



**Historic building recording
and archaeological observation at
the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery
and the Old Gaol, Northampton
Northamptonshire**

Report No. 17/107

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NGR: SP 75568 60367
Accession No. ENN108622

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Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Status:	Reason for Issue:
1	24.08.17	C Finn	R Atkins	M Holmes	Awaiting approval	Draft for client review
2	01.09.17				Second issue	Client revisions
3	09.11.17				Final Report	Archaeological Advisor Comments

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS molanort1-293583
Project title	Historic building recording an archaeological observation at the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Old Gaol, Northampton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	<p><i>MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a programme of historic building recording of the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and the former County Gaol. The former council offices at Guildhall Road were also photographically recording. A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during ground work.</i></p> <p><i>The gaol was opened in 1846 with capacity for 150 inmates. It comprised two galleried wings with single-occupant cells arranged along the walls at four floors. Legislative changes rendered the gaol redundant and the east wing was converted for use as a library, public reading room and a museum. The west wing became a Salvation Army barracks with mineral water factory in the basement. In the 1920s the west wing of the gaol was converted into offices by the County Council and was subject to a general re-fenestration and internal re-flooring and re-partitioning. The museum eventually expanded into the full extent of the east wing which was also subject to remodelling.</i></p>	
Project type	Historic England Level 2 / 3, historic building recording and archaeological observation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Mid 19th-century gaol and late 19th-and early 20th-century museum	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, and the Old Gaol, Guildhall Road, Northampton	
NGR	SP 7557 6038	
Area	c2400 sq m footprint	
Height	70m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)	
Project brief originator	Northampton Borough Council	
Project Design originator	MOLA	
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir	
Project Manager	Amir Bassir	
Sponsor or funding body	Northampton Borough Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	April 2017	
End date	August 2017	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Historic building recording and archaeological observation at the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Old Gaol, Northampton, Northamptonshire	
Serial title	MOLA report,17/107	
Author(s)	Amir Bassir	
Page numbers	108	
Date	24/8/17	
Archive	Paper, ENN108622	

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Appendix II: Ground floor

Appendix III: First floor

Appendix IV: Second floor

Historic building recording and archaeological observation at the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Old Gaol, Northampton Northamptonshire

ABSTRACT

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a programme of historic building recording of the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and the former County Gaol. The former council offices at Guildhall Road were also photographically recording. A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during ground work.

The gaol was opened in 1846 with capacity for 150 inmates. It comprised two galleried wings with single-occupant cells arranged along the walls at four floors. Legislative changes rendered the gaol redundant and the east wing was converted for use as a library, public reading room and a museum. The west wing became a Salvation Army barracks with mineral water factory in the basement. In the 1920s the west wing of the gaol was converted into offices by the County Council and was subject to a general re-fenestration and internal re-flooring and re-partitioning. The museum eventually expanded into the full extent of the east wing which was also subject to remodelling.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by the Northampton Borough Council to undertake historic building recording and archaeological observation at the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Old Gaol, Guildhall Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7557 6038, Figs 1 and 2).

This report follows an approved Desk-Based Assessment and Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2017) which set out a methodology for archaeological recording in-line with Historic England Levels 2 and 3 historic building recording (HE 2016). All works were undertaken in accordance with current guidelines (CIfA 2014a and 2014b) and Historic England (MORPHE) (HE 2015).

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of Historic England (HE) Level 2 and 3 building recording is to provide a descriptive and analytical record of an extant structure in accordance with the Historic England document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). It provides a systematic account of a building's origins, development and use.

Building recording was carried out between the 11th and 27th April 2017 and included the following elements:

- Establishing an accurate archaeological record of the buildings to Historic England Level 2 / 3 (HE 2016, section 5.2 and 5.3);
- An overall photographic survey of the exterior and interior of the buildings in their present condition comprising general and detailed shots. Photography was carried out using a Nikon D7200 DSLR equipped with Sigma 35-17mm and Nikon 18-70mm lenses. Files are in RAW with high quality JPEG duplicates. Photography during the archaeological observation was carried out using a Panasonic Lumix FZ1000. Where possible and appropriate 1m scales or smaller were included in all photographs;
- Written notes on the buildings' construction, present and former use and, where appropriate, the buildings' past and present relationship to their setting in the wider landscape;
- Annotation of existing survey drawings to depict features of archaeological or architectural interest.

Photography of the elevations was limited by the size of these elements and the distance from which the camera could be placed from them. Where possible, photographs were taken from the upper floors of the opposite buildings in order to reduce perspective distortion.

For ease of description, the north-south orientated western range of the gaol is here referred to as the west wing, and the east-west orientated range is referred to as the east wing.

This project has generated a photographic archive of approximately three thousand digital files, these being duplicates in RAW and JPG.

The roof space of the gaol was not accessed during this survey.

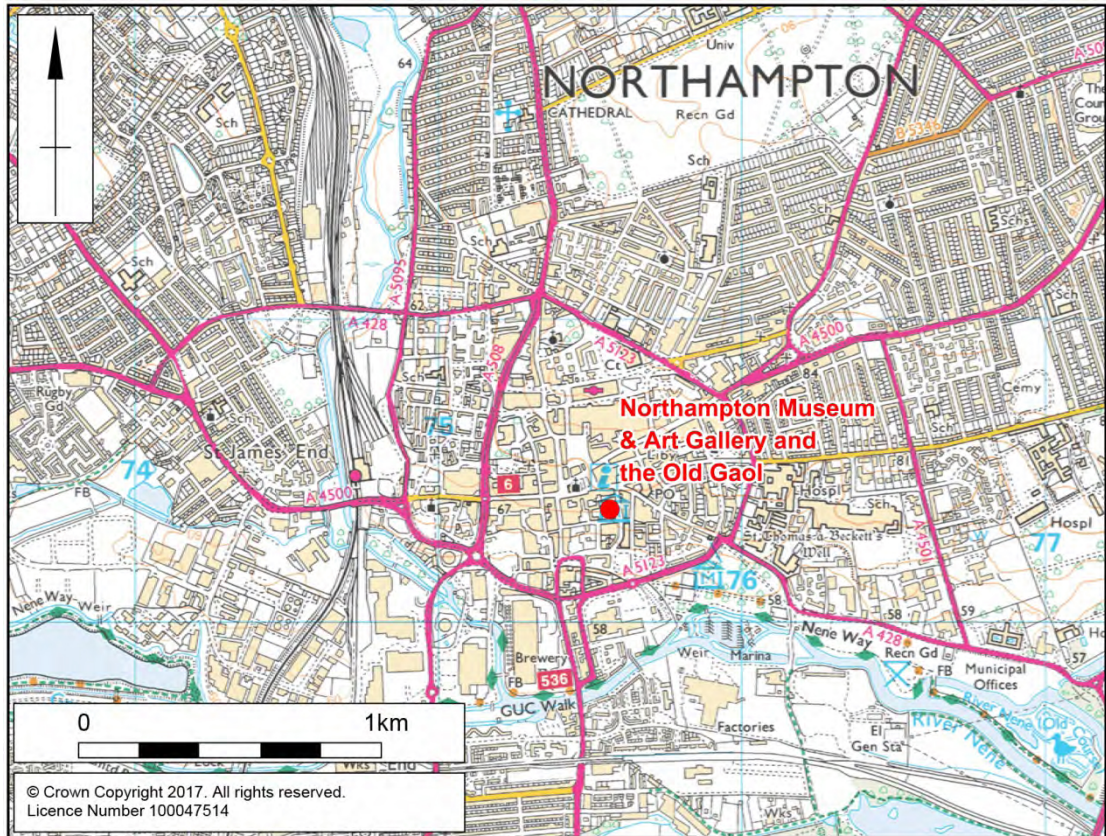
Archaeological observation was undertaken in August 2017 and comprised archaeological monitoring and supervision of geological boreholes and small test pits. These were initially hand excavated and later enlarged by mechanical excavator.

3 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The recording area comprises the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, the adjoining council offices and the old Gaol block (Figs 1 and 2). These three buildings form an interconnected block which fronts onto Guildhall Road to the east, with non-public access via the east. The buildings occupy the eastern extent of a rectangular area which is bound to the north by St Giles Square and George Row, to the west by Bridge Street, to the south by Angel Street and to the east by Guildhall Road. This arrangement represents a survival of the late medieval street layout, as evident on John Speed's map of 1610 (not illustrated). The St Giles Square and George Row frontage comprise former offices and a bank which have been converted into a restaurant and pub, the Sessions House, County Hall, cafes and estate agents and Lloyds Bank. The main part of the council Offices are housed within a complex of buildings to the west of the Gaol, with car parking spaces between the various blocks.

On the north side of St Giles Square is the Guildhall which was built between 1861-64 in the neo-gothic / gothic revival style by the architect E W Godwin. A short distance to the west is All Saints Church, built after the 1675 fire of Northampton, in the prevailing neo-classical style. The east side of Guildhall Road is largely occupied by the Royal & Derngate Theatre and the former Franklin Hotel, now utilised as an Art Gallery, with residential dwellings between.

The River Nene flows around the southern extent of the medieval town of Northampton, approximately 500m to the south of the site and the topography rises from c54m aOD at the river, to between 70m – 75m aOD at the site, continuing to rise to a maximum of c91m further to the north. Guildhall Road follows this rising ground and the buildings along the road are staggered to maintain a level height.



Site location Fig 1



The recording area (image © Google Earth) Fig 2

4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDINGS

4.1 The County Gaol

During the 14th century, various acts of Parliament had established a judicial system in which magistrates were chosen by the king from the land-owning classes and were given powers to hold sessions of court. These sessions, held every three months became known as the Quarter Sessions and the magistrates, also called Justices of the Peace, could both hear cases and pass judgement on the same. Serious criminal cases were passed to the assizes; bi-annual circuits presided over by keepers of the peace. Northamptonshire was part of the Midland Circuit which also encompassed Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, and Warwickshire.

Up to 1570, the Assizes and Quarter Sessions for Northampton and Northamptonshire were held in the old Northampton Castle, which also doubled as the county gaol (Cowley 1998).

The Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601 and subsequent statutes required the construction of Houses of Correction in each county, and Northampton had such an establishment by 1634 (Markham 1885). This is referred to in a deed of 1671 in which it is stated that Lord Christopher Hatton had set aside sums of money for the purchase and repair of the Bell Inn at Northampton, and the erection of new buildings principally for the purpose of a House of Correction. "In this deed it is also expressly stated that the property was then used not only for a House of Correction, but also for a gaol" (Markham 1885). The site of the Bell Inn has not been located with certainty; Markham suggests that "the Hatton family had a residence over the property, lying between the old Bell Inn and the George Inn" (Markham 1885). The Victoria County History states that the House of Correction was "in or near the old Bell Inn, across the road from the south-east corner of All Saints Churchyard" (VCH 1930).

Work was eventually started to provide a permanent building, but in the great fire of Northampton in September 1675, this partly completed Sessions House was burnt to the ground, together with the gaol. So in 1676 work was started again on a new Sessions House in George Row (Cowley 1998).

The architecture of Sessions House is attributed to Henry Bell and surveyor Edward Edwards, and the building is described by Pevsner as "an extremely fine building, beautifully built of Ketton stone (Pevsner *et al* 2013)". The building housed two court rooms, judges officer and judge's chambers and a "complete network of underground passages enabled the prisoners to be brought straight up into the dock from the cells underneath" (Cowley 1998). The building is located on the site of the former gaol which was destroyed in the fire of 1675 (Fig 5). The adjacent property, to the west side of Sessions House, was owned by Sir William Haselwood who built a house which he leased to the county magistrates as the new County Gaol. This property was purchased by the County in the year 1691.

Towards the late 18th century it was decided to rebuild both the County Gaol and the House of Correction. "Because of the reforms of the prisons following the work of John Howard, in 1792, a new county gaol building was started, just to the rear of the existing one. It cost £16,000 and housed 140 criminals and 30 debtors. The old buildings were still kept on, but as Turnkey's Lodge, and day rooms and exercise rooms and yards." (Cowley 1998). The new gaol was constructed between 1792-94 by Mr Bruttingham, architect, to a plan by Mr Howard. It had an I-plan form comprising a linear range with perpendicular terminals with yards between (Fig 6). The building was rendered with neo-Classical proportions and the elevations were fairly plain with little decorative work except that formed by the arrangement of stonework around the door and window openings.

In 1819, the adjoining property to the east of Sessions House was purchased for use as Judge's Lodgings during assize sessions. This is an 18th-century building of ashlar

sandstone in three storeys, with a fairly plain frontage to George Row and St Giles Square.

The land to the west of the old Gaol, formerly used as an Infirmary proved too costly to purchase, and the County eventually purchased two properties to the east of the Gaol, one adjoining the Judge's Lodgings. This land comprised houses and gardens belonging to Mr Hughes and Mr Gates. The houses fronted onto St Giles Square and the gardens stretched to Angel Street.

The new gaol was constructed on this land and was built:

at an expense of 25,000, under the supervision of Mr J. Milne, then the county architect. It was opened in July 1846 and will accommodate 150 prisoners... The building is composed of two wings, which form a right angle with each other, their point of junction affording a means by which the whole can be seen; the cells are thirteen feet one inch in length, six feet eleven inches in width, and nine feet eight inches in height from the floor to the crown of the arch; a water closet and metal basin, supplied from a reservoir of water at the control of the prisoner, are in every cell; and there are twenty exercising yards for the male prisoners arranged upon a radiating plan (Whelan 1874, Figs 7 and 8).

The Gaol was accessed from St Giles Square, via a three part gatehouse building with central arched entrance, labelled as *Gaoler's House* on Markham's Plan. The gatehouse was later remodelled and served as a bank and county fire offices, and subsequently as a public house, currently named The Old Bank.

The only known contemporary depiction of the gaol's internal layout prior to the late 19th-century alterations is a first floor plan of the gaol labelled as "first floor plan of the proposed alterations at the Northampton County Gaol". The drawing also includes surrounding buildings such as the Judges Lodgings, County Hall, the remains the former female gaol and the surrounding enclosure wall (NRO Map 5432). The gaol is shown as having rows of cells along the walls, separated by a central corridor with galleried walkways connected by spiral stairs, and with an open space formed at the intersection of the two wings. It can be seen that the rooms located at the north of the building were larger than the gaol cells and it is possible that these may have served as store rooms and gaolers' rooms. Roughly central to the north-south wing, two of the cells are depicted as each having small square-shaped features which may represent lavatories or perhaps washing facilities. Of interest is a short westward projection opposite to the intersection of the two wings. This feature is also shown on the 1847 map of Northampton by J. Wood and E. F. Law (Fig 4) but it appears to have been demolished by 1860. This projection mirrored the eastern area of the wing and had angled walls to the main elevation. Although there is no evidence for it except what may be inferred by the plan, this feature raises the possibility that the gaol was perhaps future-proofed in its original design and could offer the possibility of modular expansion westward if required.

Following Enclosure in 1779, Northampton's gallows, which previously were located in Abington, were moved, by order of the Commissioners, to a site on the Northampton Heath, now the Northampton Racecourse. Hangings were publically visible and something of a spectacle, with crowds lining the route which the condemned took from the gaol to the execution site. Concerns about the size of the crowds and the unruly nature of these events led to the building, in 1819, of a new gallows at the rear of the County Gaol (Cowley 1998). This 'new drop' became redundant following the abolition of public hangings in 1868 which required executions to be carried out inside prison walls, and so a new 'hanging shed' was built against the north-west corner of the gaol. The position of the steps and truncated supporting beams for this shed are still visible on the gaol wall.

In the year 1823 an Act was passed for the building of Gaols and Houses of Correction, and several other Acts were passed to require the Magistrates to

enlarge the old Gaol. In the year 1840 the County took the matter in hand, and the Right Honourable John Charles Spencer, and the Rev. Edward Robert Butcher made a Presentment to Quarter Sessions that the Gaol and the House of Correction were not large enough (Markham 1885).

A statute, passed in 1865, merged the titles of Gaol and House of Correction to the appellation of Prison. The responsibility of running gaols and of their maintenance had, up to the mid 19th century, been the responsibility of the County or Borough. An Act of 1877 transferred this responsibility to the Secretary of State instead of Sheriffs and Magistrates, and also gave the Secretary of State power to discontinue any prison.

In consequence of this Act, and of there being two Gaols in Northampton, namely the County and the Borough, on the 10th of December, 1879, the Secretary of State made an order that Her Majesty's Lower Prison at Northampton...should be discontinued on and after the 1st January 1880; and by reason of this order the Prison Commissioners conveyed the dismantled prison on the 28th August 1880, to the Clerk of the Peace for the use of the County. For which the prison the County paid £9157 12s. 0d.

At the June Sessions of 1880 it was resolved to sell the late County Gaol, with the house occupied by the Governor of the Gaol, and the Chief Constable's House; and at an adjournment of the Sessions held on the 21st August, 1880, the Clerk of the Peace reported that Mr J. Watkin had offered the sums of £5500 for the Gaol, £3000 for the gaoler's residence and £3000 for the Chief Constable's House. This offer was accepted, and the whole of the properties were accordingly conveyed to him.

Mr Watkin then sold the eastern part of the prison to the Town Council, who converted it into a Museum and Reading Room. The southern part of the building is now [1885] used as Barracks for the Salvation Army, who held meetings there almost nightly; the gaoler's residence is used as a Tradesmen's Club; and the old portion of the prison (which was at one time used as a Militia Storehouse), is now changed into a row of dwelling houses, and dignified by the name of Angel Terrace. (Markham 1885).

The old county gaol was sold to Mr. J. Watkins in 1880, who sold the portion now used as the museum and art gallery to the Town Council. The remainder of the property was bought by the Salvation Army in 1889 [author correction: 1884] and purchased from them by the County Council in 1914. The Salvation Army remained in occupation as tenants till early in 1928. (VCH 1930, 35)

A description of the alterations made to the gaol following its takeover by the Salvation Army in 1884 is provided in a newspaper article covering the opening of the new barracks:

The "Army", after being established in the town for about five years, found it necessary to secure a more commodious and more convenient place for use than the old "Barracks" near the Midland Station, and the portion of the old County Gaol running parallel to Guildhall-road was hired for the purpose. The necessary alterations were commenced a few months ago, and completed last week. Three rows of cells, which in the old building were placed one above the other, have been removed, and a spacious hall thus made that will rest about two thousand people. At the back there is a gallery calculated to comfortably hold three hundred and fifty, and in the front there are two platforms, one about a foot higher than the other, and behind these raised seats for the band, choir etc. The hall is high, and lighted by gas, fixed within a few feet of the ceiling. At the back there is a smaller hall, seating about 700 people and 16 rooms that can be used as head-quarters of the division. The public entrance is from Guildhall-road, and a private one for the soldiers from Angel-lane. The cost amounted to between £800 and £900, and the place is taken on a lease of 21 years, at the rate of £120 per

year, with the option of extending it for 14 years afterwards at a slightly increased rent (Supplement to the Northampton Mercury, Saturday July 12 1884).

