

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Story Homes Ltd

Priestman Building
Finchale Training College
Durham

archaeological building recording

report 4820
July 2018

Contents

1.	Summary	1
2.	Project background	2
3.	Landuse, topography and geology	3
4.	Historical and archaeological development	3
5.	The buildings	7
6.	Conclusions	10
7.	Sources and references	11
Appendix: Catalogue of photographs		12

Figures

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	The College site and the Priestman Building
Figure 3:	Extract from the 1858 Ordnance Survey map
Figure 4:	Extract from the 1896 Ordnance Survey map
Figure 5:	Extract from the 1920 Ordnance Survey map
Figure 6:	Extract from the 1938 Ordnance Survey map
Figure 7:	Ground floor
Figure 8:	First floor

Photographs

Photo 1:	The hotel and car park in the 1930s
Photo 2:	The same view in 2018
Photo 3:	An air view of Finchale College in the 1960s
Photo 4:	HRH Princess Elizabeth opening the new wing in 1947
Photo 5:	The entrance front of the former hotel
Photo 6:	The projecting north wing
Photo 7:	The south wing
Photo 8:	The west face of the Priestman Building
Photo 9:	Strip windows north of the entrance
Photo 10:	Detail of the concrete sill, lintel and mullions
Photo 11:	Taller windows in the projecting north wing
Photo 12:	Minimal decoration on the window of the bar
Photo 13:	The matching window in the south wing, altered
Photo 14:	The entrance with brick plinths for planters
Photo 15:	The recent extension at the south-west corner
Photo 16:	Much of the garden front is covered by a conservatory
Photo 17:	The lounge windows and the altered terrace
Photo 18:	The lounge windows
Photo 19:	Windows to the first-floor rooms
Photo 20:	The north-west end of the building
Photo 21:	Modern doors in the reception area 1
Photo 22:	The hall 2, seen from the north-west end
Photo 23:	The hall seen from the foot of the main staircase
Photo 24:	Detail of one of the decorative columns
Photo 25:	The column mouldings stop short of the plain ceiling
Photo 26:	A site investigation hole in the north column
Photo 27:	A steel column in a cupboard near the staircase
Photo 28:	The former smoke room and cloakroom 4
Photo 29:	Plain ceiling and beam in room 4

- Photo 30: The former bar, room 5
- Photo 31: Looking south across room 5
- Photo 32: The north end of the former dining room 9
- Photo 33: A view looking south across room 9
- Photo 34: The recessed centre of the ceiling in room 9
- Photo 35: Room 10 contains the old south window of the dining room
- Photo 36: The parquet floor of the dining room in room 10
- Photo 37: A view from the buffet room 11
- Photo 38: The service stairs 39 and the steps to the cellar
- Photo 39: A bare brick and concrete room under the staircase
- Photo 40: A disused cellar store room under the buffet
- Photo 41: The lounge 14, seen from the south-east corner
- Photo 42: The lounge 14 and ballroom 15
- Photo 43: The fluted concrete ceiling decoration on in the lounge
- Photo 44: A door and window between the lounge and the terrace
- Photo 45: The lower part of the pilaster
- Photo 46: The former ballroom 15
- Photo 47: The ballroom 15, seen from the south-east corner
- Photo 48: Detail of the ceiling in the centre of the ballroom
- Photo 49: Inside the plaster coving
- Photo 50: The windows in the east wall of the ballroom
- Photo 51: The ballroom windows, seen from the conservatory
- Photo 52: The ballroom windows
- Photo 53: The main staircase 18
- Photo 54: The staircase seen from the landing
- Photo 55: The landing and the head of the staircase
- Photo 56: A view looking north along the guest corridor
- Photo 57: The former maids' cupboard and the fire escape
- Photo 58: Guest bedroom 28
- Photo 59: Guest bedroom 31
- Photo 60: The plain woodwork of the guest quarters
- Photo 61: The very simple skirting at the head of the staircase
- Photo 62: The corridor to the manager's quarters
- Photo 63: A ventilator in the south end of the store room
- Photo 64: A view looking south along the service corridor
- Photo 65: Staff bedroom 38
- Photo 66: The service staircase 39
- Photo 67: The former kitchen 40
- Photo 68: Looking north-west across the old kitchen
- Photo 69: A typically Spartan corridor for staff rooms
- Photo 70: Bathroom 42 and bedroom 41

1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological recording project conducted on the Priestman Building, Finchale Training College, Durham. A photographic survey of the building has been carried out.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Story Homes Ltd and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

The building

- 1.3 The Priestman Building was erected in 1935 as the Finchale Abbey Hotel. It was extended in the following year. In the early years of the Second World War it was bought by the Durham County Orthopaedic Association (DCOA) and converted into the Sir John Priestman Hospital for the Disabled. Though the original concerns of the DCOA were with men injured in coal mining, the focus changed to the rehabilitation of men wounded in the Second World War. The hospital was significantly extended in the post-War years.

Conclusions

- 1.4 The Priestman Building retains the shell and some internal fittings from the 1935 Finchale Abbey Hotel. The fabric is not of high quality but the design of the building is interesting. Its location and Moderne design mark it out as an example of a roadhouse, a distinctive and short-lived type of building typical of the early and mid-1930s. Roadhouses developed in response to a number of factors: growth in the number of people who owned private cars, changes in attitudes to leisure and drinking, a fascination with American popular culture, and, in part, to a series of hot summers that encouraged outdoor activities. In response to the lido craze of the period, most roadhouses incorporated swimming pools and sun terraces.
- 1.5 The architect's drawings for the hotel show all of the features of a classic roadhouse, but the finished building was a rather watered-down design and a less expensive construction. Its life was short and it was soon altered for quite different uses. What remains today is the shell of the original hotel, with its swimming pool and filling station long gone. A few original fittings remain in the former ballroom and dining room.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The Priestman Building lies at the centre of the existing group of buildings at Finchale College, Durham. The Ordnance Survey grid reference of the building is NZ 2754 4637. The site is bounded on the west by the minor road from Newton Hall to Chester le Street and on the east by the East Coast Main Line railway.

Development proposal

- 2.2 Outline planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing buildings at Finchale College and the construction of up to 100 new houses. The planning reference is DM/16/03998/OUT.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the project was to provide a record of the building in its present condition.

Specification

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, reference WSI DS18.215, prepared by Archaeological Services Durham University and approved by Lauren Pratt, Senior Archaeologist at Durham County Council, on 20th June. The survey is in line with Level 2, as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016).

Dates

- 2.5 The building was examined on 3rd July 2018. This report was prepared for July 2018.

Personnel

- 2.6 The survey and report preparation work were carried out by Richard Annis and the illustrations were prepared by Dr Helen Drinkall.

Research

- 2.7 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region. This project was designed to address research objectives **MOii**: Communication and **MOVii**: Sports and leisure.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The project archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the appropriate repository in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-324107**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.9 We are grateful to staff at Finchale for information about the building and for the loan of plans and old pictures of the site and the building. Three pictures are reproduced in this report as Photographs 1, 3 and 4.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

Landuse

- 3.1 The College site is occupied by accommodation and office buildings of the College, together with glasshouses, polytunnels, gardens and working areas. At the time of this survey many parts of the site (with the exception of the Richard Annand building) were disused. The surrounding land is pasture to the south-west of Newton Lane and arable to the north-east.

Site and situation

- 3.2 The College site slopes down from the south-west boundary towards the valley of the Wear. The Priestman Building covers about 1000 square metres and faces south-west towards the minor road between Newton Hall and Chester le Street. The East Coast main line runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

Geology and soils

- 3.3 The bedrock is sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, overlain by glacial sands and gravels. The area is dominated by free-draining slightly acid sandy soils.

