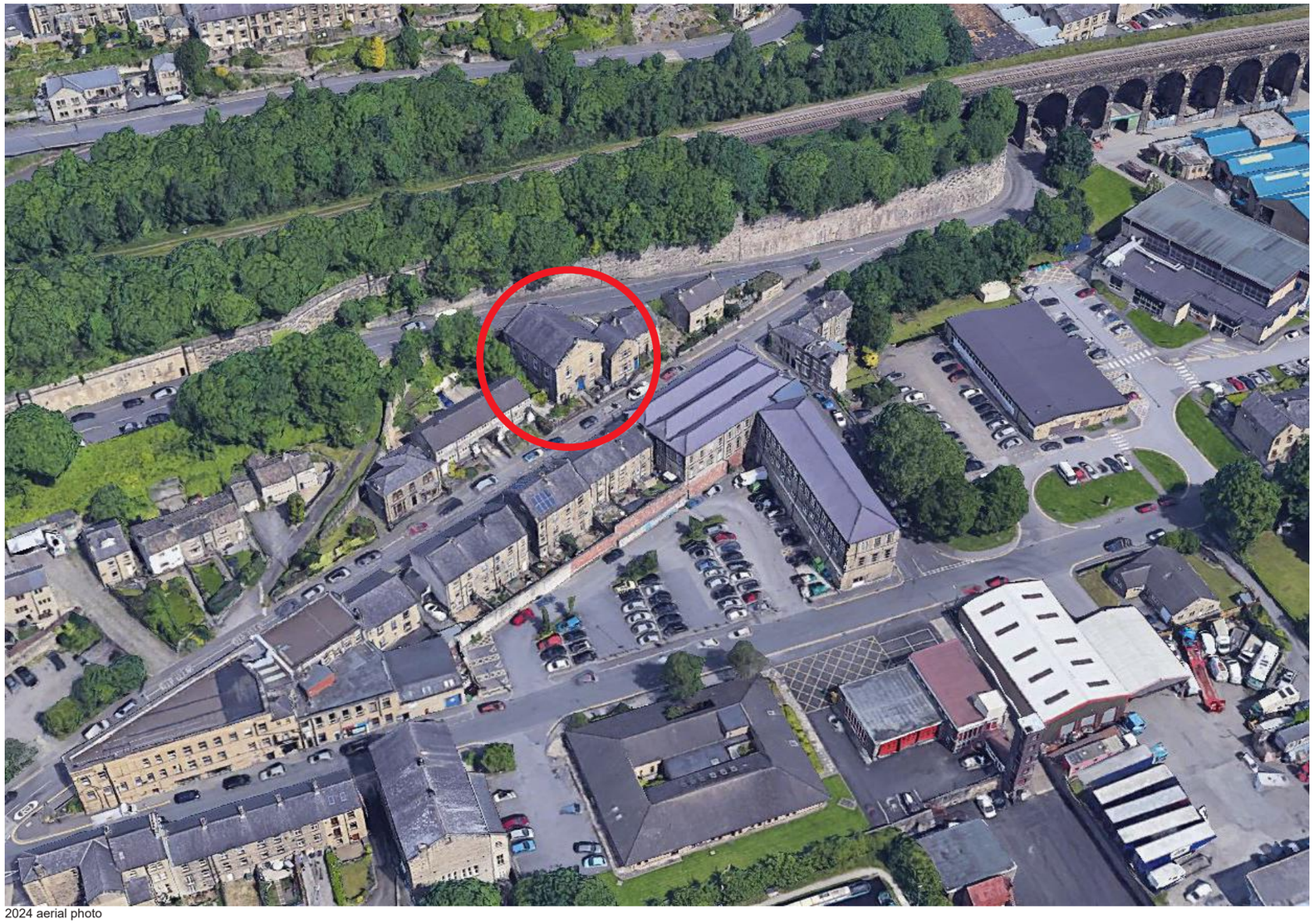
nick moss architects

MAY 2025

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT- P1

SLAITHWAITE METHODIST CHURCH

CONTENTS


2024 aerial photo

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INTRODUCTION

2024 aerial photo

Application
The application is for planning permission for the conversion and change of use of the Slaithwaite Methodist Church to create 7 dwellings.

Demolition of the rear extension to allow natural light into the ground floor via an enlarged courtyard / external amenity space.

The Design and Access Statement should be **read in conjunction with the accompanying Heritage Statement** that outlines the heritage significance of the existing building and surrounding heritage assets together with an assessment of the heritage impact of the proposals.

Address
Slaithwaite Methodist Church
Carr Lane
Slaithwaite
Huddersfield
HD7 5AN

Pre-Application
This application has been informed by, and developed following, a positive pre-application consultation response from Kirklees Council on 23rd April 2025.

The following improvements have been made since the meeting;

- Additional transoms added to the Sunday School windows to replicate the existing arrangement.
- Photovoltaic panels added to the roof.
- Ground floor courtyard window now has a raised cill.

SITE

Aerial photo (current)

Slaithwaite

Slaithwaite (Old Norse: Timber-fell clearing), is a small town within the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees, in West Yorkshire. Historically it was part of the old West Riding. It lies in the Colne Valley, and is bisected by the River Colne and the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. It is approximately 5 miles southwest of Huddersfield.

Despite the Norse name, the earliest buildings are Slaithwaite Hall (early C16th) and Linthwaite Hall Barn (early C17th). As with other settlements in the Colne Valley, Slaithwaite developed largely from textile cloth production, initially wool then cotton and silk. A number of large mills were built next to the Colne River from the C18th into C19th. Initially these benefited from the river to provide water power. Latterly they were steam powered.

Site

The site is sandwiched between Carr Lane to the south and Station Road to the north. The railway line runs along the north side, with the site being 100m to the station. The site has an interesting topography, with Station Road being over 6m higher than Carr Lane (where the main entrance is located).

Existing side elevation / section

SITE

Swimming Pool
63
5
1
58
56
Sun Sch
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54a
54
52
51
48
46
42
36
43
33
31
35
29
27
25
STATION ROAD
Kiln Lane
CARR LANE
Town Hall
CROSS STREET
Liby
NEW STREET
Car Park
Fire

