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MAY 2025

HERITAGE STATEMENT - ISSUE P1

SLAITHWAITE

METHODIST CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Application

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

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

The Heritage Statement should be **read in conjunction with the accompanying Design and Access Statement.**

Address

Slaithwaite Methodist Church
Carr Lane
Slaithwaite
Huddersfield
HD7 5AN

SITE



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

HERITAGE ASSET

Purpose

This Heritage Statement has been prepared by Nick Moss Architects, an architectural practice experienced in the adaptation and conservation of historic buildings.

The purpose of this Heritage Statement is to accompany the planning application for the proposed conversion and change of use of the former Methodist Church. The proposed development includes the partial demolition and alteration of the existing building together with ancillary landscape and external works.

The Heritage Statement is presented in two parts: a significance appraisal of the fabric, character and setting of the Site (Part 1), followed by a Heritage Impact Assessment (Part 2). This is because the significance appraisal has been used during the design-development phase of the project to define the fabric and character of the Site in order to understand how it is appreciated and its sensitivity to change.

The content and level of detail of the document accords with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requirements, as well as Historic England's 2019 guidance on the structure and form of Heritage Statements.

Methodology

This Heritage Statement is framed by the requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 72. This is necessary because the 1990 Act requires that the Local Planning Authority must treat the desirability of preserving the character, fabric and settings of designated heritage assets (including conservation areas) as issues which are afforded great weight (rather than simply as material considerations) as defined by NPPF paragraph 193.

The Local Planning Authority's assessment of potential harm to the character, fabric or setting of a listed building, or to the character and appearance of a conservation area, must be an evidence-based planning judgment. This is because the weight which the authority applies to determine the degree of direct or indirect impact must be proportionate to the relative significance of the identified heritage asset. Thus, 'less-than-substantial' harm should not be afforded the same weight as that defined as being 'substantial.' The NPPF also stresses that all analysis and evidence must be proportionate to the relative significance of the heritage asset and the impact of the proposed development. This fundamental requirement informs the methodology used in this Heritage Statement.

Therefore, the analysis of heritage significance and impact in this Heritage Statement accords with the requirements of the paragraphs 189 and 193 of the NPPF and Historic England's October 2019 guidance, as it presents sufficient and proportionate evidence to enable the Council, "to reach an informed decision". The conclusions of this Heritage Statement are thus based on the, "need to be proportionate to the significance of the heritage assets [potentially] affected, and the impact on the significance of those heritage assets".

The Heritage Statement assessment is based on the definition of 'heritage assets' defined in the NPPF:

"a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)".

'Designated heritage assets' are distinct from 'non-designated heritage assets' as they are subject to different legislative and policy evaluation requirements at both national and local level. Designated Heritage Assets are defined as: "World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or a Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation".

The Heritage Impact Assessment (Part 2) comprises an assessment of both the direct and indirect heritage impacts, defined as follows by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in its 2011 guidance:

- Direct heritage impacts are physical alterations to the fabric or character of the Site arising as a primary consequence of the proposed development. They result in a degree of change to the Site, or alterations to the surroundings in which the heritage asset is experienced (i.e. its setting).
- Indirect heritage impact are changes to the experience of the Site, or the setting of other heritage assets. Indirect heritage impacts on setting refers to perceptible visual effects on the experience and/or character of heritage assets beyond the development footprint.

The assessment of relative significance is a comparative process, and for this reason it relies heavily on the analysis of a range of information, including local knowledge. It aims to establish whether a component of the area is of local, regional, national or international significance, and therefore merit appropriate consideration in the Planning process.

The following determination of the importance/significance of the Site is thus based on existing statutory designations and, in the case of non-statutory designations, professional judgement.

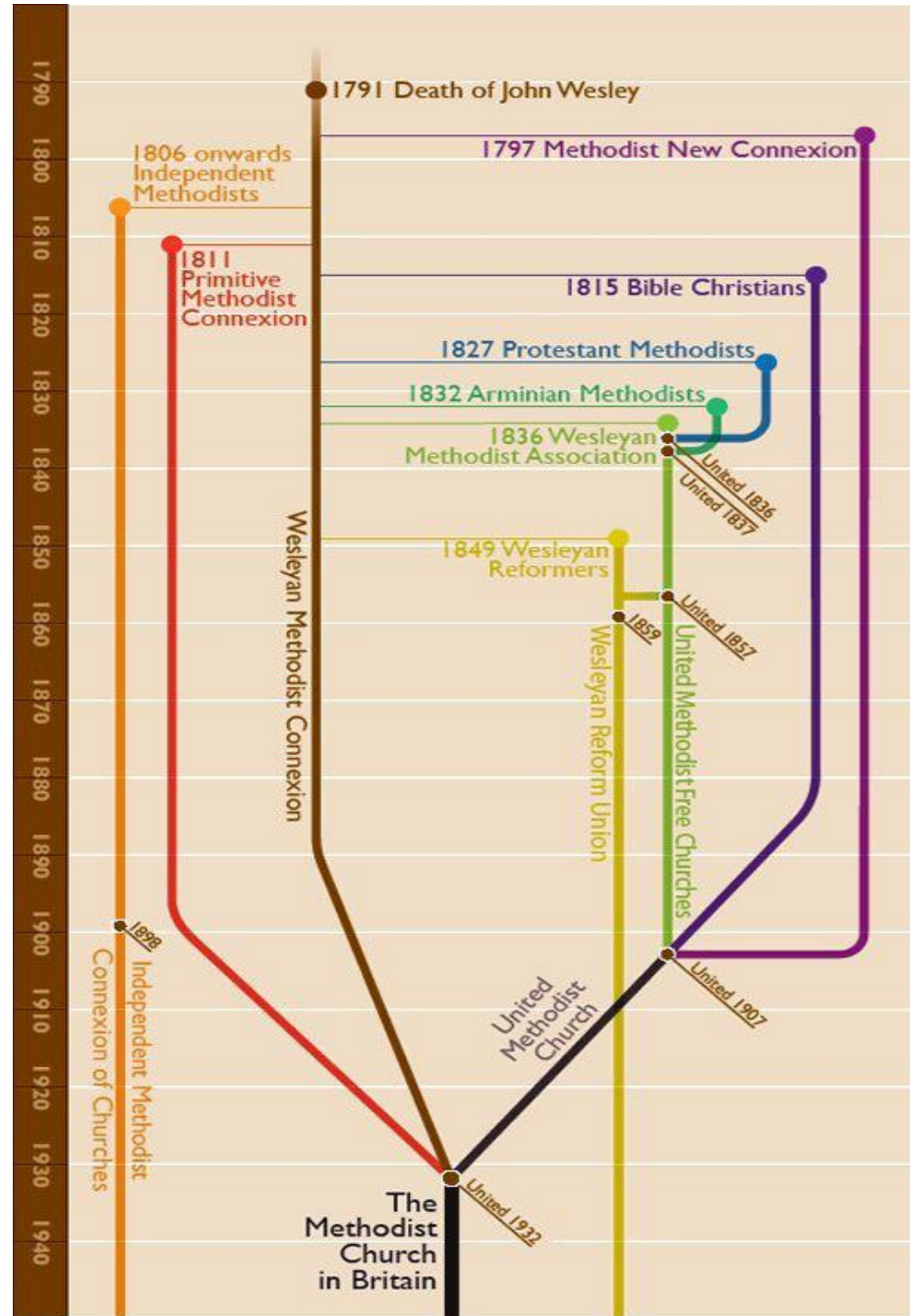
Research Sources

This Heritage Statement is the result of a process which synthesises relevant evidence sourced from: documentary research, site analysis, and professional judgment. The documentary research was based upon primary and secondary sources, including maps, drawings and reports.

Consideration has also been given to the historical development of the area and key views to the designated heritage assets within the locality. The purpose is to define the contribution of the built form to the appreciation and understanding of the special interest of the area.

Surveys of the site and surrounding areas were conducted in late 2024 by visual inspection. The purpose was to identify the surviving heritage components of the site and map out and identify the key views to notable buildings which could be impacted by the proposals.

PLACE OF WORSHIP



Methodist history (<https://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/methodist-history/history-of-methodism/>)



Portrait of John Wesley

Places of worship have a high degree of communal value. They are usually the focal point of the community in which they are located and as a result they act as a historical record of that community. In this case the building is no longer performing a religious function but is still recognisable as a religious structure and as such still has a physical presence in the community.

The Methodist movement was founded by brothers Charles and John Wesley who were heavily influenced by the absolute faith shown by the German Moravians. Of the two brothers it was John who used his organisational skills to form a more structured religion and began to preach, often in open-air locations, to the rural working class communities who had become to feel increasingly excluded by the local parish churches. His message was that “all can be saved” and he concentrated on giving people the belief that they in turn could and should improve the lives of others. He actively encouraged people to “Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.”