4. Historical and archaeological development

The site

- 4.1 No evidence has been found of any pre-modern occupation of the College site. There are records of some cropmark sites in the vicinity, the nearest being about 150m south of the site, near Red House Farm. There are extensive cropmarks west of Hag House Farm, about 700m south-west of the Priestman Building.
- 4.2 Early maps of the area show nothing at the College site. Red House is marked on Andrew Armstrong's 1768 map and Christopher Greenwood's plan of 1819. This also shows the road to Stockley Heugh, and is the first to show the road beside the College running north towards Chester le Street; before that, it ran east towards Great Lumley by way of a ferry at Low Cocken.
- 4.3 Ordnance Survey maps show that the site of the College was open ground until the 20th century. The only building within the present perimeter was a pub called the Queen's Head. This is shown on the first edition map (Figure 3), alongside the name Shepherdson's Close. Apart from the pub, the nearest buildings to the site were Red House Farm to the south and Stockley Heugh to the north-east. Both of these steadings exist today. A narrow track linking Stockley Heugh to the road, one field north of the pub, is the north boundary of the College site today. The second edition map of 1896 shows the same situation (Figure 4). The first significant change occurred in the early 20th century, when a row of eight cottages was built on the roadside near the south-west corner of the College site (Figure 5). The 1920 map marks these as 'Stockley Heugh Terrace' and shows a small sewage works to their east. To the north, the pub is marked 'Queen Victoria'. The 1938 map (Figure 6) shows the present Priestman Building, labelled 'Finchale Abbey Hotel'. The Queen Victoria was clearly part of the hotel's grounds at that time; there was an outdoor swimming pool to its east. When the map was made, the name of the terrace of houses had been changed to 'Low Moor Cottages'.

The hotel

- 4.4 The first proposal drawings for the Finchale Abbey Hotel were prepared by Percy Browne, architect, of Pearl Buildings, Newcastle upon Tyne. These are now held by Durham County Record Office (reference ND/DU/Plan 001218. They are dated 8th February 1935 and labelled 'Queen Victoria Inn, Low Moor: proposed building for the Trustees of the late Mrs A S Lishman (deceased)'. The drawings show a building that is similar in most respects to the present structure. It is in the then very fashionable Moderne style, with a pronounced horizontal emphasis in its main façade; there is a swimming pool with underwater lights and a raised sun terrace at the north-west end and the walls are covered with pale yellow render. At the opposite end to the swimming pool there is a large ballroom with a stage for a dance orchestra in the middle of the west wall. The pool and terrace, the rendered finish and the orchestra stage are the main elements of the design that did not appear in the finished building.
- 4.5 Revised plans dated 29th July 1935 show the building more or less as it is today. These drawings are titled 'Proposed building for Messrs Finchale Abbey Hotels Ltd' and show only partial rendering of the external walls, with exposed brick in the lower parts of the walls. The rooms are identified and these uses are shown on the plans (Figures 7 and 8). The central entrance with a revolving door led to a hall with a reception desk, porters' room and telephone cabinet. The main hall, along the axis of the building, had two large columns and two flights of steps leading down to the lounge. North-west of the entrance was the bar, smoke room and men's cloakroom and lavatories; to the south-east were the women's cloakroom and lavatories and the dining room. At the south-east end of the hall was the main staircase to the bedrooms, a short flight descending to the ballroom at the south-east corner of the building. The centre of the floor in the ballroom is marked 'sprung for dancing'. At the end of the building was the service staircase and a room linked to the first-floor kitchen by dumb-waiter lifts.
- 4.6 On the first floor, the guest bedrooms were on either side of the central corridor to the north of the staircase. The manager's accommodation was just south of the stairs, with a corridor to the staff quarters, service stairs and kitchen. A layout plan shows a large terrace outside the lounge, overlooking a rose garden and tennis courts to the north; the open-air swimming pool lay beyond these. The old pub building was still standing when the plans were prepared.
- 4.7 As built, the hotel followed the 1935 plan but the impact of the Moderne exterior was reduced because the building was left as plain brick, rather than being rendered (Photograph 1). The appearance of the front of the building is largely unchanged today (Photograph 2).
- 4.8 The hotel business must have prospered because very soon there were applications for extensions. The old pub, then in use as a garage with petrol pumps, was extended to provide additional staff accommodation after March 1936. In July, the owners put forward proposals for extension of the service quarters at the south-east end of the hotel. This allowed the kitchen to be enlarged and provided space for offices, larders and store rooms on the ground and first floors, as well as access to a cellar. The plans show a small room labelled 'ballroom dispence' (*sic*) at the end of the ballroom. This had a hatch for serving refreshments and a small spy-hole to

allow staff to see when dancing was coming to an end. At the west end of the extension was a still room, where hot drinks were prepared.

The hospital

- 4.9 It appears that within a couple of years of these extensions, the business was in trouble. Robert Woodhouse (2014, 201) states that the hotel “was advertised on the property market in 1938 and was used by the War Department from the outbreak of the War”. No sources for this information are given and the assertion about the War Department is contradicted by paperwork from the next users of the building, the Durham County Orthopaedic Association (DCOA). Although it is often said that the later use of the Finchale Abbey Hotel was as a rehabilitation and resettlement centre for injured servicemen, it is clear from DCOA paperwork held at Finchale that the original intention was to provide services for injured coal miners. The DCOA set up a committee to consider a Rehabilitation Centre scheme. The minutes and membership of a meeting of the committee, held on 5th September 1941, clearly show their original intentions. The members of the Committee at this meeting were J Austin Kirkup, Durham Colliery Owners Mutual Protection Association (DCOMPA); Mr H Boag, DCOMPA; Mr S Watson, Durham Miners Association (DMA); Mr E Moore, DMA; Mr M J Huntley, The Royal Infirmary, Sunderland; Mr David Brown, consulting orthopaedic surgeon; Dr I McCracken, County Medical Officer of Health; Colonel R Chapman, DCOA; Mrs Geoffrey Gordon, DCOA; Mr G H Carruthers, DCOA. Colonel Chapman was appointed Chairman and M J Huntley Vice-Chair. Initial discussions centred on the importance of effective rehabilitation for men who had suffered fractures at work, since the effects of such injuries were regarded as both an economic and a social issue. Extracts from the minutes are set out below.

“... Mr Huntley questioned the speaker on the requirements of the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, regarding rehabilitation and Mr Brown replied that in his opinion the infirmary was in need of not less than 15 beds in a rehabilitation centre for the treatment of its cases.

Mr Carruthers informed the Committee that Mr Brown and himself had paid visits to two rehabilitation centres in recent weeks and their plans for Durham had been greatly influenced by their observations at the Rehabilitation Centre for Injured Miners at Berry Hill Hall, Mansfield.

The Chairman said that it was proposed that the Centre be established in the building now known as the Finchale Abbey Hotel. There was no doubt that the premises were excellent for the purpose, and the furnishings were very good indeed. During our initial enquiries the purchase price had been £14,000 but this had been reduced to £13,000. The estimate for rehabilitation equipment was £3000 plus a further £2000 for working capital, making a total of £18,000. He put forward a suggestion that the mining industry should find two-thirds of the capital costs, and have a call on two-thirds of the bed accommodation at the Centre, which at the outset would be 45 beds. The remaining third of the capital cost would be found by the Durham County Orthopaedic Association. In reply to a question, the Chairman said that no approach had been made to the Ministry of Health of financial help, and he did not think it was necessary to obtain any further approval from the Ministry for the scheme. Dr McCracken confirmed this. It was agreed that steps be taken to ascertain just what interest the Ministry would have in the scheme. Mr Watson said that he considered £18,000 was keeping the capital cost rather low, and suggested the aim should be £20,000. He thought it probable that the Miners Welfare would help, but they would need to

have proportionate control for any sum put up by them. Mr Boag said that if the Durham Colliery Owners Mutual Protection Association made a grant they would require some protection for the money.

...

With regard to annual maintenance costs, it was estimated that these would work out at approximately £3 per week per patient per day. Mr Watson thought it unlikely that the Miners Welfare would make payments in respect of this, he considered that the Durham Colliery Owners would be willing to pay for cases. Mr Boag replied that he could make no statement at this stage, it was a matter for referment to his principals. Mr Moore said that there was no doubt the place was needed. Mr Watson then moved a resolution that the scheme be approved, this was seconded by Mr Moore and passed unanimously."

The minutes were signed by Colonel Chapman on 5th February 1942.

- 4.10 Members of the Rehabilitation, Staffing and Equipment Sub-Committee held a meeting at the hotel on 17th February 1942. They examined plans of the building and made a detailed inspection of the premises before considering the proposed uses of the various rooms. The minutes list their conclusions.