SITE

1. View up Carr Lane

2. View up side of site to Station Road

3. Entrance steps and current bin store location

4. View looking down the site from Station Road

5. View looking into the existing lightwell from Station Road

6. View towards the first floor entrance from Station Road

SITE

1. First floor Chancel

2. 1st floor Nave

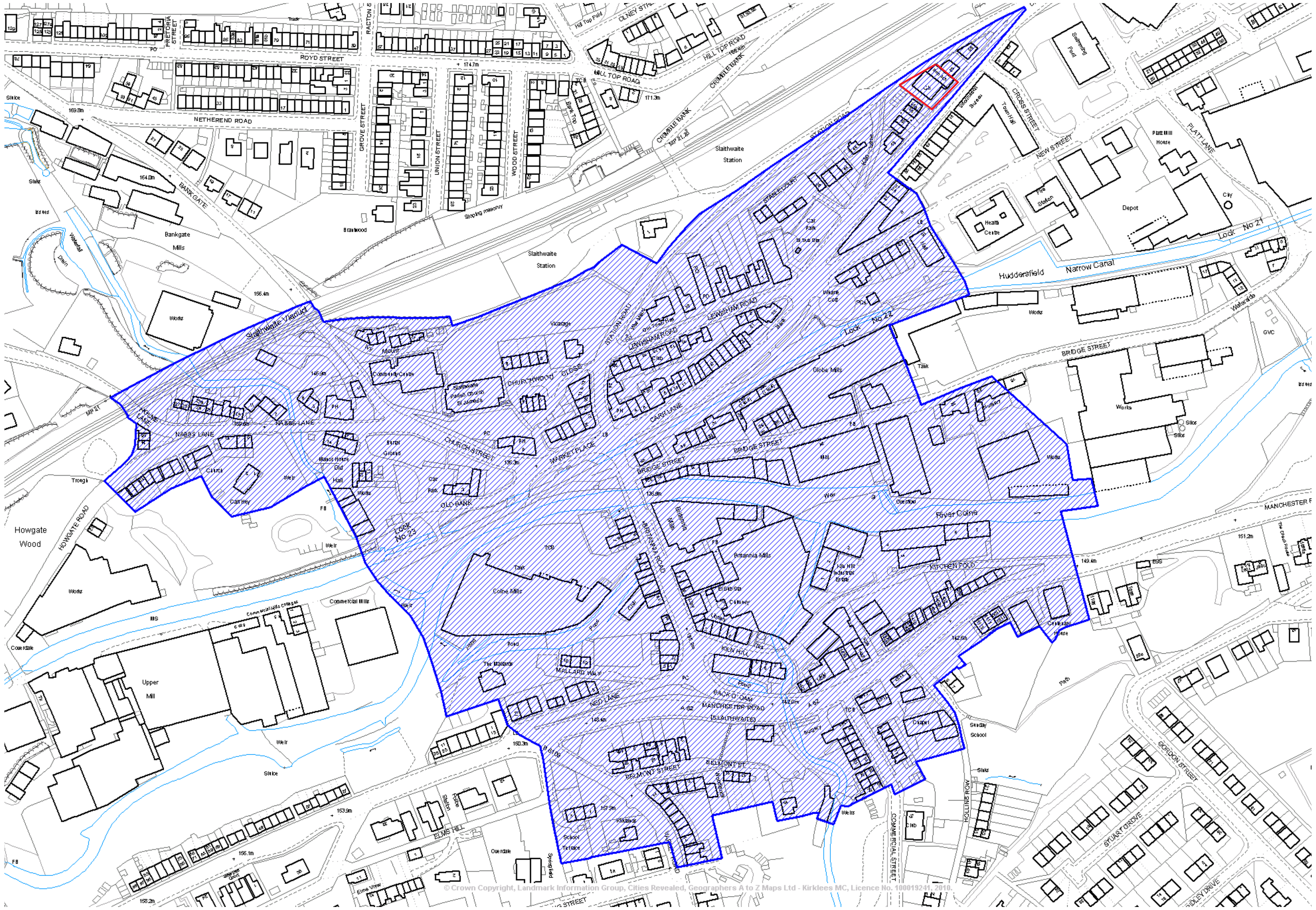
3. Ground floor stage

SITE

1. Existing attic

2. Existing attic

3. Looking down onto the Chancel



Slaithwaite Conservation Area

Heritage Asset

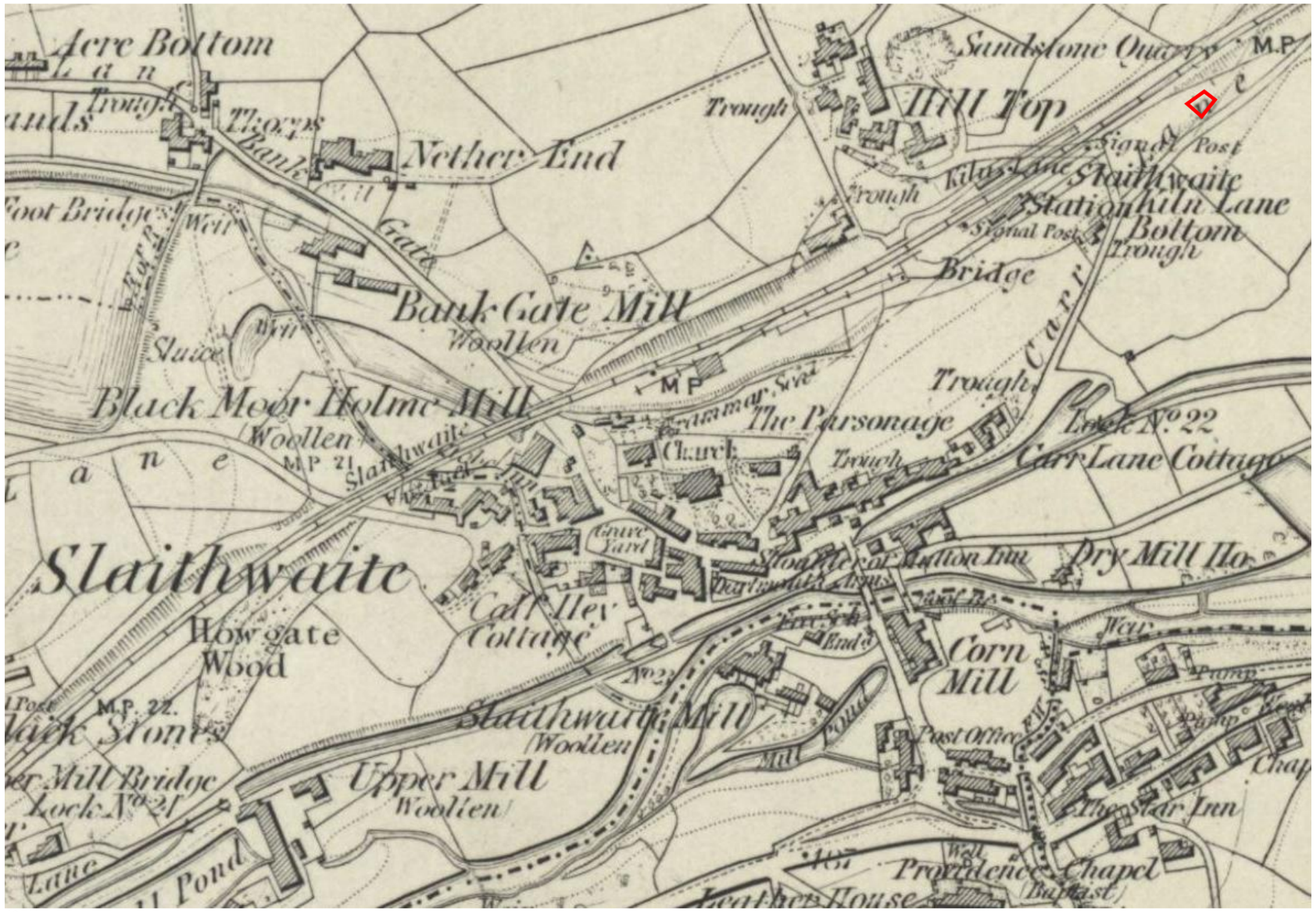
The site is not listed, but is located within the Slaithwaite Conservation Area. There is no character appraisal for the area, but one would assume the Church is designated a local heritage asset by Kirklees Council. A notion built upon the fact the nearby (former) Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, which amalgamated with this church 1973, is listed and shares many characteristics.

