

**DUNMOW INFANTS SCHOOL  
ROSEMARY LANE  
GREAT DUNMOW  
ESSEX**

**HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**November 2010**

**DUNMOW INFANTS SCHOOL  
ROSEMARY LANE  
GREAT DUNMOW  
ESSEX**

**HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY**

Prepared by: Andrew Letch Position: Project Officer	Signature: Date: 5th November 2010
Approved by: Mark Atkinson Position: Project Manager	Signature: Date: 5th November 2010

Document Ref.	2051rep
Report Issue Date	5th November 2010
Circulation	Barratt Homes
	ECC Historic Environment Management
	Essex Historic Environment Record

***As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.***

Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager at the

***Field Archaeology Unit***

Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ

Tel: 01376 331431

Fax: 01376 331428

Email: [fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk)

© **Field Archaeology Unit**, Essex County Council, c/o County Hall, Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 1LF

***This report is printed on recycled paper***

# **CONTENTS**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Site location and description**

### **2.2 Planning background**

### **2.3 Objectives**

## **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORKS**

## **4.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT**

## **5.0 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS**

### **5.1 General description**

### **5.2 1844 School building**

### **5.3 1958 School**

### **5.4 Modern school**

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Appendix 1: Contents of archive**

### **Appendix 2: EHER summary**

## **FIGURES**

Fig. 1 Location and phased block plan

Fig. 2 Second edition Ordnance Survey map, 1897 (sheet 24/13)

Fig. 3 Provisional edition Ordnance Survey map, 1947 (sheet 33)

Fig. 4 Existing floor plan of 1844 school

Fig. 5 Existing ground floor plan of 1958 school

## PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

Cover shows the main elevation of the 1844 British School viewed from Pondfields

Plate 1 View of school from Rosemary Lane entrance (south-east)

Plate 2 School grounds to west

Plate 3 1844 School viewed to north-west

Plate 4 1844 School viewed to west

Plate 5 1844 School viewed to south-west

Plate 6 Former boys entrance lobby viewed to south

Plate 7 1844 School viewed to north-east with modern kitchen and link

Plate 8 Part of western elevation of 1844 school

Plate 9 Kitchen extension next to side entrance

Plate 10 Interior of gym viewed to north

Plate 11 Interior of gym viewed to south

Plate 12 Window on long elevation

Plate 13 Doorway into boys lobby

Plate 14 Inserted modern doors and window on western wall

Plate 15 Entrance into boys lobby

Plate 16 Numbered cloak pegs

Plate 17 Interior of boiler room viewed to east

Plate 18 Interior of boiler room viewed to north

Plate 19 1958 School viewed to north-east

Plate 20 1958 School viewed to south-east

Plate 21 Eastern elevation of 1958 school

Plate 22 1958 School viewed to south

Plate 23 Roof lantern viewed to north-west

Plate 24 Corridor interior viewed to reception area (north)

Plate 25 Classroom 4 viewed to south-east

Plate 26 Windows in classroom 4

Plate 27 Original rear entrance to 1958 school

Plate 28 Staff room on second floor, viewed to north-west

Plate 29 Covered area between 1958 school and modern additions

Plate 30 Typical modern classroom

**DUNMOW INFANTS SCHOOL  
ROSEMARY LANE  
GREAT DUNMOW  
ESSEX**

**HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY**

**Client:** Barratt Homes

**FAU Project No.:** 2051

**NGR:** TL 6257 2232

**OASIS No.:** 85339

**Date of Fieldwork:** 29th & 30th September 2010

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on an early Victorian and post-war school prior to conversion and demolition. The work was commissioned by Barratt Homes and carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Management team of Essex County Council (ECC HEM), who also monitored the work on behalf of the LPA.

Copies of the report will be supplied to ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford. The archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum. An OASIS online record has been created at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm>.

The early school was established in 1844 as a British School, as part of the free school movement. As pupil numbers increased, a new block was added in 1958 and around this time the old school was converted to a gym. A modern block was built in the 1980s/90s to link the two and provide modern facilities. The school closed about five years ago when it moved to the newer and larger facilities of Great Dunmow Primary School at Woodlands Park Drive. The Victorian school was the main subject of the recording works, which was until recently the school gym.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Site location and description**

The former school stands on Rosemary Lane, a largely residential area close to the centre of Great Dunmow in an area of high ground known as 'The Downs' (TL 6257 2232, fig. 1). The Victorian school fronts onto a small side road leading to what is now 'Pondfields', a recent residential development, whilst the modern entrance leads from the main road to the 1958 era school.

The grounds encompass a large 0.84 hectare plot bounded by housing on all sides. School buildings from three distinct phases arranged in connecting blocks on the eastern side and grassed and tarmac playing areas to the west. Where the ground slopes away to the north there is a modern swimming pool (fig. 1).

### **2.2 Planning background**

An application to convert the Victorian school into three dwellings and demolish the other buildings to construct 27 residential units on the site was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in May 2010 (UTT/1006/10). In view of the impact of the proposed conversion works on the historic integrity of the early school building and the loss of the post-war school altogether, ECC HEM advised Uttlesford District Council that a condition for historic building recording should be made before development takes place, based on Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The requirements of the condition were specified in a brief issued by ECC HEM in 2009 and updated in September 2010. In response, ECC FAU issued a method statement (written scheme of investigation) for approval, prior to carrying out the works.

### **2.3 Objectives**

The purpose of the historic building survey was, as stipulated in the brief (ECC HEM 2010), to produce a detailed record of the school prior to redevelopment of the site, addressing plan form, materials and method of construction, dating and phasing, room function and internal spatial layout, fixtures and fittings to 'preserve by record'.

Emphasis in the brief was placed on the recording of the older 1844 school, which was carried out to English Heritage level 3 standards. A lower, level 2 record was required of the modern (20th century) structures, which were described in summary form.

### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORKS**

Documentary and cartographic research was undertaken at the Essex Records Office, Chelmsford, to investigate the origins and development of the school. 'The Dunmow Centenary Book 1894-1994' produced by Dunmow Historical and Literary Society (DHLS 1994) provided important background information on the school.

At the start of the survey, plans and elevation drawings of the Victorian school were provided by the client as well as outline drawings of the later structures as part of the site survey. Small-scale works had begun on site with the demolition of a contemporary house by the 1950s entrance drive (fig. 1), no. 10 Rosemary Lane, which was perhaps built for the school caretaker. The roof of the 1950s block had been stripped of slates to allow bats to escape. None of the other buildings were affected, although all windows and doorways had been boarded up, leaving the interiors in darkness. Torches and flash photography were therefore used throughout the internal survey.