Main Lounge. It was agreed that this should be the main dormitory ... curtains to screen the dormitory from the entrance hall should be hung ... during the day the curtains should be open and it was thought that this arrangement would preserve the present attractive outlook from the main entrance hall and wide corridor which gives access to the several ground floor rooms. It was thought desirable to remove the large carpet which completely covers the floor at present and it is pointed out that the wood floor underneath consists of narrow oak boarding, which was originally laid for dancing purposes.

Dining room. It was agreed that this should be the lounge / dining room. Its immediate proximity to the kitchen made this an obvious arrangement.

Ball room. It was agreed that this should be the gymnasium. A door should be made into the small adjoining ball room dispence room and this should be the surgeon's room. A serving hatch presently connects this small room to the main ball room.

Treatment section. It was agreed that this should be in the present still room and store rooms and our architects should submit detailed plans.

Servery and pantry to remain as at present.

Lavatory and bathing facilities. It was agreed that our architects to plan these, using existing facilities with extension.

Smoke room and public bar. It was agreed that these two rooms should become dormitories and that the smoke room, with eight or nine beds, might be used as a quiet dormitory for men requiring extra rest during the day. These rooms are served by separate toilet facilities.

First floor. It was agreed to allocate the bedrooms to the residential staff ... one bedroom should be used as a sick bay for patients.

Kitchens. Adequate.

The Committee agreed that the premises were remarkably well-suited for the new Hospital and that, with a few exceptions, all of the furnishings and fittings could be used.”

4.11 In November 1942, a DCOA meeting at Hallgarth House, Durham, resolved “that the Finchale Abbey Hotel should be purchased and the name of the hospital established there should be the Sir John Priestman Hospital for the Disabled.” John Priestman (1855-1941) was born at Bishop Auckland and became a successful shipbuilder at Sunderland. He was a philanthropist and a generous benefactor to hospitals and churches in the north-east.

4.12 On July 17th, 1943 the *Durham Advertiser* published an article under the headline “Road house converted into hospital”. This says

“Erected as a palatial road house a few years ago, the Finchale Abbey Hotel, near Durham, was recently acquired by the Durham County Orthopaedic Association for the purpose of conversion into a hospital to recondition disabled men to a state of fitness which will allow them to take up vocational training. The work of conversion has been completed and the first batch of patients arrived yesterday.

This, the first institution in the country to be run on the lines recommended on the Tomlinson Report, bears the name of the Sir John Priestman Hospital. The building will be declared open to-morrow by Mr George Tomlinson, MP [Labour politician, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and National Service in Winston Churchill’s coalition government].

Two workshops have been erected to provide tuition in electric and oxy-acetylene welding, and house machine tool and fitting departments. Courses will be provided on gardening, the care and management of live-stock, general horticulture, sheet metal work etc. The up-to-date kitchen is to be used in the training of cooks and chefs.

Most of the amenities of the road house have been retained, while other facilities for recreation have been added. The American cocktail bar is now a reading room, the public bar has been equipped as a billiards room and the ballroom and lounge as tastefully decorated dormitories for nearly 100 patients. In the spacious grounds are an open-air swimming pool, tennis court, croquet lawn, putting lawns and a well-planned garden”.

4.13 It is clear that by the time the hospital opened, its focus had changed to the rehabilitation of men wounded in the Second World War. It was extended in the post-War years, retaining its involvement in horticulture and gardening (Photograph 3). The first extension, a U-plan block south-east of the Priestman Building, was opened by HRH Princess Elizabeth in October 1947 (Photograph 4). The 1951 Ordnance Survey map marks the building ‘Finchale Abbey Training Centre’.

5. The building

Exterior

5.1 The Priestman Building is a long, low steel frame clad in brick and concrete (Photograph 5). The felted flat roofs are concealed by low parapet walls with plain concrete copings. The symmetry of the façade is broken by an off-centre water tower and a boiler flue on the roof. The five-bay entrance front has a recessed

central entrance under a concrete slab canopy. At either side there are slightly projecting wings with one two-storey bay and one lower bay outside (Photographs 6-8). Most windows are wider than they are high and those at either side of the entrance are in continuous bands, typical of early 1930s Moderne design. They originally had steel frames, as can be seen in Photographs 1 and 4, but these have all been replaced (Photographs 9, 10). There are taller windows on the ground floor in the projecting wings (Photograph 11); the outer bays have wide tripartite windows with simple concrete decoration above the wide mullions (Photographs 12, 13). The entrance is more or less as it was when the photograph of the hotel was taken in the mid-1930s (Photograph 1). Wide, shallow steps are flanked by brick plinths for planters; the original revolving door has gone (Photograph 14). At the south-west corner of the building is a later extension for offices and kitchen stores (Photograph 15). This was not present when the 1960s air photograph was taken.

- 5.2 The north-east face of the hotel is partly hidden by a recent conservatory (Photograph 16). The lounge and ballroom have large windows that once looked out over the rose garden (Photograph 17). The ones in the lounge have been reduced in size and the original glazing has been replaced (Photograph 18). The bedroom windows are similar to those on the south-west face; once again, none of the old steel-framed windows remain (Photograph 19). The south-east end of the building is hidden by later alterations. At the north-west end, the sloping ground allows the door to cellars under the main block to be seen (Photograph 20).

Interior

- 5.3 Room numbers, given in square brackets in this description, refer to the plans in Figures 7 and 8. They do not reflect any numbering system used by the hotel, hospital or college.
- 5.4 The reception area [1] is now part of the central hall [2] and is entered by way of a featureless lobby with modern automatic doors (Photograph 21). Inside, the hall is separated from the lounge [14] by a balustrade and two large decorative plaster columns (Photographs 22-25). These conceal steel columns (Photograph 26); others are inside cupboards at either end of the hall (Photograph 27).
- 5.5 The former men's cloakroom [3] is now a featureless office and the lavatory that adjoined it has been incorporated into the former smoke room [3] in the north wing; this is a featureless room with modern fittings and a suspended ceiling that conceals plain ceiling and beams (Photographs 28, 29). The adjoining bar [5] is similarly plain (Photographs 30, 31). The bar entrance and lavatories [6] are slightly altered from their original arrangement but contain no significant features.
- 5.6 South-east of the entrance, the former store room and women's cloakroom are now combined [7] and the lavatories [8] are still present. In the south wing, the former dining room is now divided in two [9, 10]. This had a parquet floor and a central lighting recess in the ceiling (Photographs 32-34). The smaller room [10] has a blocked window in its south wall and a tiled floor laid over the parquet (Photographs 35, 36). The former buffet room [11] has two large doors into the dining room (Photograph 37).
- 5.7 The service staircase [12] is made of concrete (Photograph 38). The lower flight descends to bare cellar rooms (Photographs 39, 40) and a passage running north-

west towards the door seen in Photograph 20. The service rooms [13] to the south of the staircase are featureless, as are those in the modern extension at the south-west corner.