The character of the area is typically West Yorkshire vernacular, with most buildings built from load bearing local stone with punched windows and pitched, natural slate, roofs.

The large scale stone mill buildings and stone terraces are a defining feature of the character of the area.

The Architect of the church is not known.

MAP REGRESSION

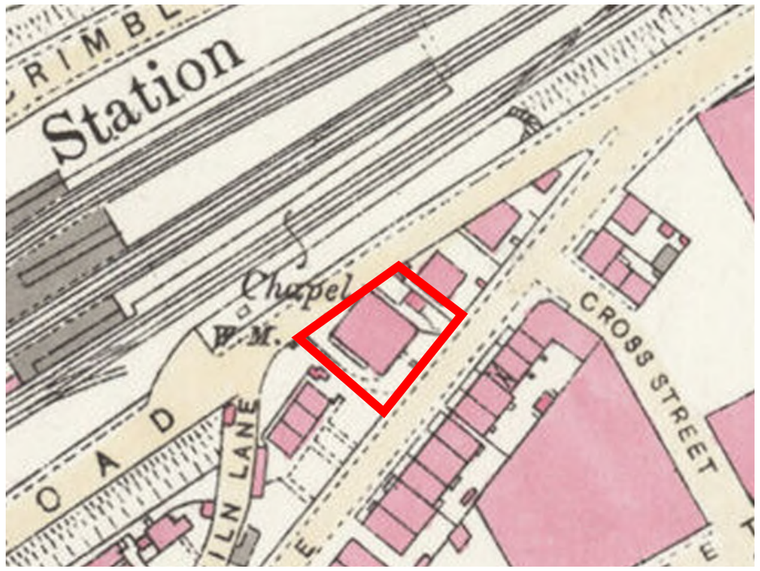


1854 map

Surveyed 1848-50, published 1854 map

The map (with approximate site boundary), shows the site's neighbourhood to be undeveloped, with main structures clustered along the canal and River Colne.

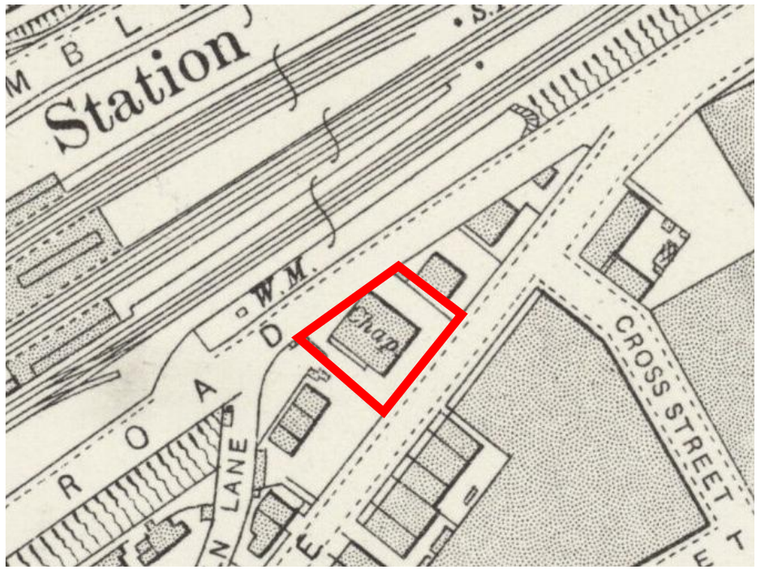
MAP REGRESSION



Surveyed 1890, published 1892 OS map

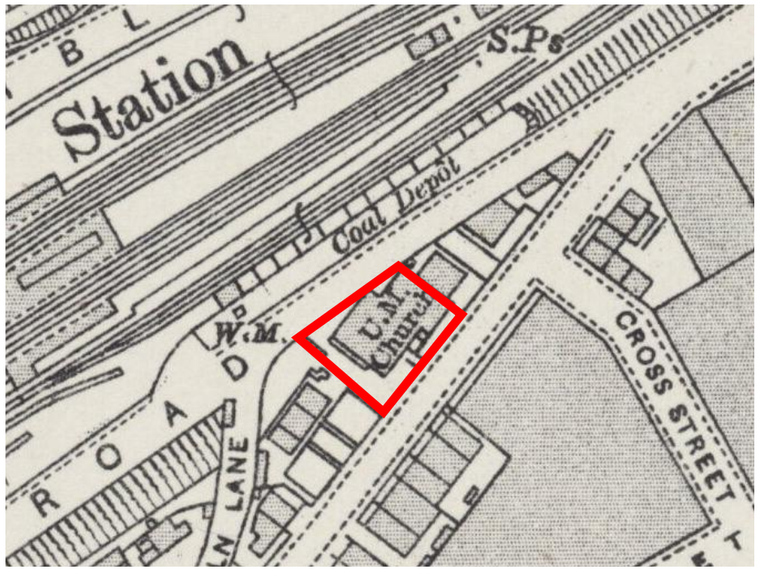
The map shows the development of the neighbourhood surrounding the site, constrained by the viaduct to the north.

The map shows the chapel without the current adjoining Sunday School extension. The map implies the northeastern boundary used to be slightly inbound from the gable wall of 56 Carr Lane. An outhouse can be seen between the chapel and neighbouring building.



Surveyed 1904, published 1906 OS map

The map, showing less detail than the 1892 map, shows little development change.

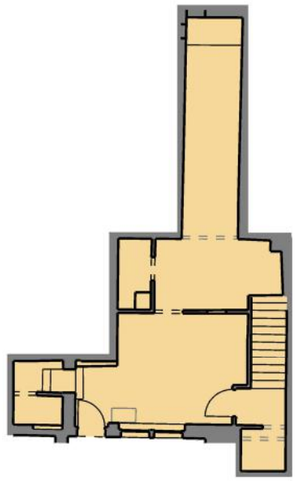


Surveyed 1930, published 1932 OS map

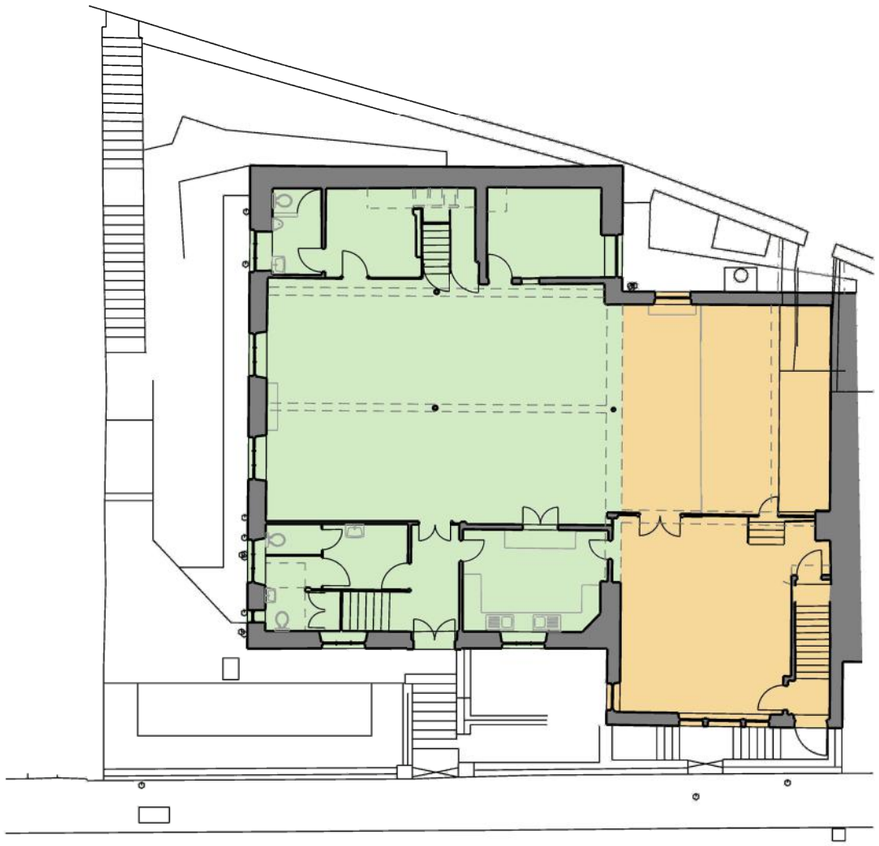
The map, shows the Sunday School extension, built between the chapel and 56 Carr Lane.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