Most of the school furniture had been removed before the survey, thereby exposing the surviving fixtures and fittings. The 1958 block was, apart from some modern shelving, barely altered, but the interior of the 1844 school had been badly affected by subsequent use as a gym and only major Victorian features (doors and windows) remained. No access was available to the roofspace, so a cross-section showing the roof structure could not be drawn.

As part of the survey, external and internal architectural descriptions were made, plans and elevations of the Victorian school were annotated and amended, and the 1958 school surveyed to show its ground floor layout. Full access was possible around the site and within the school except for two of the five 1950s classrooms (rooms 3 and 6, fig. 5) which were locked. Since the classrooms were identical in their detail, classroom 4 was chosen as representative of all for the survey. Due to their recent date, the modern classrooms received a basic descriptive and photographic record.

A series of photographs (digital and 35mm black & white print) were taken internally and externally, the majority covering the early school structure. Specific shots were taken of any areas of architectural detail, fixtures and fittings, which survived best in the 1958 block. A representative selection of photographs is reproduced at the back of the report as plates 1-30, combined as much as possible with photographs taken on a preliminary inspection undertaken in March 2009, before the school was boarded up. The remainder can be found in the archive.

#### **4.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT**

A British School was established on the site in 1844. The British Schools movement began in 1833 when the Government offered building grants to set up new schools to raise standards of education across the country. Non-Conformist organisations usually established British Schools, run by the British and Foreign Schools Society. Church of England schools, known as National Schools were run by the National Society for the Education of the Poor (<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8472>). Both types of school were founded in Dunmow, quite close together, with the National School built beside Doctor's Pond in 1868 (figs 2 & 3), now used as the town library and youth centre.

No original building plans exist of the 1844 school, but an undated Victorian plan, produced ahead of the installation of new flooring, provides a basic record of the internal layout (ERO E/P 40/1). Unfortunately, because of its large size, reproduction for the report was not possible, but the essential elements, principally the demolished girls entrance block, have been added to figure 4 (existing floor plan) in red.

The main building consisted of separate classrooms for boys and girls, each measuring 40 x 25 feet, with their own entry points at either end; boys to north and girls to south (fig. 4). The boys entrance was a narrow lobby whose internal detail has been largely lost. The girls entrance led into a lobby with a third, smaller classroom beyond, containing galleried seating and a fireplace (fig. 4). The girls end, which was larger than the boys, comprised a gabled structure fronting the entrance and a raking queen post/iron tie rod type roof, typical of Victorian buildings (ERO E/P 40/1). Unfortunately this part of the building was removed when the modern kitchen was built.

The early school appears on the First Edition OS map (1875) but is best seen on the 1897 Ordnance Survey map which is drawn to a larger scale. It shows the school within a narrow rectangular plot, accessed off Rosemary Lane by a pathway beside Saltbox Square (fig. 2) (now Pondfields), where the present back gates are located. The only other structures shown are the probable toilet blocks to the west of the school that divide the playground into two, boys to north and girls to south (fig. 2), which are no longer standing.

By 1894 the school had become a Council School. At this time it was compulsory for children between 5 and 11 to receive education (DHLS 1994). By 1922, with 178 children at the school, its capacity was stretched and the upper classes were reputedly sent out to play on the Downs during breaks (DHLS 1994).



In 1926 a new Council Elementary School was opened on Rosemary Lane providing secondary education (DHLS 1994). Further details of the new buildings are lacking, but this may account for the appearance of new buildings to the west of the 1844 school, within the modern school boundary, on the 1947 OS map. However, unlike the 1844 school (and other public buildings), they are not blacked-in on the map (fig. 3) and their function not identified.

In 1928, two years after the new school was established, the old school became a handicrafts centre for children from 20 local schools, mainly boys for woodwork (DHLS 1994).

In 1958, during the post-war baby boom, a new secondary school was built on the Downs and until recently this formed the western block of the modern school. Its design was fairly typical of its date. At this stage or perhaps later, the old Victorian school was converted to a gym. Later on, perhaps in the 1960s, one end of the boys lobby was portioned off for to house a boiler (fig. 4).

In 1977 the school became the County Infants School and latterly the Rosemary Lane Infants School. Modern classrooms and a new kitchen were built to link the old school and 1958 block sometime in the 1980s or 90s. The school closed about five years ago.

## **5.0 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS**

### **5.1 General description**

The former British School occupies the eastern side of the plot and lies on a north to south alignment. Entry is solely from the western side rather than via the traditional entrance onto Pondfields, although the entry gate to the south-east was probably still in use in modern times. There is an unsympathetic flat-roofed modern kitchen added onto the southern end, that replaced the former girls entrance.

The main part of the school complex is to the west, on a similar alignment but slightly canted to the east (fig. 1). It comprises two modern blocks either side of a central linking corridor, with the 1950s build on the west side and the 1990s building in between this and the Victorian phase, all linked by the central corridor (fig. 1).

The main entrance (reception) is at the southern end of the 1958 building that stands at the end of the main school entrance; a long driveway off Rosemary Lane, which is bordered by

cast iron fences and gate posts presumably contemporary with the construction of the 1958 school (plate 1).

Surrounding the later school is a tarmac playing ground and further to the west are trees and a grassed playing area (plate 2). On the north side, where the ground is terraced into the natural slope, is the school swimming pool and changing rooms.

## **5.2 1844 School building**

The earliest part of the extant school complex is a long single-storey six-bay linear range built with soft red bricks bonded in a lime mortar and arranged in Flemish bond on a low plinth. The grey slate 35° pitched roof sits on a stepped corbel and is hipped either side. A contemporary single pitched structure at the north end represents the former boys entrance, with its own wall plaque at the front. A plaque at the opposite end indicates the former girls entrance, which was lost when the present kitchen block was built. Initially the building was divided across the middle into two classrooms, where the boys and girls were taught separately. Since then the interior has been opened up to become a gym and dining/assembly hall and the former boys entrance has become a boiler room and changing area. Although the interiors have been changed extensively, much of the exterior survives, particularly on the eastern side which formed the main school frontage; even the original cast iron downpipes.

