

Historic Building Record
Longforgan Primary School
Longforgan
PERTH & KINROSS

LF06



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**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD
LONGFORGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Plan of building and grounds

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology compiled a basic Historic Building Record of Longforgan Primary School, a B-listed building dating predominantly from 1908, in advance of the demolition of extensions dating from the 1970s and 1990s. The work (site code LF06) was conducted on 23rd March 2019 in fine weather.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Perth & Kinross Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an historic building survey prior to rebuilding of Longforgan Primary School, centred on NGR NO 3105 2997. The work (site code LF06) was undertaken on 23rd March 2019 in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to create a basic photographic and narrative record of the building in its present condition and setting.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 18/01937/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to record the setting, form and fabric of the building, along with any details of phasing of construction and/or use and specific features of interest

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this historic building record. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This historic building record constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Tayside Contracts and Yvonne Roddie of ECD Architects Ltd for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Perth & Kinross Council funded this survey.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Longforgan Primary School is located on the S side of Main Street and to the W of a cul-de-sac accessing the rear of the 17th Century coaching inn. It is adjoined by tarmac playgrounds to the E and N, a garden area to the W and a large playing field to the S and SE. The former janitor's house, now privately owned, is situated immediately to the NE, on the same side of Main Street. A pre-fabricated dining hall, separated from the main structure, was not included in the present survey. The main core of the school faces between N and NNW onto Main Street, with an extension on the W side running NNW-SSE.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The school buildings comprise an Edwardian core (possibly incorporating an earlier building) with extensions dating from the 1970s and 1990s. The school is B-listed, with the main building dating to 1908 and designed by James Findlay. The core of the building is a generally rectangular, single-storey stone construction with a grey slate roof.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The survey was conducted in line with Historic Building Recording Guidance issued by ALGAO (2013). All major external and internal elevations were photographed, along with features of interest and the general building setting. A narrative account was compiled, noting details of the fabric and phasing of construction and use and recording the dimensions of windows, doors and other features. Architects plans and significant elevations were annotated as the bases of illustrations to accompany this report.

2.4 Results of Investigations

The exterior of the main building was of snecked rusticated ashlar sandstone with plain ashlar quoins and casings around doors and windows. Iron guttering was original, bearing 1908 dating on drainpipes. The grey slate roof was also probably the original covering. The N side included a flat-roofed extension of stugged ashlar fabric, extending around the N elevation of the staffroom (see illus 2), the NW classroom and the toilet block. The exterior of the 1970s extension, built onto (but not keyed into) the SW corner of the main building, was prefabricated harled wood, with plastic guttering. The 1990s extension featured a rusticated sandstone lower half and harled upper, with metallic guttering and a roof of weathered grey slate matching the original.

The main building also featured a double pot chimney stack positioned at the junction of the central classroom and SW gym hall (see below) on the S side of the roof, with a similar chimney over the main entrance at the junction of the corridor and staff room (no trace of a fireplace was apparent in either). The roof included iron grille vent covers, with six along the S elevation and two more above the staff room and NW corner classroom.

The main entrance to the school was accessed on the E side of the main building and was formerly the “Boys Entrance” according to a bas relief sign carved in the sandstone above the door. The single, wooden modern door, with a 9 pane glass upper and a window alongside glazed with modern reinforced glass, opened into a corridor running the length of the 1908 main building. Painted wainscot panelling lined all faces of the corridor and adjoining entrances, standing 1.03m high to the bottom lip of a bevelled wooden baton frame running in tandem with the panelling. All the doorways opening into the corridor featured wooden plank side casing, while notice boards featured bevelled baton framing- all these features were quite possibly original to the 1908 design. A second moulded arch spanned the corridor 8.37m from the first; between the two arches, a domed skylight featuring moulded dappled glass was not itself original but filled a ceiling aperture that may have been an original light well.