In order to accommodate the large galleried halls required by the Salvation Army, the majority of the gaol cells above the lower ground floor level, and their associated walkways were fully removed, creating a three-storey space which was open to a ceiling at eaves level (Figs 11-15). The slightly larger gaol rooms at the north of the building were retained however, as were a number of the former gaol cells at lower ground level, though the partitions between the cells were opened through to allow for the creation of larger rooms. The southern part of the gaol was partitioned to create the rear of the large hall, with school rooms to the south. Stairs were added at the east and west sides of the building to allow access between the balconies which ran around the rear and sides of each of the two halls. The balconies were supported from the walls by ornamental metal brackets.

Following the purchase of the gaol by the Council in 1914, the Salvation Army retained use of the building as tenants. There appears to have been some limited use of the gaol by the Council's Education Department, with book stores in the south end of the lower ground floor level, and offices at the north end of ground and first floor levels. As well as this, the building also housed a mineral water factory in the basement and in smaller buildings constructed in the space between the gaol and the female gaol. Between the years 1894-96 the mineral water factory was operated by Edwards & Co., and was succeeded in 1898 by Francis Dilks who used the building until 1910 (Morgan and Starmer 1977).

From 1899 and into the 1920s, the Council created several new blocks on the site to house its increasing staff numbers and new departments.

In 1928 the increasingly urgent accommodations problem was faced by moving further into the old county gaol. The old gaol block... was converted into offices at a cost of £22,000. This took overspill staff, including officers from the Education and Public Health Department. It also housed in the early 1930s the new Public Assistance and Building's Departments (Bradbury 1989).

Elevation drawings and plans of the gaol as existing prior to the late 1920s and early 1930s conversion works were carried out by the architect J. W. Fisher of Talbot Brown and Fisher (NRO ref: TBF173). In the lead up to the conversions a number of architectural drawings showing the proposed internal layouts and exterior elevations were produced (NRO ref: NAP 670-674, Figs 16-20).

The earliest drawings, dating to 1926, were produced by the Education Surveyor of the County Education Offices (G.H. Lewin) and J. W. Fisher of Talbot Brown and Fisher (NRO ref: TBF 173), and show a rough pencil estimation of internal layout, overlain on the existing layout. The east elevation proposed the almost complete replacement and enlargement of the existing small gaol windows, and depicts modillions at the eaves. The proposed elevated walkway entrance is a large and highly decorative element with a pair of roundel windows above. This design was carried forward in Lewin's drawings of 1927 and 1928. It is clear that Mr Lewin intended for the elevations to have, as far as the intended internal layout allowed, a uniform and consistent scheme of fenestration, comprising regularly spaced rows of windows with occasional smaller windows to accommodate stairwells. The use of modillions at the eaves, and the large decorative eastern entrance were retained and the modillions continued and the south elevation. The original southern bay window was proposed to be remodelled, or more likely re-built, and it was also proposed that the half-round window in the south gable pediment be replaced with a Serlian style window with exaggerated keystone.

The proposals were refined and consolidated in plans and other drawings by J W Fisher dated 1928 and 1929 (NRO ref: TBF 173). In these drawings the upper part of the elaborate eastern entrance was reduced in scale and the roundels dropped from the design to be replaced with regular windows. This design assumed an open walkway

between the buildings rather than the current covered one which diminishes the intended element.

It can be seen that the main elements of the proposed internal layout, such as the lavatory block with its open-top atrium, the main stair with lift, and the placement of the larger and higher status rooms at the south of the building, were essentially part of the proposed design by at least 1926 and were little altered in subsequent revisions. The only main element of the interior which was altered between design and construction was the positioning of the ancillary staircase which was moved from the eastern side of the building to the western side. The latest set which were found during this research date to December 1931 and are signed by G. H. Lewin (NRO ref: NAP 657-700).

Comparing the proposed elevation drawings with the building as existing, it is clear that the intention to almost completely re-fenestrate the building was not carried through into practice. The southern bay window is quite plain with none of the decorative elements which were proposed, and the modillions shown on the drawings were not added. It is probable that this is due to budgetary constraints. The east-facing elevation would have been most publically visible in the 1930s and was uniformly and consistently re-fenestrated, more in-keeping with the intended design. The south elevation was less publically visible and a uniform façade less easily imposed due to the need to accommodate elements such as the staircases. As such it retains a mix of window types and designs, some original to the gaol, others dating to the late 19th century, and some installed during the Council's conversions.

Continued growth of the Council and the inadequacy of existing accommodation resulted in the rehousing of the Weights and Measures department, and later the Education Department, in the surviving range of the former female gaol. The main part of this building had been demolished by the early 1880s (Figs 9 and 10). This plan shows only the northern part of the building (and only at first floor level), and the largest room in the building is labelled as *Chapel*. By 1885 a number of buildings had been added to both the north and south of this remnant of the gaol. Insurance maps of 1899 (not reproduced) show further extensions to the building and label its uses as timber and furniture storage and cabinet making. By the 1930s most of the building except for the remnant former gaol block had been demolished.

4.2 Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

The Museums Act of 1845 allowed local authorities to establish and maintain museums. Prior to this, collections were largely in private hands and were at risk of dispersal. The drive to create a museum in Northampton began in the 1860s, headed by Sir Henry Dryden and members of the Architectural Society (Chapman 2015). Despite favourable public opinion and meetings no museum was created until August 1866. This was located in the Town Hall and filled two rooms with an extensive loan collection but was troubled by a small budget, a result of the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1855, which allowed Councils to raise a one penny rate for museum maintenance. "With the expansion of the library which now accompanied the museum, larger premises were obtained in Guildhall Road. Part of the old county gaol building was purchased and reconstructed, allowing the library to be transferred in 1883. This was followed by the museum, which opened here in a rather inaccessible upper room in April 1884" (Chapman 2015).

The east wing of the gaol remained essentially unaltered in outline between the years 1860 and 1885, with the exception of an extension at the eastern side of the building which passed through the former prison boundary wall and acted as an entrance from Guildhall Road.

By 1898 the building had been expanded by the construction of a new L-plan block at the north-west corner of the building to house the library. In the mid-1920s the construction of the purpose built Central Library on the site of a former tram depot on Abington Street allowed the building to be repurposed as a museum and art gallery.

The buildings were subjected to a scheme of alterations in the early 1930s, roughly concurrent with changes to the west wing of the gaol. Plans of the proposed alterations are dated to April 1931 and attributed to Alfred Fidler, Borough Engineer (NRO map 5433, Fig 21). The proposals show stores and lavatories in the basement, and existing Exhibition and Museum Rooms and stores at ground and first floor levels. The proposed extensions created a roughly square plan, filling in the available space around the existing, slightly irregular plan which had been created in the late 19th century. The alterations also necessitated the re-fronting of the range to a harmonious, unified design (Fig 22).

The museum was expanded to the north in the early 1960s by the construction of rooms and a full height stairwell. This was probably also accompanied by some internal rearrangement.

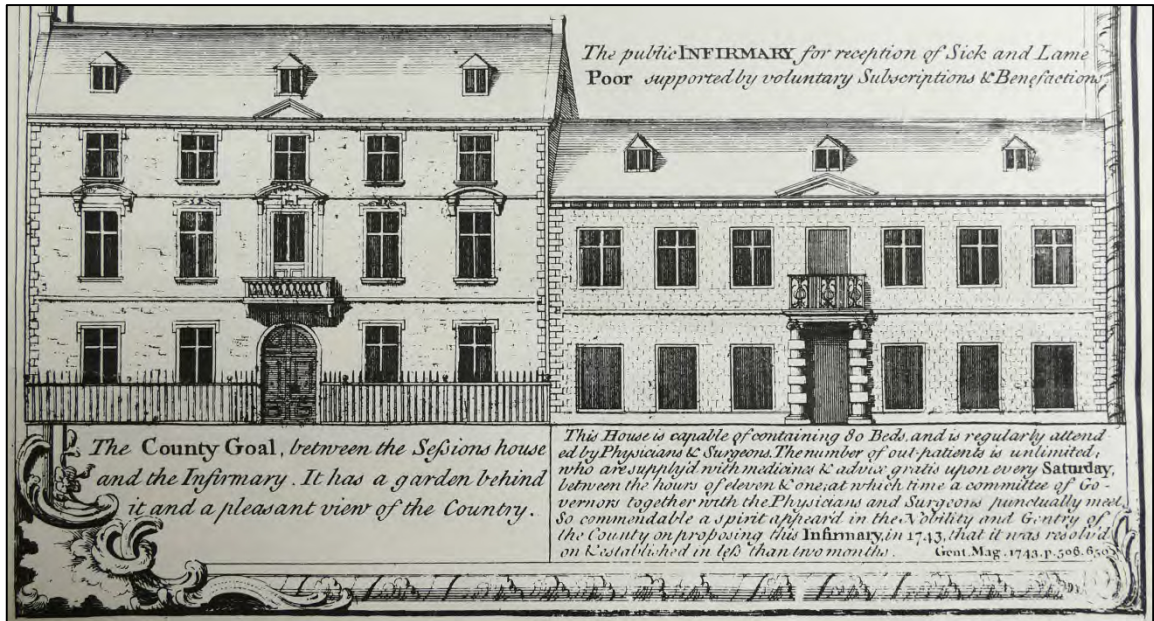
4.3 County offices

Between the 1860 and 1885, Guildhall Road, which previously had been a semi-enclosed passage adjacent to the gaol wall, was expanded and stretched southwards around the Vulcan Works towards the tram terminus at the north of Victoria Gardens, thus creating access to the terminus from the town centre. The south-western corner of the former gaol, at the junction of Guildhall Road and Angel Street remained enclosed by the gaol wall and the former militia store was located at the junction. Between 1885 and 1898 a range of terraced dwellings with outbuildings and enclosed rear gardens had been built along Guildhall Road, between the museum and Angel Street. A larger structure at the junction of the two roads was the Midland Temperance Hotel. Insurance plans of 1937 (not reproduced) show the hotel as vacant and label the row of buildings as offices and a clinic. At the rear of all of the gardens is shown a continuous arrangement of small outbuildings. A historic photograph, taken during demolition of the buildings shows that they were three storeys high with basements, and that the outbuildings at the rear of the gardens had chimney stacks, each with two flues, shared between pairs of outbuildings (Fig 23).

Despite expanding into new buildings and the old gaol, the Council's accommodation problem persisted. During the inter-war period, new legislation had been introduced which required the Council to take on much more work and responsibilities.

By 1935 a special buildings sub-committee was back at work on the accommodation question. It looked to expand out again to the east of the site, and duly bought buildings running along the west of Guildhall Road. These were demolished and, with the county councillor, J. A. Gotch, as consultant architect, a three and a half storey building was erected, with a bridge to the old gaol block and the rest of the County Council offices. Here the staff of the Public Health Public Assistance, and County Surveyor's Departments were rehoused. In addition, the County Library found its first real home here, in the lower ground floor of what came to be known as the Guildhall Road block (Bradbury 1989).

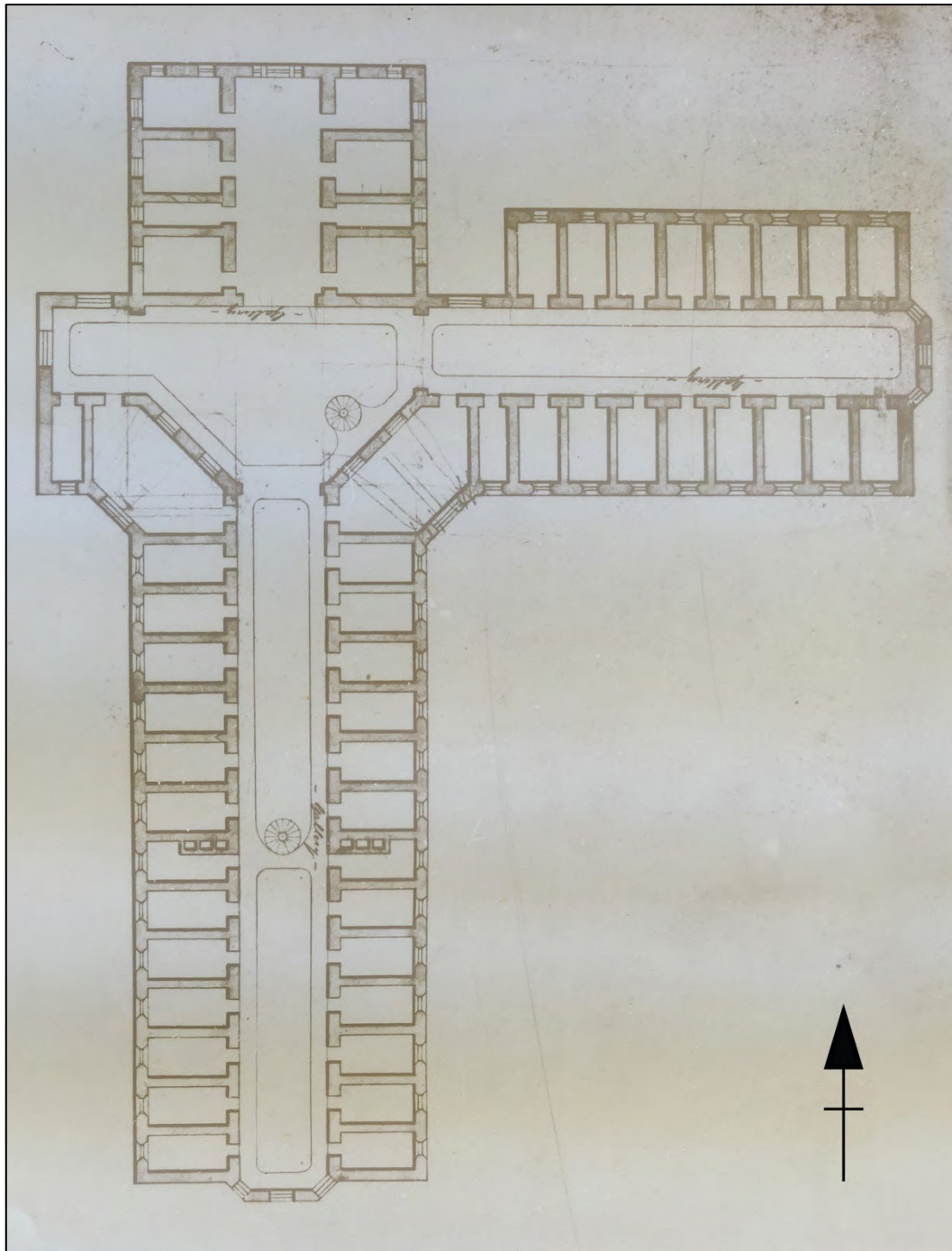
The architectural drawings, dated August 1937, are attributed to G. H. Lewin, County Architect, with elevations by J. A. Gotch (NRO ref: NAP 670-674 and LAI/EB/1-4). In the basement are shown stores, electrical rooms and boilers. At ground floor are labelled general offices, clerks, clinical and nurse services and recovery room and laboratory. At first floor are shown education department offices and conference rooms as well as medical officers, and at second floor are county surveyor and surveyors' offices, deputy and divisional surveyors, records and other officers. The floors are arranged with the rooms arranged around a central corridor, and are connected to each other by two staircases at the west side of the building.



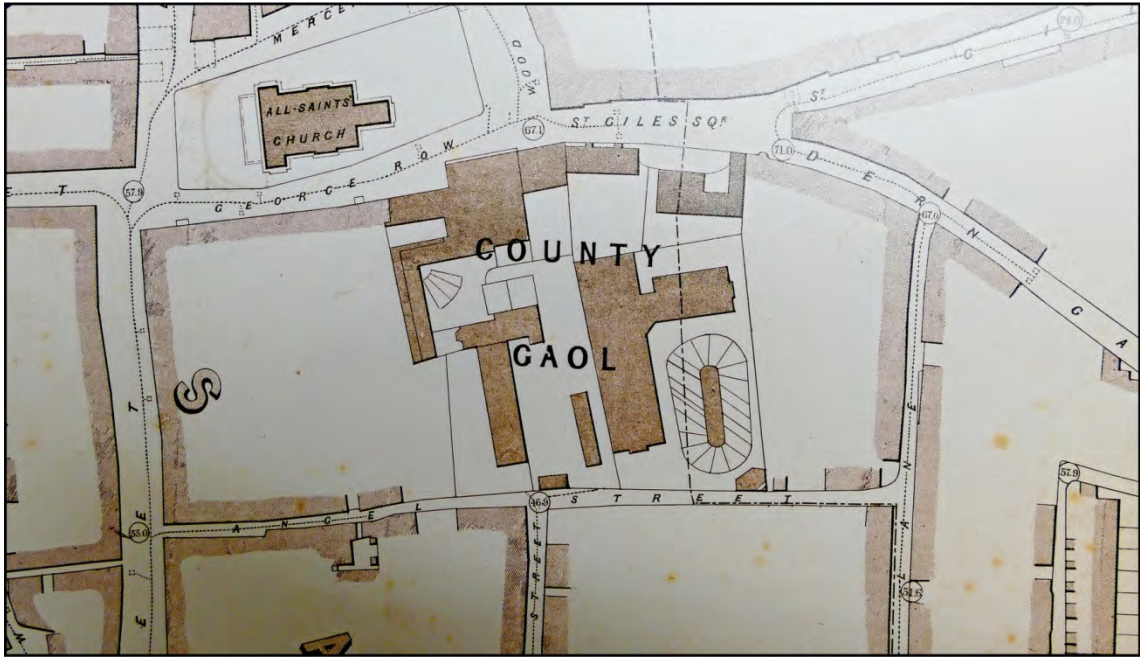
The George Row façade of the late 17th-century County Gaol and Public Infirmary
Fig 5



The former County Gaol, later the female prison, built 1792-94. Painting signed SW, dated 1794 (Local Studies Library) Fig 6



