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**PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY REPORT:  
THE USHER GALLERY, DANESGATE, LINCOLN**

Planning References: 2007/0560/CAC and 2007/0564/LBC  
NGR: SK 97767 71636  
Site Code: LUSH 09  
LCCM Accession Number: 2009.133  
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Report prepared for Focus Consultants (UK) Limited

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number 2009051

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## Document Control

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*Cover image: The Usher Art Gallery, looking north-west from Lindum Hill. The Curtois Gallery and administrative bungalow are visible to the left of the shot*

### Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Focus Consultants (UK) Ltd to carry out a photographic survey of extensions and outbuildings at The Usher Gallery in Lincoln, prior to their demolition.
- The photographic survey recorded the interior and exterior of two brick extensions to the Grade II Listed Usher Gallery: the Curtois Gallery and the Coin Gallery, as well as a brick building known as the administrative bungalow.
- All three structures are of later 20<sup>th</sup> century date and are principally brick built with flat roofs. They are all of negligible architectural interest and their proposed demolition will in no way detract from the quality or the setting of the main Usher Gallery, or the wider townscape.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Focus Consultants (UK) Ltd, on behalf of their client, Lincolnshire County Council, to undertake a photographic survey in order to record extensions and outbuildings prior to demolition at the Usher Gallery in Lincoln.
- 1.2 The methodology conforms to a brief prepared by the Heritage Team at the City of Lincoln Council and a specification prepared by Allen Archaeology Limited (Clay 2009), the English Heritage guidelines in '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (English Heritage 2006), the IfA '*Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*' (1996, revised 2001 and 2008) and the local guidelines in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC 2009).
- 1.3 A copy of the survey report and the full project archive will be submitted to the local museum in Lincoln, 'The Collection', for long-term storage and will be stored under the Museum Accession Number 2009.133.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The Usher Gallery is situated in the grounds of Temple Gardens to the east of Danesgate and west of Lindum Road in the City of Lincoln, centred on NGR SK 97767 71636. The buildings that are the subject of this report comprise the Coin Gallery, the Curtois Gallery and the 'administrative bungalow'. The Coin Gallery is attached to the west elevation of the Usher Gallery, with the Curtois Gallery attached to the south side of the Coin Gallery and the south-west corner of the Usher Gallery. The administrative bungalow is a separate building to the south of the Curtois Gallery, on the Danesgate frontage.

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for Conservation Area Consent for '*demolition of administrative bungalow and attached boundary wall*' (Reference 2007/0560/CAC), and a planning application for Listed Building Consent for '*demolition of Coin Gallery and partial demolition of the Curtois extension. Erection of an extension to form new entrance pavilion and associated external and internal alterations including new internal passenger lift and improved access*' (Reference 2007/0564/LBC) were submitted to the City of Lincoln Council by Lincolnshire County Council, and granted on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2009. As the City of Lincoln Council owns the Usher Gallery, the applications were determined by The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The applications were granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a photographic survey of the affected structures, prior to any demolition or alterations. The photographic survey comprised the recording by photography of the interior and exterior of the affected structures, and any significant architectural details, effectively 'preserving the architectural remains by record'.

## 4.0 Architectural Context

- 4.1 The main Usher Gallery building was built using funds left for its construction by a local jeweler and goldsmith, James Ward Usher. Construction commenced in 1925 and was completed in 1927. It is a Grade II\* Listed Building (Reference 486007) that was built in brick with rusticated ashlar quoins.
- 4.2 The Curtois Gallery is a 1959 brick extension on the south-west corner of the Usher Gallery that was built with money bequeathed by a local sculptor, Ella Rose Curtois.
- 4.3 The Coin Room is attached to the north side of the Curtois Gallery and the west side of the Usher Gallery. It was built in 1974 to house the coin collection of Sir Francis Hill, who funded its construction.
- 4.4 The administrative bungalow was built as a caretaker's house in 1967 and was converted into offices in 1990. It is situated to the south of the Curtois Gallery, and has been disused for a number of years.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The works described below are designed to accommodate the standards for a Level I Photographic Survey, as set out in the English Heritage document, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006). The methodology also fulfils the recommendations of a brief provided by the Heritage Team at the City of Lincoln Council (2009), and the relevant IfA standards and guidance document (IfA 2008). The building survey was undertaken by the author on Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2009, using a 35mm SLR camera with monochrome silver-based film, and a digital SLR camera (Fujifilm Finepix S9500) with a 28 – 300mm lens.
- 5.2 The weather was cloudy with some sun, but light was generally good, except for some interior shots where there was little illumination available. In these instances a tripod and integral flash were used as necessary. Photographs incorporated metric scales where appropriate, and all shots were located on scale plans of the buildings (Figures 2 – 5). A selection of the photographs is included in this report (See Appendix 1), and a list of all shots taken is reproduced in Appendix 2 at the end of the report. The full photographic archive will be submitted to the Lincolnshire Archives with a copy of the report.
- 5.3 Photographs were taken of the following: -
  - All external elevations
  - All internal elevations, including internal walls and subdivisions
  - The roof structure of the buildings, internally and externally, where visible
  - The relationship of the structures to their surroundings
  - Architectural details, i.e. windows, doors, decorative brickwork, and other significant features, fixtures or fittings. Generally a single representative shot will be taken of particular features such as windows or openings of a single type that occur more than once within the structure
  - A general internal photographic record of the building. Photographs will be taken of each room/ discrete internal space from sufficient points to show the form, general appearance and methods of construction

## 6.0 Results

### 6.1 Coin Gallery (Figure 3)

- 6.1.1 The Coin Gallery comprises a single-storey brick extension on the west side of The Usher Gallery. Externally, only the north and west elevations are visible, built in Flemish Bond brickwork with no doors, windows or other openings (Plates 1 and 2). The west elevation curves outwards slightly at its south end where it abuts the Curtois Gallery. The structure has a flat roof behind a low concrete parapet, with lead flashing to the east and south, where it abuts the walls of the adjacent Usher Gallery and Curtois Gallery extension.
- 6.1.2 The interior of the Coin Gallery is accessed from its southern end, via a hallway running between the Usher Gallery and the Curtois Gallery. It has a small entrance lobby with a sliding sash doorway, beyond which is a heavy steel security door. The room beyond is a (currently disused) display area, with a central display case and further display cases along the north, east and west sides of the room. The walls are covered with wood panelling with a plasterboard ceiling, all painted dark brown (Plate 3).
- 6.1.3 There is a doorway in the north-east corner of the room, which allows access to a small office and store which occupies the north end of the Coin Gallery, with shelving along its north wall.

