

30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire

Historic Building Record

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SUMMARY

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council's Highways Department to undertake a Level 1 building record of an unlisted former hospital building, 30 Watson Road, Nottinghamshire (OS Grid Ref. SK 588622 78893) prior to its proposed demolition (Planning Application Nos 1/13/01372/CDM) as part of a scheme to build a new 8-bay bus station.
- 30 Watson Road is located close to the centre of Worksop, within the historic core of the town. Cartographic evidence indicates that it was built between 1920 and 1960. The architectural style of the building suggests that it was constructed in the inter-war period, most likely in the 1930s. It has undergone minor alterations since its construction including a number of the doorways being narrowed, the addition of a parapet and some internal divisions when it was converted into offices. It was a part of the Victoria Hospital which was opened in 1900 on the east side of Watson Road. The building and the contemporary block to the south effectively form a single unit comprising two buildings set around a courtyard with a garden to the rear which may have been a sanatorium for tuberculosis sufferers.

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April 2014

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The fieldwork was directed by Matt Hurford. Dr Gareth Davies managed the project. Thanks are extended to Paul Horn, Principal Project Manager at Nottinghamshire County Council for commissioning the work. The project was monitored by Jason Morden, the Senior Practitioner Historic Buildings for Nottinghamshire County Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Department to undertake a Level 1 building record of an unlisted former hospital building 30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire (OS Grid Ref. SK 588622 78893) prior to its proposed demolition (Planning Application Nos 1/13/01372/CDM) as part of a scheme to build a new 8-bay bus station (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The building was part of a former hospital complex fronting Watson Street with an adjacent contemporary block located to the south. Cartographic evidence indicates that it was built between 1920 and 1960. The architectural style of the building suggests that it was constructed in the inter-war period, most likely in the 1930s. The building is of a single phase with a few minor alterations.

1.2 Building Recording

1.2.1 Where specific briefs are supplied by relevant planning authorities with regard to buildings they may require a survey based on classifications as outlined in English Heritage's guide *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006). In this instance a Level 1 survey of the building was required. The methodology employed also follows advice from the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (2001).

1.2.2 Where an existing building / structure is not protected by listing and permission is sought or granted for demolition or major alteration, the local authority may require that a full archival record be made first, in order to 'preserve by record'.

1.3 The Report

1.3.1 The building recording has involved a limited examination of the former factory both externally and internally. This has allowed for a brief written description of the building and its background with 3 figures and 9 plates as illustrations. A second part of the report (Section 7: Archival Record) comprises a list of illustrations to support the archival record. The latter consists primarily of 36 digital images. The report includes copies of the digital images together with plans showing their viewpoints. All 36 digital images are included in a separate CD affixed to the back of the report.

2. SITE BACKGROUND

2.1.1 It is currently proposed by Nottinghamshire County Council as part of Planning Application Nos: 1/13/01372/CDM to demolish 30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire (OS Grid Ref. SK 588622 78893) as part of a scheme to build a new 8-bay bus station.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The building is located close to the centre of Worksop, within the historic core of the town. Cartographic evidence indicates that it was built between 1920 and 1960 (Mapplethorpe and Davies 2013). The architectural style of the building suggests that it was constructed in the inter-war period, most likely in the 1930s. It was a part of the Victoria Hospital which was opened in 1900 on the east side of Walton Road (Figure 2). The building and the contemporary block to the south effectively form a single unit comprising two buildings set around a courtyard with a garden to the rear.

4. BUILDING DESCRIPTION (Figure 3 and Plates 1 to 9)

4.1.1 30 Watson Road is a roughly rectangular single storey building orientated east to west. It is built of red bricks laid Flemish bond. On the east elevation fronting Watson Road the brickwork is set on a sandstone plinth with sandstone also used for the art deco style semi circular window openings. The plinth extends around to the main entrance on the south elevation which also utilises sandstone for the door surround. The roof is flat with a later brick parapet laid in English bond. The glazing bars for all the windows in the building are metal. The building is of a single phase with the only alterations being the narrowing and lowering of the doorways in the north and west elevations and to the central doorway in the south elevation.

