

**NORTHFIELDS DAY  
CENTRE,  
STONE ROAD,  
STAFFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING  
RECORDING**

**CP. No: 10423**

**DATE: 07/12/2012**



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## *Quality Assurance*

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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## SUMMARY

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Staffordshire County Council to undertake an archaeological building recording project of a former early 20<sup>th</sup> century Infants School on Stone Road, Stafford, which has more latterly been used as a Day Centre, prior to its proposed demolition and redevelopment of the site.

The site of the former Northfields School appears to have been located within the former medieval open field known as Foregate Field and well to the north of suburban medieval development outside the town. The area was not incorporated into the urban development of Stafford until the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century when industrial activities set up to the north of the town. Associated with this rapidly developing industrial sector, housing was constructed and areas of late 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing still survive in the area around Northfield School.

Due to the historic nature of the earliest phases of the site, Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Team requested that a Level 2 archaeological building recording project be undertaken of the former Northfields Day Centre prior to its proposed demolition.

Prior to the survey work on site, a rapid desk-based study was undertaken in order to set the buildings into their historical context. The study involved the consultation of historical mapping and documents housed at Staffordshire Record Office, and online sources.

The rapid desk-based assessment revealed that the earliest phase of the Infants' School on Stone Road was constructed in 1900. This early school appears to have consisted of two classes, a hall, teacher's room, cloakroom and basement. By 1909, additions were made to the east side of the earlier building. This extension provided a further three classrooms, corridor cloakroom, and recess for 'lavatory basins'.

Floor plans dating to 1948 and 1972 survive to provide some indication of the uses of the rooms in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There appears to have been six classrooms in 1948, but only five by 1972, with other facilities including cloakrooms, teacher's room and staff lavatory, with the children's toilet block being located in a separate building to the south of the school.

By 1982 it would appear that the Infants' School had gone out of use, and by the following year it had been acquired by Staffordshire County Council Social Services Department for use as a day care centre. This change of use would appear to have caused some modification to the internal uses of the buildings, as well as the construction of new extensions to serve the needs of those attending.

The archaeological building recording project has revealed that the earliest phase of the former school was clearly visible to the west side of the site, with its main

elevation facing towards Stone Road. This phase was constructed in the Neo-Gothic architectural style, typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and contained an extensive amount of architectural detailing indicating a sense of pride in this building. This earliest phase appears to have consisted of three large rooms (possibly two classrooms and a hall), a lobby with three rooms leading off it and a basement for the heating system. Original features which still survive in this phase consist of the tall windows with hoppers at their bases, the partly tiled walls, and roof structure.

The east side of the school buildings, which has a date stone of 1909 (and was also known from documentary sources to have been an addition of that date), was constructed in a similar style to the earliest phase (being built only nine years later), but there were obvious differences between the two phases, such as the type of brick bonding, a slight difference in the architectural detailing and the clear construction break between the two visible in the north elevation, where the brickwork does not quite line up. This addition of 1909 contained the same features as observed in the earliest phase such as the 'hopper' windows and partly tiled walls.

There was some archaeological evidence for modifications that were made following the change of use to a day centre in the 1980s, such as the single-storey brick extensions, blocked doorway in the 1900 lobby, blocked opening in the south wall of Room 8, and the conversion of the stairwell to the basement into two storage rooms. Apart from these modifications, the floor plan of both phases of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Infants' School has remained intact, providing interesting information on the use of space, and features of classrooms of that period such as the hopper windows and the partly tiled walls.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited would like to offer thanks to Jodie Guy of Staffordshire County Council for commissioning the project; and to Simon Wilson of Galliford Try for providing access into the buildings.

The rapid desk-based study and archaeological building recording was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Fiona Wooler, and the illustrations completed by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, who also edited the report.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

---

- 1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Staffordshire County Council to undertake an archaeological building recording project of the Northfields Day Centre (former Infants School), Stone Road, Stafford (NGR SJ 9178 2447) prior to the proposed demolition of the site in advance of a wider redevelopment of the area.
- 1.2 Northfields Day Centre incorporates an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Infants School, which was originally opened in 1900 and enlarged in 1909. The school was originally known as North Street Infants School, but was renamed Stone Road Council School in c.1929, and in 1958 it became known as Northfields Infants School. The site is presently recorded on the Staffordshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR No. 54473), although the site is not designated as a listed building.
- 1.3 Due to the historic nature of parts of the former Northfields Day Centre buildings, Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Team requested a programme of archaeological building recording of the standing structures prior to their demolition<sup>1</sup>. The archaeological building recording was to take the form of a Level 2 building survey as defined by English Heritage<sup>2</sup> (2006).
- 1.4 The site of the former Northfields Day Centre (Site A) formed part of an archaeological desk-based assessment compiled by CgMs in October 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> Dean, S, 2012

<sup>2</sup> English Heritage 2006, Page 14



## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The present project consisted of two phases, a rapid desk-based assessment, and the archaeological building recording which involved the photographing and assessing of the exterior and interior of the buildings and their surroundings, including any associated structures.

### 2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Prior to the commencement of the survey on site, a rapid desk-based study was undertaken in order to establish the historical context of the building, and to provide details, where known, on the buildings' architects, builders, patrons and owners.
- 2.2.2 The rapid desk-based study involved the consultation of historical maps, unpublished material and published sources housed within Staffordshire Record Office, Stafford.
- 2.2.3 The rapid desk-based study was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*<sup>3</sup>.

### 2.3 BUILDING SURVEY

- 2.3.1 A Level 2 building survey of the historic buildings at the former Northfields Day Centre was undertaken according to the standard and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists<sup>4</sup> and English Heritage. A Level 2 survey is a descriptive record where the work involves both the exterior and the interior of the buildings being viewed described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not necessarily discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.3.2 The survey includes:
- a written description of the buildings, including their plan, form, function, age, development sequence and construction materials. The landscape and historical context of the buildings will also be considered.

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<sup>3</sup> IfA 2011

<sup>4</sup> IfA 2008

<sup>5</sup> English Heritage 2006, Page 14

- a digital photographic record of the building and its relationship with other structures in the immediate area. A selection of the digital photographs are included within this report for illustrative purposes.
- a series of 35mm monochrome photographs of the buildings.

2.3.3 The results of the archaeological building recording have been combined with the findings of the rapid desk-based study in this report in order to provide a narrative on the origin, form, use and development of the former Northfields Day Centre buildings, where known.

## **2.4 THE ARCHIVE**

2.4.1 An archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *'Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation'*<sup>6</sup>. The archive will be deposited with a suitable repository.

2.4.2 A final bound copy of the report will be deposited with the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record, where viewing will be made available on request.

2.4.3 Wardell Archaeology Ltd supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project (<http://www.oasis.ac.uk/>). The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of developer funded fieldwork. Details of this project have been included on the OASIS database under the identifier wardella2-138506.

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<sup>6</sup> Brown, D.H, 2011

### 3 SITE LOCATION

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- 3.1 The Northfields Day Centre site is located approximately 1km to the north of the centre of Stafford, on the east side of Stone Road (A34 trunk road), between Tillington Street located to the south and Co-Operative Street to the north (Figure 1).
- 3.2 The site is set back from the road frontage, and has open ground surrounding it with portacabins to the south, and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings to the east (Figure 2).

## 4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 Prior to the survey work on site, a rapid desk-based study was undertaken in order to place the site of the Northfields Day Centre into its historical context. This assessment involved the consultation of historical mapping, and published and unpublished material housed in Staffordshire Record Office in Stafford, and the consultation of online sources such as Pastscape<sup>7</sup> and Heritage Gateway<sup>8</sup>.

### 4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.2.1 Cartographic and documentary evidence has illustrated that the site of Northfields Day Centre had seemingly remained as open agricultural land throughout the post-medieval period up until around the 1830s, following which there has been successive episodes of development and redevelopment as the site gradually became incorporated into the urban suburbs of Stafford. The Enclosure Map of 1807 shows that land on which the Infants School would be constructed as part of a field, annotated as 'Foregate Field', although it would appear that Stone Road (or North Street) was in existence at this date. The 1877 Borough of Stafford map shows the Union Workhouse (built in 1837-38) located to the east of the Northfields Day Centre site, but the site of the former school remained open with a property visible immediately to the north, presumed to be Stone House, and another property immediately to the south<sup>9</sup>.
- 4.2.2 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 clearly shows that the earliest phase of the Northfields Day Centre had not been constructed at this date, and the site is visible as a field between Stone House and properties to the south, with the large symmetrical complex of the Union Workhouse to the east (Figure 3).
- 4.2.3 By the publication of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map in 1901, a 'School' is shown on the site of the Northfields Day Centre, located to the south of Stone House. The plan of this school was essentially a square with an extension to the south side, and the building was set within its own grounds with a linear range of building to the east

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/> - Accessed 03/12/2012

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced\\_search.aspx](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx) - Accessed 03/12/2012

<sup>9</sup> CgMs 2012

against the south boundary wall; this may have been a toilet block (Figure 4).

- 4.2.4 According to *'The Victoria History of the County of Stafford'*, Northfields (formerly North Street) Infants School was opened by the School Board in 1900<sup>10</sup>. A search was made of the collection housed at Staffordshire Record Office to assess if any of the original building control plans for the building survived, however none were revealed, although later plans exist which will be referred to below.
- 4.2.5 A School Board had been established in Stafford in 1871, following the Education Act of 1870 which provided for a locally elected school board which would build schools wherever there was a shortage of school places and maintain them by levying a local rate on all householders. In Stafford there was already extensive school provision by the Church of England<sup>11</sup>.
- 4.2.6 At the first election for the School Board in Stafford, the Church of England secured five of the nine seats, and the non-conformists quickly complained of Anglian dominance of education in the borough. At the time of the elections, the churchmen pointed out that the Anglian schools had 1492 children on their books, while the non-conformists had only 400 in their day schools<sup>12</sup>.
- 4.2.7 Standards of education rose slowly as government inspectors demanded better buildings, more equipment and higher standards of work. Schools were encouraged to earn additional government grants by widening the curriculum. In the 1890s they were given greater freedom when grants were based on an annual report on the school rather than on tests given to every pupil<sup>13</sup>. The 1902 Education Act made sweeping changes, School Boards were abolished and borough and county councils took over all their school buildings. They also assumed responsibility for day-to-day costs, including salaries and equipment in all elementary schools. In Stafford, the Borough Council decided to surrender all its educational responsibilities to the County Council<sup>14</sup>.
- 4.2.8 The North Street Infants School was enlarged in 1909<sup>15</sup>, and this extension to the original building is clearly shown on the Third Edition

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<sup>10</sup> Elrington, C.R, 1979, Page 262

<sup>11</sup> Lewis, R, 1997, Page 99

<sup>12</sup> Elrington, C.R, 1979, Page 260

<sup>13</sup> Lewis, R, 1997, Page 101

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, Page 104

<sup>15</sup> Elrington, C.R, 1979, Page 262

Ordnance Survey map of c.1923 (Figure 5). It would appear that the original elevation drawings have survived for this extension; these have been kindly supplied by Staffordshire County Council and are reproduced here as Plates 1 to 3. These elevation drawings are labelled '*Staffordshire County Council, Education Committee, Stafford North Street Council School for Infants*' indicating the change in responsibility to the County Council.

4.2.9 An indication of the uses of the rooms at the school is provided by a floor plan dated 1948, for '*Proposed Alterations at Stafford Stone Road County Primary School*' (Plate 4). This plan shows that at that date there were six classrooms, two cloakrooms (complete with hand basins), a teacher's room, 'marching corridor', staff lavatory and cloakroom, and stairs to a basement 'heating chamber'. The proposed alterations appear to have related to the insertion or modification of the staff lavatory facilities. This plan is of interest as it shows the symmetrical lay out of the children's desks, and the locations of only two apparent fireplaces, one in the teacher's room and the other in Class Room 1, where reference is also made to the removal of a 'gallery'.

4.2.10 A bundle of documents housed at Staffordshire Record Office contain information on various works which were undertaken to the school buildings in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>16</sup>. The first document refers to improvements made since 1945:

- 1945: *Lavatory recess converted into kitchen*
- 1948: *Gallery desks removed from classes IV and V. Canteen built*
- 1950: *Existing offices modernised for use of girls. New offices built for boys*
- August 1951: *New steps built to front entrance. Former kitchen connected into staff cloakroom. Playing field ploughed and sown. Window boxes provided. Swing doors in hall and classes IV and V replaced by fixed doors. Hot water system installed. Two drinking fountains provided*
- October 1951: *Extra radiator installed in class IV*
- February 1952: *Shed for PE equipment erected*
- 1952: *Blinds fixed in classes III and II. Mirrors provided for all classrooms*

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<sup>16</sup> Staffordshire Record Office Ref: D4009/3/2-3

- *January 1953: New grate put in staffroom. Power plugs fixed in all classrooms. New gates erected to the back entrance.*
- *November 1953: Fixed climbing apparatus erected in playground*

4.2.11 The reference to *'existing offices modernised for use of girls. New offices built for boys'* dating to 1950 would appear to relate to the modernisation and extension of an existing toilet block located to the south side of the school buildings. Plates 5 to 7 are plans and elevations relating to *'additional offices for boys and girls at Stafford Stone Road C P School'* dating to November 1949 (provided by Staffordshire County Council).