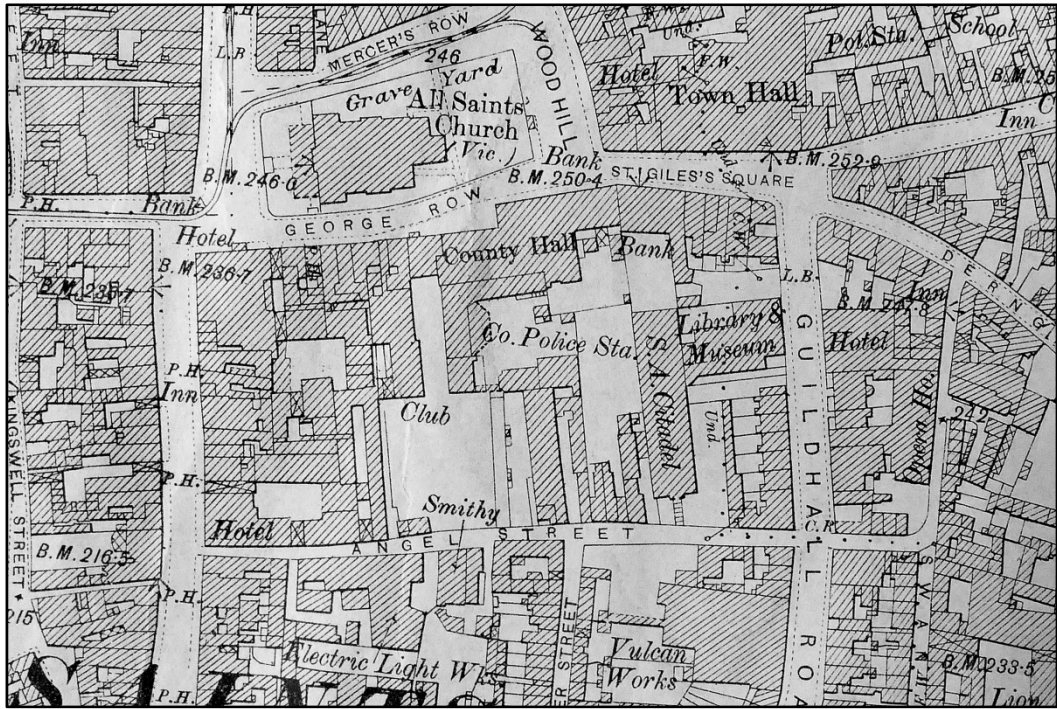
Undated plan of the first floor of the gaol, note the projecting western area (NRO ref: Map 5423) Fig 7



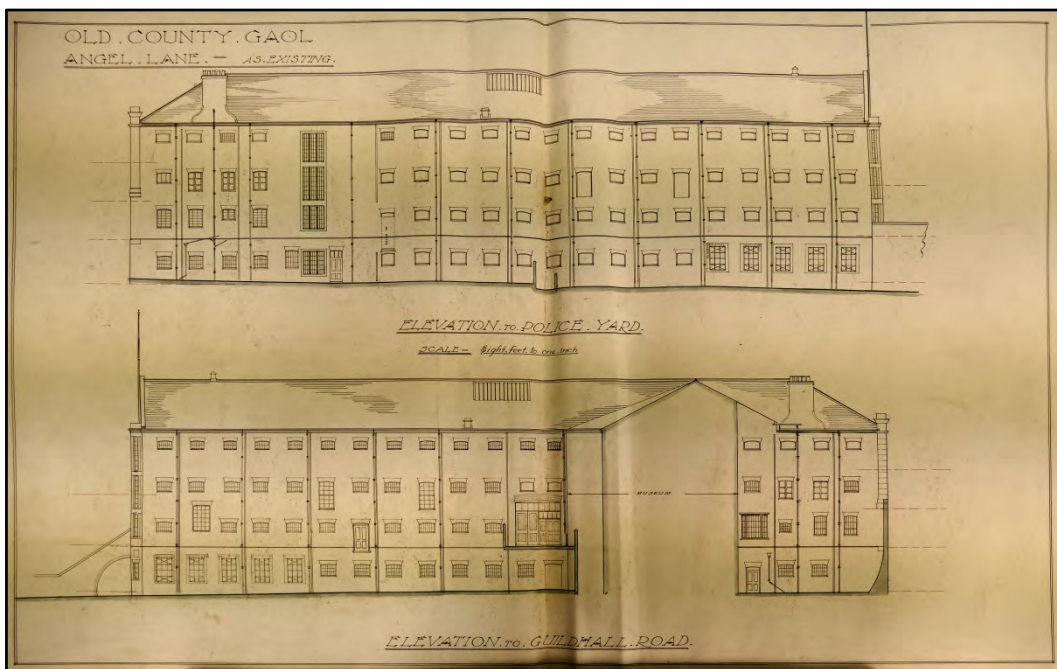
W. W. Law's map of 1860, showing the straightening of the western wall of the gaol
Fig 8



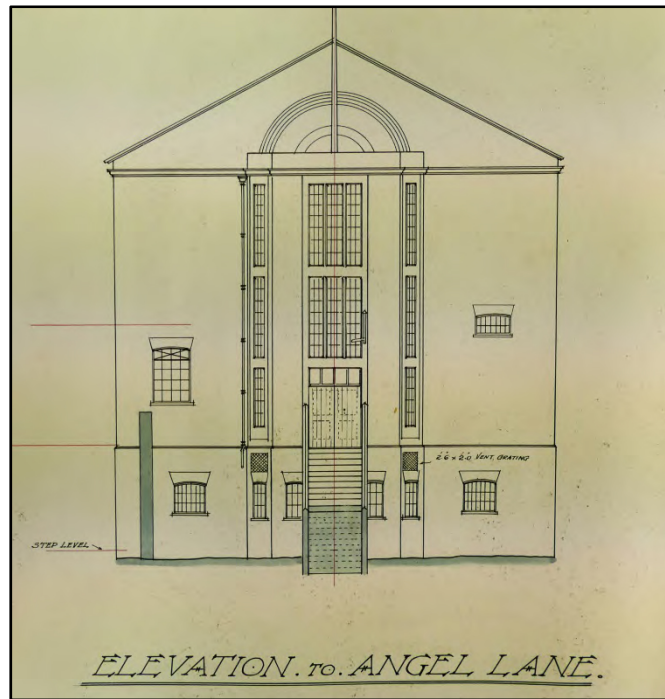
First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, showing the conversion of the east wing and
the removal of the exercise yard Fig 9



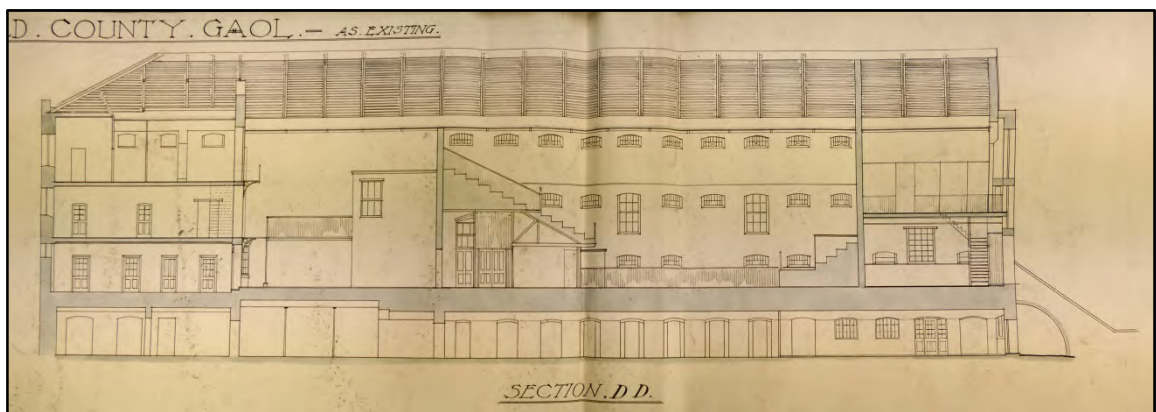
Ordnance Survey map of 1901, showing the museum and library extensions and the new terraced houses along Guildhall Road, as well as new buildings to the west of the gaol
Fig 10



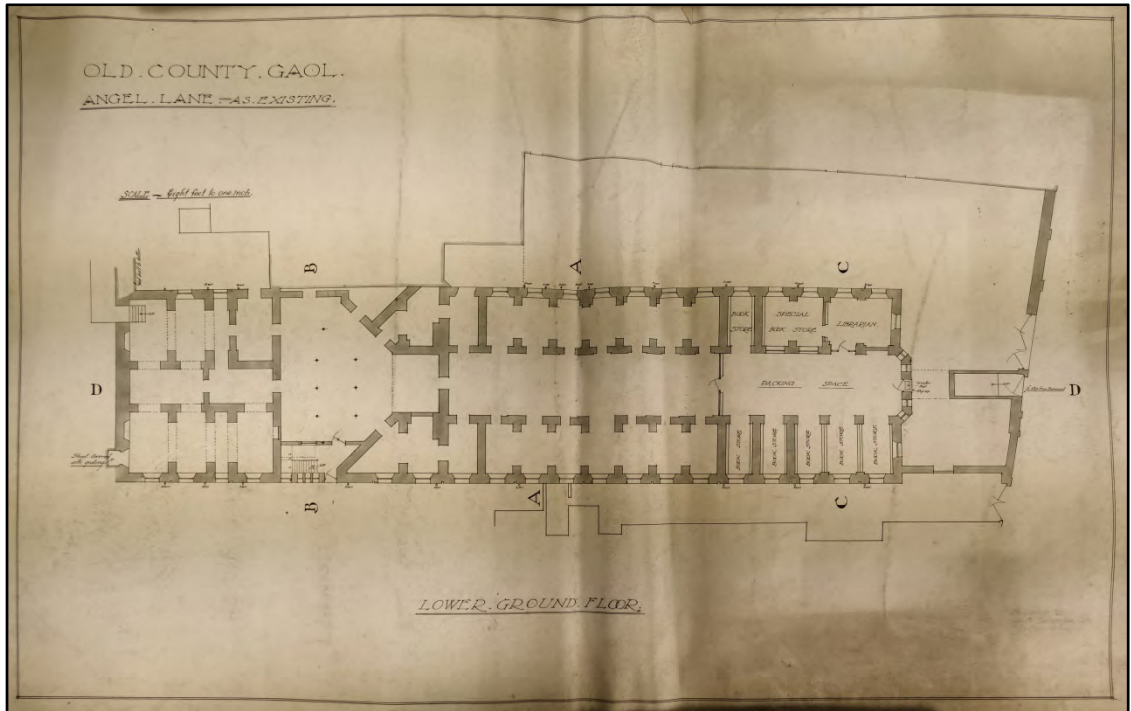
1926 elevation drawings of the west wing prior to remodelling (NRO ref: TBF173)
Fig 11



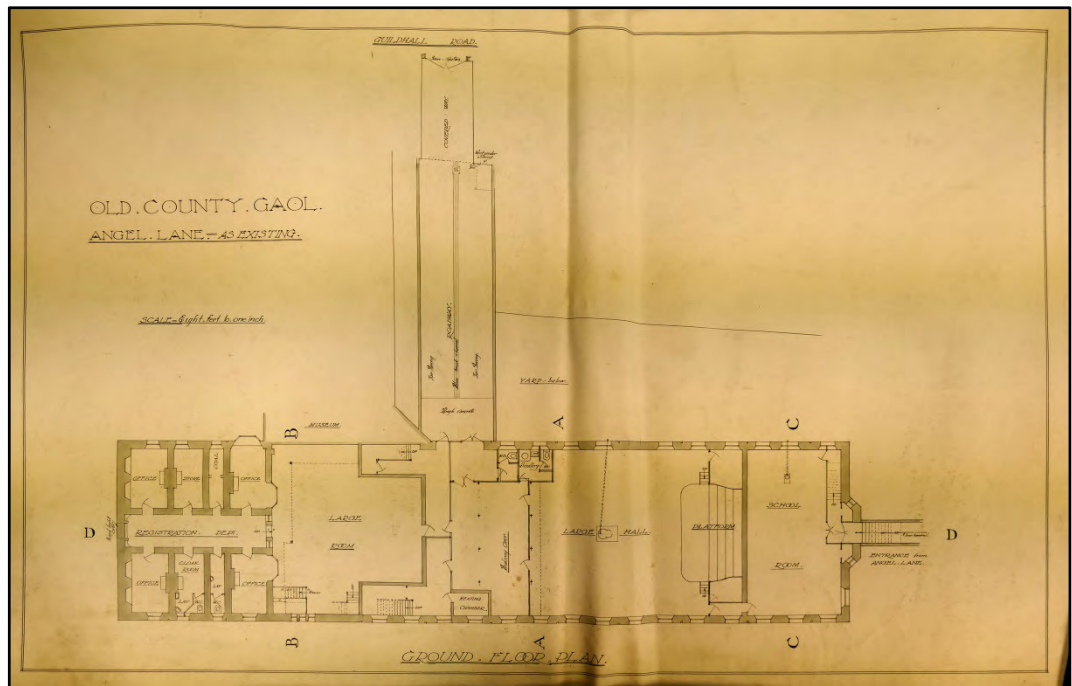
1926 elevation drawing of the Angel Lane elevation Fig 12



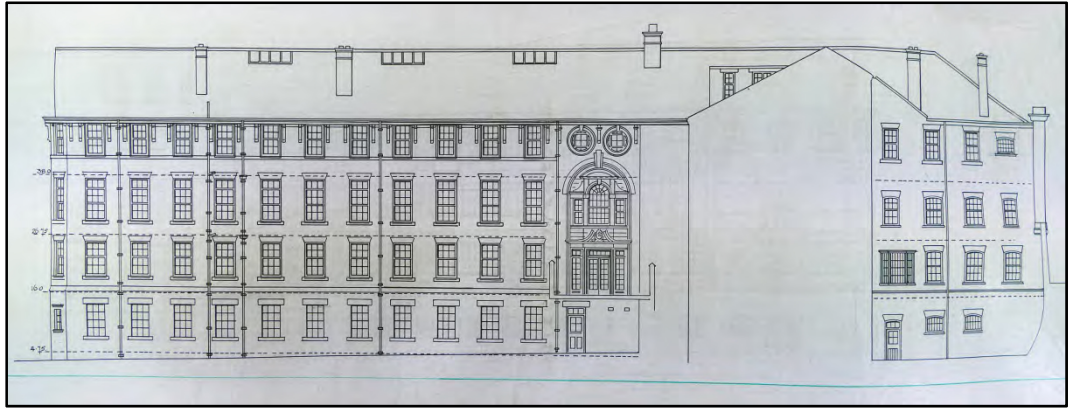
Cross-section of the west wing, showing the extent of internal remodelling Fig 13



1926 plan of the basement or lower ground floor level Fig 14



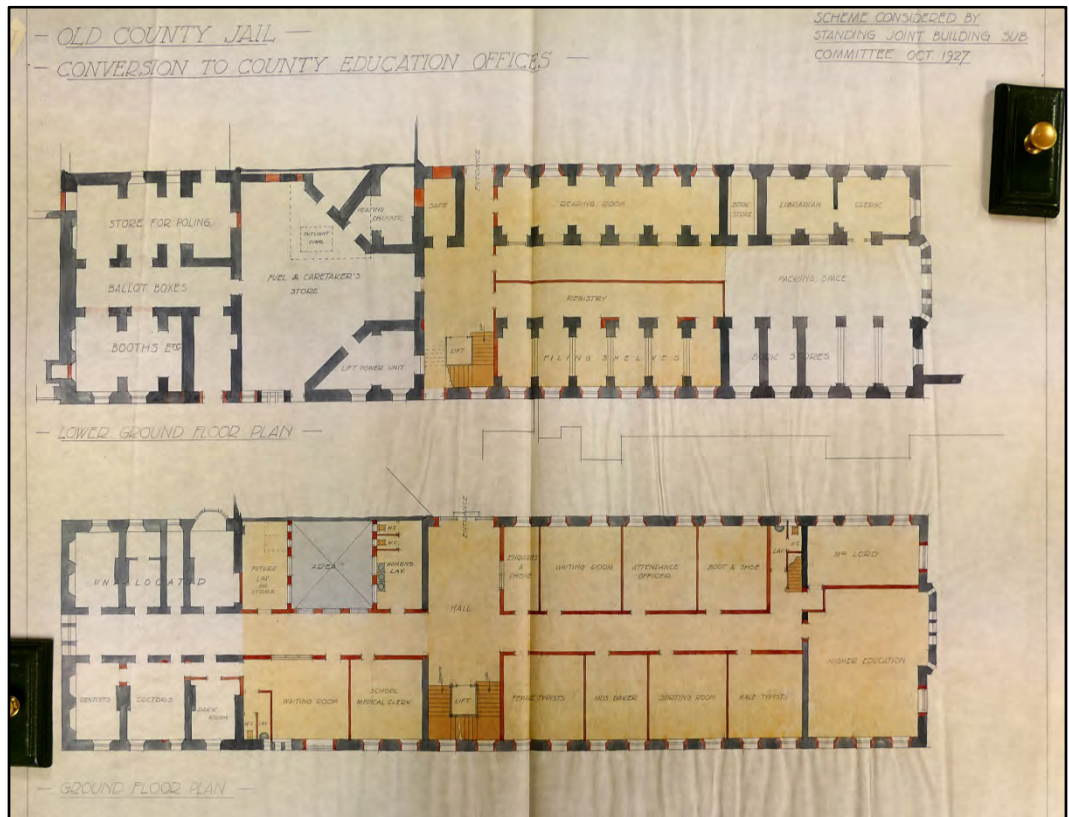
1926 plan of the ground floor, showing the arrangement of rooms Fig 15