### **5.2.1 External description**

The main façade is the **east elevation** (plates 3-5), bordering Pondfields and partially screened by young trees contemporary with the new houses. Photographs taken on the preliminary visit in 2009 are included as plates 3 and 5, which show the trees earlier on in their growth. The character at the front is essentially unchanged. The bricks are fairly typical of 18th and early 19th century forms (Ryan 1996), varying in colour from orange to red and commonly measuring 215 x 107 x 65mm. They are also quite soft and gritty with frequent crease marks. Cream-coloured gault bricks are used for the quoins and dressings around the windows (plates 3-5) producing a polychrome affect. The outshot to the north (boys entrance lobby) is of the same basic construction but has no detailing around the entrance, which is a wide (1.1m) four-panel door, now shrouded in ivy (plate 5).

Although currently boarded-up at the front, the windows on this side have been painted to look realistic (plate 4). These windows, which are common to both long elevations, are divided by thick wooden frames into six multi-pane lights, arranged in two rows of three, with those on the bottom row being three panes larger, at twelve rather than nine panes apiece.

They are tilting windows, controlled by cords inside the classrooms and designed for maximum ventilation. All the windows on the upper row and the central window on the bottom row tilt. The apertures have tile sills and slightly cambered heads dressed in gault bricks.

Between the windows, just below eaves level, are stone plaques indicating the separate entrances for boys and girls (plates 3 & 5 to north and south), who were each taught in their own half of the building (fig. 4). Another plaque in the middle reads 'British School 1844' (plate 4).

The **north elevation** (plate 6) contains the single pitch lean-to of the boys entrance lobby into the school. Again this retains much of its Victorian character, with the exception of modern wooden window vents on the western window, and stainless steel chimney added to the western bay for the boiler. The elevation contains windows similar to those on the main façade but slightly smaller at six panes over nine (plate 6). Those on the bottom row are casements and those on the top have a middle vent, except for the partially-replaced western window, as discussed.

Being at the back of the building, the **west elevation** (plates 7 & 8) features a lower level of detail than the façade. However, with the addition of the later school complex, this side effectively became the frontage. Changes have been made to the fabric through the insertion or remodelling of doorways and the addition of a flat-roofed glass linking corridor to the main school. The doorway towards the southern that connects to the corridor (plate 7) has been built into a former window (the upper part of which is now rendered over) but is likely to represent the original girls exit to the playground and toilets (fig. 4). At the north end, a second doorway has been added in the penultimate window, the top part of which has been replaced (plate 7). Just to the side, between the door and the second window, appears to be the original, now blocked-in, boys exit (fig. 4 & plate 8).

The entire original **south elevation**, formerly the girls entrance lobby, has been removed and the remaining south end now has the modern kitchen attached to it (fig. 1, (plates 7 & 9). The kitchen building is single-storey with a flat roof and is built in cavity bond with metal windows, probably added in the 1960s or 70s.

### **5.2.1 Internal description**

For clarity, the areas discussed in the text are titled by their most recent function.

#### **Gym**

Apart from the major fixtures and fittings (doors and windows) much of the Victorian interior has been removed. The placing of the new kitchen onto the south end suggests the gym doubled-up as the main hall for dinners and, by inference, as the assembly hall. Since there is no such accommodation 1958 block, it is assumed the gym/hall conversion was carried out at the time of its construction.

The main features of the interior are modern: the wooden gym floor, climbing apparatus on the eastern wall (which could be folded back when not in use) and a suspended ceiling, made from asbestos tiles (plate 10). The walls are unplastered with the occasional boards attached for notices, etc. Nail marks in the brickwork suggest the lower part (up to a height of 1.2m) was originally panelled. A 2-inch dado rail runs along the long walls and around the windows, which appears to be a later feature.

The south wall shows evidence for blocked doorways leading into the former girls entrance lobby (fig. 4, plate 11). Each has slightly cambered heads like those above the windows outside. The north wall retains its original doorways, both plain four panelled doors typical of the Victorian period. The moulded architraves of the doors are missing on the inner side suggesting an earlier fixture, perhaps the blackboard or panelling was removed (plate 12). The rest of the wall is boarded over. In the north-east corner are a row of mid-20th century wire coat hooks (plate 13), probably associated with a seating area.

The original wall partition between the two classrooms (fig. 4) is still visible as a scar on the eastern wall. Windows on the long elevation are uniform and placed high up on the walls to prevent distraction during class (plate 10). Only the window over the inserted fire door, leading out to the school grounds, is different, being tilting windows made in a similar style but having six panes per light and using machine-sawn timber (plate 14). Beside it is a blocked doorway that represents the boys exit to the playground and toilets at the back. As there is no evidence to suggest otherwise, the original girls exit is likely to be at the opposite end where the fire doors link to the modern corridor (fig. 4).

The suspended ceiling hides the roof frame, which was probably exposed in the Victorian school. It is likely to be the same form as that in the former girls lobby (queen strut and iron tie rod).

### **Boys entrance lobby and boiler room**

The former entrance lobby is divided into three irregular-sized bays by narrow beams (fig. 4). The walls show bare painted brickwork and the floor is made of concrete (plate 15). There are few original fixtures remaining. Currently the former lobby is divided by a modern internal partition into two areas, a boiler room and a cloakroom/changing room. A narrow door, locked at the time of the survey, connects the two. The partition was inserted to create two changing rooms; the western side was converted into the boiler room in a later phase, but this function continued on the eastern side.

The boys entrance and doorway into the former classroom are both original four panel doors painted a maroon colour, with brass knobs. The external door is slightly wider than the others at 1.1m (rather than 0.9m) to allow the free flow of children. With its wider muntin, it gives the impression of a more formal double door (plate 15). On the south wall are the remains of two rows of numbered wire coat pegs fixed to moulded rails whose sequence runs from 99 to 133 (plate 16). Others have been removed from the dividing wall with the boiler room. Though having numbers marks them as interesting, they are not original features. On the north wall between the windows is the splash board and wall scar to a removed sink, and there is evidence for a second one in the boiler room. Again these are later additions.

Entry into the boiler room (plate 17) was from the gym or a narrow plain doorway within the later partition. A modern gas boiler and swimming pool filter drum stand against the back (south) wall. Around the walls are two rows of cloak pegs, except for the outer (north) wall, which alludes to the room's use prior to being a boiler room. None of these are numbered. Modern wooden vents have replaced the top windows on the only complete window on this side (fig. 4 & plate 18). According to a plate on the 'Venner' boiler timer, it was installed in 1963. High up on the west wall is a modern wooden rack/shelf.

