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Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

Ty'r Wern, Llan Ffestiniog
Desk Top Study and Building Record

Commissioned by
Rhys Llwyd Davies

Fieldwork by
I.P. Brooks
Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd

EAS Client Report 2023/05

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Registered in England No 286978

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NGR

Centred on: SH 69937 41901

NPRN: 43892

PRN: 6933

Listed Building Reference: 87659, Grade II.

Location and Topography (Figure 1)

Ty'r Wern sits within the disused churchyard, on a promontory of high ground, at the western end of Llan Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, set back slightly from the informal village square. It sits towards the south western corner of the church yard which is at a slightly elevated level from the roads to the south and west.

Archaeological Background

Ty'r Wern used to be the St Michael's Church, built in 1844-1845 under the direction of Henry Kennedy, being his first ecclesiastical commission. It replaced an earlier church, probably of medieval construction, which was located slightly to the east of the current building. The "new church" was built of land provided by Lord Newborough. The church was sold in 2017. It is planned to convert the church for use as a community building (Rhys Llwyd Davies 2022)

Aims of Archaeological Work

1. To allow an adequate analytical record of the buildings to be made, before they are converted, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned by Rhys Llwyd Davies, Architects to carry out a desktop study and building recording to Level 2/3 of Historic England (May 2016) Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice on Ty' Wern, Llan Ffestiniog, Gwynedd. The building was formally St Michael's Church. The current building was built in 1843-44 under the control of the architect, Henry Kennedy. A vestry and southern porch were added before 1888. Major modifications took place in 1913 under the directions of Harold Hughes, particularly to the western end of the church.

The building survey took place on 18th May 2023. The plaster had been stripped from the walls and the majority of the pews removed before the survey took place. The chancel floor has been extended beyond the chancel arch, hiding the base of the horseshoe arch. The presence of well carved column bases suggests this floor is a later modification. Also, the lack of a chimney above the vestry fireplace suggests this roof has been replaced. Within the church a 5.24 m long set of panelling, stored in the nave, is possibly re-used from the previous church.

Comisiynwyd Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd gan Rhys Llwyd Davies, Penseiri i gynnal astudiaeth bwrdd gwaith a chofnodi adeiladau hyd at Lefel 2/3 o Historic England (May 2016) Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice ar Dŷ'r Wern, Llan Ffestiniog , Gwynedd. Eglwys Sant Mihangel oedd yr adeilad gynt. Codwyd yr

adeilad presennol ym 1844-45 dan reolaeth y pensaer, Henry Kennedy. Ychwanegwyd festri a chyntedd deheuol cyn 1888. Gwnaed addasiadau mawr yn 1913 dan gyfarwyddyd Harold Hughes, yn enwedig ym mhen gorllewinol yr eglwys.

Cynhaliwyd yr arolwg adeiladau ar 18 Mai 2023. Roedd y plastr wedi'i dynnu oddi ar y waliau ac roedd y mwyafrif o'r seddau wedi'u tynnu cyn i'r arolwg gael ei gynnal. Mae llawr y gangell wedi'i ymestyn y tu hwnt i fwa'r gangell, gan guddio gwaelod bwa'r pedol. Mae presenoldeb gwaelodion colofnau wedi'u cerfio'n dda yn awgrymu bod y llawr hwn yn addasiad diweddarach. Hefyd, mae'r diffyg simnai uwchben lle tân y festri yn awgrymu bod y to hwn wedi'i adnewyddu. O fewn yr eglwys mae'n bosibl bod set o baneli 5.24m o hyd, sydd wedi'u storio yng nghorff yr eglwys, yn cael eu hailddefnyddio o'r eglwys flaenorol.

Methods

The archives of The National Library of Wales, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, Gwynedd Archives held at Dolgellau, Gwynedd Archives held at Caernarfon and other digital sources were consulted for relevant records. It was not possible to consult any documents within the Bangor University Archive as these were closed at the time of the survey. However, the digital catalogue does not suggest there are any significant records in the Bangor Archive. Other sources were consulted as necessary. The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record was consulted (Gather 1857) for relevant records within 500 m of the site.

The church building was recorded on 18th May 2023. The plans, elevations and sections 347(1) 01 – 347(1) 11, by Curvature Limited were used as a base for the survey. Photographs were taken with a Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP with the photographs recorded in RAW format, which was converted to .TIFF for the archive. Where possible the photographs included a metric scale. Further photographs were taken with a Panasonic Lumix DC-FT7, with a resolution of 20.1 MP, on an extendable pole, which were processed with Agisoft Metascape v. 2.0.2 to produce a photogrammetric model of the inside of the church. From this model internal elevations could then be extracted.

Results

Desktop Study

List of Sources

National Library of Wales

PA 6599-A7 1795. Festiniog image by Bluck, J.

B/Terr/310 1811. Terrier

B/Terr/311 1814. Terrier

B409. 1819. Surrender of Lease of Sett Quarries. 3rd December 1819

B410. 1819. Counter part of Lease of Sett Quarries in the Parish of Festiniog in the county of Merioneth.

B/Terr/312. 1821. Terrier

B/Terr/313. 1826. Terrier

B/Terr/314. 1831. Terrier

B/Terr/315. 1834. Terrier

B/Terr/316. 1837. Terrier

PZ 7354 – B90 post 1845. Lithograph by G. Hawkins entitled SE View Festiniog Church

53422. 1863. Lease between the Rev. Morris Parry to the Great Moelwyn Slate Co. Ltd. 17th August 1863

ECE/EL/B407. 1874. Lease of Sett Quarries in the Parish of Festiniog in the County of Merioneth

ECE/EL/B408. 1874. Lease of Sett Quarries in the Parish of Festiniog in the County of Merioneth

B/F/149/F. 1913 Faculty granted to Rev. J.C. Morrice to repair the Parish Church

TO/RB/B279. 1925. Welsh Church Acts 1914 and 1919, Section 8 (i)(b). Festiniog with Maentwrog

TO/RB/B280 1947. Ffestiniog with Maentwrog B114 Church Hall at Ffestiniog

Gwynedd Archives at Dolgellau

Festiniog Parish Registers 1695 – 1791

ZPE/1/19. 1787 – 1819. Vestry Minute Book

ZPE/1/20. 1820 – 1885. Vestry Minute Book

ZPE/1/52. 1977 – 1990. Vestry Minute Book

ZPE/1/53. 1900 -1994. Vestry Minute Book

Gwynedd Archives at Caernarfon

XD2/18505. 1837. Letter from John Jones, Rectory, nr. Tan y Bwlch to Lord Newborough.

XD2/18818, 1838. Letter from George Casson, Secretary of the Committee for the rebuilding of Ffestiniog church, Blaenyddol nr. Ffestiniog, to Lord Newborough, enclosing a report of the Architect, (Thomas Jones, Harlech) and resolutions of a vestry meeting and requesting a donation.

XD2/19406. 1840. Letter from George Casson, secretary, Blaenyddol, near Ffestiniog to Lord [Newborough], enquiring if he is willing to contribute to the funds for work to be done on Ffestiniog Church, and listing, for his perusal, the amount of the contributions already made and the names of the subscribers.

XD2/19260. 1840 Letter from Rumsey Williams, Penrhos to Lord Newborough.

XD2/19829. 1842. Letter from Wm. Elias, at Ffestiniog to Lord Newborough.

XD2/20291. 1843. Letter from John Jones, Rectory House, Tanybwllch to Lord Newborough.

XD2/20534. 1843 Letter from George Casson, Secretary of the committee appointed to superintend the building of the new church at Ffestiniog, Blaenyddol to Lord Newborough, regarding the change of site thereof.

- XD2/9137. 1844 Miscellaneous Bills and Receipts for sums paid in May 1844.
- XD2/20650. 1844. Letter from William Elias at Ffestiniog to Lord Newborough, reporting that the building of the new Church is almost completed.
- XD2/20341. 1845. Letter from Wm. Elias, The Abbey to Lord Newborough.
- XD2/20365. 1845. Letter from Wm. Elias, at Llanrwst to Lord Newborough.
- XD2/21093. 1845 Letter from William Elias of the Abbey, Maentwrog to Lord Newborough.
- XD2/21371. 1845. Letter from George Casson, Blaenyddol, to Lord Newborough, informing his Lordship of the consecration of the new parish church at Ffestiniog on Sept. 25 at which sermons will be preached by the Lord Bishop of Bangor and by the Archdeacon Newcome. Appended.
- XD2/9160. 1846 Miscellaneous Bills and Receipts for sums paid in April 1846.
- XD2/9167. 1846 Miscellaneous Bills and Receipts for sums paid in November 1846.
- XD2/20421. 1850. Letter from Wm. Elias, The Abbey to Lord Newborough, re extra land for the new church at Ffestiniog
- XD2/23267. 1850. Letter from George Casson to Lord Newborough.
- XD2/17800. 1854. Letter from David Lloyd, Ffestiniog to Lord Newborough about the church, which they will until a future date.
- XD2A/400. 1866. Plan of the Ffestiniog Church Yard.

Published Sources

- Beverly Smith, J. and Beverly Smith L. 2001. *History of Merioneth. Volume II. The Middle Ages*. Merioneth Historical Record Society.
- Haslam, R., Orbach, J. and Voelcker, A. 2009. *The Building of Wales, Gwynedd. Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merioneth*. Yale University Press, London.
- Lewis, S. 1833. *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*
- Lewis, S. 1849 *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*
- Richards, A.J 1995. *Slate Quarrying in Wales*. Gwas Carreg Gwalch, Llanrwst
- The Royal Commission on The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions in Wales and Monmouthshire 1921. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire. VI-County of Merioneth*. HMSO London

Unpublished Sources

- Dafydd Hardy 2015 Blaenau Ffestiniog Former St Michael's Church, Llan Ffestiniog, Blaenau Ffestiniog Sales Brochure.
- Rhys Llwyd Davies 2022 Conservation Statement Ty'r Wern (former Church of St Michaels) – Change of use to community venue
- Robinson, K. 1994. The History of St. Michael's Church, Ffestiniog.

Newspapers

Daily Post 12th January 1996

Cambrian News 13th November 2002

Mapping

1842 Tithe Map of the Parish of Ffestiniog in the County of Merioneth

Ordnance Survey 1888. Merionethshire XII NW

Ordnance Survey 1901. Merionethshire XII NW

Ordnance Survey 1953. Merionethshire XII NW

Digital Sources

<https://archwilio.org.uk/her/chi3/report/page.php?watprn=GAT6933&dbname=gat&tbnname=core&ssid=CHI3b3y3bja&queryid=Q411509001685195198>

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/43892/>

<http://stainedglass.llgc.org.uk/>

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1095490&subid=0>

<https://imagingthebible.llgc.org.uk/site/679>

<https://themarket.com/tools/propertyprices/st-michaels-church-land-formerly-known-as-blaenau-ffestiniog-ll41-4ls>

<https://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/s/m061h2>

<https://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/s/55q2b5>

Results

The current church was constructed in 1844-1845, however it replaced an earlier structure which it thought to have medieval origins. There has been some speculation that a church was founded in Ffestiniog in the mid seventh or early eighth century AD, however there is no evidence to support this view (Robinson 1994). The available records for a church at Ffestiniog are limited, however the earliest reference located was a bequest from Ieuan Ap Iorworth Ap Adda for 12d so that his body could be buried in the church at Festiniog (sic) in 1530 (Beverly Smith and Beverly Smith 2001, 293). The church records for St Michael's start in 1695 (Dolgellau Archives) and the surviving records of the Vestry Meetings in 1787 (Z/PE/19). Whilst the records of the previous church building are slight, it is possible to gain some idea of its character, even if its position within the graveyard is uncertain. A sketch of 1795 by J. Bluck (National Library PA 6599, Figure 3) shows a single celled building with a large porch to the south and a bellcote on the west end. This is also shown on the Tithe Map of Ffestiniog drawn in 1842 (Figure 4), although it is difficult to position the church on modern mapping from this map. This map does, however, show a sub-circular enclosure around the church which is presumably the original graveyard. A few passing comments allows the addition of some details. Lewis (1849) suggests that the building was about 130 feet (39.6 m) long and a drawing in the Vestry Records for 1829 (ZPE/1/20) of a gallery constructed in the west end of the nave, suggests the nave was 7.23 m wide. Lewis (1833) gave a few extra details stating that the gallery provided seventy-two free sittings and was partly paid for by a grant of £13 by the Incorporated Society for Building and Enlarging Churches and Chapels. Further a description of the church made in 1838 by the architect,

Tomas Jones, suggests there were seven trusses which were “arched and had no horizontal tie-beam” suggesting that the church may have been a cruck framed structure. The walls were unstable at the time of Jones’ survey leaning out by between three and five inches (76 – 127 mm) over the height of the walls which was between nine or ten feet (2.74 – 3.05 m) The church contained 140 appropriated seats and a further 96 unappropriated seats. The floor of the church was below the level of the ground outside, probably as a result of the number of graves which gathered around the church (Caernarfon Archives XD/20535).

Whilst the early surviving Vestry Minute Books from between 1787 and 1819 (Dolgellau Archives ZPE/1/19) are largely concerned with the administration of the Poor Laws and give little detail of the church buildings themselves, the Terriers give some evidence for the development of the church in Ffestiniog and the associated buildings. The Terriers dated to 1811 and 1814 (B/Terr/310 and B/Terr/311) claim there is no Glebe House or lands attached to St Michael’s. They also suggest that the economy was based on mixture of money and goods transfer. For instance, the Tythe for both 1811 and 1814 state that:

*All corn tyth paid in kind, also Lamb, kids, pigs and Geese.
Wool by tenth fleece or pound
Every milched cow three half pence
Every milched heifer one pence
Mare house with foal six pence
Hay from every farm 4 pence
Hay from every person two pence
Hemp, Flax, eggs, and honey are accepted as the proprietors please to tyth them*

The only added details are that there was some timber in the churchyard recorded in the 1814 Terrier (B/Terr/311). It is not until the 1821 Terrier (B/Terr/312) that the Glebe House and out buildings are recorded with a note that they are all built of stone. It also recorded that there were three acres of glebe land, which was situate on west side of Maentwrog Vale and that there were Ash Trees in the Churchyard. Further details are obtained from the 1826 Terrier (B/Terr/312) which records a substantial Glebe House with a vestibule, kitchen, drawing room, dining room, breakfast room or study, washhouse and pantry on the ground floor, four bedrooms, cellars, brewhouse and mangling room, wine cellar, three stables, a cowhouse, coach house with granary over, a loft and bay for fodder and pig sties. This was within 2 ¾ acres (1.11 Ha) of glebe which was set out as pleasure grounds.

The Vestry Records from 1820 – 1885 (Dolgellau Z/PE/20) begin to give more details of the maintenance undertaken on the old church. In 1821 William Humphrey was paid a total of £8.10.6 for repairs to the churchyard wall and a further £0.2.0 for transportation of the stone needed. Whilst in 1823 “David” was paid £2.11.02 to repair the church on August 6th and further repairs were required on December 20th when Robert Lloyd was commissioned to “mend other end of church”. Payments were also made for lime, although it is not recorded whether this was for lime mortar to repair the church or limewash. By 1825, the roof was in need of repair as 1 ton of slates was purchased and Evan Pugh was paid for the carriage. More work on the roof took place in 1827 when Edward Richards, Slater, was paid £0.7.6, for repair of the church and Evan Parry was paid for carpentry at the church. Window repairs were required in 1828 with John Jones, Glazier, being paid £0.3.0 for glazing church windows and David Jones £0.1.6 for handles for tools for church use. In 1829 the new seating in the gallery was added (see above). This was to provide new seating for children of the National School with an extra 72 seats planned. Further repairs were also undertaken in 1835 (National Library B/Terr/315)

By 1837 things had come to a head and a letter from John Jones, the rector, to Lord Newborough discusses the possible repair and extension of the old church (Caernarfon XD2/18505). The following year Thomas Jones, an architect from Harlech, was commissioned to carry out a survey of the church and to give his recommendations (Caernarfon XD2/18818). As a result, in 1839 the Vestry passed a resolution to build a new church (Dolgellau Z/PE/20) and by 1840 George Cassons had been

appointed as Secretary of the committee to superintend the building of the new church at Ffestiniog and was writing to Lord Newborough with an initial list of contributions that had already been made (Caernarfon XD2/19406). In 1842, the preferred architect, Henry Kennedy, was contacted and had carried out an initial survey of the site and drew up the initial plans for the new building (Dolgellau Z/PE/20), although he also gave an estimate of between £150 to £200 pounds to extend the existing building (Caernarfon Archives XD/20535). It was considered too difficult to rebuild on the same site because of the crowded nature of the graveyard. Lord Newborough was approached for a grant about ¼ acre (0.1 Ha) in the adjoining field for the building and for extending the churchyard (Caernarfon Archives XD2/20291). This was granted, although there is some confusion within the records as the Vestry Records suggest this grant had been made in 1842 (Dolgellau Z/PE/20), but the letter requesting the land was dated a year later. Even as late as 11th September 1843, Lord Newborough believed the old site would be preferred and the extra seating could be provided by new galleries (Caernarfon Archives XD2/20534). Permission was also sort from Lord Newborough to build a cottage for the clerk of the “New Church” in a letter dated January 1942 (Caernarfon XD2/19829). The date assigned to this letter may be mis-recorded as it also suggests that “The masonry of the New Church is very bad and is taking in water,” however construction of the new church did not start until a year later.