4.1.2 The interior of the building has been divided into offices with the main entrance in the south elevation leading into a reception room off which is a corridor running the length of the building with offices leading from it. Two skylights are present in the ceiling of the corridor providing additional lighting. A large conference room occupies the south-west corner of the building. A number of the doors and a large proportion of the skirting boards and door frames appear original. The wooden flooring also survives intact beneath modern carpet with timber tiles set in a herringbone pattern in the corridor. A modern ceiling has been inserted in the majority of the rooms masking any earlier features.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1.1 30 Watson Road is a former hospital building which probably dates to the 1930s. It was part of the Victoria Hospital, the principal buildings of which were located on the opposite side of Watson Road. 30 Watson Road, together with the contemporary block to the south, effectively formed a single unit comprising two buildings set around a courtyard with a garden to the rear. That the building is set apart from the main hospital and as there is a garden to the rear suggests that it may have been a sanatorium for tuberculosis sufferers as prior to the advent of antibiotics segregation, rest and fresh air were deemed the most effective remedy for the affliction (Roberts and Manchester 2005 192).

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mapplethorpe, K. and Davies, G., 2013 *Worksop Bus Station: Land South of Newcastle Street, Worksop, Nottingham. An Archaeological desk-based Assessment for the Highways Dept. Nottinghamshire County Council*. TPA Report 010/2013

Roberts, C. and Manchester, K., 1995 *The Archaeology of Disease*



Figure 1. Location of 30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire. Scale 1:25000
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Figure 2. 1960 edition Ordnance Survey map (25 inch scale) showing 30 Watson Road and the Victoria Hospital.

