Burnley General Hospital Casterton Avenue Burnley, Lancashire





DECEMBER 2021

Level 2 Historic Building Survey Report EH165/02 Eden Heritage Ltd Web: www.eden-heritage.co.uk
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Burnley General Hospital Casterton Avenue Burnley, Lancashire

Level 2 Historic Building Survey Report for Calico Homes

DATE ISSUED: December 2021

PROJECT NUMBER: EH165/02

REPORT NUMBER: 02 Version (1.0)

OASIS REF: edenheri1- 503515

GRID REFERENCE: Centred on SD 8509 3457

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Heritage Impact Assessment Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Historic Landscape and Building Surveys Written Scheme of Investigation Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
Archaeological Excavation
Archaeological Watching Briefs



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Summary

Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Calico Homes to undertake a Level 2 Historic Building Survey of redundant buildings in the grounds of Burnley General Hospital, Casterton Avenue, Burnley, Lancashire. The recording work was required in association with the submission of a planning application for the demolition of the structures and redevelopment of the site for housing.

Burnley General Hospital originated as a workhouse, known as Burnley Union Workhouse, in the second half of the 19th century, built to the designs of architect William Waddington. In the late 19th century, the workhouse expanded with the addition of a new infirmary designed by Samuel Keighley, with workshops and new accommodation blocks. This expansion included the construction of six cottages homes for children; these are the buildings which are the subject of the historic building survey.

The historic building survey was concerned with six T-shaped cottage homes for children constructed in *c*.1890 to the south-west side of the original Burnley Workhouse complex on Briercliffe Road. The cottages were certainly in existence by 1892, when historic mapping shows them as evenly spaced to the south-west side of a lawned area. The cottages would presumably have provided more homely accommodation for groups of children, compared to the large dormitories of the Workhouse.

The survey identified the six cottages as still being in existence, although each set of two has been linked together through the insertion of brick infill to create three I-shaped blocks. Each cottage was generally of the same plan form, and contained the same architectural features, fenestration and location of doorways, although the northwestern block (Block C) did have some small differences. It was clear that when the cottages were constructed, they were meant to be viewed from Briercliffe Road and from within the workhouse complex itself, as these are the sides which contain the architectural detailing.

Internally, the cottages did not contain much in the way of original or historic features. There was some evidence for the location of fireplaces, although others may have been removed when the brick infill was inserted between the cottages. The original plan forms have been altered as they have been adapted for more recent use as buildings associated with Burnley General Hospital, but from what survives it was possible to suggest that each cottage may have had four rooms each on the ground and first floors, with two WC's at first floor level at the top of the stairwell.



1 Introduction

1.1 Project Circumstances

- 1.1.1 Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Calico Homes to undertake a programme of historic building recording of redundant buildings within the boundary of Burnley General Hospital, Burnley, Lancashire (which is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR SD 8510 3468). This work was associated with the submission of a planning application for the demolition of the structures and redevelopment of the site for housing.
- 1.1.2 Burnley General Hospital originated as a workhouse, known as Burnley Union Workhouse, in the second half of the 19th century, built to the designs of architect William Waddington. In the late 19th century, the workhouse expanded with the addition of a new infirmary designed by Samuel Keighley, with workshops and new accommodation blocks. This expansion included the construction of six cottages homes for children; these are the buildings which are the subject of the historic building survey. These were not designated as listed buildings but would be regarded as being non-designated heritage assets.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Eden Heritage setting out the methodology for the programme of historic building recording (Eden Heritage 2021). The WSI was approved by the Historic Environment Team at Lancashire County Council prior to the commencement of the project.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 Burnley is a town in Lancashire, located approximately 34km to the north of Manchester and c.32km east of Preston, situated at the confluence of the River Calder and the River Brun. Burnley General Hospital is located to the north of Burnley town centre, to the east of Colne Road (A682), south-west of Casterton Avenue and to the west side of Briercliffe Road (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The buildings that are the subject of the historic building survey are located to the south side of the hospital site, bounded by Briercliffe Road to the south-east. The hospital complex consists of multiple different buildings with associated network of access roads. The survey buildings have modern hospital buildings immediately to the north-east and north-west, and terraced housing to the south-west, separated from the hospital complex by a stone boundary wall (Figure 2).



2 Methodology

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The historic building survey consists of a rapid desk-based assessment and a site visit, which was undertaken on 8th December 2021. The written report provides a brief historical background to the site, and a photographic and drawn record of the buildings that are the subject of the survey.
- 2.1.2 All work undertaken was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a).

2.2 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 In order to provide historical context to the site of the survey buildings within Burnley General Hospital complex, a brief historical background is provided which utilises readily-available online sources, publications and cartographic sources held by Eden Heritage Ltd. A search of Lancashire Archive's online catalogue did not reveal any documents or plans relating to the cottages at Burnley Workhouse.