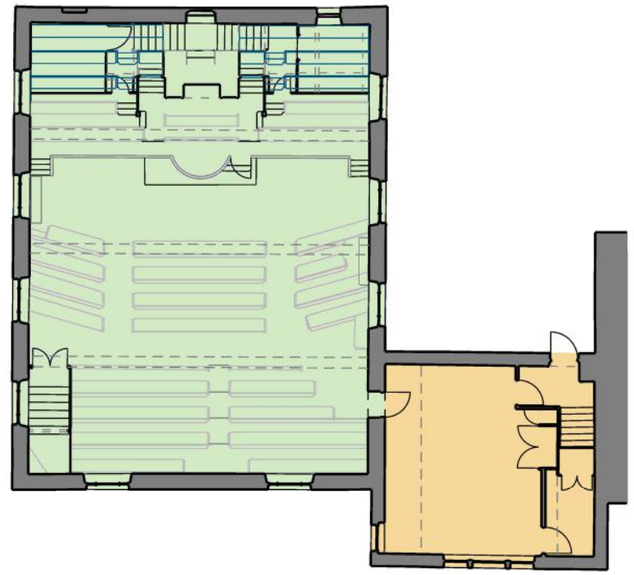
The site has been developed in two main stages. The original chapel was built between 1870-1871, later extended to add the Sunday School between 1923-1924.



Basement



Ground Floor



First Floor

Original Building c. 1871

Sunday School Extension c. 1924

CHURCH

Existing main entrance

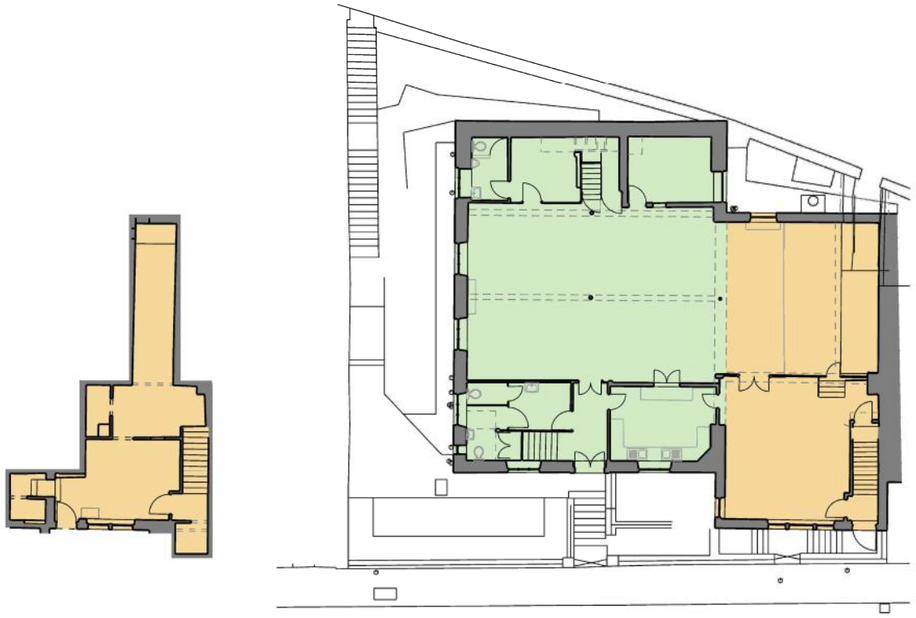
Church History

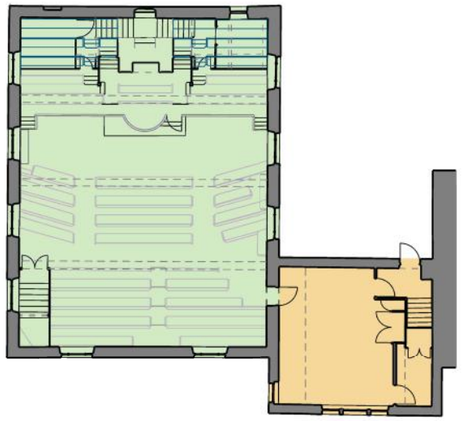
- 1851 Established by Wesleyan Reformers who seceded from Centenary Wesleyan Methodist Church.
- 1853 Moved to room in Laithe Lane.
- 1857 Became part of the United Methodist Free Churches.
- 1870-71 Chapel built between Carr Lane and Station Road, called Ebenezer United Methodist Free Church.
- 1907 Registered for the solemnisation of marriages.
- 1923-24 Sunday School premises within chapel extended.
- 1968-73 Called Carr Lane Bethel Methodist Church.
- 1973 Called Slaithwaite Methodist Church, as Slaithwaite Centenary Chapel, formerly the Wesleyan, unites.
- 2024 Church closed.

Main Chapel Elements

- The building shares similarities with many of the local buildings of the period, having split faced coursed rubblestone walls with dressed window surrounds, cills and string courses.
- The first floor windows have distinctive semi-circular arched heads with expressed keystones. Non-original marginal glazing. The ground floor storey has planer, coursed stone curved heads. All window frames are plastic and non-original.
- Two storey, symmetrical gable frontage with central entrance door and fan light. The entrance has classical features with dressed surrounds consisting of ornamental pilasters and a prominent head or entablature.
- Continuous string course of contrasting smooth stone at first floor.
- Corbelled stone gutters.
- Inscription stones reading ‘EBENEZER’ and ‘UNITED METHODIST CHURCH’ on the main elevation.
- Semi-circular roof / attic opening with stone surround.
- Blue natural slate roof.
- Double height first floor chapel with congregation pews facing a higher level lectern, tiered choir stalls and organ. The choir stalls and organ sit behind where the preacher would stand.