4.2.12 A document entitled *'Report on School Premises 1953, Stafford Stone Road County Primary, Age Range 5-7 boys and girls'* provides interesting information on the history of the school and comments on improvements that were being sought at this date<sup>17</sup>:

- *History: 1900 – school built, consisted of classes IV and V, present hall, teacher's room, one cloakroom and basement. 1909 – new wing added consisting of three classrooms, corridor cloakroom, and small recess holding three lavatory basins*
- *Total number of pupils in May 1953 was 212 in five classes, consisting of 111 boys and 101 girls*
- *'At present the children are divided into five classes. This works smoothly for the first term; for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> terms as numbers increase, the Head would like to form a special class which could be taught in the dining room'*
- *Toilets – outside, boys have six stalls and three closets, girls have eight closets. Two cloakrooms*
- *Lighting – Class IV has very inadequate lighting, windows need lowering, extra dormer windows needed. Electric lighting present – 'strip lighting would be great improvement, present lights too isolated and insufficient in numbers, Class IV particularly [noted dated 1963 added: 'school has been completed required and extra lighting put in each room']*
- *Heating – central heating from main oiler, one open fire in Class V, one open fire in Staff Room. 'Class VI could do with extra radiator. If classroom door was moved, would make great difference to the classroom, as classroom door/hall door to outside door are in direct line with one another' [note dated 1963 added: 'door has been moved']*

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<sup>17</sup> Staffordshire Record Office Ref: D4009/3/2-3

- *Staff room – six women staff, one staff room, no Head Teacher's room*
- *Storage rooms – one small unlit 'bogeyhole'*
- *School meals – school has own KDR. Average number of children staying at school at lunchtime is 50*
- *Playground – 2203 square yards, asphalt laid in 1950*
- *Playing field – 2378 square yards*
- *Fuel storage – area in basement. Capacity three tons of coal and four tons of coke*
- *Development plan proposal – adapt as two-class infant (80) and nursery class (40)*
- *1963 note adds: 'During the last five years old properties surrounding the school have been demolished and families rehoused. No influx of children is envisaged in future planning'*
- *Typed note at bottom of document notes: 'Stone Road C P School, improvements to natural and artificial lighting, provision of staff and storage rooms £5000'*

4.2.13 Also within the same bundle of documents is an handwritten list of alterations which have been made to the school between 1958 and 1963<sup>18</sup>:

- *February 1958: Entire school rewired for electricity. Door and steps into playground made in Reception Class. Doors fixed to outside toilets*
- *November 1958: All lavatory pedestals renewed in toilets. In Canteen, barrier wall and door erected between toilet and kitchen*
- *November 1959: Children's toilet bowls renewed in cloakrooms. In Canteen, staff toilet bowl fixed in kitchen*
- *March 1960: In Canteen, pantry 'tiled', window inserted in staff toilet. On field, cherry and lime trees planted and carpeting of daffodils*
- *November 1961: In Canteen, new cupboards built beneath hatches. Gas water boiler erected to replace coke heater*
- *July 1962: Modern furniture supplied to Canteen*
- *March 1963: Extra radiators installed in reception class. Metal shelving erected over all radiators*

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<sup>18</sup> Staffordshire Record Office Ref: D4009/3/2-3



- 4.2.14 An Ordnance Survey map of 1964 shows the site of 'Northfield C P School' with associated buildings to its south and east sides and the location of the playing field (Figure 6).
- 4.2.15 A ground floor plan dating to 1972, presently housed in the bundle of documents at Staffordshire Record Office<sup>19</sup>, indicates that there has been an extension constructed to the east side of the school; this extension does not appear to be shown on the 1964 map indicating that it was constructed at some point between 1964 and 1972. The 1972 plan, which appears to have related to proposed new toilets to the north side of the buildings, provides interesting information on the uses of the rooms at that date (Plate 8). The proposed new toilets, as shown on this plan, do not appear to have been constructed.
- 4.2.16 It would appear that by 1982, Northfields Infants School had gone out of use. In that year it had been established that Day Facilities for young adults with cerebral palsy were inadequate in Stafford, and discussions took place between the Social Services Department and the Association to assess the possibility of refurbishing the school which was to become vacant in 1983. It was agreed with other local charities that if £50 000 could be raised towards the cost of the refurbishment, the Social Services Department would go ahead with the scheme<sup>20</sup>.
- 4.2.17 By June 1983, the site was referred to as 'Stafford Northfields Day Centre' and it would appear that alterations were being planned to the existing buildings, including an extension against the north side and the removal of internal glazed partition walls (plans supplied by Staffordshire County Council, copies of which are included in the project archive).
- 4.2.18 Plans for a new store at Northfields were drawn up in July 1984, although the exact location for the new building was not given on the plans (Plate 9) (plans provided by Staffordshire County Council).
- 4.2.19 Just before Christmas 1985, the Northfields Care Centre was opened. Additional facilities were added on the site in portacabins located to the south of the earlier buildings, one of which was used as a computer centre<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> Staffordshire Record Office Ref: D4009/3/4

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.cpmidstaffs.co.uk/html/history.htm> - Accessed 03/12/2012

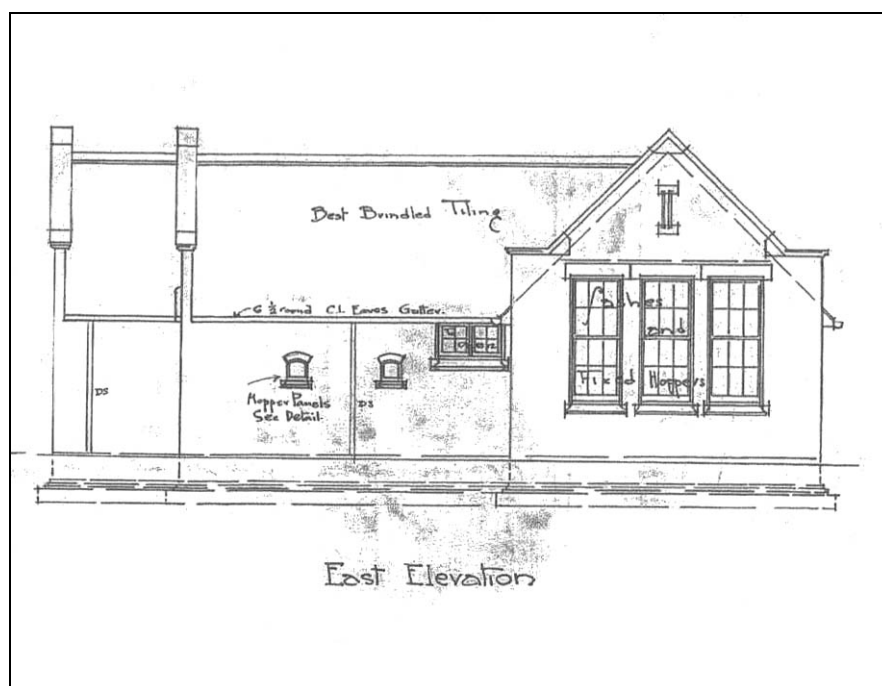
<sup>21</sup> *ibid*



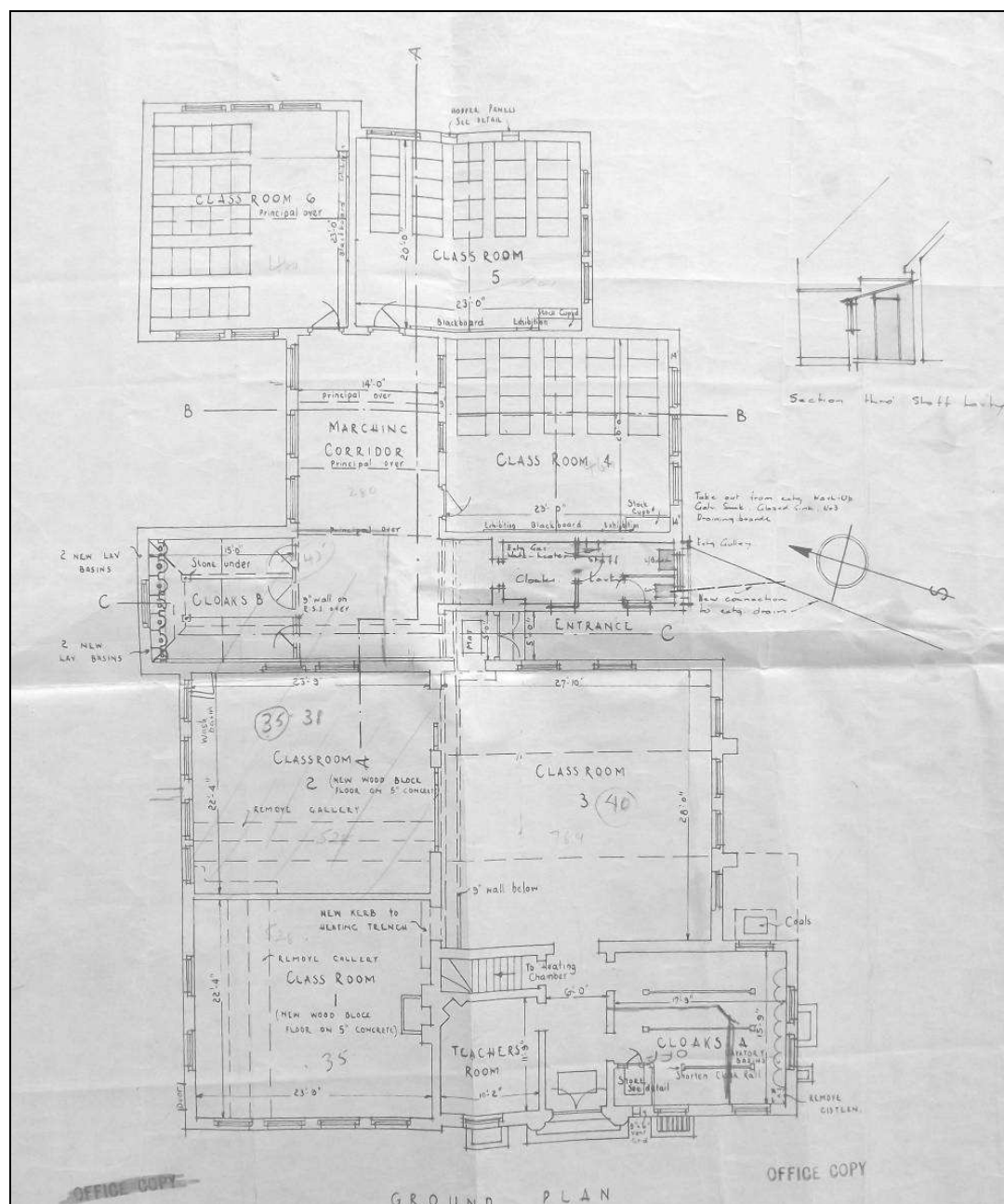
**Plate 1:** North elevation, proposed extensions to Stafford North Street Council School for Infants c.1909



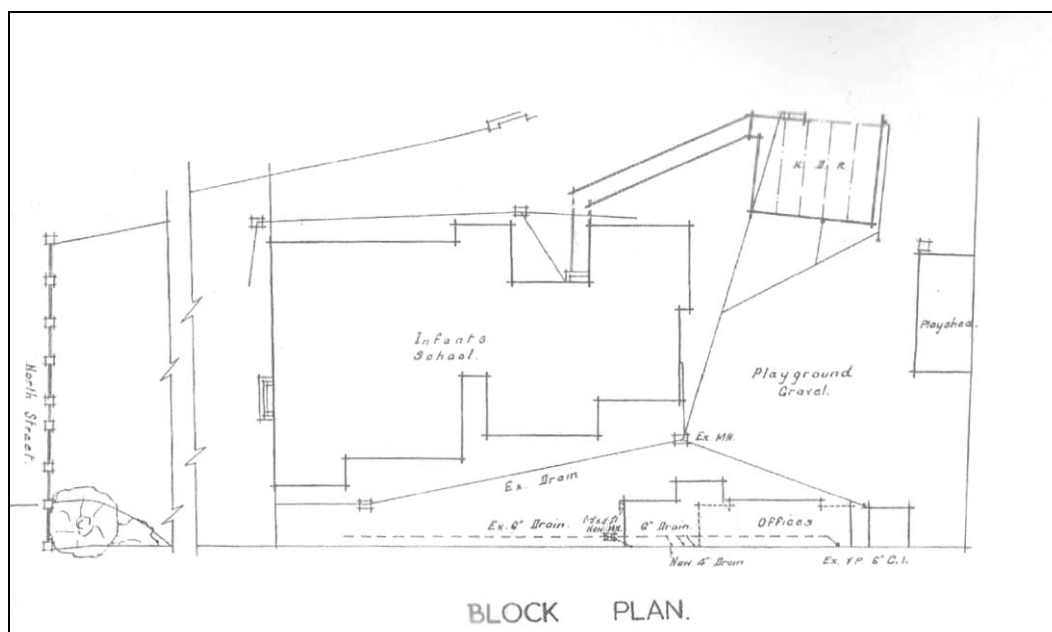
**Plate 2:** South elevation, proposed extensions to Stafford North Street Council School for Infants c.1909