### **5.3 1958 School**

The 1950s school was built to the west of the old British School, comprising a symmetric layout of two linear ranges forming a capital 'I' plan from projections facing outwards either end (fig. 5). These ranges are essentially single-storey apart from the eastern one that is elevated over the rooms either end to house a staff room and stores/staff WCs (plates 1 & 19). Classrooms are located either side of a spinal L-shaped corridor that leads from the main entrance on the south side through to the original back door on the north-east side that now connects with the modern linking corridor (fig. 5).

Construction is in red brick and cavity bond, although the plinth at the north end, which is basemented and built up from the natural slope, is built from English bond, which creates a stronger build (Brunskill 1997).

Before the survey the rooms had been cleared of equipment and only more permanent fixtures and fittings (picture rails, cupboards, etc) remained.

### **5.3.1 External description**

The side elevations (west and east, plates 19-21) house the classrooms whose large uniform multi-pane windows are designed to maximise light levels. Each have concrete lintels and bullnose brick sills. Those windows on the short elevations, including the southern reception area (plate 1) and first floor staff room (plate 22), tend to be smaller casement windows with panes of identical size. The only exception is the basement area at the southern end (boiler house and craft room) that have sash windows (plate 22). All windows to rooms that are not classrooms have flat tile lintels instead of concrete ones.

Both classroom ranges have slate-clad low pitched roofs. The western side (plates 18 & 19), which is single-storey, is hipped at the ends and over the short projections either end. In contrast, the eastern side whose end and bays have a first floor have pavilion-style roofs; i.e. the hips are joined by a small ridge (Stevens Curl 1999). A stepped string brick course separates the two floors. One of the main features is the roof lantern along its central ridge (plate 1), a rare architectural embellishment here, with diamond shaped window panes and stepped roof topped by a metal spike, overall resembling the top of a light house (plate 22). No internal access was found, suggesting it is a decorative rather than functional feature.

### **5.3.2 Internal description**

The 1950s school retains its original layout and many fixtures and fittings of the period.

The main entrance and admin/reception areas are at the southern end, entered through an open porch and modern fire doors. A central corridor connects all the ground floor rooms, which consist of five classrooms (numbered in the modern room sequence from 3 to 7), reception area, toilets and changing rooms (fig. 5).

The **corridor** has plastered walls and a moulded picture rail and is heated by large cast iron radiators, of the type often found in institutional buildings of this date. It is lit by a central skylight, though was dark at the time of the survey, when it was being used to store various fixtures for later use such as doors, mantle pieces and the school gates (plate 24).

The **admin/reception** area is comprised of modern partition walls and a viewing window close to the doors. Originally it was perhaps a classroom. On the opposite side of the corridor is an open room (exact use unknown) and modern toilets, which may have formerly been the boy's cloakrooms, since the girls is located at the opposite end of the corridor (fig. 5).

All extant **classrooms** retain fixtures and fittings dating from the 1950s, though, as may be expected, the electrical and light fittings are modern. Classroom 5 was recorded as a typical example, but all were investigated apart from classrooms 3 and 6, which were locked and no keys available. The classrooms are entered from the corridor through semi-glazed doors. Most, though not all, have windows onto the corridor that bring outside light into the corridor and also facilitate a level of general control and supervision. Above the picture rail are set two four-pane skylights (plate 25) that take light from above the flat-roof of the central corridor. Large windows, two in each classroom, occupy most of the exterior walls. The bottom windows are casements and the top ones tilt open, thanks to a handle-operated screw/iron rod mechanism (plate 26).

At the bottom (north) end of the corridor is a single toilet, presumably for staff use. Before the end, the corridor branches off to the east, between the girls cloak room and classroom no. 6 (fig. 5). At the point where the old corridor meets the modern corridor is the rear doorway to the 1950s block (plate 27), whose opening has bullnose brick jambs and a flat tile lintel. The gap is large enough to carry a pair of double doors.

Stairs to the first floor rooms are located either end of the building, within the eastern range (fig. 5). Those near the main entrance lead to two store rooms and a WC, while the stairs at the opposite end lead to the staff room (plate 28). Sketch plans were made of both areas during the survey but neither had features of interest to record. The basement rooms (craft room and boiler house) at the north end of the building contained no features of interest.

#### **5.4 Modern school**

The modern school comprises two large brick blocks of little architectural interest either side of a flat-roofed corridor that forms a link between the 1844 schoolhouse and 1958 block (fig. 1). From observation, it was probably built within the last 20 years, the main part of which, if not all, was probably built in one phase. That part on the north side of the link (plate 6, right) is a large and very plain building containing two large modern classrooms. The southern part appears more bungalowoid in aspect, with slate-covered gabled roofs and an external covered walkway leading between the southern end to the linking corridor (plate 29). Inside are two large classrooms (plate 30) and a cloakroom.

The kitchen attached to the Victorian schoolhouse (plate 9) is also modern, but pre-dates the modern school block.

A swimming pool and modern changing rooms (shed) are located close to the northern limit of the site (fig. 1), at the bottom of the slope, and are included to complete the record but are of no architectural interest.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

Dunmow Infants School began as a British School in 1844. The original layout of the building had two main classrooms and entrance lobbies either end for boys and girls. Annotations on a later floor plan, observed in the Essex Records Office, indicate that boys and girls had their own classrooms and also shows that the girls lobby contained a smaller classroom with galleried (stepped) seating, perhaps for the youngest pupils. Unfortunately this is the only record of this part of the school, which was demolished when a new kitchen block was constructed in its place. Despite this loss, much of the exterior remains in very good order, thanks to good upkeep during the lifetime of the school. The exterior is fairly typical of small Victorian institutions, well-built in red brick with gault brick dressing and a slate roof and high windows so the children could not be distracted during class. The overall architectural theme, with its multi-paned windows and stone-effect dressings suggests a vaguely Jacobean style, one of many themes current around the time. To maintain order and discipline, formal entry points were located each end of the main façade to segregate the sexes. Inside, boys and girls were taught separately in their own classrooms. Such information is discerned from the wall plaques on the façade and a Victorian floor plan from the Essex Records Office, which together provide important information on function and social attitudes. 19th-century maps show a play area at the rear and probable toilet blocks or outbuildings that no longer survive. Unfortunately the interior retains little of its Victorian character but this is not unusual in such buildings that are invariably adapted over time. In fact, it is possible that the central classroom division was removed to create the existing space relatively early on when the handicraft centre was established in 1928, becoming a peripheral structure to the little-known Elementary School of 1926, whose presence is only suggested on contemporary maps. The relatively large interior of the schoolhouse was most likely adopted as the assembly hall, and perhaps the gym, when the school was enlarged in 1958. The partitioning of the boys lobby into two changing rooms is probably around this time and it is in the 1960s that the boiler room was created, judging from the date on the timer. This probably coincided with the construction of the new kitchen on the site of the former girls entrance lobby, where the only



heating source in the building, as far as is known, was here; either the Victorian fireplace or perhaps more likely by this time, an earlier boiler).

