

**Level 3 Historic Building Recording:
Treharris Public Library, Perrott Street,
Treharris**

June 2024



Report No. 2296



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Prepared for: Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Report No.2296

Version	Date	Sections Revised	Prepared/Revised by	Checked & Authorised by
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Summary

This report results from a Level 3 Building Recording undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at Treharris Public Library on Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil, CF46 5ET. The site is centred on NGR ST 09906 96959. The building is a Grade II listed building (LB 80909)

The survey relates to the refurbishment of the library building and is associated with an application for Listed Building Consent (No. P/23/0232) which was granted on 14th May 2024.

Treharris Public Library is a Grade II listed building, constructed in Edwardian free style and opened in 1909. It is one of six local libraries built by the Carnegie Foundation in Merthyr Tydfil Borough, two of which have been demolished.

The building is single storey, with a rear basement storey where the ground slopes down to the rear of the building. It is a rectangular, hipped-roof building with two large symmetrical cross-gables to the front elevation onto Perrott Street. The library is constructed of red brick and Bath Stone in Edwardian free style.

Early photographs of the building indicate that the building remains essentially the same as its original design with the interior retaining many contemporary details, including a large bow window to the original reception, decorative cornices, and wooden panel doors with decorative glazed panels.

All works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2019).

Crynodeb Annechnegol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ganlyniad i Gofnod Adeiladau Lefel 3 a gynhaliwyd gan Archaeology Wales Cyf yn Llyfrgell Gyhoeddus Treharris ar Stryd Perrott, Merthyr Tudful, CF46 5ET. Mae canolbwynt y safle wedi'i leoli yn NGR ST 09906 96959. Mae'r adeilad yn adeilad rhestredig Gradd II (LB 80909)

Mae'r arolwg yn ymwneud â'r gwaith o adnewyddu adeilad y llyfrgell ac mae'n gysylltiedig â chais ar gyfer Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig (Rhif P/23/0232) a gyflwynwyd ar 14eg Mai 2024.

Mae Llyfrgell Gyhoeddus Treharris yn adeilad rhestredig Gradd II, a adeiladwyd mewn arddull rhydd Edwardaidd ac a agorwyd ym 1909. Mae'n un o chwe llyfrgell leol a adeiladwyd gan Ymddiriedolaeth Carnegie ym Mwrdeistref Merthyr Tudful, y mae dau ohonynt wedi'u dymchwel.

Mae un llawr i'r adeilad, ac mae islawr yng nghefn yr adeilad lle y mae'r tir ar lethr yn mynd i lawr i gefn yr adeilad. Mae'n adeilad siâp petryal â tho talcennog sydd â dau dalcen croes cymesur ar du blaen yr adeilad ar Stryd Perrot. Mae'r adeilad wedi'i wneud o frics coch a Charreg Caerfaddon mewn arddull rhydd Edwardaidd.

Mae ffotograffau cynnar o'r adeilad yn dangos bod yr adeilad yn sylfaenol yr un fath a'i ddyluniad gwreiddiol ac mae nifer o'r manylion cyfoes y tu mewn i'r adeilad wedi goroesi, gan gynnwys ffenestr fwa fawr yn y dderbynfa wreiddiol, cornisiau addurniadol a drysau â phaneli coed gyda phaneli gwydr addurnedig.

Gwnaed yr holl waith yn unol â Safonau a Chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr ar gyfer Ymchwiliadau Archeolegol a Chofnodi Adeiladau neu Strwythurau sy'n Sefyll (2019).

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. In May 2024, Archaeology Wales was commissioned to undertake a Level 3 Building Recording at the Treharris Public Library, a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909), on Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil, CF46 5ET (Figure 1). This programme of work was undertaken at the request of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) (henceforth – the client).
- 1.1.2. This Level 3 Building Recording related to proposed refurbishment of the existing public library building, located at National Grid Reference ST 09906 96959. The details of the proposed development were described as being the demolition of extension, replacement of walkway shelter, installation of Air Source Heat Pumps, erection of cycle and bin stores, refurbishment and repair to building and other internal and external alterations.
- 1.1.3. An application for Listed Building Consent (No. P/23/0232) regarding the above works was submitted on 5th October 2023 on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. This was granted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council on 14th May 2024.
- 1.1.4. To ensure that the work was carried out in a suitable manner, the Listed Building Consent approval was subject to compliance with conditions. The following condition (No.3) was attached and stated:

No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate Level III Programme of Historic Building and Analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.'

Reason: As the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact in accordance with Policy CW1 of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Replacement Local

Development Plan.

- 1.1.5. The Adopted Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) recognises that the area has valuable heritage assets relating to the area's industrial past that form an important part of the Borough's character and community. Policy CW1: The Historic Environment states that:

"Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character or the historic or cultural importance of our designated historic environment assets" (MTCBC, 2020: 47).

- 1.1.6. In 2022 (updated 2023), a Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by Archaeology Wales which concluded that at the core of the development proposals was a desire to restore and preserve the historical value of the library. It also stated that the work would enhance the building's communal value by allowing it to return to use as a public library and community hub (AW, 2022).
- 1.1.7. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared and approved by Archaeological Planning Heneb Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology (APHGGA), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Appendix I). The building recording was completed in May 2024 by a suitably experienced building recording archaeologist.
- 1.1.8. All works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2020). Archaeology Wales Ltd is a Registered Organisation with CIfA.

2. Site Description

- 1.1.1. The site is located at postcode CF46 5ET in the community and small town of Treharris in the Taff Bargoed Valley roughly 10km south of Merthyr Tydfil and 22.50km north-west of Cardiff. It is situated between the similar sized settlements of Edwardsville and Trelewis, with Abercynon further south where the Taff Bargoed River joins to the River Taff.
- 1.1.2. The Treharris Public Library is a Grade II listed building (LB 80909) that lies within the Treharris Conservation Area (MTCBC, 2009) at NGR ST 09906 96959. It is situated close to the centre of Treharris on the east corner of Perrott Street at the junction with Edward Street. The library building lies at approximately 148.80m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), on ground that slopes down to the south and east.
- 1.1.3. Recently, the library structure has been described as having fallen into disrepair and suffered from water ingress through the roof. This has caused damage, particularly to the two gables at the front of the building (AW 2022).
- 1.1.4. Buildings that surround the library are characterised as a mixture of shops and businesses, a few of which are boarded up, and some houses. To the rear, there is a medium sized car park, beyond which the ground slopes sharply down towards the Taff Bargoed River.

3. Methodology

- 3.1.1. A Level 3 Building Recording is an analytical and descriptive record. Its primary objective is to describe and record, by means of high-resolution digital photography, all of the key internal and external components of the affected building so that a permanent record survives prior to its renovation.
- 3.1.2. The research and investigation into the building and its setting has included

an examination of primary and secondary sources, including information provided by Cadw on designated historic and archaeological assets, all relevant archaeological reports on works undertaken on the site and in the area, aerial photographic evidence, historic mapping, place name evidence and all relevant sources held in local, regional, and national archives.

- 3.1.3. The Level 3 Building Recording was managed and undertaken by Charley James Martin (MCIfA), a suitably experienced building recording archaeologist who can understand and interpret the structure and record the important details. The photographic and drawn record was a comprehensive record to archive standard of the existing buildings and structures, both externally and internally. The survey was undertaken after development works had been initiated on the structure, however this was not detrimental to the recording process.
- 3.1.4. Descriptive records were made, and photographs were taken of the exterior and interior of the historic structure. Access was possible to all the exterior and interior of the building, including the lower ground floor. The attic was not accessed and a modern single-story extension at the rear had already been demolished. Plans and elevations of the building have been provided by the client (Figures 2-6). Photographs were taken in high-resolution digital format with a measured scale where possible. Plans showing the photo locations have been produced.
- 3.1.5. The work has been completed in accordance with CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2020) and to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 2, laid out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2016).

4. Historical Background

- 4.1.1. The town of Treharris developed in the late 19th century as a coal mining settlement and is first depicted on the 1901 OS map. Prior to this, the area had been a scattered landscape of farmsteads, enclosed fields and open upland areas.
- 4.1.2. After the Harris Navigation Colliery was started in 1873, work began around 1879 on constructing the new town of Treharris (MTCBC, 2009). Perrott Street had been part of the original town layout and was depicted on the 1901 OS map, but without the library building. This first appeared on the 1919 OS map as a rectangular shaped structure in an irregular plot which backed onto the, now gone, railway line (Figure 7).
- 4.1.3. The library was formally opened on the 20th of October 1909 by the Mayor of Merthyr, Alderman Wilson (The Cardiff Times, 1909). The purpose-built building was designed by a local architect, William Dowdeswell. His other works included Parish Halls in Treharris and Aberfan, churches in Bedlinog and Merthyr Vale, and several local housing schemes (architecture.arthistoryresearch.net/architects/dowdeswell-william).
- 4.1.4. The library was built by the Merthyr County Borough Council, although Andrew Carnegie provided £1,750 of the £2,340 cost (The Cardiff Times, 1909). It was one of six branch libraries to be funded by Carnegie in the Borough, along with a central library in Merthyr Tydfil. The others were at Dowlais, Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Abercanaid, and Pen-y-Darren (carnegielibrariesofbritain.com). Only Treharris and Dowlais still function as libraries, while Abercanaid and Pen-y-Darren have been demolished.
- 4.1.5. An article in the Evening Express from the 20th October 1909 regarding the opening of the building described it as "a rectangular structure in the English Renaissance style. The main elevation fronts Perrott-street, and is faced with

Edwards's Ruabon red bricks, with dressings in St. Aldhehns' box ground Bath stone. The entrance gives access to a spacious vestibule, whence one passes to the main hall. The lending library has space for 3,600 volumes. To the left of the main hall is the men's reading-room, extending from the front to the rear of the building. To the right of the hall is the ladies' reading-room, with sitting accommodation for sixteen readers. The librarian's room is so placed as to command a view of the whole of the building. The whole of the sculptural carving has been executed by Mr. Frank Ekers, of Newport."

- 4.1.6. The opening ceremony itself involved a procession of the Mayor and officials of the Merthyr Corporation, hundreds of school children, and around 40 police officers from the train station to the new library building. Unfortunately, due to the library currently having moved out of their premises, it has not been possible to obtain copies of photographs from the day held in their collection.
- 4.1.7. Early photographs of the building curated by local history groups show that it has not changed substantially from its original design (Figure 8). The top of the cupola, of which only the base now remains, can just be seen. The main changes are to the surrounding area, as a building now sits on the formerly empty plot to the north, while a gate and gate post attached to the south wall has been removed.
- 4.1.8. In 1933, a large square iron clock was installed above the entrance by John Smith and Sons of Derby (<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/87577>). The clock was a memorial to those from Treharris who died in the First World War, and there is a memorial plaque on the wall to the right of the entrance. A second plaque was added to commemorate the Second World War in 2002. Restoration work on the clock in 1989 included the replacement of the mechanism, it is currently undergoing further restoration.

- 4.1.9. The Cadw listing report states that in 1987 the side door on the north elevation became the principal entrance to the library. It is therefore likely that the existing canopy over the side door dates to 1987.
- 4.1.10. The rear extension was added to the library in the mid-2000s, with Listed Building Consent being granted for it in April 2004 (P/14/0104).
- 4.1.11. In 2014, Listed Building Consent (P/14/0104) was given for the replacement of single glazing to the rear and south elevations with double glazed uPVC windows after problems with vandalism. The stained-glass windows to the front and north elevations were fitted with galvanised metal protection grills to prevent further damage. The consent also included the reinstatement of the decorative cupola and re-rendering. At a similar time, plasterboard with a plastic sheet lining was fitted to the west and north interior walls of the south cross-gable in an attempt to deal with damp problems caused by roof leaks.
- 4.1.12. The building is currently closed due to the need for repairs and refurbishment, but the library continues to operate out of Treharris Community Centre as a social and educational hub for the local community.

5. Building description

5.1. General

- 5.1.1. Treharris Library is an early 20th century, rectangular shaped, hipped-roof building with two large symmetrical cross-gables to the front elevation onto Perrot Street constructed in Edwardian free style of Bath stone, Pennant stone and red brick (Plate 1).
- 5.1.2. The roof is a timber pitched structure with natural slate and ceramic ridge tiles, textured to the ground floor and smooth to the basement. The central apex holds the lead base of a cupola, which was missing its upper element at the time of the visit. It has a single storey front facing the street (west) and a partial lower ground floor to the rear (east) on the downslope side.
- 5.1.3. The WC extension to the rear had been demolished by the time of the visit but had been recorded during the previous Heritage Impact Assessment. It had an artificial slate roof covering with terracotta ridge tiles (Plate 2).
- 5.1.4. Iron rainwater pipes run down between storeys on both side elevations and rear.
- 5.1.5. The building is orientated north to south, with the original front entrance facing west. After renovation works in 1987, the entry point was moved to the northern end of the building, through a covered side door leading directly into the main library room. This was accessed from the street via a set of decorated white metal gates that matched those flanking the original entranceway. These gates spanned the gap between the library and adjacent building at No. 8 Perrot Street.
- 5.1.6. In the Glamorgan volume of the Buildings of Wales series, Newman described the Treharris Library building as:

‘An enjoyably reckless little piece of Edwardian Baroque. lit by

yawningly wide Venetian windows with stumpy Ionic colonettes' (Newman, 2004: 637).