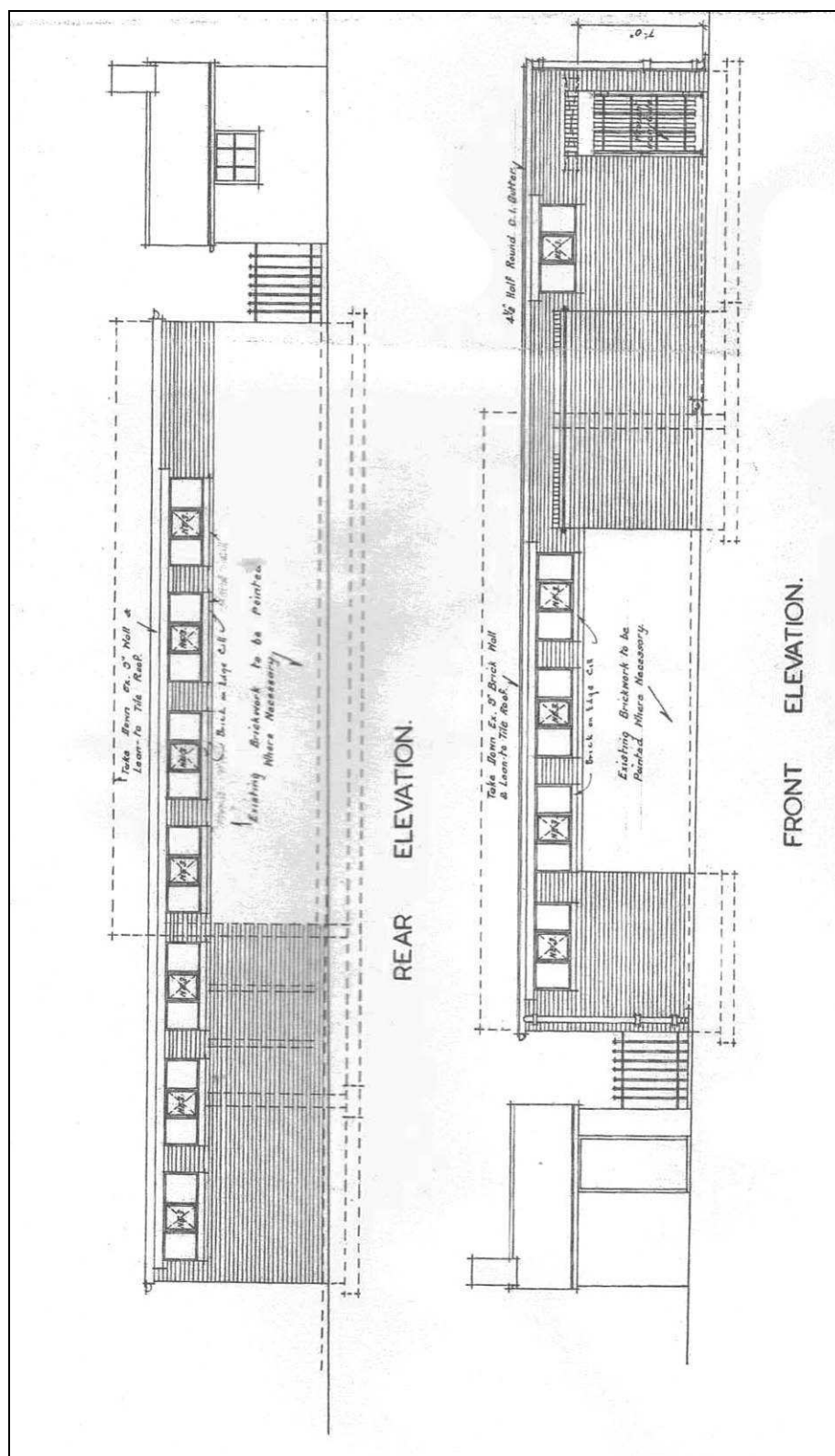
**Plate 3:** East elevation, proposed extensions to Stafford North Street Council School for Infants c.1909



**Plate 4:** Ground plan of Stafford Stone Road County Primary School for proposed alterations, 1948 (Ref: D4009/3/4)



**Plate 5:** Block plan for alterations of toilet block or 'offices' dated November 1949



**Plate 6:** Elevation drawings for alterations to the toilet block ('offices'), dated November 1949

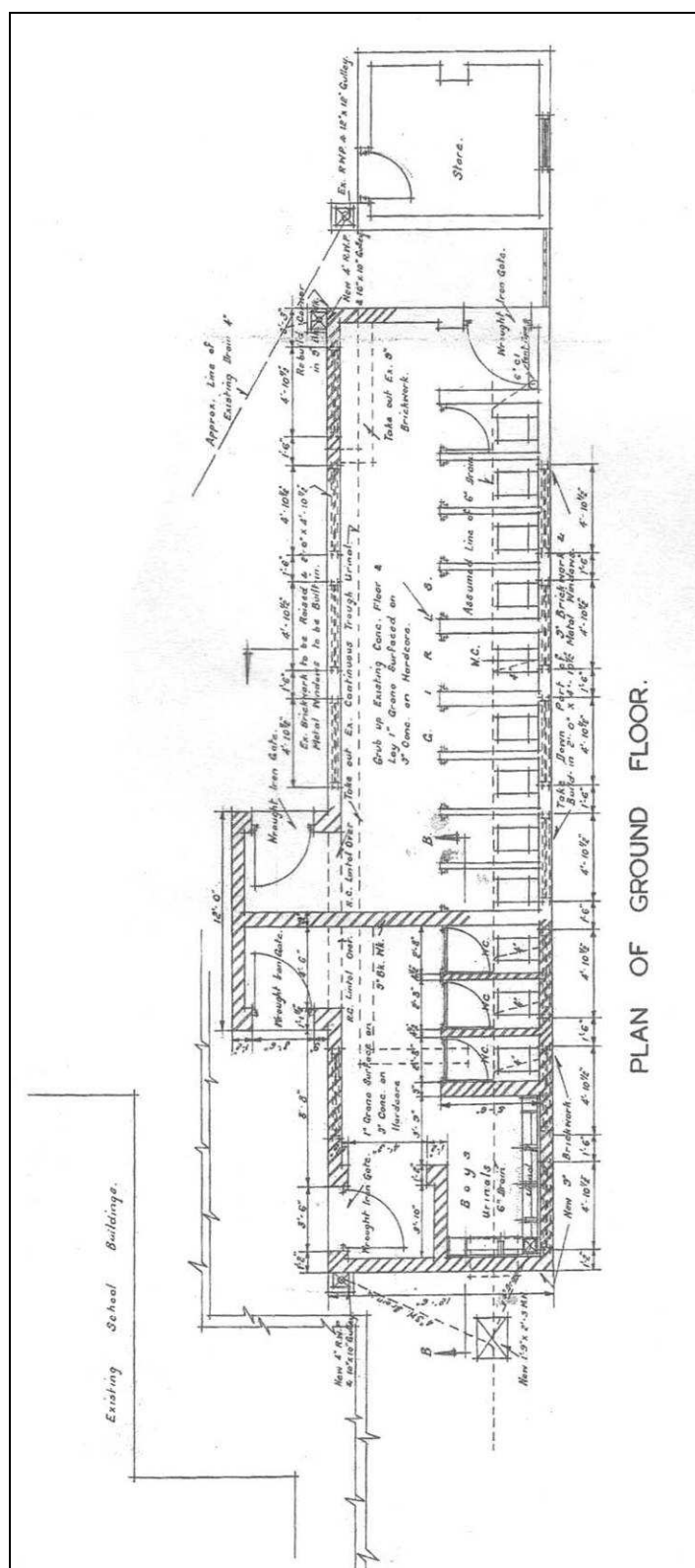
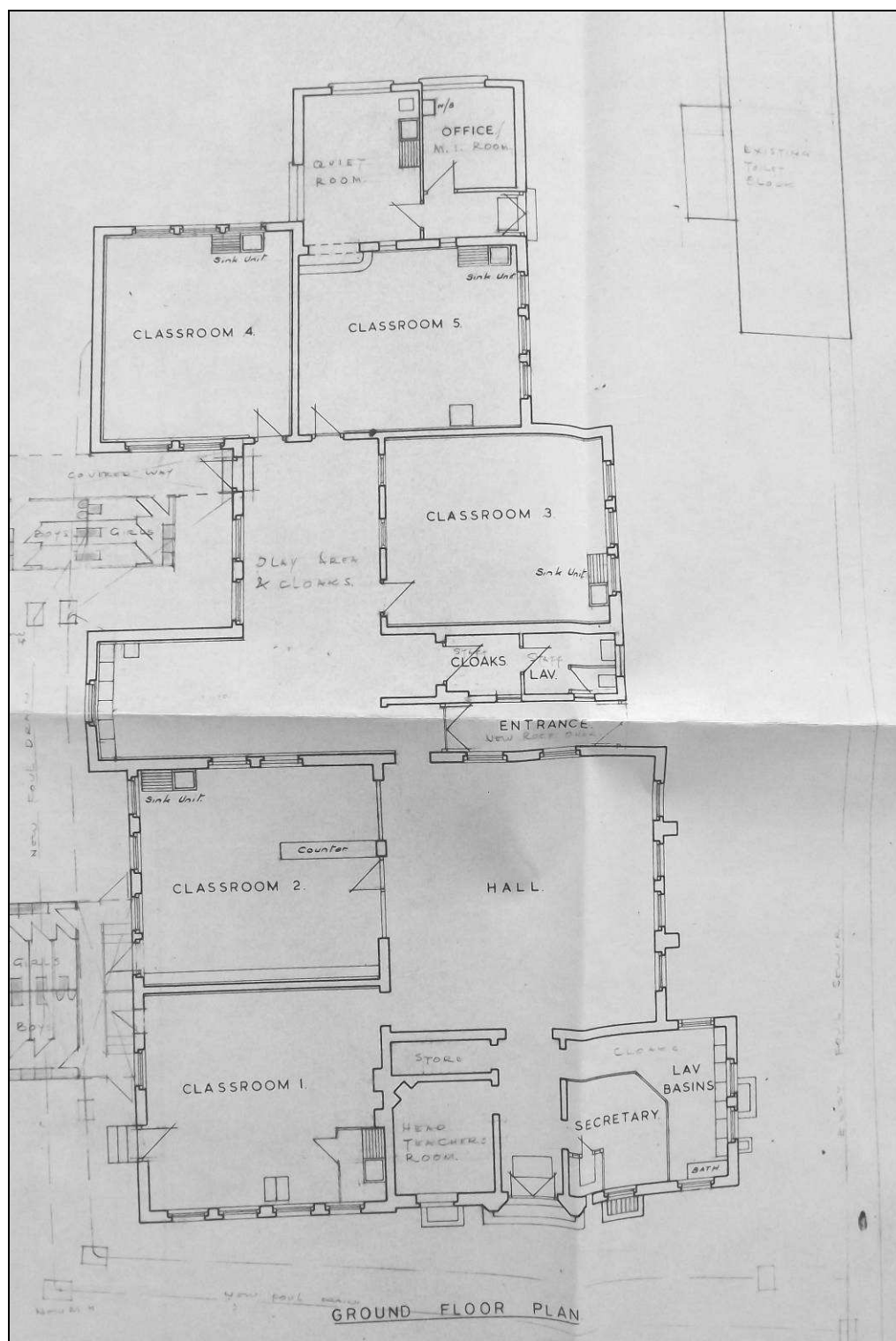
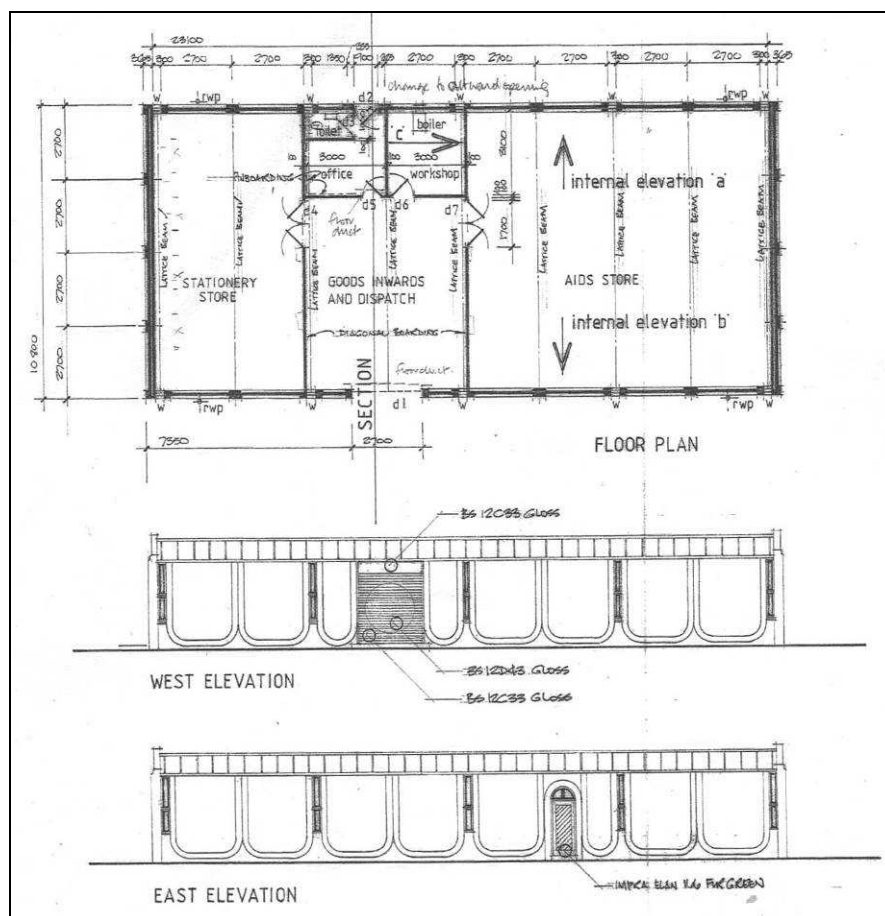


Plate 7: Ground floor plan of alterations to toilet block, dated November 1949



*Plate 8: Plan as existing and proposed new toilets at Stafford Northfields Infants School, dated August 1972*





**Plate 9:** Proposed floor plan and elevations for a new store at Northfields dated July 1984

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The survey was concerned with former school buildings which have more latterly been used as a day centre for Staffordshire County Council Social Services. The archaeological building recording was undertaken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.
- 5.1.2 For ease of reference, the directions of some of the external photographs along with the relevant plate number are shown on Figure 7, and the internal rooms are numbered 1 to 10 on Figure 8.