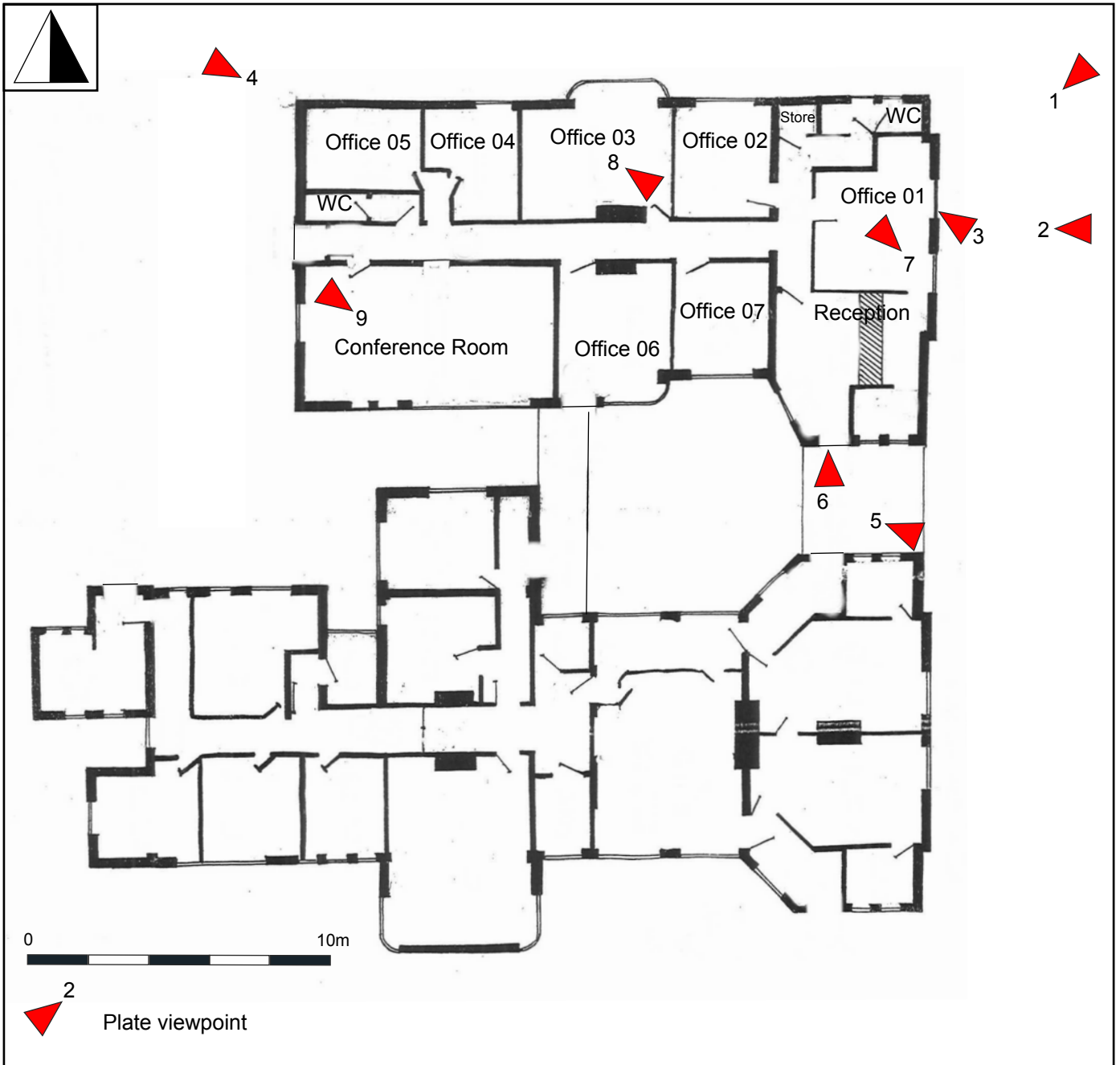


Figure 3: Plan of 30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire and the viewpoints of the plates shown in the report. (Scale 1:200 at A4).



Plate 1. General view of 30 Watson Road and the southern contemporary building, viewed looking south-west.



Plate 2. East elevation of 30 Watson Road, viewed looking west.



Plate 3. Art deco style window in the east elevation of 30 Watson Road, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 4. The north and west elevations, viewed looking south-east.



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Plate 6. The main entrance in the south elevation, viewed looking north.

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Plate 9. The Conference Room, viewed looking south-east.



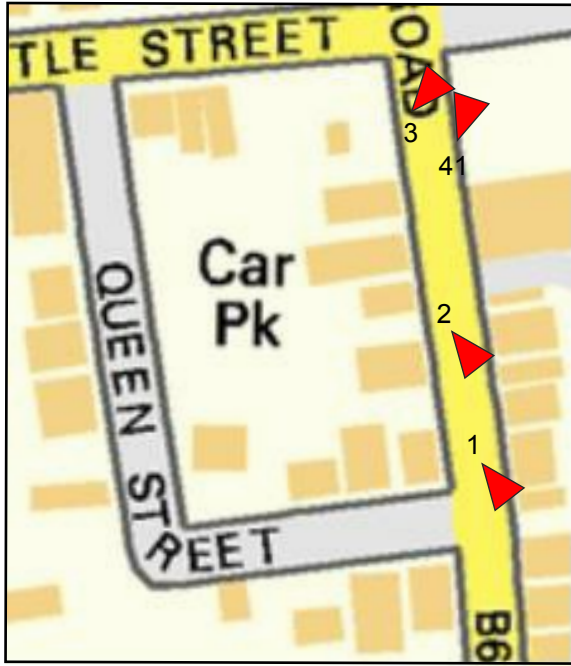


Figure 4: The photographic view points of 30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire in its landscape setting.