The collection of subscribers to the new church was a slow business with an initial list in 1843 (Caernarfon XD2/20291). This included only twelve subscribers, Mr Oakley of Plas Tanybwlich, W.J. Banks of Dolymoch, Mr Casson of Blaenyddol, Mrs Casson of Blaenyddol, Mr Lloyd of Plas Meini, Mr Jarrell of Glasod, Miss Owen of Pengwern Arms Inn, Mr Wm. Turner of Parkia, Revd John Jones, Rector, Rt Hon. Lord R. Tottenham, Bishop of Clogher, Mr Wm. Casson of Cyfal and Samuel Wagstaff from West Bromwich promising a total of £347. Later that year, the list of subscribers had increased to eighty-eight and further money had been raised by money taken out of the collection box in the church, collections at the morning and evening services, the sale of lead and old timber, the return of the duty on glass and timber and the parish rates for building the church wall (Caernarfon Archives XD2 23261). Within the subscriptions were grants from The London Incorporated Society for Building Churches and The Bangor Diocesan Building Society, each for £200. Although these were amounts promised some were slow in paying, for example it was not until 1844 that Lord Newborough paid his first instalment of £10 (Caernarfon XD2/9137). However, by 1844 Lord Newborough’s agent, William Elias was able to report on the progress with the construction of the new church (Caernarfon XD2/20650). As with all construction projects the plans were not universally popular with Griffith Evans complaining about plans to make the road from Ty Isaf to the new church a private road (Caernarfon XD2/21093). Even with the extended list of subscribers, the amount of money raised was not sufficient with an urgent circular for more money being printed in 1850. £1769.4.5 had been raised from subscriptions, grants and collections, however the church had cost £3239.15.5 leaving a debt of £1470.11.0 (Caernarfon XD2/23267).

The finished church was shown in a lithograph by G Hawkins (National Library B9/3 B090, Figure 6) which the National Library assigns to ca 1840, but must be from after 1845 as the south porch is not shown. Whilst the representation of the church is thought to be accurate this image exaggerates the extent of the churchyard, particularly to the south of the church. This image also shows the small, circular spire on the western end of the church which was later replaced with the current bellcote. Kennedy drew a plan of the completed church in 1845 (Figure 7, <https://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/s/m061h2>) which included the vestry showing this was part of the original design. This drawing also shows the internal arrangement of the church with the choir occupying the space in front of the chancel arch together with the pulpit and the organ. It also shows the assigned pews on the northern side of the nave, whilst the “free pews” are on the southern side and the children’s seats at the rear of the church, below the gallery. The western end of the church has a bay added to the gable end, presumably to take the weight of the small spire. Also, there is no porch to the church at this time. Another plan (Figure 8, <https://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/s/55q2b5>), drawn in 1913 by Henry Hughes must have been drawn before he carried out the modification of the western gable of the building. This plan differs only in minor details from that of Kennedy except for

the presence of the porch. Other minor changes include the position of the font and the size and orientation of the organ.

The need for repairs continued with £200 spent on the churchyard wall in 1860 (Dolgellau Z/PE/20). In 1866 Lord Newborough was approached for a grant of land to the north of the church (Caernarfon Archives XD2A/400, Figure 9), although judging from the later Ordnance Survey mapping not all the area was granted to the church. Once again in 1881 the church yard proved to be too small for the number of burials, thus Lord Newborough was approached, again, for a grant of land on the north side of the churchyard (Dolgellau Z/PE/20), an approach that was not totally appreciated. This resulted in an offer to sell the required land to the church (Dolgellau Z/PE/20) which caused some consternation in the Vestry Committee, such that they discussed approaching the Ffestiniog Rail Company for land. Unfortunately, there is a gap in the available records, but the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, published in 1888 shows the enlarged churchyard (Figure 10.1), so presumably some arrangement was made.

In 1911 a report was prepared by Harold Hughes of Bangor, at the request of Incorporated Church Building Society (Robinson 1994), into the state of the church. This revealed considerable faults including “serious settlements in connection with the Chancel Arch and the Western Gable.” There were also problems with damp, the external walls needed repointing, the limestone facings needed preventative conservation and repairs to the roof and guttering. It was also recommended that a door be fitted to the external end of the porch. A faculty (National Library B/F/149/F) was written on 1st May 1913, but it was not considered until 23rd July 1913 and was granted on 11th September 1913. The request for the faculty states “That the church of Ffestiniog aforesaid is in a dilapidated state and that your petitioner is desirous of restoring the same according to plans and specifications prepared by Mr. Harold Hughes of Bangor. That the cost thereof is being provided by voluntary subscriptions.” The major part of the work undertaken under the faculty consisted of work to strengthen the western gable and replace the mini-spire with the lighter bellcote.

Contrary to the information in the Historic Environment Record the vestry and porch were not added as part of this development, both appearing on the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888 (Figure 10.1), some 25 years earlier and, indeed, the vestry is shown on Kennedy’s plan of 1845 (Figure 7, <https://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/s/m061h2>) and is therefore part of the original design.

The declining influence of the church at parish level is shown by the transfer of the burial grounds to the Festiniog (sic) Urban Council in 1925 (National Library TO/RB/B279) and the transfer of the Church Hall to the Church Commissioners in 1947 (National Library TO/RB/B280).

In August 1932, further repairs were required with the application for a faculty requesting that: “the following alterations and additions...be made in the Church. Fabric; repairs and releading of Roof; removal of plaster from inside the walls of the nave and Chancel and replacing it with cement; restraining the rafters and other woodwork inside the roof: also the gallery/seating/etc. Fittings; temporary removal of Organ for carrying out of the above work; reinstating of do. with the replacement of the old stop with a new one; temporary removal of seating in Nave and its reinstatement as before; heating apparatus to be provided with the new Boiler and two additional radiators. Pipes to be graded. The work on fabric and fittings to involve no alterations and additions” (Robinson 1994). In November 1966 it was decided that the window on the western gable, below the gallery, which was inserted as part of Hughes restoration in 1913, be closed permanently (Robinson 1994).

Little or no differences can be seen in the layout of the church or its churchyard in the series of historic Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1888, 1901 and 1953 (Figure 10 and 11), except that the Ordnance Survey bench mark was transferred from one east end of the building to the west before 1953.

From the 1970's the state of the building became more and more of an issue, however, finances and the tendency to put off decisions meant that very little substantial work was carried out. In 1978, in his report to the Vestry Committee (Dolgellau Z/PE/52) the Rector commented on the condition of the church fabric and estimated that it would cost in the region of £30,000 for the restoration. The following year a decision had still not been made, however, some work was carried out in the churchyard as part of a Community Enterprise Scheme (Dolgellau Z/PE/52). A similar employment support scheme (STEP) was used the following year (1980) to get the woodwork scraped/cleaned and painted (Dolgellau Z/PE/52)

From the early 1980's there seem to be a catalogue of problems putting a desperate strain on the finances of the church. In 1981 the heating system broke down and the subsequent investigations showed the church needed to be re-wired (Dolgellau Z/PE/52). Manweb were asked to tender for electrical works with estimate of £1895 + VAT (£284.25). This required the movement of funds between accounts with money transferred from the Sunday School Fund, Organ Fund and the Mary Jane Legacy. Inevitably the work cost more than the estimate with a final bill of £2,179.00, the work being completed by November 1981. The boiler repairs were put off and eventually took place in 1987.

Although an architect was approached to produce specifications for repairs and painting the church in 1982 (Dolgellau Z/PE/52), no work appears to have been commissioned. In 1985 the church was vandalised with several windows being broken. In 1987 the Church received a letter from the Meirionnydd District Council complaining about the state of the churchyard wall and in the same year another architect's report detailed numerous repairs that were needed, including the replacing of twenty loose slates, with a total estimated cost of £8,600. Once again, little action appears to have taken place. In 1989 the organ was in need of total overhaul with an estimated cost of £4238+VAT. In 1990 things were so bad that the architects suggested that a phased series of repairs should be undertake, but no evidence of action was recovered from the archive search.

Although nominally fixed in 1987, in 1991 the Rector reported, to the Vestry Committee, that the heating had not worked for eighteen years, so that the winter services had to be held in the church hall (Dolgellau Z/PE/53). Indeed, things had got so bad that there were even discussions in the Vestry Committee as to whether the church should be close in 1991. However, in 1992, The architect, Graham Holland, was approached who suggested that three phases of work were needed with £4000 needed for immediate repairs, a further £20,000 needed for repairs within 18 months and a further £20,000 needed for repairs within five years (Dolgellau Z/PE/53). Work was started on a business plan to raise the funds and carry out the work with the help of Antur Dwyryd in 1993.

In 2002 the Church was broken in to with furniture being stolen including a table, an oak chest and a chair traditionally associated with Edmund Prys. Prys (d. 1623) was the translator of psalms into verse form in Welsh. (Cambrian News 13 Nov 2002).

In January 2003 a new charity was registered, The Friends of St Michael's Church (Ffestiniog), with the aims of "to effect the repair and adornment of St Michael's church Ffestiniog in the county of Gwynedd North Wales." Unfortunately, its total income, over the four years it submitted its accounts to the Charities Commission, was only £7,731 with a total expenditure of £7,773 over that time. From 2014 the charity failed to submit their accounts and was removed from the list of charities on 23rd June 2017. In 2014 it reported its income as £2,208 and its total expenditure as £2,408 (<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1095490&subid=0>).

The church was finally put up for sale in 2015 (Dafydd Hardy 2015) with a number of unusual restrictions including the banning of:

1. The manufacture, distribution, or sale of alcohol.
2. Any religious use.

3. Any immoral, sacrilegious, offensive, or noisy purposes; use for the occult or psychic mediums; use as a club or any use which may cause nuisance or annoyance to the use of the retained land; civil weddings.
4. The property shall cease to be called St Michael's Church and shall not be called by any name that is associated with its use as a church or the dedication 'Michael.'

It was sold in 2017 for £50,000 (<https://themarket.com/tools/propertyprices/st-michaels-church-land-formerly-known-as-blaenau-ffestiniog-ll41-4ls>).

Building Recording

The survey of Ty'r Wern took place on 18th May 2023, however the plans (Figures 12 – 14), external elevations (Figures 15 – 18) and sections (Figures 19 and 20) were prepared by Curvature Limited for the architect Rhys Llwyd Davies in March 2022.

External

Ty'r Wern occupies the south-western corner of the churchyard (Figure 2, Plate 1). The church yard has grown over time, but particularly between 1840 and 1888 when at least two, and probably three, areas were added to the churchyard. Given the other available data it seems unlikely that the circular enclosure shown on the 1842 Tithe Map (Figure 4) is accurate, however, if it proves to be so it may hint at an early foundation for the church (Jones 1969, 10, Hayman 2019, 29).

The eastern gable of the building (Plates 1 and 2) can be divided into three broad zones; roughly below the windows, surrounding the windows and above the windows. Each of these areas have different styles of stonework. The lower zone is marked by relatively large, poorly coursed stone blocks of a distinctive, iron rich rock presumably from a local source. Either side of the building are buttresses with limestone caps made of the same stone as the lower part of the wall. Above this is a triple window with semi-circular heads below an arched hood. The central window has a marked keystone together with emphasised voussoirs in the 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock positions. The space between the window frame and the hood is filled by relatively small, roughly shaped, stones which are well coursed. The hood is semi-circular in shape and has a rolled moulding. Above the window the stonework is of a similar stone to that within the hood, but larger, more irregular stones have been used which are only poorly coursed. They are set within, and around an open pediment of limestone.

The vestry is attached to the southern side of the chancel (Plates 3 – 6). Constructed of the same larger, iron rich blocks as the lower part of the eastern gable, the vestry has a string course that runs around the vestry and loops over the door and windows in the eastern and southern elevations. There are also limestone blocks defining the coping along the top of the Vestry walls. On the eastern and western elevations this is in the form of half an open pediment, however on the south facing elevation it develops into a cyma recta. Above the door is a carved head of a figure (Plate 5) with a stylised beard and moustache below what is probably flowing hair, but may be a head covering of some sort.

The south facing elevation (Plate 7) has four, windows with semi-circular heads separated by shallow buttresses. The windows are clustered towards the eastern end of the nave with the final, western bay being blank. This would suggest that the original design was allowing for a gallery at the western end of the nave making a window in this bay unnecessary. At either end of the nave there are gargoyles (Plates 8 and 9) which are in the shape of a stylised lions, however they have the appearance of a spaniel with a flattened muzzle.

The western gable (Plate 10) has three openings at ground floor level and a partially blocked window at first floor level. At ground floor level, the three windows are set below a string course which is generally set at the base of the arch for the window heads and then loops over the windows to form rough hoods. The central window is slightly larger than the flanking windows which form a matching pair. The group of windows are flanked by a pair of shallow buttresses. The upper window (Plate 11) was originally a relatively tall window with a semi-circular head; however, this has been partially

blocked and a circular window inserted into the top of the arch. Once again, the window sits below a stringcourse which is generally set at the level of the base of the arch, but curves over the window to form a rough hood. The stonework above the upper window is disrupted. This is assumed to be the result of the 1913 work by Hughes to remove the 'mini-spire' and replace it with the current bellcote which sits over this gable (Plate 12). There is an Ordnance Survey bench mark plate on the plinth at the base of the wall (Plate 13). This reads OS, BM, S2844 and is set at a level of 181.719 m. It was fitted in 1953 (<https://interactivemaps.uk/os-benchmark-archive/#17/52.958134/-3.937579>). The historic Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 8) suggests that before 1953 there was a similar bench mark on the eastern gable from at least 1888.

The south porch (Plates 14 – 16) is constructed of slightly smaller stone than the rest of the lower sections of the building, although of similar stones. There is the main door in the southern gable (Plate 15) and a single, semi-circular topped window in the eastern elevation (Plate 16). The door is set in a double chamfered opening, flanked by relatively slim columns with undecorated bases except for a torus separating the column from the base. The capitals (Plate 17) are quite starkly carved with what are assumed to be stylised leaves. Standing adjacent to the east face of the porch is a carved, stone cross (Plate 18). This is assumed to have been part of the 'mini-spire' which was replaced by the current bellcote in 1913.

The southern elevation (Plates 19 – 23) has three windows, separated by shallow buttresses, lighting the nave and a small, flat topped, slit, window which gives light to the access passage to the pulpit. Once again there is a stringcourse at the level of the bottom of the arched heads to the window which extended over the windows to form rough hoods. There is differential use of stone either side of this string course with the large, poorly coursed blocks below and smaller, stones above which are set in regular courses above. Below the chancel a set of stone steps leads down to the cellar door (Plate 22) with its semi-circular head. Above this there is no opening and the string course has been abandoned, however the differential use of stonework persists with smaller, more regularly coursed stone being used for the top of the wall (Plate 23). Both the nave and chancel have crosses on their eastern gables (Plate 24), whilst that over the chancel is a simple cross, over the nave is a stylised celtic cross. There are also gargoyles at either end of the nave (Plate 25) of a similar design to those used on the northern elevation.

Internal

Before the survey of the inside of the church took place some work had already been carried out. The majority of the pews and most of the woodwork had been removed, the font boxed in, the memorials removed from the walls and the plaster stripped, the pulpit moved to the centre of the chancel and limited areas of the flooring, in front of the chancel arch lifted. The plans and sections (Figures 12 – 20) were prepared before this work took place, thus the original position of the pews and pulpit is shown on Figure 12.

The entrance to the porch is through the double door in the southern gable (Plate 26) which is secured with a latch and bolts rather than a lock. The porch has a relatively simple roof structure with a series of collared trusses supporting the roof (Plate 27). The inner door to the church (Plate 28) is more ornate than the outer door (Plate 15) with twin columns flanking the door. These have relatively plain bases, but have capitals decorated with leaf designs (Plate 29). The inner capital of each pair has stylised palm leaves, whilst the outer capitals may represent, highly stylised, lotus leaves. The door to the church has decorative wrought iron plates on the outer face (Plate 30), designed to look like hinges. However, the real hinges are on the inside of the door.

The porch also contains two plaques, propped up on the eastern wall plate. Both commemorate grants given for the construction of the new church and set out the conditions for those grants. One is from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels (Plate 31). It reads:

This Church was
rebuilt and enlarged in the
years 1844 & 5 by which means it has
been made capable of accommodating 479 persons, and in consequence of a Grant from the Incorporated Society for promoting the enlargement, building and repairing of Churches and Chapels 375 of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever. The provision of Church room previously to the rebuilding was for 268 persons including
“151 free seats.”

JOHN JONES *Minister*

DAVID LLOYD

JOHN LLOYD

Church Warden

The other is for the Incorporated Church Building Society and reads:

THE INCORPORATED
CHURCH BUILDING SOCIETY
GRANTED £200, A.D 1843, TOWARDS
RESEATING & REPAIRING THIS
CHURCH UPON CONDITION THAT
ALL THE SITTINGS ARE FOR THE
FREE USE OF THE PARISHIONERS
ACCORDING TO LAW

It is curious that both societies felt able to impose these conditions considering that they each gave a grant of only £200 less than 6% of the total cost of £3239.15.5 (Caernarfon XD2/23267).

The back of the main door (Plate 33) has a mortice lock with a brass handle (Plate 34) which appears to have replaced two bolts. It also has simple strap hinges (Plate 35) that are probably bolted completely through the door with the decorative iron plates (Plate 30) forming the other side of fitting.

The western end of the nave is dominated by the gallery (Figures 13, 19 and 20, Plate 36), the eastern end of which is supported by two pilasters (Plates 37 and 38) and a central column (Plate 39). The pilasters are rectangular in plan, whilst the central column is round. All the bases and capitals are undecorated, although there are square plan blocks above the capitals. The top of the capitals supports wooden, arching, braces, whilst the base of the gallery sits on the top of the block. The northern and southern sides of the gallery are supported by a series of rough corbels (Plate 40), whilst the western end has triangular, wooden brackets (Plate 41) which run the full length of the gallery. The gallery is accessed by a wooden staircase in the north west corner of the nave (Plate 42). The side of this is partly panelled with a series of graded arches. The panelling has been lost from the two larger openings, although it is probable that the largest, northern opening may have either held a door or was never filled, thereby giving access to the understairs space. Both the balusters and the newel post are plain (Plate 43) with a simple cushion cap to the newel. The gallery, itself, is raked with five broad steps leading down to the front rail. Only two of the pews were still in place, at the time of the survey, which show remarkably little space between them. It is assumed that the pews on the rest of the gallery were more openly spaced as the leg room between the surviving pews is very small indeed. Two ornate, brackets protrude from the base of the truss over the front of the gallery (Plates 46 and 47) which are assumed to have originally held some form of lighting. Consisting of a series three of scrolls this is unlike the Neo-Norman design of the rest of the church, possibly suggesting they are a later addition.

Along the top of the north and south, nave walls are arcades of ten arches each. The three-centred arches (Figure 22, Plate 48) are supported by corbels (Plate 49) and between every other arch are the trusses supporting the roof. These are constructed of relatively light weight wood, however there are four of them crossing the nave. They have an arcaded lower section which supports a kingpost with raking struts (Plate 50).