### 6.2 Curtois Gallery (Figures 3 and 4)

- 6.2.1 The Curtois Gallery is an extension attached to the south-west corner of The Usher Gallery, with the later Coin Gallery extension attached to its north elevation. The building is a two-storey building built in brick and stone, which has been built on a flat terrace cut into the natural slope of the hillside.
- 6.2.2 The north elevation is partially obscured by the Coin Gallery. The remainder is built in Flemish Bond brickwork, and is in three bays. The eastern and central bays are higher than the bay to the east, to accommodate a lift shaft and the hallway connecting the building to the Usher Gallery. The central bay of the elevation protrudes slightly from the adjacent sections and has an architectural embellishment in the form of a two-tone brickwork representation of the City of Lincoln's coat of arms (Plate 1).
- 6.2.3 The eastern section of the elevation is somewhat lower and has two small single light windows, set one above the other. They are both capped with a soldier arch of bricks on end and the lower window is blocked with a wood panel. A short length of brick boundary wall with a square brick pier extends to the west, with moulded concrete coping.
- 6.2.4 The lower part of the west elevation (Plate 4) is in dressed limestone blocks, with horizontal banded rustication, imitating elements of the main Usher Gallery building (such as the central bay of the south elevation). This is separated from the Flemish Bond brickwork above by a moulded concrete string course. There is a single double doorway in the centre of the wall, flanked by four square single light windows, all confined to the lower limestone element of the elevation. Three of the windows are blocked with wood panels; the fourth has frosted glass reinforced with wire, with an internal steel grille visible.
- 6.2.5 The same pattern of brickwork and rusticated stonework with a dividing string course is reflected in the east elevation (Plate 5), which also has four square windows, all of which have been blocked with wood panels. To the north, this elevation abuts the south elevation of the connecting corridor between The Usher Gallery and the Curtois Gallery (Plate 6). This elevation is also in Flemish Bond brickwork, resting on a stone plinth that extends to the height of the



string course along the adjacent elevation. There is a large blocked doorway in this elevation, approached by a flight of four wide shallow steps.

- 6.2.6 The south elevation of the Curtois Gallery is in three bays (Plate 7). The central bay, which occupies the majority of the elevation, protrudes slightly and is built in Flemish Bond brickwork on a stone plinth. A flight of three steps flanked by stone buttresses leads up to a pair of panelled wooden doors with a moulded stone door case and a cast concrete City of Lincoln coat of arms above the door. In the westernmost bay, the rusticated stonework and concrete string course is continued from the west elevation of the building, with brickwork above. There is a rusticated stone gatepost attached to the eastern bay, with a pair of wrought iron gates between the Curtois Gallery and the administrative bungalow to its south.
- 6.2.7 The roof structure of the building is on two levels (to accommodate the lift shaft), with a low brick and concrete parapet around the exterior. There is a sunken roof in the central part of the main gallery space with a row of skylights along each side giving light to the room below.
- 6.2.8 The inside of the building is on two floors. The ground floor is accessed via a short walkway from the Usher Gallery, with three steps up at its west end. The Coin Gallery is to the right of the walkway, with a disabled stairlift to the left. The blocked doorway visible externally (see Section 6.2.5 above) formerly allowed access at this point. Immediately beyond these steps is a lift shaft to allow disabled access from the basement, around which the hallway dog-legs to the left. There is a suspended ceiling along the length of the hallway.
- 6.2.9 To the south of the hallway is the main gallery space, currently in use as an art studio accessed by a single large doorway (Plate 8). The central part of the building has a suspended ceiling, flanked by two rows of skylights inserted into a sunken roof above. There is a timber framed partition wall with a central door at the south end of this room, allowing access to a storage area.
- 6.2.10 At the west end of the hallway is another doorway into a small lobby, with a disabled toilet to the right and a dog-leg staircase to the left allowing access to the basement. The staircase is surrounded by a steel cage for security, with a padlocked steel gate at the top of the stairs.
- 6.2.11 The northern part of the basement is divided into a number of small rooms comprising: a small toilet block below the stairs, a room containing various fuses and switches and the winding gear for the lift immediately to the east, and a small L-shaped storage area immediately to the east and south of the lift shaft.
- 6.2.12 The remainder of the basement comprises two further storage areas separated by large double doors, both of which contain moveable steel racking for storing artwork (Plate 9). The southernmost store room has another set of double doors in its south elevation allowing external access. The northern room has a set of double doors surrounded by a steel security cage, which allows access onto Danesgate.

### **6.3 Administrative Bungalow (Figure 5)**

- 6.3.1 This is a single-storey disused building immediately to the south of the Curtois Gallery. It is constructed in three distinct blocks on three different levels reflecting the natural slope of the ground, roughly forming an L-shape in plan. It is principally built in Flemish Bond brickwork, with a flat roof and low concrete parapet.
- 6.3.2 The west elevation, on the Danesgate frontage has three bays reflecting the three different levels on which the building is constructed, each bay having a single blocked window with concrete facing above (Plate 10). Below each window is a block of rusticated limestone with deep horizontal square cut grooves imitating the stonework in the Curtois Gallery and Usher Gallery.

There is a single example of a window of this type in the south elevation, and another in the east elevation of the southernmost block of the building. The east elevation of the southern block has two further square windows, while the same elevation of the two remaining blocks contains three large windows, all blocked with wood panelling (Plate 11).