- 5.1.7. A detailed description of the building is provided below. The photograph locations for the ground floor and the exterior are provided in Figure 9 and the basement photograph locations are shown on Figure 10.

5.2. Front (west facing) elevation

- 5.2.1. The main entrance is located to the centre of the front elevation. Low sandstone walls with iron railings curve up either side of four stone recessed steps to the recessed doorway (Plate 3). The surround is of Bath Stone and has Ionic columns supporting a segmental curved hood on acanthus carved brackets. Below the hood is a decoratively carved tympanum which has a roundel cartouche with sprays on either side. Above the curved hood of the doorway is a bath stone centrepiece featuring a stone carved shield with the Merthyr Tydfil Coat of Arms. The shield sits just below the string course, over which is a frieze with an unfurling ribbon hosting the Latin motto 'Nid cadarn ond Brodyrdde' and oak leaves in the centre. On either side of the frieze are the incised words 'FREE' and 'LIBRARY' with the continuation of the modillion cornice from the gable ends running above. An ashlar parapet is positioned centrally at roof level, flanked by two stone block plinths. The mid-section of the parapet is decorated with a sunken frame containing the word 'TREHARRIS' (Plate 4).
- 5.2.2. The First World War memorial iron clock that normally projects out from the hood is currently being restored.
- 5.2.3. The side edges of the central bay are red brick all the way up to the string course. On either side of the doorway are paired vertically rectangular windows, fitted with an ashlar stone sill and lintel with dripstone. The central section of the middle bay is constructed of Bath stone up to, and including,

the parapet.

- 5.2.4. The outer bays of the front elevation, to the cross-gables, each have a large, recessed Palladian window with Ionic columns, moulded arch and cornice of Bath Stone (Plates 5 and 6). The glazing is decorative coloured leaded glass, with the large central panel having an arch design with a lamp above and the two side panels having wreaths. The windows are covered by galvanized metal grills.
- 5.2.5. The upper parts of the piers have a string course set below the modillion cornices with ashlar stone block plinths above at roof level. Between the pier cornices, moulded coping spans over the peaks of each gable end.

5.3. South facing elevation

- 5.3.1. The south facing end wall is plain rendered, the lower portion stepped outwards and painted pink. The ground floor has two rectangular windows, the one to the right is a three light wooden framed casement window, while that to the left is a similar style uPVC unit (Plates 7 and 8). The historic photograph (Figure 8) shows that these would originally have been decorative stained glass.
- 5.3.2. Four small, decorative ceramic vents surrounding the windows also appear on the historic photo which are still present although the furthest right one is covered by ivy but is presumed to remain.

5.4. Rear (east facing) elevation

- 5.4.1. The rear of the building is two-storey, with the basement storey being above ground level due to the sloping ground. The upper part is pebble-dashed with the lower part being smooth rendered (Plate 9). The former extension, noted in the HIA, has been recently demolished revealing the modern solid wood door forming the rear entrance.

- 5.4.2. The ground floor (upper level) has eight windows. These are arranged with two rectangular windows on the left side, three central windows and a Palladian window on the far right. They all have simple stone sills and lintels. Five of the windows, including the arched one, retain their original leaded stained glass and the other three are three light wooden framed casement windows that appear to be of mid 20th century date. The basement has three windows to the centre of the elevation directly below the three on the ground floor, all with single light, uPVC windows covered by a protective metal grill (Plate 10).
- 5.4.3. Immediately to the right of the rear door is a blocked window opening with a boiler flue to the upper part of the boarding.

5.5. North facing elevation

- 5.5.1. The north-facing elevation is similarly pebble-dashed on the upper and rendered on the lower part (Plates 11 and 12). It has a wooden door with four glazed panels, and a transom light above (Plate 13). The previous lean-to style entrance canopy over the door, seen during the HIA, has been removed and a new blockwork walkway has been constructed. The approach to the door is concrete, and there are concrete/block steps down to the paved side of the building to access the rear space. The three windows, two to the left of the door and one to the right, are all decorative stained glass with a crest design. They are slightly recessed and have simple bevelled stone sills and lintels (Plate 8). The original air vents are visible on this elevation.

5.6. Interior

Ground Floor

Entrance Lobby and Reception

- 5.6.1. The door is recessed into the main entrance, the recess has a mosaic floor depicting the letters 'CL' inside a wreath (for Carnegie Library, Plate 14). There is also an Art Nouveau plaque that records the library opening (Plate 15). The

reception area is a rectangular room accessed by the front double doors. The doors are wooden framed with glazed panels to the upper part and a large transom light over (Plate 16).

- 5.6.2. On the opposite wall is a gently curving bay with the original large reception window (Plate 17). The window has seven narrow rectangular decorative leaded glazed panels in a wooden frame with moulded cornice to the top. To the central panel is a small serving window (Plate 18). Three doors lead from the reception into the main library, two either side of the reception window on the east wall, and one on the south wall. The doors are all wooden panel with a circular glazed panel to the upper with decorative glass. They have moulded surrounds with square detail to the top corners. On the north wall is flat arch opening to the main library with the same style of surround as the doors (Plate 19). The reception room has unvarnished parquet flooring, torus skirting boards, and decorative moulded coving.

Main Library

- 5.6.3. The main room is U-shaped in plan, with the projecting sections to the cross-gables at the front of the building. The ceiling in both projecting sections is higher than that behind the reception, to the centre of the room. Evidence for several former light fittings is present, the current comprising suspended strip lights. The flooring currently comprises timber floorboards edged with torus skirting boards. All the windows are recessed with bevelled angles to their reveals and simple wooden sills.
- 5.6.4. The northern arm of the room has a white painted curved ceiling (Plate 20) with three decorated hatches along its length. This area has Palladian windows on the western (Plate 20) and eastern walls (Plate 21) and three windows and a doorway on the northern wall (Plate 22). Along this northern wall are cast iron hinged ventilation baffles. A high picture rail runs the entire perimeter of

the northern section, the walls are painted blue below the rail and white above. Below the central window on the northern wall and beneath the central Palladian window, are cast iron column radiators, some bearing a shield and the name 'Musgrave & Co Ltd, Cardiff'.

- 5.6.5. The central section of the room has three rectangular windows to the eastern wall (Plates 23 and 24) with the western wall formed by the large curving reception window and the two flanking doors (Plate 25). Below the central window on the east wall was another Musgrave & Co radiator.
- 5.6.6. The southern section of the room has a flat ceiling with hipped edges and exposed rafters (Plate 26). This section has a partition wall running north – south with a large square arch with glazed panels above (Plates 27 and 28). This separates the Main Library from what is referred to as the Junior Library. Within the Main Library southern section is a singular rectangular window on the eastern wall with a Musgrave & Co radiator beneath (Plates 29-31). The remainder of this south-eastern corner is occupied by a partitioned area comprising the stairwell to the basement and the Project Room (Plate 29, described below).
- 5.6.7. The Junior Library has the Palladian windows to its western wall (Plate 32) and a modern uPVC window on its southern wall (Plate 33), both of which have the same cast iron radiators beneath. On the southern wall two further cast iron hinged ventilation baffles flank the uPVC window. On its north wall is a doorway through to a cloakroom and toilet and another to the reception (Plate 34).

Former Kitchen

- 5.6.8. Within the northern section of the Main Library there is a door on the south wall that leads into a small kitchen area, most of its fixtures and fittings now removed. The door is not original, but it appears to have been fitted within an

original opening. It has two rectangular windows looking out to the street front (Plate 36), which are recessed with bevelled angles to their reveals and simple wooden sills. The walls are painted plaster, and the room has parquet flooring and torus skirting (Plate 37).

Cloakroom and Toilet

- 5.6.9. Accessed from the Junior Library, through what looks to be an original door, is a small cloakroom and toilet. These rooms appear to have been subdivided after the original construction given the inelegant placement of the windows (Plate 38), which are in the same style as the kitchen although the surrounds look to have been modified or repaired (Plate 39). The toilet is fitted with modern fixtures.

Stairwell and Project Room

- 5.6.10. In the south-eastern corner of the Main Library an area is divided from the main room. This is presumably an original feature which would explain the asymmetrical window arrangement to the rear elevation. The full height partition from the children's room forms the west wall, while the north wall does not extend to the ceiling (Plate 40). The stairwell enclosure appears to be a later partition and has a modern door in simple wooden frame leading through to the main library. From the stairwell, the Project Room is accessed through a sliding door at the eastern end (Plate 41). The project Room appears to be original. It has a painted wooden ceiling, and its north wall has glazed panelling which has been boarded over on the north side (Plate 42). At the western end of the Project Room there is an original door which leads through to the Junior Library with painted glazed panelling to the left (Plate 43). A narrow rectangular window lies on its eastern wall (Plate 44) and a slightly larger window on its southern wall (Plate 45), both recessed with bevelled angles to their reveals and simple wooden sills. A small Musgrave radiator lies

beneath the southern window.

Basement- Training, Open Learning and Boiler Room

- 5.6.11. The access from the basement stairwell to the basement features a quarter turn staircase with wooden handrail, terminating within a small lobby (Plate 46). The lobby contained modern fixtures and fittings, painted plaster walls and a concrete floor which had been partially removed at the time of the visit.
- 5.6.12. From the lobby there is a modern doorway that leads through to the Training Room (Plate 47). This room also has painted plaster, a partially removed concrete floor and modern fittings. On the eastern wall is the rear entrance doorway, which once lead to the now demolished extension (Plate 48).
- 5.6.13. Also accessed from a modern doorway in the Lobby is the Boiler Room. It has exposed masonry to the north and east walls and a plaster stud wall to the south and west (Plate 49). On the east wall is the brick surround of a now blocked former opening.
- 5.6.14. The remaining room is accessed through a wide opening in the Lobby (Plate 50). Referred to as the Open Learning Room, it has fitted shelves along much of the usable wall space (Plate 51), while the larger part of the eastern wall comprises three modern uPVC rectangular windows with plain surrounds and timber sills and modern fittings throughout (Plate 52). In the north-west corner of the room is a store cupboard with plasterboard partitions.

6. Discussion and Interpretation

- 6.1.1. Treharris Public Library is a Grade II listed building (LB 80909). Treharris Public Library is representative of a trend in the south Wales valleys, also seen across other industrial communities of the UK, for the betterment and education of the working classes, arising from a liberal concern for the physical and moral health of those workers living in crowded slum areas. This involved not just educating children (for example in the opening of many colliery schools in the second half of the 19th century), but also adults. In 1850, the Public Libraries Act was passed, which allowed local authorities to use public funds to create public libraries (Historic England, 2016). Many Miners' Institutes, including their own libraries and reading rooms, were opened in the valleys, paid for by the workers by subscription with support from colliery owners (Baggs, 2001).
- 6.1.2. The purpose-built library was formally opened in 1909, with the construction funded by Scottish-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (The Cardiff Times, 1909). Carnegie's family emigrated from Dumfermline to Pittsburgh in 1848 (Griffiths 2021). The family was poor, so at the age of 13 he took a job in a cotton factory. In 1853 he became clerk and telegraph operator for the assistant superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Thomas Scott. Scott was impressed by him and encouraged him to buy shares in railroad companies. Carnegie made a series of shrewd investments in telegraphs, railroads, oil, and later steel (Griffiths 2021). When he sold his company, Carnegie Steel, in 1901 for nearly half a billion dollars he became the richest man in the world (<https://www.npr.org/>).
- 6.1.3. Carnegie believed that it was the responsibility of the wealthy to give back to communities so that the poor could improve their own lives. As a boy he had been unable to afford the subscription for a local library to improve his prospects. After being refused access by the library administrator because he

was not an apprentice, he got a letter published in a Pittsburgh newspaper arguing his case, resulting in the library being opened to working class men (<https://www.npr.org/>). He credited this library access with improving his own fortunes and this is why he chose public libraries as his philanthropic cause. He funded the building of 2,509 libraries around the world, including 34 in Wales (Griffiths 2021).

- 6.1.4. It is one of six local libraries built by the Carnegie Foundation in Merthyr Tydfil Borough, two of which have been demolished. Carnegie also built other libraries in the South Wales area, at Ebbw Vale, Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend, Port Talbot, and Swansea (carnegielibrariesofbritain.com). Each of the buildings had different, generally local, architects and varied in style, material and size. Treharris is one of the more elaborate architectural examples.
- 6.1.5. The Treharris Library building has survived with relatively few alterations. Early photographs of the building (Figure 8) demonstrate that the building remains largely the same as its original design and much of the original fabric and detail survive, both inside and out.
- 6.1.6. Large Palladian windows dominate the elevations, and an ashlar frieze with intricate decorative features creates an elegant and imposing characteristic of the front elevation. The symmetrical red brick gables set the library apart from any other buildings within the immediate area.
- 6.1.7. The interior retains many original details, including the large bow window of the original reception, decorative cornices, and wooden panel doors with decorative glazed panels and radiators.