The corridor divided the main building in two, with two classrooms and a gym hall to the S and a staffroom and third classroom to the N, with a later extension containing a toilet block further N. The SE classroom measured 7.50m square and featured windows

of modern reinforced glass in the S elevation and part of the N elevation E of the door and overlooking the main entrance. The painted wainscoting continued in this room and married with wooden shelves and ledges that may have been original features. The ceiling was coved, with plain moulding at the wallhead.

The S central classroom next door was of similar design, but with coving only on the N and S elevations. The partition wall between the rooms (the E elevation in this room) may therefore have been a later insertion. The panel wainscoting ended at this wall, which featured a central space framed in wood, a pattern repeated on the W elevation of the previous room, suggesting that the original (or at least earlier) layout included a partial partition, perhaps with a moveable central screen between the classrooms. The W elevation featured a moulded arch in the NW corner and a disused door in the SW (blocked by a filing cabinet at the time of the survey). These appeared to be original connections to the gym hall beyond. As in the preceding room, the central classroom featured modern windows in the S elevation; the windows in the N (also modern) were at the wallhead, above the level of the corridor outside. The room measured 7.66m E-W x 7.58m N-S.

The gym hall, in the SW of the main building, featured a coved ceiling on the N, S and W elevations, but not on the E. Wainscoting continued across this elevation and a built-in cupboard was situated besides the (blocked) connecting door. However, wainscoting finished at a wooden panel 1.00m wide x 1.24m high, from floor level, just to the N of the centre line. Examination of the roof outside the gym indicated that this wall contained a chimney flue, with the panel presumably concealing a disused fireplace. The bevelled wooden frame of the wainscoting continued around the panel, suggesting that, possibly, the wainscoting was not, after all, original, but had been installed following the blocking of the fireplace, with the panel allowing access in case this became necessary. A dado rail spanned the elevation and was also partially present on the N (up to the entrance) and S elevations. The floor rose gently to the W, with a steeper rise in the wainscoting and skirting boards, a clearly intentional design feature that may have permitted the erection of a stage at the W end of the hall. The ceiling featured two circular vents, which corresponded to metal grilles in the roof above.

On the N side of the corridor, the staffroom located in the NE corner of the building measured 6.30m E-W x 3.69m N-S. The ceiling in this room lacked coving (except on the W elevation) and was low- 3.00m- but featured a circular vent similar to those in the gym hall and also corresponding to a metal grille in the roof, suggesting the height was original to the 1908 design. The single window in the E elevation was wood-cased, while those in the N elevation featured no such element but were set in slight embrasures, indicating that the apertures (but not the toughened glass) may have been original. An alcove in the NE corner measuring 2.20m high x 0.90m wide may have been the original external entrance, although no obvious trace of this remained in the external wall fabric.

The N classroom next to the staff room featured a 1.50m high wooden cloakroom screen (due to be removed as part of the development), opposite a corner cupboard room (also scheduled for removal) through a doorway measuring 2.05m high x 0.74m wide in a wooden partition wall- none of these features were original. The ceiling was coved and featured a circular vent as in the staffroom, but at 4.39m was significantly higher. A rectangular hatch in the ceiling 1.50m N of the circular vent presumably accessed loft space.

The toilet block within a low, flat-roofed extension built onto the N elevation of the main building, had a plain interior with no particular features of interest. It was probably of mid-twentieth century date.

The classrooms to be removed in the 1970s extension, built onto the SW corner of the main building, and the 1990s extension running S from this, were of no historic interest but were recorded as part of the setting and developmental story of the school. The 1970s extension was a rectangular prefabricated block subdivided into two classrooms, with a connecting corridor to the E. Central lateral girders supported the ceiling of each room, which had plain walls and ceilings and measured 5.58m N-S x 7.89m E-W. Both the N and S classrooms of the 1990s extension measured 9.83m N-S x 5.80m E-W, with plain, unreinforced ceiling and walls. A small, internal toilet block lay between the 1970s and 1990s classrooms, within the 1990s extension. Storerooms and cupboards lay between the N and S 1990s classrooms.