- 6.3.3 The north elevation of the northern block has no openings or architectural embellishments. There is a small brick outbuilding immediately to its east and a stone gatepost with wrought iron gates corresponding with an identical post on the Curtois Gallery to the north. A brick boundary wall extends southwards from this point. To the west of this boundary wall steps lead down to a panelled wooden door in the north elevation of the south block (Plate 12).
- 6.3.4 A further panelled wooden door off Danesgate allows internal access towards the south end of the west elevation. The door opens into a corridor running northwards along the length of the building (Plate 13). The corridor has two small flights of steps raising the floor level northwards into each block. Two doors off the east side of the corridor and a third door at its north end open into three similar office blocks. Each office has plastered walls, double glazed uPVC windows in the east elevation, and central heating radiators. There is another similar room to the south of the corridor, occupying the entire south end of the building (Plate 14). It has a large uPVC double glazed window in the south elevation and another in the east elevation. There is a slight raised plinth at the east end of the room.
- 6.3.5 A door in the north-east corner of this room allows access to a kitchen, with a sink and draining board, kitchen units and a fridge in the south-east corner. There is an exterior door in the north elevation (Plate 15). To the west two steps lead up into a small corridor with cupboards on its north side and a partitioned block of two toilets to the south. At its west end the corridor connects with the main north – south corridor running through the building.
- 6.3.6 The building contained no other architectural features of note, the interior being entirely of late 20<sup>th</sup> or early 21<sup>st</sup> century build. It had been subject to vandalism and damp from leaking roofs and has been disused for some time.

## 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The three structures recorded during this photographic survey represent three successive episodes of building during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All three represent plain, functional buildings with limited architectural embellishment. Some attempt has been made to tie the buildings into the architectural traditions of the main Usher Gallery building by means of the use of rusticated stonework in the walls of the Curtois Gallery and the bungalow, although this has not been attempted with the Coin Gallery.
- 7.2 Alterations to the buildings since their construction are few in number and of limited interest. There is a blocked doorway in the south elevation of the connecting corridor between the Curtois Gallery and the Usher Gallery, the doorway probably being sealed when the Coin Gallery was built onto the north side of this corridor. This would also have necessitated the opening of a new access into the Curtois Gallery at this time.
- 7.3 Other alterations include a timber partition wall at the south end of the Curtois Gallery, and the refitting of the bungalow to be converted from accommodation to office space.
- 7.4 The buildings are considered to be of negligible architectural interest. They display no evidence of the use of local architectural traditions in their construction, other than the use of probable local limestone, and add little or no value to the townscape or the setting of the main Usher Gallery itself, partially obscuring views of the building from Danesgate to the south-west and

west. The proposed demolition of these buildings will have no detrimental effect on the Usher Gallery, indeed in the opinion of the author, it will serve to enhance the surroundings.

## 8.0 Acknowledgements

- 8.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Focus Consultants (UK) Limited, and their client, Lincolnshire County Council for this commission. The staff at the Usher Gallery are also thanked for their assistance and co-operation during the photographic survey.

## 9.0 References

Clay, C., 2009, *Specification for a photographic survey: The Usher Gallery, Danesgate, Lincoln*, Allen Archaeology Limited

English Heritage, 2006, *Understanding historic buildings: A guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage, Swindon

Heritage Team, 2009, *Brief for buildings recording at Usher Art Gallery, The Collection, Danesgate, Lincoln*, City of Lincoln Council

IfA, 2008, *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*. Institute for Archaeologists

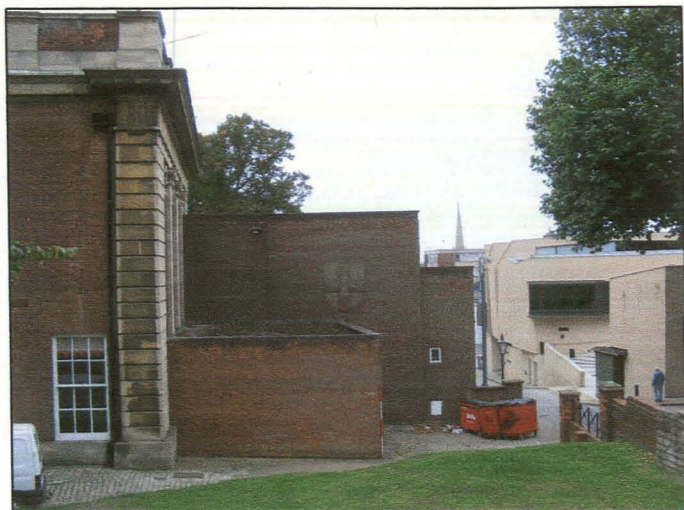
L.C.C., 2009, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice*. Lincoln, Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Dept.

## 10.0 Site Archive

- 10.1 The documentary and photographic archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to The Collection, Lincoln within six months, where it will be stored under the museum accession number 2009.133.

## Appendix 1: Colour Plates

(The number in brackets relates to the shot numbers in Appendix 2 and on Figures 2 – 5)



**Plate 1 (Shot 1):** North elevations of the Coin Gallery and Curtois Gallery, looking north. The main Usher Gallery is to the left of shot



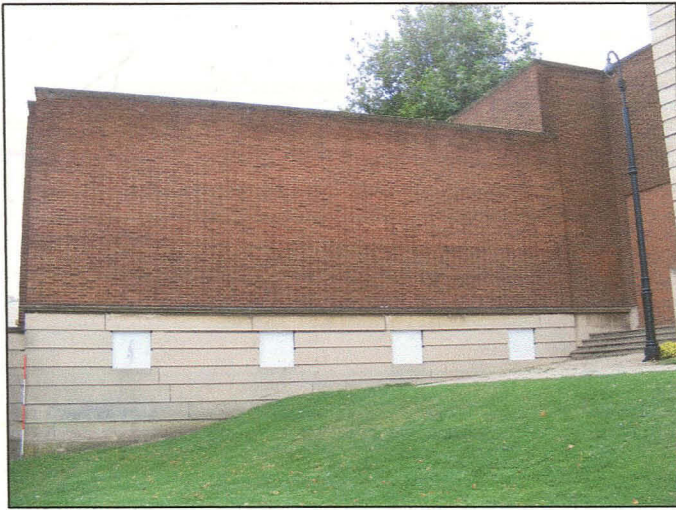
**Plate 2 (Shot 3):** West elevation of the Coin Gallery, looking east from Danesgate