Reliability of the building recording

- 6.1.8. Good access was possible to the exterior and interior of the building, with only the loft space inaccessible. This omission is not considered to impact the reliability of the building recording.

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D1262 - Thomas Francis, Grocer and Provision Merchant of Treharris, Records

ESBMT - Merthyr Tydfil School Board and Education Committee Schools Records

GC/EDLI/14-17 - Correspondence with Carnegie UK Trust regarding rural library scheme and County Library Scheme

UDCAE - Caerphilly Urban District Council Records



Figures

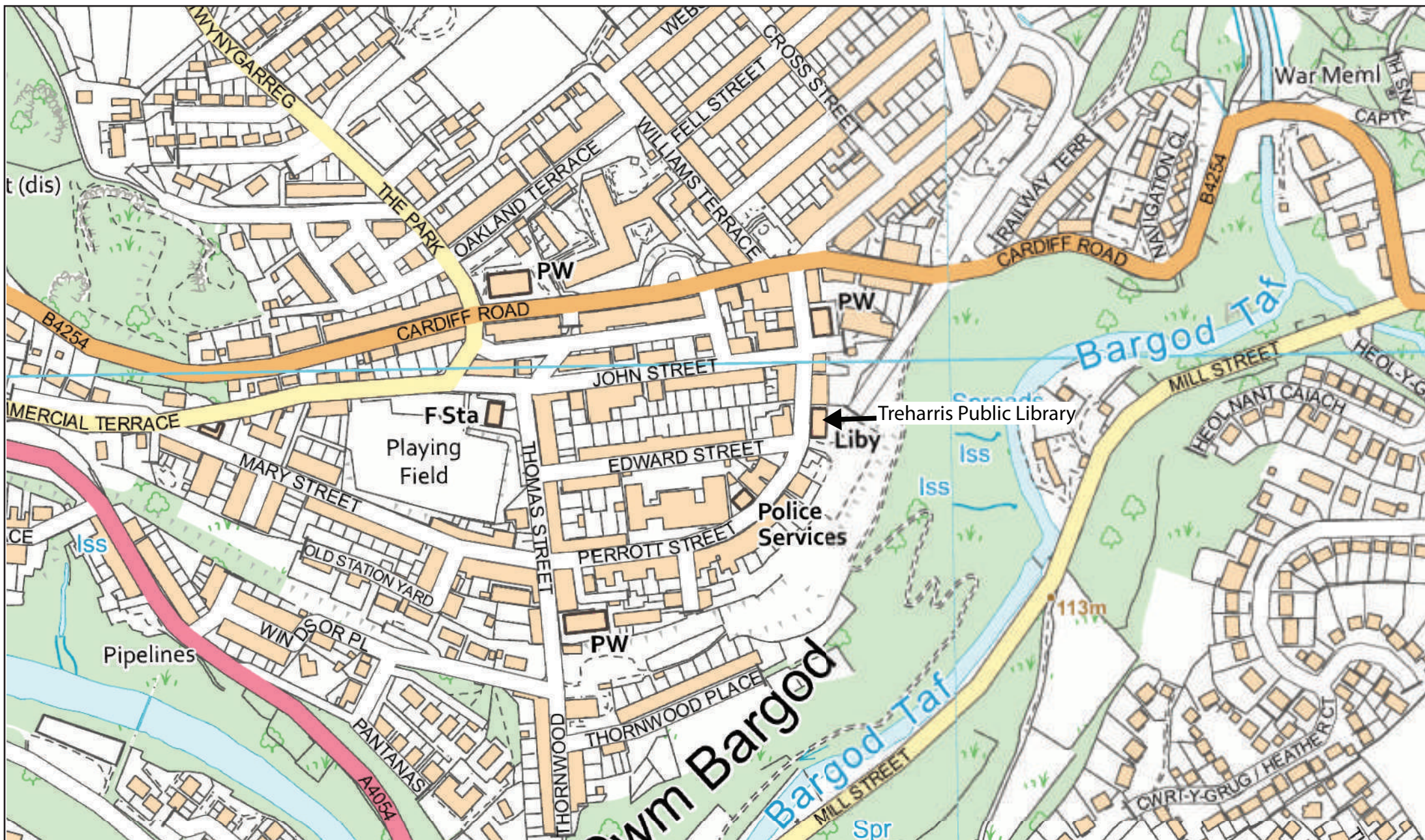


Figure 1 Location Plan

The Ordnance Survey has granted Archaeology Wales Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. 100055111) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.

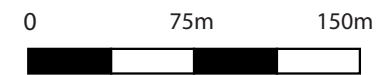
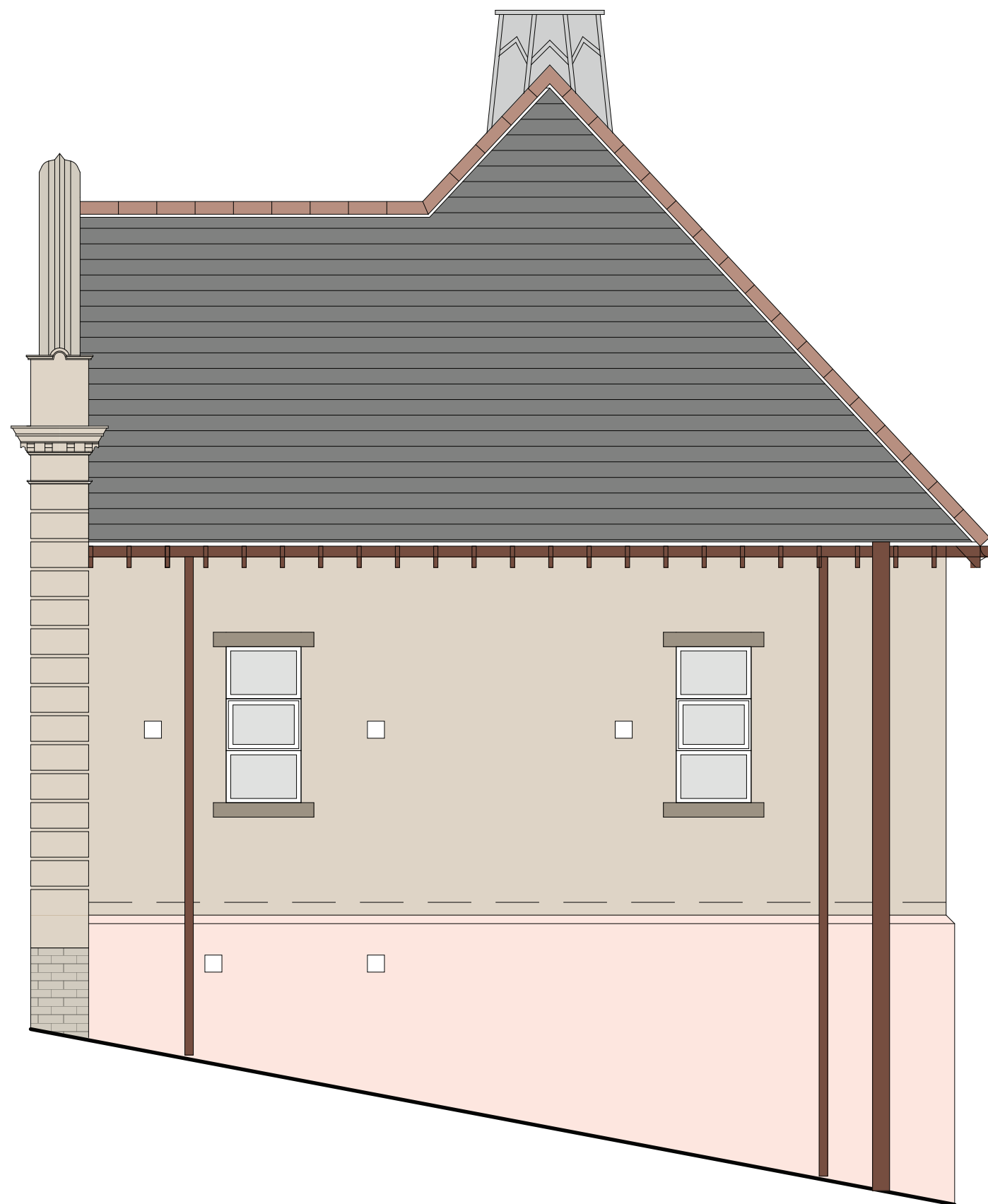




