



TONGE MOOR UNITED REFORM CHURCH BOLTON

Archaeological Building Investigation



Oxford Archaeology North

August 2005

Good and Tillotson Ltd

Issue No: 2005-6/386

OAN Job No: L9522

NGR: 372812 410209

Planning Application No: 69002/4

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SUMMARY

The Conservation Officer for Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, Jacky Whelan, was consulted regarding a planning application (69002/4) for the redevelopment of the site currently occupied by Tonge Moor United Reform Church. In response to this, a brief was issued for an archaeological desk-based assessment and building survey. Following the submission of a project design, Good and Tillotson Ltd commissioned Oxford Archaeology North to undertake the work.

The desk-based assessment and the building investigation were carried out in April 2005.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Good and Tillotson Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston for their assistance with this project.

The desk-based and building assessments were undertaken by Daniel Elsworth, and Chris Ridings respectively. The latter also wrote the report, whilst the drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Alison Plummer, who also edited the report along with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A planning application (69002/4) was made by Good and Tillotson Ltd to redevelop the land presently occupied by the Tonge Moor United Reform Church (NGR SD 72812 10209) (Fig. 1). The development of the site will involve the demolition of the Victorian era building. Under these circumstances, Jacky Whelan, the Conservation Officer for Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC), has recommended that a programme of archaeological recording is undertaken prior to redevelopment.
- 1.1.2 This project was to consist of a site-specific desk-based assessment in the form of data collection and a map regression, and a RCHME level I building assessment (RCHME 1996).
- 1.1.3 The report sets out the results of the desk-based and building assessments in the form of a short document, outlining the findings,

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in response to the verbal brief from Jacky Whelan (BMBC). The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION

- 2.2.1 Available cartographic sources in the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston were consulted in order to provide a brief outline of the development of the building.

2.3 BUILDING ASSESSMENT

- 2.3.1 *Descriptive record*: written records using OA North *pro forma* record sheets were made of all principal building elements, both internal and external, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance. Particular attention was also paid to the relationship between parts of the buildings, especially those that would show its development and any alterations. These records are essentially descriptive, although interpretation is carried out on site as required

- 2.3.2 *Photographs*: photographs were taken in black and white 35mm print and colour slide formats. The photographic archive consists of both general shots of the whole building and shots of specific architectural details

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the County Record Office on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The church is situated within the suburbs in the north-east of Bolton (Fig. 1) and lies approximately 2 miles from the centre of the town. Although a rigorous desk-based assessment of the church and its environs was not required for the Level I survey, a thorough map regression was carried out in order to outline the development of the church and the immediate area.

3.2 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

3.2.1 The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1893 depicts neither the church or Starkie Road, with the study area little more than an open field.

3.2.2 According to the Second Edition Map of 1910, by the year of its publication the church comprised a H-shaped building with the longest faces orientated north south along Starkie Road. In addition, at the south end of the main building there are two very small extensions or outshuts (Fig. 2).

3.2.3 The church underwent a further change during the next twenty years as evidenced by the Third and Fourth Edition Maps of 1930 and 1937 respectively. The building was essentially the same, but with an additional block attached to the south end (Fig. 3).

3.2.4 The Fifth Edition Map of 1969, depicts the building as a square plot labelled 'Ch' with an additional block attached to the south end.

3.2.5 This additional block has been removed for the Sixth and Seventh Edition Maps of 1976 and 1987 respectively. In each case, the building is marked as 'Ch' and later 'PW'.

4. BUILDING INVESTIGATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The church is a late Victorian red brick structure, which was originally H-shaped in plan. The slate-covered, single pitch roof of the main body of the building is aligned east to west, with two ancillary wings to the north and south. At the rear (east) of the building, the two wings themselves have gable roofs, thus creating a gable and valley arrangement. In contrast, to the front (west) of the church there is a hipped roof on the wing of the south elevation and an octagonal tower to the north.