### 5.2 EXTERIOR

- 5.2.1 The former school buildings of Northfields Day Centre are located on the east side of Stone Road, set back from the frontage indicating a need to provide space around the school, presumably for play (Plates 10 and 11). Part of the original boundary survives along Stone Road in the form of a decorative brick and masonry wall with iron railings, including a pedestrian gateway. The use of half circle pier cappings and the mixture of the brick and stonework mirrors the detailing in the school buildings, suggesting that this boundary wall is contemporary with the earliest phase of the school (Plates 12 and 13).
- 5.2.2 The west elevation of the former school building faces towards Stone Road (Plate 14). This elevation illustrates that the school is constructed of red brick laid in Flemish Bond (alternate headers and stretchers used in each course) with yellow masonry dressings, and that the architectural style of Neo-Gothic was utilised, typical of such buildings of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This elevation, which is not symmetrical, contains an off-centre main entrance accessed up four concrete steps which presumably replaced earlier stone versions. The double doorway itself is flanked to either side by projecting hexagonal columns with flat masonry capping stones, and decorative horizontal string courses which extend along the whole of the elevation (Plate 15). Above the doorway is a coat of arms which contains a castle within a shield, and above the 'Stafford Knot' is depicted (Plate 16). To either side of the doorway there are windows which all have decorative stone lintels and plain sills that form part of the horizontal string course which runs around the building (Plates 14 and 17). The roof over this section of the building, which contains this main entrance and flanking windows, appears to be flat, although it could not be accessed at the

time of survey. Rainwater from this apparent flat roof would drain away down two hoppers and down pipes located on this elevation, with the hole for drainage being located at the base of a short parapet which runs around this section of the structure (Plates 18 and 19). The cast iron rainwater hoppers themselves are highly decorative, and clearly were meant to form part of the architectural detailing of the school (Plate 19).

- 5.2.3 Located just below the window to the north side of the main entrance in the west elevation there is evidence for a window which would have lit the basement in the form of a brick arched head and a metal grille set over the opening in the ground (Plate 20). To the south side of the doorway there is a low brick wall, which is not of the same brickwork as the main building, which encases an external staircase to the basement (Plate 21). This staircase does not appear to be an original feature, as suggested by the modern brick from which its wall are constructed, and this feature is not represented on any of the historical floor plans, although a similar 'pavement light' to that shown on Plate 20 is visible on the 1948 ground plan (Plate 4) at this location.
- 5.2.4 To the north side of the flat-roofed section of this elevation there is a shaped gable which is defined by masonry coping stones, a square-headed apex rather than a triangular point, and terminating in large kneeler stones. Located close to the apex of the gable are two vertical holes, reminiscent of ventilation openings in agricultural buildings, with a date stone '1900 AD' below (Plate 22 and 23). At the lower level there are four symmetrical windows, two taller versions flanked by shorter openings, with their sills and lintels forming part of the decorative horizontal banding already noted. A large complex brick and masonry chimney is visible from the west side of the buildings, located at the point where the flat-sectioned area of the structure meets this gable (see Plate 22). The presence of a chimney provides information on the location of internal fireplaces.
- 5.2.5 Set behind the flat-roofed section of the west elevation there is a further highly decorative shaped gable, which was not clearly observed due to it being set back from the elevation (see Plate 14 for example). This gable has slightly different detailing to that shown on Plate 22, with the use of a vertical projecting brick column down the centre of the gable surmounted with a masonry ball finial. At the base of this brick column there is a further depiction of the Stafford Knot (Plate 24).
- 5.2.6 The west end of the south elevation forms the extent of the original building on the site, as shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901, with the projection visible on that map representing the flat-roofed section of the building (see Figure 4 and Plate 25). The

decorative horizontal string courses continue along this section of the south elevation, with the sills and lintels of the windows incorporated into those architectural features. The main portion of this original section of building contains four symmetrical windows, two smaller than the two centrally-placed examples, separated by projecting 'buttresses' which have decorative heads (Plate 26). Above the two larger windows there is a shaped gable of a dormer which projects out from the steeply pitched roof which is laid in red tiles. There is the same architectural detailing present as already noted in the west elevation, with moulded coping stones, kneelers and the same presence of two vertical ventilation holes close to the apex of the square-headed gable. Rainwater from the pitched roof flows into metal guttering located to either side of the gabled projection; this guttering is set above a line of projecting bricks to support it (Plate 27).

- 5.2.7 The flat-roofed projection at the west end of the south elevation was noted to contain two windows in its south facing side, and a single window in its east facing elevation. All of these windows appear to be original as indicated by the presence of the same decorative lintels and plain sills in the string courses (Plates 25 and 28).
- 5.2.8 To the east side of the original building on the site, there is a covered area constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond with timber roof, presumably to allow attendees of the day centre to get in and out of vehicles sheltered from the rain (Plate 29). This shelter, and an infilling of the gap between the original 1900 school and the 1909 extension (see Figure 8), appears to date to the 1980s, as there is a plaque on the wall of this section which reads 'Charles and Diana 29<sup>th</sup> July 1981' (Plates 30 and 31), presumably commemorating the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer.
- 5.2.9 To the east of the projecting canopy, the south elevation is formed by two further shaped gables, one set back from the other, and a flat-roofed extension (Plate 32). The gabled section immediately to the east of the canopy has three large windows, all of the same size, with plain masonry lintels and plain sills, none of which form part of string courses which are present on the earlier building to the west. The gable is defined by decorative moulded coping stones, however the apex is not square-headed as has been observed in the gables already described, and the brickwork of this part of the former school building is laid in English Bond (alternate courses of headers and stretchers) (Plate 33). Set close to the apex of the gable is a commemorative plaque which reads 'Enlarged 1909' with the initials 'S C C' which presumably stood for Staffordshire County Council (Plate 34). The roof ridges of this section

of the school buildings are topped by ceramic tiles, quite different from those of the earlier phase. It would appear that the slight difference in architectural detailing, and the different form of brickwork, indicates that this section of the site is not contemporary with that to the west. Although the date stone of 1909 is clearly present, it is always necessary to be cautious with regards to their use, as they can often be reset from elsewhere. In this case, however, the general similarity in form, but yet the difference in detailing, indicates that this section of the school was constructed at a different period to the section to the west, but within a relatively short period (in this case nine years).

- 5.2.10 Against the set-back gabled section of the south elevation there is a single-storey flat-roofed extension (Plate 35). This extension does not appear to be shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1964 (Figure 6), but is seemingly present on a 1972 floor plan when it was in use as a 'Quiet Room' and an office (see Plate 8). This extension is constructed of brick laid in stretcher (the long edge of the brick) bond, and has a doorway in its south elevation, with two windows in the east elevation and a single window in its north elevation (Plates 35 to 37). The presence of this extension partly obscures the east elevation of the 1909 addition, and therefore it is unclear if there were any openings such as windows in this section of the addition prior to the single-storey extension being constructed. The proposed east elevation drawing for the 1909 addition shows two small windows, labelled with 'hopper panels' and a larger window set just below eaves level (see Plate 3); however, at the time of survey it was not possible to note if these existed either from the exterior or internally.
- 5.2.11 The remainder of the east elevation of the 1909 addition remains unobstructed, and consists of a gabled section with three large windows all of the same size, of the same form as those noted in the south elevation. The two vertical 'ventilation slit' detailing which exists in the original 1900 school building has been replicated in this section of the 1909 addition (Plate 36).
- 5.2.12 The north elevation of the 1909 addition is only visible to its east end, where there is little in the way of features apart from the guttering and down pipe which has clearly been moved from one position as shown by the scarring on the wall (Plate 38). The remainder of the north elevation of the 1909 addition is hidden behind a later single-storey extension (Plate 39); this extension is not shown on the 1972 floor plan reproduced as Plate 8, but was observed on a plan dated 1983 which was noted during the survey (not reproduced here). It is presumed that the three windows shown on the proposed north elevation drawing of

- 1909 (Plate 1) existed or still exist behind the modern extension, although no evidence was observed internally for these former openings (they may have been converted to doorways).
- 5.2.13 The single-storey, flat-roofed extension against the north elevation of the earlier buildings has a single window in its east elevation, two windows in the north elevation, and a doorway with ramp access in the west elevation, where the extension partly obscures a section of the 1909 addition (Plates 39 to 41).
- 5.2.14 Although it is known from documentary and cartographic sources that the original 1900 school was extended to the east in 1909, evidence for this was found within the physical fabric of the standing buildings. At the point where the two phases meet it was possible to note that the brickwork of the 1909 addition (shown to the left of the scale on Plate 42) was not in line with that of the 1900 building, with the vertical break between the two and the difference in the brick bond clearly visible at this point (Plate 42).
- 5.2.15 The remainder of the north elevation consists of the original 1900 school building (Plate 43). Within this section there are four windows, two smaller versions to either side of the two taller windows (although interestingly no buttresses on this elevation), each with the decorative lintels and sills forming part of horizontal string courses, as already observed in the west and south elevations. As with the south elevation, there is a gabled dormer projecting from the pitched roof, complete with the same architectural detailing of masonry coping stones, square-headed apex, kneelers and two vertical 'ventilation slits'. At the west end of this elevation there are two small windows, set below eaves level, with the same decorative lintels as noted elsewhere in the 1900 building, indicating that these are original openings. It is unclear externally why these windows are set so high up, and it is presumed it may have related to the use of the internal space. The door and ramp at the west end of this elevation appear to be later creations as the doorway does not have the same decorative lintel, and the string course appears to have been truncated (Plate 44); the door is not shown to exist on the 1948 ground plan (Plate 4) but is present by 1972 leading out from Classroom 1 (Plate 8).



*Plate 10: View looking east showing the main frontage of the former school facing onto Stone Road*



*Plate 11: View looking east showing the main frontage of the former school facing onto Stone Road*





*Plate 12: View looking north showing the brick and stone piers of the boundary wall along the east side of Stone Road*



*Plate 13: Detail of pedestrian gateway in the boundary wall along Stone Road*





*Plate 14: West elevation of the earliest phase of the Northfields Day Centre*



*Plate 15: Detail of main entrance in west elevation (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 16: Coat of Arms over main entrance in west elevation*



*Plate 17: Detail of a window lintel, west elevation*



*Plate 18: Detail of one of the rainwater hoppers and down pipes, west elevation*



*Plate 19: Detail of rainwater hopper, west elevation*





*Plate 20: Detail of window for basement, west elevation*



*Plate 21: South end of west elevation showing later brick wall for stairs to basement (to right of main doorway)*



*Plate 22: Detail of gabled section of west elevation*



*Plate 23: Detail of date stone, west elevation*



*Plate 24: Detail of 'set back' gable, west elevation*

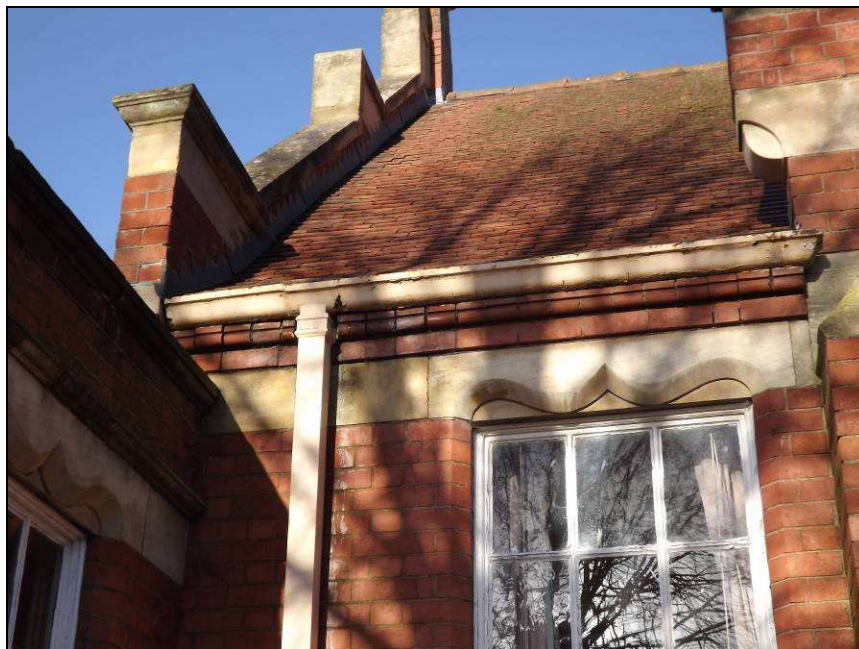


*Plate 25: West end of the south elevation (the original school building)*





*Plate 26: Detail of top of one of the two buttresses, south elevation*



*Plate 27: Detail of guttering, west end of south elevation (original school building)*



*Plate 28: View looking west showing the flat-roofed projection, south elevation (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 29: Covered area against the south elevation*





*Plate 30: Doorway and window inserted in gap between 1900 and 1909 buildings, south elevation (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 31: Plaque 'Charles and Diana 29<sup>th</sup> July 1981', south elevation*



*Plate 32: View looking west showing the east end of the south elevation*



*Plate 33: South elevation showing part of the 1909 addition (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 34: Detail of plaque, south elevation*