Figure 2. Front elevation

Plans and elevations provided by the Client





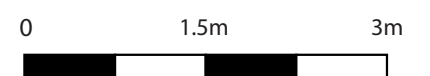
South facing



North facing

Figure 3. North and south facing elevations

Plans and elevations provided by the Client



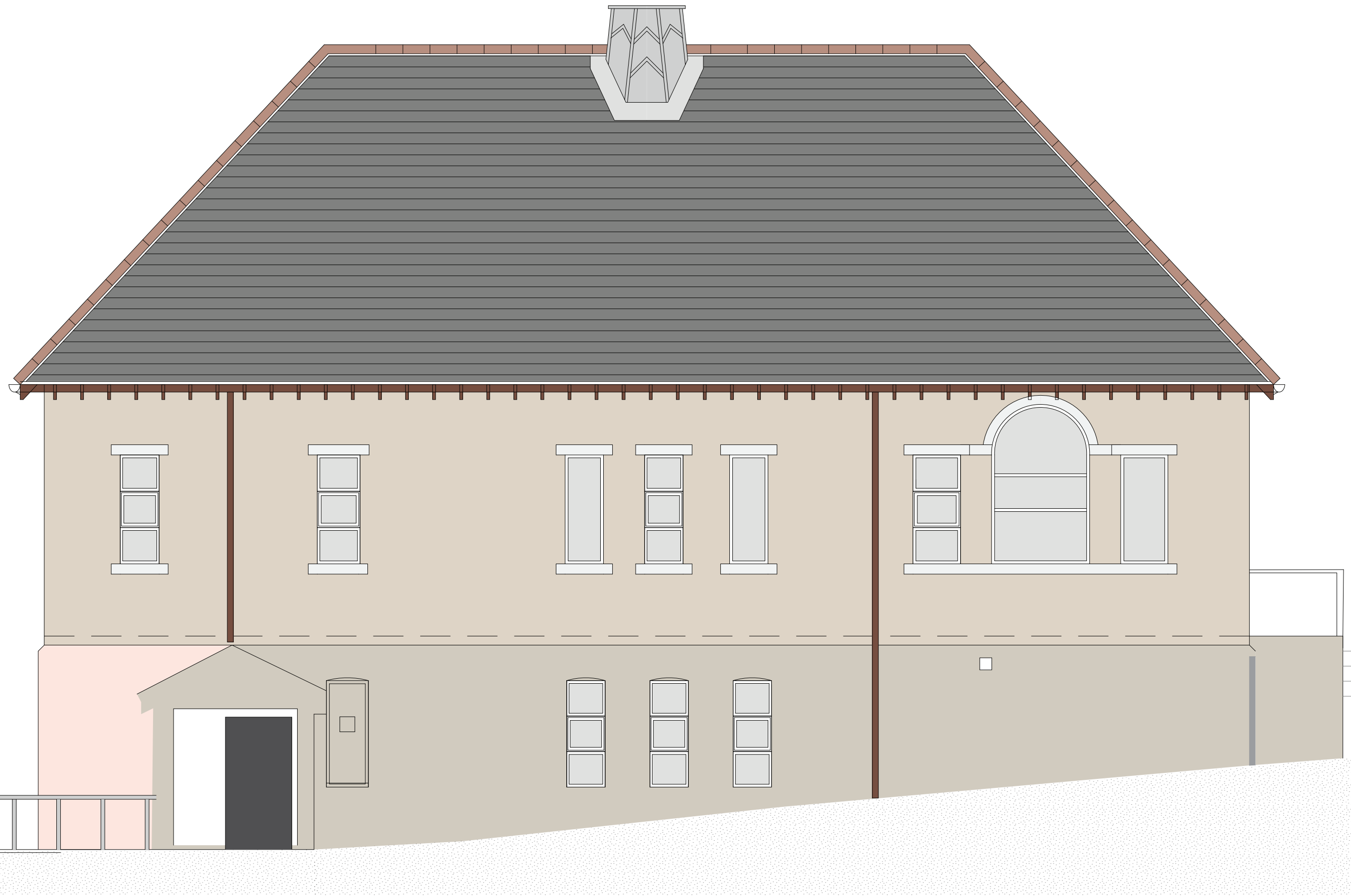


Figure 4. Rear elevation



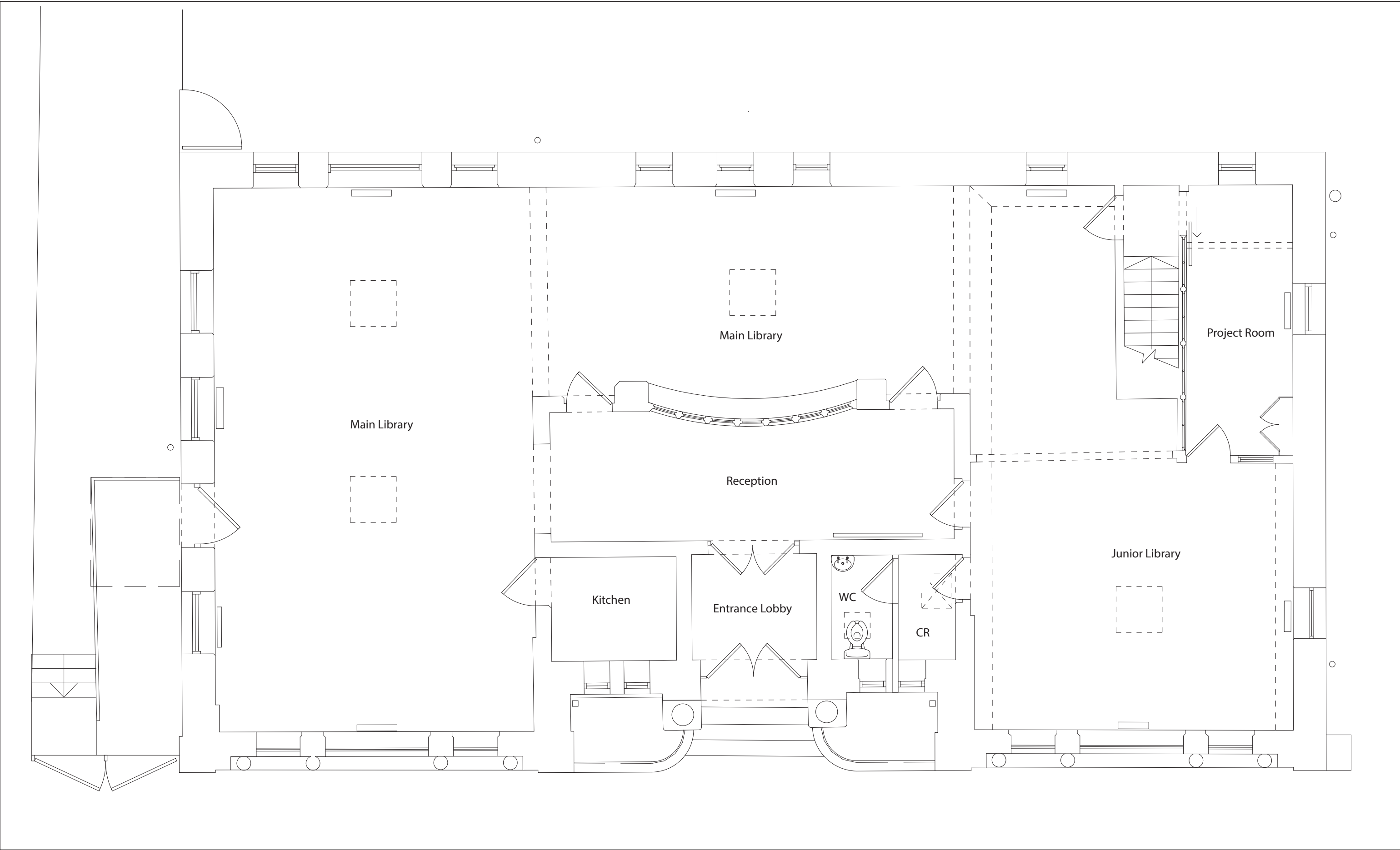


Figure 5. Plan of the ground floor

Base plan provided the Client

0

1.5m

3m

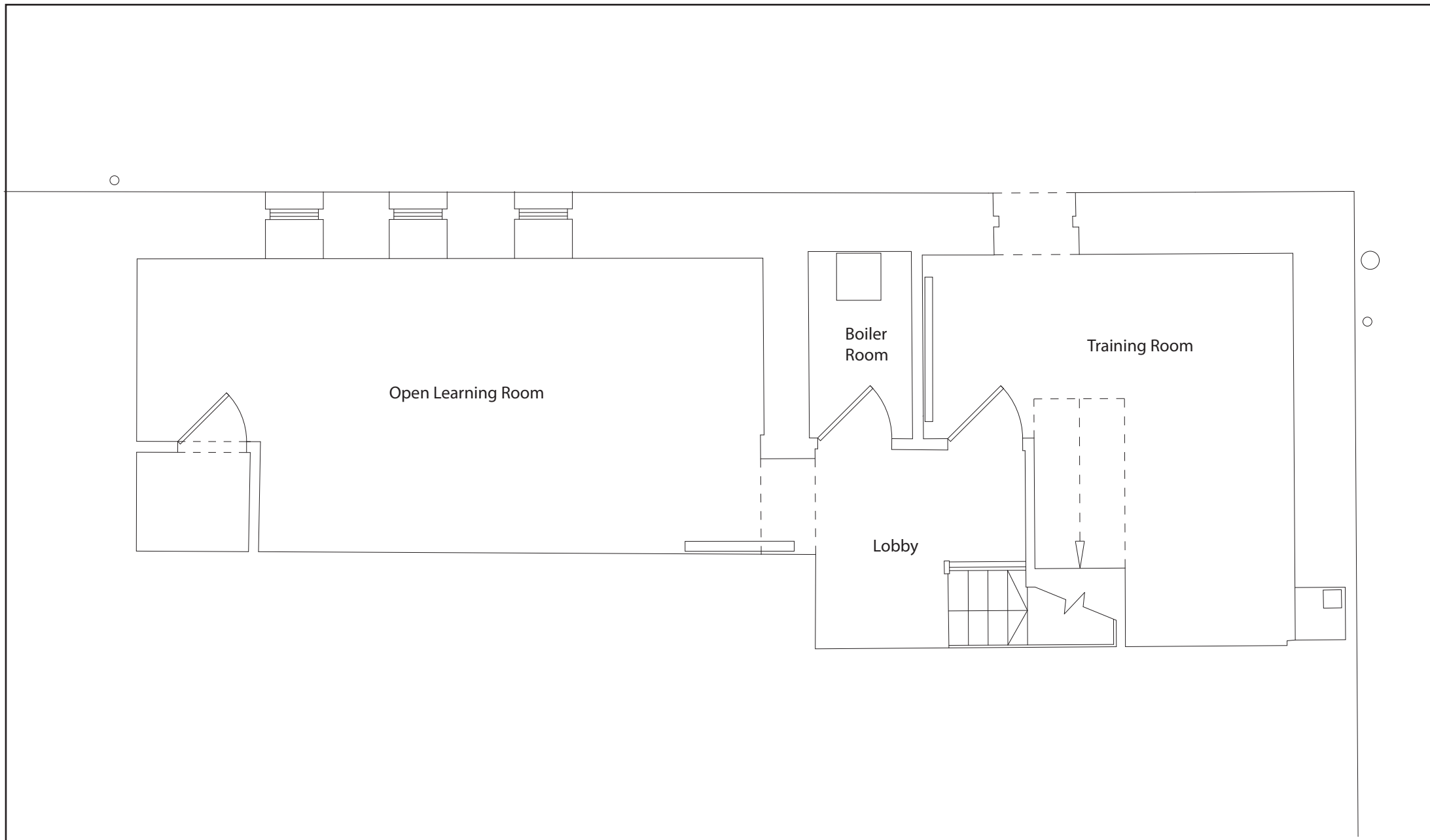
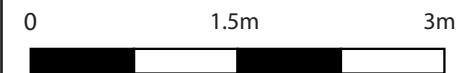


Figure 6. Basement plan

Base plan provided the Client



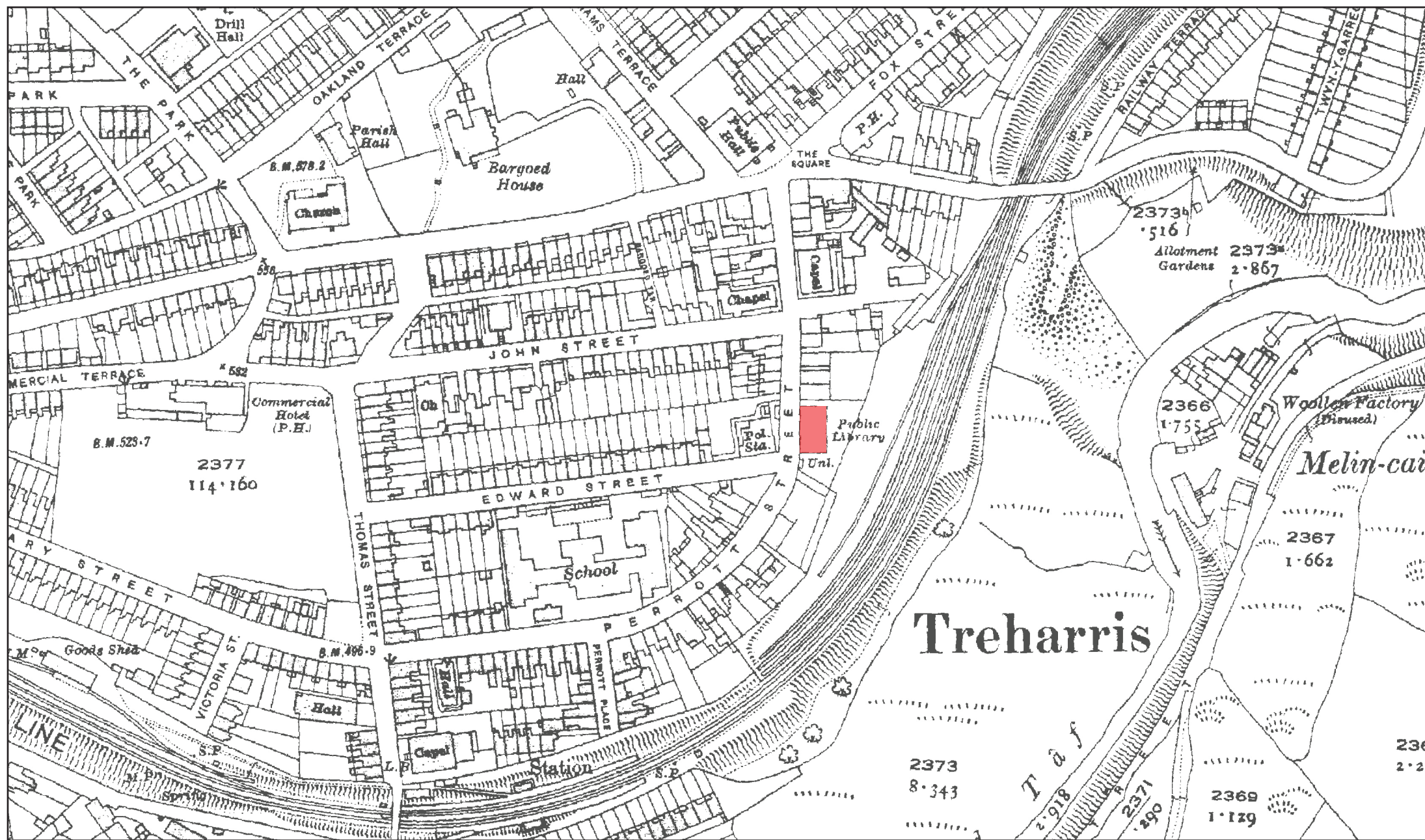


Figure 7. Ordnance Survey County Series map, 1919. Original scale 1:2,500. Library highlighted red