- 5.8 In the lounge [14] a wheelchair ramp conceals the two original sets of stairs from the hall (Photograph 41). The architect's drawings show that the chimney breasts at the ends of the room were designed to hold electric fires. Only the northern survives, the south wall being pierced by doors to the former ballroom (Photograph 42). The cast concrete ceiling beams are decorated with fluting which also extends to the cornice (Photograph 43). There are plaster pilasters between the north-east windows, their bottom sections covered up when the sills were raised (Photographs 44, 45). The floor of 'narrow oak boarding' noted by the DOAC sub-committee is still present.
- 5.9 The ballroom [15], most recently used as a cafeteria, has a large servery opening in its south-east wall (Photograph 46). A door at the left-hand end of the servery is the one proposed by the DOAC committee to make the ballroom dispend into the surgeon's room. The old stepped entrance at the north-west corner is still present and there are three modern doors on the north wall (Photograph 47). The central section of the cast concrete ceiling has fluted decoration like that in the lounge, with the addition of a plaster cove like the one in the dining room. This conceals battens with rows of ceramic lamp holders, an arrangement designed to provide subdued light over the dance floor (Photographs 48, 49). The middle of the three large windows has been altered to make a door that now leads to the conservatory; the smaller windows at either side have timber glazing bars (Photographs 50-52). At the south end, internal walls have been removed and a large modern kitchen replaces the ballroom dispend [16], stores, offices and still room [17].
- 5.10 The main staircase [18] has a utilitarian handrail made of steel pipe and no signs of the original fixtures remain (Photographs 53). The curved walls of the landing and the rounded nose of the central wall are a nod to the building's Moderne design (Photographs 54, 55). The guest rooms open from a central corridor [19] north of the stairs (Photograph 56). The only noteworthy feature here is a curved section of wall in room 20, built to accommodate a fire escape (Photograph 57). There are four guest bedrooms [20-23] on the east side of the corridor and five on the west [28-32]. The room in the north wing (Photograph 58) is slightly smaller than the others (Photograph 59) and adjoins a bathroom and a housemaids' cupboard [27]. All of these are extremely plain (Photographs 60, 61). East of the staircase are the second guest bathroom [24], the manager's bathroom [25] and a store room [26]. A short passage in the south wing leads to the manager's quarters [33, 34] (Photograph 62). The suspended ceiling of the service corridor [35] conceals a plain older version and a ventilator for the store room (Photograph 63). The corridor gives access to staff rooms [36-38] (Photographs 64, 65) and the service stair [39] (Photograph 66). At the south end is the former kitchen [40], with a large roof light and cupboards for the lifts in its north wall (Photographs 67, 68). The 1936 extension contains six rooms [41-46], all altered from their original forms, and most recently used as bedrooms, a bathroom and a laundry room (Photographs 69, 70).

6. Conclusions

6.1 The Priestman Building retains the shell and some internal fittings from the 1935 Finchale Abbey Hotel. The fabric is not of high quality but the design of the building is interesting. Its location and Moderne design mark it out as an example of a roadhouse, a distinctive and short-lived type of building typical of the early and mid-1930s. Roadhouses developed in response to a number of factors: growth in the number of people who owned private cars, changes in attitudes to leisure and drinking, a fascination with American popular culture, and, in part, to a series of hot summers that encouraged outdoor activities. In response to the lido craze of the period, most roadhouses incorporated swimming pools and sun terraces.

6.2 Historic England's *Introduction to Heritage Assets* document (HE 2013, 16) says that roadhouses

“served a motorised clientele, rather than a local market, were located on the edge or within reasonable distance of major population centres and offered a range of facilities, which usually included drinking, dining, dancing, live entertainment and swimming. They were, in effect, inland resorts. Architecturally, they generally fell into two types, the Moderne and the neo-Tudor”.

6.3 A recently-published book on the subject (Gutzke & Law 2017) says that roadhouses

“became astonishingly popular because of the sweltering summers of the mid-1930s, late-night hours, popular entertainment, floodlit swimming pools and sumptuous food. ... Given their meteoric rise in the public consciousness, roadhouses naturally acquired an enviable reputation as lucrative ventures”.

The situation at Durham was different from that in larger metropolitan centres where access to the country was less easy. This would have placed a limit on the numbers of potential customers, as would have the choice of a site on a minor road rather than a more important route. Despite this, the Durham Advertiser's description of the building as 'palatial' shows that the hotel was, for a time, an attractive destination. Unfortunately for its owners, the heyday of the roadhouse was over before the beginning of the Second World War. In other parts of the country, roadhouses had gained a rather louche image. An article titled 'Rowdy Roadhouses' in the *Morris Owner* magazine of April 1932 said that

“in some instances ... these road houses are developing an unpleasant character and attracting a rowdy class of person, for whom they were never intended, so that one hesitates to take a lady passenger, or, say, the village parson” (quoted in Morrison & Minnis 2012, 298).

The opening of the Finchale Abbey Hotel in 1935 was late in the period of popularity and the owners must soon have felt the effects of world events; Gutzke & Law say

“already losing a reputation for elite recreation and dining, the roadhouse found war-time conditions ill-suited for carefree leisure, especially with petrol rationing”.

6.4 The architect's drawings for the hotel show all of the features of a classic roadhouse, but the finished building was a rather watered-down design and a less expensive construction. Its life was short and it was soon altered for quite different uses. What remains today is the shell of the original hotel, its swimming pool and filling station long gone. A few original fittings remain in the former ballroom and dining room

7. Sources and references

Durham Advertiser, July 16th and July 23rd 1943.

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Appendix: Catalogue of photographs

The survey photographs were taken by Richard Annis on 3rd July 2018, using a Nikon D3300 digital SLR. Filenames are 02 and 05-70 Finchale Priestman 4820.

No	Subject
2	The hotel and car park in 2018
5	The entrance front of the former hotel
6	The projecting north wing
7	The south wing
8	The west face of the Priestman Building
9	Strip windows north of the entrance
10	Detail of the concrete sill, lintel and mullions
11	Taller windows in the projecting north wing
12	Minimal decoration on the window of the bar
13	The matching window in the south wing, altered
14	The entrance with brick plinths for planters
15	The recent extension at the south-west corner
16	Much of the garden front is covered by a conservatory
17	The lounge windows and the altered terrace
18	The lounge windows
19	Windows to the first-floor rooms
20	The north-west end of the building
21	Modern doors in the reception area 1
22	The hall 2, seen from the north-west end
23	The hall seen from the foot of the main staircase
24	Detail of one of the decorative columns
25	The column mouldings stop short of the plain ceiling
26	A site investigation hole in the north column
27	A steel column in a cupboard near the staircase
28	The former smoke room and cloakroom 4
29	Plain ceiling and beam in room 4
30	The former bar, room 5
31	Looking south across room 5
32	The north end of the former dining room 9
33	A view looking south across room 9
34	The recessed centre of the ceiling in room 9
35	Room 10 contains the old south window of the dining room
36	The parquet floor of the dining room in room 10
37	A view from the buffet room 11
38	The service stairs 39 and the steps to the cellar
39	A bare brick and concrete room under the staircase
40	A disused cellar store room under the buffet
41	The lounge 14, seen from the south-east corner
42	The lounge 14 and ballroom 15
43	The fluted concrete ceiling decoration on in the lounge
44	A door and window between the lounge and the terrace
45	The lower part of the pilaster
46	The former ballroom 15
47	The ballroom 15, seen from the south-east corner

No	Subject
48	Detail of the ceiling in the centre of the ballroom
49	Inside the plaster coving
50	The windows in the east wall of the ballroom
51	The ballroom windows, seen from the conservatory
52	The ballroom windows
53	The main staircase 18
54	The staircase seen from the landing
55	The landing and the head of the staircase
56	A view looking north along the guest corridor
57	The former maids' cupboard and the fire escape
58	Guest bedroom 28
59	Guest bedroom 31
60	The plain woodwork of the guest
61	The very simple skirting at the head of the staircase
62	The corridor to the manager's quarters
63	A ventilator in the south end of the store room
64	A view looking south along the service corridor
65	Staff bedroom 38
66	The service staircase 39
67	The former kitchen 40
68	Looking north-west across the old kitchen
69	A typically Spartan corridor for staff rooms
70	Bathroom 42 and bedroom 41