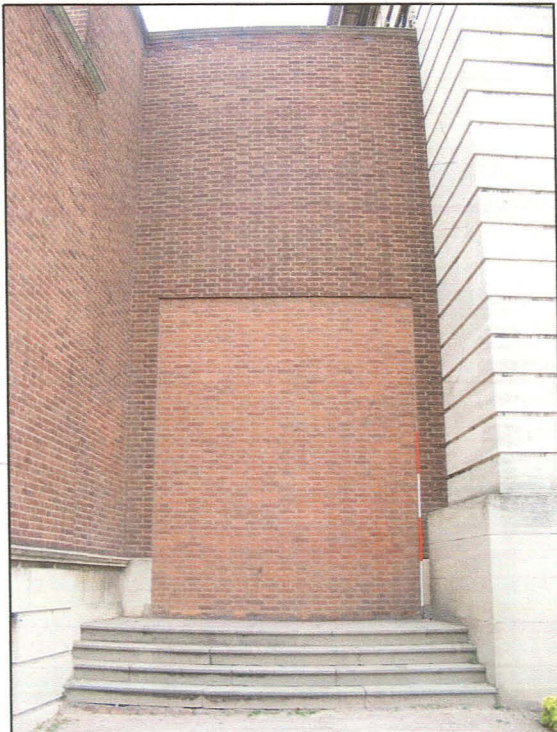
**Plate 3 (Shot 24):** Interior of Coin Gallery, looking north



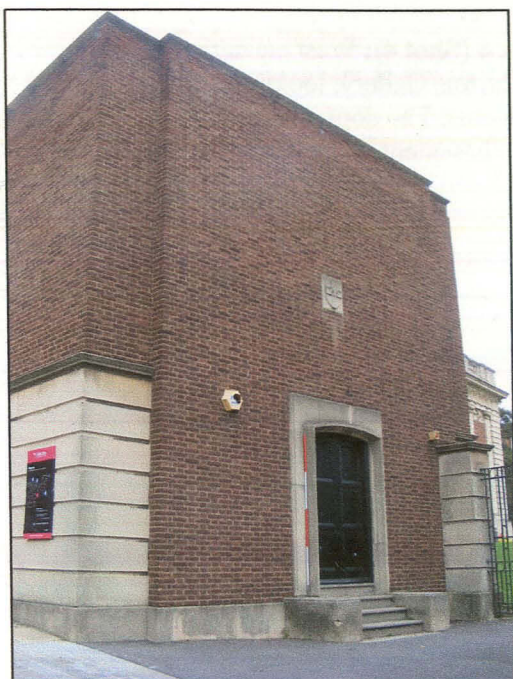
**Plate 4 (Shot 4):** West elevation of the Curtois Gallery, looking east-north-east. The door allows access to the basement.



**Plate 5 (Shot 8):** East elevation of the Curtois Gallery, looking west-north-west. Note the terracing of the ground to provide a level surface for the building



**Plate 6 (Shot 9):** South elevation of the Curtois Gallery, looking north-east, showing blocked doorway into the corridor between the Usher Gallery and Curtois Gallery



**Plate 7 (Shot 6):** South elevation of the Curtois Gallery, looking north-east. The doors in this elevation allow access to the basement.



**Plate 8 (Shot 28):** Interior of Curtois Gallery, looking south. There is a storage area behind the timber framed partition wall at the south end of the room.



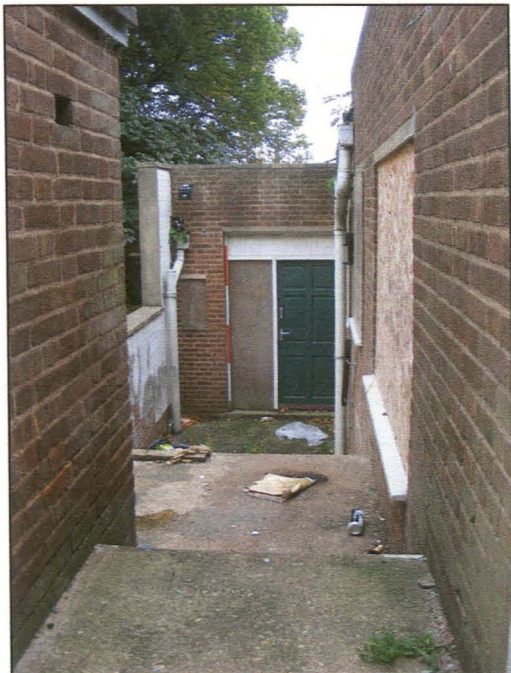
**Plate 9 (Shot 32):** Basement of Curtois Gallery, looking south. The double doors at the end of the room give access into the grounds of the Usher Gallery, while the green cage to the right encloses a disabled access onto Danesgate.



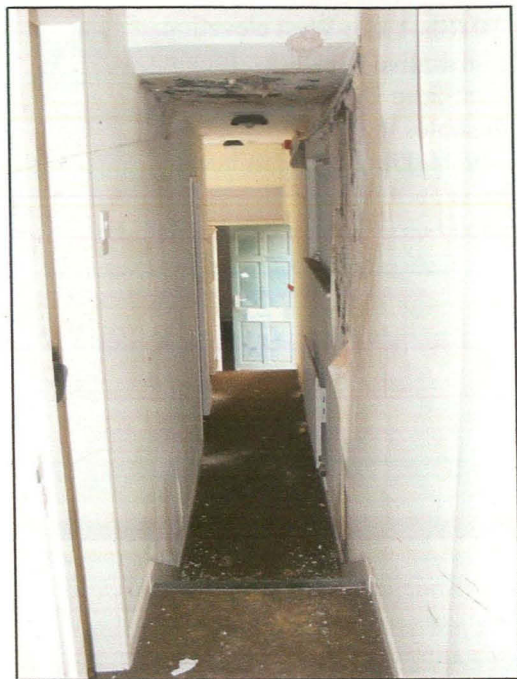
**Plate 10 (Shot 11):** West elevation of administrative bungalow, looking south-east from Danesgate. This shot illustrates the three levels on which the building has been built, and also shows the banded rustication below the windows



