final report (see 3.4) into the HER.

## **6. TIMESCALE & PERSONNEL**

### **6.1 Timescale**

The Archaeological Practice will require advance notice of at least five working days in order to ensure attendance on site.

**6.2** Following the completion of on-site work, further time will be required to produce an appropriately illustrated report on the work, as detailed above.

### **6.3 Personnel**

The building recording and monitoring work will be carried out by Richard Carlton and Peter Ryder.