*Plate 35: Single storey extension at east end of school buildings, south elevations*





*Plate 36: East elevation of singles-storey extension and gable of 1909 addition*



*Plate 37: North elevation of the single-storey extension against the east elevation of the 1909 addition (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 38: East end of the north elevation, showing part of the 1909 addition*



*Plate 39: View looking west showing a post-1972 extension against the north elevation of the earlier school buildings (Scale = 2m)*





*Plate 40: North elevation of single-storey extension (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 41: View looking east showing the west elevation of the single-storey extension against the north elevation of the 1909 addition*



*Plate 42: Detail of join between the 1909 addition (left of scale) and the original 1900 building (right of scale)*



*Plate 43: North elevation of the original 1900 school building*



*Plate 44: Two small original windows and inserted door, west end of the north elevation (Scale = 2m)*

### 5.3 INTERIOR

- 5.3.1 At the time of survey the interior of the buildings was accessed via the doorway in the south elevation, located beneath the canopy (see Plate 30), however more latterly there were six doorways (including fire exits) around the buildings providing access to various areas of the interior (see Figure 8). The rooms will be described individually, with their locations shown on Figure 8.
- 5.3.2 *Room 1:* this is a large room which is open to its roof, and with no clear evidence for any former partitions (Plates 45 and 46). The west elevation of this room has a centrally-placed doorway which would have been the main entry point into the school from the lobby and main entrance. To the south side of this doorway there is an inserted opening which has more latterly served as a serving hatch between this room and the kitchen (Room 5), indicating that Room 1 appears to have been utilised as a dining room at some point. At the upper level of this wall there are three large windows with arched heads (Plate 45).
- 5.3.3 In the east wall of this room there is a doorway; however this appears to have been inserted when the 1909 addition was added. At the upper level in this elevation there are two windows with arched heads. These windows appear to have fixed panes, with no indication that they could



- be opened for ventilation (Plates 46 and 47). It is possible that there may have been further windows below these upper openings in the east wall; however, if they existed then they have been covered over.
- 5.3.4 The north wall of Room 1 has two large openings which provide access into Room 2, and a further doorway to the west end that provides access to Room 3 (Figure 8 and Plate 48). It would appear that at some point the two large openings may have had glazed panelling including a door to separate that classroom from Room 1. A ground plan of 1948 shows partitions in these spaces (see Plate 4).
- 5.3.5 The south elevation of Room 1 has four large windows which would have provided plenty of natural light into this open space. The windows themselves are sashes with six over six panes of glass. At the base of each of these windows there is a further casement which is hinged at the base and tilts inwards (Plate 49). This type of window is known as a 'hopper' and is typical of school buildings; it would allow for ventilation when the lower half of the sash was open, but also a degree of security, and may have prevented children attempting to climb out. It is interesting to note that the 1909 proposed elevation drawings refer to some of the windows as 'fixed hopper' (see Plates 1 to 3).
- 5.3.6 The floor of this room is laid in parquet (Plate 5), although it is unclear if this is original as the 1948 plan annotates 'new wood block floor' in Classroom 2 (Room 2) which suggests this type of flooring was still being installed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It was noted that the lower half of the walls of this room were tiled, with a ceramic 'dado rail' separating this tiling from the plastered walls above. The skirting board running along the bases of all the walls in this room is moulded, and appears to be ceramic (Plates 51 and 52). Where some of the paintwork has fallen away it was possible to observe the original tile colour scheme (Plate 53).
- 5.3.7 Heating for this room was provided by four radiators with their associated pipework. Several of the radiators were noted to have decorative patterns (Plate 54), although it is unclear if these are original as there are references to new radiators being installed in the 1960s (see 4.2.13 for example). Running along the north side of Room 1, orientated west to east, is a channel set in the floor which contains pipe work presumably associated with the heating and water supply throughout the building (Plate 55).
- 5.3.8 The roof structure of Room 1 is clearly visible, as is typical of late Victorian schools, and consists of two timber shaped roof trusses with chamfered edges, supported by corbels projecting from the walls (Plates

- 56 and 57). There are three horizontal beams running east to west along the section of ceiling, from which the strip lighting has been fixed. The central of these partly obscures a possible ventilation hole or roof access point (Plate 56).
- 5.3.9 One other feature of note within Room 1 is a plaque fixed to the east wall which reads: '*Staffordshire County Council Social Services Committee Northfields Care Centre*' and commemorates the opening of the facility by Councillor M J D Poulter on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1984 (Plate 58).
- 5.3.10 *Room 2:* Room 2 could seemingly only have been accessed originally from Room 1, through the large openings in its south wall (Figure 8). This room would have been well-lit by the four large windows in the north wall, complete with hoppers similar to those already observed in Room 1 (Plate 59). As with Room 1, this classroom also retains evidence for its partly tiled walls, separated from the upper section of wall by a dado rail. The tiling is of the same brown colour scheme, where it could be observed (Plate 60).
- 5.3.11 In the north wall of Room 2 there are two windows set at the upper level, similar to those already noted in Room 1. There were no openings in the west wall of this room, although this is to be expected as there is a contemporary classroom to the west side of this space (Plate 61).
- 5.3.12 None of the roof structure was visible in this space, instead the ceiling is shaped to mirror the trusses, and the only features of note were two possible access or ventilation holes (Plate 62).
- 5.3.13 *Room 3:* access to Room 3 would only have been possible originally from Room 1, however there is now a door to the exterior in the north wall which was inserted in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 8 and Plate 65). As with Rooms 1 and 2, there was evidence for partly tiled walls in this space, suggesting that all three rooms may have served a similar function originally (Plates 63 and 64).
- 5.3.14 This room is lit by the four large windows in the west wall (see Figure 8 and shown from the exterior on Plate 22), and two upper windows in the north wall, both of which are 'hopper' windows, hinged at the base to allow maximum ventilation (Plates 65 and 66). It has been considered during the recording project why it was necessary to insert windows so high in an elevation; this may be explained by the reference in 1948 to the removal of a 'gallery' in this room (see 4.2.9 and 4.2.10 below), which may indicate that there was an upper level in this class room, for which no structural evidence now survives. Also in the north wall of this room there are two square metal features which may have related to ventilation of some form (Plate 67). These metal plates appear to have

- been opened originally by using an allen key, however they have been painted over and could not be accessed at the time of survey.
- 5.3.15 There were no features of note in the east wall of Room 3 apart from the presence of two radiators, located close together near the doorway (Plate 63). As with Room 2 the roof structure was not visible, and instead the ceiling is shaped to reflect the presence of the tie beams with collars. A single possible access point or ventilation hole is present in this ceiling, but has clearly become obsolete once the strip lighting was installed (Plate 68).
- 5.3.16 The south wall of Room 3 contains the doorway from Room 1, and to its right-hand side is a door to a storage room. This appears to be a relatively recent creation as it will be noted below that a former staircase to the basement existed in the room immediately to the south; this staircase has been covered over and the former stairwell divided into two storage rooms (Plates 69 and 70 and Figure 8). To the west of this storage cupboard there is a square projection from the wall which appears to be constructed of stud walls. This projection seemingly hides a former fireplace, as the 1948 ground plan shows a fireplace at this location (Plate 4), and the chimney shown on Plate 22 would have served this area.
- 5.3.17 *Lobby*: the lobby would have allowed access from the main original doorway in the west elevation (see Plate 15) into the interior of the earliest phase of the school buildings (Figure 8). Upon entry from the main entrance there are three apparent original doorways, two in the north wall and one in the south wall, with a further former doorway in the south wall which has been blocked-up (Plates 71 and 72 and Figure 8). This doorway was clearly present on the 1948 ground plan, and provided access into a cloakroom area (see Plate 4).
- 5.3.18 *Room 4*: this room was accessed from the lobby, and at the time of survey appears to have more latterly been in use as a store as suggesting by the shelving. The north-east corner of this room is diagonal, suggesting that there had formerly been a fireplace in this location (Plate 73). The ground plan of 1948 appears to show a fireplace in this area, and at that date this room was use as a 'Teacher's Room' (Plate 4).
- 5.3.19 *Room 5*: this room is located on the opposite side of the lobby to Room 4, and has more recently been used as a kitchen (Figure 8 and Plate 74). The only historical feature of note which was still present within this room was one of the original window frames in the west wall (Plate 75).

- 5.3.20 It would appear that Room 5 may have been converted to a kitchen in c.1983 when the buildings were converted to a day centre. A plan dating to November of that year appears to show the proposed 'blocking-up' of the door from the lobby, and this space is labelled 'kitchen' with a former glazed partition wall removed [a copy of this plan is contained within the project archive].
- 5.3.21 *Store*: this store is located immediately to the east of Room 4, and there is evidence that this formerly housed the staircase to the basement, as shown by the presence of steps visible beneath the flooring (Plate 76). The ground plan of 1948 shows stairs to the 'heating chamber' in this location, but a plan of 1983 indicates that by this date this stairwell had been infilled and divided into two storage rooms, one accessed from the lobby (the original door to the basement) and the other accessed from Room 3 (see Plate 70). A roof lit for the former staircase has been partly truncated by the inserted dividing wall between the two stores (Plate 77).
- 5.3.22 *Room 6*: this room forms part of the 1909 addition, and is labelled on a 1948 ground plan as 'Marching Corridor' (see Plate 4), possibly in reference to an area which saw the movement of pupils between classrooms. The original main doorway in the south elevation has been obliterated by a modern lobby, however there remains two vertical pillars either side of the doorway into Room 6, at its south-west corner (Plate 78).
- 5.3.23 As with the former classrooms referred to above (Rooms 1, 2 and 3), this space also has the lower section of its walls tiled in brown tiles, although the dado rail which separates the tiling from the upper section is more detailed in its moulding than that of the original 1900 rooms (Plates 79 and 80). Against the west wall of this room, an organ survives *in-situ* possibly indicating that this area of the day centre may have been used for recreation at some point (Plate 81).
- 5.3.24 In the south wall of Room 6 there is a doorway with arched head which provides access into Room 7, and to its right-hand side is a large blocked opening which would formerly have provided access to a cloakroom and staff lavatory, as indicated by the 1948 ground plan (Plate 82 and Plate 4). To the east of the doorway to Room 7 there are two windows which would have provided a degree of natural light between the 'marching corridor' (Room 6) and the classroom (Room 7) (Plate 83).
- 5.3.25 The east wall of Room 6 has two doorways, both with arched heads, one leads to Room 9 and the other to Room 10 (Figure 8 and Plate 84). The

north wall of Room 6 presently has four doorways which provide access to toilets and bathrooms, largely located in modern structures (Plate 85). It would appear that some of these doorways have been inserted into former windows, as the 1948 ground plan shows window openings in this location (Plate 4).

- 5.3.26 The roof structure over Room 6 is only visible as timber beams and a possible access hatch (Plate 86).
- 5.3.27 *Room 7:* Room 7 could be accessed from Room 6, although there is a modern double door in the east wall which provides access to the exterior (Figure 8). Features of note within the interior of Room 7 included the partly tiled walls, and two internal windows in the north wall (Plate 87), and the large windows with two surviving 'hoppers' in the south wall (Plate 88). It is interesting to note that despite this section of the buildings being constructed in 1909, the windows are of the same form as those in the earlier 1900 phase.
- 5.2.28 As already noted the double doorway in the east wall is a later insertion; there is also a doorway in the west wall which also appears to be a later modification, inserted when the former cloakroom and staff lavatory (shown on Plate 4 beside Class Room 4), were converted into a store and reception area, presumably associated with the change of use to a day centre in the 1980s (Figure 4).
- 5.2.29 The roof structure of this part of the 1909 building was partly visible as the ends of principal rafters and a collar, held together with metal rods (Plate 89).
- 5.2.30 *Room 8:* Room 8 is located to the north side of Room 6, and has more latterly been used as toilets. Although later modifications have removed much in the way of original features, it was still possible to note the top of the now partly-blocked window in the north wall, and the detail of the roof structure (Plate 90).
- 5.2.31 *Room 9:* Room 9 could be accessed from Room 6, through an original doorway (Figure 8). As with the other rooms already described, this room is also partly tiled at the lower level of the walls. Three large windows are located in the south wall which would have provided plenty of natural light into the class room (Plate 91).
- 5.2.32 This room, as with all the others described, was heated more latterly by central heating, and several radiators survive within this space (Plate 92). The roof structure, where visible, was also of the same form as the former class room to the west (Room 7) (Plate 93).

- 5.2.33 Room 9 has more latterly been used to provide kitchen facilities. A doorway in the east wall is a modern insertion, and allows access to the single-storey building against the east elevation (Figure 8 and see Plate 35).
- 5.2.34 *Room 10:* Room 10 could be accessed from Room 6, and also forms part of the 1909 addition (Figure 8). As with the rooms already described, this room also has the partly tiled walls, large windows in the east elevation, and upper windows in the west wall (Plates 95 and 96). The roof structure is of the same form as that of contemporary Rooms 7 and 9, and the windows consists of the same sash and hopper arrangement as noted elsewhere in the 1909 addition, as well as the original 1900 building.