In these early days of the Methodist movement Wesley was insistent that Methodism did not become a breakaway religion and that the people to whom he preached needed to regularly attend their local parish church as well as the Methodist meetings.

As the Methodist movement began to grow Wesley organised an annual conference for Methodist preachers in order to keep in touch with each other and to make important decisions. This conference still exists today, as does the connexional structure of the church where the church acts as one and makes decisions together.

In 1784 Wesley wanted ensure that these meetings continued after his death and created a corporate body called ‘Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists’. Shortly and almost inevitably after this act began the separation of Methodist movement away from the Church of England. Following numerous disputes with the Bishop of London regarding status of travelling preachers and ministers, in 1795 the “Plan of Pacification” agreed the status of travelling preachers and formalised the break from the doctrine of the Church of England.

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.

SITE PHOTOS



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 PHOTOS



1. First floor Chancel



2. 1st floor Nave



3. Ground floor stage

SITE PHOTOS



1. Existing attic

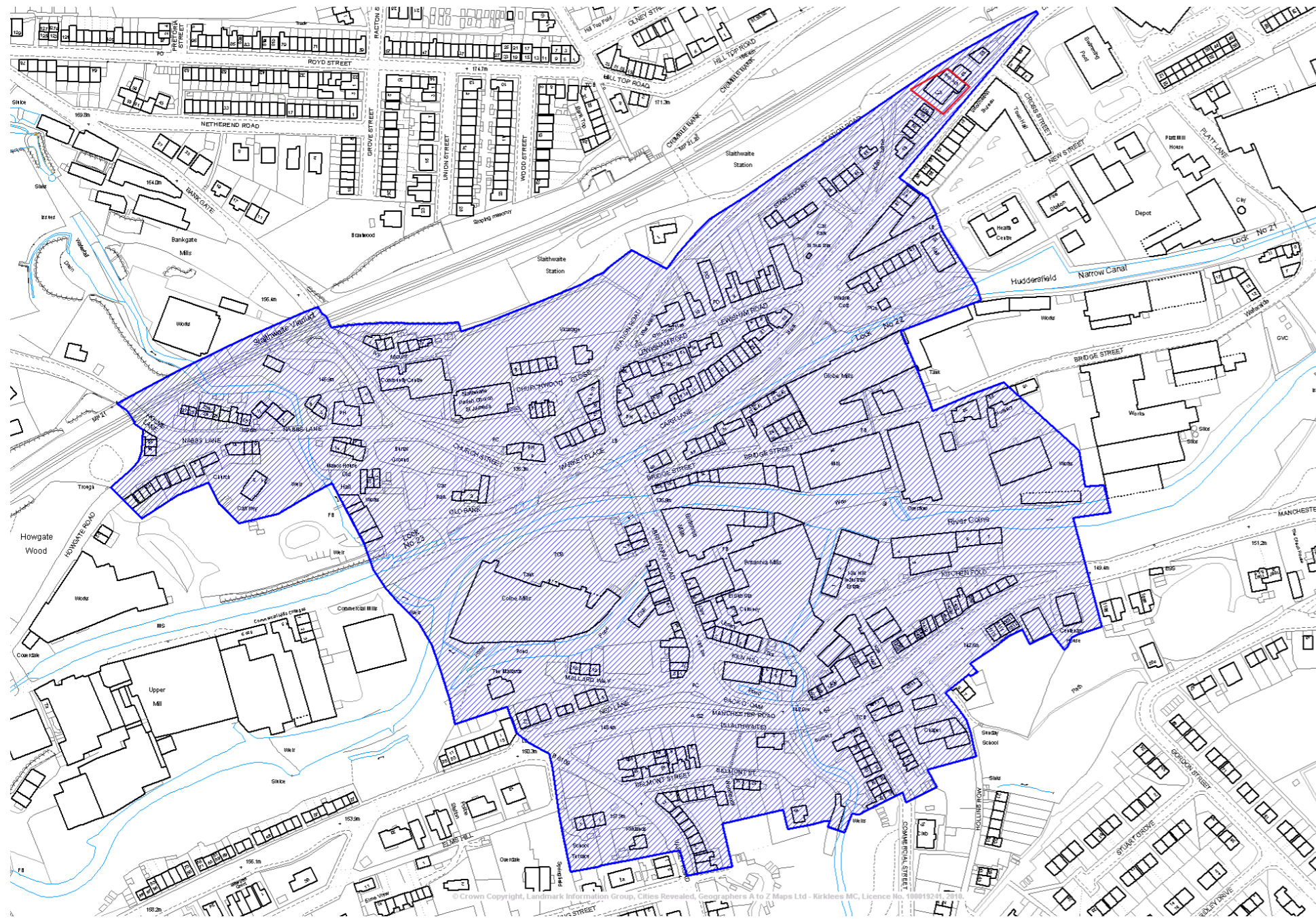


2. Existing attic



3. Looking down onto the Chancel

SITE



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.



Former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and Sunday School (listed)

LISTED BUILDINGS



46 Carr Lane (left hand side of photo)

Nearby Listed Buildings

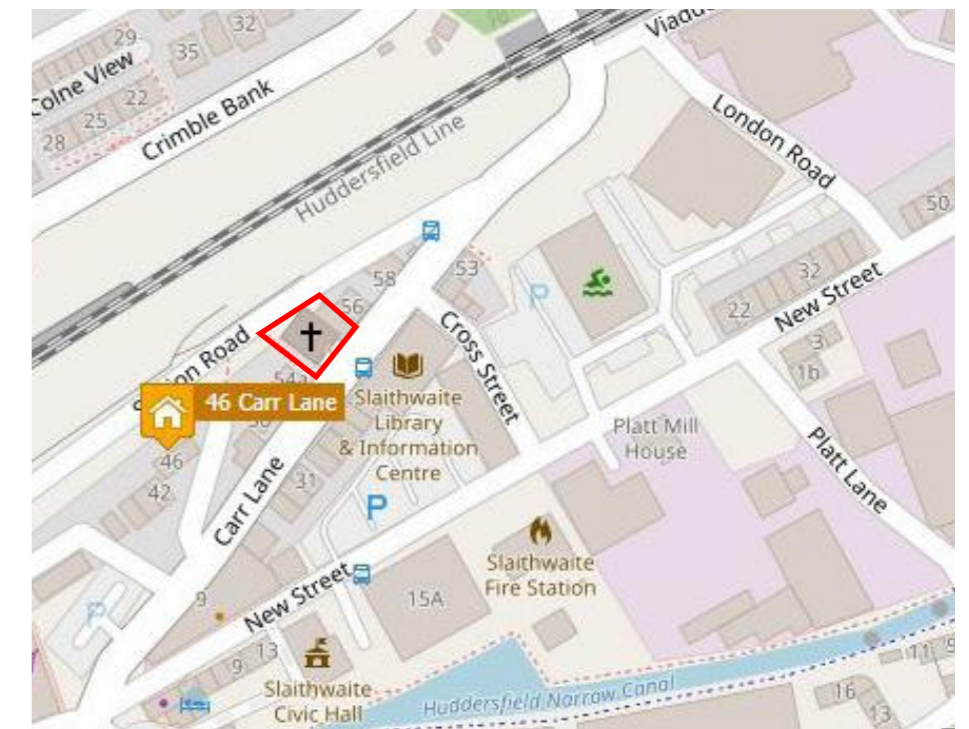
There is only one listed building in the immediate vicinity of the site;

46 Carr Lane (listing notes)

Early C19. Hammer dressed stone. Pitched stone slate roof (bitumen covered). Coped gables. Gable stack (internal) to north-east. Two storeys. South east elevation has: Ground floor; one six-light stone mullioned window; part blocked doorway to left. First floor; one eight-light stone mullioned window. South west gable has: single light to first floor; north east gable has: lean-to extension.

Interior: plaque with inscription 'Joseph & Salley Broadley 1816'.