At the time of the survey carried out by Curvasure Ltd in 2022 there were nineteen pews in the nave with ten to the north of the central aisle and nine to the south, with the font set to the west of the northern range of pews. In order to accommodate the number of places suggested by the plaques in the porch (Plates 31 and 32) there must have been considerably more pews, even allowing for the pews in the gallery. The font (Plate 50) is relatively small and has a fluted bowl supported on a twisted column. Its style would suggest it is part of the Neo-Norman design of the 1845 church and therefore probably was part of Kennedy's design.

Five of the windows in the nave contain stained glass, three to the north and two to the south. Those in the north wall consist of:

1. A depiction of Christ standing over a depiction of the adoration of the shepherds and with a depiction of a walled town and a tree (possibly the "Tree of Life") in the background. Below is a banner that reads "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden" The dedication reads "In the memory of David William Thomas Surgeon & Physician of this Parish. Erected by his son L.W. Thomas 1914." (Plate 52)
2. St Michael standing on a dragon and holding the scales with which to weigh the souls of the departed, within a border which is presumably the gates of heaven. The dedication reads "To the glory of God and in the memory of Robert Roberts, the Manager of Oakley Quarries, born 1838, died 1921 and of his wife Mary Mills born 1834 died 1906 of Plas Meini Festiniog and of their children Edith Anne, Edward and Richard also their son-in-law William Hyder Malek who died in Uganda in 1899. This window was erected by their son and daughter Robert Mills Roberts" (Plate 53)
3. The upper portion of this window depicts Christ in his glory holding the red and white banner of the Agnus Dei. He stands over two cowering military figures, presumably indicating the dominance of the spiritual world. The lower panel shows an angel announcing the resurrection. The dedication reads "Erected to the memory of John Casson Blaenydrol by his Wife...." (Plate 54)

And on the south wall

1. Below a panel with two angels holding a text which reads "Neither death nor life, nor principalities no powers, no height nor death, shall be able to separate us from the love of God." Christ stands with two disciples approaching in a boat. Below the scene Two further angels support a text reading "Dedicated to the Women and Children who perished by Enemy Action by one who has suffered. GRC 1944" (Plate 55).

This memorial window was commissioned in 1944 by Sir Geoffrey Rothe Clarke in memory of the women and children killed in enemy action during World War II. He and his wife lost their only daughter and two grand-daughters when Flight 777 was shot down over the Bay of Biscay on 1 June 1943. The aeroplane in the dedication appears however to be a De Havilland Flamingo, whereas the plane they were in was a DC-3. Both types of plane were operated at that time by BOAC, which may account for the mistake. The church at Llan Ffestiniog was chosen for the memorial because Sir Geoffrey Clarke and his wife Hilda were close friends of Lady Megan Lloyd George, who lived nearby at Criccieth, and also knew their daughter Rotha. Sir Geoffrey feared that the ongoing bombing of London would destroy all the stained glass in its churches, and so chose a rural church instead. The window is signed 'Christopher C Powell FRSA Highgate' (<http://stainedglass.llgc.org.uk/object/4884>).

2. A depiction of an adult Christ blessing Mary and Joseph. Christ stands over a partly open scroll with Greek lettering. The lower section of the scene shows a colonnade of Egyptian style columns with a central text reading "Damsel I say unto thee rise." The dedication reads "Loving memory of Lillie only daughter of William and Elizabethborn Aug 1869 died 8th Jan 188....." (Plate 56)

At the eastern end of the nave the floor has been raised above the level of the nave floor for about 3.15 m in front of the chancel arch effectively extending the chancel into the nave. This was not part of the original design for this part of the building as the current arrangement hides the torus mouldings on the column bases of the chancel arch (Plate 58). The chancel arch (Plates 57 - 59) has a horseshoe arch supported by columns with undecorated capitals and bases (Plate 58 and 59). It has, however a somewhat uncomfortable relationship with the northern chancel wall (Plate 60) where a slot has had to be cut (left) so that the widest part of the horseshoe could be accommodated.

Also, temporally house within the nave, is a set of wooden panelling, 5.24 x 0.74 m in size (Plate 61) which was originally within the chancel (Andrew Williams *pers. comm.*). One side of this has a series of panels separated by roll mouldings produced by nailing doweling to the panelling. The other side, however, suggests that this is a re-used panel with a series of staves separating wooden panels with chamfered edges. It would seem highly likely that the original panelling was from the original medieval church and was re-purposed by nailing a series of dowels one surface to give it a more "Norman" style. The chamfering of the panels suggests that this item was originally designed to be seen on both sides.

Now displaced within the chancel, the pulpit (Plate 62) rests on three squat columns and has a wooden pulpit with oval decorative panels. It originally sat in front of its access doorway to the south of the chancel arch (Plate 59). Access to the pulpit was via a doorway in the south side of the chancel (Plate 63) with a short flight of stone steps through the chancel wall. Both doorways at the end of this short passage have heavily emphasised key stones (Plate 64) and the upper doorway (into the nave) retains its wooden frame for a door.

In the south wall of the chancel is the vestry door (Plate 65) with a quarter panelled door within an arched doorway with a double arch design in the over panel. It is between the altar rail and the chancel arch. The altar rail (Plate 66) was only in position on the southern side of the chancel at the time of the survey. It is of relatively simple with the only decoration being a series of small roundels between the legs of the rail on the stretcher below the handrail. The eastern window (Plate 67) consists of a triple window, each with a series of roundels featuring biblical scenes.

The trusses over the chancel are supported by corbels (Plate 68), which unlike those in the nave being a, well carved, "acorn" shape. They support two arch braced trusses which, in turn, supports a boards ceiling (Plate 69).

The vestry is an addition to the original design, but was constructed before 1888 when it appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping. It has two doors, one from the chancel and the other an external door to the churchyard. That from the chancel (Plate 70) is cut through the wall of the chancel which is 0.89 m thick at this point. Just inside the inner door there is a fireplace, to the west, which had a plain, slate, fire surround (Plate 71). This must have been blocked off at some time as there is no chimney protruding from the roof above. It must also mean that the roof has been replaced at some time. Adjacent to the fireplace is recess which has been partly blocked with breeze blocks (Plate 72). The function of this recess is unknown.

There is a detached wooden door in the vestry (Plate 73). This is 0.68 m wide and 2.11 m high with decorative panelling and an arched top. It is most likely that this door originally was at the top of the passage leading to the pulpit, fitting into the surviving wooden frame.

On the other side of the inner door is the vestry cupboard (Plate 74). There is also a safe within the vestry (Plate 75) which has two doors each with a hand holding a rod which act as handles. There are

decorative roundels on each of the doors around which is the inscription “Impregnable Fire-proof Chest, Safe and Sound, Whitfield Yaren Birmingham.” One of these plates is upside down. There is also a door to the church yard on the northern side of the vestry with a panelled door (Plate 76) with a fanlight over.

Directly below the chancel is a cellar access by the short flight of stone steps on the southern elevation (Plate 22). The cellar itself is 5.01 x 4.72 m and is divided into two spaces by a couple of stone piers supporting the roof. Hanging on the eastern wall is the village bier (Plate 77) and there is a four ink-hole school desk in this end of the cellar (Plate 78). Although this desk is missing its bench seat it has a lower shelf with a groove for pens and a cast iron frame. Along the northern side there is a box which appears to be a child sized coffin (Plate 76), although it is unknown if it is empty. The western side of the cellar has parts of the heating system (Plates 80 – 81) including the boiler from an earlier system. It is assumed that the iron pipe in the north-west corner was also part of the system, probably linking in to the chimney that must have been above the vestry.

Extending from the western side of the cellar are three tunnels or passages (Figure 14, Plates 83 – 85). Originally up to 2 m high these passages are partially blocked with dumps of soil and building debris. The central passage runs along the centre line of the church and ends just below the eastern face of the gallery. The western end of the passage was not investigated, however plan 347(1)03 by Rhys Llwyd Davies (Figure 23) suggests there is a chamber at the other end of the passage. The roofs of the passages are generally of slate slabs, however there are bricks above the northern passage (Plate 86), presumably to support the raised floor in front of the chancel arch.

Conclusions

The current building known as Ty’r Wern was built as St Michael’s Church in the mid 1840’s in the short-lived fashionable neo-Norman style (Fleming *et al* 1980, 106). As an interpretation of the buildings built in the Norman period there are some features which demonstrates that the style was not a slavish copy of the earlier buildings. The columns and woodwork tend to be much thinner than their historic equivalents, a factor that is particularly shown in the use of light weight timbers for the trusses. This was the first ecclesiastic commission for the architect, Henry Kennedy, however there are probably other influences on the details of the church. Some of the capitals appear to have some Egyptian influence and it could be argued that the horseshoe arch, used as the chancel arch, may have Islamic influences.

The church replaces an earlier structure that was probably of Medieval construction, which appears to have been a single range with a large porch on its southern side and a bellcote on the western gable (Figure 3). Its position in the churchyard is not certain, other than it being to the east of the current building, however it is tempting to see the pattern seen in the churchyard on the Google Earth image (Figure 24) as possibly reflecting the position of the medieval church. It is possible that some of the medieval church fabric was reused in the current building particularly the wooden panelling now stored in the nave appears to have been modified for use in the 1840’s church.

The majority of the current building was built between 1844 and 1845, although it would appear that the southern porch was a later addition within the first forty years of the building. The assumption that the vestry and the porch were part of Hughes repairs and modifications of 1913 proves to be misguided. The vestry appears on Kennedy’s plan of 1845 (Figure 7) and the porch appears on the Ordnance Survey mapping published in 1888 (Figure 12.1), although it is likely that Hughes added outer doors to the porch. It is not certain when the floor in front of the chancel arch was lifted, but the presence of well carved torus bases on the columns of the chancel arch suggests these were originally designed to be seen. It is also uncertain when the chimney that must have been on the vestry was removed and the roof modified.

It appears that damp has been a constant problem in the building with Hughes’ modification designed to combat what were probably design faults. However, problems continued with the building with

more repairs in the 1930's. Things appear to have got worse from the 1970's with a general lack of maintenance, largely because of limited funds, and a series of delayed decisions. By the 1990's things had got so bad that it was considered whether to close the church, however, through the efforts of a number of people, including the setting up of a charity to support the church, this was delayed until 2015 when the church finally closed.

References

Cocke, T., Findlay, D., Halsey, R. and Williamson, E. 2002. *Recording a Church: an Illustrated Glossary*. Council for British Archaeology Practical Handbook in Archaeology 7.

Fleming, J., Honour, H and Pevsner, N. 1980. *The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture (Third Edition)*. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth.

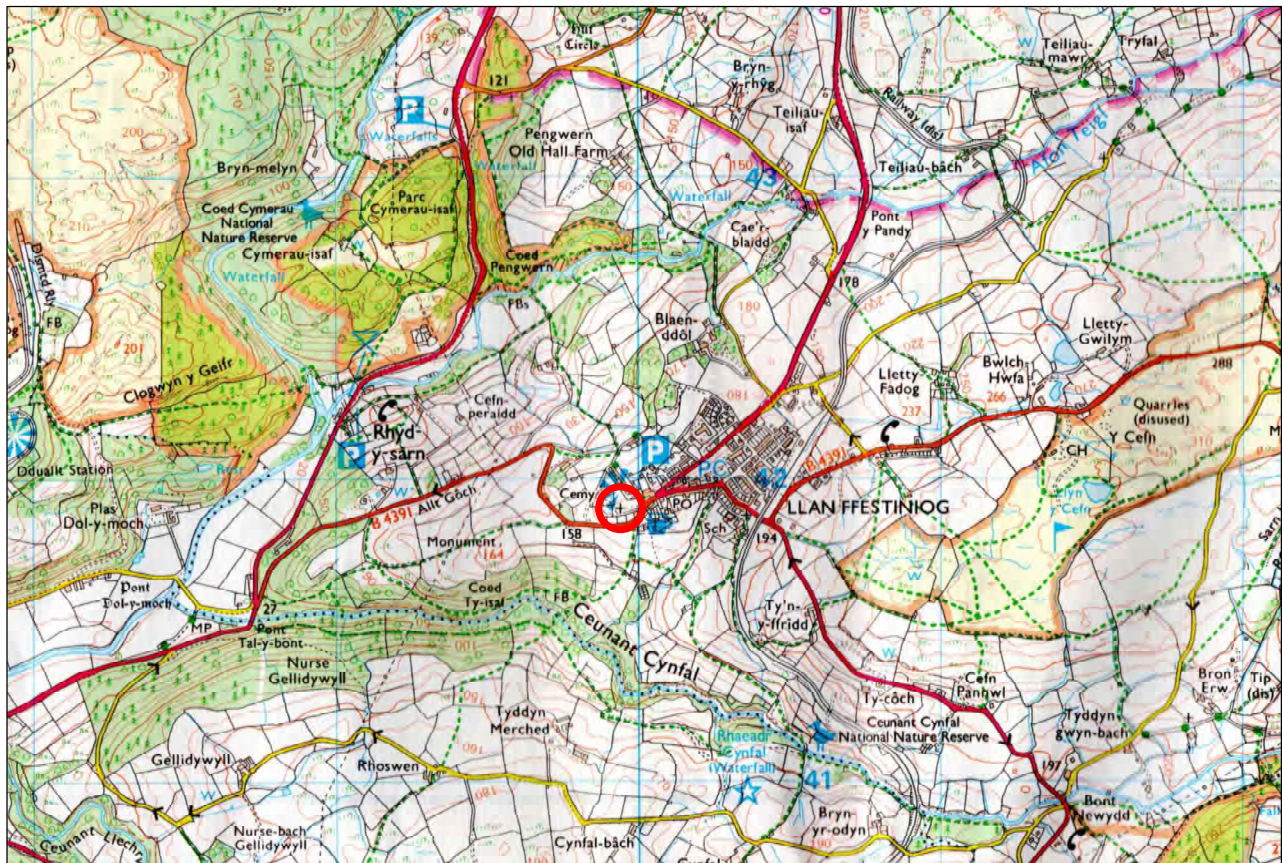
Hayman, R. 2019. *Churches and Churchyards of England and Wales*. Shire, Oxford

Jones, L.E. 1969. *The Observer's Book of Old English Churches*. Frederick Warne and Co. Ltd, London

<https://interactivemaps.uk/os-benchmark-archive/#17/52.958134/-3.937579>

Acknowledgements

The archaeological recording of Ty'r Wern was commissioned by the architect, Rhys Llwyd Davies for the owners. Access to the building was arranged through Andrew William. Many thanks are due to Cadi Rowlands who pointed the author towards the plans held by the Lamberth Palace Library. The project was monitored for the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service by Tom Fildes and the HER search was carried out by Sean Derby (GAT).



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Figure 1: Location
 Scale 1:25,000