*Plate 45: View looking west showing the interior of Room 1*



*Plate 46: View looking east showing the interior of Room 1 (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 47: Detail of one of the upper windows in the east elevation of Room 1*



*Plate 48: View looking north showing the north wall of Room 1*

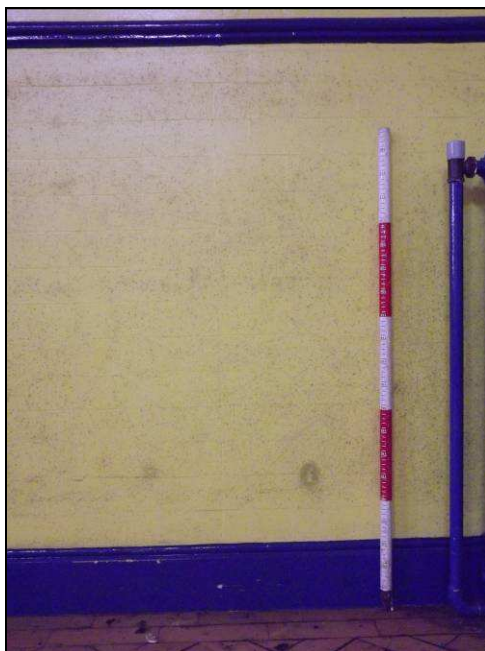




*Plate 49: Detail of 'hopper' window, south wall of Room 1*



*Plate 50: Detail of parquet floor in Room 1 (Scale = 2m)*



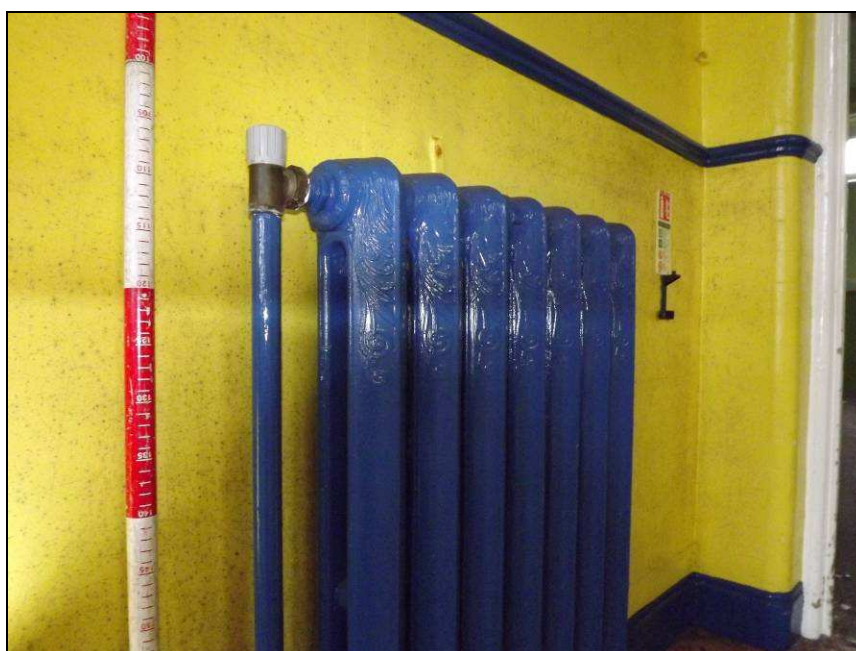
*Plate 51: Detail of the tiled lower half of the walls in Room 1 (Scale = 1m)*



*Plate 52: Detail of brown tiling as seen where paintwork has fallen away, east wall of Room 1*



*Plate 53: Detail of skirting board, Room 1*

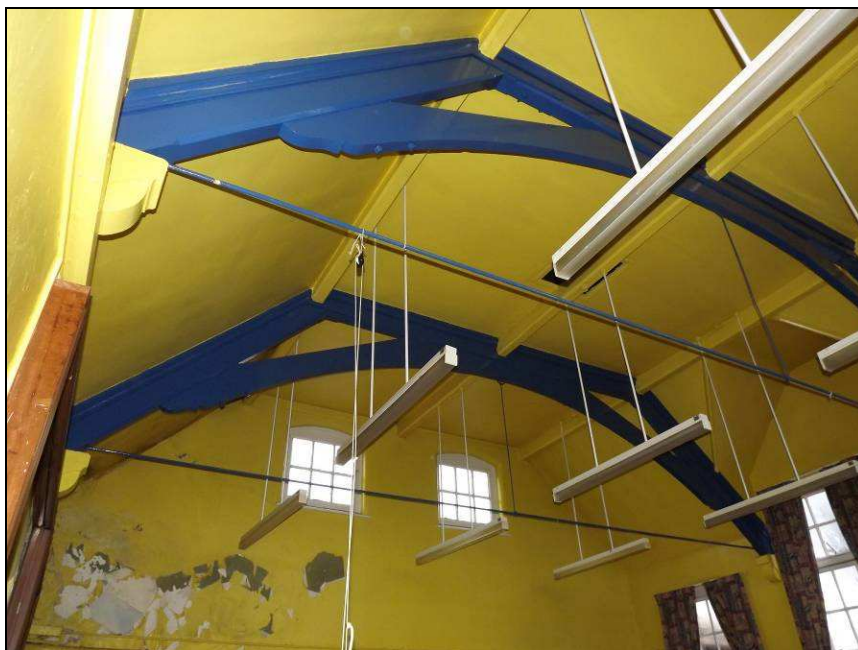


*Plate 54: Detail of one of the radiators in Room 1*

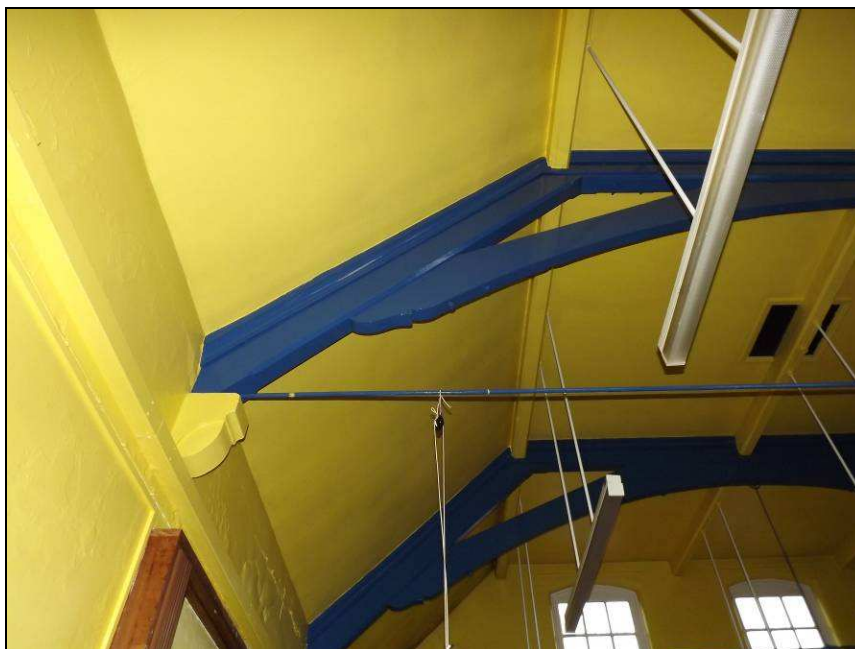




*Plate 55: View looking east showing the service pipe work set in the floor of Room 1*



*Plate 56: Detail of roof structure over Room 1*



*Plate 57: Detail of roof structure supported on corbels, Room 1*



*Plate 58: Detail of plaque, east wall of Room 1*

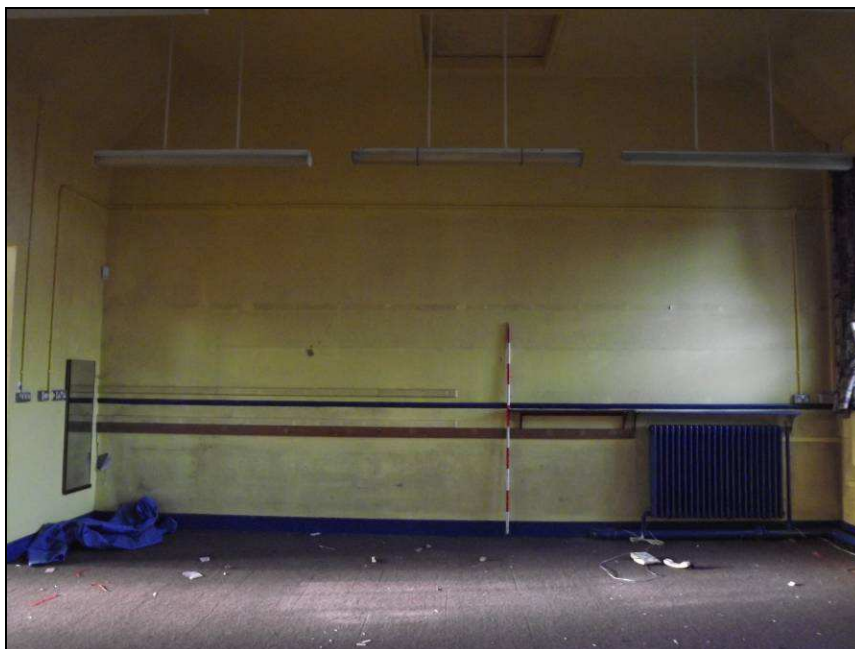


*Plate 59: View looking north showing the interior of Room 2*



*Plate 60: Detail of radiator and exposed tiling, east wall of Room 2*





*Plate 61: West wall of Room 2 (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 62: Detail of ceiling in Room 2 showing possible access holes*



*Plate 63: East wall of Room 3 (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 64: Detail of partly tiled walls in Room 3*





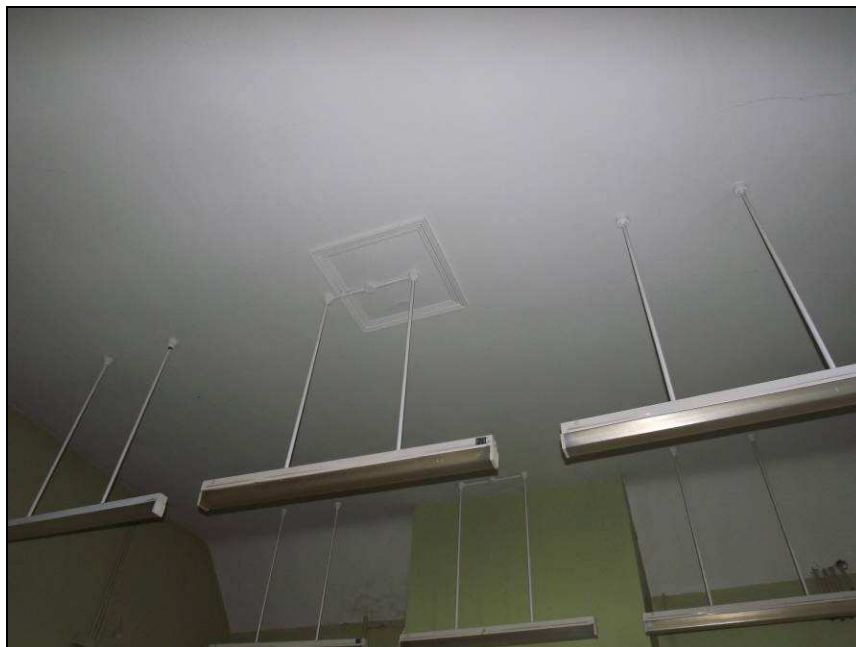
*Plate 65: North wall of Room 3 showing two upper windows and inserted door (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 66: Detail of upper hopper window in north wall of Room 3*



*Plate 67: Detail of square plate in north wall of Room 3*



*Plate 68: Detail of ceiling in Room 3*



*Plate 69: South wall of Room 3 showing possible boxed-in fireplace*



*Plate 70: Detail of inserted door, south wall of Room 3 (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 71: View looking east showing the original lobby, with Room 1 in the background*



*Plate 72: Detail of blocked doorway in south wall of lobby (Scale = 2m)*





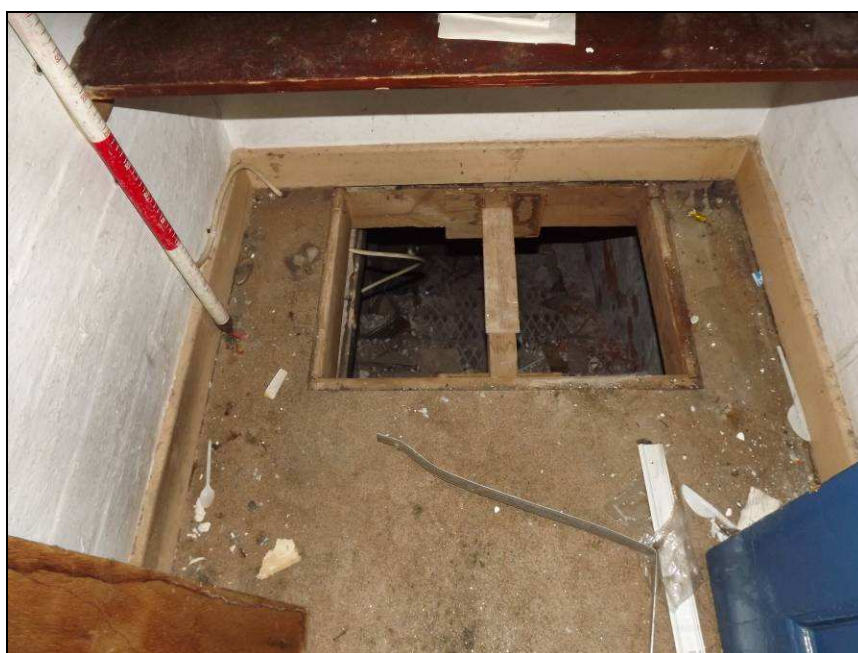
*Plate 73: Interior of Room 4 showing possible location of a former fireplace  
(Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 74: Interior of Room 5 (kitchen)*



