# PHILIP PAPE MURAL, BAYSGARTH SCHOOL, BARROW ROAD, BARTON-ON-HUMBER, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

# STANDING BUILDING RECORDING SUMMARY

(LEVEL 2)

NGR: TA 03649 21646 Planning application: PA/2014/1301

PCAS job no. 1803 Archive acc. no.: MLS25878

> Report prepared for Galliford Try

> > by

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# Philip Pape Mural, Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire

Site Code: BSBB 16

NGR: TA 03649 21646 (Centre) Planning ref: PA/2014/1301 PCA Job No: 16-1803

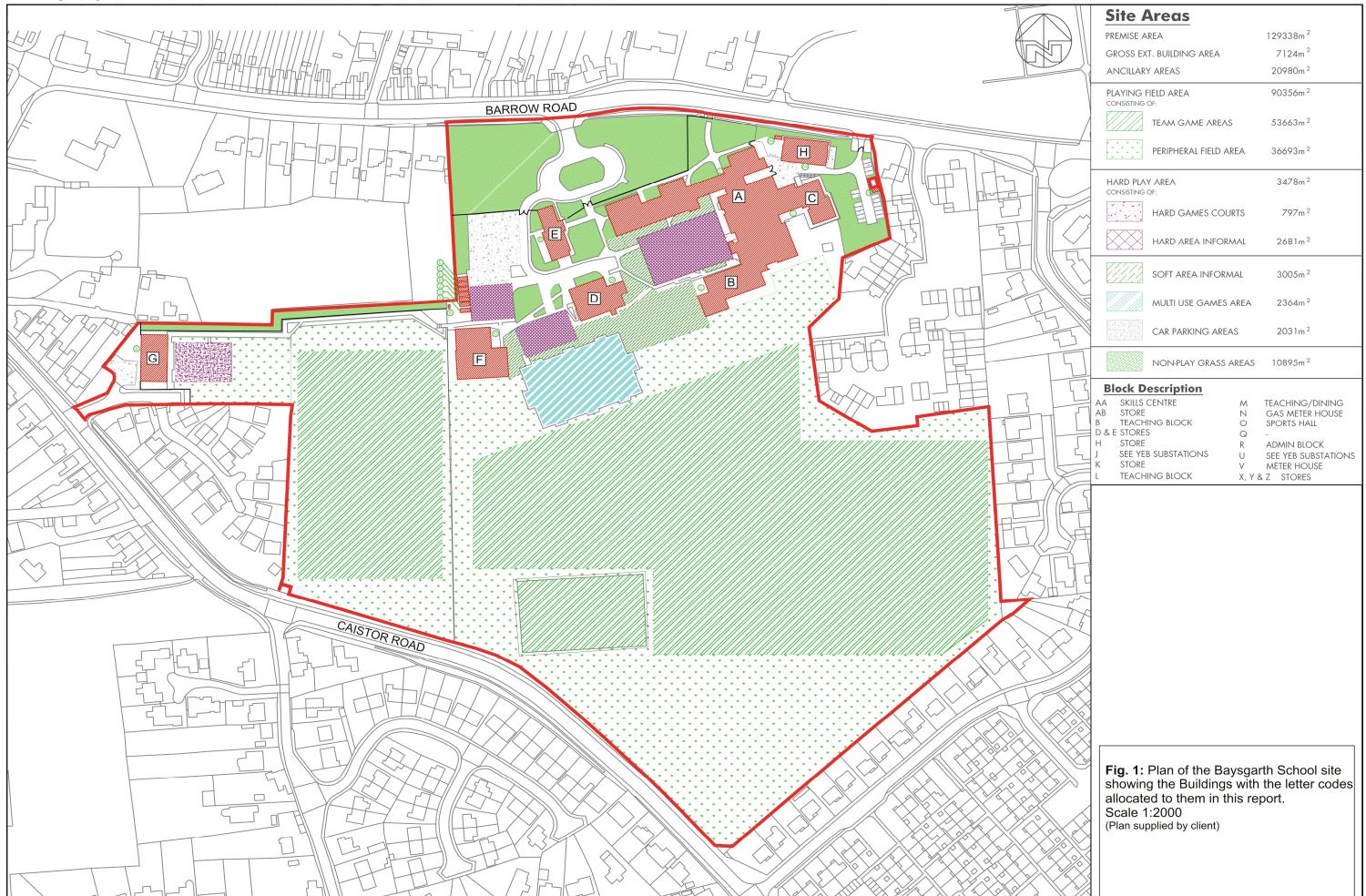
## Introduction

Planning permission was granted by North Lincolnshire Council in March 2015 to construct a new build secondary school to accommodate 960 pupils on the same site as the existing Baysgarth School, Barton upon Humber. The current school buildings will be demolished following decant into the new building, with the exception of the sports hall building, which will be retained, rearranged and extended. Condition 22 of the planning permission requires that 'no demolition shall take place until a scheme to secure the preservation in situ or by record of the Philip Pape wall sculpture has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall include a timetable of works.'