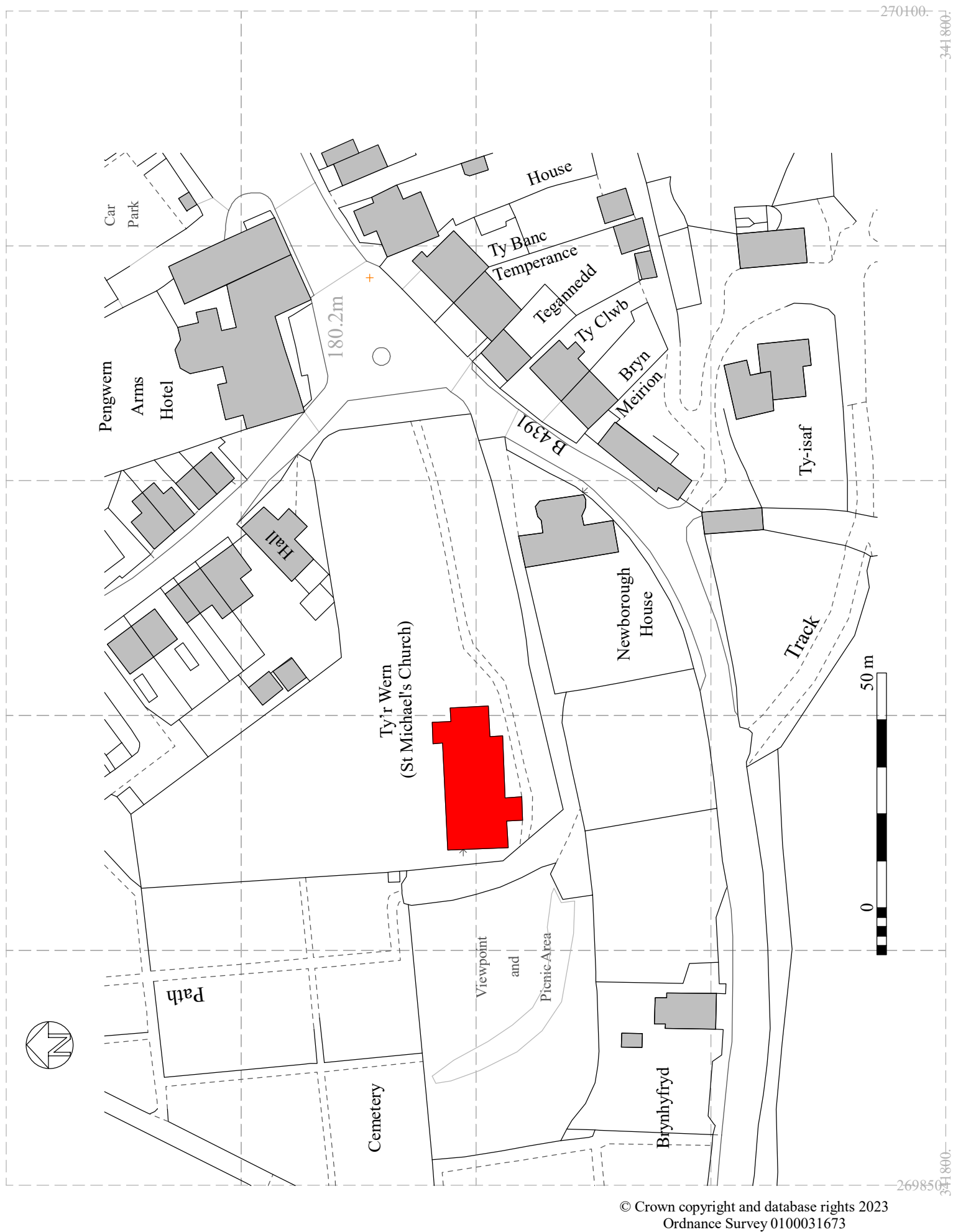


Figure 2: Location of Ty'r Wern
Scale 1:1,000

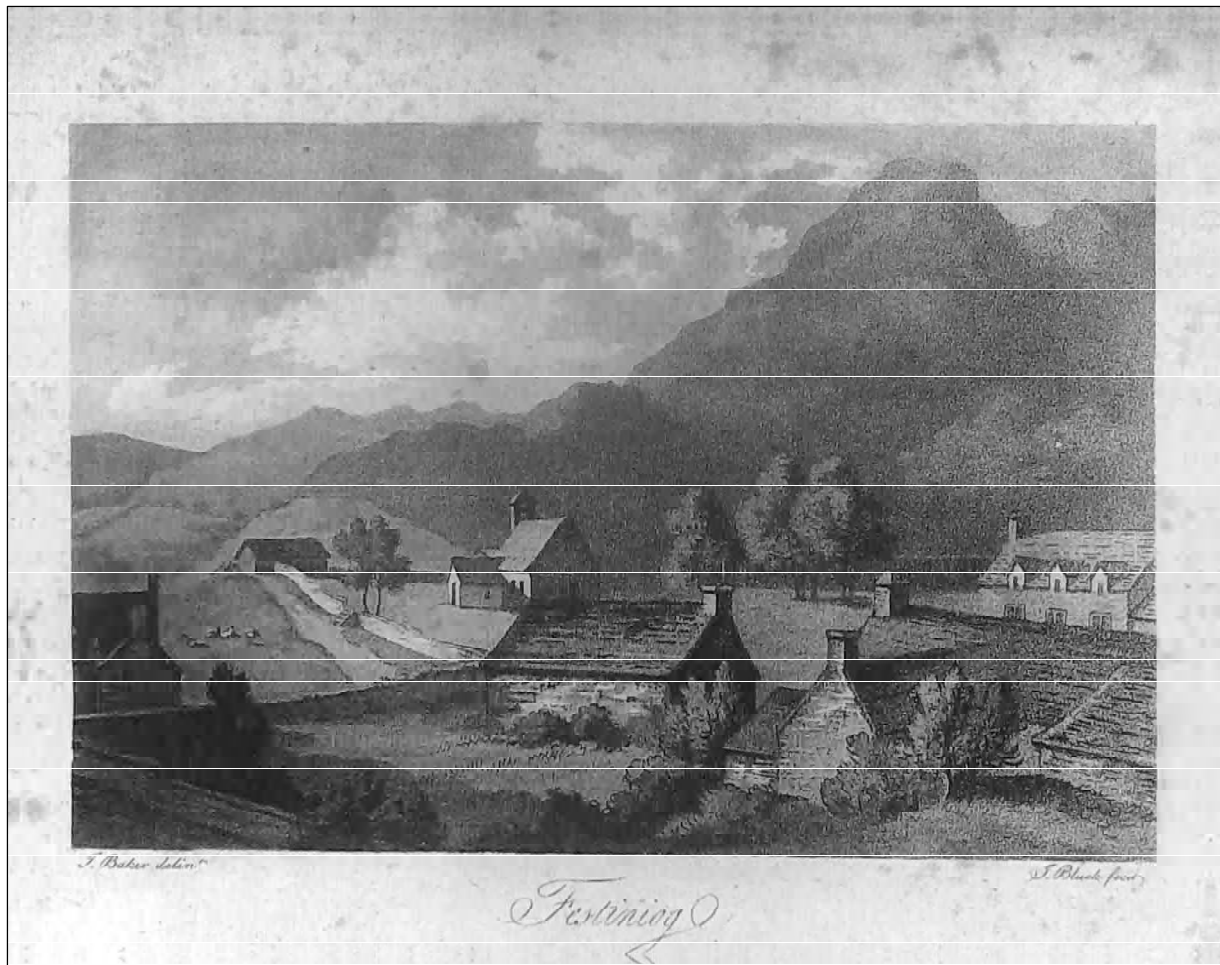


Figure 3: 1795 Sketch by J. Bluck
(National Library)



Figure 4: Extract from the 1842 Tithe Map of the
Parish of Ffestiniog in the County of Merioneth
Not to Scale

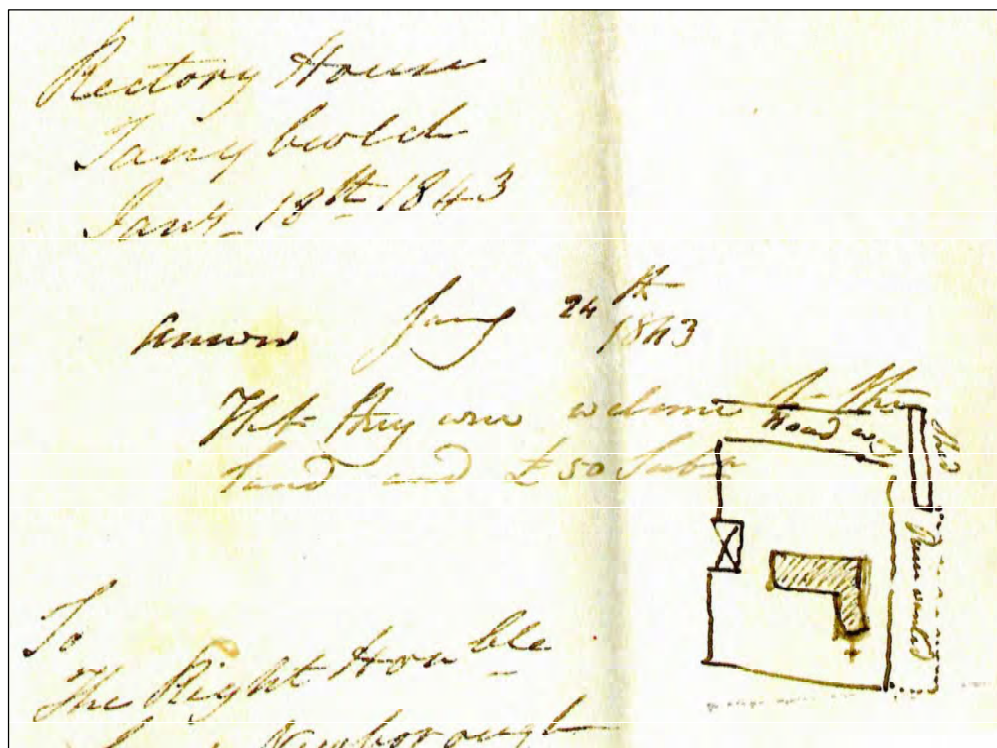


Figure 5: Extract from an 1843 Letter from John Jones to Lord Newborough showing the Requested Land (Caernarfon Archives XD2/20291)

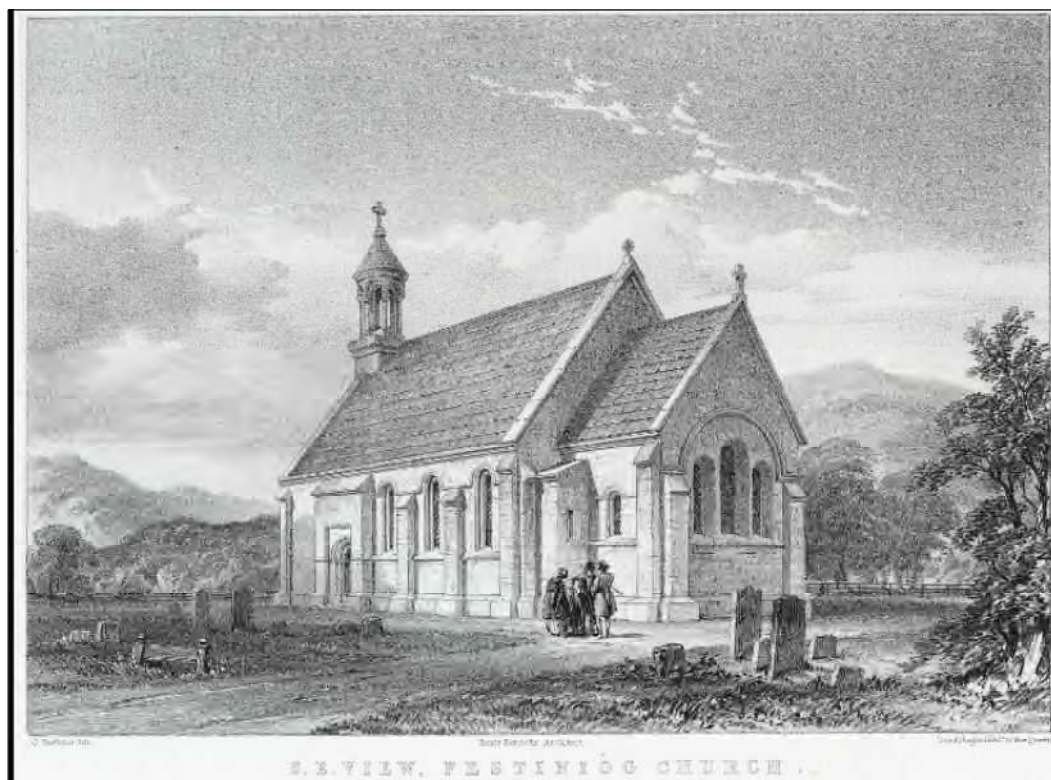


Figure 6: Lithograph by G. Hawkins (Post 1845)
(National Library B9/3 B090)

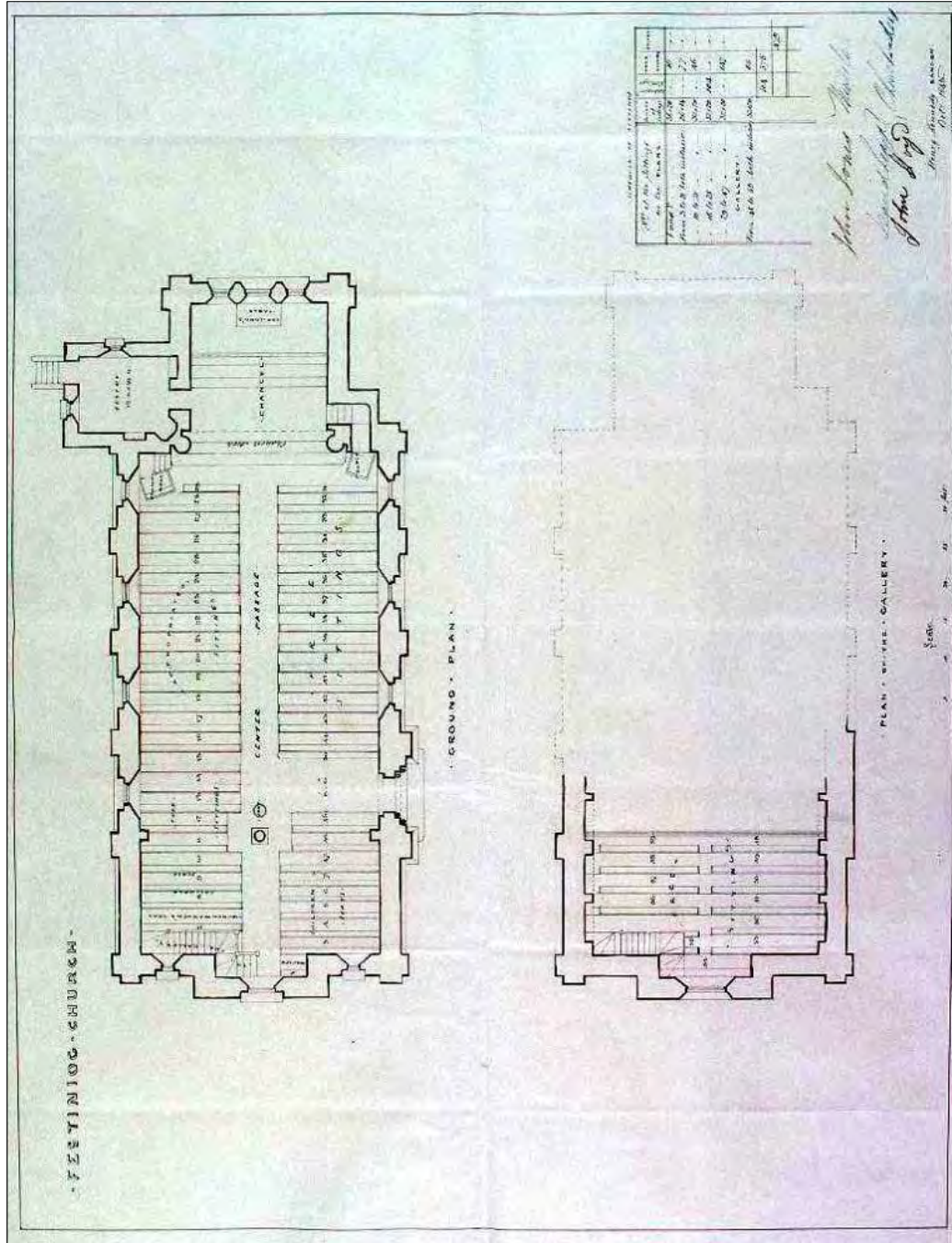


Figure 7: 1845 plan of the Church by Henry Kennedy
Re-scaled to 1:200

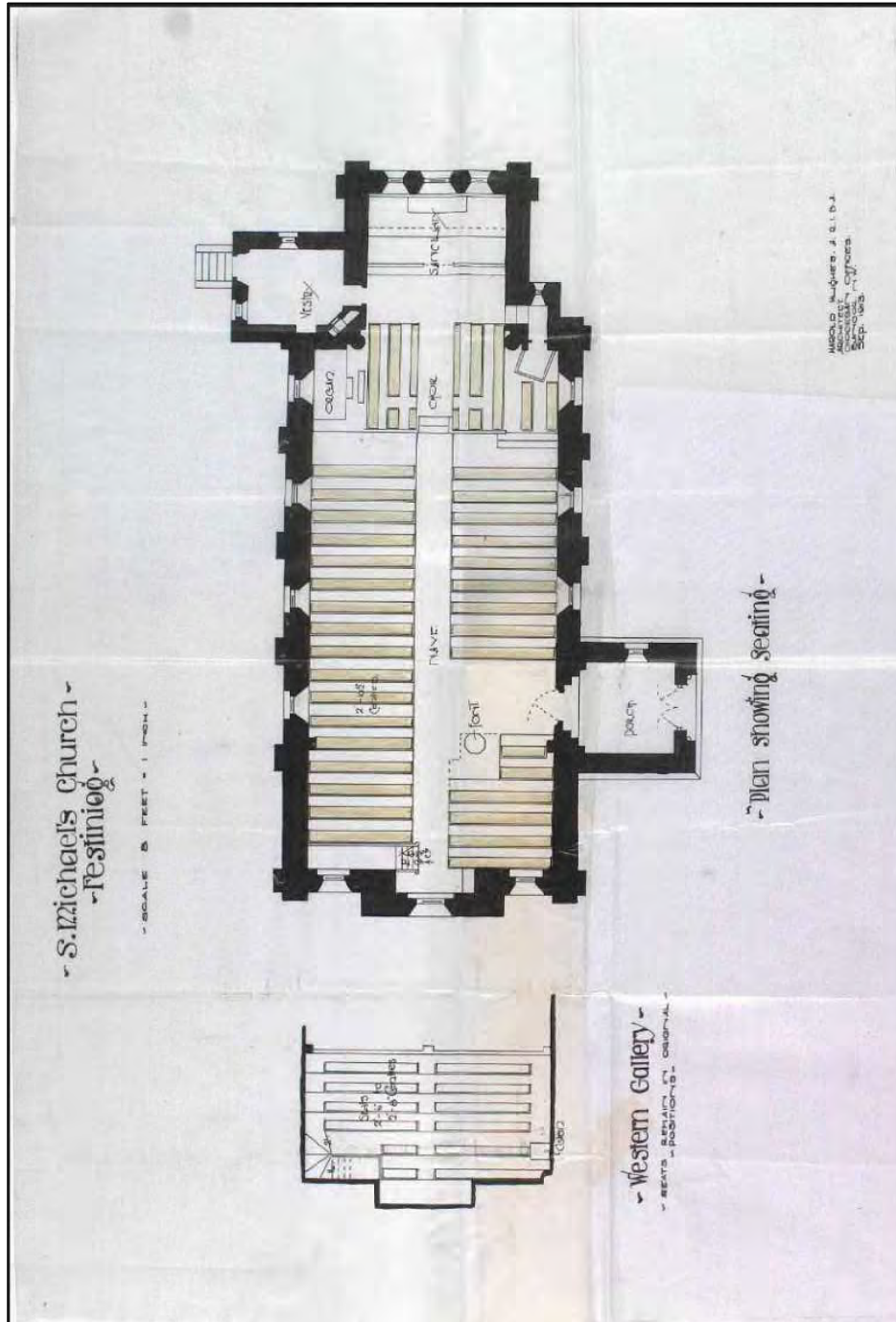
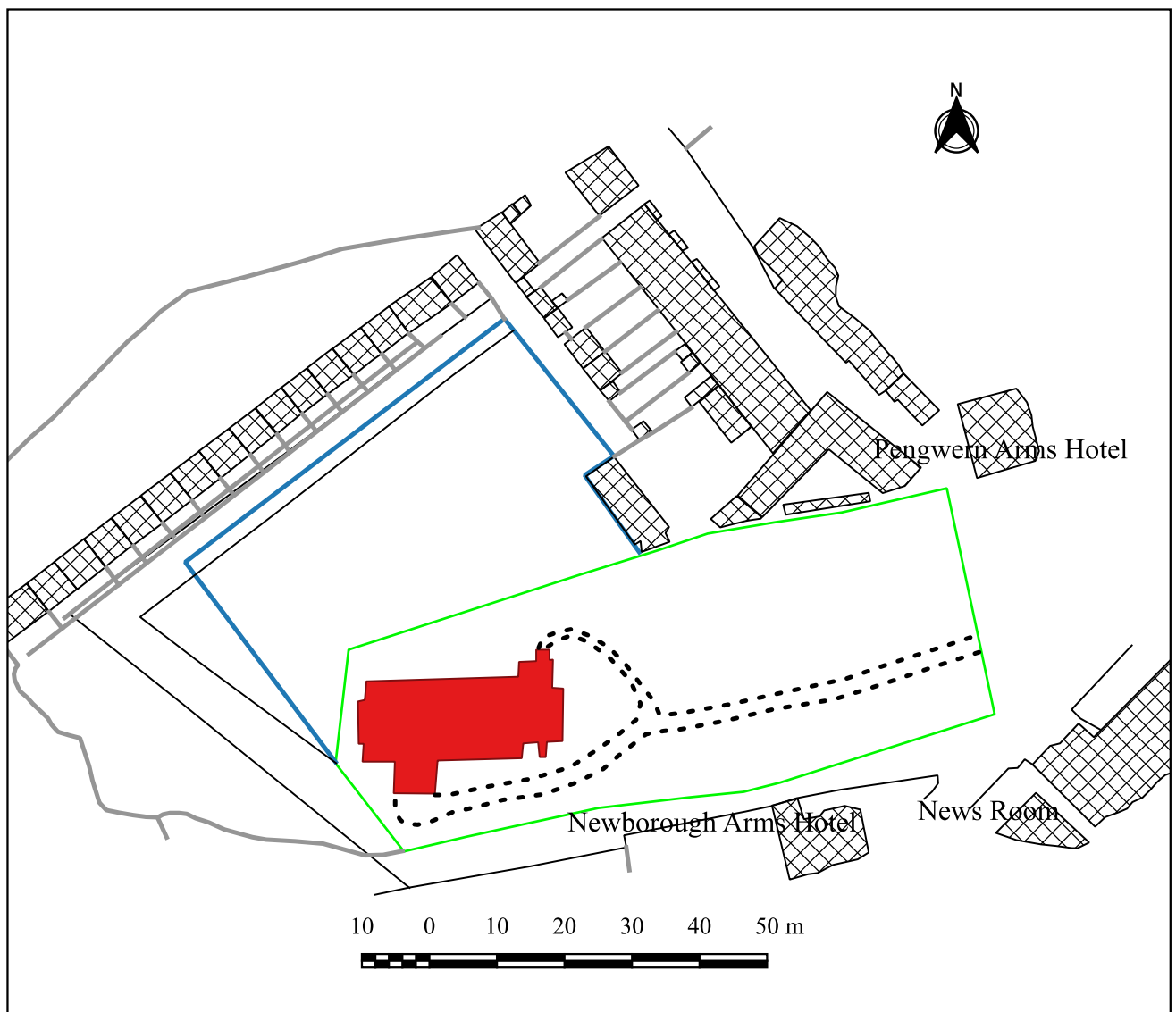