Figure 1: Site location

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 site location

0 1km
scale 1:25 000 for A4 plot

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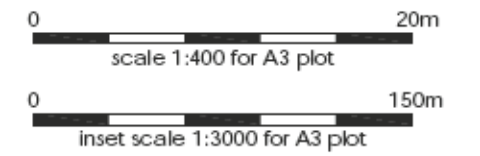
DURHAM UNIVERSITY




on behalf of
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Ltd

Priestman Building
Finchale Training College
Durham

archaeological building recording
report 4820

Figure 2: The college site and the
Priestman Building



-  site boundary
-  Priestman Building
-  photograph



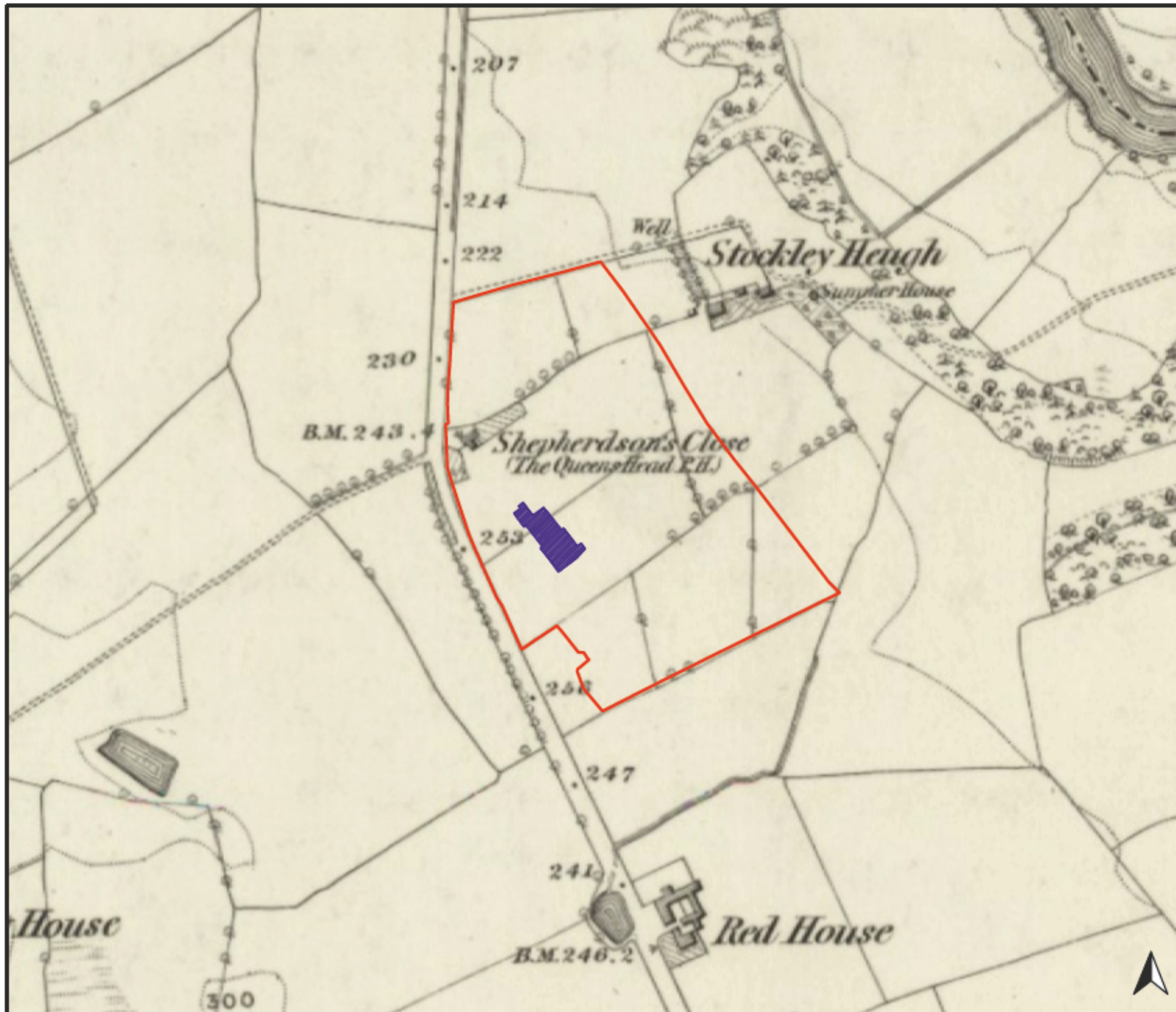
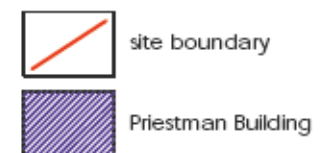
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Figure 3: Extract from the 1858
Ordnance Survey map

0 200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot



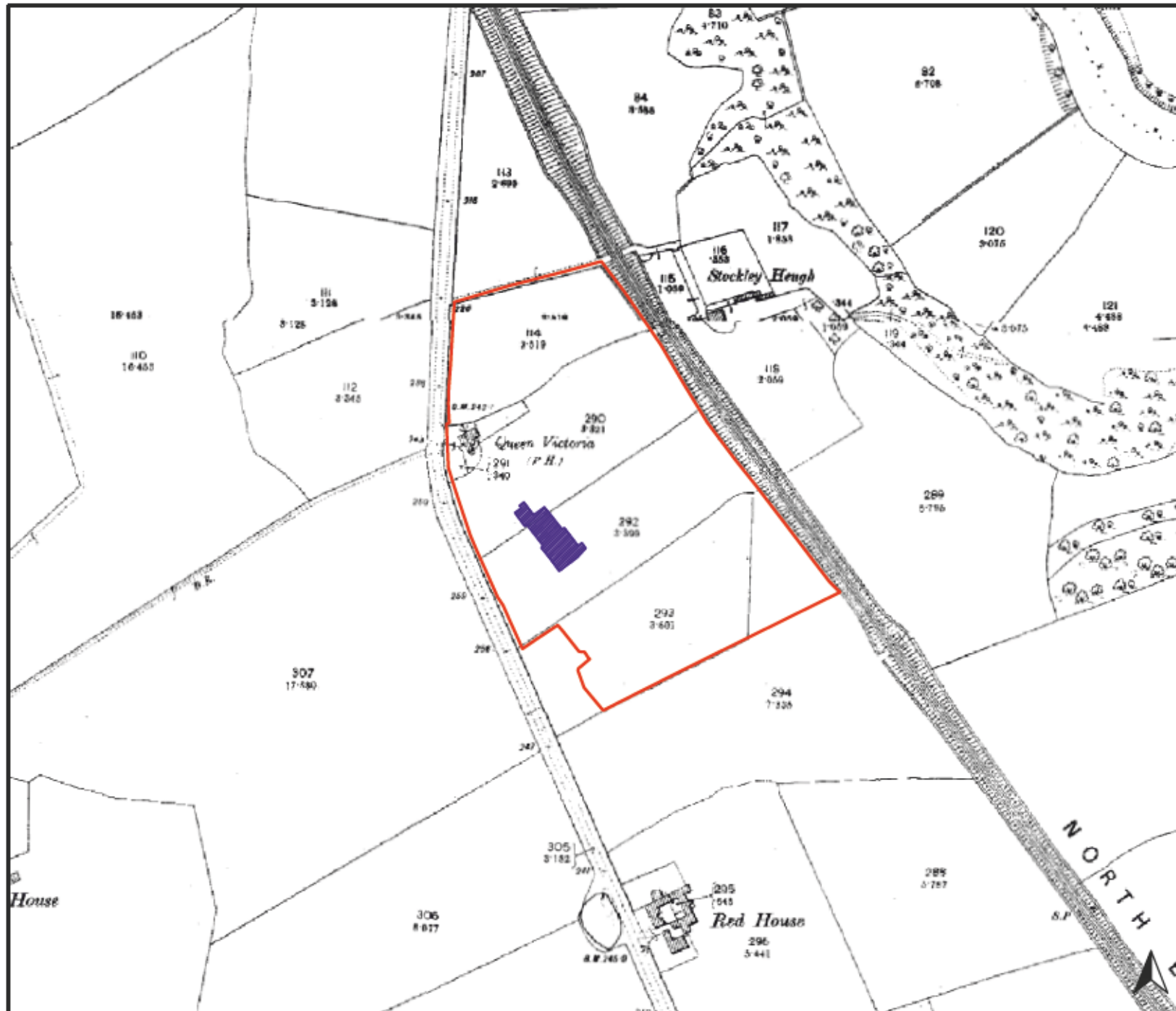
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Figure 4: Extract from the 1896
Ordnance Survey map