1927 proposed east elevation Fig 16

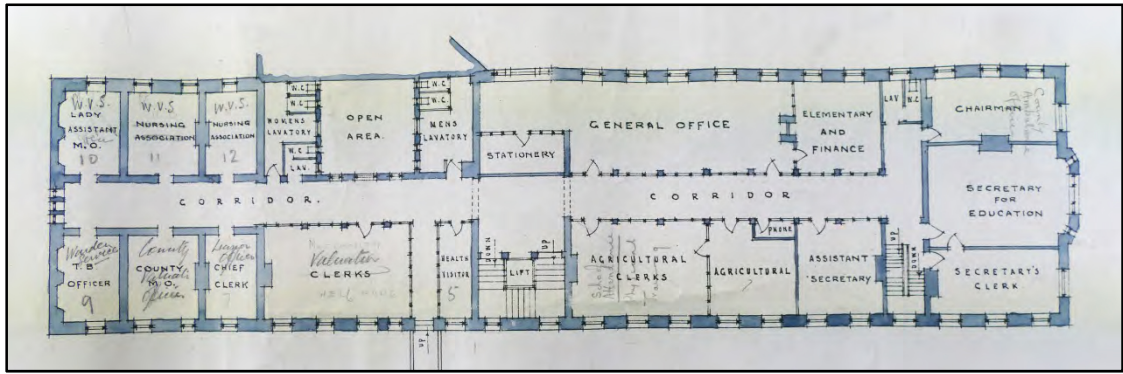


1927 proposed west elevation Fig 17

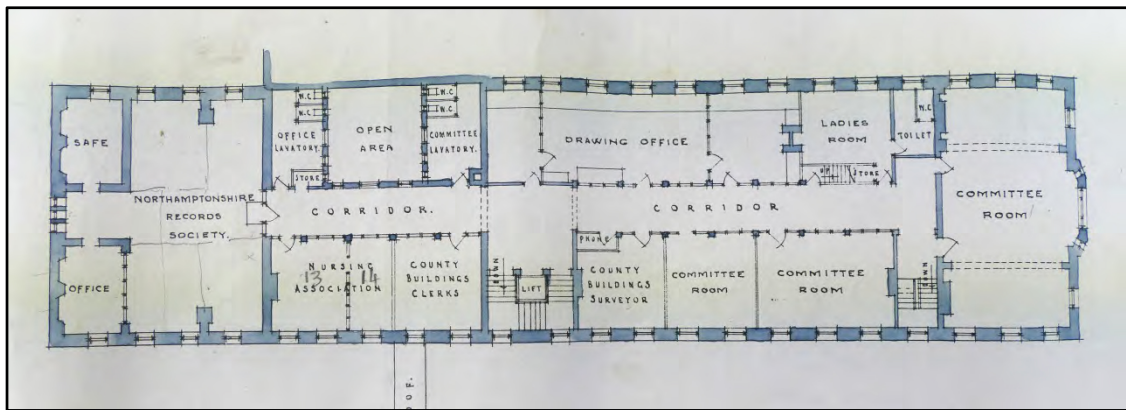


1927 proposed basement and ground floor plans Fig 18

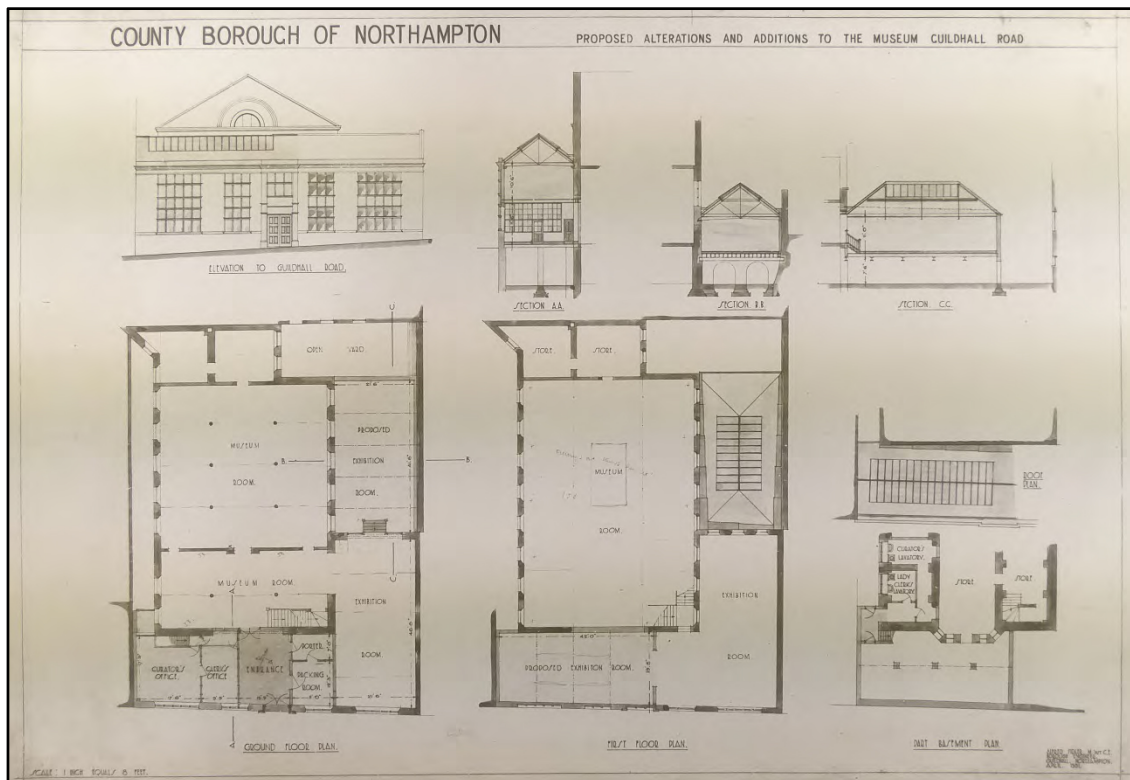
NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, AND THE OLD GAOL



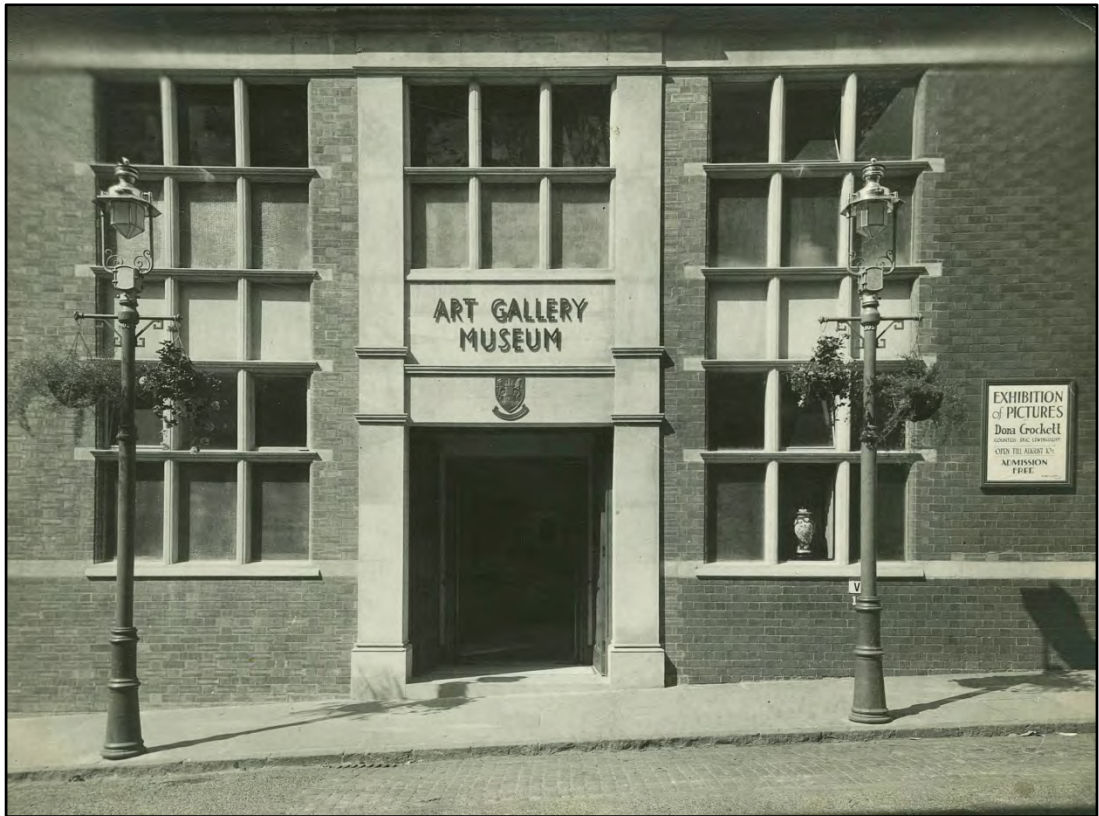
1931 proposed first floor plan Fig 19



1931 proposed second floor plan Fig 20



1931 proposed alterations to the museum (NRO ref: Map 5433) Fig 21



The museum façade, photograph dated 1935 Fig 22



The Guildhall Road row of terraced houses during demolition, c1935 (Local Studies Library PH/198/T/119) Fig 23

5 NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

5.1 The east elevation

The museum's largest elevation is the primary façade to Guildhall Road, the other elevations being hidden from view or abutting adjacent buildings. The elevation is symmetrical, of red brick, with large windows flanking a central door (Fig 24). The windows are the dominant feature of the elevation, encompassing most of the available surface area in order to allow maximum light into the building. The glass used is tinted and forms a dark, reflective surface in sunlight. The window panels are divided into rectangular lights by ovolo moulded stone transoms and mullions. The majority of the lights are fixed, however a few individual panels can pivot on transverse hinges to allow ventilation. It is clear from the historic view of the building that several of the lights were left blank and have since had glass installed. At first floor level the windows have been covered internally behind boards and are not visible from within the building.

The wall is crowned by a fairly restrained moulded stone cornice. A flush stone band spans the length of the elevation at sill level and highlights the road's northward incline.

The brickwork is an interesting variation of Flemish Bond, comprising courses of stretcher, header, $\frac{3}{4}$ length brick and header, and courses of stretcher, two headers and a $\frac{3}{4}$ length brick. Bullnose bricks form the window jambs. The brickwork at the northern end of the building, in the curved join to the 1960s extension, is likely a remnant of the earlier Library building which was altered in the 1930s. The brickwork here is in English Garden Wall Bond, and is of cruder, less uniform bricks. A vertical joint marks the beginning of the 1930s façade. Part of the joint has been repaired in more modern brick.

A lightwell to the cellar, now blocked in brick, is located at pavement level at the southern end of the wall.

The central door opening is flanked by flat, full height pilasters which project forward from the cornice and form a central panel that helps to break up the elevation (Fig 26). Central bands divide the pilasters and their line is continued above the door, forming a panel to which was affixed the county coat of arms, though it is unclear if this feature is still present. The words "ART GALLERY MUSEUM" were formerly affixed in raised, Deco-style lettering, to the space above the central panel and can be seen in a 1930s view of the elevation (Fig 22). They have since been removed but the holes for their fixing are visible.

The museum has a double door arrangement with a short porch between. The outer doors are wooden double doors, each with six moulded panels, one with a bronze letterbox, and both with bronze keyholes with escutcheons. Above the keyholes are a pair of circular brass door handles which are replacements of an earlier set with square plates. Above these is a modern Chubb lock.

The end corners of the walls have shallow chases to accommodate downpipes; those currently installed are uPVC replacements.

The eastern part of the museum has a gable roof, which at its eastern end formerly abutted the terraced houses that were replaced by the County Hall building in the 1950s. The roof is of Welsh slate tiles with a short stone parapet and lead flashing.

Above and set back from the 1930s façade, the gabled eastern wall of the gaol is visible (Fig 25). Within the gable end is a brick arch surrounding a recessed panel. Within this can be seen a semi-circular window with stone mullions and steel frames. An iron bar appears to be installed below the window, spanning the width of the panel.

The 1960s extension to the museum on its northern side, is a simple, geometric design, rendered in plain brick and in coloured glass (Fig 27). The rounded corners

contrast well with the adjacent 1930s façade, though the join between them is awkward. The far northern part of the extension houses a steel staircase and an enclosed walkway leads from the stairwell to the adjacent building.

5.2 Basement / Lower ground level

At the time of survey, the Museum's basement encompassed the full footprint of the east wing of the gaol, as well as the 1930s and 1960s extensions (Fig 150). Large areas of the space were utilised for stores in which artefacts and artwork were densely shelved, restricting views in these areas. Of these the art stores were the largest, taking up the eastern rooms of the 1930s extension as well as most of the central gaol area.

The former cells were simple rectangular rooms measuring 4m x 2.1m, and a height of 3m from the floor to the shallow jack or barrel-vaulted ceiling. At the time of survey, the former southern cells were in use as toilets, kitchen and the geology stores, and a narrow corridor has been created through the cells. The area was accessed by a narrow straight stair at the south corner of the 1930s extension. A doorway was knocked through the south-east corner of the gaol to allow movement through the museum extension into this area. The proposed plan of the museum extensions labels the first two former cells as lavatories. A fireplace was formerly located in the eastern wall of what is now the corridor (Fig 150). The opposing wall has a brick arch at the top and it is likely that the corridor and first lavatory were a double-cell width room with a door, now blocked, at the north-eastern corner. Beyond the lavatories is a two-cell kitchen with original window openings though the windows are replacements (Fig 38).

A stud partition corridor separates the geology store from the kitchen and leads to the adjacent room. The store was heavily crowded with shelving which obscured much of the walls. The ceiling vault would suggest that this space was not formerly used as cells.

The northern part of the gaol comprises a square room and a corridor, with a stair at the eastern end leading up the ground floor (Figs 40-43). The square room occupies its original extent rather than being two cells opened into each other. This is evident from the ceiling vault. No windows remain in the north wall. Where windows would be located, there are full height blind niches with arched headers and capped, shouldered jambs below sill level. The brickwork of the jambs has a cleaner, more mechanical quality compared to the rougher brickwork of the building and appears to be making good an alteration. If the former cell windows were converted into doorways and later blocked, it is unclear why so many doors were required. Where doors remain, the shouldered jambs are also present, however the door is set back from these and the surround is flush.

The quarter turn stair is brick built with artificial stone flag steps and is a continuous rise to the ground floor with no half landing. The stair sits disjointedly within the building so that a small arched alcove is created at its rear and a gap is created between the stair and the wide archway of the corridor (Fig 43).

Several cast iron rings are fixed into the brickwork on the underside of the corridor arches. It is unclear what function these served.

As with the south elevation of the western wing, the east elevation of the east wing had a full height bay window. The bay is shown on insurance maps between the dates 1889 to 1928 but ceases to be shown on the 1937 map. The lower portion of this window survived into the 1930s and is shown on the proposed basement plan of 1931. It is unclear how this window functioned following the creation of the Museum and Library as two-storey extensions were built against this elevation. At basement level it retained window openings and had a central door, but was removed and the wall made good at the upper floors.

The northern area of the museum basement is of two phases; an initial Library extension dating to the 1880s, and a rectangular block dating to the 1930 expansion of the museum. Beyond these is a narrow corridor formed against a brick retaining wall, and to the north of this is the 1960s extension which comprises a stairwell and a large conference room. The retaining wall has a sloping buttress at its base which spans the full length of the corridor and into the adjacent yard where the wall rises to second floor level to compensate for the significantly higher ground level at the north (Figs 36 and 37). The yard is fully enclosed by the eastern wall of the gaol's west wing, the northern retaining wall, and the museum buildings at the east and south. It has a brick and concrete floor with a central manhole cover. Large ventilation and air conditioning units are installed against the various walls of the surrounding buildings. A three-storey fire escape enclosed within a mesh cage is located at the south side of the yard against the north wall of the east wing.

A narrow alleyway, nicknamed by staff as 'pigeon alley', is formed between the south wall of the east gaol wing and the elevated access corridor (Figs 28-29). The alleyway is accessible only from the museum basement and it provides access to a pair large modern ground-mounted air conditioning units. At first floor level, above the alleyway are external air-conditioning flues.

5.3 Ground floor

The ground floor is largely open plan, comprising spacious galleries, and very little of the gaol layout survives. The walls are plastered and painted and little of the wall fabric is visible except for in the westernmost room.

The main entrance opens into a reception area, from where an open plan room wraps around the north of the building and down a short flight of steps in an adjacent room. The southern part of the eastern 1930s extension comprises two offices (Clerk's and Curator's offices) and a short corridor with door to the basement steps. A porter's room and a packing room were also formerly present adjacent to the entrance and are shown on the proposed plan on 1931. The current stud partition walls postdate the 1930s phase of works which shows the walls as being light panels with large windows, very likely similar to those seen at first floor level within the gaol.

The area within the former gaol is divided into a two-storey lobby-cum-exhibition space housing the main stair, a large square exhibition space also of two storeys, and a smaller, single-storey exhibition room at the west.

The lobby occupies the full width of the gaol wing and is a rectangular space measuring c6.5m x 14m (Fig 44). The stair is located in the north-east corner of the room, rising to wrap around the northern wall at first floor level. The main basement stair rises to ground level underneath the main museum stair.

The walls are bare and white painted, with no features of interest. The room has a parquet floor with small electric panels.

Two white painted cast iron columns rise from floor to ceiling. The columns are fluted and rise from toroidal column bases on inverted cushion plinths (Fig 45). At the apex are simple bell capitals (Fig 46). The columns support the underside of an iron or steel beam which spans the width of the room. Foundry marks, largely illegible due to heavy paint, are located on the plinths and are identified as the Eagle badge of the Rice & Co. Ironfounders of Northampton. The Eagle Foundry was located on the Phipps Brewery premises on Bridge Street. The foundry had been purchased by Sir Pickering Phipps Rice in the 1860s and produced a range of domestic, commercial and industrial components including fire goods, railings, grates and lamp-posts. The columns are simple and elegant but are somewhat lost in the room as they blend in with the overall plain white colour scheme.

The stair is an attractive feature of the room with decorative iron balusters offset by a dark wooden handrail (Fig 47). The stair is carpeted with brass carpet rods. At the half

landing, built into the wall, is a wooden cabinet with glass panel containing a fire hose. This appears to be an original feature of the pre-1930s museum. The front panel is hinged but its opening is prohibited by a handrail along the wall, a later addition to the stair.

The main museum space is roughly square, measuring c13.5m x 13.5m, and is fully contained within the gaol wing, encompassing five cell bays. At the time of survey the room was very dark, lit only by ceiling spot lights and lights within exhibit cases. It is evident however that following change of use from gaol to museum, the original small cell windows were significantly enlarged by dropping the first floor window sills to the level of the ground floor window sills, creating tall openings spanning between two former floor levels (Figs 31 and 32). The construction of the additional exhibition room at the north of the museum in the 1930s would have rendered the northernmost windows obsolete however the proposed plan does not indicate any alterations to the windows and they are shown as being open. The blocking of these windows appears to have taken place sometime after the 1930s and uses modern common brick. Given that the museum was again expanded in the early 1960s it is probable that the blocking is associated with that phase of works. The internal faces of the walls are fully plastered and no trace of the windows can be seen from inside the rooms. A further six columns, of identical design and manufacture as the pair in the lobby are found within the main museum room.

A single original window with iron prison bars remains in the western museum room (Fig 30). As with other examples of such windows, it has splayed reveals and sill and arched header. The bars are a single-piece cast iron element within an iron frame which measures c1.1m x c0.6m. This window is located in the short angled wall connecting the two wings. The plan of 1931 shows that the room was formerly two rooms and that a small square chimney flue rose from the basement and through this floor. This chimney is still present in the geology store room at basement level.

5.4 First floor

The museum's first floor level is limited to exhibition rooms within the 1930s and 1960s extensions at the east and north of the gaol block. A further room, housing heating and ventilation plant, is located at the west of the museum, at the intersection of the gaol wings, but could not be entered.

The exhibition rooms were plain and fairly featureless, with homogenous plastered and painted walls (Figs 48 and 49). The eastern room of the 1931 extension is partly within the roof ridge and the roof trusses are part exposed. These are formed of metal tie rods and braces in the form of king post trusses and are located at the principal rafters.

5.5 Second floor

Most available second floor space is occupied by museum exhibits and the majority of windows to the south have been blocked. A number of small offices are located at the western side of the second floor. The rooms themselves are not particularly of interest but several retain fixtures and fittings which merit description.