ENABLING WORKS



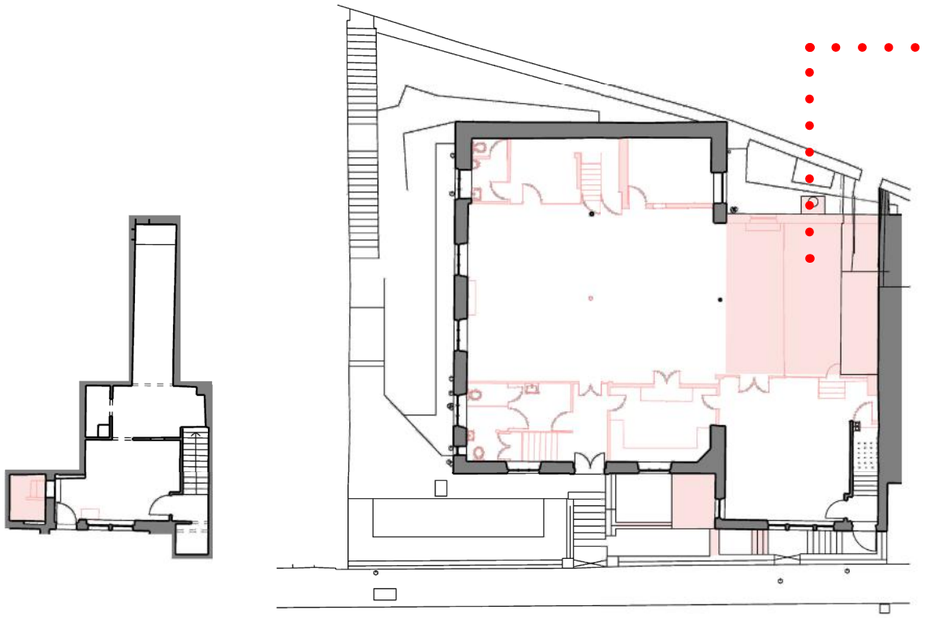


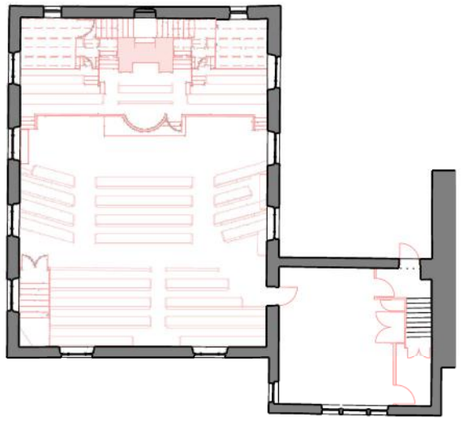
Non-Original Sunday School
To enable the existing building to be utilised for residential use, the later added, lower section of the Sunday School needs to be removed. This will alter the current deep plan arrangement into a more accommodating form, enabling windows to be positioned to suit the internal residential arrangement and ensure all apartments have sufficient daylight.

Original Building c. 1871

Sunday School Extension c. 1924

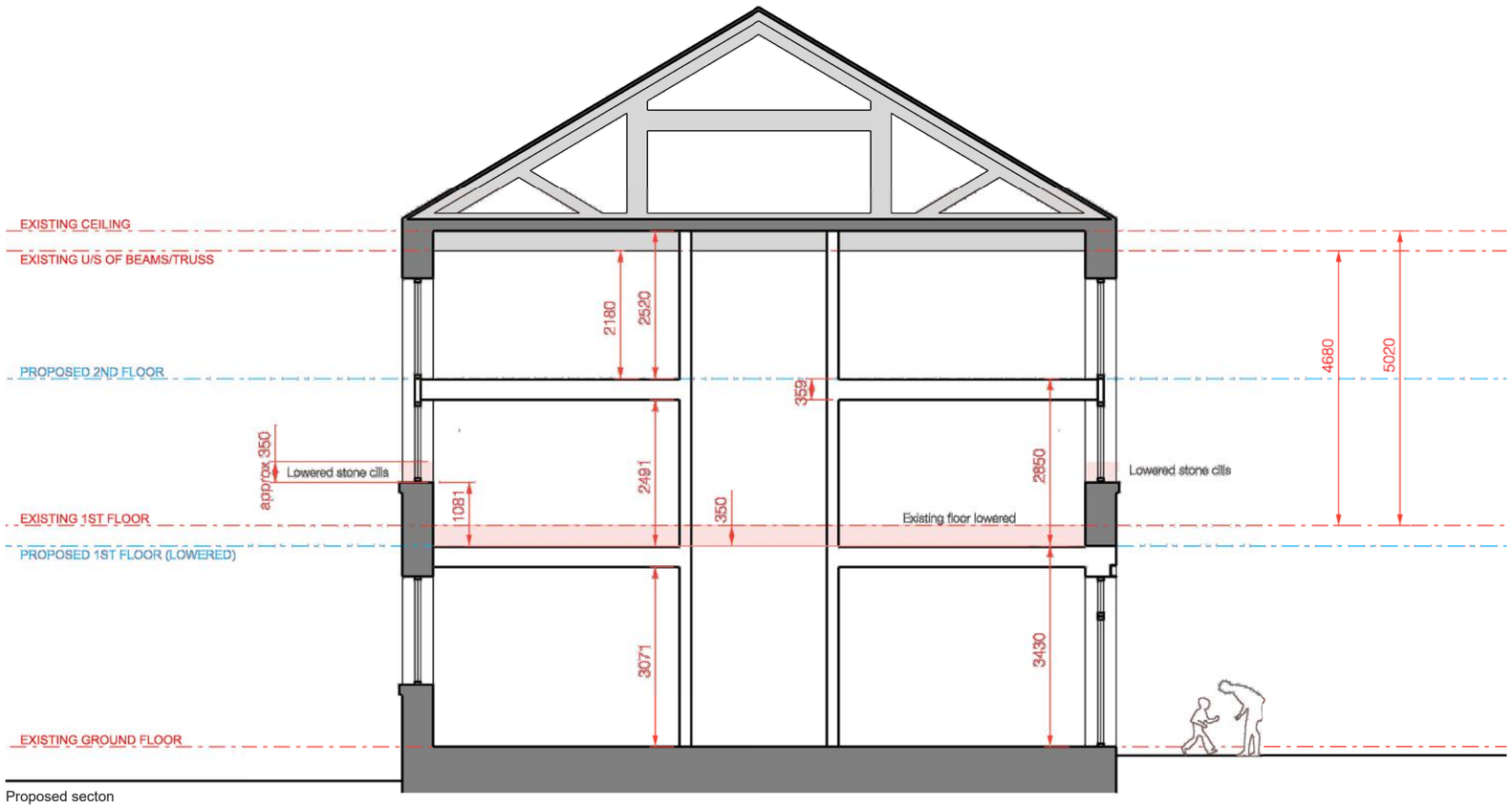
Proposed Demolition





Non-original element to be demolished

ENABLING WORKS



Proposed secton

First Floor Cill Heights / New Floors
To make the scheme viable, an additional floor must be inserted into the main chapel. This can be achieved by slightly lowering the existing first floor to allow enough room for a new (2nd) floor to be inserted above.

To enable all the apartments to have generous floor to ceiling heights and windows at eye level (not too low / high), the existing first floor cills will be slightly lowered.

The windows serve as the only openings to the living spaces/bedrooms and therefore the residential amenity would be impacted if left as is. The current openings would mean the first floor window sits at approx 1.5m high, providing limited visibility out for residents. The principle of the window opening is being retained with the arch at the top.

Example of lowered cills (Old School House by Nick Moss Architects)

PROPOSAL

Existing elevation (with highlighted demolition)

Proposed elevation

Use / Amount
The proposed development is the conversion of an existing building therefore apartment layouts are designed around the structure and fabric of the existing building.