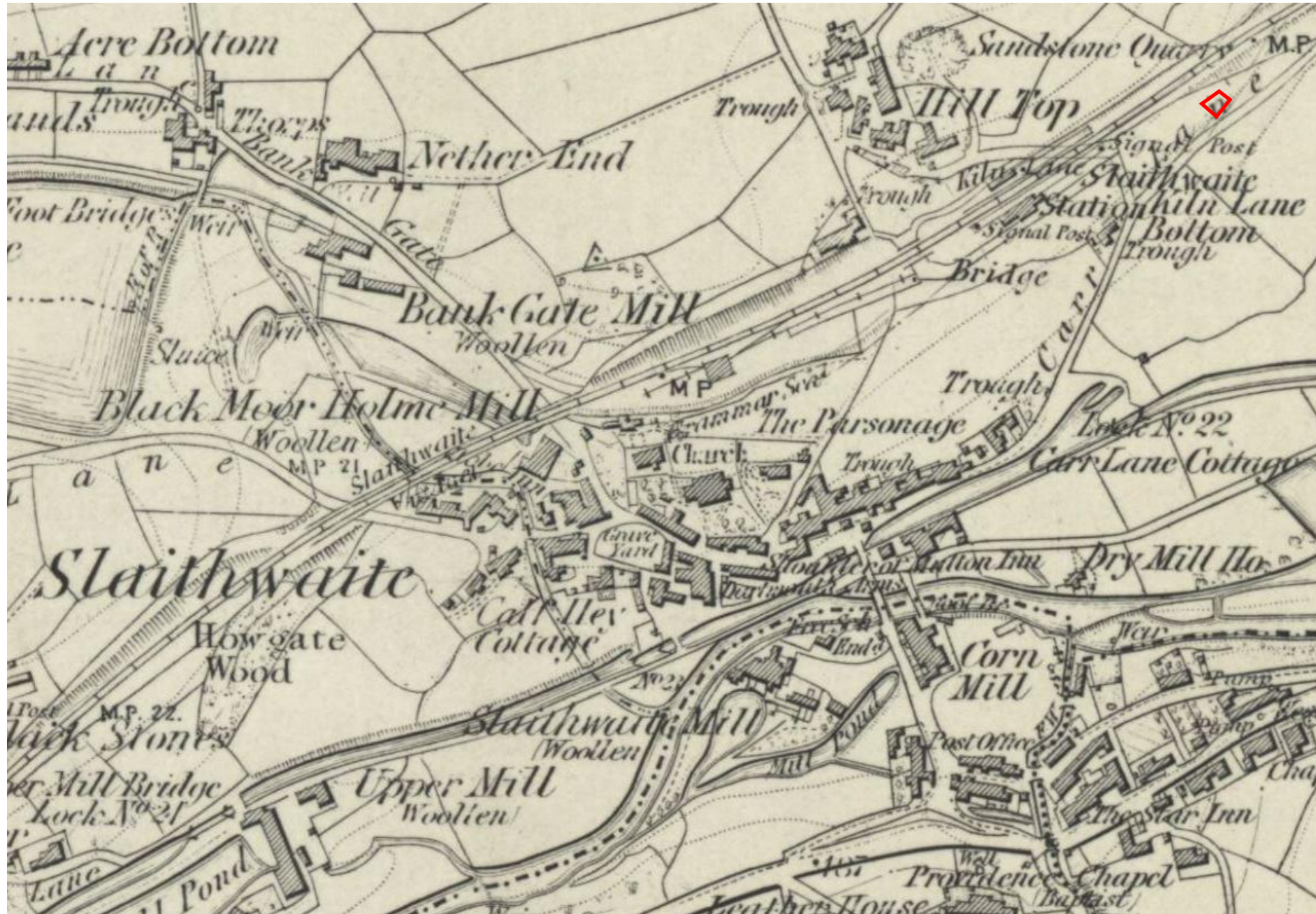
Listing NGR: SE0809314184



MAP REGRESSION

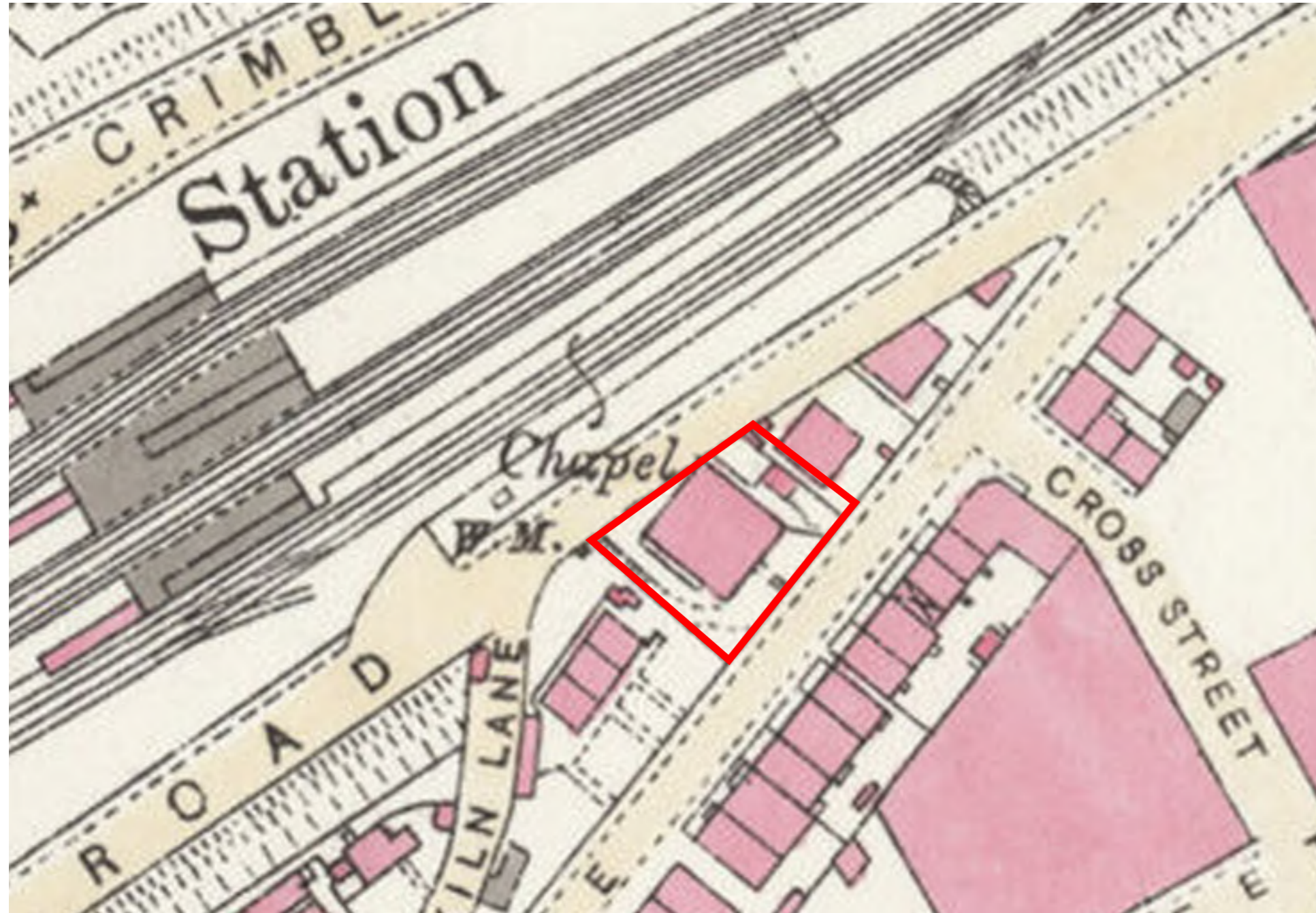
Surveyed 1848-50, published 1854 map

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



1854 map

MAP REGRESSION



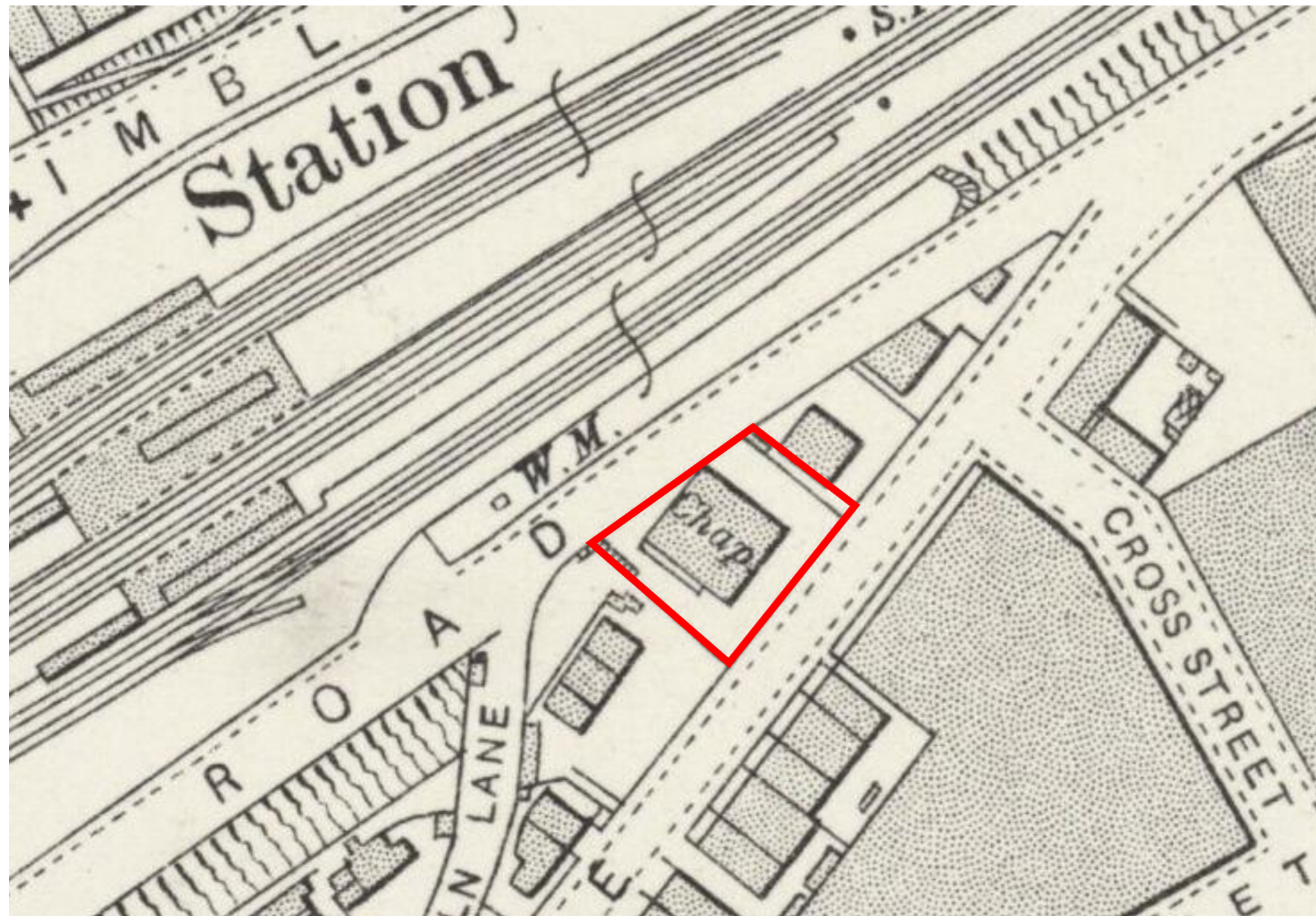
1892 OS map

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.