4.2 EXTERIOR

4.2.1 **East Elevation** (Plate 1): This forms the rear gable-end of the church and is generally austere in character, with little decoration apart from a simple, stepped brick cornice. The main focal points of the elevation are the large ground and first floor windows, which have segmental voussoir arches and moulded brick sills. The timber casements have eight lights with an eight-light fanlight above. In addition, there are a further eight smaller windows on the ground and first floors of the wings, and these share the same features as their larger counterparts. At basement height, the remains of four similar windows are just visible. These have been blocked with brick, presumably at the same time the ground surface was raised and levelled, in order to create the patio.

4.2.2 **South Elevation** (Plate 2): This side elevation shares many of the spartan characteristics of the rear of the building. There are five windows on both the first and ground floors, which are of the same design as those on the east elevation. The only difference being that the fanlights of the first floor windows in the chapel are glazed with stained glass. On the west elevation of the gable wing, there are three timber casements, with the same segmental voussoir arch and moulded brick sills as elsewhere in the building. The plain stepped cornice is again evident and there are two brick buttresses on the main body of the church.

4.2.3 The decoration becomes more marked towards the front of the building. The hipped-roof wing of the elevation has a pronounced, stepped cornice with a decorative moulding underneath. The window below has a moulded brick architrave and mullions, and features two lights topped with two arched lights. There is a small, single pane casement window on the ground floor, with a moulded architrave and round arch fanlight.

4.2.4 A modern extension has been inserted between the two wings, using engineering brick. There are no windows, but there are six skylights within the felt roof, in order to provide adequate light for the toilet block housed within.

4.2.5 **West Elevation** (Plate 3): This forms the front elevation of the church, and is dominated by the large central window of the first floor chapel (Plate 4). The window has a stepped, voussoir round arch, with moulded brick tracery and

mullions. It contains four lancet-style windows with a simple rose window above, which are glazed with stained glass embellished with geometric, floral and *fleur de lys* motifs. This window is flanked by a smaller window either side, and these share the same characteristics as the central window. To the right there is a first floor window, which has a moulded brick architrave and mullions, and features four lights, with four corresponding arch lights above. In addition, on the left of the chapel windows, there is a further window which reflects the flanking windows of the chapel. On the ground floor there is a large four light window in the centre, which has splayed reveals and is topped by two round arches. This central window is flanked by a pair of smaller, two light windows of comparable design.

- 4.2.6 There are two entrances at the north and south extents of the church frontage (Plate 5). These are double doors of matchboard construction, which are housed within a stepped, ogee arch. A simple strip window flanks either side of the doors and a plain fanlight sits above. Either side of the doors, there are a pair of foundation stones, dating to April 1895 (Plates 6 and 7). The decorative cornice, which is featured on the south elevation is again evident and a projected foundation course, reaching up to nine courses high, runs along the base of the elevation.
- 4.2.7 The symmetrical design of the front facade is broken only by the inclusion of an octagonal tower on the north extent of the elevation (Plate 8). This rises from the first floor of the structure and is decorated with similar devices to the rest of the building.
- 4.2.8 **North Elevation:** this side of the building is almost identical in character to its counterpart on the south. A red brick extension, much in keeping with the rest of the building, was inserted between the octagonal tower and the east wing during the early 1960s. The extension, which was a purpose-built primary teaching area, has seven plain casement windows, which form one large panel running along the full length of the new build.

4.3 INTERIOR FEATURES

- 4.3.1 The most important room within the church is the chapel, which is located on the first floor of the building. Of chief interest is the roof, which is of hammerbeam truss construction (Plate 9) with seven purlins and three trusses mounted on pairs of corbels. The walls are plaster and paint, but there are extensive plaster repairs to the walls and to the ceiling. In addition, the round arch, which lies to the east of the chapel, has been infilled with fibreboard tiles (Plate 10).
- 4.3.2 On the ground floor there is a large church hall (Plate 11), whose walls and ceiling are finished in plaster and paint. The ceiling is supported by two beams that run east to west and which are supported by two pairs of iron columns.
- 4.3.3 The rest of the rooms within the building have walls and ceilings finished with painted plaster, whilst the floor surfaces are either carpeted or exposed

floorboards. In addition, moulded timber architraves, skirting boards and dado rails are present throughout the building. Notable exceptions are the central rooms situated at the rear of the building on both the ground and first floors. These rooms have been fitted with fibreboard ceiling tiles, and panelling has been inserted beneath the dado in each. Furthermore, a lift has been inserted in the entrance hall on the south-west corner of the building in order to provide easy access to the first floor chapel.