0 50m 100m

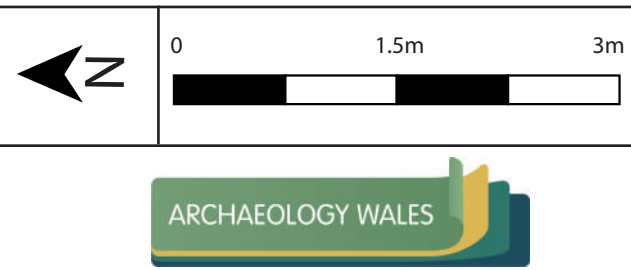
ARCHAEOLOGY WALES



Figure 8. Treharris Library 1911



Figure 9. External and ground floor photograph locations



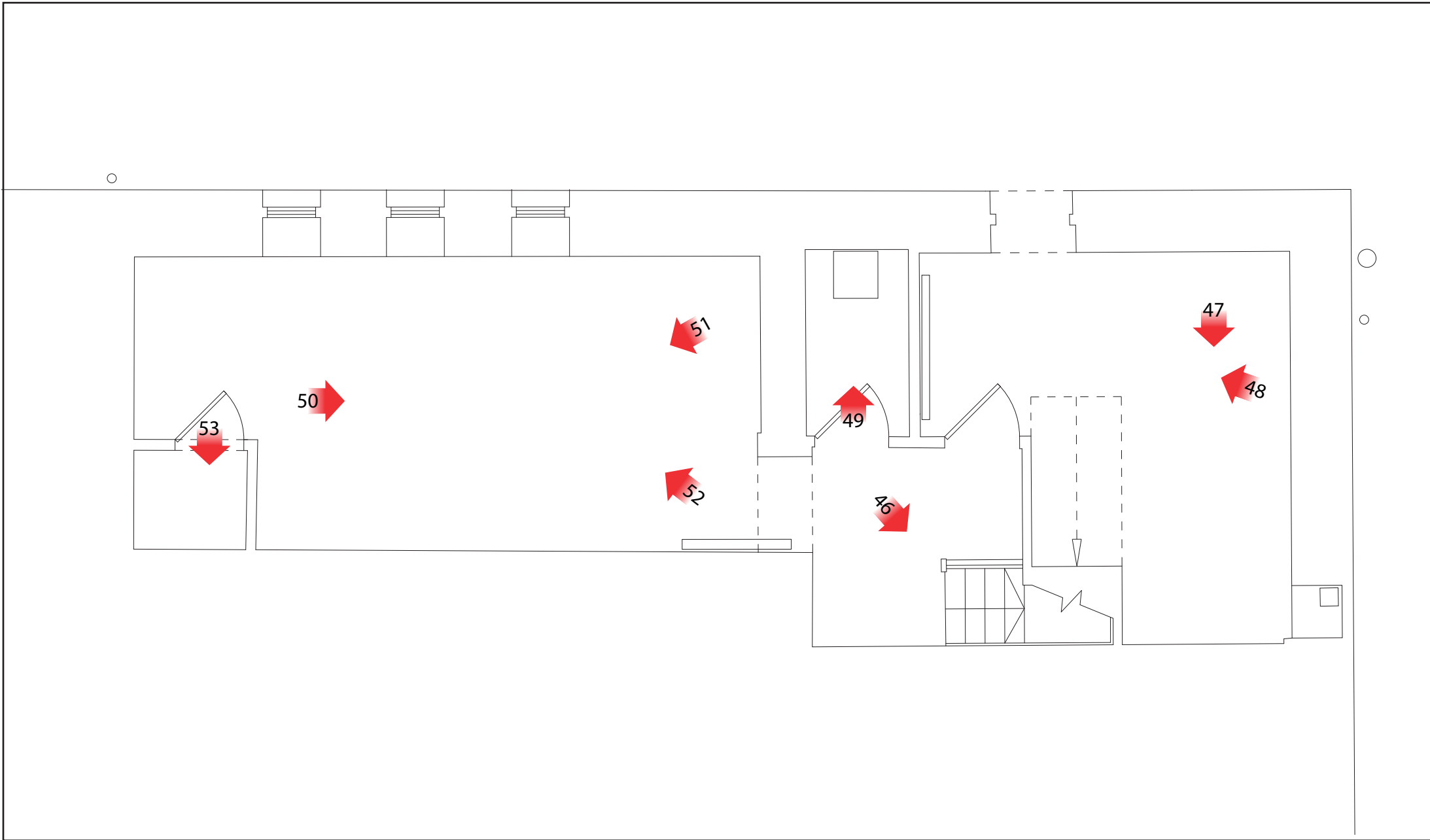


Figure 10. Basement photograph locations

Base plan provided the Client





Plates



Plate 1. Library frontage, view to the west.



Plate 2. View, to the North of former extension, image taken for the HIA (AW, 2022)



Plate 3. Entrance to the Library, view to the west, 2m scale.



Plate 4. Entrance detail, view to the west



Plate 5. Northern bay of the front elevation, view to the north-east, 2m scale



Plate 6. Southern bay of the front elevation, view to the south-east , 2m scale



Plate 7. South elevation, following demolition of the extension, view to the north-west, 2m scale.

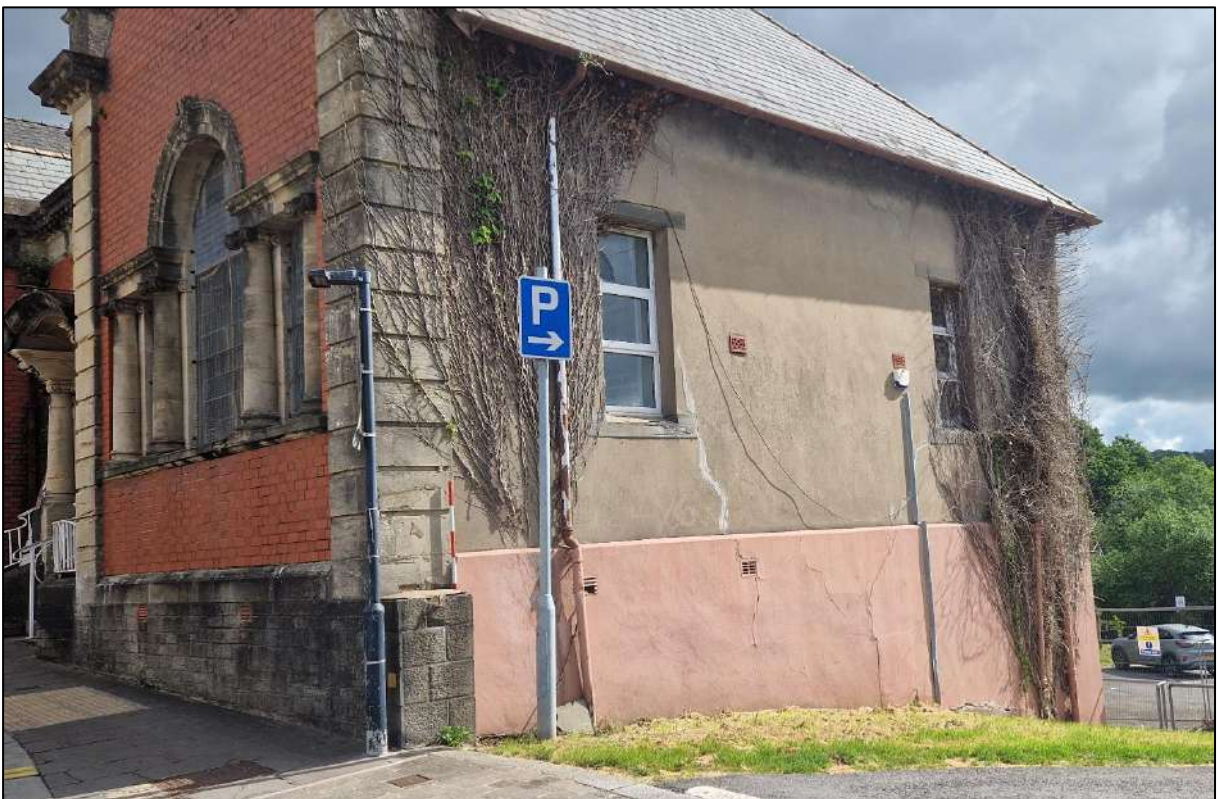


Plate 8. South elevation, view to the north-east, 2m scale (partially obscured).



Plate 9. Rear elevation, view to the west-north-west



Plate 10. Rear elevation showing the basement level windows, view to the south-west, 2m scale



Plate 11. North elevation, view to the west, 2m scale.



Plate 12. North elevation, view to the south-east, 2m scale.



Plate 13. Entrance on the northern wall, view to the south-east, 2m scale.



Plate 14. Mosaic floor in entrance way, view to the east.



Plate 15. Plaque commemorating Library opening, 0.2m divisions on scale.

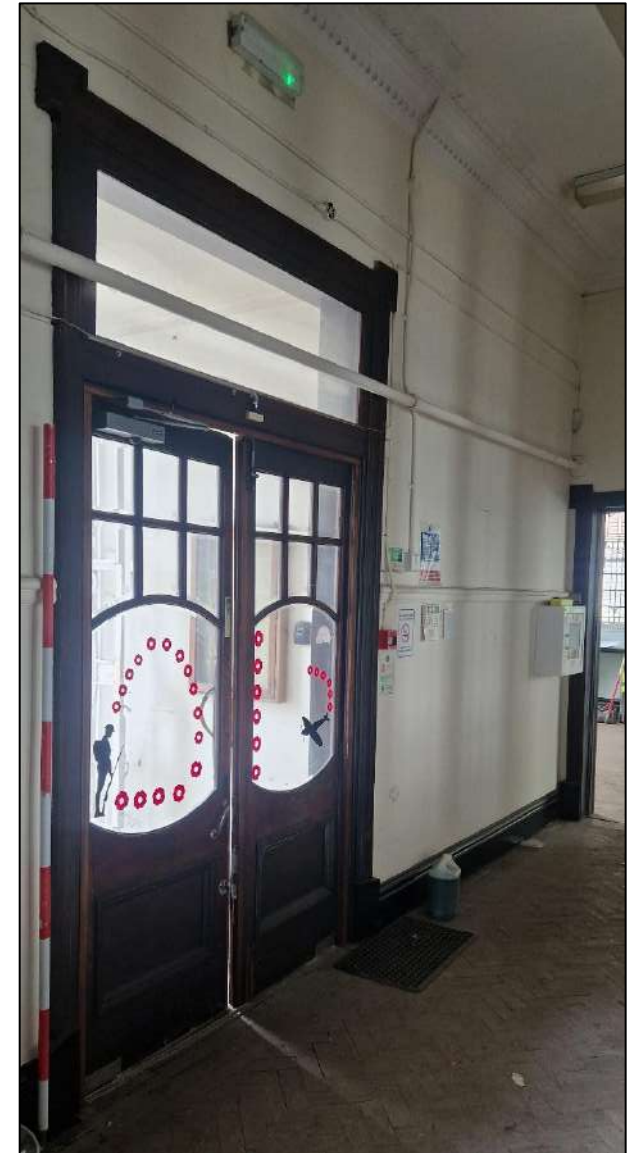


Plate 16. Main doors, view to the north-west, 2m scale.



Plate 17. Curved bay within reception area, view to the south-east, 2m scale.



Plate 18. Serving window within curved bay, view to the east, 2m scale.



Plate 19. Door and arched opening, view to the south-west, 2m scale.

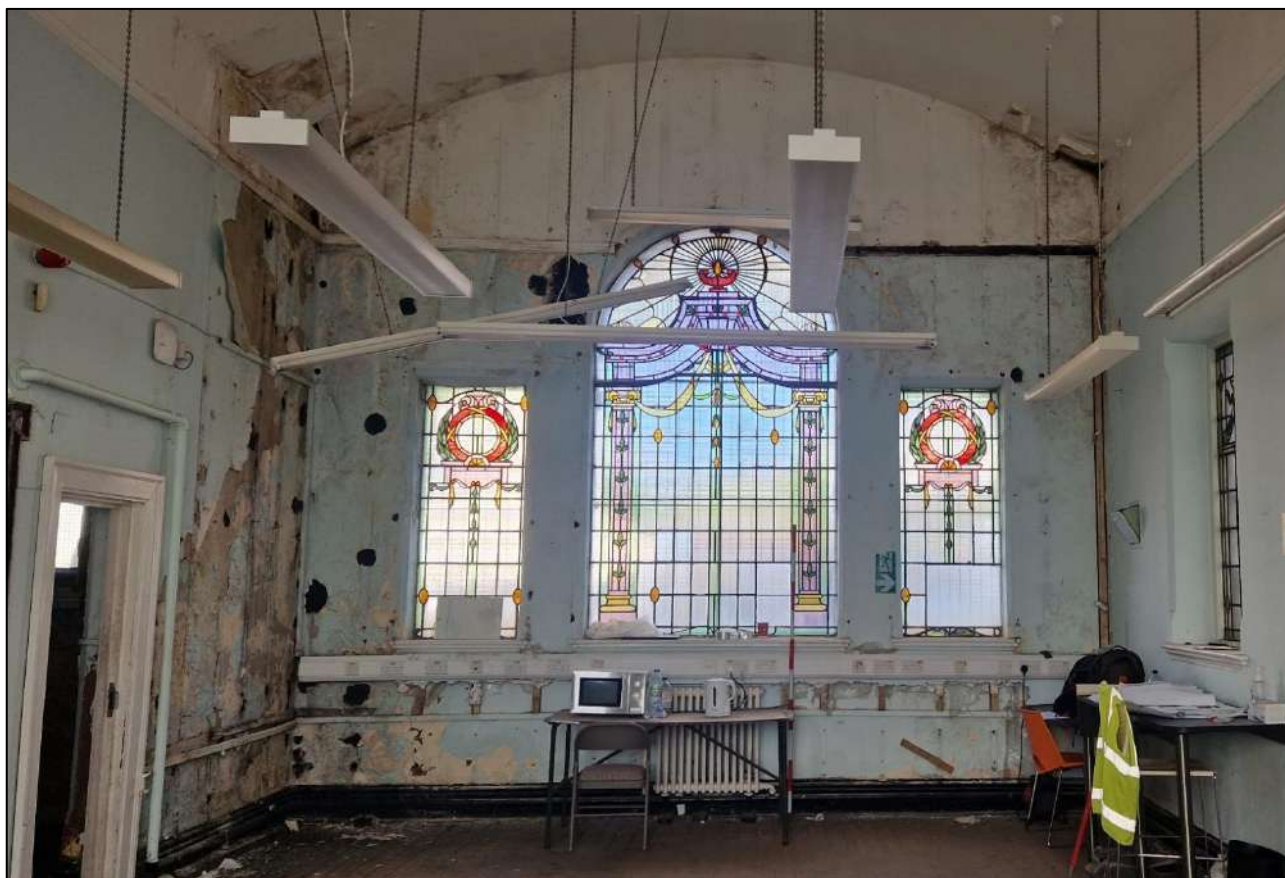


Plate 20. Palladian windows in the northern area, view to the west, 2m scale.