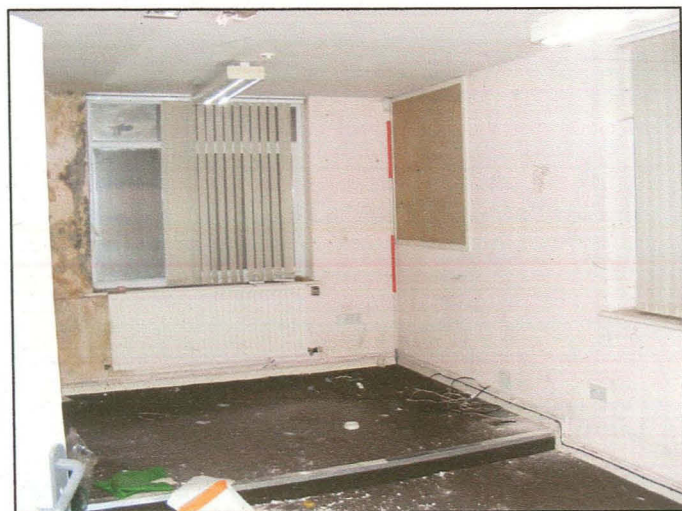
**Plate 11 (Shot 13):** East elevation of administrative bungalow, looking south-west



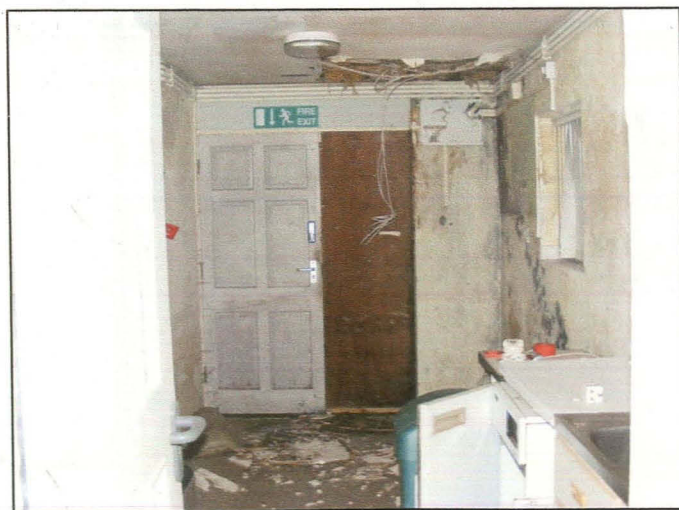
**Plate 12 (Shot 12):** View along east side of administrative bungalow, looking south, showing steps down to door into southern part of the building



**Plate 13 (Shot 27):** Corridor along west side of bungalow, looking south. Note the steps down into each of the three sections of the building.



**Plate 14 (Shot 18):** Office room at south end of administrative bungalow building, looking east-south-east

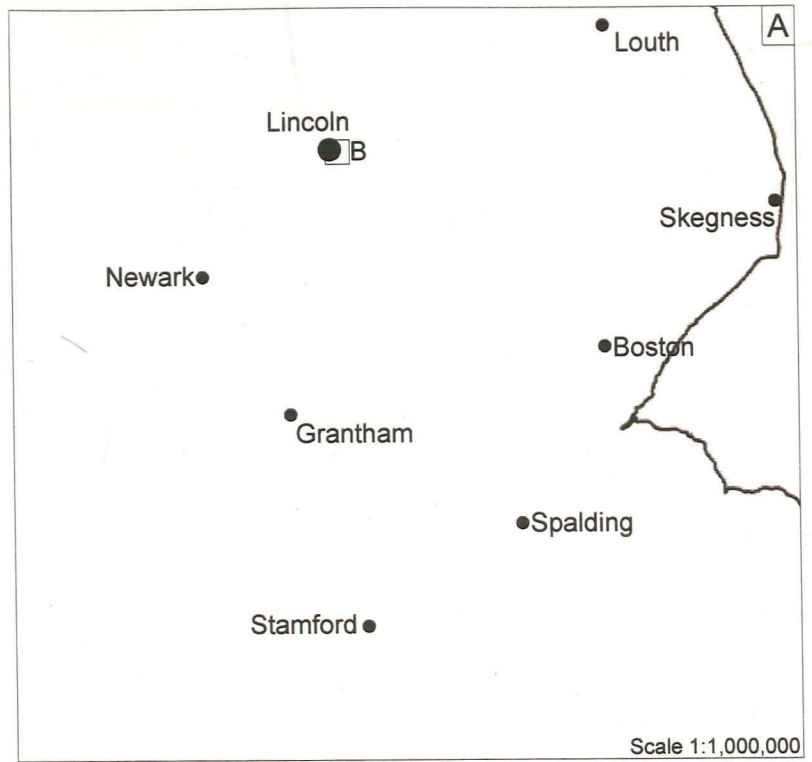
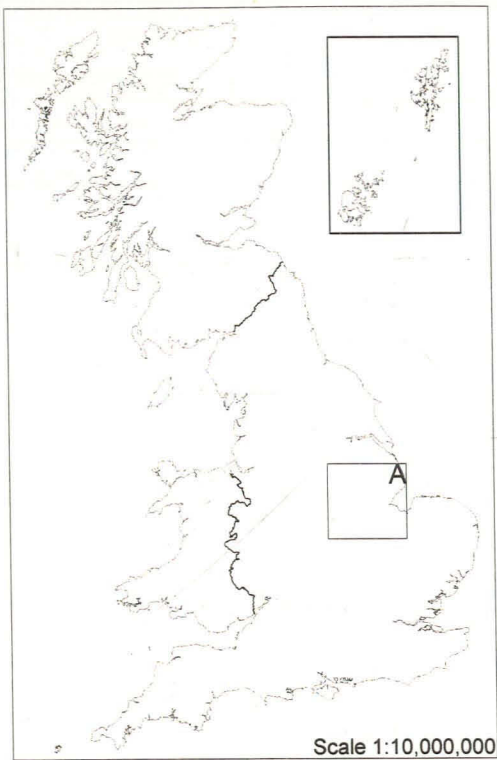