- 4.3.4 There is a staircase to the north-west corner of the building and one to the south-east. The former is a timber open-well staircase with moulded spindles and posts crowned with urn finials. The latter is a dog-leg staircase constructed in a similar vein, but the balustrade has been covered by hardboard panelling.
- 4.3.5 The internal windows are as described for the external elevations, but there are several, which have been either blocked or reduced and these require noting. The most obvious of these are the round arch windows in the church hall on the ground floor, which have been reduced because of the extensions to the north and south of the building. In addition, the staircase window within the octagonal tower has been reduced, and this is again attributable to the extension on the north elevation of the building. Moreover, there is a blocked window on the south elevation of the south-east entrance hall, which is only externally visible. In the same vein, there is a blocked window on the north elevation of the kitchen in the north-east corner of the building, but this is only visible from the interior.

4.4 DISCUSSION

- 4.4.1 It is evident from the building survey and map regression that the Church has undergone three main phases of build over the last century. Construction of the church began in the early months of 1895, as illustrated by the foundation stones laid by Mr Walsh and Mr Harper, the Superintendent and the Secretary of the Mission respectively. The building was finally completed on Thursday May 1st 1896 (Evans 1991; 6). There were at least three buildings added on the south side of the church during the early part of the twentieth century, but these had all been demolished by the publication of the Ordnance Survey Map of 1969, and no discernible evidence remains. Aside from these additions, the main body of the church itself, does not appear to have had any significant changes to its appearance till 1963 (Evans 1991; 17), when the extension for the primary school was inserted on the north elevation. Only the following year, the chapel arch was infilled with fibreboard. The final phase of development involved the addition of an extension on the south elevation in order to create a toilet block. This occurred some time after 1963, but prior to the publication of the Ordnance Survey Map of 1969. In addition, a lift has been inserted into the south-west corner of the building, in order to provide access to the first floor chapel.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Ordnance Survey, 1893 25": *1 Mile*, Lancashire Sheet **87.10**

Ordnance Survey, 1910 25": *1 Mile*, Lancashire Sheet **87.10**

Ordnance Survey, 1930 25": *1 Mile*, Lancashire Sheet **87.10**

Ordnance Survey, 1937 25": *1 Mile*, Lancashire Sheet **87.10**

Ordnance Survey, 1969 1: 10560, **SD 71 SW**

Ordnance Survey, 1976 1: 10000, **SD 71 SW**

Ordnance Survey, 1987 1: 10000, **SD 71 SW**

SECONDARY SOURCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd Edition, London

Evans, K, 1991 *Caring and Sharing: A History of Tonge Moor United Reform Church*, Church pamphlet

RCHME, 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*, 3rd Edition, Swindon

6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: 1910 Ordnance Survey Map of the Church and its Environs

Figure 3: 1930 Ordnance Survey Map of the Church and its Environs

6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: The East-Facing Elevation of the Church