Baysgarth School is located on the south-east side of the historic town, between the A1077 Barrow Road, which forms the northern border of the site, and Caistor Road, which borders it to the south-west. The site is irregular in shape; its central National Grid Reference is TA 03649 21646.

The school itself was formed in 1975 by amalgamating the older Grammar School and the newer secondary modern school as one split-site comprehensive. The Grammar School buildings, dating from 1930, were demolished for residential development in the 1990s, but the secondary modern buildings from 1956 remain. A major artwork by the sculptor Philip Pape, who lived and worked in Barton, survives on the north wall of the secondary modern school.

The buildings are considered to be of local historic significance, having historic, aesthetic and communal value. The Philip Pape mural particularly exhibits these values and a Level 2 photographic survey (English Heritage, 2006) has been undertaken to preserve it by record prior to the demolition of the building. This survey has been carried out in compliance with a specification prepared by this company in response to consultations with and a generic brief issued by the NLSMR.



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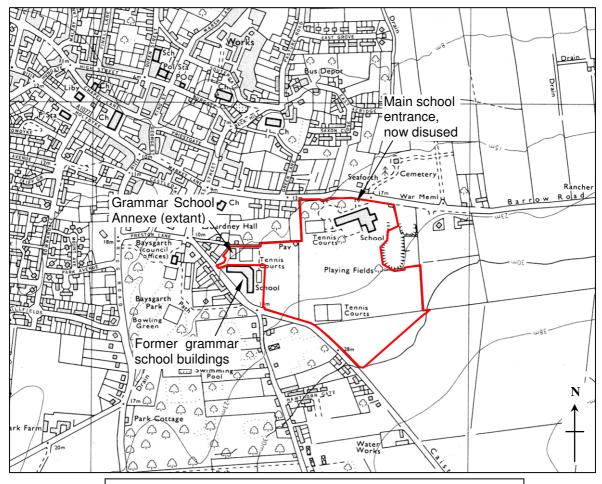
# **Historical Background**

In the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, only elementary education was provided in Barton, and children who wished to continue their education to scholarship level had to travel to Brigg. An increase in the town's population led to the establishment of Barton Grammar School in 1930, on land that had previously been part of the Bardney Hall estate; children who did not pass the 'eleven-plus' selection examination remained in elementary schools until they started their working lives. Secondary education for all children was brought in by the 1944 Education Act, but a secondary modern school, to accommodate those pupils who did not pass the eleven-plus, was not opened in Barton until 1957: the buildings of the Beretun Secondary School, on the south side of Barrow Road, form the core of the present school (school website). The new school was also constructed on land that had formerly been part of the Bardney Hall estate, in an area that historic mapping shows as parkland, and it is likely that several large, mature trees within the school grounds are survivors from the Bardney Hall park. The secondary modern school does not appear on the 1956 6" to the mile OS map (Savage and Lane, 2014).

With the formation of the county of Humberside in 1974, comprehensive education was introduced, and the two schools were amalgamated the following year as Baysgarth School, with the former Grammar School buildings becoming the Lower School and housing pupils in their first two years, while the Beretun School buildings became the Upper School for the older students. As the school rolls continued to increase, to a maximum of over 1600 pupils, an annexe was built in the Lower School in the 1960s, while the Upper School acquired a sports hall and a new Fifth Form Block in the 1970s and an Admin/Sixth Form Block, a drama studio and a CDT area in the 1980s. The school intake decreased again in the 1990s, and the 1930s Lower School was closed and demolished, leaving only the 1960s annexe building in use; the residential development of Nightingale Close now stands on the grammar school site (school website). The 1972 1:10,000 OS map shows the two schools shortly before their amalgamation (fig. 2). The main block of Beretun School is recognisable as the core of the existing Baysgarth School; it extends into the area that previously formed part of the Bardney Hall parkland, and the trees depicted around the school and its tennis court are probably survivors from the park. The broad V-shaped block of the Grammar School lies outside the present school grounds, but the later Annexe building, with adjacent tennis courts, occupies the western extremity of the site.

The local sculptor and stonemason Philip Pape (1910-1982) was associated with schools in Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire from 1951, when Lindsey County Council commissioned him to carve commemorative plaques for the new schools that were being opened following the Second World War. From 1955, he was commissioned to create sculptures to be incorporated into the new schools. Pape was commissioned to carve a wall sculpture for the new Beretun School in 1955, to be completed the following year, for which he was paid £126; a letter to the County Architect describes the proposed work as 'Design to be incised with square section channels, the bottom of the channel to be gilded with leaf gold...' A photograph of the work in progress exists, with scaffolding erected up the school frontage bearing a banner 'Philip Pape, Sculptor'; the photograph shows Pape working alone, but the art master of Beretun School recalled that he and two pupils helped, and the work was completed in about ten days during the school holidays. When the carving was finished, it was said that it could be seen from the other side of the Humber on a clear day, although the later planting of a shrubbery outside the school had already obscured it by the 1970s. A green slate name plate for the school was also commissioned from Pape in 1956 (Wilson, n.d.), although this could not be located during an earlier photographic survey of the school buildings, and probably did not survive the school's change of name (Savage, 2015). The sculpture is described in 'The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire' as 'a striking 20-ft-high wall carving, 1956 by Philip Pape, an animated scene of a teacher with pupils. It was originally gilded and is a reminder of a time when the budget for a new school could include a sum for commissioning a work of art' (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, p.126).