*Plate 75: Detail of window in west wall of Room 5*



*Plate 76: Former stairs to basement visible under the floor of the store*



*Plate 77: Detail of part of a skylight in the ceiling of the store*



*Plate 78: Detail of one of the vertical columns at the south-west corner of Room 6 (Scale = 2m)*





*Plate 79: View looking west of the interior of Room 6 showing tiled lower section of walls (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 80: Detail of tiled section of west wall, Room 6*





*Plate 81: Detail of organ, Room 6*



*Plate 82: South wall of Room 6 showing doorway to Room 7 and blocked doorway to former cloakroom and staff lavatory (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 83: South wall of Room 6 showing two windows in the partition wall with Room 7*



*Plate 84: East wall of Room 6 showing doorways to Rooms 9 and 10 (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 85: North wall of Room 6 showing doorways in the locations of former windows*



*Plate 86: Detail of possible access hatch in ceiling of Room 6*





*Plate 87: North wall of Room 7 showing partly tiled walls and internal windows (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 88: Detail of windows in south wall of Room 7*



*Plate 89: Detail of roof structure in Room 7*



*Plate 90: Detail of roof structure and partly obscured window, Room 8*



*Plate 91: Detail of three windows in the south wall of Room 9*



*Plate 92: Detail of one of the radiators in Room 9*





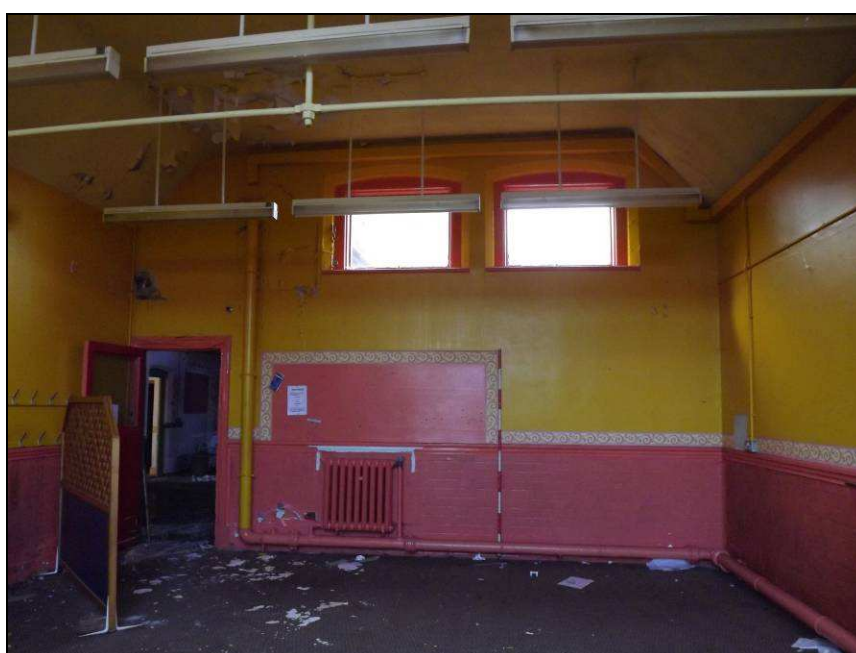
*Plate 93: Detail of roof structure in Room 9*



*Plate 94: East wall of Room 9 showing later doorway and kitchen facilities  
(Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 95: North wall of Room 10 showing partly tiled walls (Scale = 2m)*



*Plate 96: West wall of Room 10 (Scale = 2m)*

## 6 CONCLUSION

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- 6.1 The rapid desk-based assessment has revealed that the earliest phase of the Infants' School on Stone Road was constructed in 1900, and consisted of an essentially square building with projection to its south side. This early school appears to have consisted of two classes, a hall, teacher's room, cloakroom and basement. By 1909, additions were made to the east side of the earlier building, and proposed elevations for this building survive to show the single-storey building with Neo-Gothic architectural styling, typical of the period. This addition consisted of a further three classrooms, corridor cloakroom, and recess for 'lavatory basins'.
- 6.2 Floor plans dating to 1948 and 1972 survive to provide some indication of the uses of the rooms in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There appears to have been six classrooms in 1948, but only five by 1972, with other facilities including cloakrooms, teacher's room and staff lavatory, with the children's toilet block being located in a separate building to the south of the school (see Plates 4, 6 and 8). The school also had a playground surrounding it, and a playing field located to the south.
- 6.3 By 1982 it would appear that the Infants' School had gone out of use, and by the following year it had been acquired by Staffordshire County Council Social Services Department for use as a day care centre. This change of use would appear to have caused some modification to the internal uses of the buildings, as well as the construction of new extensions to serve the needs of those attending. These alterations are shown on a floor plan of the site dating to 1983.
- 6.4 The archaeological building recording project has revealed that the earliest phase of the former school was clearly visible to the west side of the site, with its main elevation facing towards Stone Road. This phase was constructed in the Neo-Gothic architectural style, typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century for such structures, and contained an extensive amount of architectural detailing indicating a sense of pride in this building. This earliest phase appears to have consisted of three large rooms (possibly two classrooms and a hall), a lobby with three rooms leading off it and a basement for the heating system. Original features which still survive in this phase consist of the tall windows with hoppers at their bases, the partly tiled walls, and roof structure. It is interesting to consider that Room 1 played a central role in providing access to the two classrooms, suggesting that this space may have served several functions such as for assemblies, exercise sessions, and as

a dining hall. It is also the one room which has the most elaborate roof structure, possibly further emphasising its important role within the school day.

- 6.5 The east side of the school buildings, which has a date stone of 1909 (and was also known from documentary sources to have been an addition of that date), was constructed in a similar style to the earliest phase (being built only nine years later), but there were obvious differences between the two phases, such as the type of brick bonding, a slight difference in the architectural detailing and the clear construction break between the two visible in the north elevation, where the brickwork does not quite line up. This addition of 1909 seemingly provided two further classrooms, which contained the same features as observed in the earliest phase such as the 'hopper' windows and partly tiled walls, accessed through a large corridor, annotated on a ground plan as a 'marching corridor' (see Plate 4).
- 6.6 There was some archaeological evidence for modifications that were made following the change of use to a day centre in 1984, such as the single-storey brick extensions, blocked doorway in the 1900 lobby, blocked opening in the south wall of Room 8, and the conversion of stairwell to the basement to two storage rooms. Apart from these modifications, the floor plan of both phases of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Infants' School has remained intact, providing interesting information on the use of space, and features of classrooms of that period such as the hopper windows and the partly tiled walls.

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### Maps

*First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1881, 25" to 1 mile scale, Sheet XXXVII.7*

*Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1901, 25" to 1 mile scale, Sheet XXXVII.7*

*Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1923, 25" to 1 mile scale, Sheet XXXVII.7*

*Ordnance Survey Map 1964, Plan SJ 9024 and SJ 9124, 1:2500 scale*

## APPENDIX: FIGURES

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Figure 1: Site location.



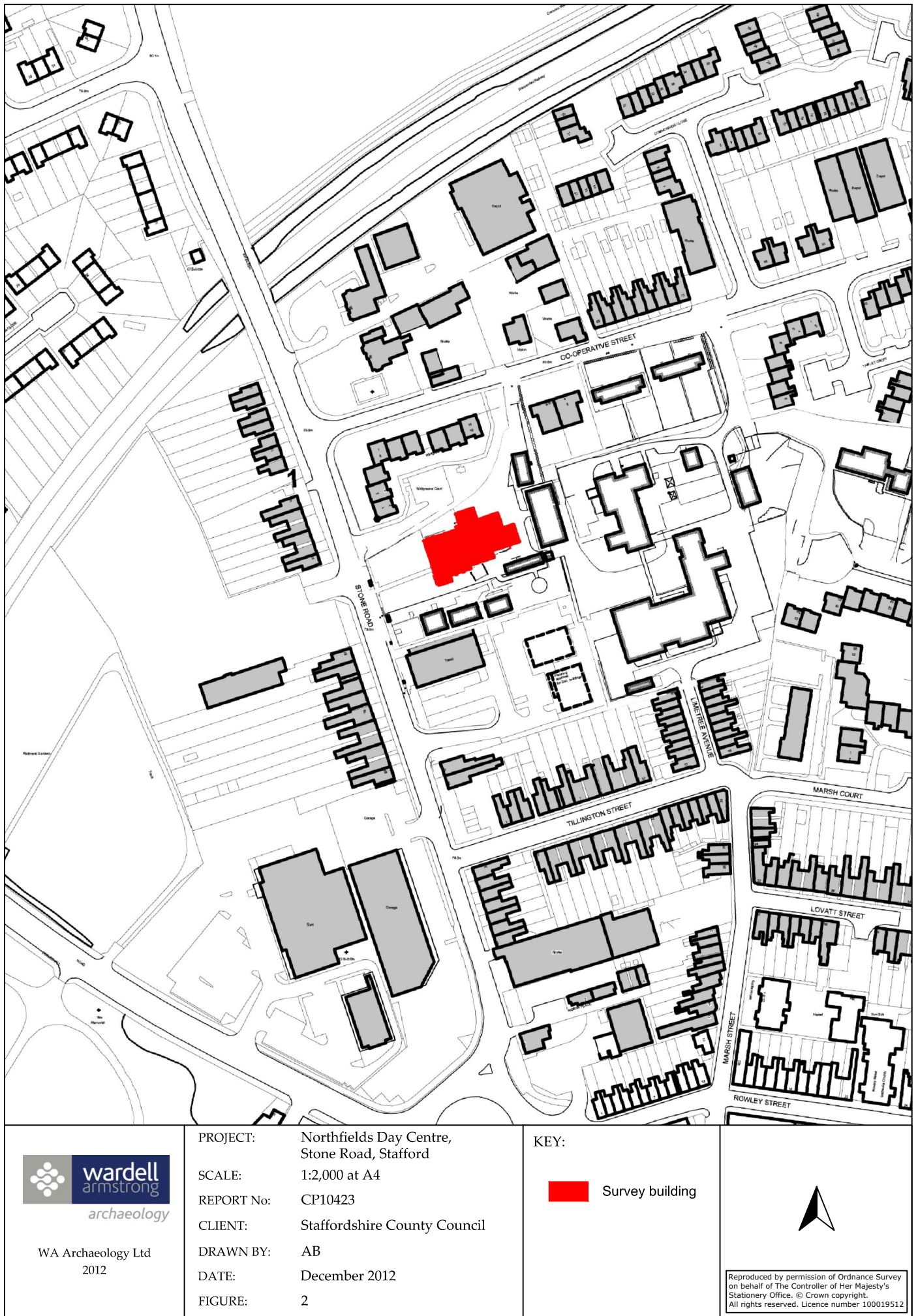


Figure 2: Detailed site location.



WA Archaeology Ltd  
2012

PROJECT: Northfields Day Centre,  
Stone Road, Stafford  
SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4  
REPORT No: CP10423  
CLIENT: Staffordshire County Council  
DRAWN BY: AB  
DATE: December 2012  
FIGURE: 3

KEY:

 Site location



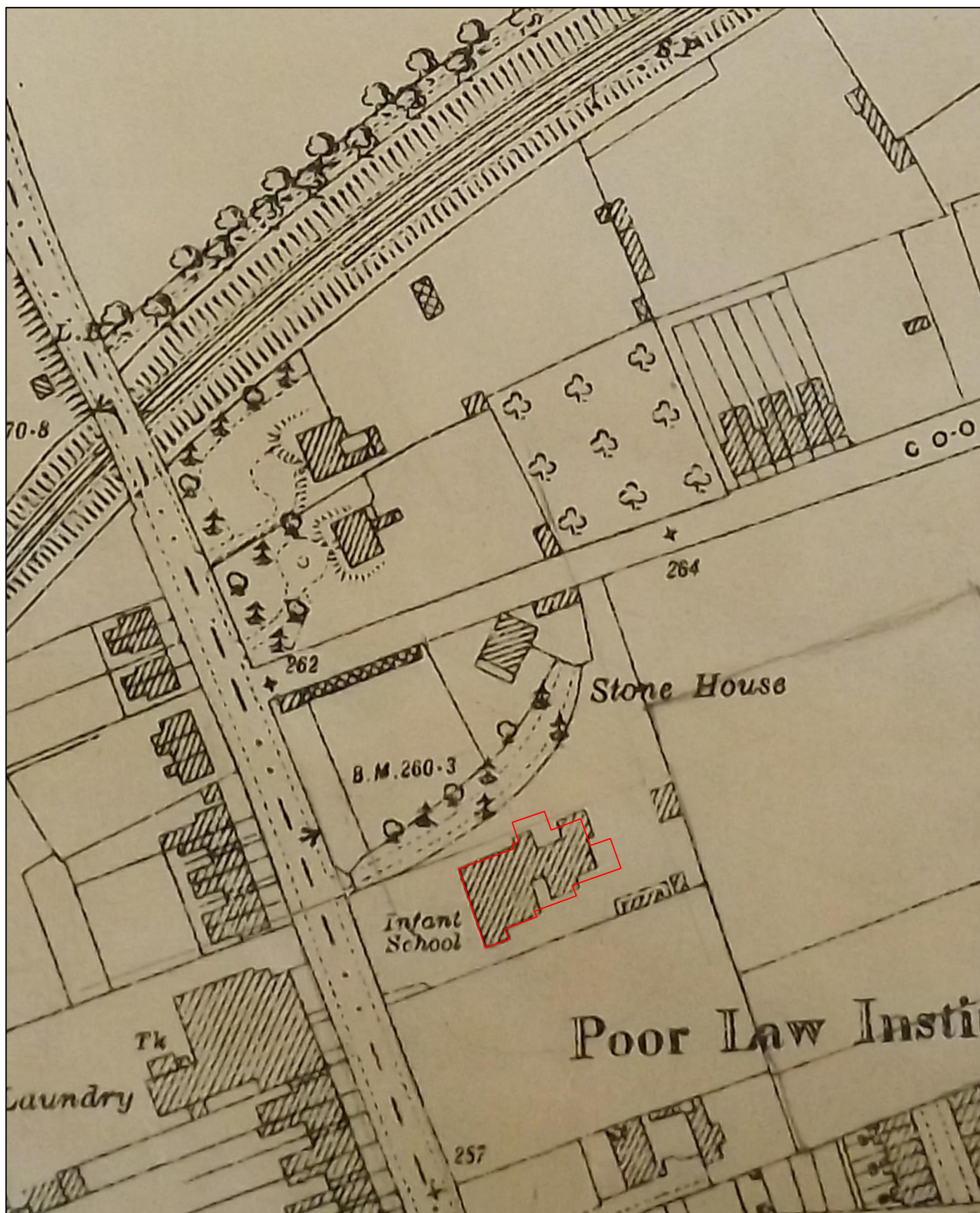
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Figure 3: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1881.