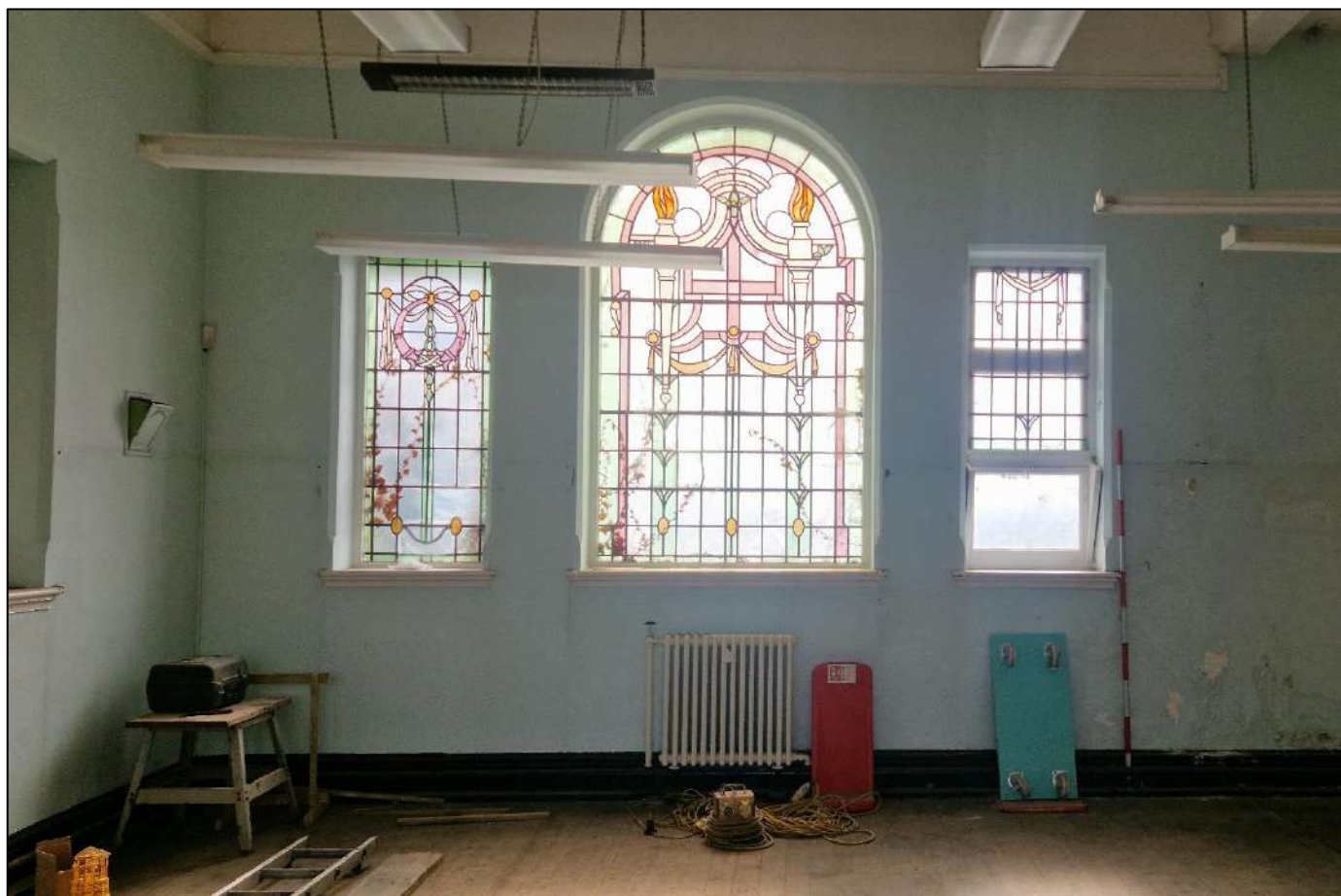


Plate 21. Palladian windows in the northern area, view to the east, 2m scale.

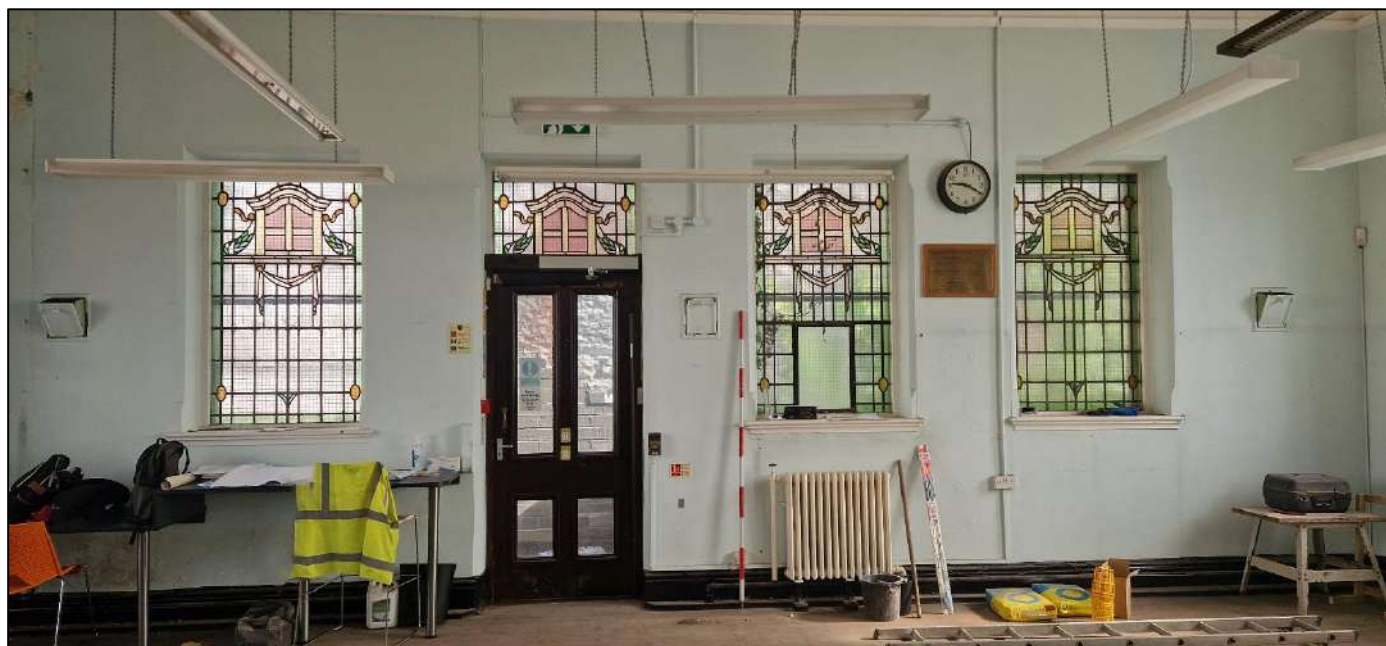


Plate 22. Northern wall with later entrance, view to the north, 2m scale.



Plate 23. Central area, view to the north-east, 2m scale.

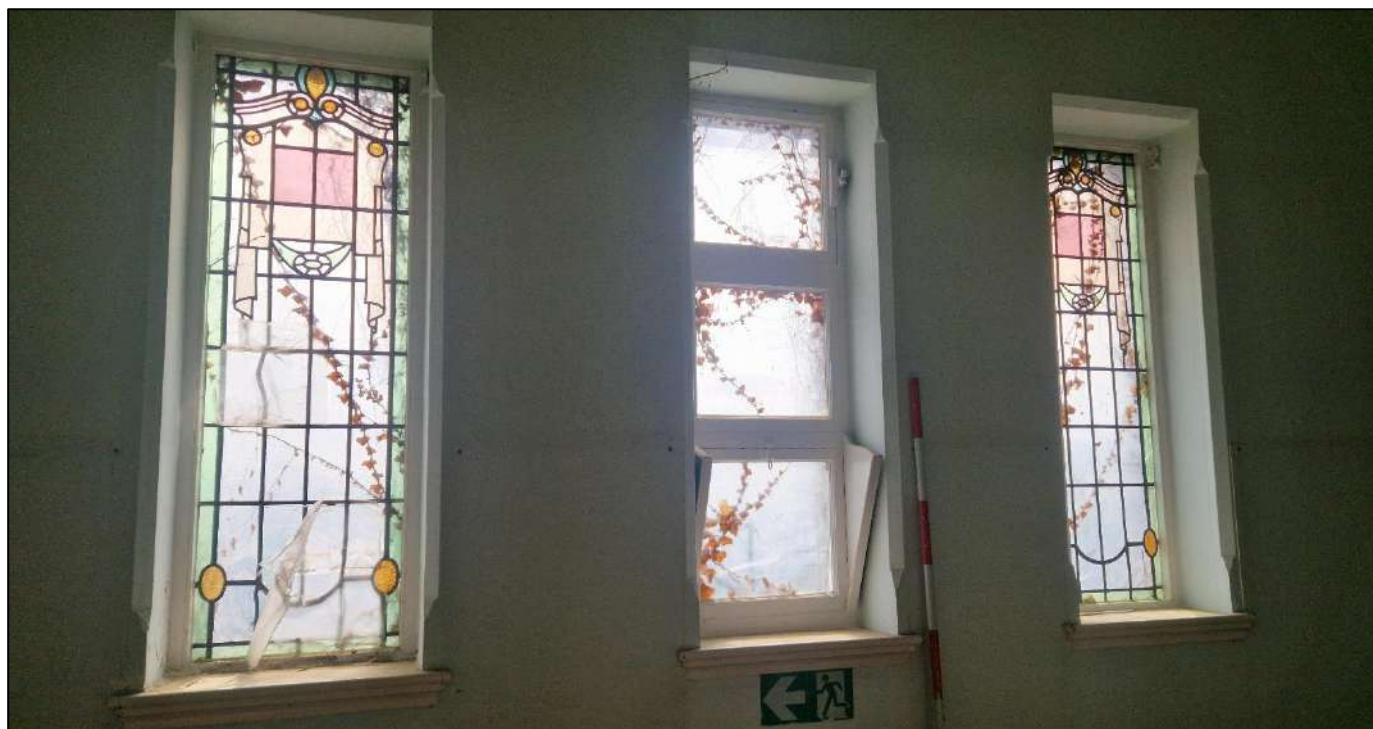


Plate 24. Windows on the eastern wall in the central area, view to the east, 2m scale.



Plate 25. Rear of curved bay, view to the north-west, 2m scale.



Plate 26. Southern section of the Library ceiling, view to the west, 2m scale.



Plate 27. Partition separating the Main Library from the Junior Library, view to the east, 2m scale.



Plate 28. Upper section of the partition separating the Main Library from the Junior Library, view to the east



Plate 29. Southern area of the Main Library, view to the south, 2m scale.



Plate 30. Radiator beneath window, view to the east, 2m scale.



Plate 31. Shield plaque on radiator.



Plate 32. Palladian windows within Junior Library, view to the west, 2m scale.



Plate 33. uPVC window on the southern wall of the Junior Library, view to the south, 2m scale.



Plate 34. Doorway to the toilets and reception in the Junior Library, view to the north, 2m scale.



Plate 35. Wide opening to the reception and doorway to the former kitchen from the northern part of the Library, view to the south, 2m scale.



Plate 36. Windows within the former kitchen, view to the south-west.



Plate 37. Flooring within the former kitchen, view to the south.



Plate 38. Window within small Cloakroom, view to the west, 2m scale.



Plate 39. Window within the WC, view to the west.