MAP REGRESSION

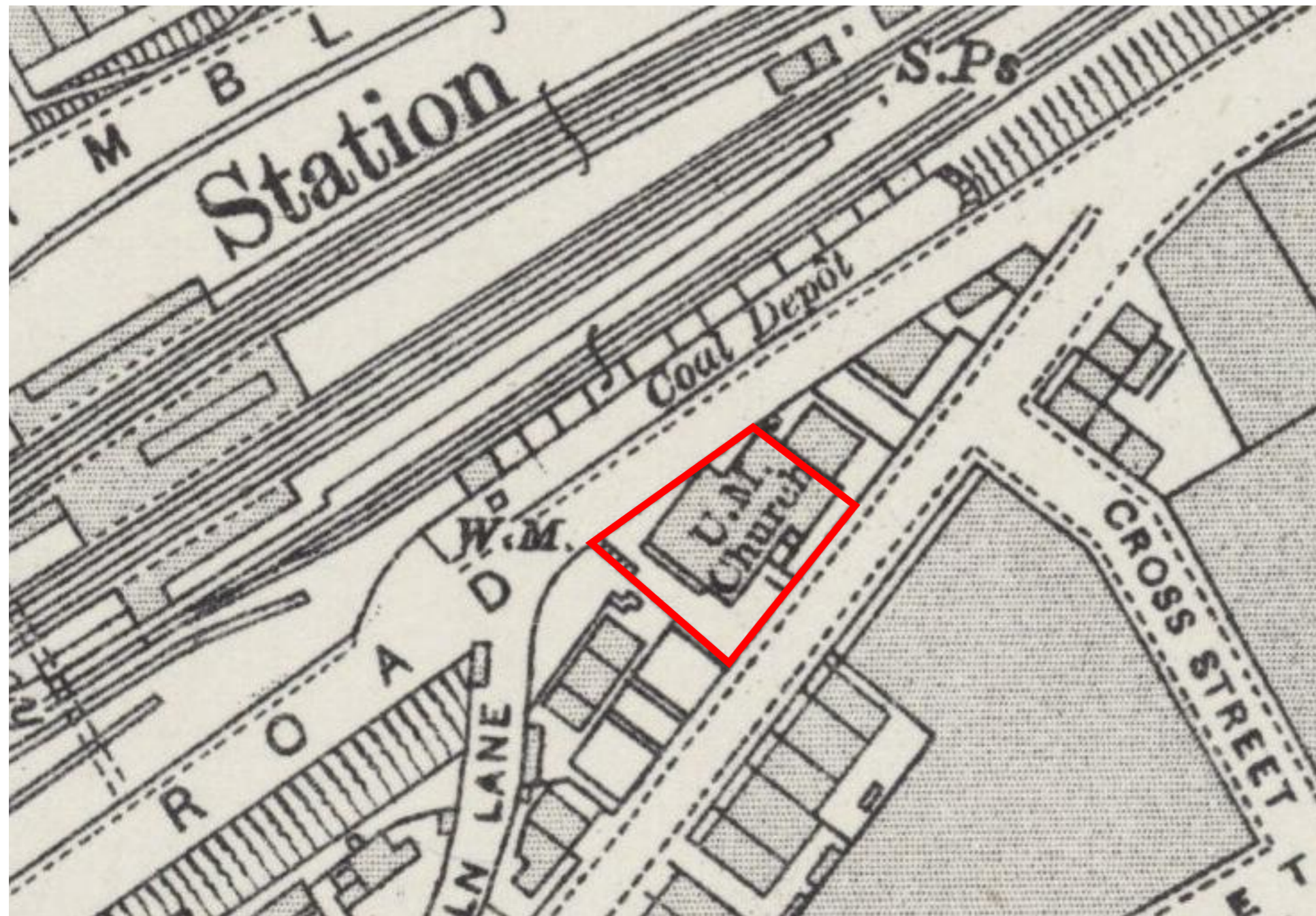


1906 OS map

Surveyed 1904, published 1906 OS map

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

MAP REGRESSION



1932 OS map

Surveyed 1930, published 1932 OS map

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

CURRENT



2024 aerial photo

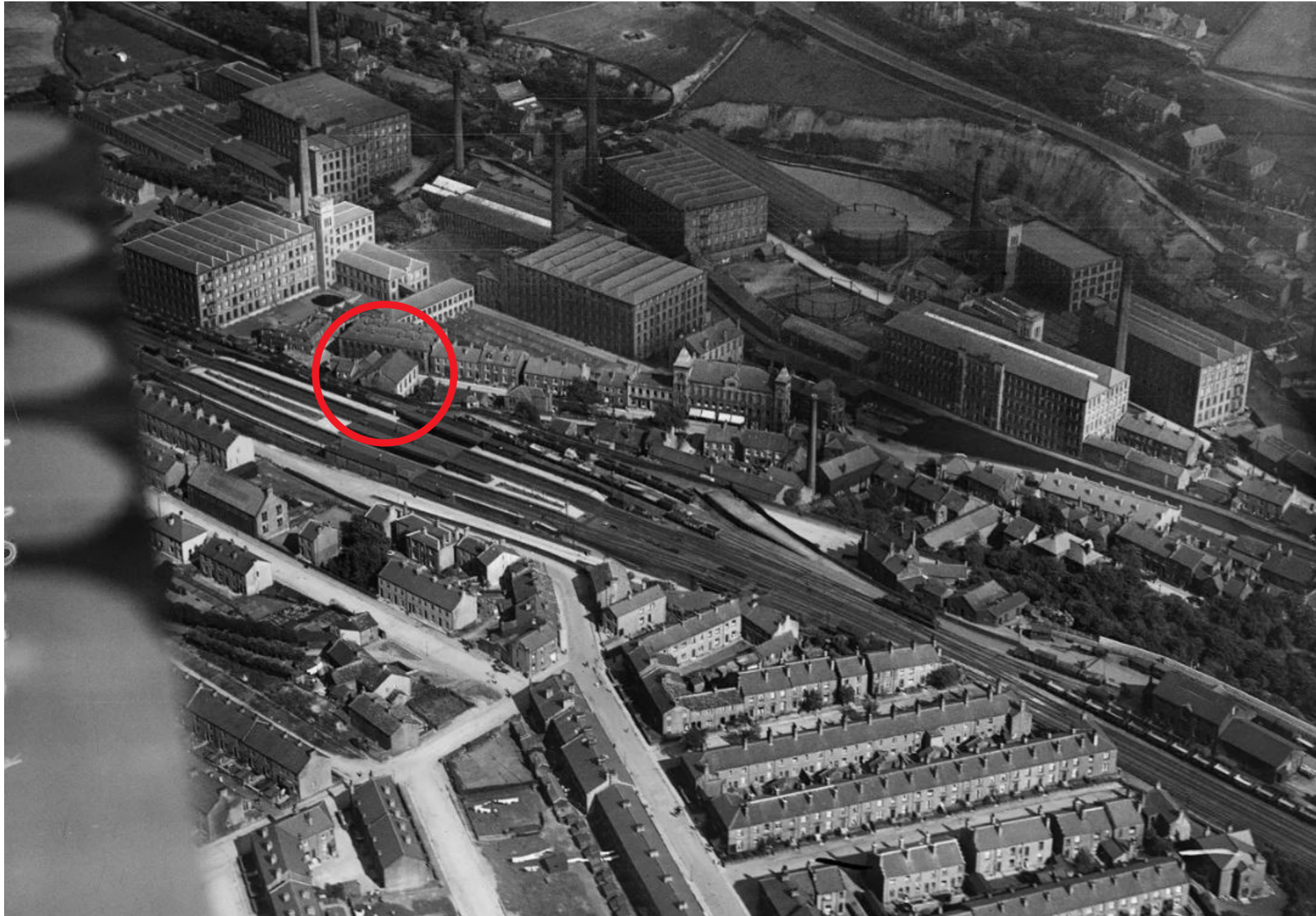