Figure 4: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1901.





WA Archaeology Ltd  
2012

PROJECT: Northfields Day Centre,  
Stone Road, Stafford  
SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4  
REPORT No: CP10423  
CLIENT: Staffordshire County Council  
DRAWN BY: AB  
DATE: December 2012  
FIGURE: 5

KEY:

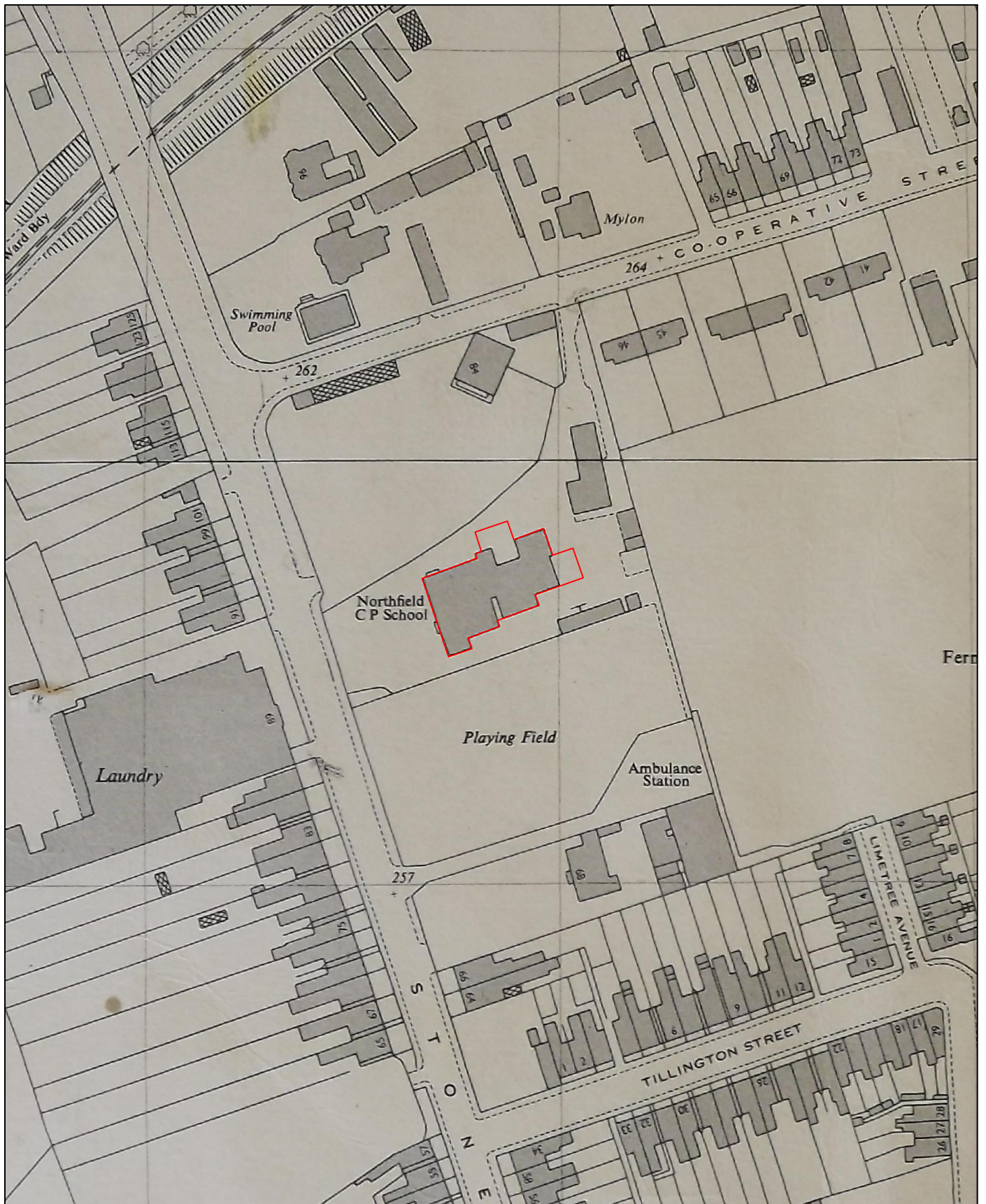
Site location



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Figure 5: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, c. 1923.







 <p>WA Archaeology Ltd 2012</p>	<p>PROJECT: Northfields Day Centre, Stone Road, Stafford</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10423</p> <p>CLIENT: Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: December 2012</p> <p>FIGURE: 6</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 2px solid red; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <p>Site location</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="font-size: small;">Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map, 1964.

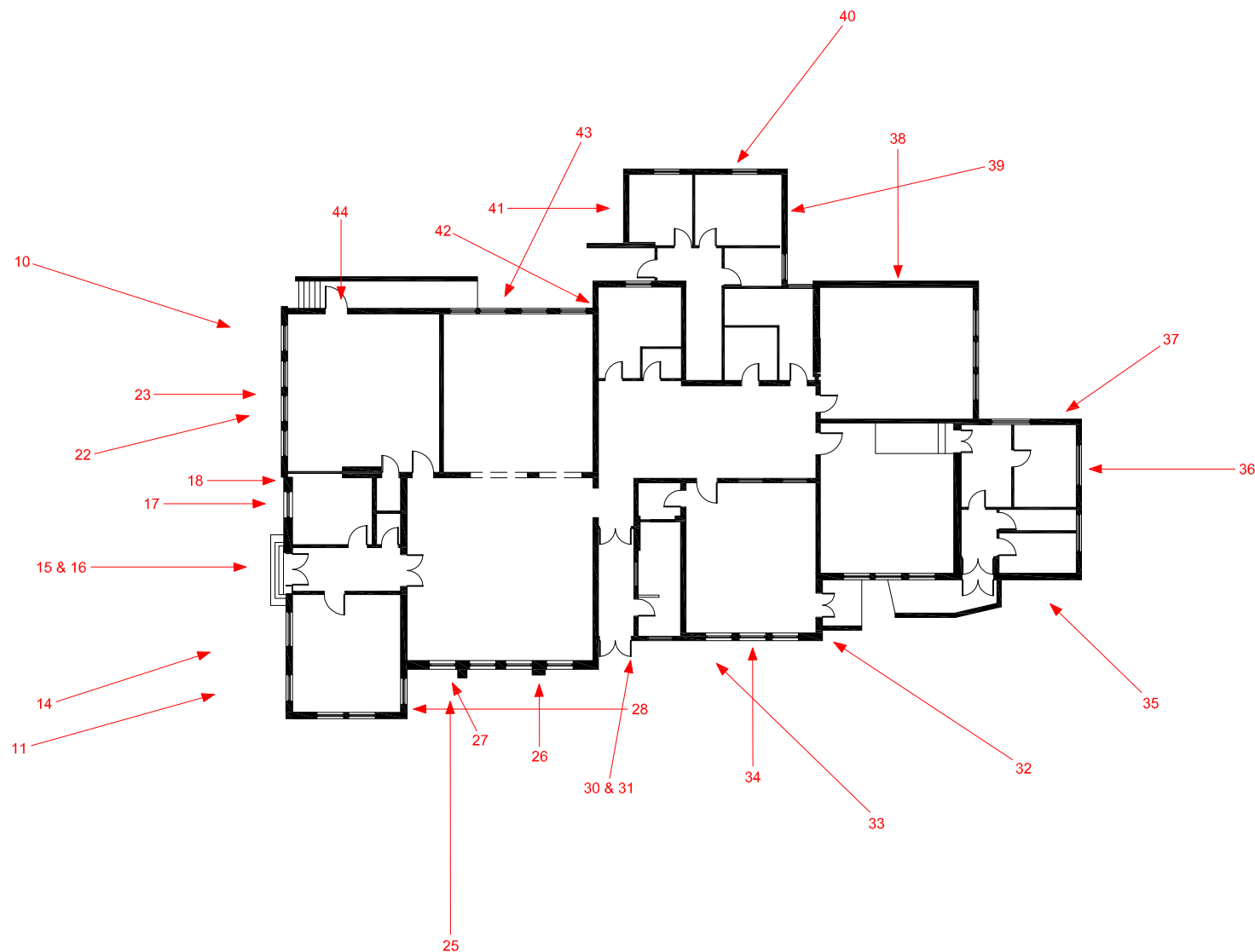


Figure 7: Site plan showing directions of external photographs.

Northfields Day Centre,  
Stone Road, Stafford

CLIENT:

Staffordshire County Council

SCALE:

1:200 at A4

DRAWN BY:

AB

DATE:

December 2012

KEY:

- Original 1900 building
- 1909 addition
- Late 20th century addition



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REPORT No:

CP10423

FIGURE:

8

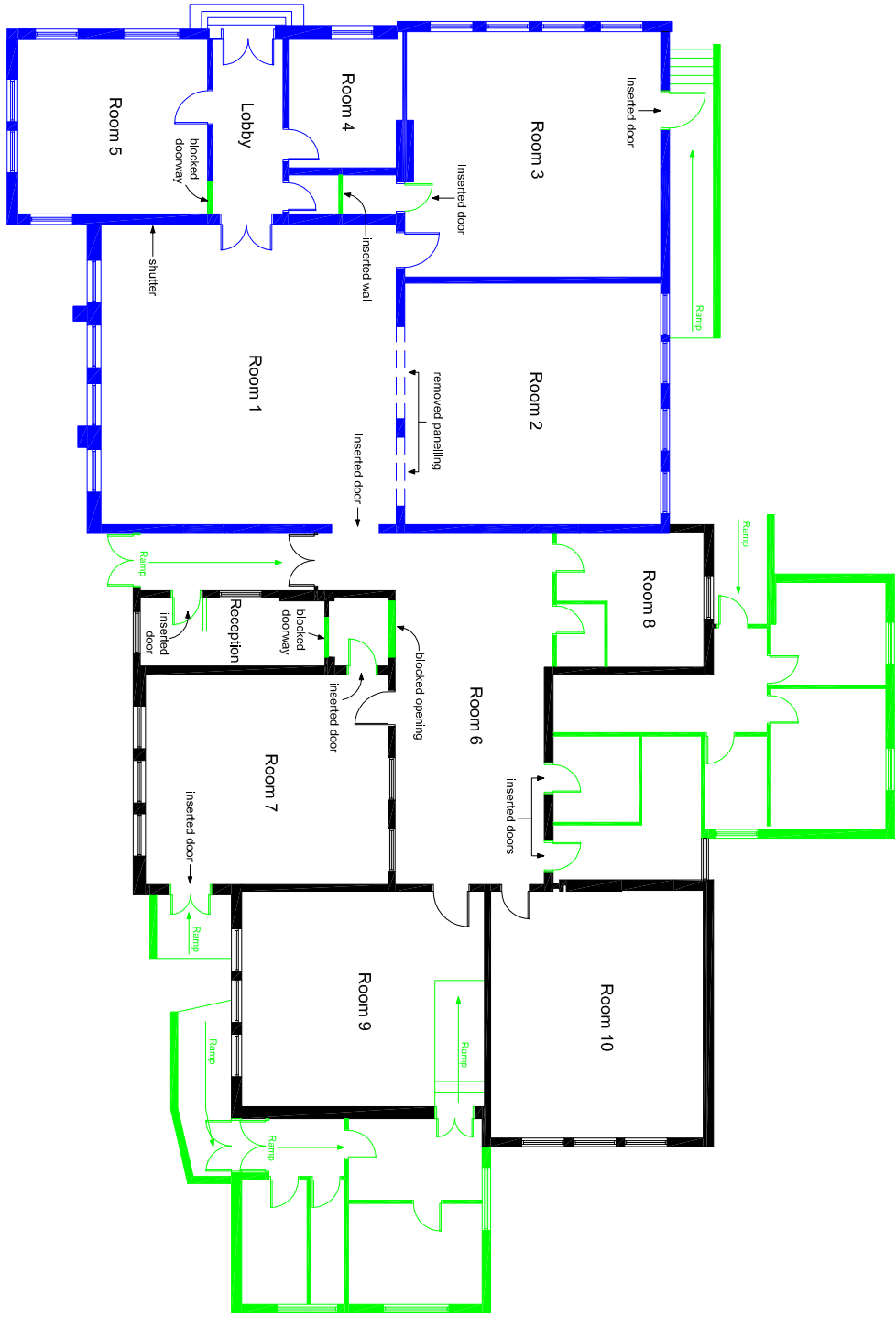


Figure 8: Ground floor plan.