**Plate 15 (Shot 19):** Kitchen area in administrative bungalow, looking north

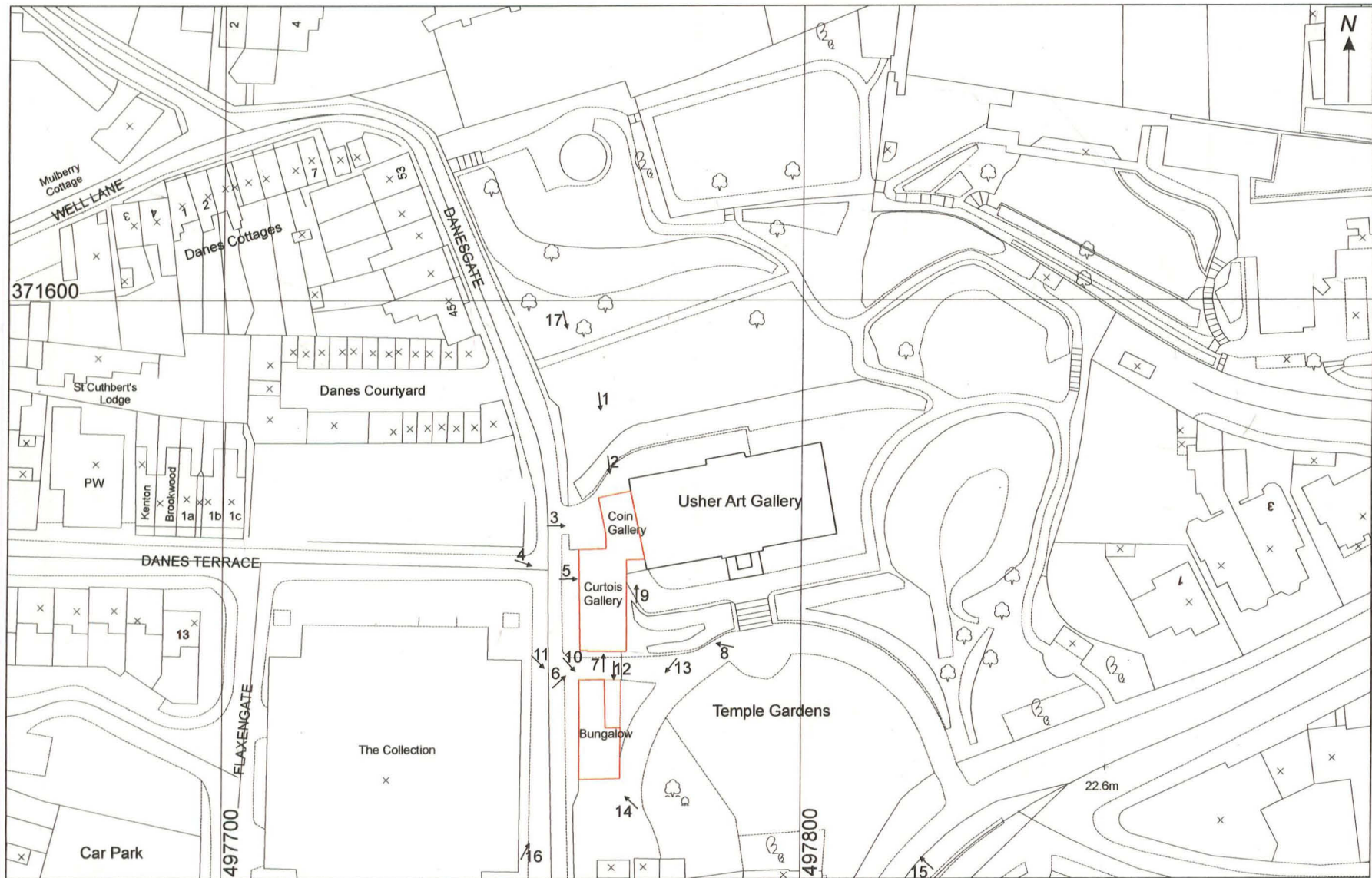


## Appendix 2: Photographic Archive List

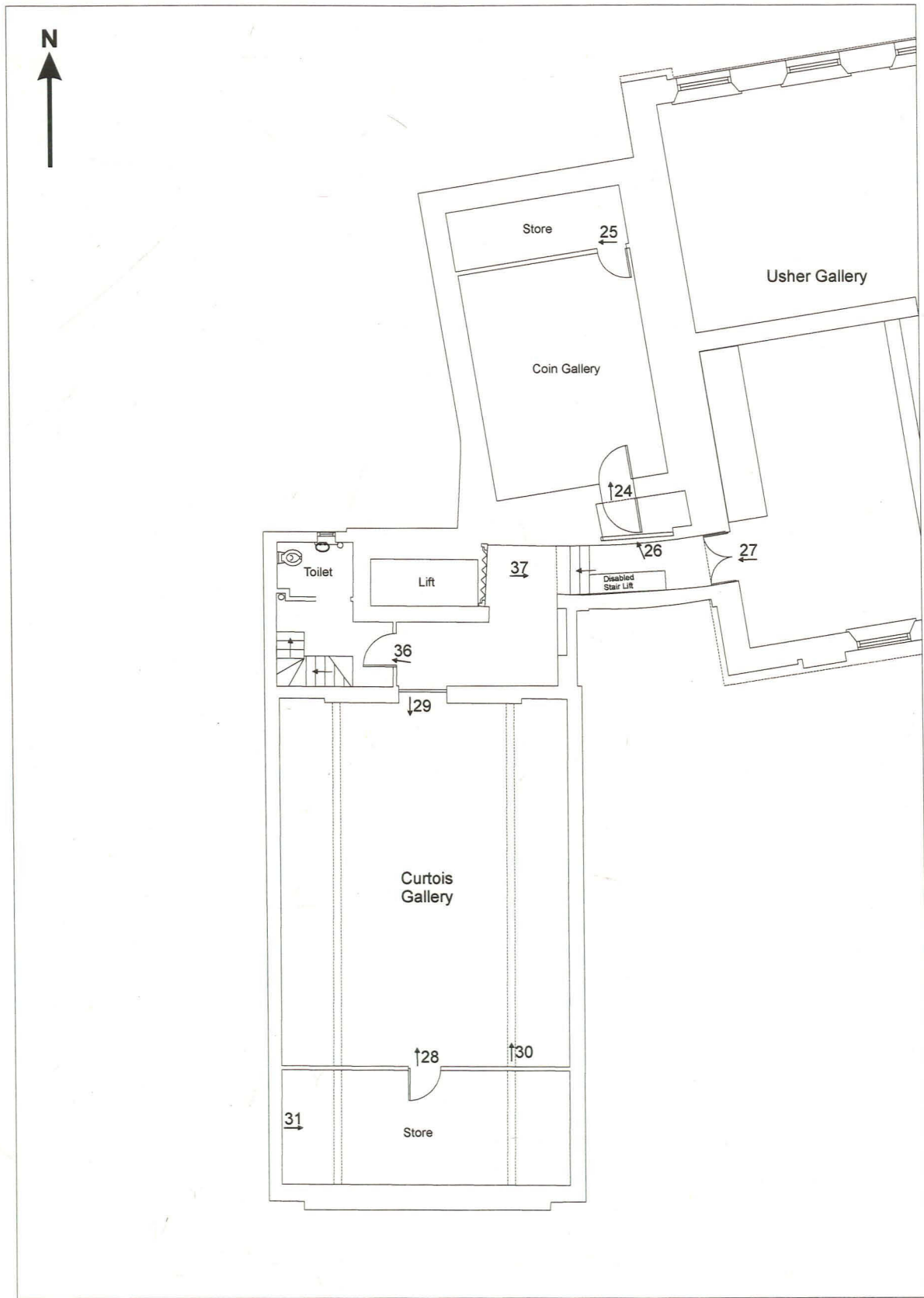
Shot No	Facing	Type	Description
1	S	Exterior	North elevations of Coin Gallery and Curtois Gallery
2	S	Exterior	North elevation of Coin Gallery
3	E	Exterior	West elevation of Coin Gallery
4	ESE	Exterior	West elevation of Curtois Gallery
5	E	Detail	Detail of window in west elevation of Curtois Gallery
6	NE	Exterior	South elevation of Curtois Gallery
7	N	Detail	Detail of door in south elevation in Curtois Gallery
8	WNW	Exterior	East elevation of Curtois Gallery
9	N	Exterior	Blocked doorway in south elevation of corridor between Curtois Gallery and Usher Gallery
10	SE	Exterior	North elevation of bungalow
11	SE	Exterior	West elevation of bungalow
12	S	Exterior	Doorway and steps along east side of bungalow
13	SW	Exterior	East elevation of bungalow
14	NW	Exterior	South elevation of bungalow
15	NW	Exterior	General view of Usher Gallery and associated buildings from Lindum Hill
16	NNE	Exterior	General view of Usher Gallery and associated buildings from Danesgate
17	SSE	Exterior	General view of Coin Gallery and Curtois Gallery from high ground to the north
18	ESE	Interior	Office area at south end of bungalow
19	N	Interior	Kitchen area in bungalow