2024 aerial photo

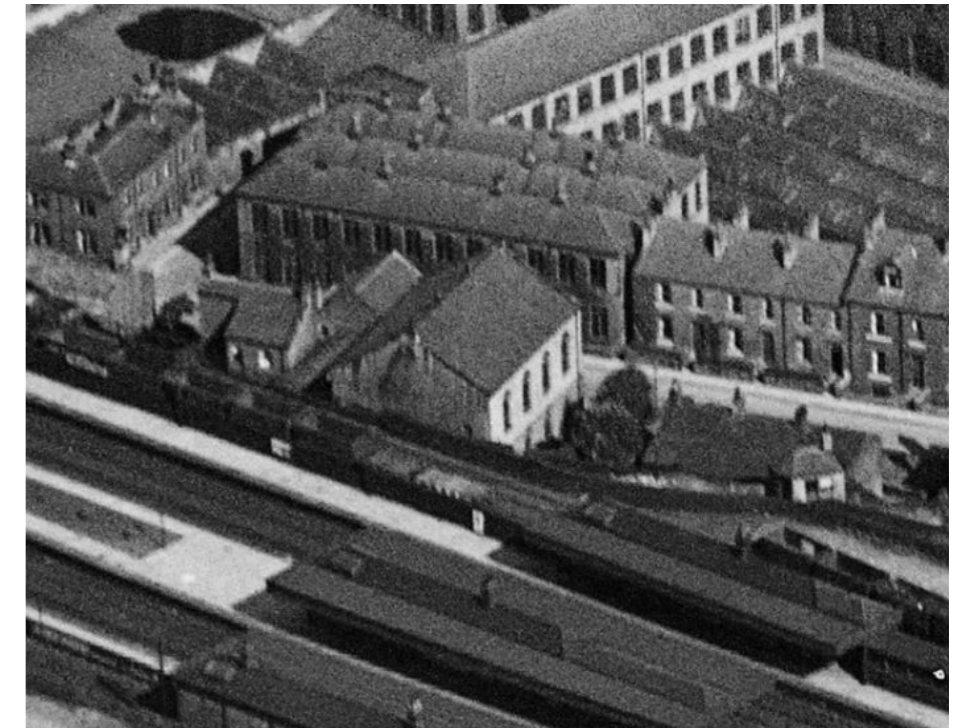
HISTORY

1926 Aerial Photo

The photo highlights the many industrial mills of Slaithwaite set between the railway line and canal.



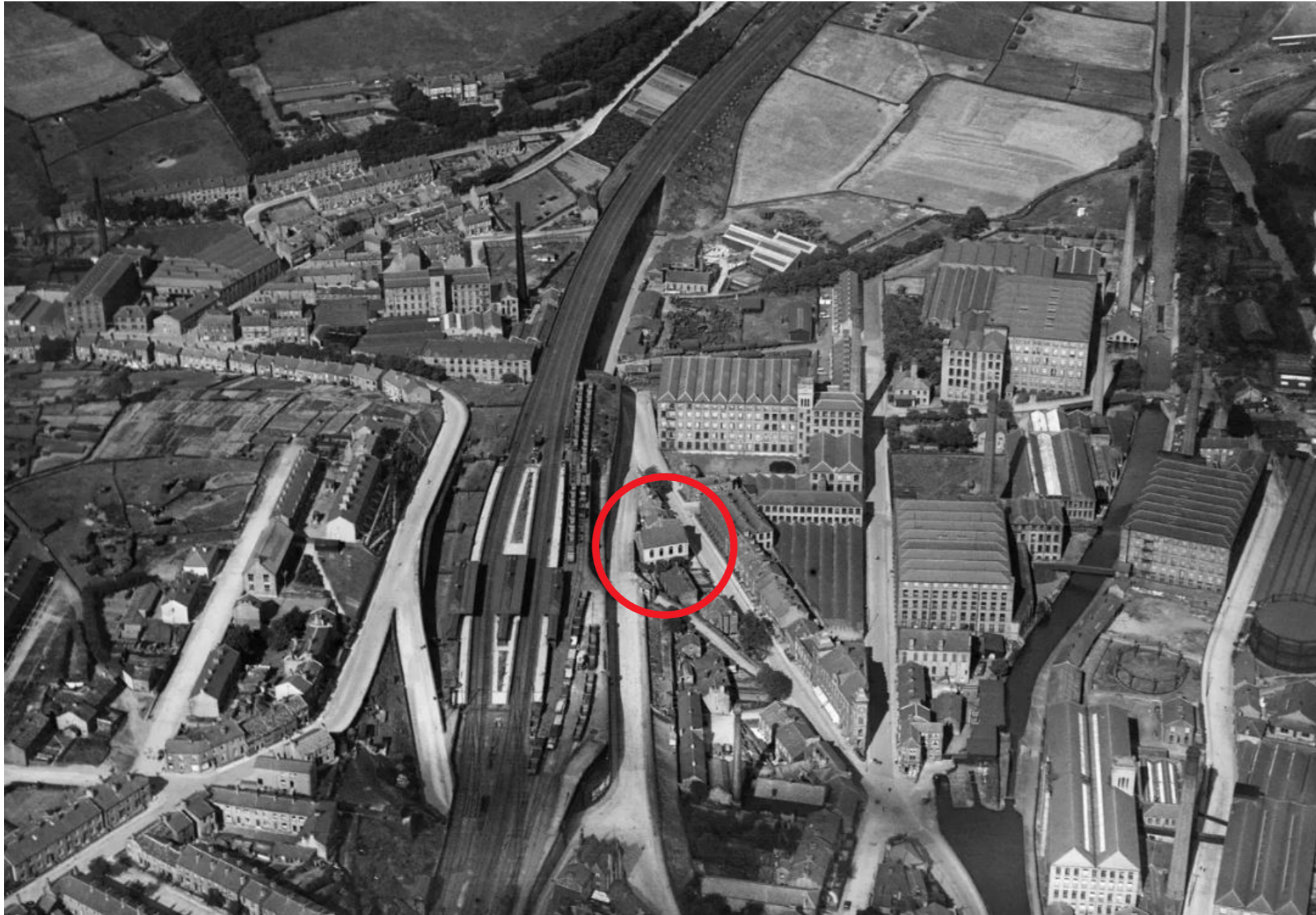
1926 aerial photo



HISTORY

1926 Aerial Photo

The photo gives the impression the upper storey may have been rendered.