The main exhibition space is dominated by a network of museum exhibits arranged around a series of small offices at the periphery of the room and utilising the windows. The rooms themselves are not particularly of interest however there are a number of fixtures and fittings in this area which merit description. In most instances, the walls between the offices are modern stud partitions with modern fire doors (Fig 50). The south-western office has a plain panelled door opening with moulded edges, within which is a four-panelled door with a round oak door handle adjacent to a decorative keyplate (Fig 51). These elements are found on both sides of the door. The remaining windows in the south wall are two over two sashes with thin glazing bars and internal and external sash horns (Figs 33 and 34). The sashes utilise linked metal chains a less common but more durable alternative to the sash cord (Fig 35).



The museum façade to Guildhall Road Fig 24



The eastern gable window of the gaol Fig 25



The museum entrance Fig 26



The 1960s museum extension Fig 27



The alleyway at the east of the museum, looking west Fig 28



Example of the pivoting gaol windows Fig 29



Interior view of the gaol windows at ground floor level Fig 30



The south elevation of the museum / east gaol wing Fig 31



Detail of the enlarged and blocked windows on the south elevation of the museum / east gaol wing Fig 32



Detail of the north-facing upper floor sash windows Fig 33



Internal view of the south-facing upper floor sash windows Fig 34



Detail of sash horn and sash chain Fig 35



The yard at the north-west of the museum, looking north-east Fig 36



The battered retaining wall at the north of the museum Fig 37



The museum basement, former kitchen with jack vaulted ceiling and arch between former cells Fig 38



The basement, central corridor looking west, with door to the boiler room Fig 39



The north-western room of the museum basement, showing blockings Fig 40



View across the former northern basement rooms, looking east Fig 41



Example of the blocked doorways, showing the shouldered jambs Fig 42



The basement stair, showing the awkward arrangement of this feature Fig 43



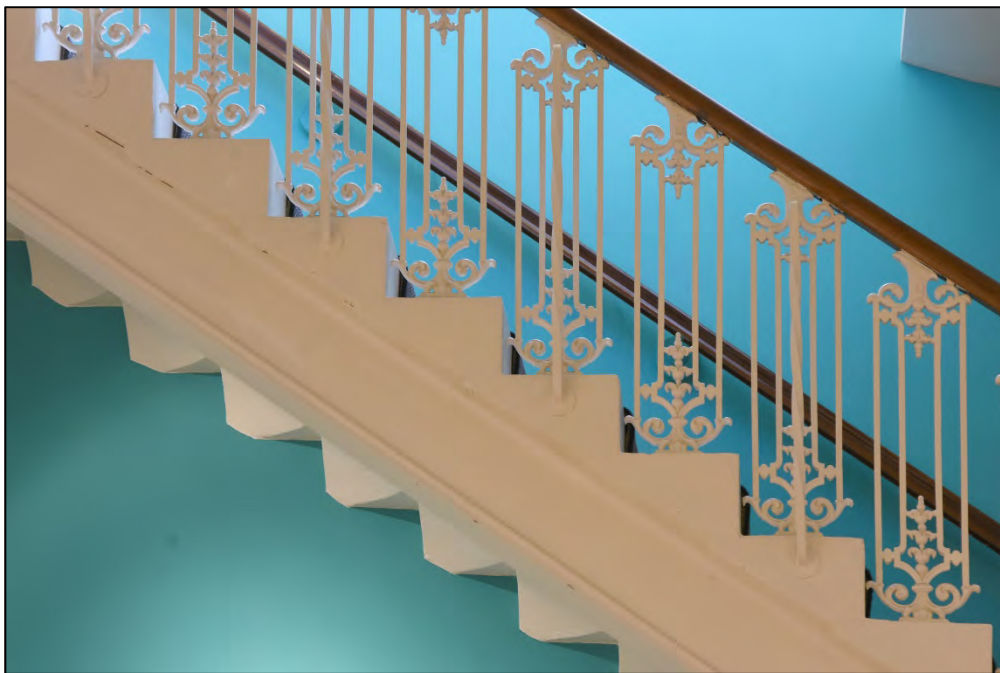
The museum lobby and stair Fig 44



Detail of column base, showing the mark of the Eagle Foundry Fig 45



Detail of column crowns Fig 46



Detail of stair balustrade Fig 47



General view of the first floor rooms, looking north Fig 48



General view of the first floor rooms, looking west, showing steel roof trusses Fig 49



Second floor office area Fig 50



Detail of four-panelled door Fig 51

6 THE OLD GAOL

Due to the homogenous modernisation of much of the gaol, there is little value in providing a full room by room description except of those rooms which represent the historic layout or present features of interest.

6.1 The exterior

The western wing, which unlike the east wing is fully visible, presents plain red brick elevations with grid-like fenestration and very little by way of decorative embellishment. The eastern elevation has a regular scheme of fenestration comprising equally-spaced windows over four floors (Figs 52 and 151). A covered, elevated corridor connects the gaol to the County Hall building. The west elevation is of roughly twenty-two bays and the fenestration is less regular as the windows need to accommodate internal features such as stairs, an external overhead link corridor to the adjacent building, several doors at ground level, and an external fire exit (Figs 59-60).

Except for localised alterations such as around window openings, the brickwork comprises hand-made, kiln-fired bricks, often with horizontal skintle marks, arranged in English Bond. The bricks generally measure c230mm x 110mm x 80mm. The mortar is rough and uneven and generally flush with the bricks though in places it projects slightly forward.

Many of the original gaol windows survived the Salvation Army alterations that removed most of the internal layout (Fig 11). However very few now remain as most of the former window openings were enlarged during the 1920s/30s alterations in order to provide more light to the offices (Fig 151).

The primary window types surviving on the gaol are as follows:

- Original gaol windows. These are small, deeply recessed windows with spayed sills and reveals and several have single piece cast-iron security bars held within the external opening. These survive at the north end of the west wing basement level and were formerly the dominant window type at ground floor, those of the floors above being slightly shorter.
- Pairs of original openings are located in the short angled wall between the two gaol wings. The windows here however do not contain the same fixed security bars and instead have pivoting metal-framed windows which can be pushed outwards a short distance to allow for ventilation. The windows have flat-arched heads with a secondary chamfered lintel, flat chamfered external reveals and cast-stone or concrete sills, though the sills of the basement windows have latterly been replaced with brick. It is uncertain if the windows are original or are Salvation Army period replacements. Two larger windows with metal frames of the same design, though taller and with central casement panels, are located at first floor level at the north-west corner of the west wing. These windows, and another since removed, are shown on the drawings of 1926. That these windows open into the larger rooms at the north of the gaol suggests a different function to those rooms and may indicate that they are original rather than Salvation Army replacements of earlier windows.
- By 1860 a western projection to the gaol was removed and the wall straightened. The projection, having been removed and the wall made good, had a new tier of mullioned windows inserted across four floors, of which only that the basement level now remains (Fig 66). These windows formerly lit a stair and a galleried three-storey room beyond. The remaining window measures c2.15m wide x 2.3m tall and is of the same type as those on the north elevation (Figs 67 and 69). The window opening is of artificial stone displaying finely spaced casting patterns. There are three window panels divided by flat-chamfered cast-stone mullions. Each pane is divided into fifteen lights held within a single-piece steel frame. The three matching windows at the

upper floors were filled in and new windows put in place during the 1920s conversion. A tier of windows of the same design are located at first and second floors of the north elevation of the west wing. A ground level former porch and giant order pilasters of the same material are also found on the same elevation and it is possible that the north elevation was remodelled concurrent with the removal of the western projection. A pre-Salvation Army plan of the gaol shows the gaol windows in some detail but does not show any mullioned windows at the western side of the gaol. A three-light mullioned window is however depicted on the north elevation, but the drawing indicates that in contrast to the windows now present, the central light was wider than the flanking lights and thus supports the notion that the current windows may replace an early scheme. All of the small gaol windows on the north elevation had been blocked by the 1920s.

- The majority of windows were installed during the 1920s / 1930s remodelling and conversion of the building, replacing the small gaol windows which largely survived the late 19th-century conversion. These comprise un-horned sash windows, either six over six, or six over nine. They have short flat-arched heads and concrete sills. At ground floor the windows are set in blue brick external surrounds with rounded edges and have metal frames with top and bottom pivoting panels.

A 1928 estimate for the conversion (NRO ref: TBF173) records the following about the window alterations:

Taking out the stonework of bay window in South Elevation, making good and forming new window openings.

Enlarging present basement window openings in 29" walls, forming new blue brick reveals etc., providing and fixing concrete lintels and making good. Providing and fixing steel windows and glazing and painting.

Forming new window openings (partly in old openings) to ground floor in 25" walls, providing and fixing sills, brick arches, concrete lintels, and making good.

Providing new windows complete of sashes in deal cased frames and glazing and painting.

Ditto to first floor ditto. with pivoted top lights and ditto.

Enlarging present window openings in 18" walls to 2nd floor, providing new sills and concrete lintels and making good.

New sash windows in the bay window.

Taking out the stonework of large window in East elevation, making good in brickwork and forming new window openings.

The installation of new and larger windows in the north part of the eastern elevation which overlooked the rear of the museum appears to have been a point of contention between the Borough and County Councils and a letter sent by the Borough Engineer to the Joint County Buildings Sub-Committee was addressed in the minutes of 17th July 1929. The County Council maintained their right to enlarge the existing windows and reiterated that the proposal was for only two of the existing windows to be enlarged. Similarly, it was argued that the County Council had the right to replace an "old decayed door and frame" to the yard between the buildings. The matter was resolved by the payment of quit rent.

In the same letter is mentioned that a "staircase on this small plot, giving access to the sub-way leading to the cellar to the Salvation Army Barracks, had been filled in". This subway is elsewhere in the minutes referred to as a "useless air-shaft and tunnel". It is unclear if this is a referenced to the below-ground passage way which leads from the north of the gaol basement to the alleyway running alongside the Museum. The 1885

map depicts two square features in the yard behind the museum which could perhaps be the covers to air-shafts or vertical stairs.

The contract for the adaptation of the Old County Gaol Buildings made provision for alterations to the Council's roadway leading from Guildhall Road including the lowering of part of the roadway and rebuilding part of the wall on either side. As a result of careful examination he [the Surveyor to the Education Committee] had found that the retaining wall on the Museum side had bulged considerably on to the Borough property... That in his opinion there was a certain amount of risk of the bulging of the walls gradually increasing until part of them collapsed (NRO ref: TBF173).

The Surveyor proposed two remediation schemes: the taking down of the existing walls and building new ones, or the strengthening of the existing walls by the insertion of tie roads five feet below the road surface.

The former gallows or hanging shed was located at the far northern end of the west elevation and its former location is marked on the brickwork here (Fig 61). The structure comprised an 8m long platform elevated c2.8m from current ground level. The platform was supported by four iron brackets that projected from the brickwork of the wall. These brackets were sawn off flush with the wall and were visible during this survey (Fig 63). Truncated stone steps descend from the gallows platform to the remains of a stone platform with a wooden doorway adjacent (Figs 62, 64 and 65). It has generally been held that it was through this door that the condemned were led from the gaol to the gallows. The Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows a continuous platform spanning between this doorway and the opposite boundary wall, with a set of steps adjacent to the gallows, rising from the ground to the platform. A sunken lane is shown leading to the platform at its western side, with a further set of steps rising to the platform. This lane partly survives, though much reduced in length. The condemned door is not visible from the other side as the doorway has been fully blocked in brick. Adjacent to the door is a circular cast-iron bell pull. The stone-built flight of steps leading to a doorway to the garden of the Judge's Lodgings is not shown on any map until the Insurance map of 1928.

The south gable elevation comprises a central canted bay spanning from ground level to the eaves, flanked by two bays of windows (Figs 56-58). The windows are un-horned sashes of the same type as those on the main elevations, with flat arched heads and concrete lintels. The larger bay windows comprise tripartite sashes and the rubbed-brick window heads have upward projecting 'keystones'. The bay window is surmounted by a thick projecting cornice which spans between the eaves and largely hides a semi-circular window above. This window is recessed within a shallow brick arch.

A lavatory block rises from ground level to the roof, enclosing a tall square atrium (Fig 70). Initial proposed plans do not show the atrium as continuing to the basement level, instead, the existing layout gaol would be retained and the area below the atrium would have a skylight. The lavatory block has retained its intended function though only the male lavatory at first floor level has retained some of its original fittings. The rear of the museum presents a featureless brick wall which was most likely created when the east wing was converted into a museum. Within the Salvation Army barracks this wall overlooked a three-storey galleried hall with a stair in its south-eastern corner. A vertical scar marking the position of this stair is faintly visible on the wall. There is a linear change of brickwork at the top of the wall which relates to the un-roofing of area with the creation of the atrium and making good of the top of the wall which formerly would have ceased at the roof line.

In the north-east corner of the atrium is a shallow projection of brickwork rising from the ground to first floor level where it is capped with blue-bricks (Fig 71). This feature corresponds with a former wall within the gaol basement level, from which a diagonal

return stretched towards what is now the south-east corner of the atrium. Two small blockings are visible in the projecting brickwork, each with a header brick segmental lintel. These appear to be former flues but their former function and connectivity is unknown. An arched opening with a steel gate marks the position of a former doorway within the gaol and is an original feature though the external facing of the wall dates to the 1920s conversion (Fig 72).

The lavatory and corridor windows which overlook the atrium are arranged symmetrically in groups of five or three and consist of a central double-width window flanked by smaller windows. These are well-built and wooden framed, with patterned obscure glass arranged in three main panels divided into two or four lights. The top and bottom panels of each window are bottom hung, pivoting, with metal catches and metal stays that prevent the windows from opening too widely. The door openings to each lavatory room are panelled and have doors whose pattern matches the panelling.

A steel fire exit stair is installed externally to the building at the south end of the west elevation. The stair rises to first floor level where an internal stair rises to second floor level. Proposed plans of the conversion place this stair on the opposite side of the building.

The current arrangement of chimneys was introduced during the 1920s / 1930s works and replaces the previous scheme shown on pre-development drawings. There were formerly two chimney stacks, each with five flues, located at the north-west and north-east corners of the west wing. A number of other smaller individual flues or ventilators are also seen on the drawings.

At the north-west corner of the west wing there are two brick chimneys, both projecting out from the wall, one rising from first floor level and the other from second floor, these being the only rooms in which the fireplaces are not blocked. The chimneys have concrete bases with blue brick courses diminishing to the main wall. Small square locking panels are located at the base of each chimney. Other brick chimneys are located at intervals along the span of the roof, each with two or three flues.

6.2 Basement / Lower ground floor

The lower ground floor level retains the greatest survival of original cell partitioning outside of the museum area, having undergone less modification following the Salvation Army acquisition of the building, and being relatively little modernised following the 1930s office conversion. The plan of 1926 labels the southern part of the building as book storage with a librarian's room, and the central corridor labelled as *Packing Place*. The bulk of the rooms are not labelled, however it is known that a mineral water factory operated out of the basement until at least 1912. The insurance map of 1928 labels the north part of the basement as offices. The mineral water factory is not listed on this map and likely ceased operating at this site by this date. This is also evident by the adjacent building which also housed the mineral water factory being marked as vacant on the map of 1928. The plans mark the rooms immediately to the north of the book stores as *Reading Room*, *Registry*, and *Filing Shelves*.

The majority of cell partitioning walls were removed by 1926 to create larger rooms along the east and west walls, and the newly created openings were made good with wide arches to retain ceiling support.

Stair access between the lower ground floor and the floors above was at that time located against the west side of the building, an area now occupied by an external door opening to a corridor which led to the staff canteen. This stair was lit by an array of tall windows, of which only that at the lower ground floor remains. The current stairwell and lift occupy two former cells at the west side of the building (Fig 73).

The plan of this level as existing in 1926 shows a number of columns in the open space at the junction of the two wings. These columns supported the galleried walkways above and initial proposals for the gaol's conversion retained these features

but ultimately they were removed and the space remodelled and partitioned. The lift's power unit, and the building's heating apparatus were housed in the angled rooms at the junction of the two wings.

By the time of this survey, this floor had effectively been divided into two parts with no internal access between. The southern area was formerly publically accessible and had its main access from the south and ancillary access from the west to the main stairwell. An additional external door allowed access from the eastern car park.

The southern entrance is located within the projecting central bay and comprises a raised double-door with concrete steps, flanked by two pairs of windows. The doorway has a rubbed brick flat lintel with chamfered segmental base and a recessed segmental arch of bullnose bricks (Fig 57). The door jambs have chamfered brick edges. Within the opening is a white painted wooden frame, arched to accommodate the lintels. The blue-painted doors are semi-glazed with obscure glass and have moulded sills to the glazing. The lower part of each door has a moulded panel. The right hand door has a brass or bronze octagonal door handle and matching escutcheon. On the inner face are matching opening furniture in the opposing position. Vertical sliding locks are installed at the top and bottom of the door and additional modern locks have also been installed. A small internal porch is created behind the door which is enclosed by modern fire doors.

The windows adjacent to the door also have flat lintels of rubbed brick with segmental arches and recessed bullnose brick arches and chamfered jambs (Fig 57). Each window has a moulded cast stone sill. The windows are side hung, of six lights, with plume window latches and matching stays. A bronze letter box is installed directly below the eastern window sill and opens into a small square cupboard with a wooden hatch. Internally, the windows are set within deep, splayed reveals.

The doors open to a central corridor, c5m x 13m, with a red tile floor and a jack or barrel vaulted roof, with arched doorways leading to rooms along the east and west sides of the building (Figs 79 and 80). The walls are brick in English Bond, with bullnose bricks at the corners, and the ceiling is likewise of brick, painted white. Modern strip lights, wiring, and cable trays are installed along the walls and ceiling. In the south-west corner of the building is a single room, three cells wide, which in 1926 functioned as book stores (Fig 81). It is unlikely that this space was ever used as cells because the groin vaulting of the ceiling does not accommodate partition walls, and all confirmed cells had jack vault ceilings. Beyond this room are two cells, retaining their partition walls, one with a modern lowered ceiling, the other with a vaulted or jack arch ceiling. No gaol fixtures or fittings remained. In the south-east corner of the building is a two-cell width room with groin vaulted ceiling. The north wall has a wide arched opening to the room beyond, now partly blocked with cupboards and cladding, with a single-width door between the rooms. The room is separated from the corridor by two arched openings, one blocked in brick, the other with a single-width door centrally. The adjacent room comprises two cells which have been opened into each other, with an arched opening in the former partition wall. To the north of this room is a cell with concrete floor and vaulted ceiling. A radiator is installed below the window on the eastern wall. An iron pipe rises from the floor and cross the room alongside the eastern wall and passes into the adjoining room. No fixtures or fittings were evident.