- 6no. two bedroom apartments
- 1no. two bedroom townhouse
-

Total 7no. dwellings

All of the apartments have two bedrooms. The mix has been determined by the arrangement of the existing building, existing window positions and viability.

In addition to the proposed dwellings, internal cycle stores (6 spaces) and a refuse store form part of the communal accommodation.

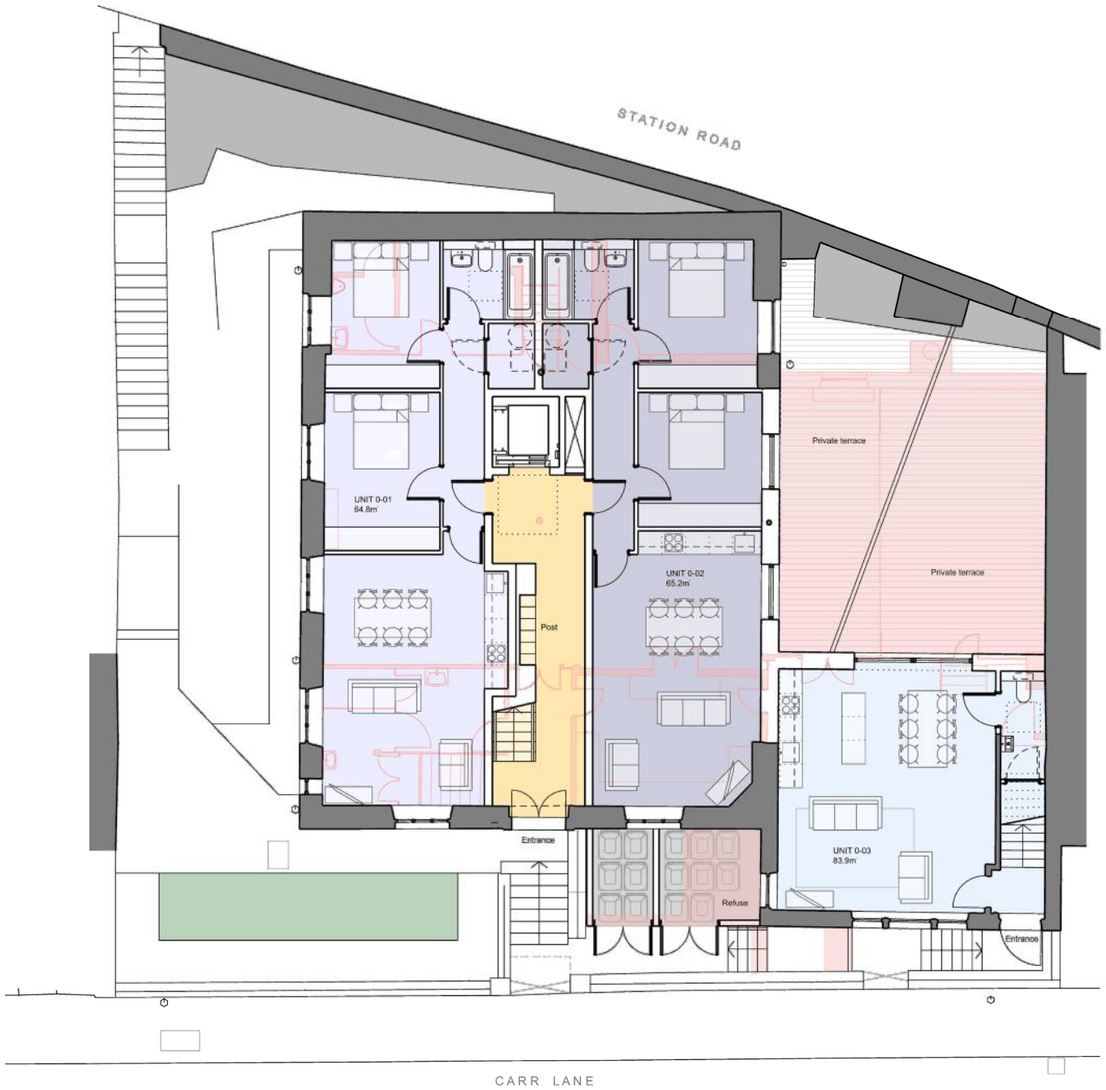
Space Standards
All the apartments are designed in accordance with Nationally Described Space Standards.

UNIT	TYPE	NIA
0.01	Two Bed	64.8m2
0.02	Two Bed	65.2m2
0.03	Two Bed Townhouse	83.9m2
1.01	Two Bed	65.6m2
1.02	Two Bed	65.7m2
2.01	Two Bed	65.6m2
2.02	Two Bed	65.7m2
TOTAL		476.5m2

TOTAL UNITS
6No. Two bed apartments
1No. Two bed duplexes
Total = **7**

NATIONAL SPACE STANDARDS
1 bed, 1 person 50m2
2 bed, 3 person 61m2 (70m2 over 2 storeys)
2 bed, 4 person 70m2 (79m2 over 2 storeys)

PROPOSAL



Proposed ground floor plan

Layout

Ground Floor
Accessed via the existing external stairs and entrance, the chapel is split into two apartments with a central circulation spine. The main living spaces are located towards the front of the Church, with more private areas (bedrooms) at the rear.
The later Sunday School is a stand alone home, with its own private entrance. Two of the new homes have external rear access into the enlarge courtyard.

First Floor
The first floor mirrors the ground floor layout, whilst the stand alone unit has first floor bedrooms.

Roof
There are no interventions to the roof (including the attic space), except for new photovoltaic panels to allow for a renewable energy source for the scheme and a smoke vent to comply with the Building Regulations.

Basement
The existing basement (beneath the Sunday School), houses the cycle store and plant.

PROPOSAL

Proposed front elevation

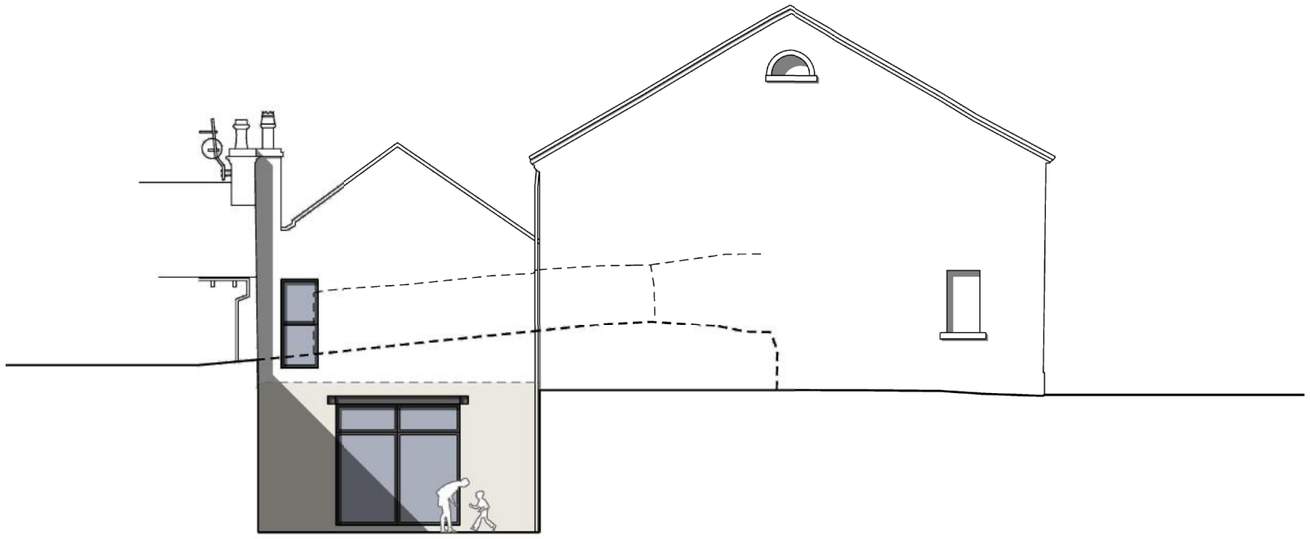
Appearance
The proposals work with the existing elevations with apartment layouts arranged around existing window openings and entrances. The proposals make no changes to the scale and massing of the existing building.