Plate 2: The South-Facing Elevation of the Church

Plate 3: The West-Facing Elevation of the Church

Plate 4: Detail of the Chapel Window on the West-Facing Elevation

Plate 5: Detail of one of the Entrances on the West Elevation

Plate 6: Detail of the Foundation Stone at the North-West Corner of the Church

Plate 7: Detail of the Foundation Stone at the South-West Corner of the Church

Plate 8: Detail of the Octagonal Tower at the North-West Corner of the Building

Plate 9: Detail of the Hammerbeam Trusses in the First Floor Chapel

Plate 10: Detail of the Altar and Blocked Archway in the First Floor Chapel

Plate 11: South-East-Facing View of the Ground Floor Meeting Hall

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

**TONGE MOOR UNITED
REFORM CHURCH,
BOLTON,
GREATER MANCHESTER**

BUILDING INVESTIGATION



Oxford Archaeology North

July 2005

Good & Tillotson Ltd

OA North Tender No: t2383

Planning Application No: 69002/4

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This project design has been compiled for Good and Tillotson Ltd (hereafter the client). Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) has granted planning permission for the construction of the proposed Childrens Centre at Tonge Moor, Bolton. The development requires the demolition of Tonge Moor United Reform Church, Bolton, which is believed to date to the Victorian era, and the planning permission requires that an archaeological survey of the church is carried out prior to demolition taking place. Jacky Whelan, BMBC Conservation officer has issued a verbal specification for a RCHME level I-type survey to be undertaken.
- 1.2 Section 2 of this document states the objectives of the project, Section 3 deals with OA North's methodology. Section 4 addresses other pertinent issues including details of staff to be involved, and project costs are presented in Section 5.
- 1.3 OA North has extensive experience of assessment and building assessment, as well as the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods in this area, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 20 years. These have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of Clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.4 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an **Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area within its broader context.. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.2 **Building Assessment:** to provide visual record of the building within the proposed development area to RCHME Level I-type standard;
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** production of a report following the collation of data during *Section 2.2*. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.2 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 3.2.1 **Assessment:** a visual inspection of the building will be undertaken to RCHME Level I-type survey standards. This level of survey is a visual record, which will serve to identify the location, age and building type. The emphasis of the building investigation will be the exterior of the building, with an inspection of the interior being undertaken to note significant features.
- 3.2.2 The written record will include:
- (i) the precise location of the building;

- (ii) description of the building, purpose, materials and possible date.
- 3.2.3 **Historic Map Regression:** available cartographic sources in the County Record Office will be consulted in an attempt to trace the development of the church.
- 3.2.4 **Photographic Archive:** a photographic archive will be produced utilising a 35mm camera to produce both colour slides and monochrome contact prints. A full photographic index will be produced. The photographic archive will comprise the following:
- (i) The external appearance of the church;
 - (ii) Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the design, development and use of the church.
 - (iii) Any internal detailed views of features of especial architectural interest, fixtures and fittings, or fabric detail relevant to phasing the church.
- 3.2.5 **Site Drawings:** there is no requirement to produce site drawings (plans/elevations/sections) as part of the investigation, however, a sketched site plan will be produced to show the location and direction of photographs.

3.3 REPORT

- 3.3.1 The report will include the following:
- (i) a concise, non-technical summary of the project results;
 - (ii) an introduction to the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives of the study;
 - (iii) a summary of the methodology and an indication of any departure from the agreed project design;
 - (iv) a copy of the agreed project design;
 - (v) a summary of the historical development;
 - (vi) appropriate figures and plates;
 - (vii) a full list of references to and bibliography of primary and secondary sources consulted and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted;
 - (viii) an index of the project archive.
- 3.3.2 **Final Report:** this will be issued within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and further copies submitted to the GMAUSMR and the BMBC Conservation Officer within eight weeks of completion of the study.
- 3.3.3 Provision will be made for a summary report to be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork, if relevant results are obtained.
- 3.3.4 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the Client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.4 ARCHIVE

3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the GMAUSMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). The paper archive will be deposited with the County Record Office. Arrangements for deposition of the full site archive will be made with an appropriate receiving museum.

4 OTHER MATTERS

4.1 **Project Monitoring:** whilst the work is undertaken for the Client, the GMAUSMR Assistant Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with the Assistant Archaeologist and the Client.

4.1.1 **Access:** OA North will consult with the Client regarding access to the site.