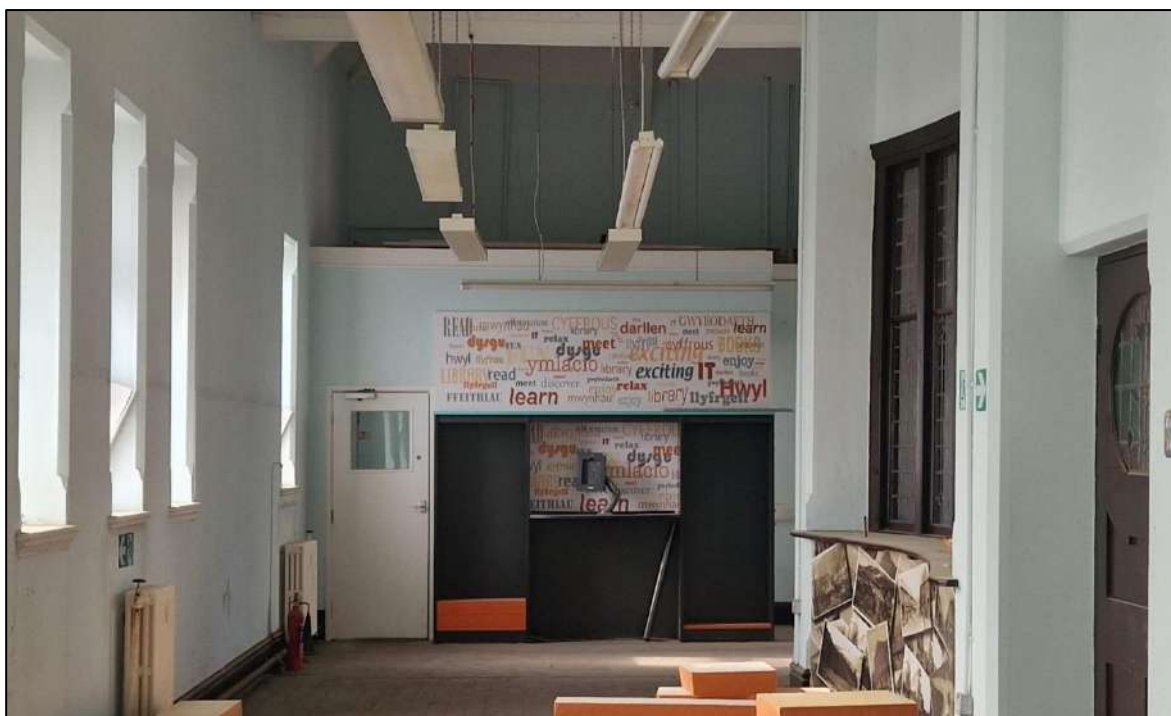


Plate 40. View of the Stairwell entrance from the Main Library, view to the south



Plate 41. Sliding door on the north wall of the Project Room, view to the north-east, 2m scale.



Plate 42. Panelled wall of the Project Room, view to the north-west,
2m scale.

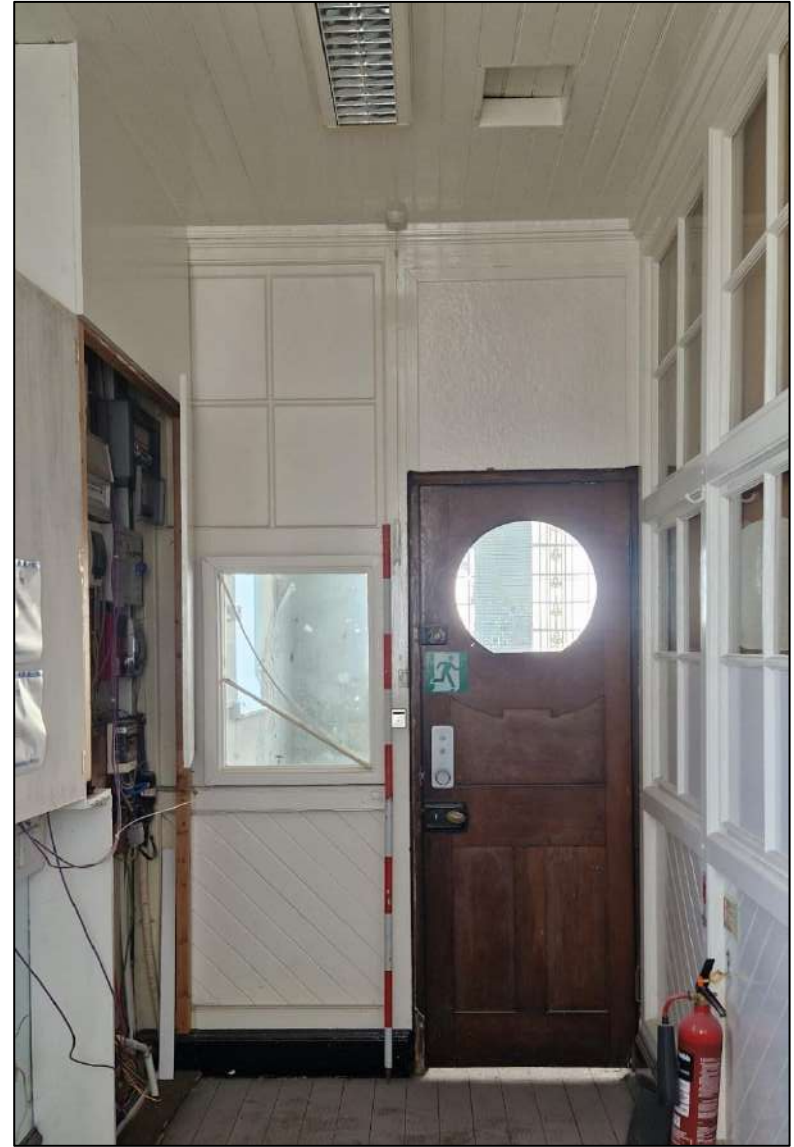


Plate 43. Western doorway into the Project Room, view to the west,
2m scale.



Plate 44. Window on the eastern wall of the Project Room, view to the east, 2m scale.

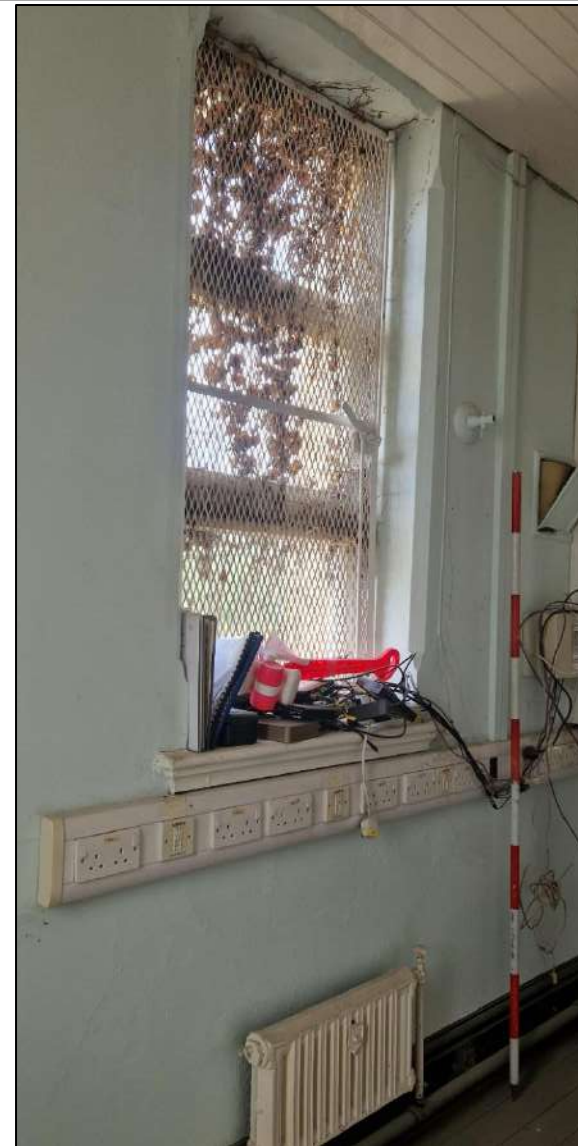


Plate 45. Window on the south wall of the Project Room, view to the south, 2m scale.

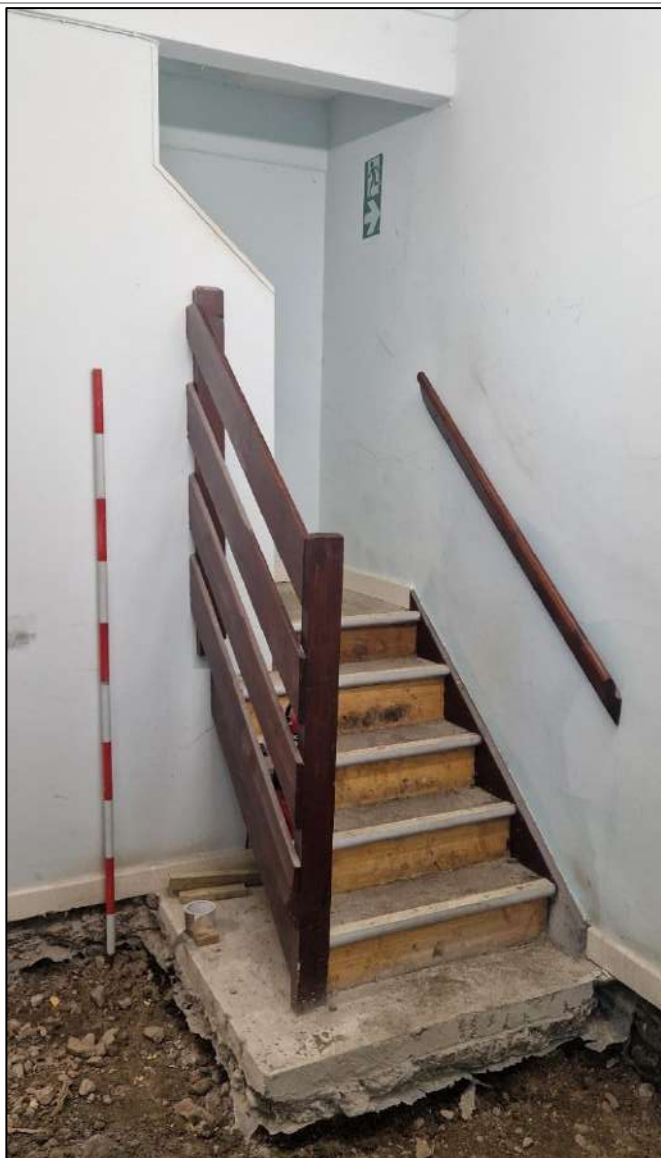


Plate 46. Basement Lobby area, view to the south-west, 2m scale.



Plate 47. Training Room, view to the west, 2m scale.



Plate 48. Rear doorway into the training Room, view to the north-east



Plate 49. Boiler Room, view to the east, 2m scale.



Plate 50. Opening between the Open Learning Room and the Basement Lobby, view to the south, 2m scale.



Plate 51. Open Learning Room, view to the north-west, 2m scale.



Plate 52. Windows in the Open Learning Room, view to the north-east, 2m scale.



Plate 53. Cupboard in the Open Learning Room, view to the west, 2m scale.



Appendix I: Written Scheme of Investigation

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for a Building Recording (Level 3)
at
Treharris Public Library,
Perrott Street, Treharris,
CF46 5ET**

**Prepared for:
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council**

**Project No: 3025
May 2024**

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Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological building recording (Level 3) to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth – AW) at the request of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) (henceforth ‘the client’).

The current work comprises the refurbishment of Treharris Public Library, a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909) on Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil, CF46 5ET (henceforth – ‘the site’).

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) and Historic England’s ‘Understanding Historic Buildings’ guidelines (2016).

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This WSI details the methodology for a programme of Archaeological Building Recording to be undertaken at the Treharris Public Library, a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909), on Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil, CF46 5ET. This programme of work is to be undertaken at the request of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) (henceforth – the client).
- 1.1.2. In 2002, a Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by Archaeology Wales which concluded that at the core of the development proposals was a desire to restore and preserve the historical value of the library. It also stated that the work would enhance the building’s communal value by allowing it to return to use as a public library and community hub (AW, 2002).
- 1.1.3. The current proposed work consists of the refurbishment of the existing public library building, located at National Grid Reference ST 09906 96959. The details of the proposed development are described as being the demolition of extension, replacement of walkway shelter, installation of air source heat pumps, erection of cycle and bin stores, refurbishment and repair to building and other internal and external alterations.

1.1.4. An application for Listed Building Consent (No. P/23/0232) regarding the above works was granted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council on 14th May 2024.

1.1.5. To ensure that the work is carried out in a suitable manner, the Listed Building Consent approval was subject to compliance with conditions. The following condition (No.3) was attached and stated:

'No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate Level III Programme of Historic Building and Analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.'

1.1.6. The reasons for this were justified as:

As the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact in accordance with Policy CW1 of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Replacement Local Development Plan.