Figure 8: 1913 Plan of the Church by Henry Hughes
Re-scaled to 1:200










- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1860 Map |  1860 Buildings |  1860 Existing Churchyard |
|  1860 Other Boundaries |  1860 Footpaths |  1860 Church |
|  Roads |  1860 Requested Extension | |

Figure 9: Tracing of the 1860 Map Requesting Land from Lord Newborough
(Caernarfon Archives XD2A/400)
Scale 1:1,000



Figure 10.1: Extract from the 1888 Ordnance Survey Map
Merionethshire XII NW



Figure 10.2: Extract from the 1901 Ordnance Survey Map
Merionethshire XII NW

Figure 10: Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping
Not to Scale



Figure 11: Extract from the 1953 Ordnance Survey Map
Merionethshire XII NW

GROUND FLOOR

Based on Drawing 347(1)04 by Curvasure

0 5 m

Figure 12: Ground Floor Plan
Scale 1:100



Based on Drawing 347(1)05 by Curvasure

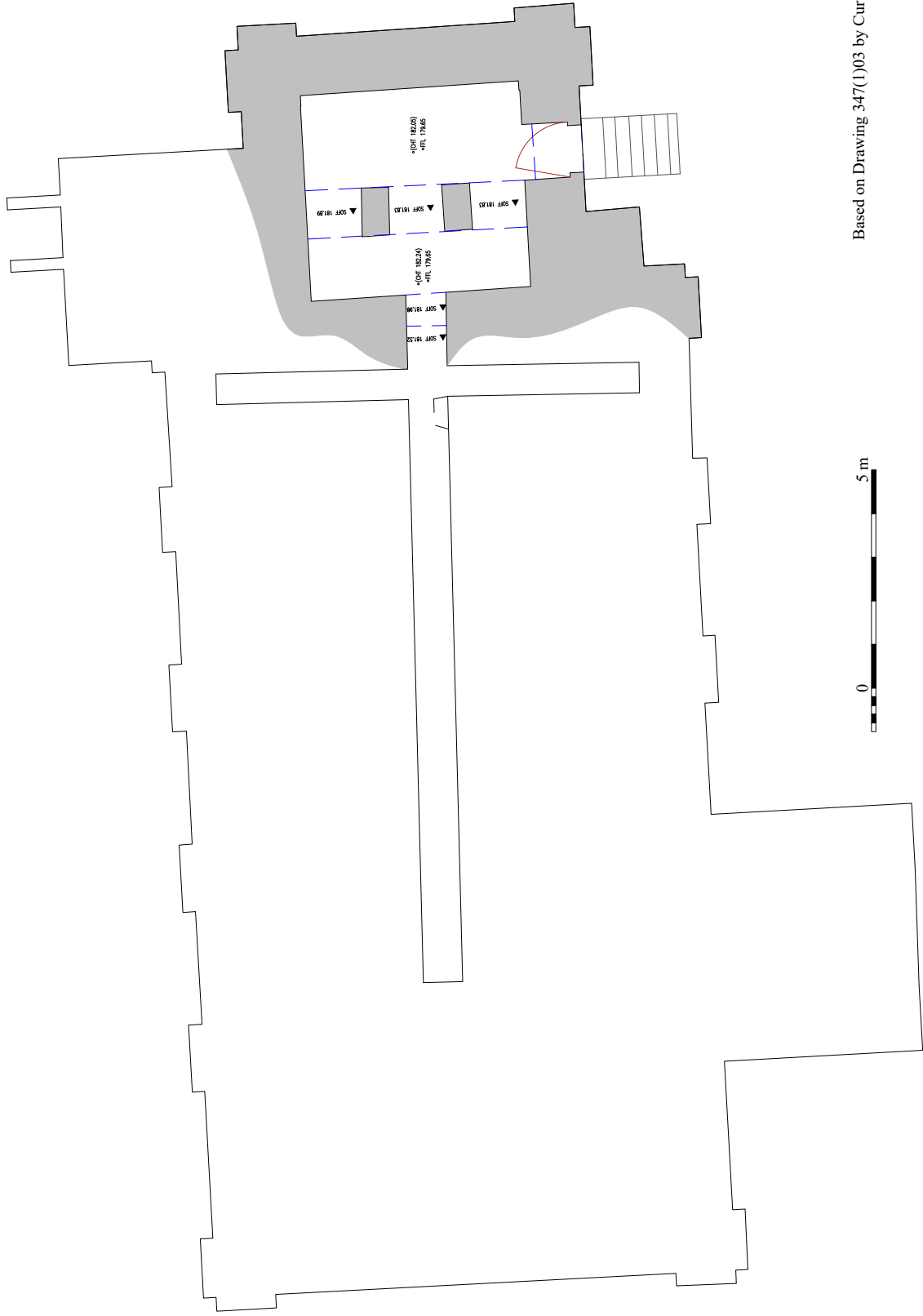
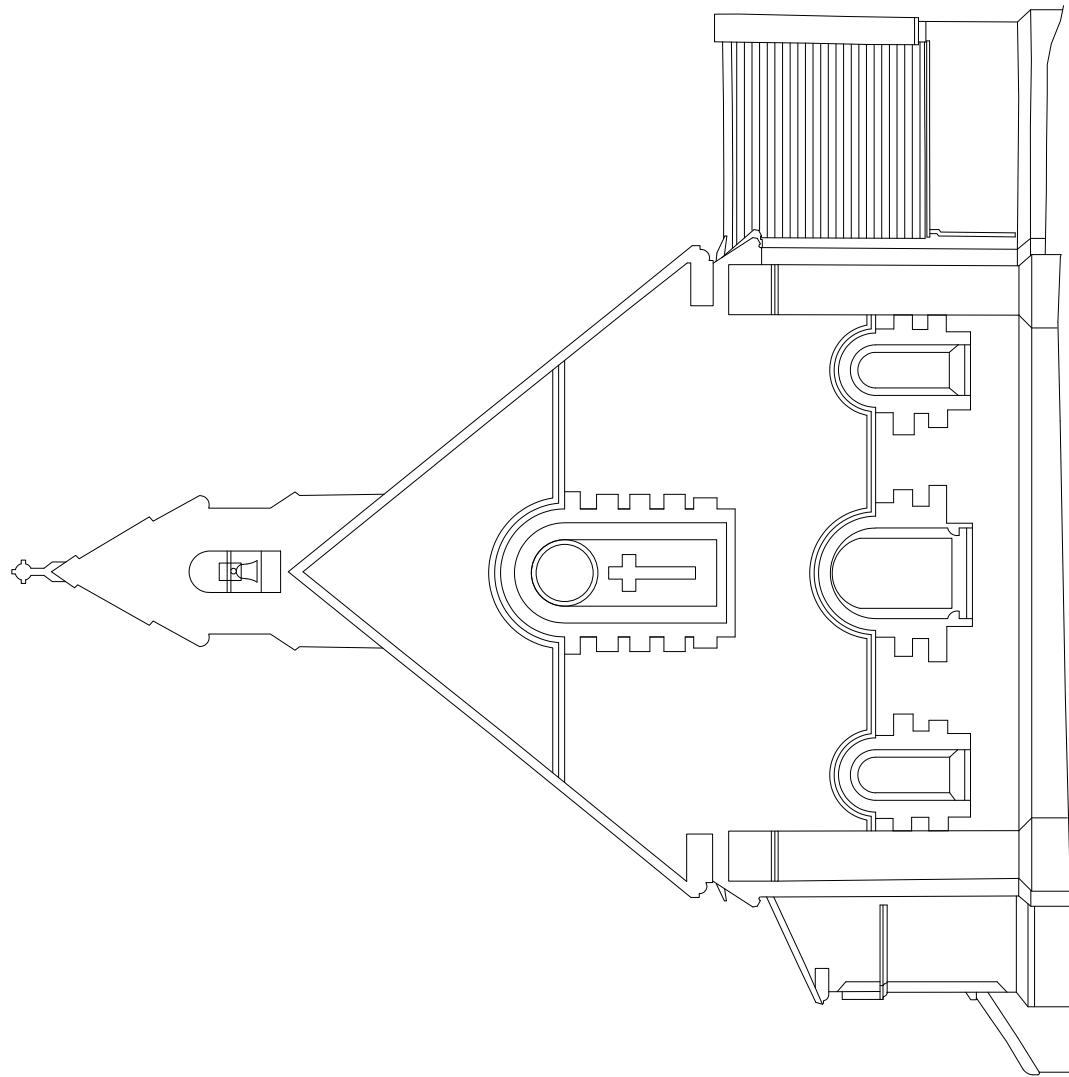