The central corridor formerly stretched beyond its current limit but had been partitioned by 1926, and later was halved longitudinally to create two separate and parallel corridors (Fig 76). The former cells which flanked the central corridor to the east and west were opened up into large rooms by 1926 (Fig 83). The altered partition walls were made good with chamfered edges to the walls and crowned with chamfered arched openings between each cell. It is evident that these rooms functioned as individual cell units as each has a jack arch or vaulted roof. The rooms have red tile floors with under-floor cable and pipe trenches. Cast iron radiators are installed below several of the windows. The southern cell of the eastern area was re-partitioned to

create a washroom, which at the time of survey had a Belfast sink on brick plinths and an adjacent sink, with hand driers above. The northern cell of the eastern room was rebuilt in brick following the Council's conversions in order to create an entrance corridor to the eastern car park. Similarly, a brick partition was inserted into the northern cell of the western room to allow for the creation of the stairwell and lift, and a breezeblock partition was added to the end of the corridor. Two of the doorways of the western cells were partly blocked with brick with windows added above.

Entering the gaol from the west, a hallway or corridor runs alongside the lift and opens into a lobby / landing area. A door allows access into the space below the stair, where a small store room has been created. A blocked doorway is evident on the north side of the hall. The eastern wall of the landing is formed of breezeblocks and has a single-width modern fire door with flanking glazed panels. Beyond the landing is a circulation space with access to a walk-in safe or strong room, the eastern car park entrance, and doorways to the eastern corridor (Fig 75). The safe was created as part of the Council's conversions and occupies one cell (Fig 74). It features a sturdy steel or iron door bearing the manufacturer's plaque *John Tann Ltd Maker 117 Newgate Street London*. The Tann family produced safes and iron chests from the late 18th century, significantly expanding their business in the 19th and 20th centuries. The room has a floor of red tiles and wooden benches are positioned along the north and south walls. A doorway blocked in brick is located in the north wall and the segmental lintel of a former blocked window is visible in the east wall.

The northern area of the lower ground floor, until recently, served as staff canteen with kitchen and food stores. The central part of this floor housed power, heating, ventilation, and lift apparatus, as well as the full height atrium. The canteen is entered from the west through an external door located at the former stair. The south side of the entrance corridor and a number of food storage rooms adjacent are formed of stud partitions, with tile cladding to the food storage and kitchen areas. The canteen or seating area encompasses a central corridor with flanking cells or rooms. The corridor here is half the width of that to the south, being c2.5m in width. It has a tile floor and a vaulted ceiling which spans the full width of the corridor. The rooms formerly located to each side of the corridor are longer than the cells elsewhere and may have served a different function. The north-western room formerly had a *chute covered with grating* (1926 plan) which connected to the exterior of the building. Adjacent to this is a blocked window with splayed sill and reveals, with a matching blocked window in the opposite room on the east side of the corridor (Fig 87). The rooms' windows have not been altered and retain their original dimensions, with cast iron bars within each opening (Fig 86). The cell or room partitions have been knocked through to create a larger space, and walls made good with chamfered edges and chamfered arches (Figs 84 and 85). Of interest are two unusually narrow spaces formed between the rooms, these spaces also having their own small windows and individual vaulted ceilings but being too narrow for use cells. These small rooms also existed at ground floor level and on the 1926 plan are labelled as *lavatory* and *coal*, though it is unknown if this function was also served by the rooms at the lower ground floor. It is also worth noting that the windows of the rooms to each side of these small spaces are located off-centre to the rooms' external walls, whereas throughout the gaol, cell windows are normally located centrally to each room.

In the north-east corner of the canteen is a modern spiralling stair which allows access to a raised doorway opening onto a covered passage (Fig 88). This 10m-long passage has white painted brick walls, an exposed brick floor and a jack or barrel vaulted ceiling. At the eastern end, a modern fire door opens to a stairwell that leads up to the passageway at the north of the museum. At the western end of the passage, the wall is mostly brick-built with an area of stone at the bottom left corner.

6.3 Ground floor

Following the closure of the gaol and conversion to Salvation Army barracks, the ground, first, and second floor cells were fully removed except for at the north end of the building, and the newly opened space was utilised as large halls with galleried seating and stages at ground floor. In order to allow access from ground level at Angel Street to this floor level a stair was built against the south elevation. The southern part of the building was partitioned to form *School Rooms* at ground and first floor levels, with an internal stair between the two, located in the south-east corner of the rooms. The central area contained a large, multi-level room with balconies at each level, and with stairs between the levels located against the west wall.

Following the Council conversions, the school room at ground floor was partitioned into two rooms, one labelled *Chief Clerk*, the other *High Education*. This partitioning had been removed by the time of this survey but the north-east corner of the room had been enclosed with light panels. Adjacent to this is a large open-plan room of seven bays which encompasses the width of the Salvation Army hall, up to the former balcony. The south-west corner of the room is enclosed to accommodate the current stair well / fire exit. The upper levels are carried over this large space by RSJs (Rolled Steel Joists) located between each of the windows and supported on two rows of columns. The walls are fully plastered, with modern lighting and electrical fittings throughout the room. No earlier fixtures or fittings were evident. Following conversion this large room had been divided into a number of offices for the Education and Public Health Department.

The main stairwell (Figs 89 and 90) opens onto a central lobby area from which can be accessed the north and south corridors of the gaol and the elevated passage between County Hall and the gaol (Fig 91). The walls of the lobby are partially panelled and a semi-glazed and panelled screen separates the main lobby from the entrance to the elevated passage. The ceilings are coved to resemble vaulting.

The northern corridor is fairly plain, with a pale yellow / magnolia paint scheme and carpeted floors. A number of RSJs cross the corridor and trunking is installed in the corner of the ceiling. On the eastern side of the corridor are panelled doors to the lavatories (Figs 92 and 93) and store room, flanking three windows that overlook the atrium. On the west side of the corridor are two larger rooms flanking a server room and walk-in cupboard. These rooms are labelled as *Existing Telephone Exchange* and *Proposed Switchboard and Exchange Rooms* on drawings of 1928. The existing telephone exchange suggests that some modifications to the gaol had already been undertaken by this date.

At the far north of the central corridor is the former porch or entrance, now blocked, which is externally visible from the adjacent pub garden (Figs 68 and 98). A metal framed transom window is located above the former door. This element uses the same cast-stone as the large windows on the floors above.

The cells or rooms at the north end of the gaol retained their original form until the 1920s and were used by the Salvation Army as offices, cloak room, and store, and the central corridor between them was partitioned off and is labelled as *Registration Department*. The 1926 plan shows that the north corridor was semi-partitioned from the adjacent room with a door and glazed screen separating the two. The two rooms to either side of the corridor, at its southern end are depicted as having canted bays or oriel windows which projected into the large room. The eastern room also had an oriel or canted bay projecting eastwards towards the museum, which has since been replaced by a fire exit door. It can be inferred that the moulded cornice in the southernmost of the western rooms dates to the Salvation Army period as it follows around the former window splay but is not continued across the blocking.

The two narrow rooms, formerly coal store and lavatory have been opened up to allow for the creation of larger offices. Chimney flues are present in the main rooms, though

none were open and no fireplaces remained. The two northernmost rooms each have pairs of north-facing former window openings, now blocked in brick, whose brick lintels are visible externally (Fig 97). The flat sills are at a height of 1.2m from the floor and the windows have slightly arched headers and deeply recessed splays.

Two of the north-western rooms have multi-light windows, comprising six over three narrow panes held within a sturdy metal frame and bars with diamond profile intersections (Fig 96). Both have central four-light casement panels which can be swung outwards independently of the bars. The casement panels are opened by wrought iron latches. The casements swing open atop unusual curving window guides which are fixed into the wall below the window frames. The more northerly window is set within splayed reveals that extend to the floor; the other lacks an extended architrave. Both of these windows are shown on the elevation drawing of 1926 but their form suggests an earlier origin. Cast iron radiators are installed below each window and it possible that although the window may be original, the extended architrave of the southern office was later extended downwards in order to accommodate radiators. The central office on the western side has a splayed window opening with an early-mid 20th-century window, but the architrave stops at the window sill. The former narrow lavatory has been given a large, eight over eight sash window. The three offices to the east of the corridor have post 1920s-sash windows.

At the south side of the ground floor is a large open plan office room with an enclosed full-width office beyond (Figs 99 and 100).

6.4 First floor

As discussed in 4.1, the first floor is the only part of the gaol for which there is a known plan showing the layout prior to Salvation Army modifications. This comprised ranges of identical narrow cells along the east and west walls of the main range, with galleried walkways leading to a large open space at the junction of the two wings, with larger rooms, possible gaoler's rooms and staff facilities, located in the northern part of the building.

The Salvation Army fully removed the cells to allow for the creation of two full height halls with galleried seating and balconies between the ground and second floors. At the south of the first floor was a school room, fully partitioned from the rest of this floor and accessible only by a stair to the school room below. The first floor school room is marked as being double-height and extended upwards to the second floor / roof. At first floor level, three rooms were created, labelled as *Chairman*, *Secretary for Education*, and *Secretary's Clerk*, on the plan of 1931. Additional stud partitions were since added to the east and western rooms. The former Secretary for Education's office is lit by the southern bay windows which also allow elevated views towards the Nene valley (Fig 103). Modern convection heaters are located within the window bay. The room is fairly plain in its decoration, with simple moulded cornice, skirting and dado rail. Central to the western wall is a chimney flue with a ventilation panel but no fire opening. To either side are arched alcoves containing bespoke wooden cupboards, with modern shelving over. This room, and the adjacent rooms, are crossed by RSJs which carry the second floor (Fig 102). The area between these rooms and the main stairwell comprises post-1930s stud partition rooms formerly serving as general offices and committee rooms, with a lavatory, one bay in width, located in the south-east corner.

To the north of the main stairwell, on the east side of the building, is the atrium and lavatory block comprising male and female lavatories and store rooms or cleaning cupboards. The lavatories retain their panelled doorways but the interiors have been modernised. On the west side of the building, opposite the lavatory block, are finely built, good quality, semi-glazed and panelled office partitions with a passage way that formerly allowed elevated access to the adjacent Council building but which is now blocked in brick and plastered internally. The partitions have moulded skirting, with

plain, flush-moulded panels to a height of 1m (Figs 104-106). Above this, to c2m are rectangular lights of obscure glass, two over three, with moulded glazing bars. Below the ceiling are two over two lights of clear glass, separated from the glazing below by a moulded rail. The glazing is interrupted at intervals by lightly projecting pilasters with beaded edges and chamfered stops to the base. The lower part of the doors are panelled to match, and above the lock rail have three over three obscure glass with moulded glazing bars. Above each door is a moulded cornice with arcaded and dentiled panels. Above each door is a three over two window of clear glass. These windows are centrally pivoted with a top latch. The three doors retain a number of original features such as brass handles, scratch plates, and matching escutcheon, though in one instance the original keyhole is infilled and a yale lock installed. The panelling scheme is continued between the room partitions but the glazing is blocked with plyboard. The rooms have sash windows with one cast iron radiator in each room, located below the windows. A simple moulded rail runs across the upper part of the walls, wrapping into the window architraves.

At the north end of the building are six rooms flanking a central corridor (Fig 108), which, as noted on the floors below, are of a larger size than the cells, and may have served as gaolers' rooms. As seen on the contemporary drawing of the prison, prior to alterations to the gaol, there were two narrow rooms, perhaps lavatory and store rooms, between the larger rooms. The partitions for these rooms were removed by the Salvation Army to enlarge the adjacent rooms. The doors to the central pair of rooms are located centrally to each room and it is probable that following the removal of the smaller rooms, both pairs of original doors were blocked and new doorways inserted centrally to the two newly created, larger rooms. It is likely that the two chimney flues which are shared between pairs of rooms were also added during this phase of works. The use or assignment of each room in 1926 is provided on the plan of that date and comprised *Smallholdings, County Land Agent, Store, and District Auditor*.

The corner of the wall in the south-western room is angled rather than forming a right-angle join. A ventilation panel in this wall suggests a flue here; however this arrangement is not continued on the floors above or below. Externally to the wall, an external chimney stack rises from the ceiling of this room and it is probably that the flue passes through the external wall and into the external flue to be continued upwards. This arrangement is not shown on the plans on 1926 and appears to be among the 1930s modifications to the building. The window to this room is a double casement, each of three lights with obscure glass to the bottom light. Each window has iron opening arms and there is a twisting handle/ latch, and a stay ring with catch is installed on the north-side window. Two windows of the same type are located in the adjacent room, though here the latches have been replaced and the opening arms replaced with modern window stays. Also in this room is one of only two fireplaces to be found in the building (Fig 110). This has a tall wooden surround in a plain, early 20th-century style, with green tile cheeks and a cast iron grate bearing the mark of the *Bell Fireplace Company* who operated from the Kingswell Works in Northampton. As well as the manufacturer's mark, *No 180* is in raised lettering on the side of the grate. A Bakelite electrical socket and switch is installed on the skirting adjacent to the fireplace. The walls are covered with raised and depressed patterned wallpaper.

Pairs of blocked windows are located in both of the two northern rooms. The western room has a six over nine sash window whose lintel is raised c0.5m above the original window line. The northern room on the east side of the building retains its original door opening and has a six over six sash window to the east, replacing and enlarging the gaol window which is shown to have still been present in 1926. A cast iron radiator is installed against the south wall of the room. The central room on the east side of the building also contained a Bell fireplace though with a shorter and different style surround, with green tile cheeks and cast iron grate (Fig 111). As will be discussed further in this report, Bell fireplaces were also present in the council offices of Guildhall

Road. The door to the room is located centrally to the wall and again it is possible that the original doorways were blocked and a new door inserted. There are two windows to the east, both of the same dimension, though of different types. The northern window is a double casement with rotating latch, and monkey tail stays. The southern window has a fixed four-light window, with two side hung panels over, each panel with monkey tail stays. The identical stays and the moulding of the glazing bars would suggest that these windows are contemporary and likely to be late 19th century, therefore predating the 1930s alterations.

The southern room on the east side of the corridor contains a door to the fire escape, replacing a gaol window which is seen on the 1926 elevation drawing. A water pipe rises from the floor in the south-east corner of the room, crosses the wall above the fire exit and descends to a cast iron radiator in the northeast corner of the room. The insertion of the fire exit door necessitated the re-routing of the water piper and re-installation of the radiator which was probably originally below the former window. The 1926 plans show that a stair formerly rose from this room to the second floor.

6.5 Second floor

The second floor retains the lowest survival of original partitioning, this having been removed almost completely by the Salvation Army alterations. The 1926 elevation drawings show that this floor retained an almost complete complement of original gaol windows at that time. The current windows were enlarged vertically in both directions and the only external trace of the original windows is in the moulded bricks from which the original lintels sprang.

At the south of this level is a large room, labelled as committee room on the plan of 1931 (Fig 112). This room was created during the Council's alterations as prior to that time it formed the upper level of a two-storey school room at first floor level. The room is spacious and well-lit by windows to the south, east, and west (Fig 114). The central area of the room has a raised, lath and plaster barrel-vault ceiling which accommodates a Diocletian window located above the central bay window (Fig 113). This window has a white painted wooden frame with the central window panel being centrally pivoting with a top latch operated by a cord. The current bay window replaces an earlier one in the same position. The Diocletian window however pre-dates the current bay, and is depicted on the elevation drawings of 1926, though the window within the opening is contemporary with the Council's alterations. A similar window is also located in the end gable of the eastern wing and it is probable that these windows are original to the gaol, predating the Salvation Army alterations. Spanning the width of the bay and in-line with the main wall is a depressed arch which supports the gable. At the apex of the vault are two square ventilation panels with decorative plaster surrounds depicting vine leaves (Fig 116). Strip lights are suspended from the apex of the vault, level with the lower ceiling to each side. Electric fans are also hung within the vault. Panel radiators span the full widths of the south, east, and west walls, between the skirting the window sills. In addition to the bay windows there are eight, six over six, un-horned sash windows, three in the east and west walls respectively, and two flanking the bay window. These are identical in design with plain, lobed surrounds and black-painted window sills, and each with a roller blind above.

The north wall has two doorways, one blocked, both located within the central, arched area (Fig 115). The doors have lobed architraves with panelling in the doorway. The remaining door is a modern fire door. Both of the doorways and the adjacent alcoves were created as part of the Council's alterations.

At each side of the room, flanking the doors are, full height, round-headed alcoves. The alcoves at the east side of the room have shelving for books.

The main area of the second floor is open plan, with two lines of columns inserted to support the ceiling. In addition to the enclosed ancillary staircase, the area of the former halls has been enclosed at the corners by modern stud partitions. The plan of

1931 shows that it was intended that these areas house a number of offices, likely utilising the same glazed partitions as survive at first floor level.

The lavatory block has been modernised, retaining none of the 1930s cubicles or lavatory fittings. The two doors to each room have retained their panelling. A store room was created adjacent to the female lavatory was removed and the doorway blocked. A small room is located in the corner of the male lavatory, and contains a Belfast sink. Opposite to the lavatory block were formerly rooms labelled as *Nursing Association* and *County Buildings Clerks* on the 1931 plan. This drawing suggests that these rooms were of a similar construction as the glazed partitions at first floor. At the time of survey this area formed an open plan room in which were visible two columns supporting the ceiling.

The floor level steps down to the north from this area, leading from the former Salvation Army balcony into the room at the north. Above the step is an arched opening in the wall, of which the eastern part has been blocked or panelled over. At the north of the building is an open-plan room with a stud partition office at the west, and a fire door in the south-east corner opening onto the external fire escape. Roughly central to the space are two slender steel or cast iron columns supporting the ceiling beams (Fig 118).

Against the north wall are two rooms, representing the only survival of the original gaol partitioning. The western room has the only unblocked examples of the north-facing windows in the north elevation. These windows are three lights, centrally pivoting, with a top latch which is operated by means of a pull cord. The plan of 1926 shows these windows are being blocked at that time and it appears that these windows were unblocked during the 1930s alterations. Certainly the style of the windows is in keeping with the other windows of this period.

6 THE COUNCIL OFFICES (Figs 122-137)

An external and internal photographic survey of the former county hall building was carried out but does not form the main element of this report and is here described in brief.

The building dates to the late 1930s and is comprised of five floors including a lower ground floor. It has most of its footprint parallel to Guildhall Road, with a short return along Angel Street. The rooms at each floor have a fairly consistent layout with rows of offices to each side of a central corridor. The main stair is located at the western side of the building with a lift shaft alongside. An ancillary stair is located at the far south-eastern corner of the building.