0 200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot




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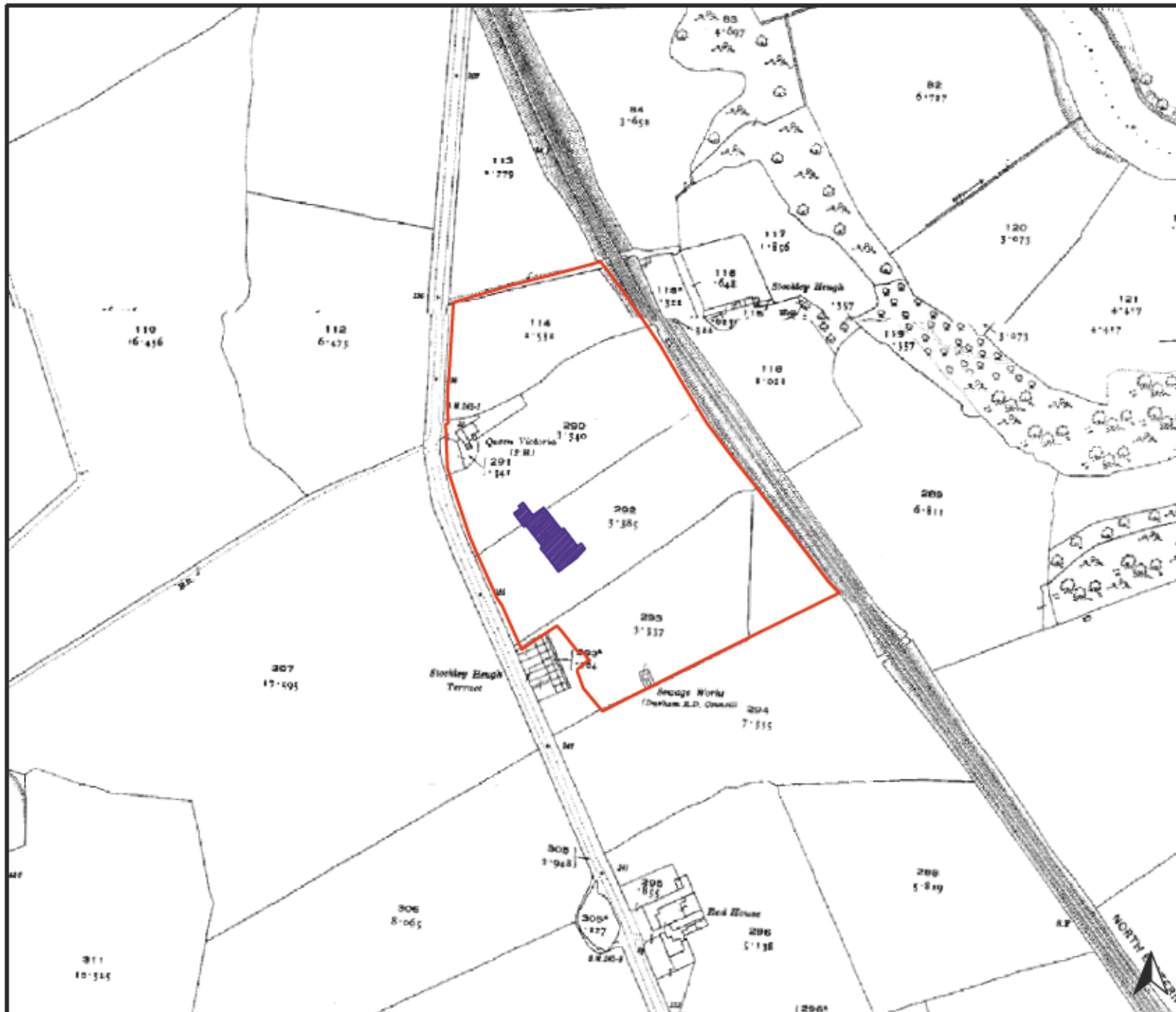
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Figure 5: Extract from the 1920
Ordnance Survey map

0  200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot

-  site boundary
-  Priestman Building



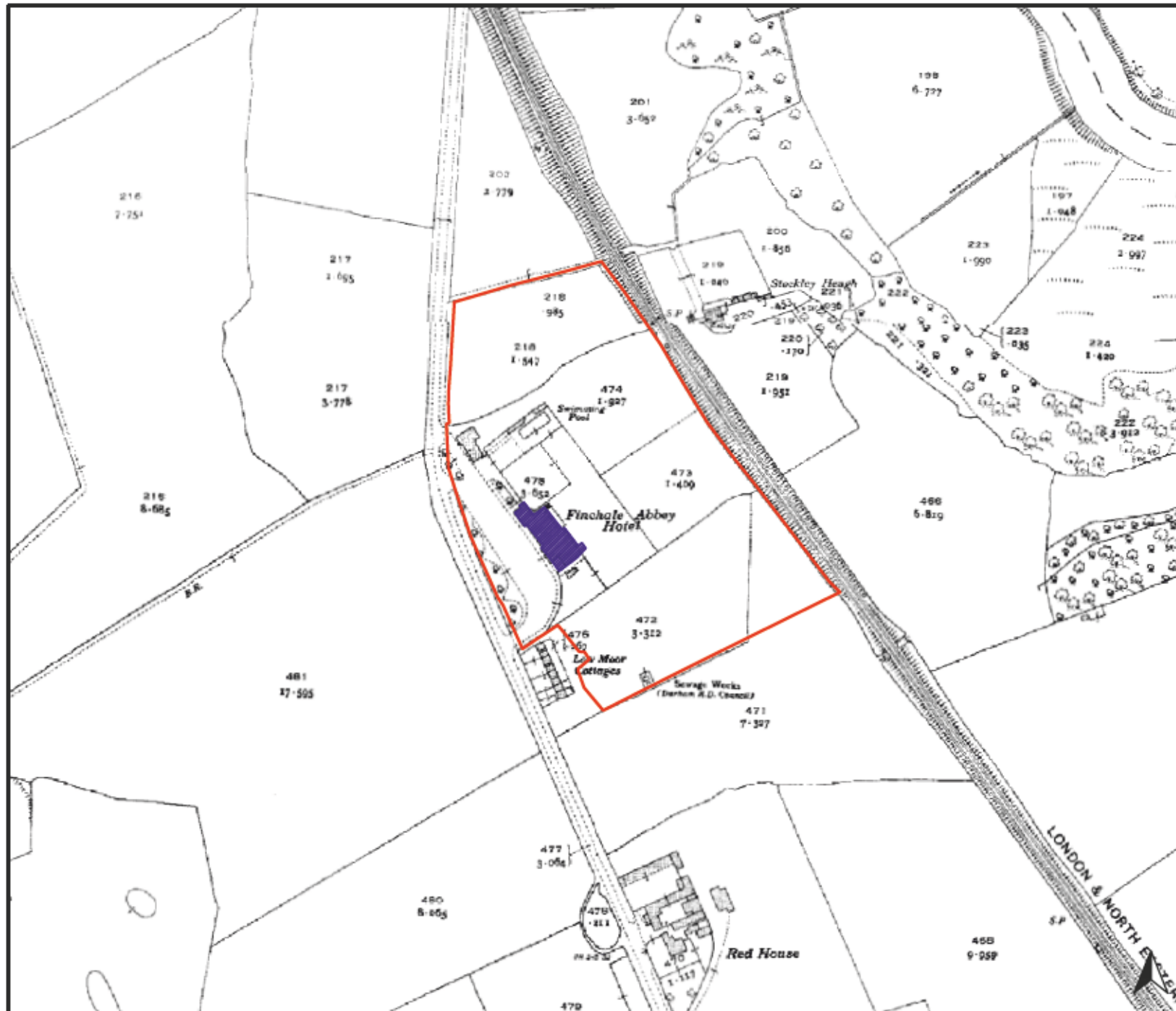
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Figure 6: Extract from the 1938
Ordnance Survey map