The 1958 building, which was the main part of the 1950s secondary school, is quite typical of a larger urban school, adopting an austere but not unattractive bungaloid aspect with the relatively decorative roof lantern providing a post-modern distraction. All in all the building was probably quite intimidating for the younger pupils to which it later served. Its internal layout was fairly typical of schools and institutional buildings in general, with an entrance/reception area at one end of a long corridor with large, well-lit classrooms either side, lit both externally and internally. Windows onto the corridor and glazed classroom doors meant that the children could be easily monitored during class-time and the well-lit first floor staff rooms meant that playtimes could be monitored from an elevated position. The limited range of facilities and accommodation for both pupils and staff is noteworthy.

The most recently-added school buildings provided large, modern and more comfortable classrooms and united the two older blocks into a more integral whole.

In its various forms, Dunmow Infants School has served the local community for the past 150 years and has great local significance for the town. The survival of the original building and the nearby National School by Doctor's Pond are important elements of the 19th-century town and a product of Victorian attitudes towards education for all. The building will be retained and converted as part of the new housing development, thus preserving its historical identity and the diversity of the built environment of this area of the town.

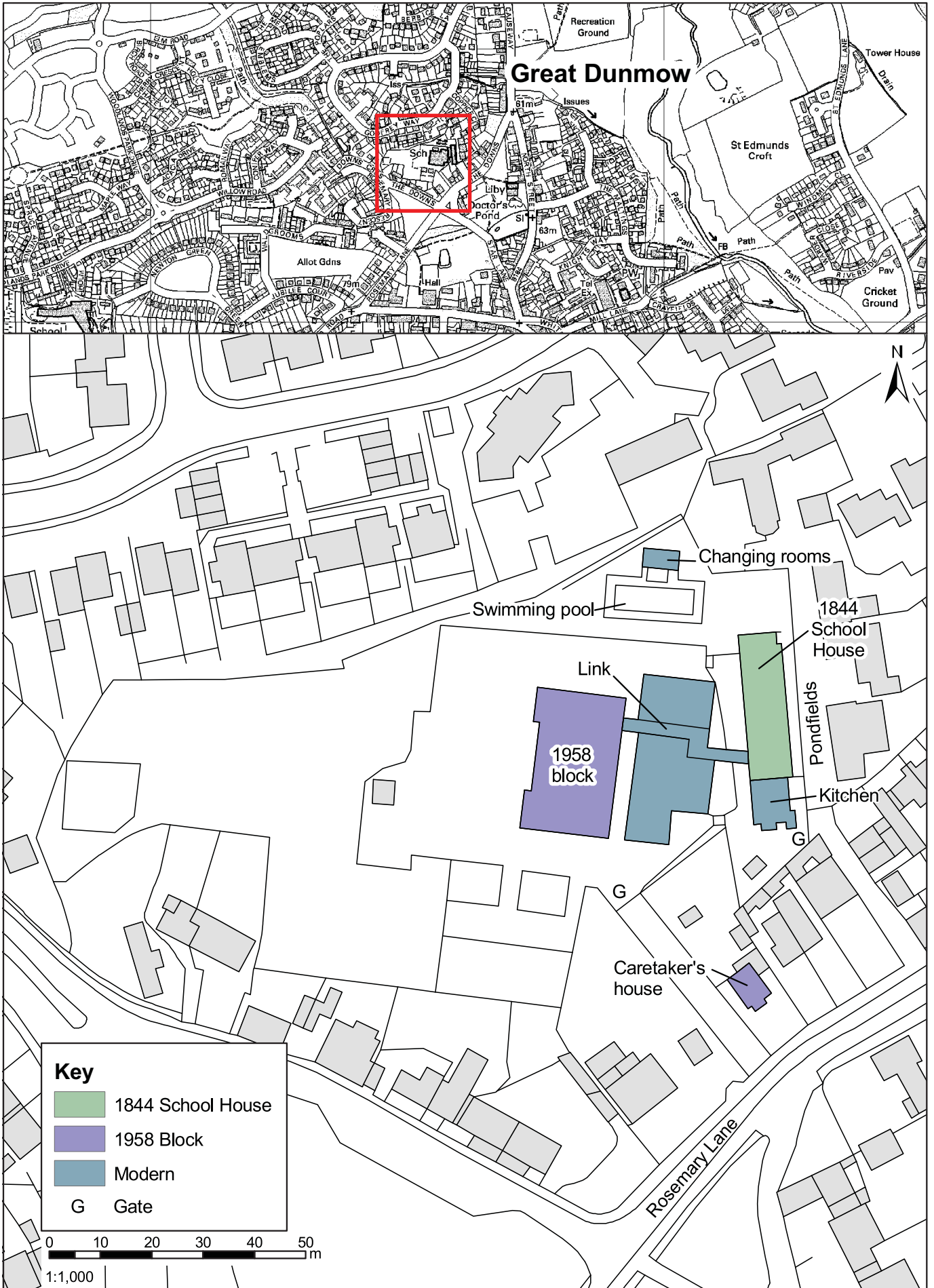
Although of some local significance and importance to social and educational history, the 1950s building has little architectural significance. As such, its recording before demolition is appropriate.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Barratt Homes for commissioning this survey and Jamie Sayward for supplying site drawings. Thanks also to Trevor Bowden for facilitating the works and the staff at the Essex Records Office. Fieldwork, recording and photography were undertaken by the author. Illustrations were prepared by the author and produced by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson and monitored by Richard Havis of ECC HEM, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |  |      |  |
|--|------|--|
| Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. ed.         | 2000 | <i>EAA Occasional Papers No. 8, Research &amp; Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: Research Agenda &amp; Strategy</i> , Scole Archaeological Committee, Norwich |
| Brunskill, R.W.                        | 1997 | <i>Brick Building in Britain</i> Victor Gollancz, London   |
| Dunmow Historical and Literary Society | 1994 | <i>The Dunmow Centenary Book 1894-1994</i> Austin & Sons Ltd, Hertford   |
| English Heritage                       | 2006 | <i>Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice</i> , Swindon  |
| ECC FAU                                | 2010 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Building Survey of Great Dunmow Primary School</i> (unpub.)  |
| ECC HEM                                | 2010 | <i>Brief for Historic Building Recording of School Buildings at the Great Dunmow Primary School</i> ECC HEM (unpub.)   |
| RCHME                                  | 1996 | <i>Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification</i> , RCHME, London   |
| Stevens Curl, J.                       | 1999 | <i>Oxford Dictionary of Architecture</i> , Oxford University Press, Reading  |