20	NE	Interior	Central office room in bungalow
21	NE	Interior	Northern office room in bungalow
22	ESE	Interior	Toilet block in bungalow
23	S	Interior	Corridor along west side of bungalow
24	N	Interior	Interior of Coin Gallery
25	W	Interior	Office area at north end of Coin Gallery
26	NNW	Detail	Detail of security door to Coin Gallery
27	W	Interior	Connecting corridor between Usher Gallery and Curtois Gallery
28	S	Interior	Art studio in Curtois Gallery
29	N	Interior	Art studio in Curtois Gallery
30	N	Detail	Skylights in Curtois Gallery
31	E	Interior	Store room at south end of Curtois Gallery
32	S	Interior	Basement of Curtois Gallery
33	NW	Interior	Lift in basement of Curtois Gallery
34	N	Interior	Basement of Curtois Gallery
35	NW	Interior	Fuse room in NW corner of Curtois Gallery basement
36	WNW	Interior	Hallway and staircase to basement of Curtois Gallery
37	E	Interior	Connecting corridor between Usher Gallery and Curtois Gallery



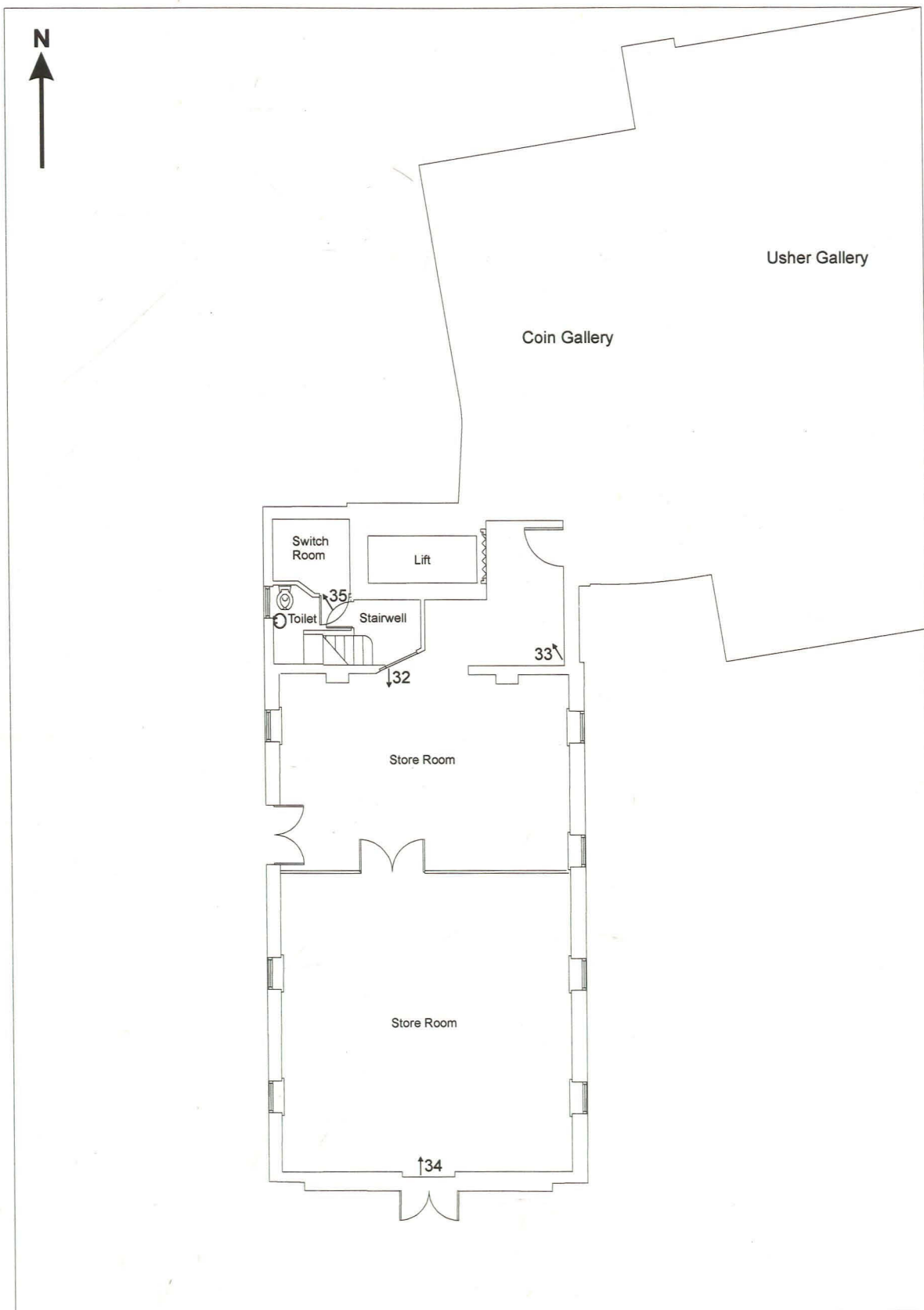
**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000, with the grounds of The Usher Gallery in red  
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**Figure 2:** Site location plan at scale 1:1000. Numbered arrows indicate location and orientation of all exterior shots (listed in Appendix 2). See Figures 3 to 5 for interior shots