0 200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot



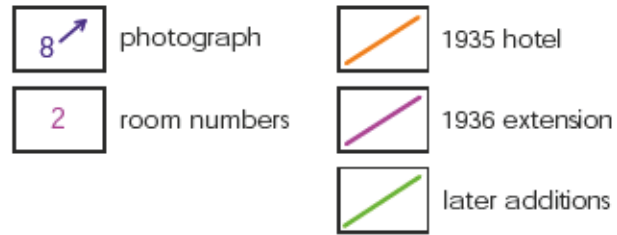
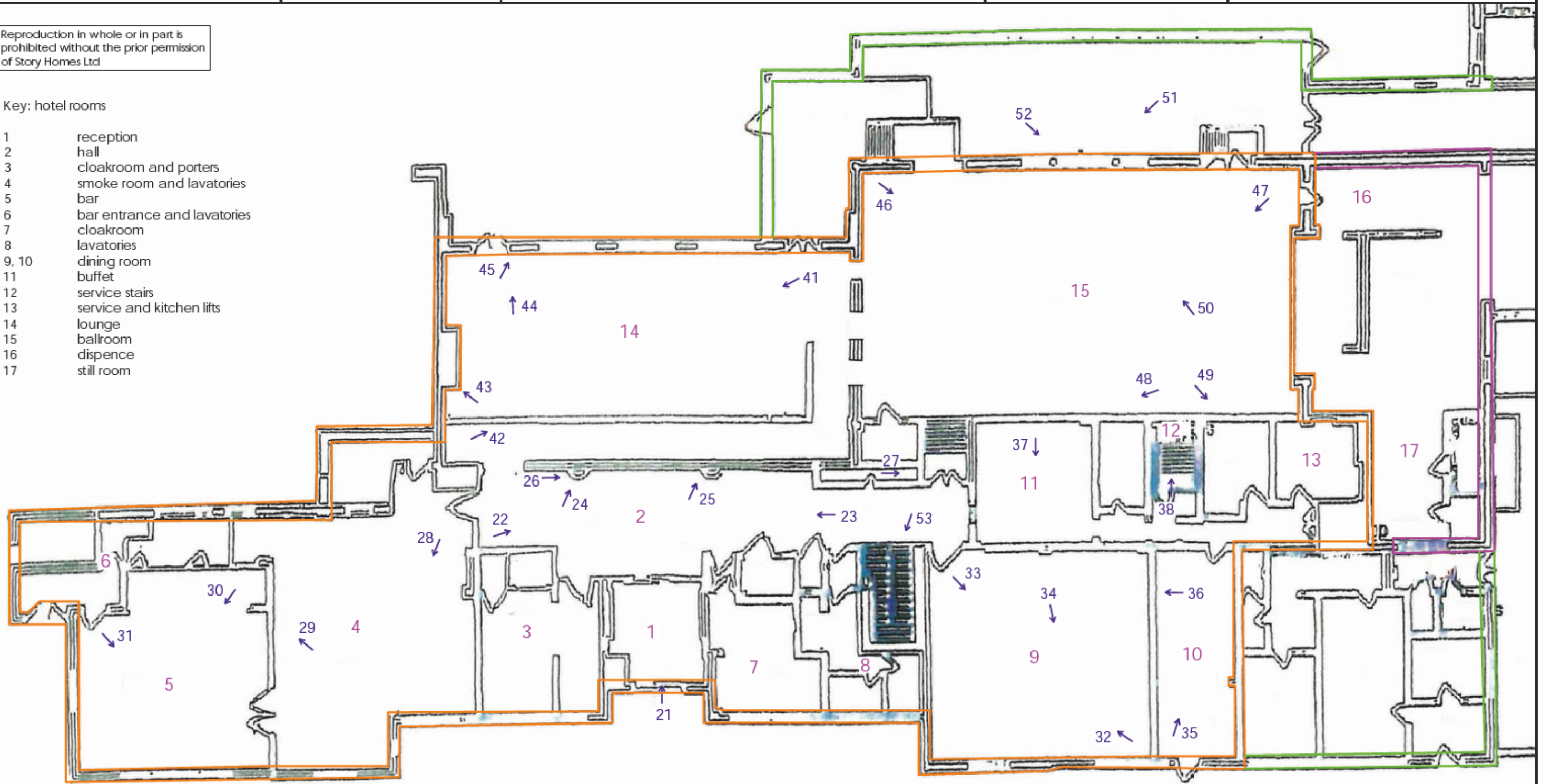


Figure 7: Ground floor

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Key: hotel rooms

- 1 reception
- 2 hall
- 3 cloakroom and porters
- 4 smoke room and lavatories
- 5 bar
- 6 bar entrance and lavatories
- 7 cloakroom
- 8 lavatories
- 9, 10 dining room
- 11 buffet
- 12 service stairs
- 13 service and kitchen lifts
- 14 lounge
- 15 ballroom
- 16 dispenca
- 17 still room







 photograph	 1935 hotel
 room numbers	 1936 extension



Figure 8: First floor

Key: hotel rooms

- 18 main staircase
- 19 guests corridor
- 20-23 guest bedrooms
- 24 guest bathroom and lavatory
- 25 manager's bathroom and lavatory
- 26 store
- 27 guest bathroom and maid's cupboard
- 28-32 guest bedrooms
- 33 manager's bedroom
- 34 manager's living room
- 35 staff corridor
- 36-38 staff bedrooms
- 39 service stairs
- 40 kitchen
- 41 fish and meat larder
- 42 chef's larder
- 43 dry goods
- 44 office
- 45 staff bedrooms
- 46 chef's office

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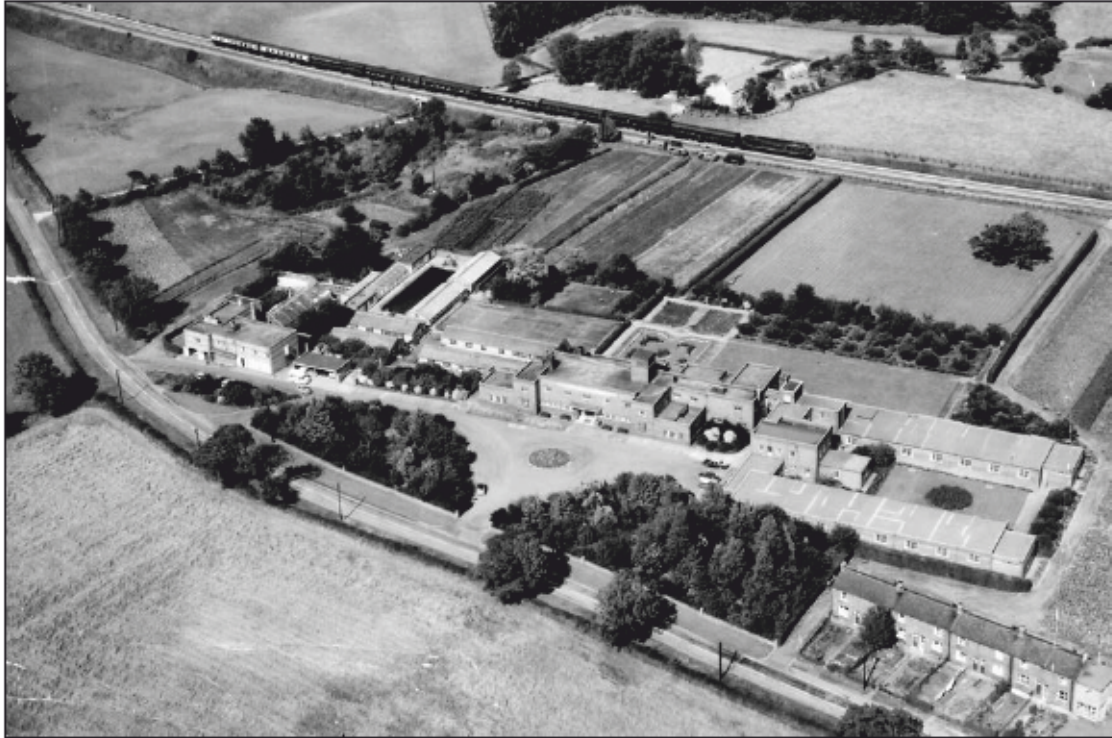




Photograph 1: The hotel and car park in the 1930s. Note the steel-framed windows throughout the façade. This photograph was kindly provided by Finchale College



Photograph 2: The same view in 2018. All of the windows have been altered and vents, air bricks and other fittings have been added, but the façade is otherwise unchanged



Photograph 3: An air view of Finchale College in the 1960s, with the Priestman building at the centre. The building at the far left is the garage, formerly the pub; above and to the right is the swimming pool. This photograph was kindly provided by Finchale College



Photograph 4: HRH Princess Elizabeth at Finchale for the opening of the new wing on 23rd October 1947, outside the entrance to the Priestman Building. The uniformed man is Colonel Sir Robert Chapman of the DCOA. This photograph was kindly provided by Finchale College



Photograph 5: The entrance front of the former hotel, showing the near-symmetrical arrangement and the strong horizontal emphasis of the building's design