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Location and phased block plan

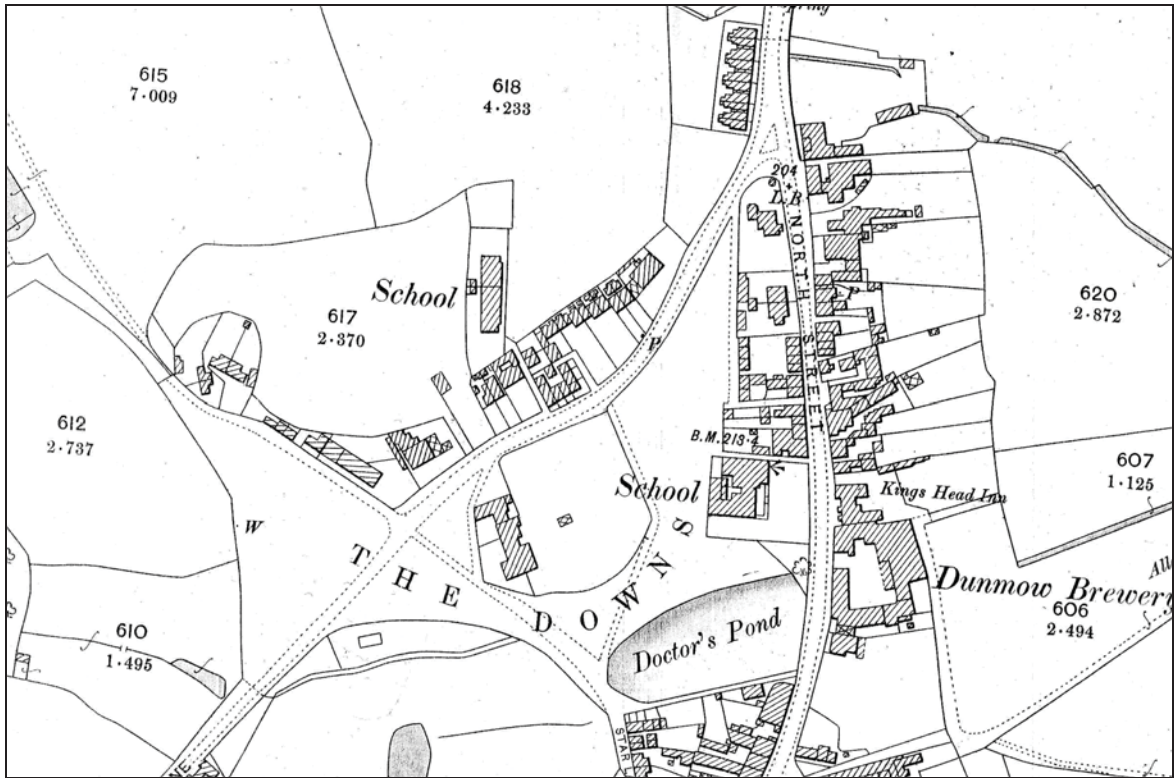


Fig. 2 Second edition Ordnance Survey map, 1897 (sheet 24/13)

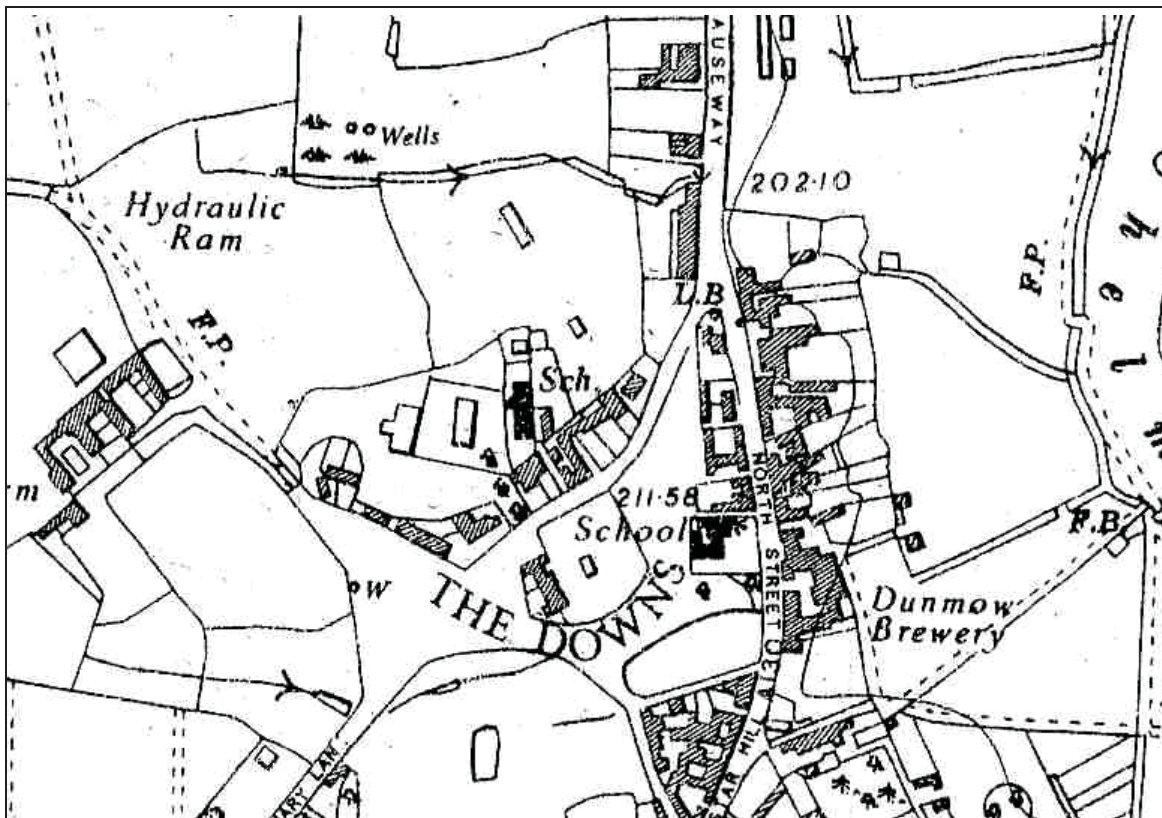


Fig. 3 Provisional edition Ordnance Survey map, 1947 (sheet 33)