The primary façade is to Guildhall Road and is in a neo-Georgian style rendered in fine ashlar with rusticated quoins. The elevation is broken up by projecting bays surmounted with balustrades. The asymmetry of this elevation is necessitated by the sloping topography and the building is stepped to compensate. The main entrance is located within a projection bay and comprises a formal porch with stone-carved Northamptonshire roses and the County emblem. This bay is capped with a broken pediment containing the county rose. An ancillary entrance is located at the south-east corner of the building. The windows on the south and east elevations are horned sash windows with no elaboration to the window openings. From street level only three floors levels of windows can be seen, the fourth being set back behind the balustrades and hidden from view.

Due to the change in ground level to the west of the building, the west facing elevations comprise five levels of fenestration (five and half if the topmost room containing the lift mechanism is included). This elevation is in plain yellow-coloured brick with cast-stone window heads and concrete sills.

Internally, decorative embellishment is fairly minimal. The main stair has a simple geometric pattern baluster with wooden handrail and there are tan and green tiles to dado level on the walls. The doors to the elevator shaft have simple tiled surrounds and a similar scheme can be seen on a doorway and steps at third floor level between the former drawing offices. The former County Surveyor and County Medical Officer's rooms on the second floor have dark wooden panelling with Bell Foundry fireplaces. A number of typical 1930s tiled fireplaces remained in a few of the upper floor rooms.

8 DISCUSSION

English prison reform began as a gradual process from the 18th century at which time there was a marked increase in prison building to accommodate a growing population of incarcerated men, women and children. An increasing population in rapidly industrialising towns led to a growth of slums in which poor living conditions and crime were common. The Pentonville Prison, on which the Northampton Gaol was modelled, follows the 'separate system' of early 19th-century penal reform in which prisoners were kept in solitary confinement for much of their sentence (May 2006). "The Prisons Act of 1835 leant towards the separate system, and it was enthusiastically endorsed by two of the Prison Inspectors whose posts the Act established" (May 2006). In 1839 the removal of legal limitations to the length of time that solitary confinement could be enforced allowed for this system to be implemented and Pentonville Prison was built in 1840-2 with 520 separate cells.

Northampton Gaol, which opened in 1846, was set out as two galleried wings of four levels each with rows of narrow cells along the walls, and could accommodate 150 prisoners. The cells each had a small barred window and were fitted with a water closet and metal basin. Larger rooms were located at the north end of the west wing and at basement level in the east wing. Exercise was controlled and limited to twenty exercise yards housed within a sub-rectangular walled enclosure with radiating partitions.

The gaol operated for a fairly short time and was closed following a statute of 1865 under which responsibility for the running of gaols was transferred to the Secretary of State. Very little of the internal gaol layout now remains, except for at the basement levels which have been least altered since the closure of the gaol. No fixtures or fittings relating to the gaol were noted and from ground level up the cells were wholly removed to accommodate the museum and library and the Salvation Army barracks. The rooms at the north end of the west wing appear to be largely original to the gaol, though with some minor alterations. Probably it was not deemed necessary to alter these rooms due to their larger and more practical size.

The conversion of the east wing to a museum, library and reading room, resulted in the loss of the original layout except for in parts of the basement level. Several of the gaol windows remain at basement level but those of the floors above were enlarged.

At the west wing, although the interior had been almost fully remodelled, a great many of the small gaol windows still remained by the 1920s. It was originally proposed that this wing be fully re-fenestrated with a homogenous scheme of sash windows enlarging and replacing all earlier windows. Fortunately this wholesale re-fenestration was not implemented and a few earlier windows still remain at the northern end of the west elevation.

The creation of the Northampton museum in the 1880s represented a publically accessible and systematic housing of antiquities, and moved away from the private curio collection approach which had previously been a fashionable gentleman's hobby and was prone to dispersal of artefacts and collections. The setting up of a museum was enabled by the Museums Act of 1845 and was driven by Sir Henry Dryden and members of the Architectural Society. The east wing of the gaol was remodelled to house a public reading room with museum above and the library was located in a new extension which faced Guildhall Road. The library was transferred to a purpose built facility on Abington Street and the early 1930s the museum and the east wing were again subject to alterations and given a new façade.



The east elevation of the west gaol wing Fig 52



The 1930s elevated access porch and windows Fig 53



Detail of lower ground floor level windows Fig 54



Example of the ground floor windows Fig 55



The south elevation of the west wing Fig 56



The lower ground floor entrance Fig 57



The second floor windows and gable window Fig 58



The southern end of the west elevation Fig 59



The northern end of the west elevation Fig 60



Three lower ground floor gaol windows with scar of former hanging shed platform above, with scar of former steps to the left. Note the blocked drain chase Fig 61



Detail of former steps to the hanging shed and platform Fig 62



Detail of truncated supporting bracket for the former elevated platform Fig 63



The north-west corner of the gaol adjoining the stone boundary wall with door to judges lodgings and blocked doorway to the adjacent pub garden Fig 64



Blocked door formerly leading to the north entrance of the gaol. Note bell pull adjacent to door Fig 65



Chamfer-moulded cast-stone mullioned window Fig 66



The north elevation of the west wing Fig 67



Former ground floor entrance, now blocked Fig 68



Detail of the first floor window Fig 69



The west wing lavatory block atrium Fig 70



The atrium, looking north-east Fig 71



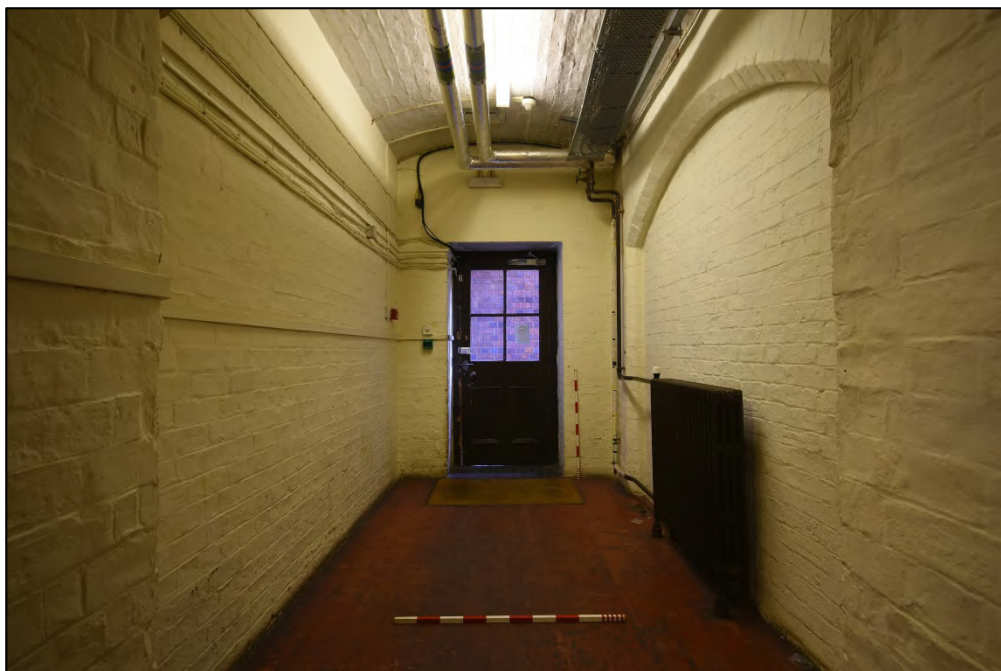
The atrium, looking south Fig 72



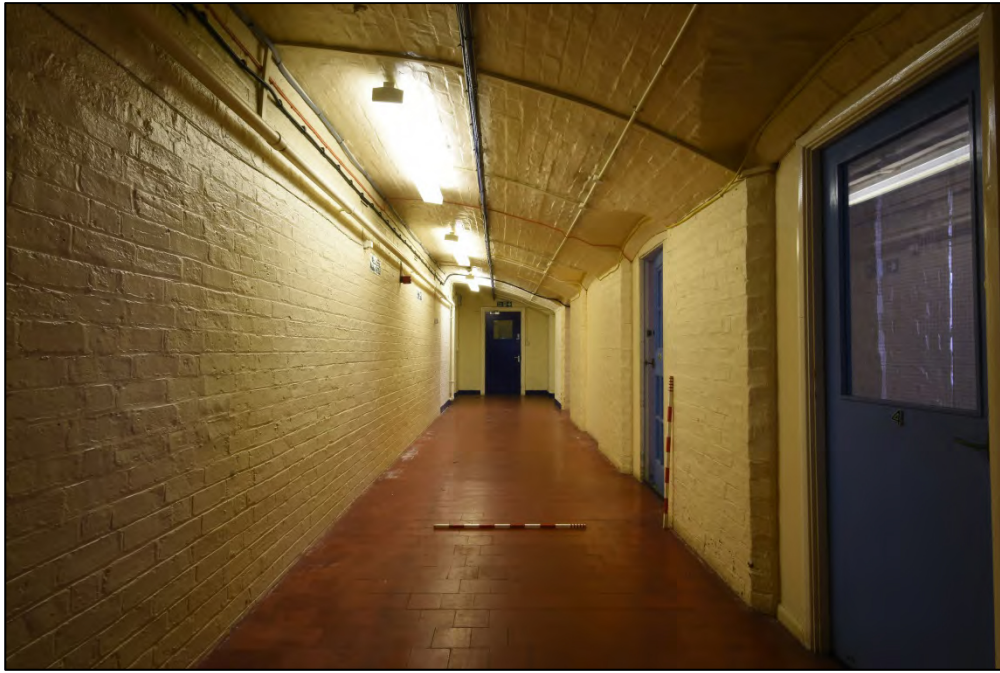
The western entrance, stair, and elevator at lower ground floor level Fig 73



Former cell, now a strong room. Note blocked window at the rear wall Fig 74



Former cell, now an entrance lobby. Note the inserted arched opening subsequently blocked Fig 75



The central corridor, now halved, looking north Fig 76



The eastern rooms, looking north Fig 77



Former cell, latterly a wash room Fig 78



The central corridor, looking south Fig 79



Arched openings to the rooms at the south-west corner of the basement Fig 80



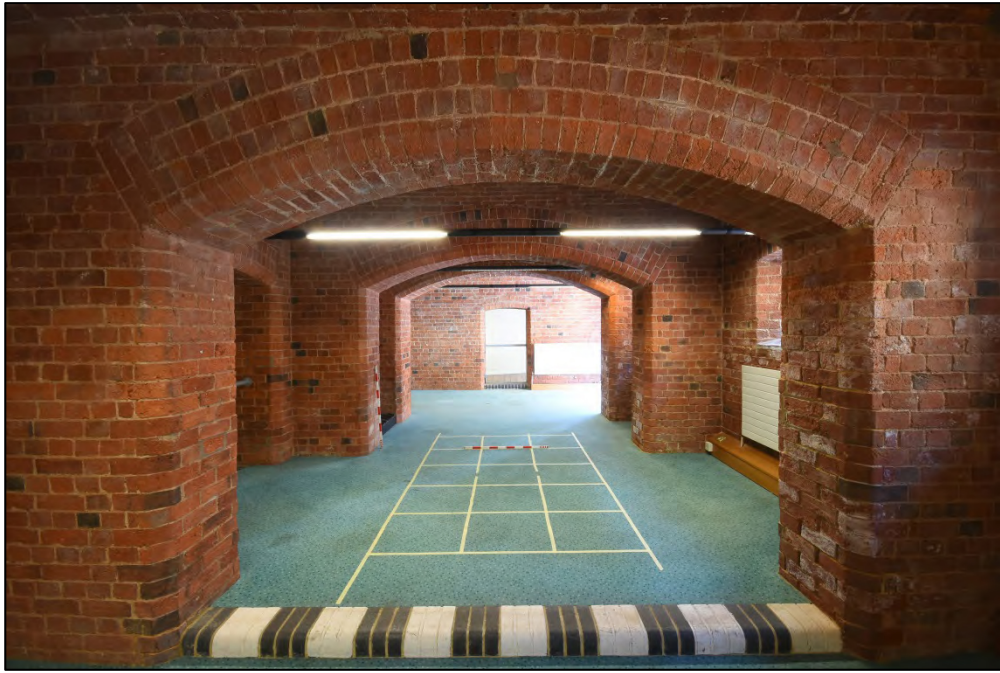
The south-western rooms, looking south Fig 81



Detail of ceiling vaulting Fig 82



The former cells at the western side of the lower ground floor, looking north Fig 83



The north-western rooms, latterly the staff canteen Fig 84



The jack vaulted ceiling Fig 85



Detail of gaol window with iron bars Fig 86



Blocked window to the north and adjacent doorway to enclosed passage Fig 87



The brick arched passageway at the north-east of the west gaol wing Fig 88



View of staircase between basement and ground floor Fig 89



The ground floor level landing Fig 90



The ground floor lobby Fig 91



Panelled lavatory and store room doors Fig 92



The men's lavatory Fig 93



The north corridor with rooms to each side, looking north Fig 94



Example of the northern rooms Fig 95



Detail of window with steel frame and casement panel Fig 96



Blocked windows of the north elevation Fig 97



The former northern entrance Fig 98



The main ground floor office space Fig 99



The southern office with bay window Fig 100



The first floor south corridor, looking south Fig 101



Open plan office at the eastern side of the first floor Fig 102



The southern office with bay window Fig 103



The panelled offices at the north of the first floor Fig 104



Detail of door and glazing Fig 105



Interior of the panelled offices Fig 106



Detail of the atrium windows Fig 107



The north corridor Fig 108



Detail of the corridor window Fig 109



Example of the first floor northern offices Fig 110



Example of the first floor northern offices Fig 111



The southern second floor office Fig 112



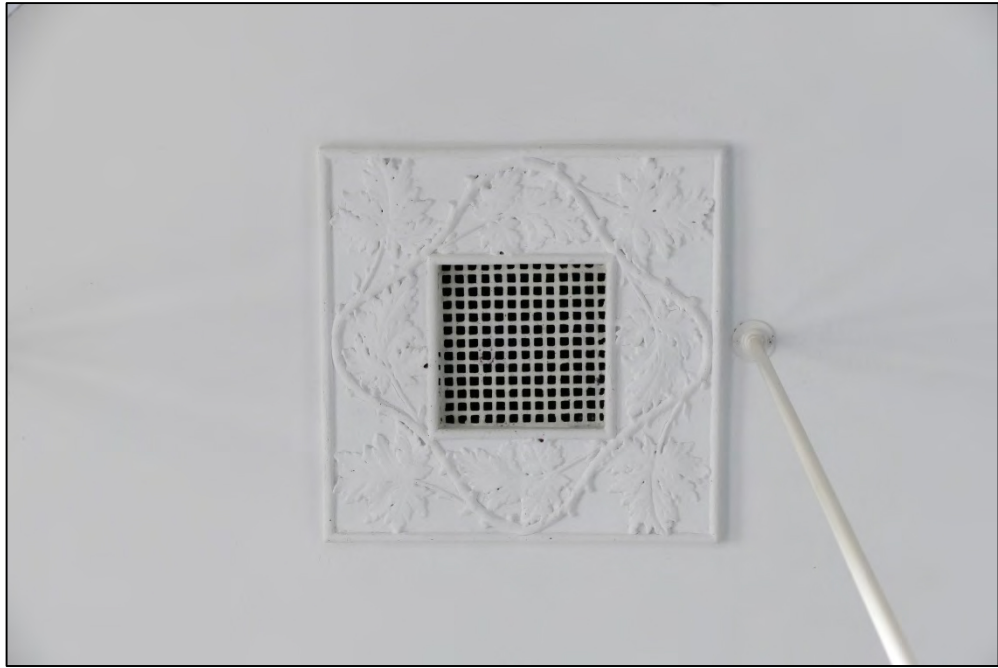
Detail of Diocletian window Fig 113



Detail of the bay window Fig 114



The southern office, looking north Fig 115



Detail of ceiling vent Fig 116



Detail of the atrium windows Fig 117



The northern second floor rooms Fig 118



The central, north-facing window Fig 119



Detail of window furniture Fig 120



Detail of the bars, mullion, and small iron hooks embedded in the mullion Fig 121



The former council offices, looking south along Guildhall Road Fig 122



The west elevation of the council offices Fig 123



The main stair at basement level Fig 124



The main stair Fig 125



Tiled surround to the first floor lift access Fig 126



Example of the basement rooms Fig 127



Basement storage area Fig 128



The ground floor central corridor, looking north Fig 129



The elevated access corridor Fig 130



The main entrance at ground floor level Fig 131



Example view of the central corridor at first floor level Fig 132



Example of the first floor offices Fig 133



The central corridor at second floor level Fig 134



Panelled office with 'Bell' tiled fireplace Fig 135



The former County Medical Officer's office Fig 136



The tiled stair and doorway between the former second floor drawing offices Fig 137

9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

A series of boreholes and exploratory foundation trenches were excavated in the south-west parking area and in the alleyway between the overhead access corridor / cycle store and the east gaol wing (Figs 138, 150 and 152). The aim of these excavations was to investigate the underlying strata and to determine the depth and nature of the buildings' foundations.

It was initially attempted to hand excavate to the wall footings but having failed to reach these at a safe and practical depth it was decided to enlarge these trenches by mechanical means. The boreholes were hand excavated and the bore sunk by a mechanical rig.

9.1 Borehole 1

This was sunk roughly central to the carpark and reached a total depth of c6m (Fig 139). The top of the hole was hand dug to a depth of 1.1m. The carpark is surfaced with tarmac, c200mm thick at this location, and immediately below the tarmac was a levelling layer of un-mortared bricks, one brick width in thickness. The bricks were laid onto a c200mm thick layer of hardcore comprising mid-yellow-brown sandy gravel containing fragments of building rubble and glass. Below this was a fairly homogenous layer of mid-grey-brown silt containing frequent sandstone and ironstone fragments and occasional fragments of building rubble. This layer was revealed by boring to reach a depth of c4m whereupon it gives way to natural substrate which was sampled for a further 2m.

9.2 Borehole 2

This borehole revealed the same sequence as borehole 1 and was sunk to a depth of c5m (Fig 140). The tarmac here was 100mm in thickness, overlying a brick levelling layer and a layer of hardcore c200mm in thickness. The hardcore overlay a homogenous grey silty layer of mixed natural stone and building rubble which reached a depth of c4m.

9.3 Foundation trench 1

This was located at the junction of the Council offices building and the overhead access corridor/ cycle sheds and was positioned against the western wall of the Council offices in order to determine the depth of its foundations (Figs 141, 152). The trench was hand excavated to a depth of 1.5m but failed to find the wall foundations and was subsequently re-excavated by machine.