3 Interpretation

The main building was a handsome example of a small Edwardian village school, possibly incorporating a Victorian original corresponding to the S side classrooms and entrance corridor, this part of the building being taller than the N side rooms. If this was in fact the case, care had been taken to give the expanded school a uniform appearance, but later extensions did not continue this policy: the toilet block built onto the N side during the middle twentieth century was clad in a stugged rather than rusticated stone and had a flat, rather than pitched roof, while the 1970s extension was a prefab of entirely alien appearance. The 1990s extension, however, was an attempt at a more sympathetic development, utilising similar masonry and roofing styles.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology consider that the Terms of Reference covering the archaeological condition on this work have been met and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-3	Interior, entrance corridor, main building	W
004-6	Interior, main entrance door	E
007	Interior, entrance corridor, second (W) arch	W
008	Interior, entrance corridor, first (E) arch from second (W)	E
009	Interior, entrance corridor, from W end	E
010-12	Interior, skylight in entrance corridor	E
013-14	Interior, detail, "Winners of Dux medals...", old notice-board 1921-1939 in entrance corridor	S
015	Interior, general view of SE classroom, main building, oblique	SE
016-17	Interior, E end of S elevation, SE classroom	S
018	Interior, W end of S elevation, SE classroom	S
019-20	Interior, E elevation, SE classroom	E
021	Interior, N elevation, SE classroom	N
022	Interior, W elevation, SE classroom	W
023	Interior, detail, door into SE classroom	S
024	Interior, general view of SW classroom, main building, oblique	SE
025	Interior, W end of S elevation, SW classroom	S
026-27	Interior, E end of S elevation, SW classroom	S
028-29	Interior, E elevation, SW classroom	E
030	Interior, W end of N elevation, SW classroom	N
031	Interior, E end of N elevation, SW classroom	N
032	Interior, W elevation, SW classroom	W
033	Interior, detail, door into SW classroom	S
034	Interior general view of gym hall, oblique	SE
035	Interior, E end of S elevation, gym hall	S