4.1.2 **Health and Safety:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

4.1.3 **Work Timetable:** the fieldwork element of the building investigation is expected to take approximately one day to complete. The final report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

4.1.4 **Staffing:** the project will be under the direct management of **Alison Plummer BSc (Hons)** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. All elements of the project will be undertaken by an OA North supervisor. Present timetabling constraints preclude who this will be.

4.1.5 **Insurance:** OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £10,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

5. COSTING

The item below is a fixed price cost, inclusive of all management, overheads, and other disbursement costs (travel and expenses), to undertake the programme of work as defined in this project design; the third item is a fixed price day rate. Any other variations from this programme of work at the clients' direction will require recosting. All staff costs are inclusive of holiday entitlement, as well as NI and Superannuation.

Building Investigation

£ 740.00

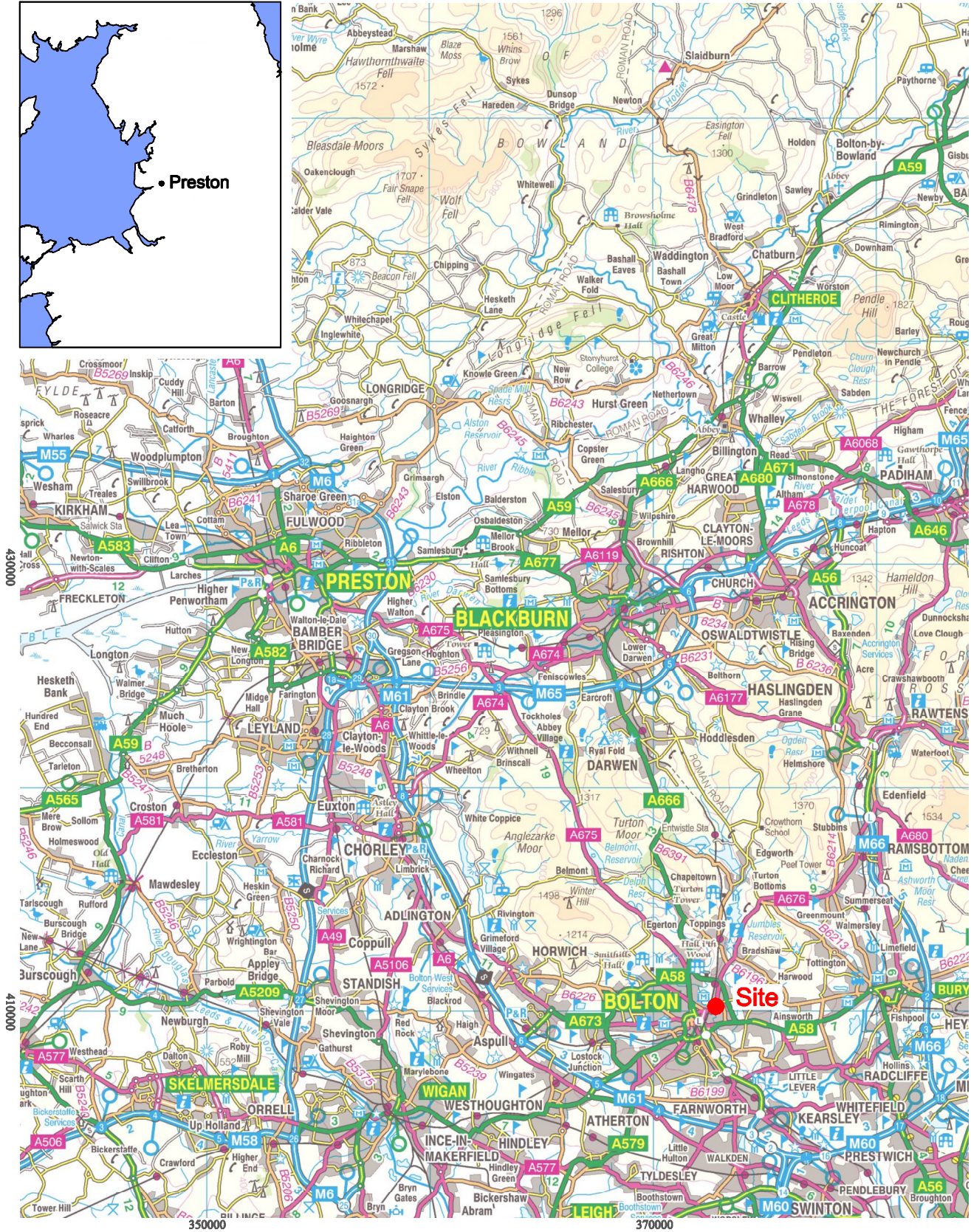
NB

Following current IFA guidelines it is recommended that a contingency sum equivalent to 10% of the total sum for the fieldwork costs is put aside for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close to the excavation sections etc. This sum would only be used following agreement with the client.

Normal OA North working hours are between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments hours maybe made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

Notes:

1. Salaries and wages inclusive of NI, Superannuation and overheads
2. Total costs exclusive of VAT
3. All costs at 2004/2005 prices



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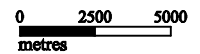