The tarmac here is c100mm in thickness and overlies a levelling layer of bricks laid on edge. These were a mix of unfrogged and perforated, most retaining remnant mortar. The majority of stamped bricks were GLENBOIG and SWAN BRASSINGTON, though many were unstamped (Fig 142). The bricks overlay a 400mm thick layer of hardcore comprising yellow-brown sandy gravel containing mixed building rubble, glass, occasional animal bone and small fragments of late 19th and early 20th-century kitchenware. Immediately below this was a thin layer of concrete, c60mm in thickness, which appeared to cap the wall's footings trench whose cut became apparent following the removal of the concrete layer. The cut of the footings trench ran parallel with the wall at a distance of about 0.5m, with a slight downwards taper to the base of the wall's footing. Within the cut was a fill of mid-yellow-brown silty sand containing gravel and occasional building rubble (Fig 143, 152). The footings trench cut through mid-grey-brown sandy silt containing natural stone fragments and cobbles mixed with building rubble and domestic debris

The brick wall was slightly lipped at a depth of 0.6-0.7m and continued vertically down to a depth of 2.3m where it overlay concrete blinding c300mm thick and projecting outwards c300mm.

9.4 Foundation trench 2

This was positioned adjacent to the east wall of the western gaol range and initially comprised a hand-excavated trench to a depth of 1.5m, later enlarged and deepened to a depth of 2.8m by machine (Figs 144, 152).

The tarmac surface was found to be 100mm in thickness and overlay a mixed brick and stone levelling layer of a single brick thickness, comprising a mix of unfrogged and perforated bricks and sandstone and ironstone. The removal of this layer revealed a ceramic drain, no longer in use, which appears to have connected to downpipes a short distance to the north of the trench. This feature was initially left *in situ* and the excavation stepped to avoid it but was later removed and will be reinstated. The drain was within a 600mm thick layer of mid-yellow-brown sandy gravel hardcore containing frequent building rubble and 19th and 20th-century domestic debris.

The eastward expansion of the trench revealed another ceramic drain at a lower level to the first, located on top of a brick and concrete support. This drain and its concrete base were left *in situ* and excavation was carried out alongside.

Below the hardcore was a fairly homogenous level of mid-grey-brown silt containing frequent broken bottles, fragments of brick and occasional animal bones and fragments of oyster shell. The bottles have been identified as Codd bottles, ranging from the mid-1880s to c1910 and were sourced from local mineral water manufacturer's including Foster and Lewis, Howard & Sons and Edwards & Co. Also present were stoneware ginger beer bottles, stamped Edwards & Co., also of a late 19th and early 20th-century date. A single diagnostic sherd of Cistercian ware-type pottery was recovered from this layer during the initial hand excavations and is described as follows:

The body sherd has a curved profile and a vestige of an applied handle attached, it probably represents part of the Cistercian Type tyg or mug; a drinking vessel with two or possibly more handles. The fabric is hard fired with a purple-red body with a lustrous dark brown/black glaze on both the internal and external surfaces (Northamptonshire CTS 404/411, Blinkhorn 1996). Locally these wares were produced in Potterspurty and Yardley Gobion (Mynard 1992, 283) from the late 15th through to the 17th century.

The finds were discarded following analysis and do not form part of the project archive.

The brickwork of the gaol wall extended downward to a depth of c400mm where it was found to overlay a coursed stone wall of shaped Northampton Sand and Ironstone rubble (Fig 145). The stonework is lipped outward and descends to c1.8m from the tarmac (nine courses of stone), whereupon it is battered outward in five courses, c0.9m total thickness. At the base of the batter was found a layer of concrete blinding, c100mm thick.

9.5 Foundation trench 3

This was hand excavated at the angled intersection of the two gaol wings, in the narrow alleyway formed between the gaol and the overhead access corridor/ cycle shed (Figs 147, 152). The alleyway is fully paved with loose gravel on Terram. This was pulled back to reveal a brick wall parallel to and at distance of 220mm from the gaol wall. The bricks, which were left *in situ*, were unfrogged red bricks and held together with a very strong mortar. Between the bricks and the main wall was a compact mid-grey sandy gravelly fill containing frequent fragments of building rubble and rubbish. A 2" diameter cast iron pipe was encountered at a depth of 400mm and likely connects to a cast iron pipe fixed to the wall nearby. This was left *in situ*. The sandy gravel fill continued to a depth of 500mm where it was found to overlie a flat concrete surface. It is likely that the brickwork forms a culvert or drainage inspection trench. It was decided to cease digging at the concrete surface and excavation continued at the south side of the culvert.

The brickwork was followed down to a depth of 0.8m through mid-grey-brown sandy silt with occasional fragments of brick and domestic debris. A brick surface or footing was found at a depth of 0.8m, abutting the brick culvert, with a straight edge to a flat surface of ironstone rubble (Figs 148, 152). Due to the lack of room in the trench area it was not possible to expand the excavation and investigate this feature.

The ground in this area is at a higher level to that on the south side of the overhead access which at ground level acts as a retaining wall. Prior to 1885, when the Salvation Army took over the western wing of the gaol, a large exercise yard was located in the prison yard. The ordnance survey map of 1885 no longer shows the exercise yard but does depict a retaining wall spanning between the gaol and the former prison wall at the side of Guildhall Road. It seems likely that when the prison was constructed, the former sloping ground was terraced and levelled. The elevated access was introduced in the late 19th century when the gaol was converted to a Salvation Army barracks and museum. Insurance maps of 1898 and 1912 show that an arched passageway crossed underneath the elevated approach and allowed access to the ancillary basement door. It is possible that the brick surface encountered at the bottom of the excavation relates to the former arched brick passageway which was replaced with the construction of Council offices.

9.6 Foundation trench 4

This trench was also excavated in the alleyway at its eastern end. Beneath the loose gravel on Terram was layer of c300mm thick layer of mixed sandy gravel with frequent brick fragments. This overlay grey-brown sandy silt with ironstone fragments, which continued to a depth of 1.5m (Fig 149).

The wall was lipped at a depth of 300mm and continued down to the limit of excavation at a depth of 1.5m, beyond which it was not possible to safely excavate.

The extent to which the construction of and demolition of the terraced houses and the subsequent erection of the Council offices affected the ground within the observation area is unclear; however a substantial depth of redeposited natural backfill has been confirmed by borehole survey. Complete and fragmentary late 19th century bottles were recovered throughout the strata adjacent to the gaol footings in foundation trench 2, thus suggesting a deep disturbance of the ground after the construction of the gaol.

9.7 Discussion

Though limited in scope, the archaeological observation suggests a widespread and deep disturbance and re-deposition of the ground subsequent to the construction of the gaol. Borehole analysis shows a significant depth of loose mixed natural material overlying the geological strata and above this is a layer of mixed backfill containing domestic rubbish and building rubble likely derived from the former brick-built terraced houses which were demolished to allow for the construction of council offices in the late 1930s.

Excavation adjacent to the gaol recovered a large number of codd bottles, these still being found at the very base of the foundations at a depth of 2.8m. Many of the bottles were labelled Edwards & Co. This company operated a mineral water factory in the basement of the former gaol between the years 1894-96, the operation then being passed on to Dilks and Co. The bottles were unlikely to have been manufactured on site but were probably stored here. The former Midland Temperance Hotel at the corner of Angel Street and Guildhall Road would quite likely have had a store of mineral water bottles. The presence of these bottles at such a depth and very close to the gaol walls provides conclusive evidence of a deep disturbance to the ground level in the gaol yard. While some disturbance to the yard occurred prior to the demolition of the terraces and erection of Council offices, it is very likely that most of the backfill and levelling layers relate to this period.

The observed stratigraphy and extent and depth of disturbance suggests that the survival of historic or archaeological remains within the car park is low and any features of interest such as the former prison exercise yard have most likely been truncated or removed during the construction of the council offices. In addition to the defunct pipes and drains revealed during groundworks, the car park area is also crossed by a network of active interconnected brick-lined gullies or culverts, each c1m in depth, and these provide further indication as to the extent of general disturbance in the area.



The car park at the time of archaeological observation works Fig 138



Borehole 1 Fig 139



Borehole 2 Fig 140



Foundation trench 1, the brick levelling layer Fig 141



Foundation trench 1, examples of the recovered bricks Fig 142



Foundation trench 1, showing the exposed foundations Fig 143



Foundation trench 2, showing the brick and stone levelling layer Fig 144



Foundation trench 2, showing the stone-built foundations Fig 145



Examples of the bottles recovered from foundation trench 2 Fig 146



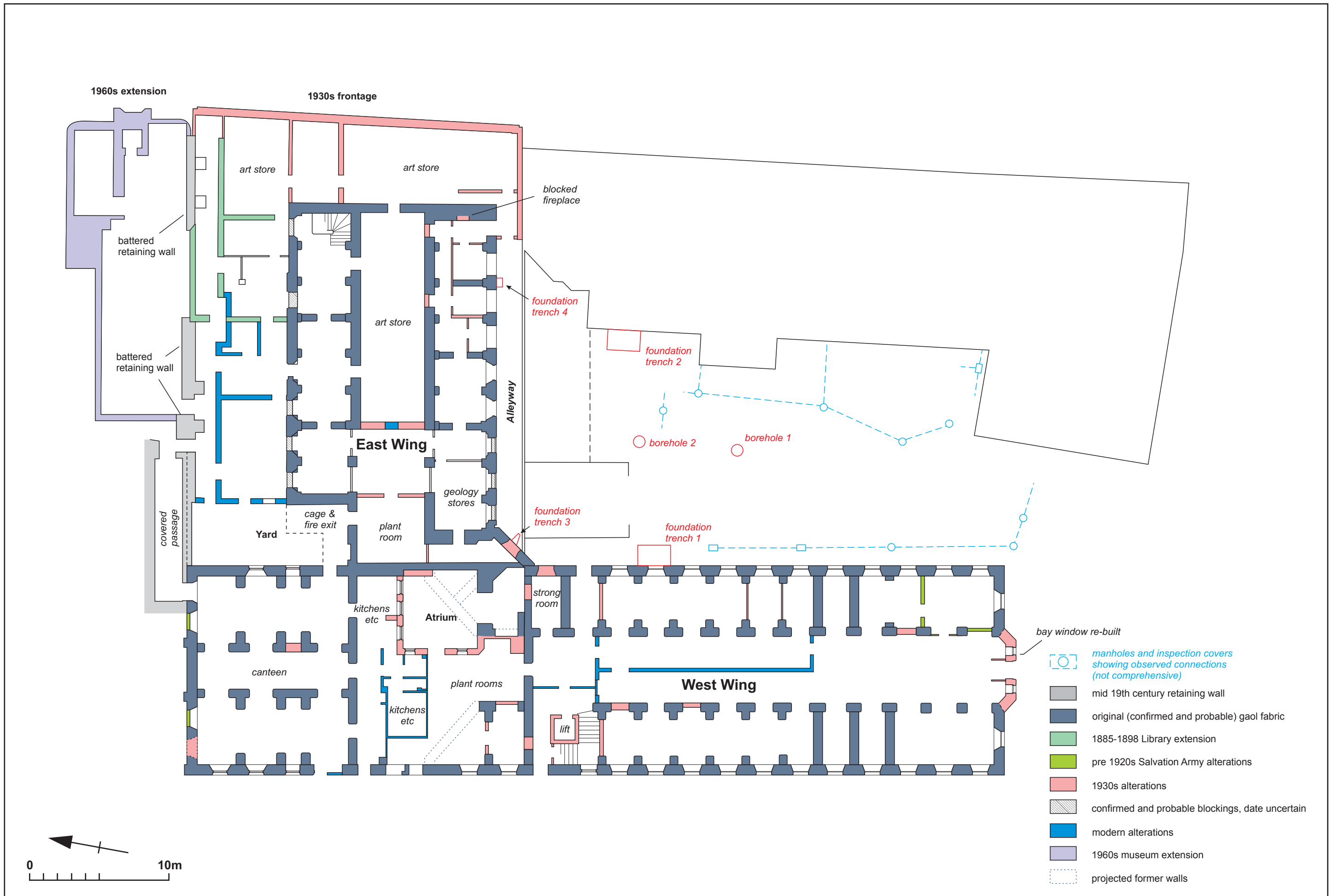
Foundation trench 3 Fig 147



Foundation trench 3, showing the brick gully with pipe adjacent to the wall Fig 148

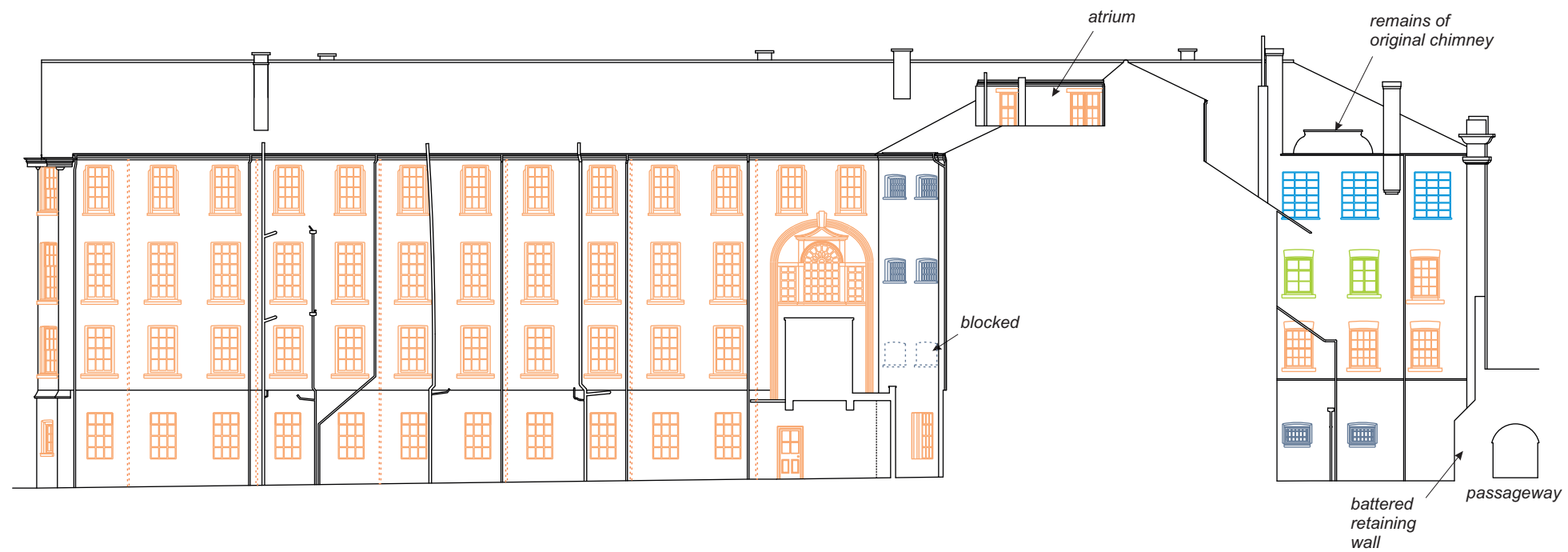


Foundation trench 4 Fig 149



Scale 1:250 (A3)

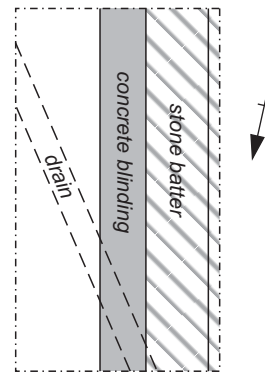
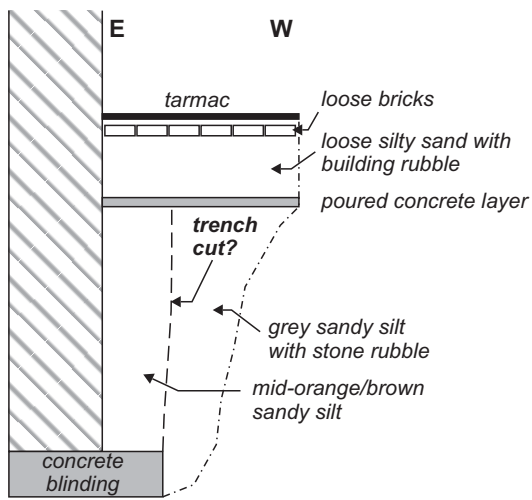
Phased plan of the lower ground floor, also showing areas of archaeological observation Fig 150



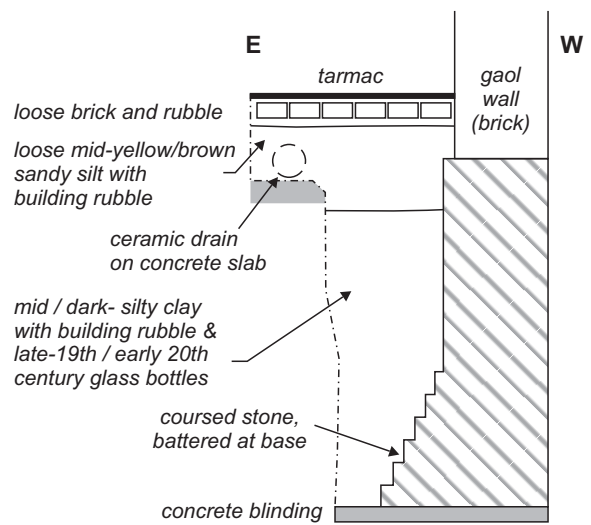
- Original (confirmed and probable) gaol windows
- Area of wall made good following removal of western projection between 1847 and 1860
- pre-1927 fenestration
- blocked chases and areas of blocking or repair, 1930s
- 1930s windows
- modern fenestration

0 10m

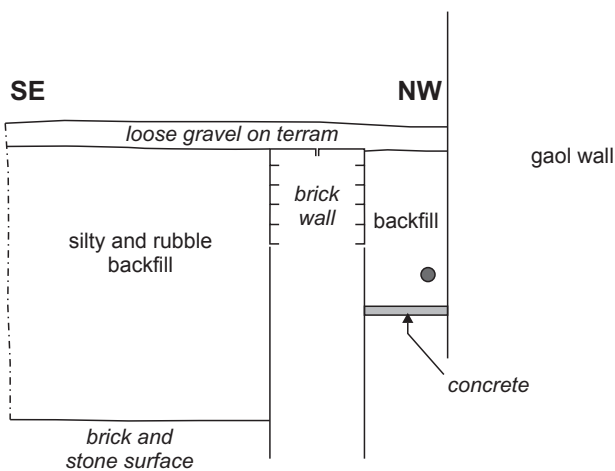
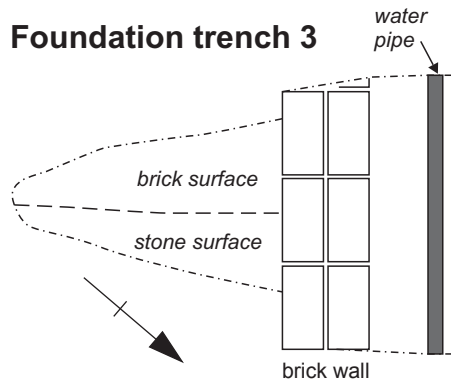
Foundation trench 1



Foundation trench 2



Foundation trench 3



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