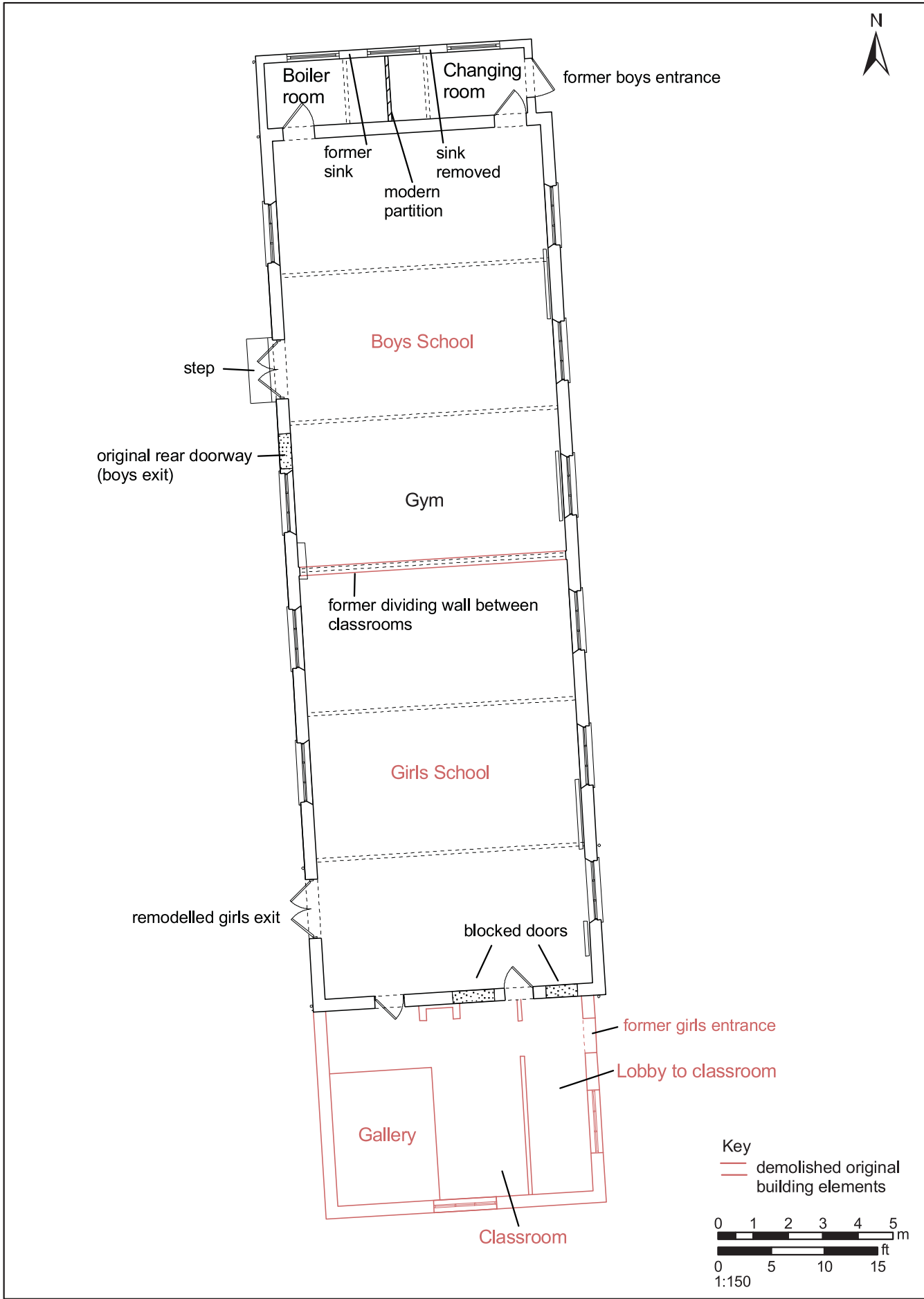


Fig.4. Existing floor plan of 1844 school

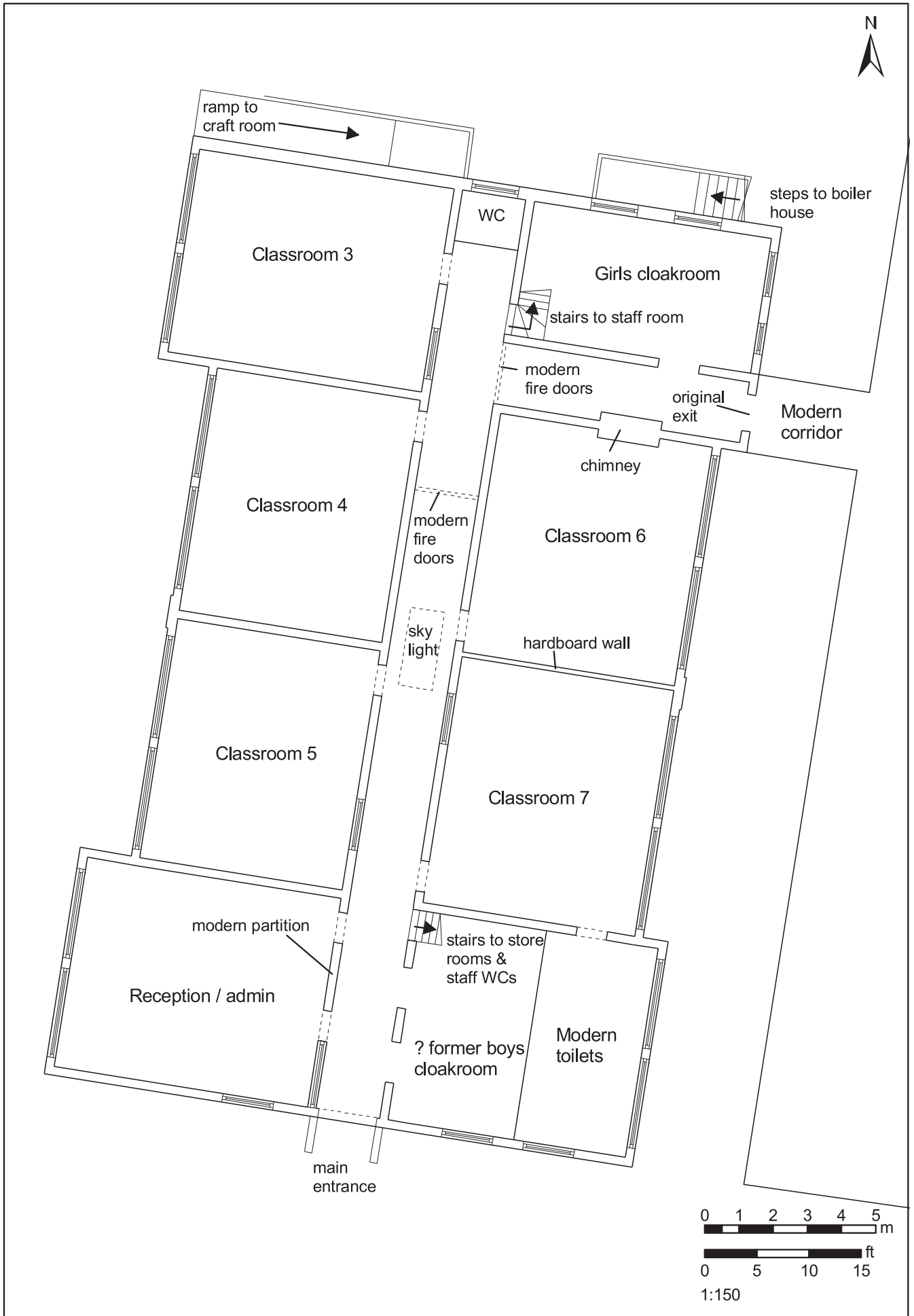


Fig.5. Existing ground floor plan of 1958 school



Plate 1 View of school from Rosemary Lane entrance (south-east)



Plate 2 School grounds to west



Plate 3 1844 School viewed to north-west



Plate 4 1844 School viewed to west





Plate 5 1844 School viewed to south-west



Plate 6 Former boys entrance lobby viewed to south



Plate 7 1844 School viewed to north-east with modern kitchen and link



Plate 8 Part of western elevation of 1844 school



Plate 9 Kitchen extension next to side entrance



Plate 10 Interior of gym viewed to north



Plate 11 Interior of gym viewed to south



Plate 12 Window on long elevation



Plate 13 Doorway into boys lobby



Plate 14 Inserted modern doors and window on western wall



Plate 15 Entrance into boys lobby



Plate 16 Numbered cloak pegs



Plate 17 Interior of boiler room viewed to east



Plate 18 Interior of boiler room viewed to north



Plate 19 1958 School viewed to north-east



Plate 20 1958 School viewed to south-east





Plate 21 Eastern elevation of 1958 school



Plate 22 1958 School viewed to south



Plate 23 Roof lantern viewed to north-west



Plate 24 Corridor interior viewed to reception area (north)



Plate 25 Classroom 4 viewed to south-east



Plate 26 Windows in classroom 4



Plate 27 Original rear entrance to 1958 school



Plate 28 Staff room on second floor, viewed to north-west



Plate 29 Covered area between 1958 school and modern additions



Plate 30 Typical modern classroom

## **Appendix 1: Contents of Archive**

**Site name: Former Dunmow Infants School, Rosemary Lane, Great Dunmow**

**Project no.: 2051**

### **Index to the Archive:**

Document wallet containing:

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 HEM design brief
- 1.2 FAU written scheme of investigation
- 1.3 Client/archive report
- 1.4 Unbound version of report
- 1.5 CD containing digital photographs, architect's drawings & copy of report, pdf-formatted

#### **2. Site Archive**

- 2.1 Photographic record (digital prints & monochrome 35mm prints & negatives)
- 2.2 Photographic registers
- 2.3 Site notes, annotated architect's plans & elevations

## Appendix 2: EHER Summary Sheet

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> Former Dunmow Infants School, Rosemary Lane, Great Dunmow	
<b>Parish:</b> Great Dunmow	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 6257 2232	<b>OASIS Record No.:</b> 85339