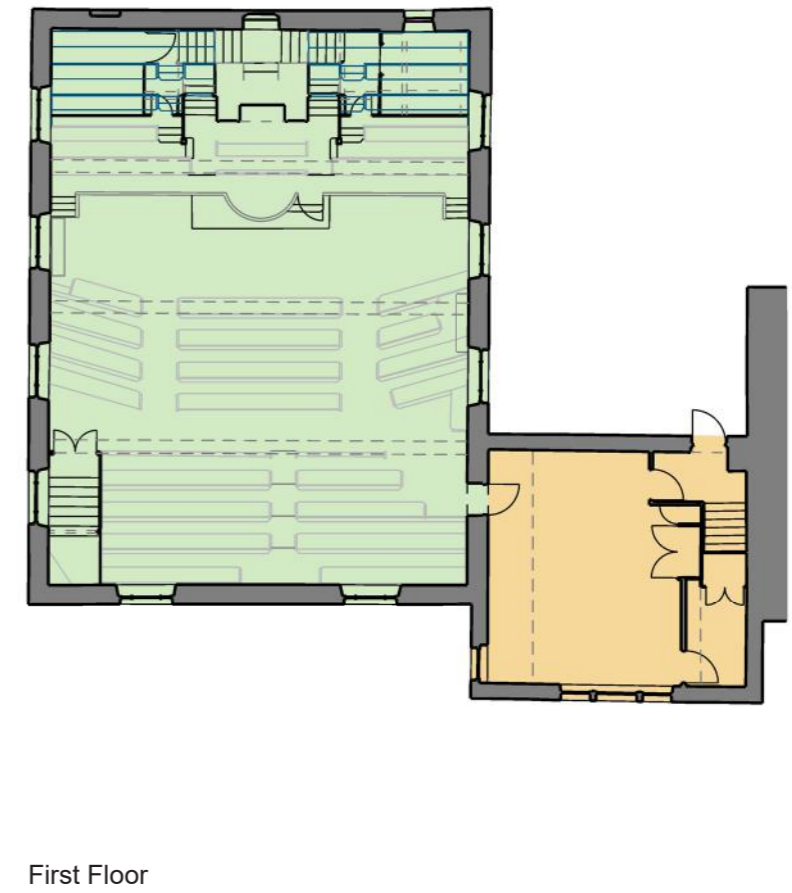
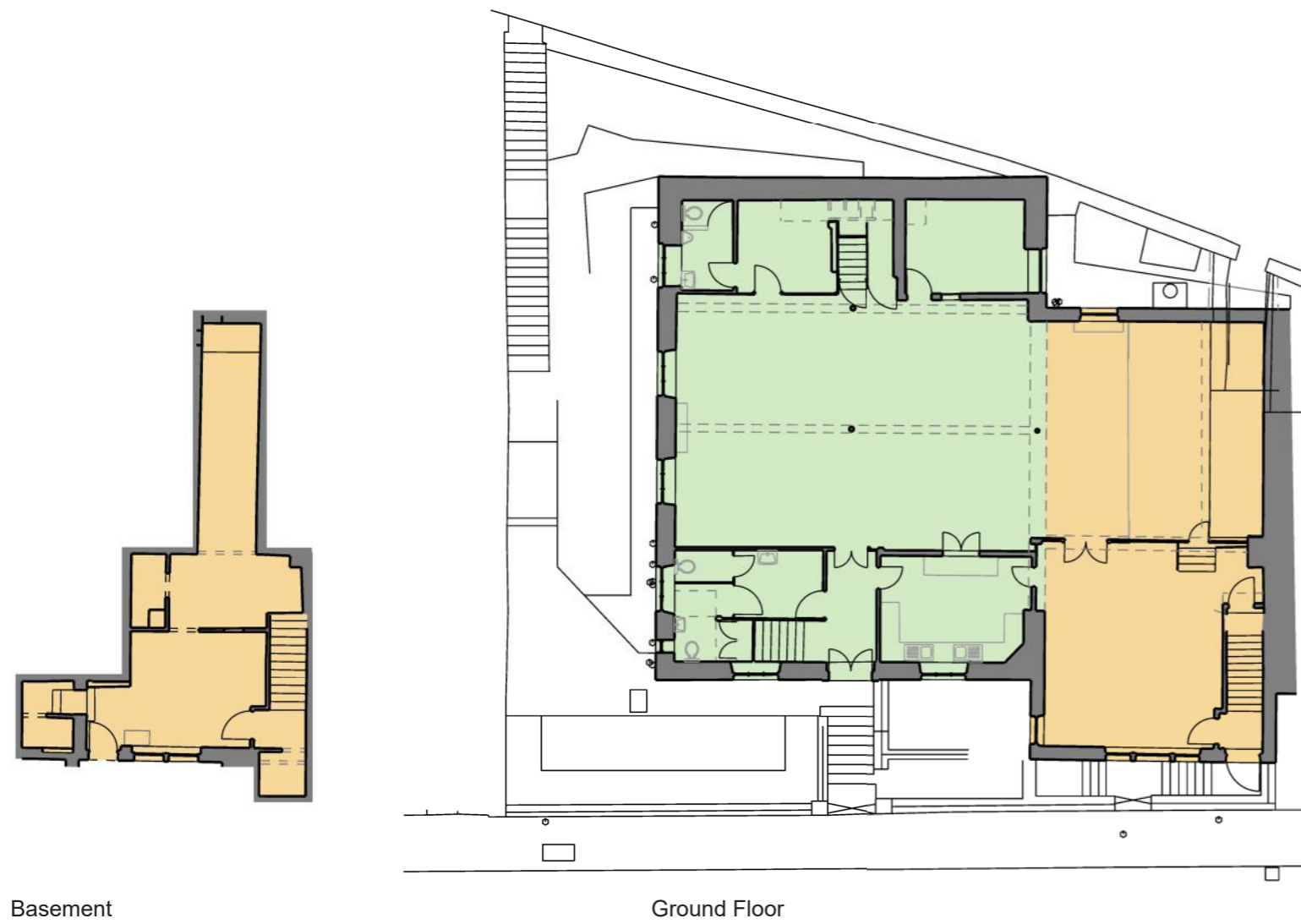




1926 aerial photo



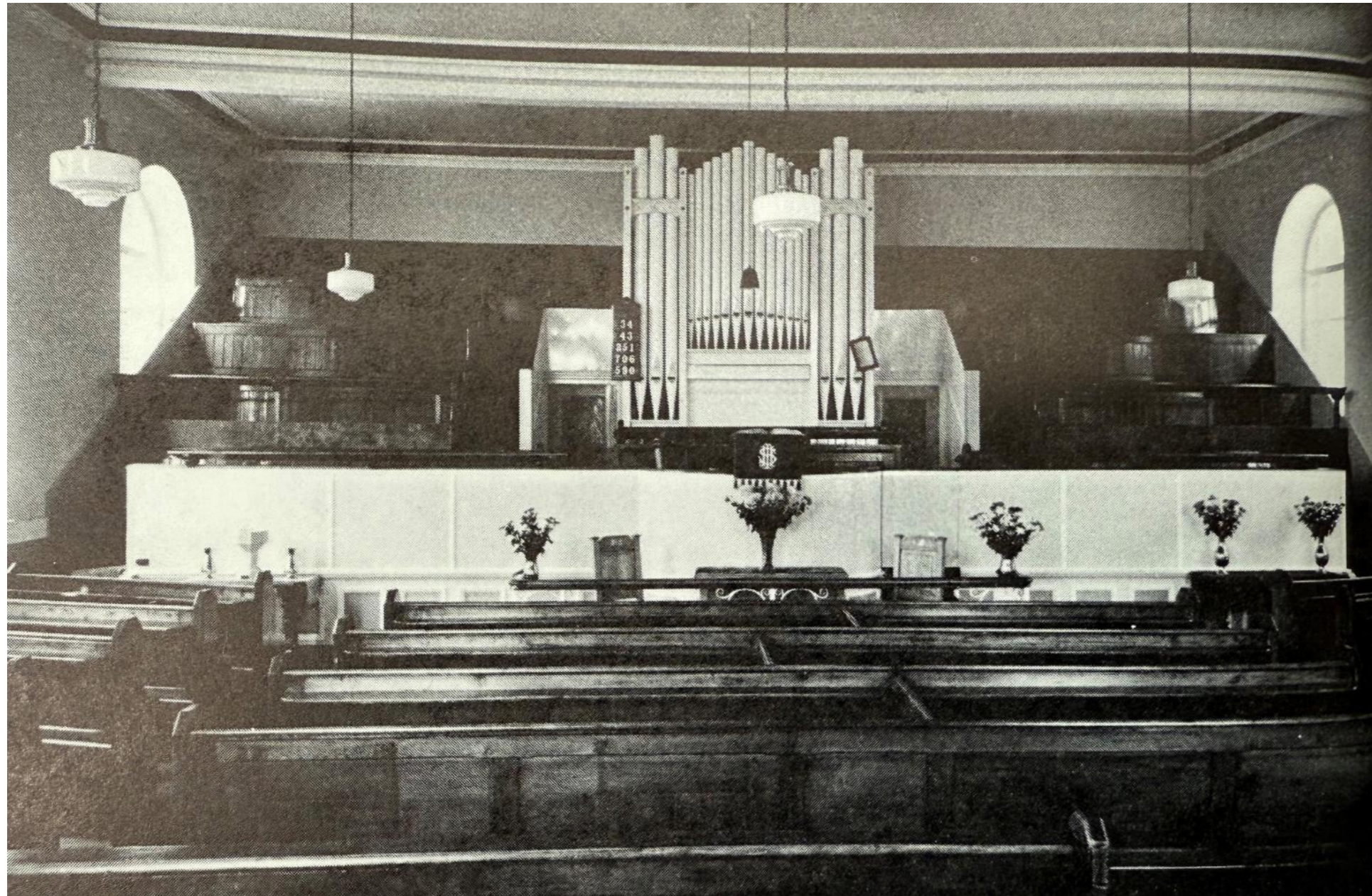
SITE DEVELOPMENT

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.