Figure 14: Cellar Plan
Scale 1:100

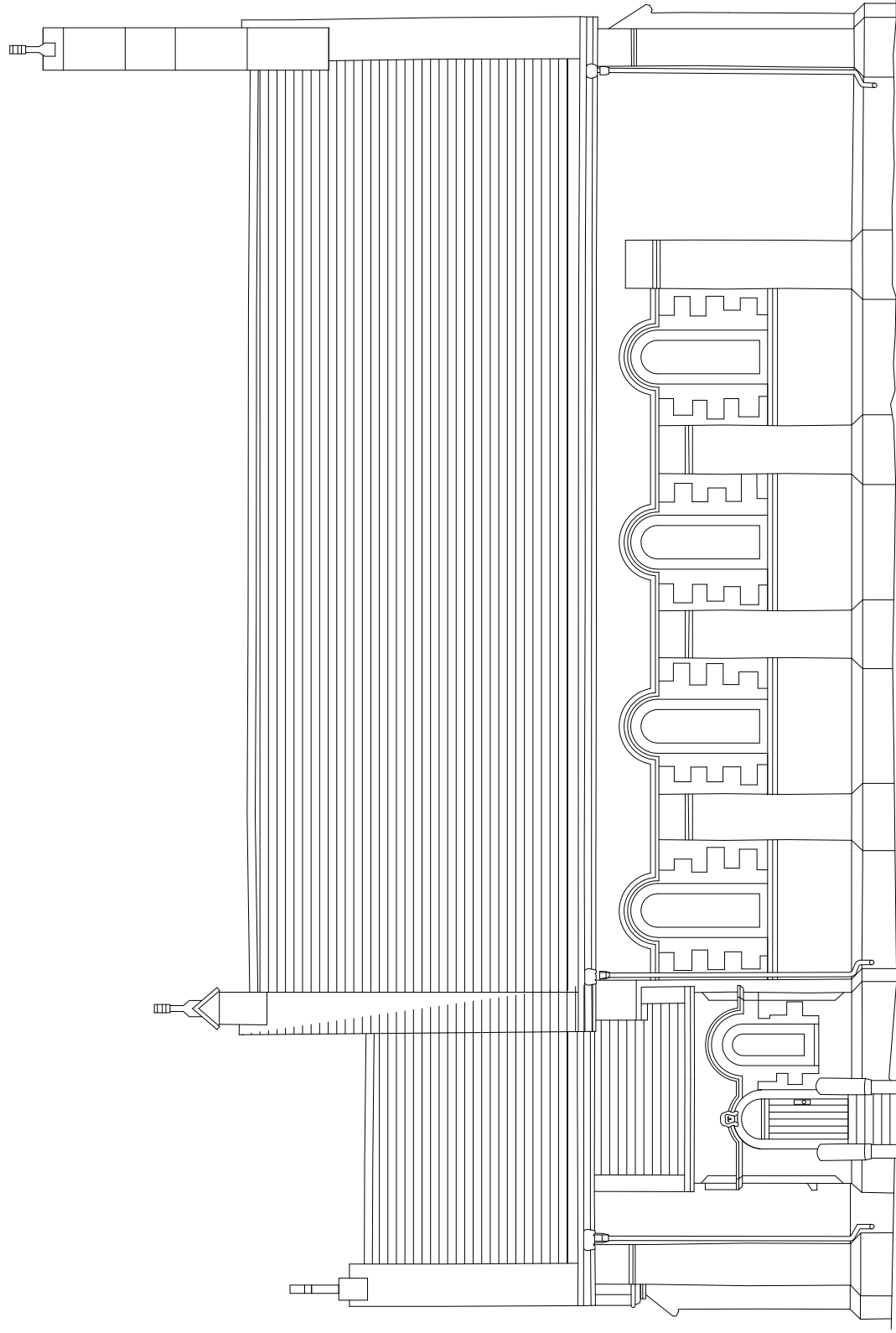


EAST ELEVATION



Based on Drawing 347(1)07 by Curvasure

Figure 15: East Elevation
Scale 1:100

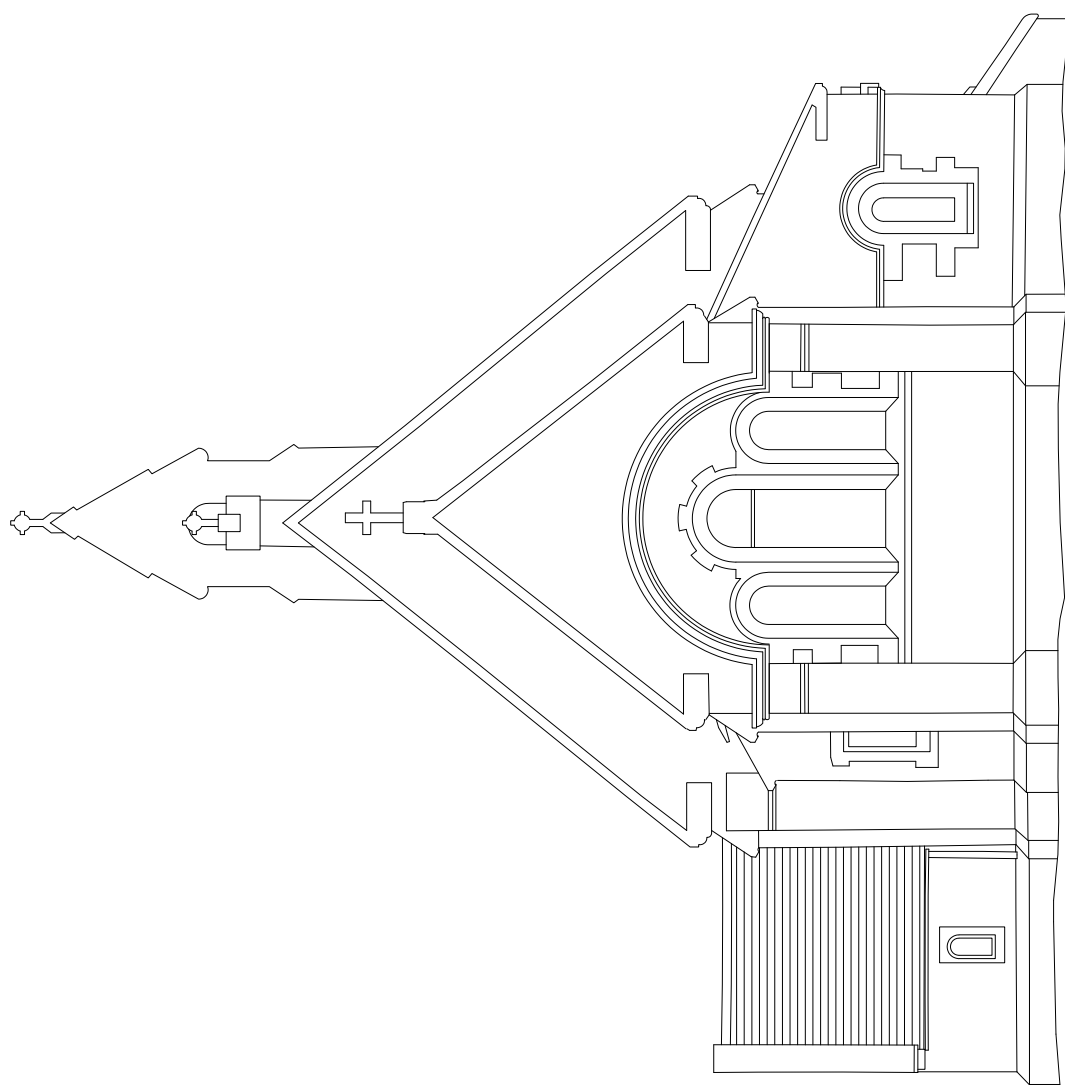


NORTH ELEVATION



Based on Drawing 347(1)08 by Curvasure

Figure 16: North Elevation
Scale 1:100

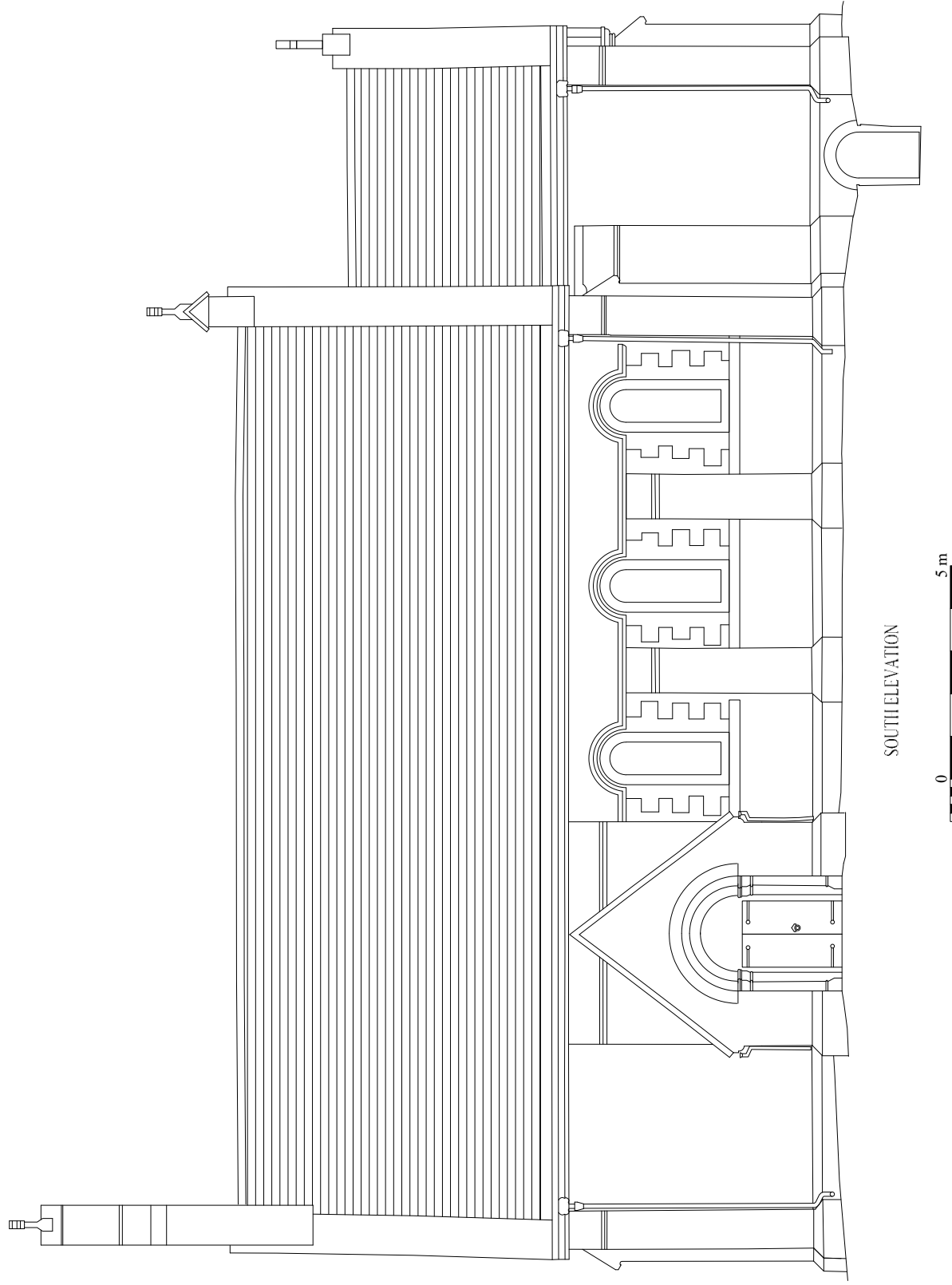


WEST ELEVATION



Based on Drawing 347(1)09 by Curvasure

Figure 17: West Elevation
Scale 1:100



Based on Drawing 347(1)06 by Curvasure

Figure 18: South Elevation
Scale 1:100

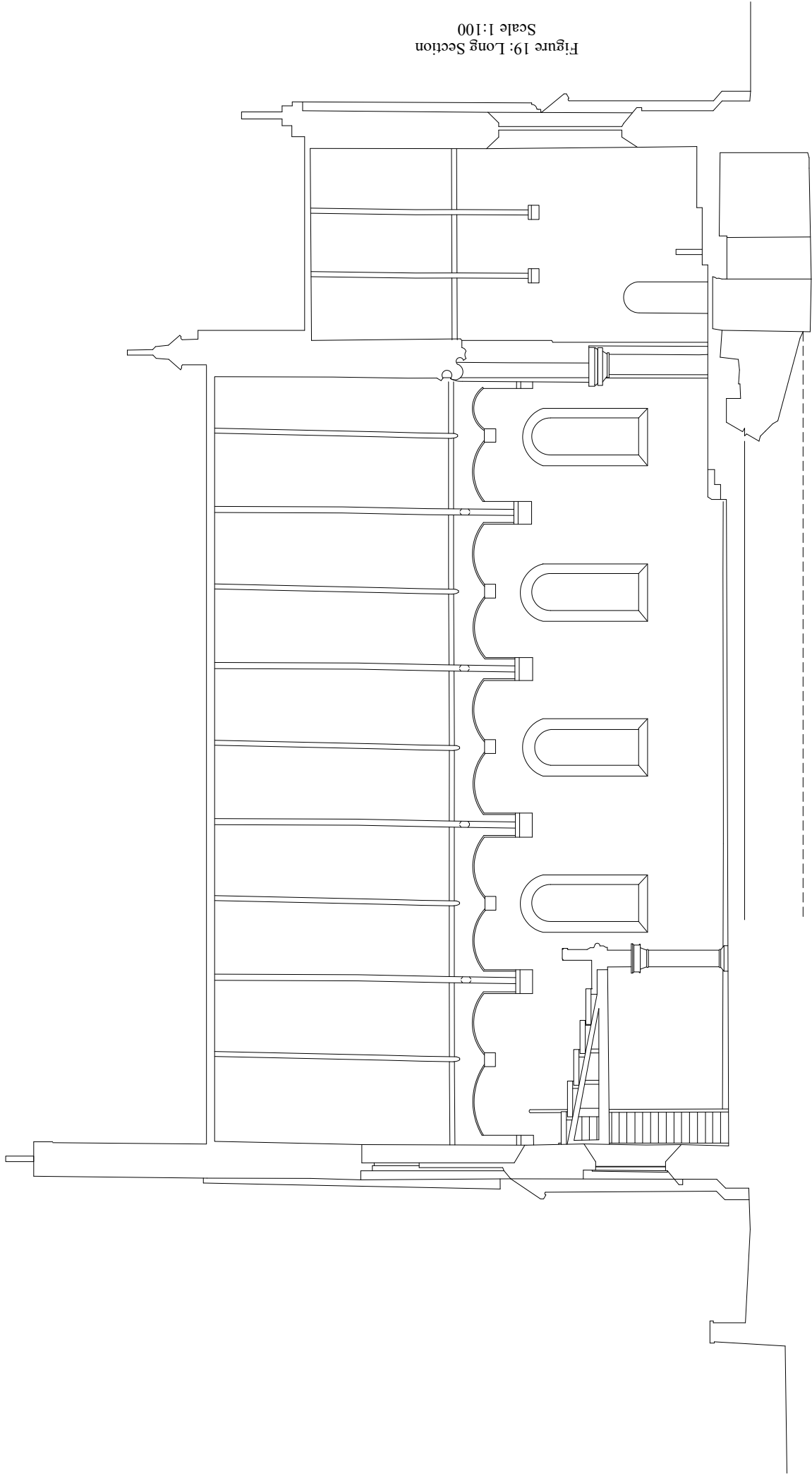


Figure 19: Long Section
Scale 1:100

LONG SECTION



Based on Drawing 347(1)11 by Curvasure

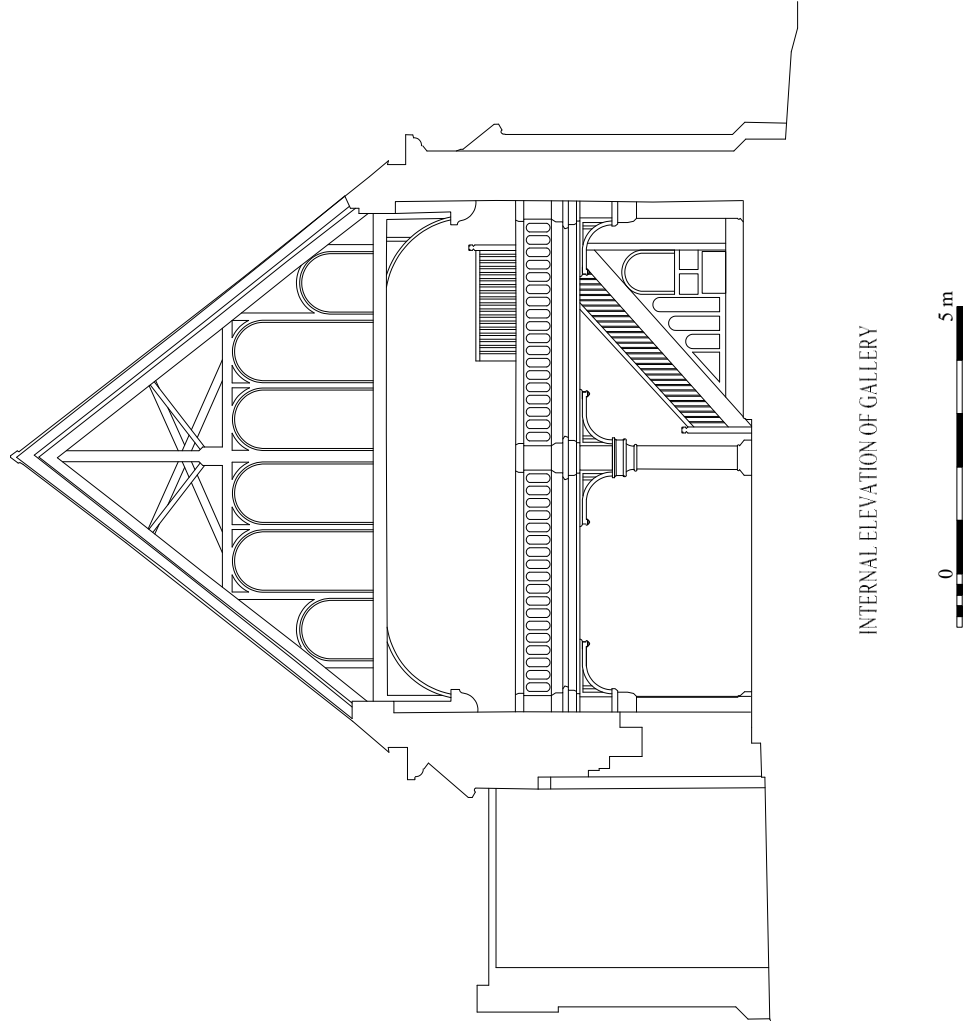


Figure 20: Short Section and Elevation of the Gallery
Scale 1:100

Based on Drawing 347(1)10 by Curvasure



Figure 19.1: Chancel Arch



Figure 19.2: Gallery Elevation



Figure 21: Photogrammetric elevations of
the Chancel Arch and the Gallery
Scale 1:100



Figure 20.1 North Elevation



Figure 20.2: South Elevation



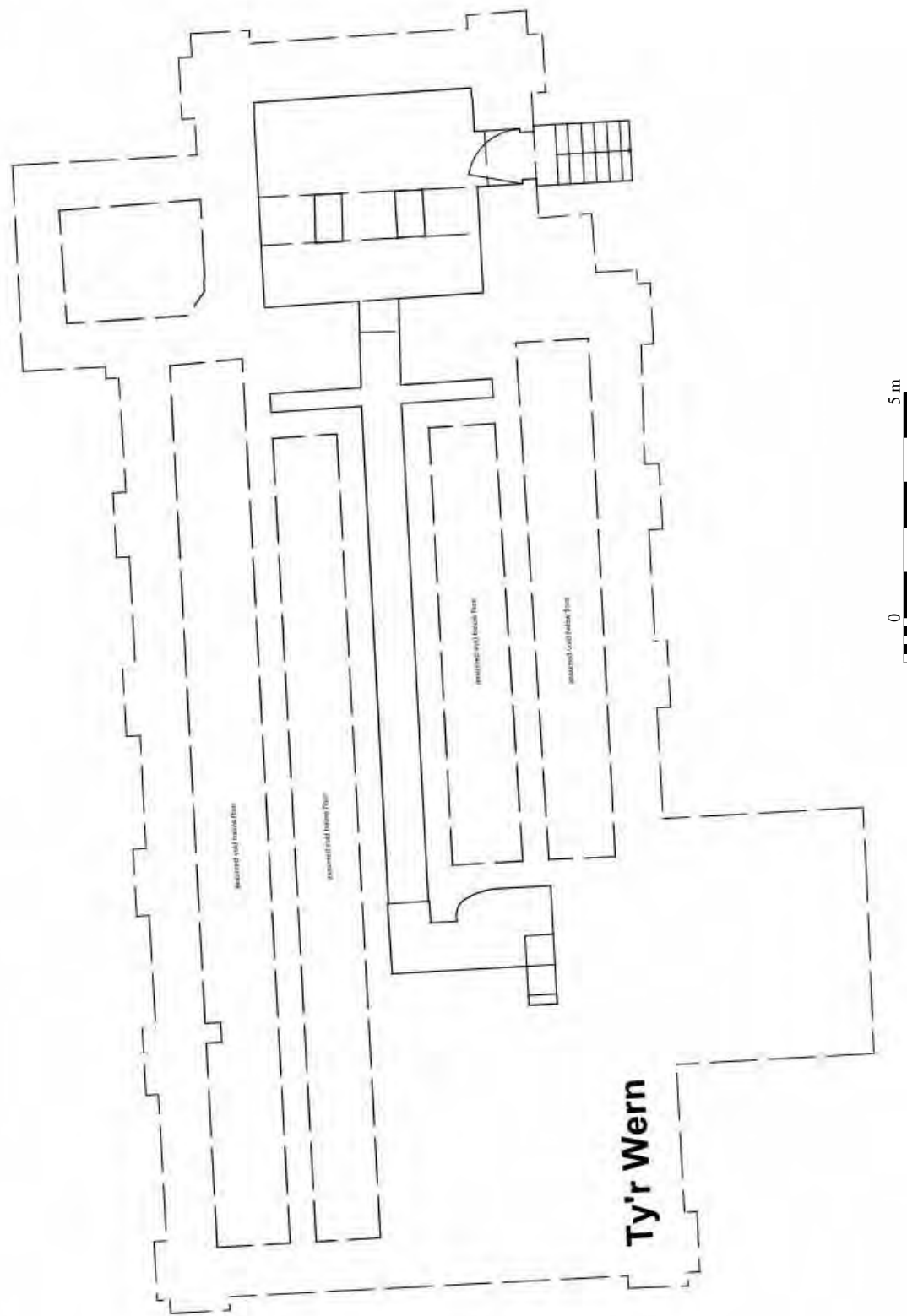


Figure 23: Extract from Drawing 347(1)03
by Rhys Llwyd Davies
Scale 1:100

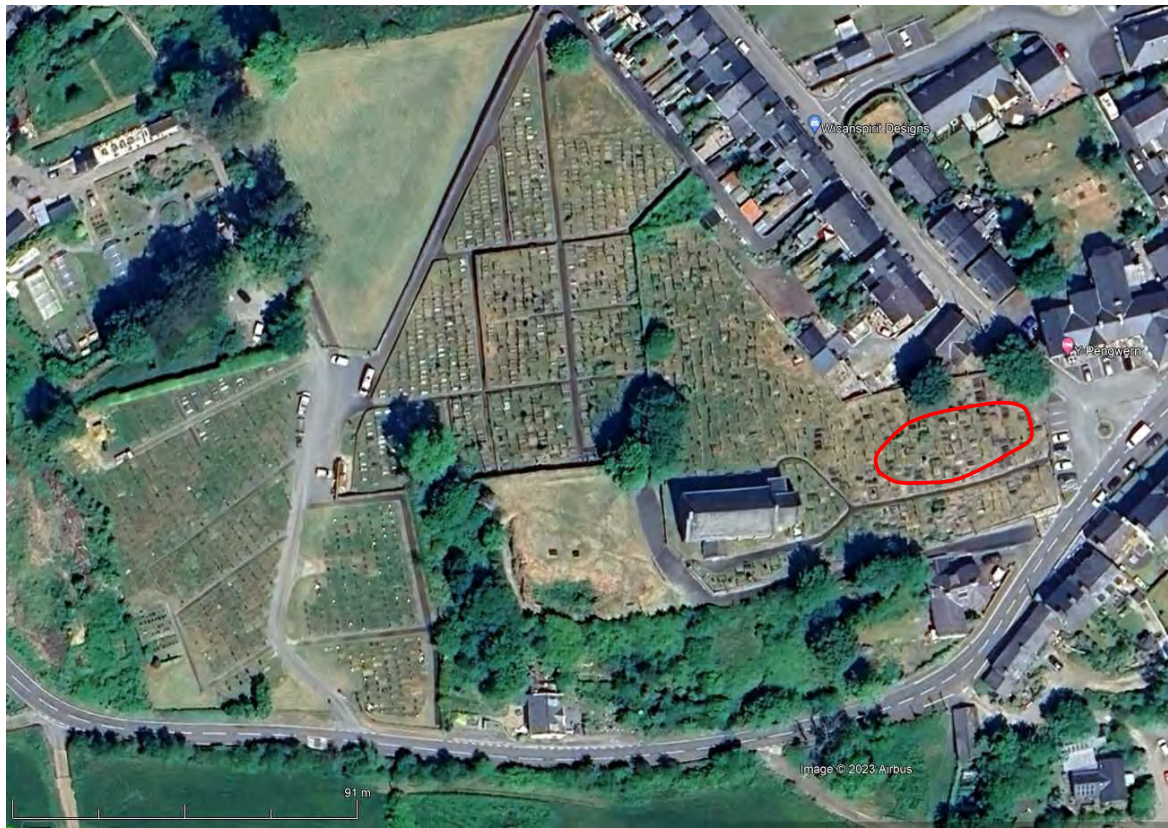


Figure 24: Google Earth Image
with possible location of the Medieval Church
Scale 1:2,000