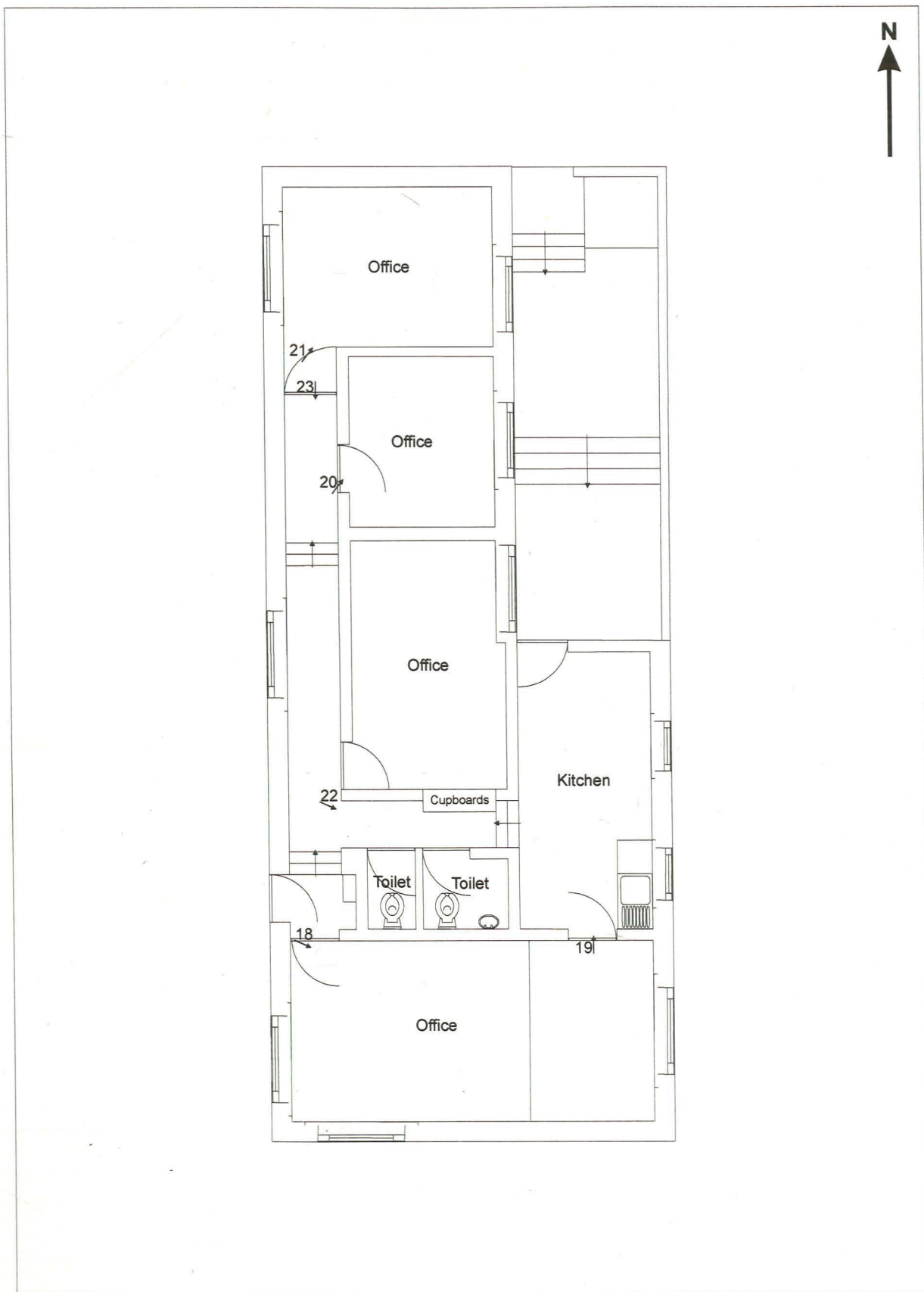


**Figure 3:** Ground floor plan of Coin Gallery and Curtois Gallery at scale 1:150. Numbered arrows indicate location and orientation of all ground floor shots (listed in Appendix 2). Exterior shots shown on Figure 2, Curtois Gallery basement shots shown on Figure 4.



0 15m  
Scale 1:150

**Figure 4:** Basement plan of Curtois Gallery at scale 1:150. Numbered arrows indicate location and orientation of all basement shots (listed in Appendix 2). Exterior shots shown on Figure 2, ground floor shots shown on Figure 3.



**Figure 5:** Ground floor plan of the 'administrative bungalow' at scale 1:100. Numbered arrows indicate location and orientation of all ground floor shots. Exterior shots shown on Figure 2.



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