-  Original Building c. 1871
-  Sunday School Extension c. 1924

SIGNIFICANCE



Historic photo

Archaeological interest:

There is no evidence of any early archaeological interest on the site.

The site is of low archaeological interest.

Architectural and artistic interest:

The principal chapel building, built 1871, is an example of a provincial small/medium-sized non-conformist chapel of a design, in terms of form and plan, typical of Methodist churches, and indeed other non-conformist sects. The building is typical of many Methodist Churches in the country and as such has a neutral level of architectural interest. The lack of a first floor gallery results in a relatively simplistic worship space, with congregation pews facing a higher level lectern where the preacher would stand, to a backdrop of the tiered choir stalls and organ.

The interior of the building is simple and unpretentious and little ornament exists. The existing oak pews and organ dominate the first floor worship space, yet hold no particular significance other than the functionality of the building. The organ is visually impressive.

The traditional Methodist gable frontage provides aesthetic value, especially to Carr Lane.

The Chapel and adjoining Sunday-school accommodation has moderate architectural and artistic interest.

Historic and communal interest:

Places of worship in general have a great deal of communal value. They exist to serve the community in which they are located and as a result they act as an accurate historical record of that community. In this case the building is no longer performing a religious function but is still recognisable as a religious structure and as such still have a physical presence in the community.

The former Methodist Church and adjoining later Sunday School are a key part of the historic and architectural fabric of Slaithwaite. The later side additions reflect the growth of the congregation during the first half of the C20; particularly the increase in the size of the school accommodation which is indicative of the importance of education to the Methodist Church in this period.

The main chapel building's exterior is authentic, except for replacement windows. The (later) Sunday School extension has received modern alterations to the rear.

The immediate setting of the building appears to have changed little and as such has a high historic value. It is an important building opposite the town hall. Due to the topography of the land escalating to the rear of the church, the primary public frontage faces Carr Lane, which makes a positive contribution to the Slaithwaite Conservation Area.

The Chapel has moderate/high historic and communal interest.

HERITAGE IMPACT

Scope of Potential Impact

The assessment of the potential impact on the identified heritage assets concerns both the potential physical impact on Slaithwaite Methodist Church, the potential visual impact of the proposals upon the surrounding area and the setting of any surrounding designated and non-designated heritage assets.

The impact of the proposed development is essentially an evaluation of the change or alteration which would occur to the fabric, character or appearance of the non-designated heritage asset, measured against the relative significance of the component. The impact assessment thus records where there is any change or alteration to the historic fabric and/or character of the non-designated heritage asset, and concludes whether the result will have an adverse, neutral or beneficial impact.

The physical and visual impacts are outlined below and utilise a version of the tests set for the evaluation of impact on setting, as described in Step 3 of the Historic England guidance on “the Setting of Heritage Assets” (Dec.2017), with reference to Conservation Principle (2008) and “Making Changes to Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 2” (2016).

It is important to consider whether the proposed physical works will cause any demonstrable harm to heritage significance. This is a planning judgment having regard to the circumstances of the case. However, the heritage impact conclusions must be proportionate to the significance of the Site, not least because change does not always equate to harm, and may be beneficial, particularly if the existing site/context has been compromised.

The assessment of heritage impact should thus focus on the degree and nature of the proposed development’s impact, both physically and visually. It is understood that the assessment of the degree of impact has regard to the need for considerable and proportionate weight to be placed on any findings of harm to heritage assets. The methodology used below for the appraisal of impact on Conservation Areas is a synthesis of the Historic England guidance set out in their 2017 guidance on “Conservation Principles”, and “Setting.”

Definition of physical or visual impact:

- **Adverse**
Where the degree of physical or visual change would result in a **demonstrably negative impact** on the fabric, setting or character of an identified heritage asset, or the ability to appreciate the defined values of the heritage asset.
- **Neutral**
Where the degree of physical or visual change would result in **no demonstrable change** to the heritage significance of an identified component of the historic environment, or the ability to appreciate the defined values of the heritage asset.
- **Beneficial**
Where the degree of physical or visual impact would result in an **appreciably positive change**, or the enhancement of the values of an identified heritage asset, or the ability to appreciate the defined values of the heritage asset.

Where necessary, mitigation measures, demonstrating a definable ‘public benefit’ will normally be identified in the development proposals, to reduce or balance any potential adverse impact on an identified heritage asset.

The over-arching aim of the proposed development is to ensure that redevelopment of The Church avoids any unmitigated adverse impact on any significant components of the historic environment, in accordance with the requirements of both national and local planning policy.

The definitions used to express the degree of heritage impact both directly through the physical alteration to the site’s character or indirectly through visual change to the experience or setting of the site and its context, which would result from the proposed works on The Church, and the significance of any nearby heritage assets are as follows on the next page.

HERITAGE IMPACT

Major Adverse Impact

Substantial harm of this nature, which results in total loss of significance or fundamentally affects the significance of defined heritage assets, should normally be avoided.

Development resulting in demolition of a significant historic fabric component which results in total loss of significance, or fundamental compromises the setting of a designated heritage asset.

Substantially harmful change to the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset, or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets. Where the development severely erodes the heritage values of the identified heritage assets in the view, or the view as a whole, or the ability to appreciate those values and thus results in total loss of significance.

Moderate Adverse Impact

Such less-than-substantial harm will need to be demonstrably mitigated and justified by clear public benefits.

Development resulting in extensive harmful alterations (but not total demolition or fundamental change) of a designated heritage asset or its setting.

Less than substantial harm to the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset, or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets. Where the development erodes to a clearly discernible extent the heritage values of the heritage assets in the view, or the view as a whole, or the ability to appreciate those values.

Minor Adverse Impact

The negative impact on the setting or overall character will need to be clearly balanced by appropriate mitigation.

Development resulting in alterations to a designated heritage asset which result in minor compromise of its fabric or erosion of its character.

Minor compromise to the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset, or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets. Where the development erodes to a minor extent the heritage values of the assets in the view, or the view as a whole, or the ability to appreciate those values.

Negligible Adverse Impact

This does not mean that there will be no physical or visual change, rather that the resultant difference would not diminish the value of the heritage assets' significant physical fabric, their settings or significance to any appreciable degree.

Development resulting in negligible direct impact on a designated heritage asset which results in the removal of a minor, original fabric component, but avoids diminishing its character and its special architectural or historic interest.

Negligible perceptible change to the character of a designated heritage asset, or the experience and understanding of its special interest. The degree of change would alter, but not diminish, the intrinsic values of the identified heritage assets, or the experience and appreciation of the buildings or the designated area to any appreciable degree.

Neutral Impact

This does not necessarily mean that there will be no physical or visual change, rather that the resultant difference will be imperceptible or appropriately balanced.

Development which comprises an imperceptible physical impact resulting in no apparent change or achieved by removing a component of no heritage value which detracts from the special interest of the building fabric.

Imperceptible change to the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset, or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets. A neutral impact occurs when the development does not affect the values of the heritage assets in the view, the townscape as a whole, or the ability to appreciate its significance.

Negligible Beneficial Impact

The resultant difference will be imperceptible but will have a positive impact on the understanding or appreciation of the heritage asset.

Development resulting in a negligible beneficial direct impact on a designated heritage asset which results in the removal of a minor non-original fabric component which detracts from the character and its special architectural or historic interest.

Negligible perceptible change to the character of a designated heritage asset, or the experience and understanding of its special interest. The degree of change would imperceptibly enhance the intrinsic values of the identified heritage assets, or the experience and appreciation of the buildings or the designated area.

Minor Beneficial Impact

The proposed change would result in a demonstrable improvement to the overall character or setting of a heritage asset.

Development resulting in alterations to a built heritage asset which deliver a minor beneficial physical impact or enhancement of the site's special interest.

Minor enhancement to the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset, or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets. Where the development enhances to a minor extent the values of the heritage assets in the view, the view as a whole, or the ability to appreciate its significance.

Moderate Beneficial Impact

The proposed change would result in a considerable improvement to the overall character and appreciation of a heritage asset with clear beneficial enhancement of its heritage values.

Development resulting in alterations to a built heritage asset resulting in moderate beneficial physical impact, or an enhancement of the site's character.