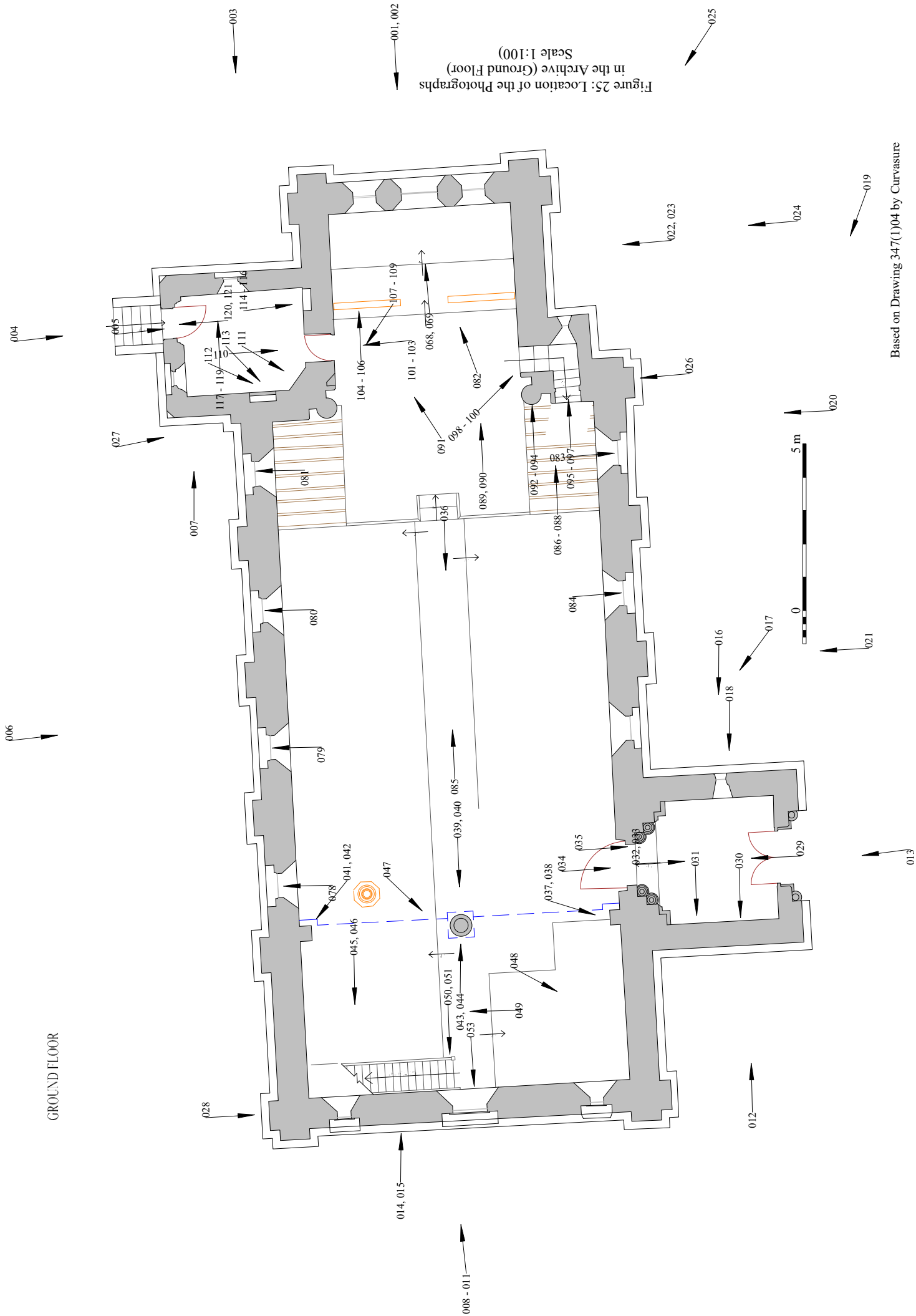
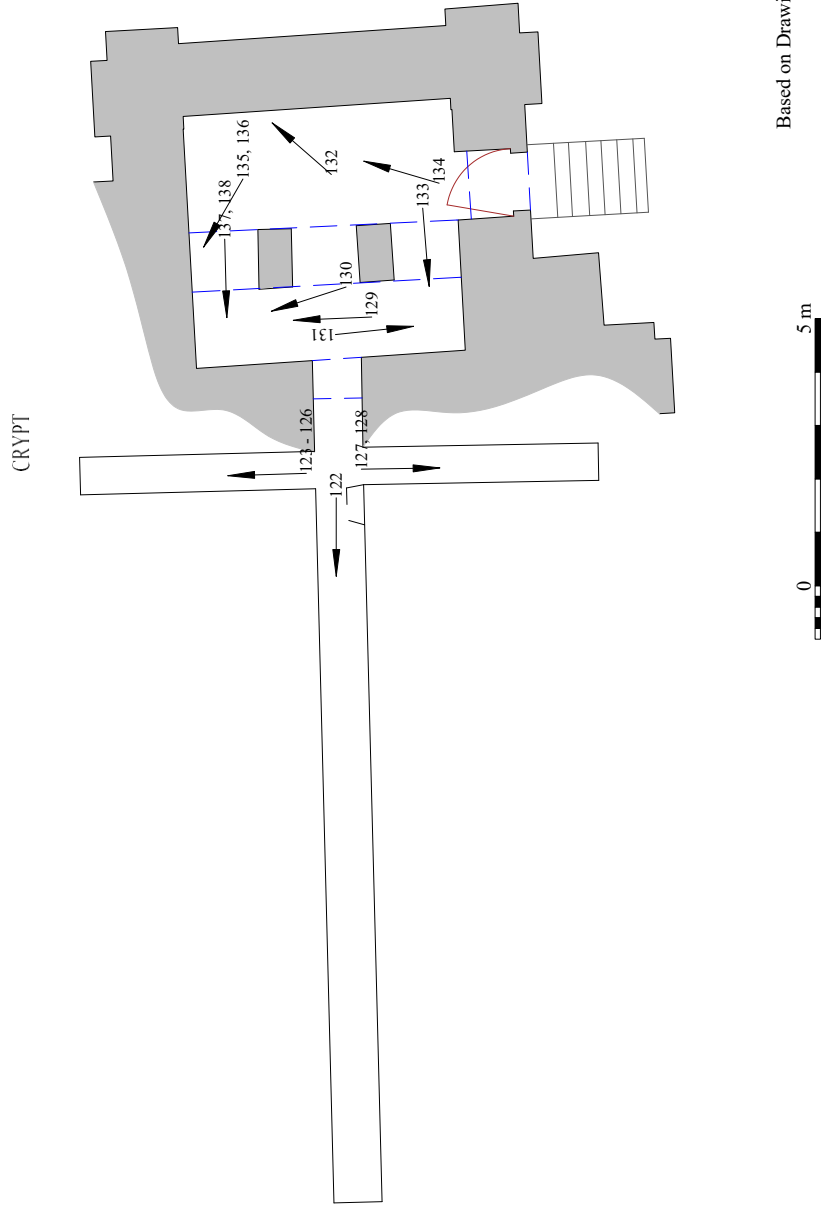




Figure 26: Location of the Photographs
in the Archive (Gallery Level)
Scale 1:100

Based on Drawing 347(1)05 by Curvasure



Based on Drawing 347(I)03 by Curvasure

Figure 27: Location of the Photographs
in the Archive (Cellars)
Scale 1:100



Plate 1: Ty'r Wern, looking west



Plate 2: Detail of the eastern gable



Plate 3: Eastern elevation of the vestry



Plate 4: Northern elevation of the vestry



Plate 5: Carved head over the vestry door



Plate 6: Western elevation of the vestry



Plate 7: Northern elevation



Plate 8: North-eastern gargoyle



Plate 9: North-western gargoyle



Plate 10: Western elevation



Plate 11: Detail of the blocked window in the western gable

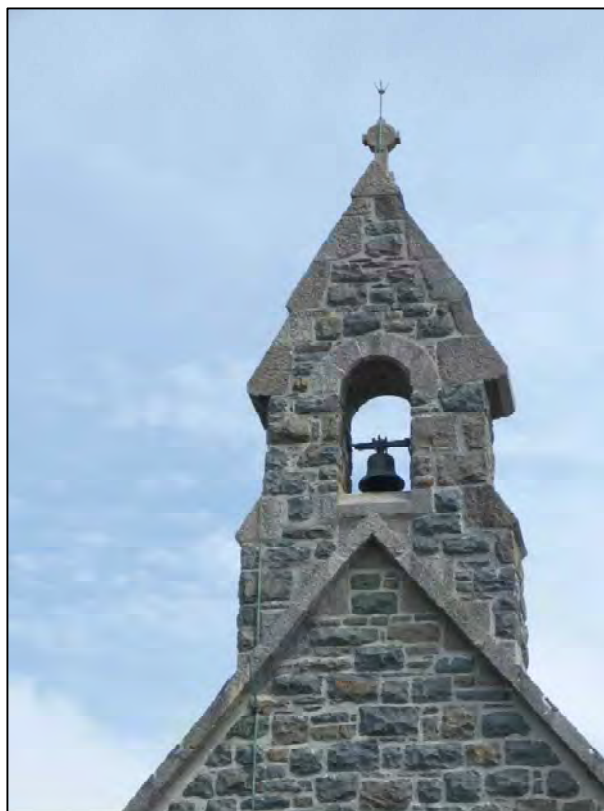


Plate 12: Bellcote



Plate 13: Bench mark on the western gable



Plate 14: Western elevation of the porch



Plate 15: South elevation of the porch



Plate 16: Eastern elevation of the porch



Plate 17: Detail of the capital on the columns flanking the south door



Plate 18: Cross adjacent to the eastern face of the porch



Plate 19: Southern elevation, looking NW



Plate 20: Part of the southern elevation



Plate 21: Part of the southern elevation



Plate 22: Cellar door



Plate 23: Eastern end of the southern elevation



Plate 24: Crosses on the eastern gables of the nave and chancel, looking NW



Plate 25: South eastern gargoyle



Plate 26: Inside of the external door to the porch



Plate 27: Roof structure of the porch



Plate 28: Inner doorway to the porch



Plate 29: Detail of the capitals of the columns flanking the inner door of the porch



Plate 30: Detail of the outer mock hinge

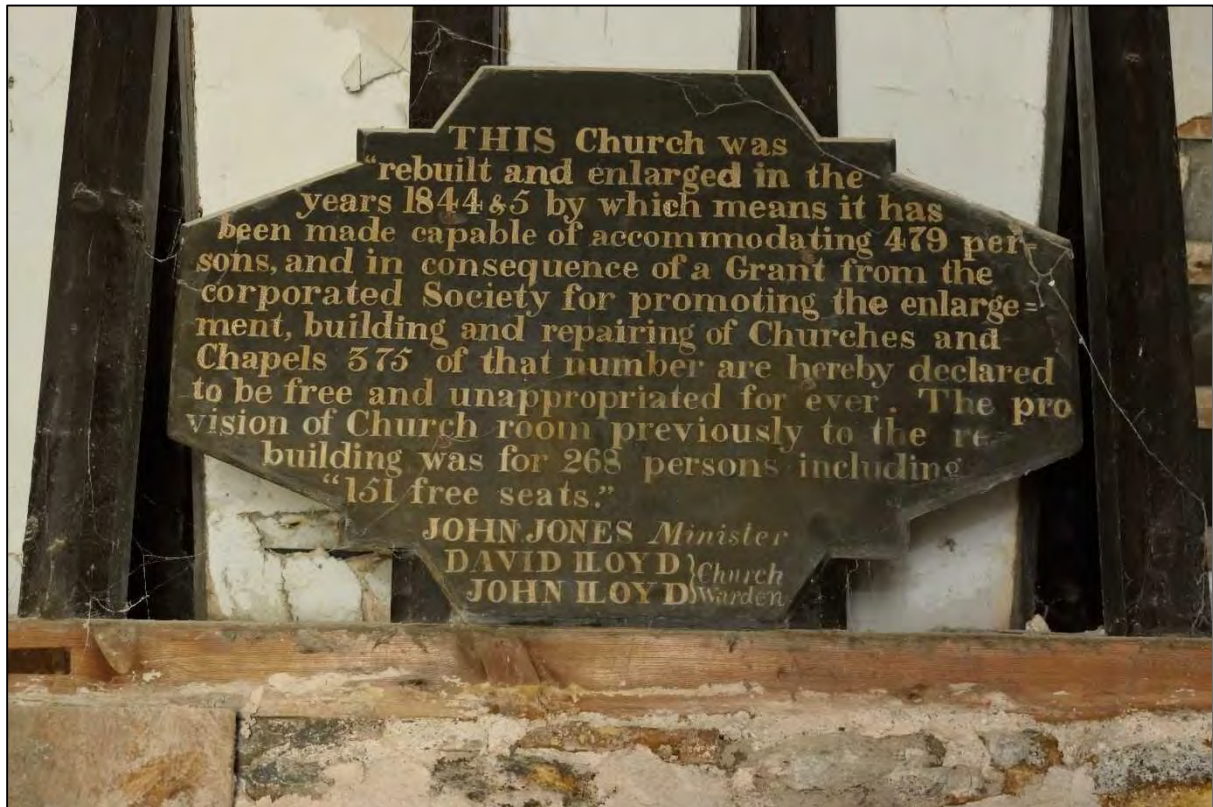


Plate 31: Plaque celebrating a grant from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels



Plate 32: Plaque celebrating a grant from the Church Building Society



Plate 33: Inside of the main door to the church



Plate 34: Detail of the lock



Plate 35: Detail of the inner hinge



Plate 36: The nave looking west, including the gallery



Plate 37: Southern pilaster supporting the gallery



Plate 38: The northern pilaster supporting the gallery



Plate 39: Central column supporting the gallery



Plate 40: Corbels supporting the gallery



Plate 41: Brackets supporting the gallery



Plate 42: Gallery staircase



Plate 43: Newel post



Plate 44: The gallery, looking north



Plate 45: Remaining pews on the gallery



Plate 46: Probable light standard on the southern side of the gallery



Plate 47: Probable lamp standard on the northern side of the gallery



Plate 48: Arcading in the nave



Plate 49: Corbel supporting the arcading on the north wall



Plate 50: Truss over the nave



Plate 51: The font

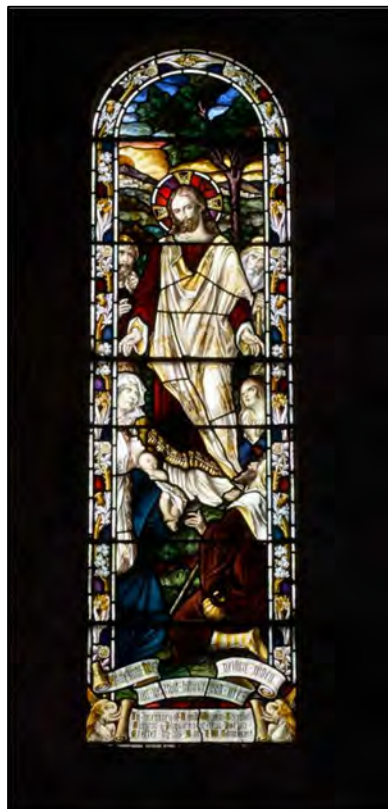


Plate 52: Stained Glass



Plate 53: Stained Glass



Plate 54: Stained Glass



Plate 55: Stained Glass



Plate 56: Stained Glass



Plate 57: The nave and chancel arch looking east from the gallery



Plate 58: Base of the chancel arch hidden below the current floor



Plate 59: Southern column of the chancel arch and the pulpit doorway



Plate 60: The relationship between the chancel arch and the chancel wall



Plate 61: Panelling stored in the nave



Plate 62: The font



Plate 63: The doorway in the chancel to the pulpit



Plate 64: Detail of the head of the pulpit doorway.



Plate 65: The vestry door from the chancel



Plate 66: The alter rail



Plate 67: The chancel window



Plate 68: The corbels supporting the chancel roof



Plate 69: The chancel roof



Plate 70: Inside of the door between the vestry and the chancel



Plate 71: The vestry fireplace



Plate 72: Partially blocked opening in the vestry



Plate 73: Displaced door from the pulpit passage



Plate 74: Vestry cupboard



Plate 75: The safe



Plate 76: Inside of the outer vestry door



Plate 77: The bier hanging on the cellar wall



Plate 78: Desk in the cellar



Plate 79: Coffin shaped box



Plate 80: Part of the heating system in the cellar



Plate 81: Part of a disused heating system in the cellar



Plate 82: Pipe passing through the wall towards the vestry



Plate 83: Northern passage



Plate 84: Central passage



Plate 85: Southern passage



Plate 86: Brickwork over the northern passage.