1.1.7. The methodology set out in this WSI is to be agreed with Archaeological Planning Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology - Henneb (APGGA-Henneb) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

1.1.8. The work outlined in this WSI comprises a programme of archaeological building recording (Level 3). The purpose of this archaeological mitigation is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the affected building and its surrounds are fully investigated and recorded if they are to be disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

2. Site Description

- 2.1.1. The site is located at postcode CF46 5ET in the community and small town of Treharris in the Taff Bargoed Valley roughly 10km south of Merthyr Tydfil and 22.50km north-west of Cardiff. It is situated between the similar sized settlements of Edwardsville and Trelewis, with Abercynon further south where the Taff Bargoed River joins to the River Taff.
- 2.1.2. The Treharris Public Library is a Grade II listed building (LB 80909) that lies within the Treharris Conservation Area (MTCBC, 2009) at NGR ST 09906 96959. It is situated close to the centre of Treharris on the east corner of Perrott Street at the junction with Edward Street. The library building lies at approximately 148.80m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), on ground that slopes down to the south and east.
- 2.1.3. Recently, the library structure has been described as having fallen into disrepair and suffered from water ingress through the roof. This has caused damage, particularly to the two gables at the front of the building (AW 2022).
- 2.1.4. Buildings that surround the library are characterised as a mixture of shops and businesses, a few of which are boarded up, and some houses. To the rear, there is a medium sized car park, beyond which the ground slopes sharply down towards the Taff Bargoed River.
- 2.1.5. The underlying geology is characterised by the Hughes Member – Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 309.50 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The superficial deposits are composed of Devensian Till – Diamicton, a sedimentary layer formed between 116 and 11.80 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS, 2024).

3. Historical Background

- 3.1.1. The town of Treharris developed in the late 19th century as a coal mining settlement and is first depicted on the 1901 OS map. Prior to this, the area had been a scattered landscape of farmsteads, enclosed fields and open upland areas.
- 3.1.2. The library was formally opened on October 20th 1909, by the then Mayor of Merthyr, Alderman Wilson. Although it was built by the Merthyr County Borough Council, Andrew Carnegie provided over half of the £2,340 cost (The Cardiff Times, 1909).
- 3.1.3. The Treharris Public Library was constructed in Edwardian free style and became designated as a Grade II Listed Building on 20th February 2003 (LB 80909). The reasons given for this were that it was an example of a smaller Edwardian public building that retained original external and interior character and detail (Cadw, Full Listing Report).
- 3.1.4. The following extracts are taken from the Cadw Listed Building Report for Treharris Public Library:

Public library of 1909 by W Dowdeswell in Edwardian free style. Single storey with high rear over basement. Opened in October 1909 and altered in 1987 with principal entry now through left side door.

4. Objectives

- 4.1.1. All work will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) '*Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*' (2020) and Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good*

Recording Practice' guidelines (2016).

- 4.1.2. Level 3 is an analytical record and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail.
- 4.1.3. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.
- 4.1.4. The work will result in a report, which will provide a comprehensive record of all the work undertaken.
- 4.1.5. A written report will be compiled following the archaeological building recording fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted, and reported.
- 4.1.6. The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological building recording evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.
- 4.1.7. The Level 3 archaeological building recording will be undertaken by a suitably experienced building recording archaeologist who will be able to 'read' the structure and record the important details. The photographic and drawn record will be a comprehensive record to archive standard of the existing buildings and structures, both externally and internally. The following will be considered:
 - site layout and organisation
 - function

- materials, method of construction
- fenestration
- internal arrangements
- original fixtures and fittings
- subsequent fixtures and fittings
- evidence of use and status
- date/period of initial build and subsequent alterations

4.1.8. The Level 3 recording will comprise a review of existing literature, The regional Historic Environment Record, mapping, and archives. The results of this will be included in the report.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

5.1.1. The programme of Archaeological Building Recording will be undertaken in late May/ early June 2024. The archaeologist undertaking the archaeological building recording will be afforded the required access by the landowner/client in order to undertake these works.

5.2. Report delivery

5.2.1. The report will be submitted to the client and to APGGA-Heneb within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Building Recording

6.1. Detail

- 6.1.1. The survey will be undertaken to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 3 (Historic England (formerly English Heritage) 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). A Level 3 survey is intended to create a descriptive record of the building, with additional documentary research and will include:

Drawings

- 6.1.2. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.

Photographs

- 6.1.3. General view or views of the building in its wider setting or landscape.
- 6.1.4. The building's external appearance. Typically, a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building and give an overall impression of its size and shape. Where individual elevations include complex historical information, it may also be appropriate to take views at right-angles to the plane of the elevation.

Written Record

- 6.1.5. The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference.
- 6.1.6. A note of any statutory designation and possibly non-statutory designations.
- 6.1.7. The date when the record was made, the name of the recorder and the location of any archive material.
- 6.1.8. A statement summarising the building's form, function, date and sequence of

development. The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known. Its purpose is to describe the building when no fuller record is necessary.

- 6.1.9. All photographs will be taken in a high-resolution digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.
- 6.1.10. Wherever possible, existing plans and elevations will be used to supplement the report and further measured plans and elevations may also be provided to illustrate features not more readily obtained by photography. Plans will be used to highlight photographic locations within the final report.
- 6.1.11. Level 3 is an analytical record and may include a systematic account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support a historical analysis. This will help to mitigate potential development impacts to the structure and fabric of the impacted elements of the Treharris Public Library building.
- 6.1.12. The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests.

6.2. Constraints

- 6.2.1. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant constraint to the ability to record the exterior or the interior the building. However, should this prove not to be the case, APGGA-Heneb will be notified.
- 6.2.2. The work will be completed in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or*

structures (2020) and to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 3 *'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice'* (2016).

6.3. Recording

- 6.3.1. All photographs will be taken in a high-resolution digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location, and direction of shot. All digital photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines for *'Digital Image Capture and File Storage'* (2015).
- 6.3.2. A site plan and measured plans of the buildings will be included. Wherever possible, existing plans and elevations will be used to supplement the report and further measured plans and elevations may also be provided to illustrate features not more readily obtained by photography. Any existing plans and elevations will be checked on site and amended where necessary. Plans will be used to highlight photographic locations within the final report.

7. Monitoring

- 7.1.1. APGGA-Heneb will be contacted prior to the commencement of archaeological works, and subsequently once the work is underway.
- 7.1.2. Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to APGGA-Heneb for approval as archaeological advisors to the Planning Authority.
- 7.1.3. Representatives of APGGA-Heneb will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the building recording. APGGA-Heneb will be kept regularly informed about developments.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. The Site Archive

- 8.1.1. An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.
- 8.1.2. The site archive records will be subjected to selection to establish those elements that will be retained for long term curation. The selection strategy will be agreed with all stakeholders and will be detailed in the Selection Strategy and Data Management Plan. The Selection Strategy and Data Management Plan will be prepared in accordance with: Archaeological Archives: *Selection, Retention and Disposal Guidelines for Wales* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2019) and the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA, 2020). It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2019' (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2019).

8.2. Reporting

- 8.2.1. Following a review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of reporting will be undertaken. The report will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (2022).

8.3. Report to Client

- 8.3.1. Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and APGGA-Heneb upon

completion. On approval the final report should be submitted in high resolution PDF format to the Historic Environment Record, GGA – Heneb HER for inclusion within the Historic Environment Record.

8.4. Additional Reports

- 8.4.1. After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and if appropriate, Cadw.

8.5. Summary Reports for Publication

- 8.5.1. Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.6. Archive Deposition

- 8.6.1. Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.
- 8.6.2. Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.
- 8.6.3. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to APGGA-Heneb.

8.7. Staff

- 8.7.1. The project will be managed by Charley James-Martin (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by AW Staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of APGGA-Heneb and the client.

9. Health and Safety

9.1. Risk Assessment

- 9.1.1. Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

9.2. Other Guidelines

- 9.2.1. AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002).

10. Community Engagement and Outreach

- 10.1.1. Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.
- 10.1.2. The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.
- 10.1.3. Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

11. Insurance

- 11.1.1. AW is fully insured for this type of work and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

12. Quality Control

12.1. Professional Standards

- 12.1.1. AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

12.2. Project Tracking

- 12.2.1. The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

13. Arbitration

- 13.1.1. Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists applying at the date of the agreement.

14. Sources

Archaeology Wales, 2022. *Heritage Impact Assessment: Treharris Library, Merthyr Tydfil. Report No. 2143.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

Historic England, 2015. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).*

Historic England, 2015. *Digital Image Capture and File Storage.*

Historic England, 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.*

MTCBC, 2009. *Treharris Conservation Area Character Appraisal. MTCBC / The Conservation Studio June 2009*

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), 2019. *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales.*

The Cardiff Times, 23.10.1909. *TREHARRIS LIBRARY*, pub. David Duncan and William Ward.

Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022. *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HER).*

Websites Consulted

British Geological Survey (accessed 22/05/24) - <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

Cadw Full Listed Building Report for Treharris Public Library (accessed 22/05/24) - <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?id=80909>

Figures



Figure 1. Location map

The Ordnance Survey has granted Archaeology Wales Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. 100055111) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.

Appendix I Data Management Plan

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID / OASIS ID

3025

Project Name

Treharris Library, Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil

Project Description

This project comprises a Level 3 archaeological building recording programme to be undertaken. The current work comprises a proposed development on a historic building, namely the refurbishment of the Treharris Public Library building, a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909), on Perrott Street, Treharris, CF46 5ET.

Project Funder / Grant reference

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Project Manager

Charlotte James-Martin – AW project manager charley@arch-wales.co.uk

Principal Investigator / Researcher

Same as above

Data Contact Person

Rhiannon Philp, AW Post-excavation Manager rhiannon.philp@arch-wales.co.uk

Date DMP created

Created on 22.05.24

Date DMP last updated

22.05.24

Version

1

Related data management policies

This DMP is guided by the Project Brief, CifA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (RCAHMW) or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for data collected / created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.

Type	Format	Estimated volume (Data Archived)
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx)	-
Text/documents	Word (.docx)	2x .docx
	PDF (.pdf and .pdf/a)	2x .pdf
Images	Photographs (.jpg)	unknown
	Scanned drawings (.pdf)	
GIS	Shapefiles (.shp plus associated files)	1

How will the data be collected or created?

Data Standards / Methods

- Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project, working to best practice guidance where applicable / available. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against RCAHMW Guidelines. Specific or additional guidance relevant to this project are listed below, and will
- be updated as the project progresses.
- Methods of collection are specified within the Project Design (see Archaeology Wales 2024) and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief, the organisation recording manual and relevant CIfA Standards and guidance.
- Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.
- Specific guidance:
 - Historic England, 2016. Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice

Data storage / file naming

- The data produced will be uploaded at regular intervals during the project as a way of backing up the information.
- The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal organisational server. The internal organisation server is backed up to a cloud based storage system to maintain an up to date security copy of the organisation wide data.
- Project folders are named following established organisational procedures and the folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project.
- Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.
- File naming conventions following established organisational procedures, based on RCAHMW file naming guidance, and include version control management.

- The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

- Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above).
- A RCAHMW metadata document will be included with the digital archive and include all data types included within the archive. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. A copy of the form containing HER required data will also be created.
- Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology.
- An archive catalogue documenting both physical and digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

- The project archive will include the names and contact details of individuals who intend to volunteer or participate in the excavation and post excavation stages. We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is managed through a secure cloud-based database and not retained on the project specific folders.
- Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use.
- Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.
- Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, they will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?

- Organisational IT is managed by an external data management provider, who is also responsible for the management and verification of our daily back-ups and who supports access to security copies as needed
- Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server, which includes permissions-based access. The server is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in
- Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back up is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive).
- Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

- The Selection Strategy and DMP will be reviewed and updated following the fieldwork. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages.
- Prior to deposition, the Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, RCAHMW).
- Selection will be informed by the Project Design, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results.
- The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via RCAHMW and as part of this the archive), with full access to research data.
- The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP.
- Deselection will be undertaken automatically on any duplicate or unusable files, such as blurry or superfluous photographs.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

- The digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW, which is working towards becoming a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.
- The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.

Have you contacted the data repository?

- RCAHMW have also been contacted as the intended repository for digital data.

Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?

- A costing estimate has been produced to allow for the preparation of the archive and has been included in the project budget.

Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?

- The digital archive repository, and will be updated as the project progresses.
- The investigations are likely to result in a number of documents: Project Design and Final Report
- The final report is expected to be completed within three months of the completion of fieldwork.
- A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.
- The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be included in the final report

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

- A temporary embargo may be required on the sharing of the project results. If this is the case, specific details once agreed will be included in the updated version of this DMP and will be documented in the overarching Project Collection Metadata.
- Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargoes which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

- The Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.
- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company.
- Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post Excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.
- Details of the core project team can be found in the Project Design.

Appendix II. Selection Strategy

Project Information	
ID	3025
Name	Treharris Library, Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil
Project Management	
Project Manager	Charley James-Martin
Archaeological Archive Manager	Rhiannon Philp
Organisation	Archaeology Wales
Stakeholders	
Collecting Institution(s)	RCAHMW
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Charley James-Martin
Landowner / Developer	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Other	
Resources	No unusual resources required outside of AW normal operating equipment and personnel to implement this Selection Strategy.

Context

The mitigation comprises a programme of archaeological building recording (Level 3). Its primary objective is to describe and record, by means of high-resolution digital photography, all of the key components of the buildings that would potentially be affected so that a permanent record survives prior to refurbishment. The current work is located at Treharris Public Library, a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909) on Perrott Street, Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil. The methodology has been agreed in advance with Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology - Heneb (APGGA-Heneb).



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