Figure 1: Location Map

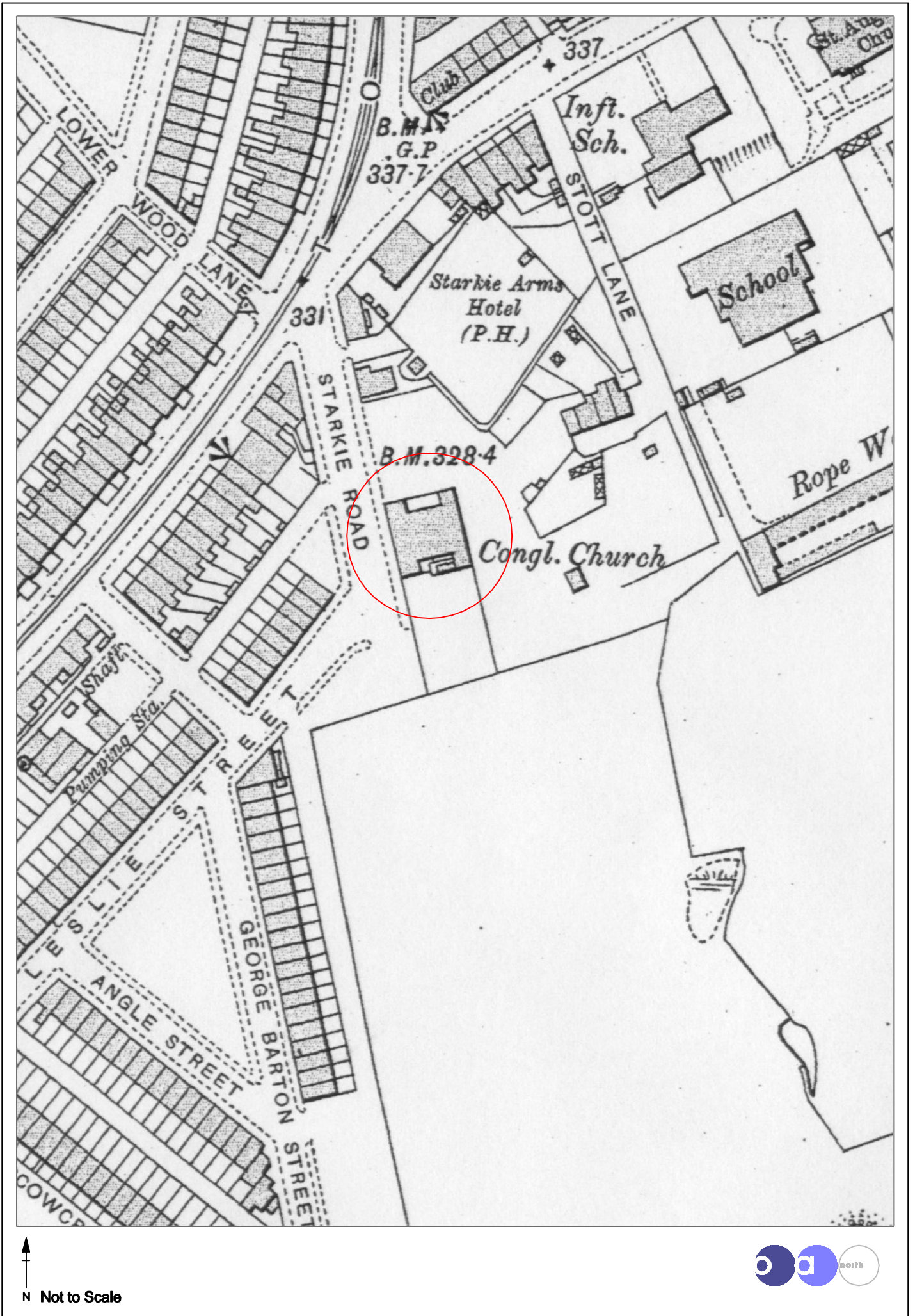


Figure 2: 1910 Ordnance Survey Map of the Church and its Environs

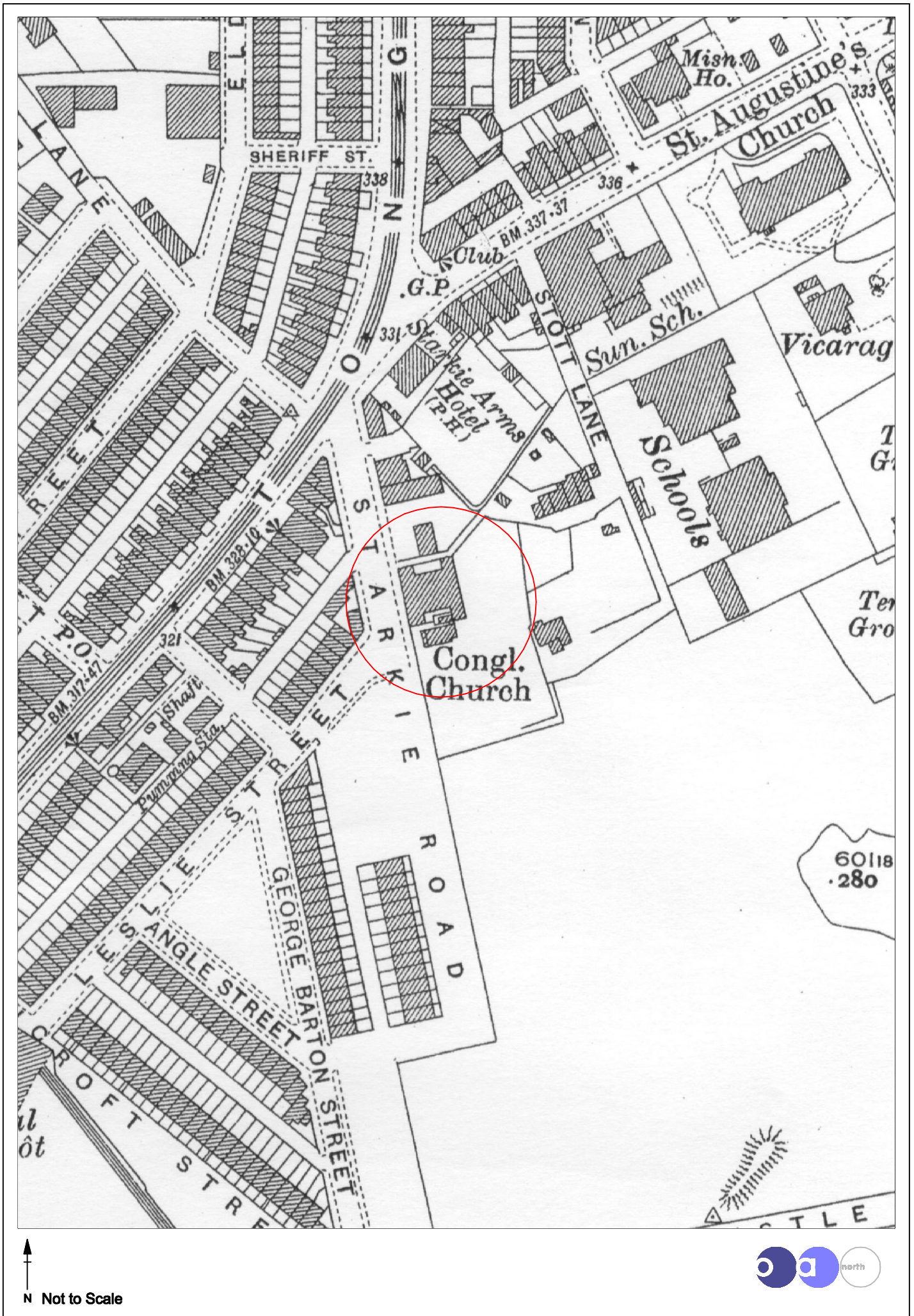


Figure 3: 1930 Ordnance Survey Map of the Church and its Environs



Plate 1: The East-Facing Elevation of the Church



Plate 2: The South-Facing Elevation of the Church