Photograph 6: The projecting north wing, formerly the bar and smoke room



Photograph 7: The south wing, formerly the dining room and manager's quarters



Photograph 8: The west face of the Priestman Building seen from the north-west



Photograph 9: Strip windows with semi-cylindrical concrete mullions, north of the entrance



Photograph 10: Detail of the concrete slab sill and lintel, and the mullions



Photograph 11 (left): Taller windows in the projecting north wing. These served a guest bedroom and the smoke room



Photograph 12 (below): Minimal decoration on the three-light window of the bar



Photograph 13: The matching window in the south wing has been altered to create two doors



Photograph 14: The entrance with the brick plinths for planters. Modern cladding hides the concrete slab canopy



Photograph 15: The recent extension at the south-west corner of the building. The upper wall between the window and the fire escape door is part of the 1936 extension



Photograph 16: Much of the garden front is covered by a modern conservatory



Photograph 17: The lounge windows and the altered terrace



Photograph 18: The lounge windows have been reduced in size and re-glazed; the old sills are below the redder brickwork



Photograph 19: Windows to the first-floor rooms 20-25 and 36-38, with the water tower and boiler flue. A view from the south-east



Photograph 20: The north-west end of the building. The green door gives access to the cellars. This picture is taken from the site of the swimming pool in the original design for the hotel



Photograph 21: Modern doors replace the original revolving door in the reception area 1



Photograph 22: The hall 2, seen from the north-west end, with a modern reception desk in the foreground. There were formerly steps down to the lounge to the left and right of the pair of columns



Photograph 23 (above): The hall seen from the foot of the main staircase



Photograph 24 (left): Detail of one of the decorative columns



Photograph 25 (above): The column mouldings stop short of the plain ceiling



Photograph 26 (left): A site investigation hole in the north column gives a glimpse of the steel column inside



Photograph 27 (left): A steel column and bare brickwork in a cupboard near the main staircase

Photograph 28 (below): The former smoke room and cloakroom 4 in the north wing. Modern changes have removed all traces of these uses. The far door leads to what was formerly the bar





Photograph 29: Plain ceiling and beam above the modern suspended ceiling of room 4



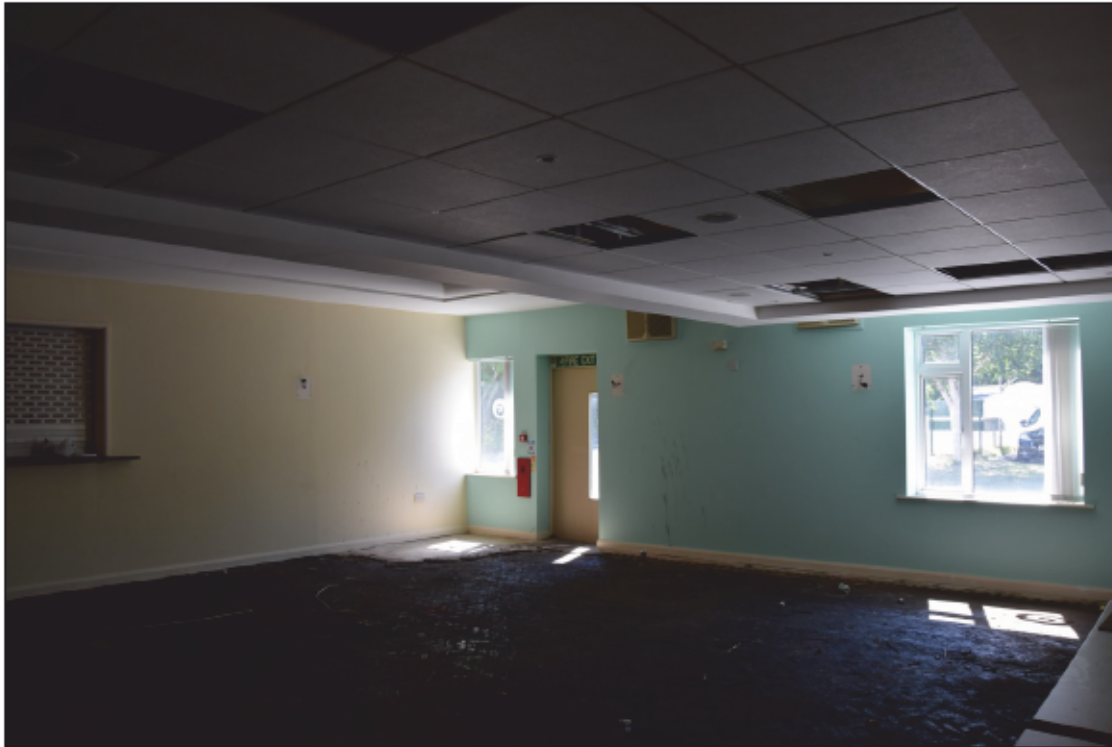
Photograph 30: The former bar, room 5



Photograph 31: Looking south across room 5. The door is not an original feature



Photograph 32: The north end of the former dining room 9, latterly used as a gym



Photograph 33: A view looking south across room 9, showing the traces of the recently stripped parquet floor. Note how the inserted cream wall cuts across the old window



Photograph 34: The recessed centre of the ceiling in room 9; compare this with Photos 48 and 49



Photograph 35: The small room 10 contains the old south window of the dining room, now closed up and fitted with shelves



Photograph 36: The parquet floor of the dining room continues under the modern tiles of room 10



Photograph 37: A view from the buffet room 11 into the former dining room 9



Photograph 38: The foot of the service stairs 39 and the steps down to the cellar. A view looking east



Photograph 39 (left): A bare brick and concrete room under the service staircase

Photograph 40 (below): A disused cellar store room under the buffet, room 11





Photograph 41: The lounge 14, seen from the south-east corner



Photograph 42: The lounge 14 and ballroom 15, seen from the north end of the modern access ramp



Photograph 43: Detail of the fluted concrete decoration on the chimney breast in the lounge



Photograph 44: A door and window between the lounge and the terrace, with decorative pilasters between the openings



Photograph 45: The lower part of the pilaster shown above, covered up when the window sill was raised



Photograph 46: The former ballroom 15, with the servery opening and the modern kitchen beyond. The small door at the left opens into the dispence room 16. Note the fluted decoration on the beams at the middle of the ceiling



Photograph 47: The ballroom 15, seen from the south-east corner. The far wall was originally solid and the entrance was by way of the steps, left of centre



Photograph 48: Detail of the concrete ceiling beams and the plaster coving in the centre of the ballroom 15



Photograph 49: Inside the plaster coving are battens and old ceramic lamp holders for concealed lights above the middle of the dance floor



Photograph 50: The windows in the east wall of the ballroom, with the modern conservatory beyond



Photograph 51 (above): The ballroom windows, seen from the conservatory



Photograph 52 (left): The windows are the only ones in the building without modern uPVC replacement units, but these glazing bars are not original features



Photograph 53: The main staircase 18, with its incongruous steel-pipe handrail



Photograph 54: The staircase seen from the landing



Photograph 55 (above): The landing and the head of the staircase. The far door leads to the staff quarters and the guest corridor is at the far left



Photograph 56 (left): A view looking north along the guest corridor 19 from the head of the stairs



Photograph 57 (left): The former housemaids' cupboard 27 and fire escape at the end of the guest corridor

Photograph 58 (below): Guest bedroom 28





Photograph 59 (above): Guest bedroom 31



Photograph 60 (left): All of fittings and woodwork of the guest quarters is extremely plain



Photograph 61 (above): The very simple skirting at the head of the staircase 18



Photograph 62 (left): An equally plain corridor to the manager's living room 34 and bedroom 33 (the door at the left)



Photograph 63 (above): The suspended ceiling conceals a ventilator in the south end of the store room 26



Photograph 64 (left): A view looking south along the service corridor 35



Photograph 65: Staff bedroom 38



Photograph 66: The service staircase 39



Photograph 67: The former kitchen 40, with the 1935 roof light and the 1936 extension



Photograph 68: Looking north-west across the old kitchen 40. The cupboards are on the site of the dumb-waiter lifts



Photograph 69 (left): A typically Spartan corridor for staff and service rooms 41-46 in the 1936 extension

Photograph 70 (below): Bathroom 42 and bedroom 41 in the 1936 extension