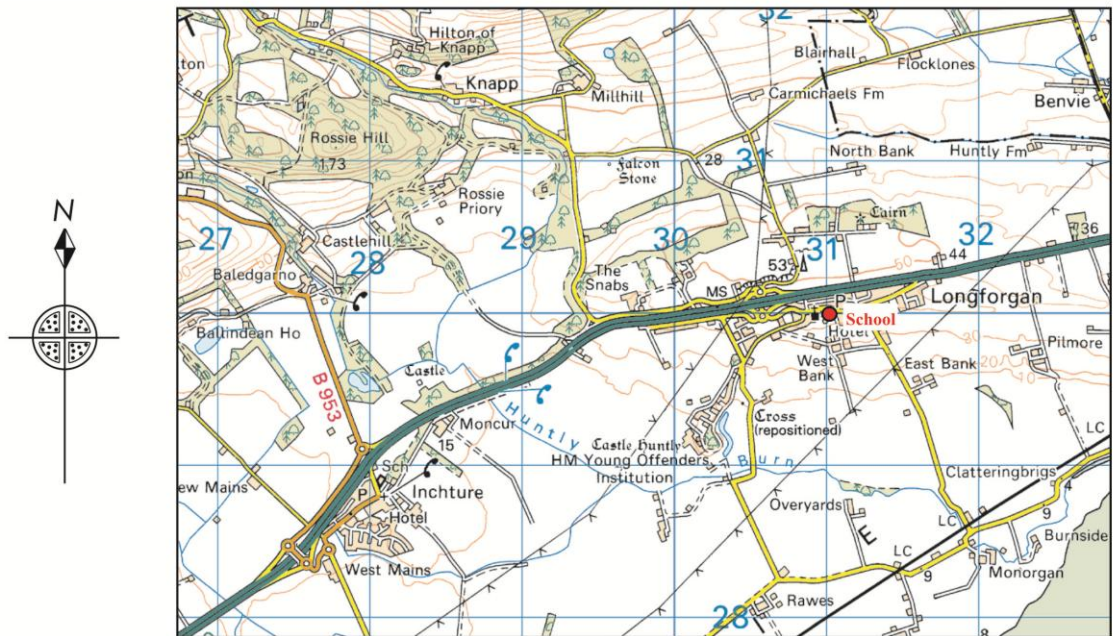
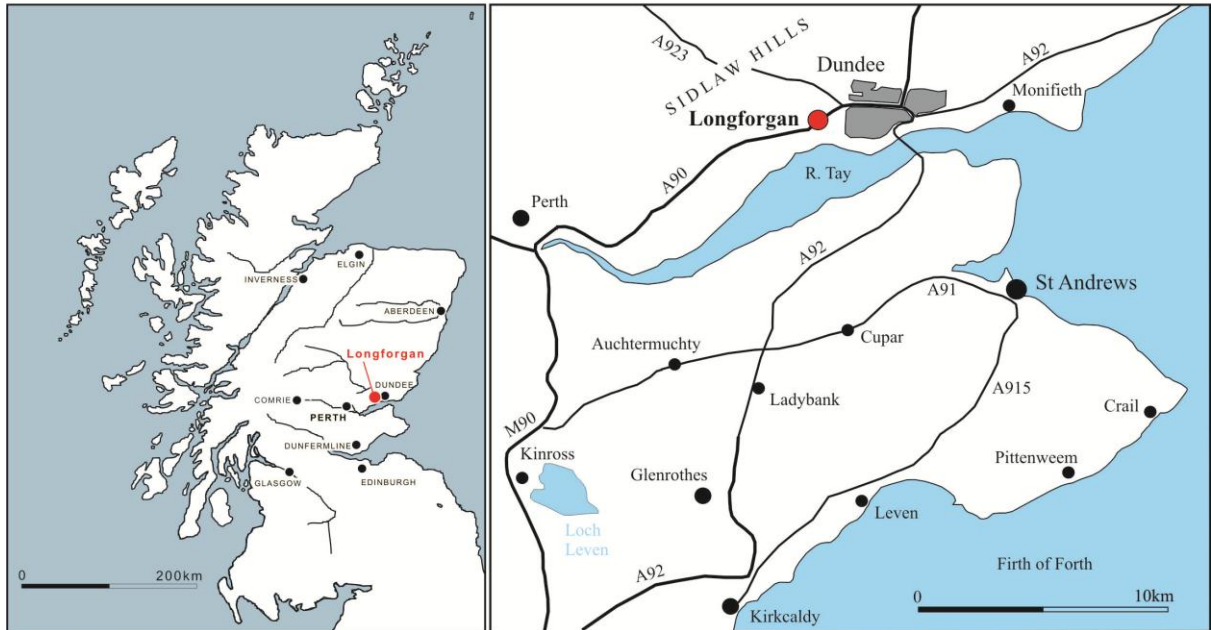
036	Interior, W end of S elevation, gym hall	S
037	Interior, W elevation, gym hall	W
038	Interior, W end of N elevation, gym hall	N
039	Interior, E end of N elevation, gym hall	N
040	Interior, E elevation, gym hall	E
041	Interior, detail, ceiling vents	E
042	Interior, detail, ceiling vent	-
043	Interior, general view, staff room	NW
044	Interior, E end of N elevation, staff room	N
045	Interior, N elevation, staff room, oblique	NE
046	Interior, E elevation, staff room	E
047	Interior, W elevation, staff room	W
048	Interior, E end of S elevation, staff room	S
049	Interior, S elevation, oblique	SW
050	Interior, detail, door into staff room	N
051	Interior, general view, N classroom, oblique	NE
052-54	Interior, N elevation, N classroom	N
055	Interior, N end of E elevation, N classroom	E
056	Interior, S end of E elevation, N classroom	E
057	Interior, W elevation, N classroom, oblique	SW
058	Interior, S end of W elevation, N classroom	W
059	Interior, S elevation, N classroom	S
060-61	Interior, detail, corner cupboard, N classroom	E
062	Interior, detail, doorway into N classroom	N
063	Interior, corridor to toilet block (up to firedoor)	N
064	Interior, corridor to toilet block (beyond firedoor)	N
065	Interior, toilet block	E
066	Interior, linking corridor to 1970s extension	W