The original windows have been replaced with white uPVC which is not in keeping with the local character of stone and blue slate materials. We are proposing a design that draws on this darker slate colour and will be more in keeping with both the building and other local historic building conversions such as Globe Mill.

We have researched for images of the original windows, however, have only been able to find the birds-eye view, which when zoomed in indicates a window design closer to our proposed design rather than the current uPVC.

Globe Mill

PROPOSAL



Proposed courtyard elevations showing stone infills and steel lintel

Materials
There are minimal interventions, but where necessary, the materials palette has been chosen to be sympathetic to the original building.

New external materials include;

- Dark grey aluminium frame windows (replacing existing non-original plastic windows)
- Stone infills (using reclaimed stone from the rear demolition)
- Dark grey steel channel lintels
- Photovoltaic panels (on the roof)
- Dark grey rainwater goods
- Dark grey aluminium louvres (for the new refuse store and cycle store / plant)

Existing materials refurbished include;

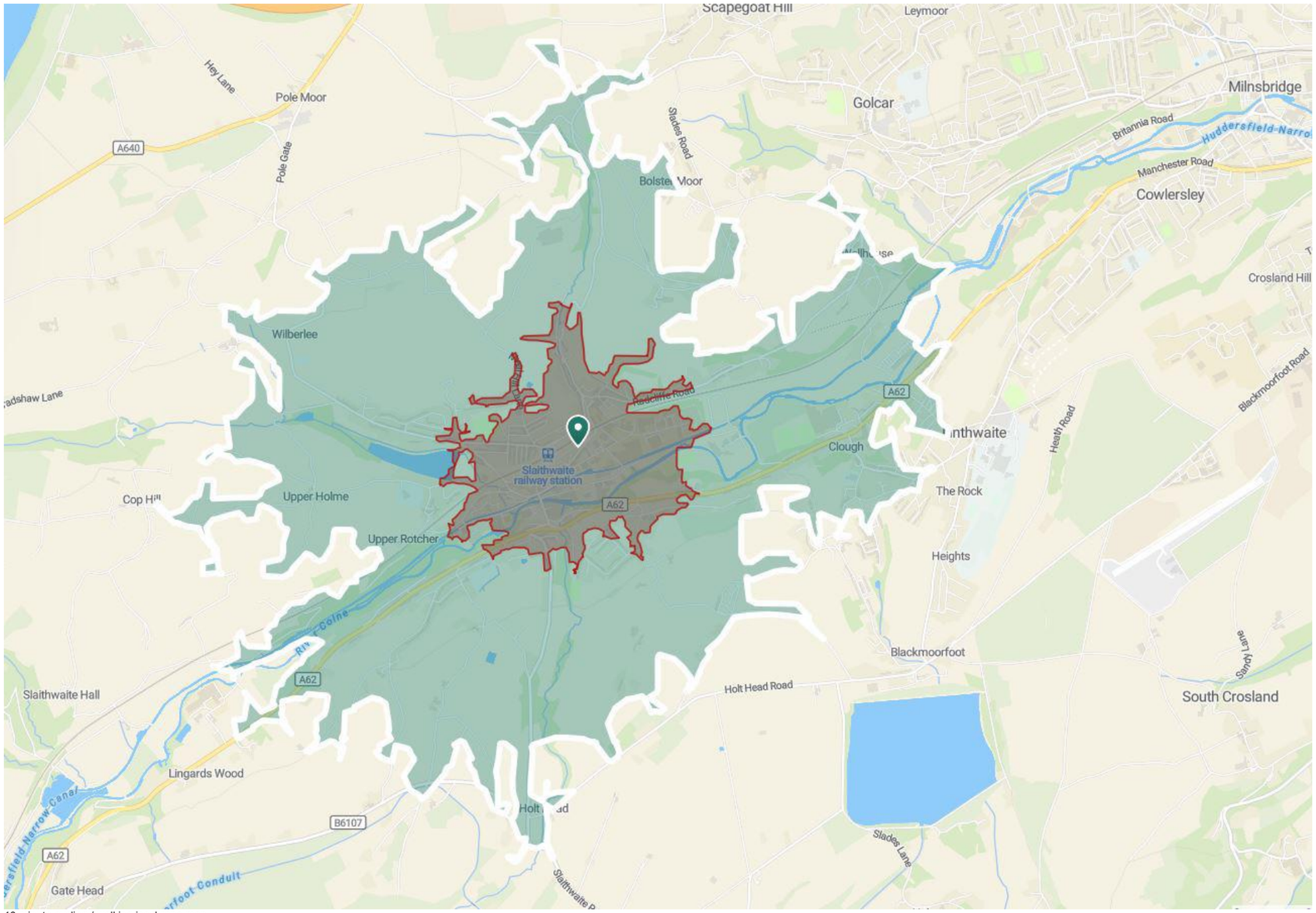
- Existing stone walls and cills cleaned and repointed
- Existing roof slates retained and repaired
- Existing entrance door refurbished

Internally, the thermal envelope will be improved with insulated plasterboard.

Landscaping
- The existing boundary walls, steps and railings will be retained.
- The existing planting areas will be maintained.
- A small section of stone walling will be infilled on Station Road.

Summary of Proposals
- Conversion of The Church and Sunday School into 7no. dwellings.
- Part removal of the later rear Sunday School extension facing Station Road.
- Removal of the pews, raised platforms and organ on the first floor.
- Stone repairs to the building and curtilage walls including selective re-pointing in lime mortar.
- Removal / replacement of the existing windows at ground and first floor level. First floor cills lowered approx. 350mm.
- Lowering of the existing first floor to allow for a new 2nd floor.
- Removal of the existing stairs and insertion of a new central circulation spine, including a new stair and lift.
- Insertion of a new smoke vent at roof level.
- Addition of photovoltaic panels to the roof.
- New bin store adjacent the existing external steps / entrance.
- Extension of the bottom external step to the front boundary and removal of the existing metal gates.

ACCESS



10 minute cycling / walking isochrone map

Read in conjunction with the accompanying Accessibility Statement

Access
The site is in a highly sustainable location in Slaithwaite town centre with excellent access to all public transport hubs.

The adjacent map indicated 10 minute active travel isochrones for walking (red) and cycling (grey).