Appendix 1: Specification

Specification for a Desktop Study and Building Recording of Ty'r Wern (Previously St Michael's Church), Llan Ffestiniog, Gwynedd

Compiled by I.P. Brooks 05/04/2023

1. Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1. It is planned to convert the former St Michael's Church, Llan Ffestiniog, into a Community Building. Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd have been commissioned to produce a desk-top study and initial building recording of the building

2. Background

- 2.1. It is intended to convert the former St Michael's Church, Llan Ffestiniog, into a Community Building (Figure 1) into Community Building.
- 2.2. Designed by Henry Kennedy and was constructed between 1843 and 1845, slightly to the west of an earlier church which was demolished. It was built in a Neo-Norman style. Modifications and restoration of the building took place in 1913 under the directions of Harold Hughes. Further renovations took place in 1934 in an attempt to resolve a damp problem. Minor works also took place in 1966. Restoration works were also undertaken in 1994 in an attempt to retain the religious use of the building, however the building was sold into private ownership in 2016.
- 2.3. The building is Listed at Grade II (Listed Building Ref. 87659)

3. Objectives

- 3.1. The principal objectives of the proposed works are as follows:
 - 3.1.1. To allow an adequate analytical record of the buildings to be made, before they are converted, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

4. Fieldwork Program

- 4.1. The following sources will be consulted for the Desktop Study
 - 4.1.1. National Library of Wales
 - 4.1.2. Merioneth Archive Office
 - 4.1.3. The regional Historic Environment Record held by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
 - 4.1.4. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales
 - 4.1.5. The Conservation Statement prepared by Rhys Llwyd Davis
 - 4.1.6. A local history "The History of St. Michael's Church Ffestiniog" (1994) by Kate Robinson
- 4.2. A program of field work is proposed for this area that will include:
 - 4.2.1. A written description
 - 4.2.2. A drawn record
 - 4.2.3. A photographic record

- 4.2.4. Report preparation
- 4.2.5. Archive preparation

5. Methodology

- 5.1. The recording of the building will conform with a Level 2/3 survey as defined by Historic England (May 2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*.
- 5.2. Written description
 - 5.2.1. The written description will include:
 - 5.2.1.1. The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference.
 - 5.2.1.2. A note of any statutory designation.
 - 5.2.1.3. The date when the record was made, the name of the recorder and the location of any archive material.
 - 5.2.1.4. A longer summary statement summarising the building's form, function, date and sequence of development.
- 5.3. Drawn Record
 - 5.3.1. The drawn record will be based on the plans, sections and elevations already prepared by Rhys Llwyd Davis Architects
 - 5.3.2. Measured plans (to scale or fully dimensioned) as existing. Plans will show the form and location of any structural features of historic significance, such as blocked door ways, windows and fireplaces, masonry joints, ceiling beams and other changes in floor and ceiling levels, and any evidence for fixtures of significance
 - 5.3.3. Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant structural detail (for example timber or metal framing).
 - 5.3.4.4 Measured cross-sections or long-sections to illustrate the vertical relationships within a building (for example floor and ceiling heights, the form of roof trusses).
 - 5.3.5.5 Measured drawings to show the form of any architectural decoration (for example the moulding profiles of door surrounds, beams, mullions and cornices) or small-scale functional detail not easily captured by photography. A measured detail drawing is particularly valuable when the feature in question is an aid to dating.
 - 5.3.6.6 Measured elevations, where these are necessary to an understanding of the building's design, development or function.
 - 5.3.7.7 A site plan relating the building to other structures and to any related topographical and landscape features
- 5.4. Photographic
 - 5.4.1. A general view or views of the building in its wider
 - 5.4.2.2 The building's external appearance.
 - 5.4.3.4 The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.
 - 5.4.4. Photographs will be taken with Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP
 - 5.4.5. If appropriate photographs will be taken with a Panasonic Lumix DC-FT7 camera on an extendable pole. These photographs will be processed with Agisoft Metashape v. 1.6.3 to produce photogrammetric images of the elevations

6. *Report and Archive*

- 6.1. On completion of the survey a report shall be produced which will contain:
 - 6.1.1. Non-technical summary
 - 6.1.2. Location and NGR
 - 6.1.3. Statutory designations
 - 6.1.4. Date of record, recorder and archive deposition
 - 6.1.5. Introduction
 - 6.1.6. Site location
 - 6.1.7. Topography and Geology
 - 6.1.8. Methodology
 - 6.1.9. Result of the desktop study
 - 6.1.10. Summary of the form, function, date and development of the building
 - 6.1.11. Summary description of the building
 - 6.1.12. Past and present usage
 - 6.1.13. Evidence for former existence of demolished structures, removed fittings etc
 - 6.1.14. Site Plans and Elevations
 - 6.1.15. Phase plan (if necessary)
 - 6.1.16. Conclusions
 - 6.1.17. References
- 6.2. A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the client within one month of the completion of the field work.
- 6.3. The digital records will be archived with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales
- 6.4. The digital archive will be prepared in line with Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. Guidelines for digital archives
- 6.5. The digital file formats used for the archive will follow those recommended within the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. Guidelines for digital archives.
- 6.6. The preparation of the report will conform to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018 “Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)”

7. *Staff*

- 7.1. The project will be carried out by Ian Brooks, PhD, BA, MCIfA., FSA

8. *Timetable*

- 8.1. It is intended to carry out the desktop study in April 2023 or as soon as possible
- 8.2. It is intended to carry out the fieldwork in April 2023 or as soon as possible

9. *General*

9.1. CIfA Code of Conduct

9.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct

9.2. Health and Safety

9.2.1. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times.

9.2.2. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.

9.3. Staff

9.3.1. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA

9.3.2. Project Staff will include Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA.

9.4. Curatorial Monitoring

9.4.1. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service will be informed as to the start date and progress of the fieldwork.

9.5. Insurance

9.5.1. EAS Ltd carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.

9.5.2. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance

10. Data Management

10.1. Photographs will be taken in Nikon NEF (Raw) format

10.1.1. These will be converted to TIFF for archiving and JPEG for illustrations and general use.

10.1.2. Photographs for photogrammetry will be taken in JPEG format and processed using Agisoft Metascape v. 1.6.3. Orthographically corrected elevations photos will be produced in JPEG format and converted to TIFF for archiving.

10.2. Any topographic survey will be carried out using a Leica TS06 total station with the data processed using NRG Engineering Surveying System V2016.00.

10.2.1. Survey files will be converted to DXF format.

10.3. Initial written notes will be made on an "i Pad" using the "Pages" app. These will be converted to WORD format (.docx) format on downloading

10.4. The text for the report will be produced in Word (.docx) format

10.5. Drawing will be made in TurboCad 2021 v. 28.0 and stored in .TCW format. These will be converted into .DXF or .DWG format for archiving.

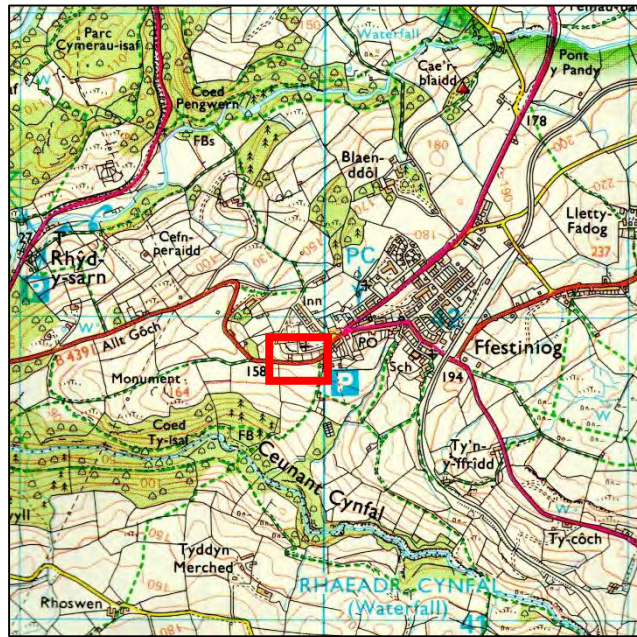
10.6. The report will be converted to .PDF format using Expert PDF 15.

10.7. All files will be stored on the company laptop computer and backed up onto a

suitable storage device.

11. Copyright

- 11.1. EAS Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documentation, under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 11.2. EAS Ltd is prepared to assign a licence to the client for the use of the report and any associated data.



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Figure 1: Location

Appendix 2: List of Photographs in the Archive

Frame	Scale	Description
St Michaels 001	2 m	Eastern gable
St Michaels 002	2 m	Detail of the triple window in the eastern gable
St Michaels 003	2 m	Eastern gable of vestry
St Michaels 004	2 m	North elevation of the vestry
St Michaels 005		Carved head above the vestry door
St Michaels 006	2 m	North Elevation
St Michaels 007	2 m	West elevation of the vestry
St Michaels 008	2 m	West elevation
St Michaels 009		Detail of the blocked window in the western gable
St Michaels 010		Detail of the blocked window in the western gable
St Michaels 011		Bellcote, looking east
St Michaels 012	2 m	Western elevation of the porch
St Michaels 013	2 m	Southern elevation the porch
St Michaels 014	0.5 m	Ordnance Survey bench mark plate
St Michaels 015		Detail of the Ordnance Survey bench mark plate
St Michaels 016	2 m	Eastern elevation of porch
St Michaels 017		Bellcote looking NW
St Michaels 018	0.5 m	Carved cross by the porch
St Michaels 019	2 m	North elevation looking NW
St Michaels 020	2 m	Part of northern elevation
St Michaels 021	2 m	Part of northern elevation
St Michaels 022	2 m	Cellar door
St Michaels 023	2 m	Cellar door
St Michaels 024	2 m	Southern elevation of the chancel
St Michaels 025		Crosses on the gables of the nave and chancel, looking NW
St Michaels 026		Gargoyle on the SE corner of the nave
St Michaels 027		Gargoyle on the NE corner of nave
St Michaels 028		Gargoyle of the NW corner of the nave
St Michaels 029	2 m	Main door to the church within the porch
St Michaels 030		Plaque recording a grant from Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches
St Michaels 031		Plaque recording a grant from the Incorporated Church Building Society
St Michaels 032		Porch roof structure, looking south
St Michaels 033	2 m	Inner side of the outer door to the porch
St Michaels 034	2 m	Inner side of the main church door
St Michaels 035		Lock of the main church door
St Michaels 036		View of the nave, looking west
St Michaels 037	2 m	Southern pilaster supporting the gallery
St Michaels 038	2 m	Southern pilaster supporting the gallery
St Michaels 039	2 m	Central column supporting the gallery
St Michaels 040	2 m	Central column supporting the gallery
St Michaels 041	2 m	Northern pilaster supporting the gallery
St Michaels 042	2 m	Northern pilaster supporting the gallery
St Michaels 043		Font
St Michaels 044		Font
St Michaels 045	2 m	Staircase to the gallery
St Michaels 046	2 m	Staircase to the gallery
St Michaels 047		Underside of the gallery, looking SW
St Michaels 048		Corbels supporting the gallery, looking south

Frame	Scale	Description
St Michaels 049	2 m	Re-used panelling stored in the nave
St Michaels 050	1 m	Newel post
St Michaels 051	1 m	Newel post
St Michaels 052		Window at the base of the stairs to the gallery
St Michaels 053		Window at the base of the stairs to the gallery
St Michaels 054	2 m	The gallery, looking north
St Michaels 055	2 m	The gallery, looking north
St Michaels 056	2 m	Corbel in the NW corner of the gallery
St Michaels 057	2 m	Corbel in the NW corner of the gallery
St Michaels 058	1 m	Corbel in the NE corner of the gallery with the remains of a light fitting
St Michaels 059	1 m	Corbel in the NE corner of the gallery with the remains of a light fitting
St Michaels 060	1 m	Remaining pews in the gallery, looking west
St Michaels 061	1 m	Remaining pews in the gallery, looking west
St Michaels 062	1 m	Remaining pews in the gallery, looking NW
St Michaels 063	1 m	Remaining pews in the gallery, looking NW
St Michaels 064	1 m	Corbel in the SW corner of the gallery
St Michaels 065	1 m	Corbel in the SW corner of the gallery
St Michaels 066	1 m	Corbel in the SE corner of the gallery with possible light fitting
St Michaels 067	1 m	Corbel in the SE corner of the gallery with possible light fitting
St Michaels 068		Chancel window
St Michaels 069		Chancel window
St Michaels 070		General view down the nave to the chancel
St Michaels 071		General view down the nave to the chancel
St Michaels 072		General view down the nave to the chancel
St Michaels 073		Trusses in the nave, looking east
St Michaels 074		Trusses in the nave, looking east
St Michaels 075		Trusses in the nave, looking NE
St Michaels 076		Trusses in the nave, looking NE
St Michaels 077		Trusses in the nave, looking SE
St Michaels 078		Stained glass window in the north side of the nave
St Michaels 079		Stained glass window in the north side of the nave
St Michaels 080		Stained glass window in the north side of the nave
St Michaels 081		Window adjacent to the chancel arch on the north side of the nave
St Michaels 082		Chancel window, looking ESE
St Michaels 083		Stained glass window in south side of the nave
St Michaels 084		Stained glass window in south side of the nave
St Michaels 085		Nave and chancel arch, looking east
St Michaels 086	2 m	Southern column of the chancel arch and the doorway for the pulpit
St Michaels 087	2 m	Southern column of the chancel arch and the doorway for the pulpit
St Michaels 088	2 m	Southern column of the chancel arch and the doorway for the pulpit
St Michaels 089	2 m	Pulpit
St Michaels 090	2 m	Pulpit
St Michaels 091		Corbels supporting the chancel roof, looking NE
St Michaels 092	1 m	Column base for the chancel arch
St Michaels 093	1 m	Column base for the chancel arch
St Michaels 094	1 m	Column base for the chancel arch
St Michaels 095		Decorative key stone over the doorway for the pulpit
St Michaels 096		Decorative key stone over the doorway for the pulpit
St Michaels 097		Decorative key stone over the doorway for the pulpit
St Michaels 098	2 m	Doorway from the chancel to the pulpit passage, looking SE

Frame	Scale	Description
St Michaels 099	2 m	Doorway from the chancel to the pulpit passage, looking SE
St Michaels 100	2 m	Doorway from the chancel to the pulpit passage, looking SE
St Michaels 101	2 m	Door from the chancel to the vestry
St Michaels 102	2 m	Door from the chancel to the vestry
St Michaels 103	2 m	Door from the chancel to the vestry
St Michaels 104	1 m	Altar rail
St Michaels 105	1 m	Altar rail
St Michaels 106	1 m	Altar rail
St Michaels 107		Relationship between the northern wall of the chancel and the chancel arch
St Michaels 108		Relationship between the northern wall of the chancel and the chancel arch
St Michaels 109		Relationship between the northern wall of the chancel and the chancel arch
St Michaels 110	2 m	Inside of the vestry door from the chancel
St Michaels 111	1 m	Fireplace in the vestry
St Michaels 112	2 m	Partially blocked recess in the vestry
St Michaels 113		Displaced door in the vestry
St Michaels 114	1 m	Vestry cupboard
St Michaels 115	1 m	Vestry cupboard
St Michaels 116	1 m	Vestry cupboard
St Michaels 117		Safe in the vestry
St Michaels 118		Safe in the vestry
St Michaels 119	1 m	Safe in the vestry
St Michaels 120	2 m	Inside of the door between the vestry and the churchyard
St Michaels 121	2 m	Inside of the door between the vestry and the churchyard
St Michaels 122		Central tunnel below the nave, looking west
St Michaels 123		Northern tunnel, looking north
St Michaels 124		Northern tunnel, looking north
St Michaels 125		Brickwork above the northern tunnel
St Michaels 126		Brickwork above the northern tunnel
St Michaels 127		Southern tunnel, looking south
St Michaels 128		Southern tunnel, looking south
St Michaels 129		Heating system in the NW sector of the cellar
St Michaels 130		Iron pipe, probably part of the heating system in NW corner of the cellar
St Michaels 131		Part of an old heating system in SW sector of the cellar, looking S
St Michaels 132		Village bier on the eastern wall of the cellar
St Michaels 133		Part of old heating system in the SW sector of the cellar, looking west
St Michaels 134		Old school desk in the cellar
St Michaels 135	1 m	Coffin shaped box in the cellar
St Michaels 136	1 m	Coffin shaped box in the cellar
St Michaels 137		Old heating system in the NW sector of the cellar
St Michaels 138		Old heating system in the NW sector of the cellar

Appendix 3: Listing Description

Source:	https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=&id=87659
Reference Number	87659
Building Number	
Grade	II
Status	Designated
Date of Designation	18/09/2012
Date of Amendment	18/09/2012
Name of Property	Church of St Michael
Address	
Location	
Unitary Authority	Gwynedd
Community	Ffestiniog
Town	
Locality	Llan Ffestiniog
Easting	269938
Northing	341900
Street Side	
Location	On a promontory of high ground at the western end of Llan Ffestiniog, set back slightly from the informal village square.

Description

Broad Class Religious, Ritual and Funerary

Period

History Designed by Henry Kennedy, a prominent architect in North Wales in the second half of the C19 and for most of that time serving as Diocesan architect. Constructed 1843-5 on the site of an earlier church and in response to local population growth associated with slate quarrying in the area. The Neo-Norman style was briefly popular for church architecture in the 1830s and 1840s and St Michael's was described by Samuel Lewis in 1849 as 'one of the neatest and most commodious churches in North Wales'. Kennedy also used this style for Llanllechid (1844) before adopting the Gothic style approved by the Ecclesiological Society for church building. Restored in 1913 by Harold Hughes.

Exterior	Neo-Norman parish church of nave, chancel, west bellcote (replacing original spirelet), south porch and north vestry. Grey limestone, round-arched windows with linking string course and shallow buttresses and low plinth. Nave of 5 bays, western bay blind. West end with 3 windows and tall gable window above. East window with 3 lights under a big arched hood. Gablet crosses to east gable of nave and chancel. Slate roof. South porch added in restoration of 1913.
Interior	Broad interior, roof formed of slender trusses sprung from corbels, and with open framing. Short chancel with a flat roll moulded horseshoe chancel arch on fat round columns. Deep timber gallery to west end set on stone columns. Square timber pulpit, Font in silver granite. Late C19 stained glass E window, S window by CC Powell c.1944, N window by Jones & Willis, c.1914.
Reason for designation	Included as a well preserved mid C19 parish church, of special architectural interest for the use of the Neo-Norman style, one of the few examples in Wales of this style. Also important for its special historic interest as an early building by one of the major architects of the Victorian period in North Wales and an unusual example of his early work before he adopted the more acceptable Gothic style. Group Value with other listed items nearby.