067	Interior, general view, N classroom of 1970s extension, oblique	SW
068-69	Interior, W elevation of N classroom, 1970s extension	W
070	Interior, general view, S classroom of 1970s extension, oblique	SE
071	Interior, W elevation of S classroom, 1970s extension	W
072-73	Interior, E elevation of S classroom, 1970s extension	E
074	Interior, corridor linking 1970s and 1990s extensions	S
075	Interior, general view, N classroom of 1990s extension, oblique	SW
076-77	Interior, S elevation of N classroom, 1990s extension	S
078	Interior, S end of W elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension	W
079	Interior, centre of W elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension	W
080	Interior, N end of W elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension	W
081	Interior, N elevation of N classroom, 1990s extension	N
082	Interior, N end of E elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension	E
083	Interior, E elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension, oblique	SE
084-85	Interior, centre of E elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension	E
086	Interior, S end of E elevation, N classroom, 1990s extension	E
087	Interior, general view of S classroom, 1990s extension, oblique	SW
088	Interior, N elevation of S classroom, 1990s extension	N
089	Interior, S elevation of S classroom, 1990s extension	S
090	Interior, S end of W elevation, S classroom, 1990s extension	W
091	Interior, N end of W elevation, S classroom, 1990s extension	W
092	Interior, N end of E elevation, S classroom, 1990s extension	E
093	Interior, S end of E elevation, S classroom, 1990s extension	E
094-95	Exterior, main entrance, E elevation	W
096-97	Exterior, E elevation, main block	W
098-99	Exterior, E elevation, toilet block	W
100-101	Exterior, N elevation of main entrance, main block	S
102	Exterior, N elevation of toilet block, oblique	WSW

103-104	Exterior, N elevation of main block, junction with toilet block and 1970s extension	S
105	Exterior, W elevation of toilet block, oblique	SE
106-108	Exterior, W elevation of toilet block	E
109-112	Exterior, W elevation of main block, junction with 1970s extension	ENE, E
113	Exterior, E end of N elevation, 1970s extension	S
114	Exterior, N elevation, 1970s extension, oblique	SW
115	Exterior, N end of W elevation, 1970s extension, oblique	SE
116	Exterior, N end of W elevation, 1970s extension	E
117	Exterior, S end of W elevation, 1970s extension	E
118-119	Exterior, N end of W elevation, 1990s extension	E
120	Exterior, centre of W elevation, 1990s extension	E
121	Exterior, S end of W elevation, 1990s extension	E
122	Exterior, location shot, W elevation of 1970s and 1990s extensions	N
123	Exterior, location shot, S end of 1990s extension	SE
124-125	Exterior, S elevation of 1990s extension	N
126	Exterior, location shot, S end of 1990s extension	NW
127	Exterior, location shot, S elevation of school	NE
128-129	Exterior, location shots, dining hall	NE, E
130-134	Exterior, S elevation, main block	N
135-139	Exterior, E elevation of 1990s extension	W
140-142	Exterior, detail, 1908 stamped drainpipe	N
143	Exterior, location shot, SE corner of main block	SW
144	Exterior, E elevation, main block	W
145	Exterior, location shot, mercat cross through school gates	E
146	Exterior, location shot, dining hall	S
147-148	Exterior, location shots, school gates from road	W, SW