The railway station is directly adjacent to the site on the opposite side of Station Road less than 100m away. All town centre amenities, including main bus stops are less than a five minute walk from the site. The bulk of Slaithwaite is within a ten minute cycle ride of the site.

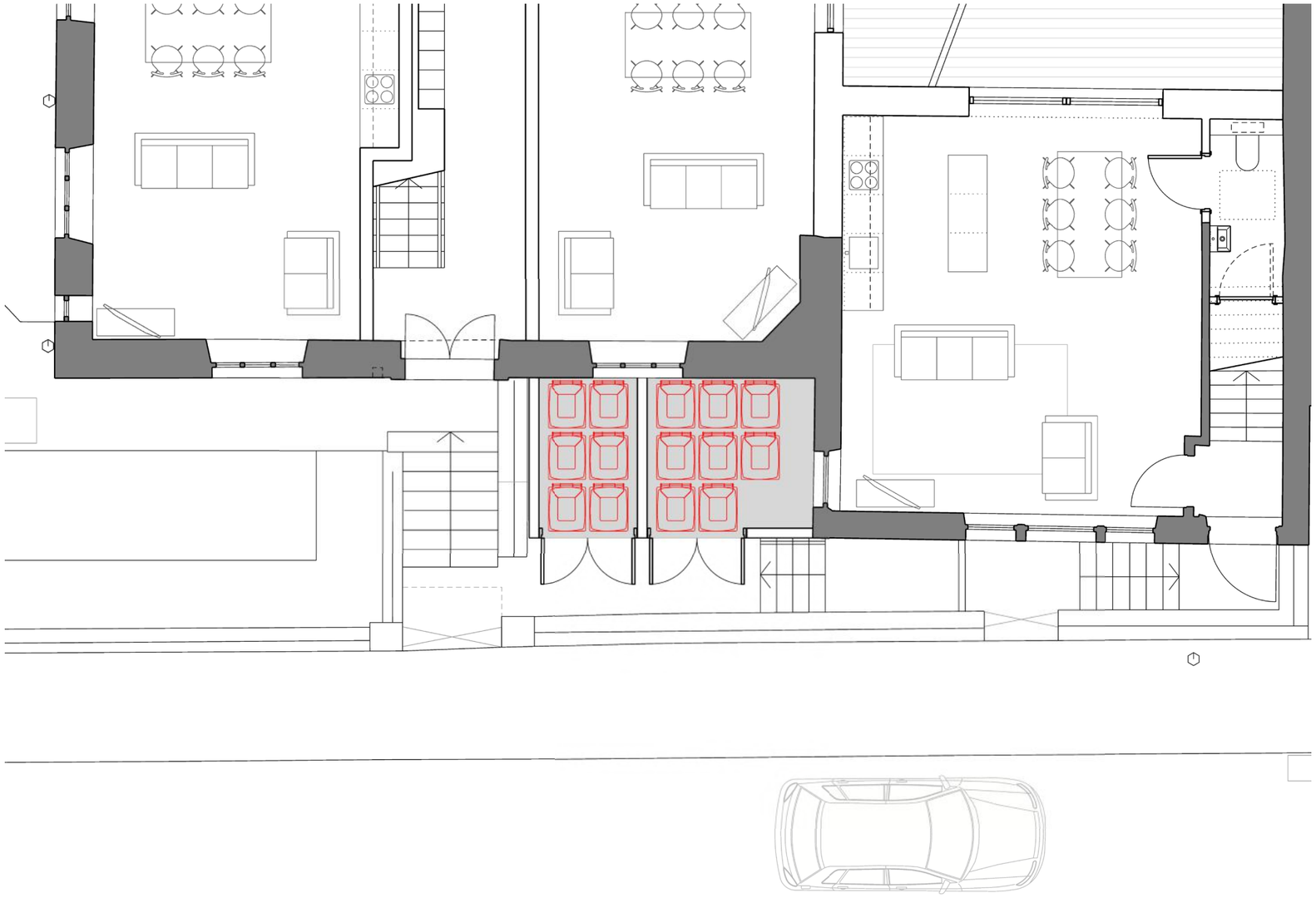
To encourage healthy and sustainable means of transport, provision to securely store 7 cycles within the development has been proposed, which is in line with proposed local policy of one cycle space per apartment.

Inclusive Access
As a conversion of an existing building on a sloping site there is stepped access to the entrance.

The existing building is two storeys, which will be amended to three within the existing Church building. There is no existing lift and as such it is proposed to introduce a lift to serve the upper floors. Access to the upper floors will also be via a new staircase, built to current standards, to improve access.

All dwellings will be designed in accordance with Approved Document M4(1) Category 1 - Visitable Dwellings. New circulation areas and internal doorways, sanitary facilities and services and controls will be in line the approved document, other than where a proposed alteration would be deemed to harm an element that contributes to the heritage significance of the existing building.

WASTE MANAGEMENT



Proposed refuse store

Waste Strategy
Kirklees Council Waste Management Guide states communal facilities should try to provide 180ltrs of storage capacity for each waste type per household (general waste and recyclables).

For this development, due to space constraints and level differences with the road level (Carr Lane), standard 240ltr wheeled bins for general and recyclable waste will be used. This mirrors the current Church use.

Refuse will be stored in a new dedicated louvred space, located close to the Carr Lane pavement level. This is the only possible location, as utilising access onto Station Road would be inappropriate due to the large level difference.

14no. 240ltr bins can be accommodated.

Proposed elevation showing louvred refuse store

CONCLUSION

The Methodist Church is a significant heritage asset within Slaithwaite town centre. The proposals to convert The Church to residential use, will secure the long term future of the building.

The proposed area of demolition to enable the scheme, is considered to have a primarily neutral or less than substantial heritage impact and will allow for 7 new homes to be located at the heart of Slaithwaite.

DRAWING LIST

Planning Application Drawings

Drawing No.	Title	Scale	
al(05)001-P1	Existing Location Plan	1:500	@A3
al(05)009-P1	Existing Basement Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)010-P1	Existing Ground Floor Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)011-P1	Existing First Floor Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)012-P1	Existing Roof Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)020-P1	Existing Front Elevation 01	1:100	@A3
al(05)021-P1	Existing Side Elevation	1:100	@A3
al(05)022-P1	Existing Rear Elevation	1:100	@A3
al(05)023-P1	Existing Side (East) Elevation 01	1:100	@A3
al(05)024-P1	Existing Front Elevation 02	1:100	@A3
al(05)025-P1	Existing Side (East) Elevation 02	1:100	@A3
al(05)029-P1	Basement Demolition Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)030-P1	Ground Floor Demolition Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)031-P1	First Floor Demolition Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)109-P1	Proposed Basement Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)110-P1	Proposed Ground Floor Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)111-P1	Proposed First Floor Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)112-P1	Proposed First Floor Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)113-P1	Proposed Roof Plan	1:100	@A3
al(05)120-P1	Proposed Front Elevation 01	1:100	@A3
al(05)121-P1	Proposed Side Elevation	1:100	@A3
al(05)122-P1	Proposed Rear Elevation	1:100	@A3
al(05)123-P1	Proposed Side (East) Elevation 01	1:100	@A3
al(05)124-P1	Proposed Front Elevation 02	1:100	@A3
al(05)125-P1	Proposed Side (East) Elevation 02	1:100	@A3
al(05)130-P1	Proposed Section A-A	1:100	@A3