Evident improvement of the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset (or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets) resulting in an enhancement of its cultural heritage values. Moderate enhancement to the setting of the built heritage asset. Where the development will enhance to a clearly discernible extent the heritage values of the heritage assets in the view, or the view as a whole, or the ability to appreciate its significance.

Major Beneficial Impact

The proposed change would result in substantial improvement to the overall character and appreciation of a heritage asset, revealing and/or enhancing important characteristics of its heritage values.

Development resulting in restoration or alterations to a designated heritage asset which comprises substantial restoration of its fabric and historic character and an enhancement of its cultural heritage values.

Substantial improvement of the fabric and character of a designated heritage asset (or the setting of the identified designated heritage assets) resulting in a significant enhancement of its cultural heritage values. Substantial restoration or enhancement of the setting of the built heritage asset where the development will enhance to a fundamental extent the heritage values of the heritage assets in the view, the view as a whole, or the ability to appreciate its significance.

HERITAGE IMPACT



Front elevation

Physical Impact Assessment

The starting point for the proposed conversion of The Church is to work with the existing fabric, to preserve and conserve the existing elevations, and to retain, as far as possible, any significant internal fabric.

A summary of the impact on the key building components is considered on the next page and demonstrates the achievement of the positive balance of the proposed conversion.

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.
- Internal strip out.
- 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.

HERITAGE IMPACT

Change of Use

Intervention on fabric -

Conversion of The Church and Sunday School into 7no. dwellings.

Magnitude of Impact -

The most significant impact to the Church will be the 'change of use' from a 'place of worship' to residential use. Ideally, this building would have remained as a 'place of worship', however this is no longer a viable option, and thus the Authority will need to assess and consider appropriate new uses for this building that minimise the harm and loss of significant fabric associated with adaption.

The removal of some of the internal features (see below) will inevitably result in a degree of harm to the historic significance of the heritage asset, however, the majority of the proposed works will have a neutral impact on the architectural and historic significance of the heritage asset and the setting of adjacent heritage assets. When taken as a whole, the scheme will sustain, and in some regards enhance, its significance by ensuring a viable use which is consistent with its conservation.

Neutral Impact (External) Moderate Adverse Impact (Internal)

External Demolition

Intervention on fabric -

Part removal of the later rear Sunday School extension facing Station Road.

Magnitude of Impact -

The rear part of the Sunday School is not original, and has been altered over time. Its removal will increase the size of the existing lightwell, allowing natural light to the ground floor. As it is not seen from the main road (Carr Lane) and is lower than Station Road, its removal will not have a major impact, and its removal will make the conversion viable.

Neutral Impact

External Fabric Repairs

Intervention on fabric -

Stone repairs to the building and curtilage walls including selective re-pointing in lime mortar.

Magnitude of Impact -

Areas of stone will be repaired to ensure the long term restoration of The Church and surrounding boundary walls.

Major Beneficial Impact

Basement Windows

Intervention on fabric -

Basement windows replaced with louvres.

Magnitude of Impact -

There are two existing windows that will be replaced with louvres to ventilate the basement, cycle store and plant room. The louvres will tie to the new bin store material and increase the security. The existing windows are of poor quality, with obscured (Cotswold) glass and need replacing.

Neutral Impact

Replacement Windows

Intervention on fabric -

Removal / replacement of the existing windows at ground and first floor level.

Lowering of the first floor cills by approx 350mm.

Magnitude of Impact -

The existing windows are non-original, plastic frames that are mostly fixed lights (do not open). The replacement windows will allow for slim-line frames that have opening lights and work to the thermal / acoustic requirements of the Building Regulations.

The first floor cills need to be lowered as 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, providing limited visibility out for residents. The principle of the window opening is being retained with the arch at the top. The lowering of the cills will be indistinguishable, as the existing stone cills will be reused, and reveals cut accordingly.

Neutral Impact

Existing Roof

Intervention on fabric -

Smoke vent to be installed within the existing roof.

Magnitude of Impact -

The smoke vent is a requirement of Part B of the Building regulations. The vent will match the colouring of the adjacent finish and will blend into the roofscape. The vent has been positioned on the North East facing side to reduce its visual impact.

Neutral Impact

External New Bin Store

Intervention on fabric -

A new bin store is to be incorporated into the nook created by The Church and Sunday School. The store removes the existing stone wall and coal shuttle which appears to be a later extension.

Magnitude of Impact -

This is the only suitable location to allow for access to the front pavement to allow for collection. The store unifies the massing and ensures refuse is not on display (as the current situation). The louvres allow for natural ventilation of the store.

Negligible Beneficial Impact

External Entrance Steps and Gate

Intervention on fabric -

Extension of the bottom external step to the boundary and removal of the existing metal gates.

Magnitude of Impact -

The extension of the first entrance step to meet the pavement allows for a larger landing about the refuse store to facilitate moving bins to the road side on collection day. All the existing railings and stone boundary walls will be repaired.

Moderate Beneficial Impact

The gates need to be removed to allow access to the bin store.

Minor Adverse Impact

Photovoltaic Roof Panels

Intervention on fabric -

Photovoltaic roof panels added to The Church and Sunday School roof.

Magnitude of Impact -

The panels will cover parts of the existing slate roof (which will be retained / relaid). The panels are a requirement of Part L of the Building Regulations to install low carbon energy supplies for the dwellings.

Minor Adverse Impact

Internal Alterations - Demolition

Intervention on fabric -

Removal of the pews, raised platforms and organ on the first floor.

Magnitude of Impact -

The double height first floor needs to be cleared to allow for workable apartments' layouts. The fabric can only be retained if used as a 'place of worship' which is no longer viable. Relocation of heritage items within the new layout will be sought during the construction.

Moderate Adverse Impact

Internal Alterations - Existing First Floor

Intervention on fabric -

Lowering of the existing first floor by 350mm to allow for a new 2nd floor.

Magnitude of Impact -

The proposal does not seek to disrupt the existing ceiling / attic / roof structure, so in order to achieve the additional 2nd floor and adequate floor to ceiling heights (also beneath the existing deep ceiling beams), the first floor needs to be lowered. The additional 2nd floor is essential to create two additional apartments, which make scheme economically viable.

Minor Adverse Impact

Internal Alterations - Existing Stairs

Intervention on fabric -

Removal of the existing stairs and insertion of a new central circulation spine – new stair and lift.

Magnitude of Impact -

The two existing stairs that book end The Church need to be removed to allow for the residential accommodation, as they would not work to current Building Regulations.

The new stairs create an interesting triple height space within the entrance area, connect the three floors. The new lift clearly aids circulation and accessibility.

The existing Sunday School stair is retained and incorporated into the layout.

Moderate Beneficial Impact

HERITAGE IMPACT



46 Carr Lane shown on the left hand side of the photo

Surrounding Designated Heritage Assets

The surrounding designated heritage assets are unaffected by the scale of the proposed development.

The proposed scheme has no adverse affects on the setting of the one nearby listed building, 46 Carr Lane, especially as it is set back from the main road. There would be imperceptible visual impact as the proposed development would not affect the values of this heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its qualities.

CONCLUSION



Existing memorial stones on the front of the Sunday School extension

Summary

The application demonstrates the positive cumulative impact of the proposed development.

The beneficial results of the development include restoring the architectural integrity of The Methodist Church and maintaining the setting. The development will, therefore, have a broad and positive impact on the fabric of the individual heritage asset and Slaithwaite's wider historic environment.

Some fabric alteration will be necessary to facilitate the scheme, however, such interventions do not cause any substantial loss of significant historic fabric.

The cumulative impact of the proposed development is, therefore, clearly positive and conforms with the requirements of national and local planning policy.

The development will create 7 new homes at the heart of Slaithwaite. Not only will this bring life to a redundant heritage asset, but also the town centre, assisting the wider regeneration of the area.

Impact of fabric alterations

It has been demonstrated that the development will facilitate the restoration and reuse of the redundant building;

- Present a carefully considered design which protects and enhances key views.
- Retains The Church's setting and thus its character, quality and local distinctiveness.
- Improve internal access and appreciation of this important heritage asset.

The development has been designed to respond to the constraints of The Church and will facilitate the repair / restoration of its significant fabric. In addition, the establishment of the residential function enables a comprehensive use of the site.

Consequently, while it is clear that the impact of the development will alter the building, great weight that has been given to its conservation in developing the design solution. The cumulative impact of the necessary works will be demonstrably beneficial.

Therefore, the proposed development will not cause any substantial harm to the significance of The Methodist Church or its setting. Fundamentally, the development will deliver the optimum viable use of the redundant heritage asset in a manner which also addresses contemporary building performance and access requirements.

Consequently, the new interventions demonstrably are considered to cause "less than substantial harm" and are balanced by the considerable public benefits of the long-term preservation of The Methodist Church.