Illus 1

Longforgan Primary School, Site Location Plan

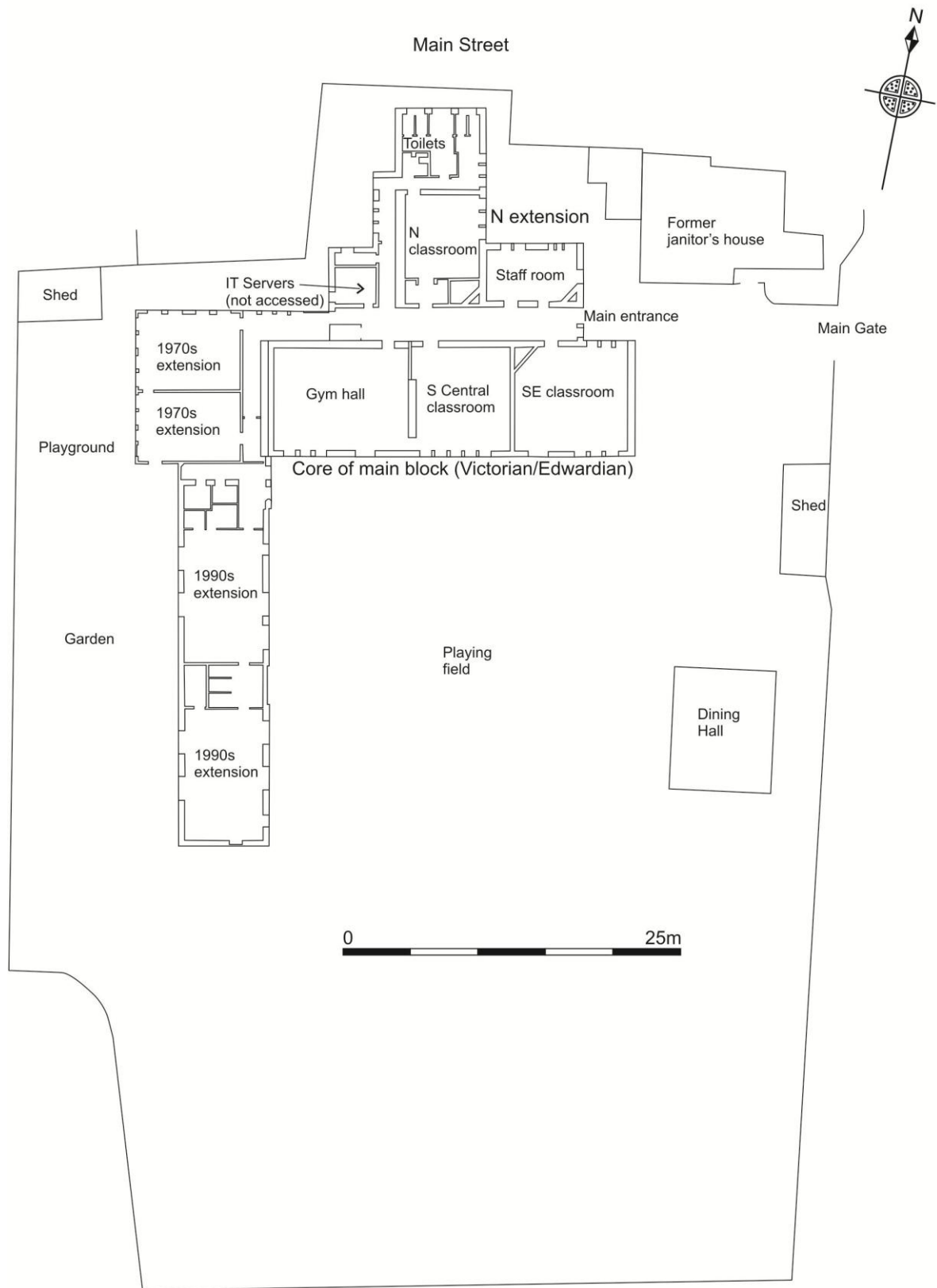


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Illus 2 Longforgan Primary School- plan of building and grounds



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