Baysgarth School is also associated with the author and poet Henry Treece, who taught at Barton Grammar School from 1939. Treece would never have worked in the part of the school now standing, which was a separate establishment until well after his death in 1966 (northlincs.com, 2007), but the present school library holds a Memorial Collection of all his published works, donated by his widow, which was brought from the former Grammar School to what became the Upper School, probably at the same time that the administration was transferred after the schools were amalgamated in 1975 (Mrs. D. V. Leahy, former school librarian, pers. comm. 16-07-2015).



**Fig. 2:** Extract from the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1972. The present school grounds are outlined in red.

### Methodology

The photographic survey was undertaken by S. A. Savage on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Photography was undertaken in 35mm monochrome (using Ilford FP4 plus ISO125 filmstock) for archival purposes and 10.4 mp digital images. It included general shots of the context of the mural and detailed photography from positions directly opposite and at approximately 30° to east and west. Weather conditions were clear and bright,

but the wall was in shade – consequently photographs were taken with and without flash including some fill-in flash employed to penetrate shadows.

In order to achieve a perpendicular viewpoint it was necessary to use a mobile scaffold tower provided by the client at a distance of 10-12m from the mural.

#### Results

# **General Site Layout (Fig. 1)**

The Baysgarth School buildings occupied the northern half of an irregularly shaped site, with an area of former parkland separating them from Barrow Road to the north and an extensive area of playing fields to the south. The buildings were constructed on an east-northeast to west-southwest axis (considered east-west in this report for ease of description). The site slopes gently from northeast to southwest.

The school buildings comprised a main block (of three major building phases) – Buildings A-C – with later separate additions to the west of this – Buildings D-G – with a final, very recent addition in the northeast corner (Building H). The buildings are lettered according to their approximate sequence of development.

# Context - Building A - Main School Building

This was the original Beretun School and comprised two three-storey blocks with single-storey linking buildings and some two-storey elements – the main blocks were steel and concrete framed, brick clad with glazed exterior infill panels. The administration of the original school was housed in a single-storey block to the northeast, with a crush hall (formerly a dining hall) to the south. A series of large portal-frame buildings led off to the south housing the assembly hall and gymnasium, with the design and technology buildings to the east. The original school displayed a unity of design, with architectural details typical of its late 1950s date.

# The Philip Pape Mural

The eastern three-storey block contained the original formal entrance to the school (now little used), and the north wall of this building was the site of the Philip Pape mural (figs 2 & 3). The brick cladding in the location of the mural was a red rustic type, (brick size:  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " brick (3 courses = 9")) in stretcher bond. The mural itself was cut into the brick, with gold leaf applied within the cut area.

Below the Philip Pape mural, a group of nine deeply inset square windows with a 3/4" projecting stone surround was present. This motif also occurred in the neighbouring administration block where one of the individual two-light casements had a projecting 2" concrete surround, and more obviously in the fenestration of the northern staircase which was lit by twenty square windows, each of nine glazed bricks with a projecting concrete surround.



**Fig. 3:** Plan showing the Room Layout of the surveyed school buildings at Ground Floor level. Room numbers on this plan correspond to those used in the survey. Scale 1:500

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### **Conclusions**

The buildings of Baysgarth School, Barton-upon-Humber represent a group of buildings dominant in scale in the area, and for nearly sixty years highly significant in terms of local education, employment, social and cultural history.

The Philip Pape mural particularly exhibits these values and this photographic survey will preserve it by record prior to the demolition of the building.

#### **Archive**

The photographic record will be placed with the North Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, a publicly accessible resource, and will form a long-term record of the building's history.

The archive will comprise the following:

1no Monochrome film totalling 26 exposures 1no CD with 43 digital images with accompanying index sheets

1no General Account Sheets

This Summary

### References

Baysgarth School website consulted 10-12-2014 at http://www.baysgarthschool.co.uk/pages/history

North Lincs.com, 2007, Biography of Henry Treece, consulted 18-12-2014 at http://www.northlincs.com/barton/henrytreece.html

Ordnance Survey, 1971 1:10,000 map sheet TA 02 SW

Pevsner N. and Harris J., revised by Antram, N., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*. Penguin Books, London.

Savage, R. D. and Lane, A., 2014, *Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton-on-Humber, North Lincolnshire: Heritage Assessment*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services on behalf of Galliford Try.

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