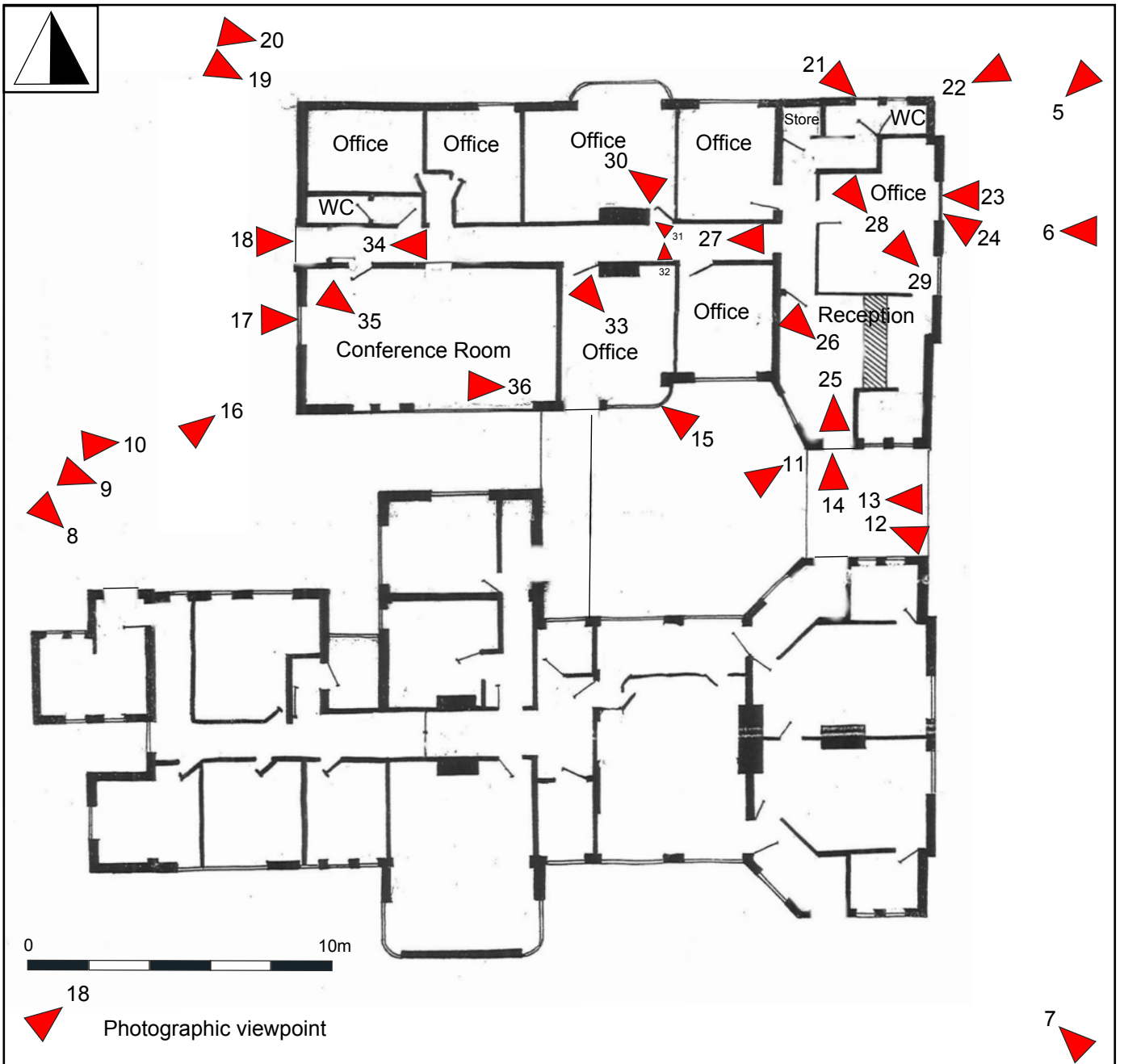


Figure 5: 30 Watson Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire photographic view points. (Scale 1:200 at A4).