<b>Type of Work:</b> Building recording	<b>Site Director/Team:</b> Andrew Letch (ECC FAU)
<b>Dates of Fieldwork:</b> 29th & 30th September 2010	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> N/A
<b>Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>Funding Source:</b> Barratt Homes
<b>Further Work Anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.</b> None
<b>Final Report:</b> Summary in EAH	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> 19th & 20th century	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>A programme of historic building recording was undertaken at Dunmow Infants School prior to residential development of the site. The main element of the survey was to record the early Victorian schoolhouse to English Heritage level 3 standard, prior to residential conversion. The two other elements, a modern block built in 1958 and more recent school buildings, were recorded to a lower level, prior to demolition.</p> <p>Dunmow Infants School began as a British School in 1844. The original layout of the building had two main classrooms and entrance lobbies either end for boys and girls, who had their own classrooms. A third smaller classroom was located in the girls lobby area, with galleried seating, perhaps for the youngest pupils. This part of the school was later demolished when a new kitchen block was constructed.</p> <p>The exterior is fairly typical of small Victorian institutions, well-built in red brick with gault brick dressings and a slate roof and high windows and a 'Jacobean style'. Formal entry points for boys and girls were located either end of the building and a play area at the rear and a small toilet block, which no longer survive. Unfortunately the interior retains little of its Victorian character, used latterly as the schools gym, changing rooms and boiler room; most likely doubled up as the dining/assembly hall as well.</p> <p>The 1958 secondary school building is quite typical of an urban school for older pupils, adopting a rather austere bungalowoid aspect with a roof lantern providing the main architectural feature. The layout is an established form with an entrance/reception area at one end of a long corridor with large, well-lit classrooms either side and first floor staff and store rooms.</p> <p>The most recently-added school buildings (1980s/90s) provided large, modern and more comfortable classrooms and united the two older blocks into a more integrated whole.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Andrew Letch	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 1st November 2010