Plate 3: The West-Facing Elevation of the Church



Plate 4: Detail of the Chapel Window on the West-Facing Elevation



Plate 5: Detail of one of the Entrances on the West Elevation



Plate 6: Detail of the Foundation Stone at the North-West Corner of the Church

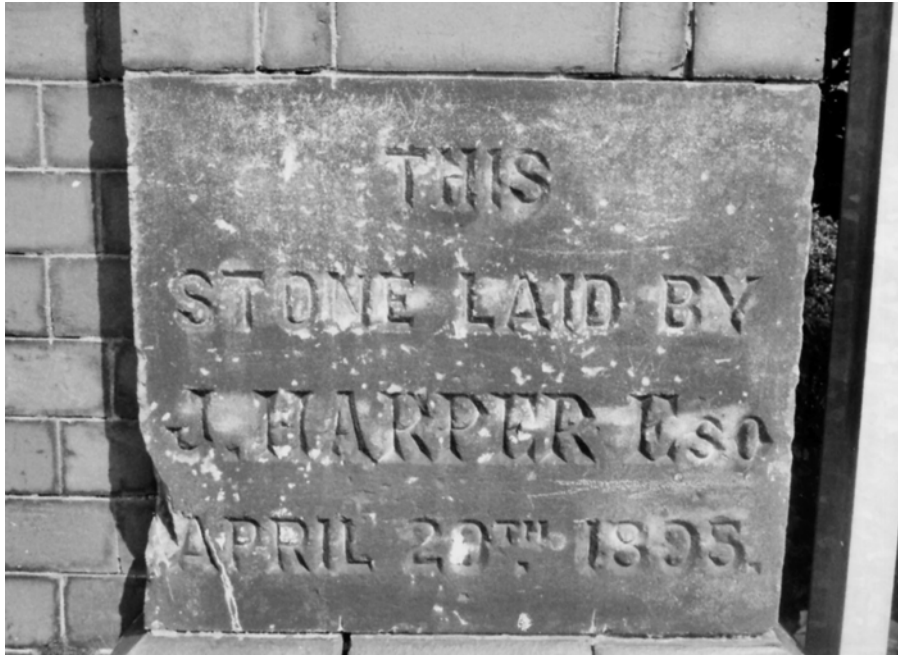


Plate 7: Detail of the Foundation Stone at the South-West Corner of the Church



Plate 8: Detail of the Octagonal Tower at the North-West Corner of the Building



Plate 9: Detail of the Hammerbeam Trusses in the First Floor Chapel



Plate 10: Detail of the Altar and Blocked Archway in the First Floor Chapel



Plate 11: South-East-Facing View of the Ground Floor Meeting Hall