2.3 Historic Building Recording

- 2.3.1 The Level 2 Historic Building Survey was undertaken as set out in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). A Level 2 survey is a descriptive record, which comprises an introductory description followed by a systematic written account of the building's origins, development and use (Historic England 2016, 26).
- 2.3.2 The survey includes a drawn and photographic record which illustrates the appearance and layout of the buildings. Photographs were taken using digital photography of all external and some internal elevations, where possible, and detailed photographs of features of historic or archaeological interest.
- 2.3.3 The written description has been prepared from notes taken on site, and from an assessment of the existing floor plans and photographs taken during the survey. For ease of reference, the buildings have been allocated a name, i.e., Block A, Block B and Block C, as shown on Figure 6.

2.4 Project Archive

2.4.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2011) and the CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological



Archives (CIfA 2020b).

- 2.4.2 A PDF version of the final report will be deposited with Lancashire Historic Environment Record. The project archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives in Preston; this will include a printed and digital copy of the final report, along with all the digital photographs on a CD-Rom.
- 2.4.3 The project is also registered with the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of archaeological investigation**S** (OASIS) project. The OASIS reference for this project is: edenheri1- 503515.



3 Background

3.1 Historic Background

- 3.1.1 In the first half of the 19th century, Burnley Poor Law Union took over old workhouse buildings on Royle Road in Burnley and on Blackburn Road in Padiham; between them these provided over 300 places. In 1873 a foundation stone was laid for a new workhouse built on a previously undeveloped 10-acre site on Briercliffe Road, Burnley; this was to house 500 inmates, the first of which was admitted in March 1876. The buildings cost £20 000, and were built to the designs of architect William Waddington, in the Italianate style, utilising stone from the Tubber Hill and Burnley Lane quarries. The main building was T-shaped in plan and was three stories high. Administrative functions were located at the centre, with males placed in the west wing and women in the east. There were dayrooms on the ground floor, for the aged and imbeciles at the front, and for able-bodied and children to the rear. The original workhouse infirmary was constructed to the west of the main block (Higginbotham 2006, 45; The Workhouse 2021).
- 3.1.2 The layout of Burnley Union Workhouse is clearly shown on Ordnance Survey mapping published in 1893. At this date, the main building is shown as T-shaped in plan with separate buildings to its northeast, north-west and west sides. The main entrance appears to have been from Briercliffe Road, with the gateway flanked by buildings to each side, and a Fever Hospital and Mortuary shown on the opposite side of the road; all of these buildings are outside the current survey boundary. To the south-west side of the main block and separated from its by apparent tree-lined lawns, there are a series of six separate structures, also T-shape in plan, seemingly grouped into three pairs with small features to the southwest side. The larger-scale version of this map shows that the north-western of these buildings were slightly different in plan form to the other four, having another apparent entrance against the southwest elevations (Figure 3).
- 3.1.3 These six buildings were constructed in approximately 1890, along with new wash-houses, workshops, and a vagrant's block. They were intended as cottage homes for children, each housing around 16 children under the care of a house-mother (The Workhouse 2021). In the 1870s, some Poor Law Unions began experimenting with 'cottage homes', a system pioneered in France in the 1850s. The homes were organised as 'family' groups of 15 to 20 children plus a house mother or father and proved successful in providing a remedial environment for juvenile offenders. Ideally, cottage homes were constructed as a self-contained 'village' in a rural location, typically with approximately 12 cottages plus a school, infirmary, administration and reception block, and even a swimming pool (Higginbotham 2006, 22). But clearly at Burnley, the cottage homes whilst erected away from the main workhouse in a more semi-rural environment (prior to the construction of the terraced housing to the south-west), they were close



enough to utilise the infirmary, administration and reception blocks that already existed.

- 3.1.4 A new large infirmary was added to the north of the earlier infirmary at a cost of £28 000. It was designed by local architect Samuel Keighley, with a central administrative block connected by short corridors to the men's and women's wards to each side (The Workhouse 2021). This new infirmary is shown on the Ordnance Survey map published in 1912 along with other structures, including possible glass houses, to the north-west side of the site boundary. The buildings within the site boundary include the six cottage homes, as well as a possible porter's lodge at the site entrance on Briercliffe Road (now demolished) (Figure 4a).
- 3.1.5 By 1931, some slight changes had taken place to the six cottage homes, consisting of the removal of the small structures to the south-west side, and erection of two possible small conservatories to the northernmost cottage. The lawned area to the north-east side of the six cottage homes had changed slightly in its layout but this date (Figure 4b).
- 3.1.6 After 1930, control of the workhouse passed to Burnley Public Assurance Committee. The infirmary was taken over by the separate Public Health Committee and was renamed Primrose Bank Hospital. Following the inauguration of the NHS in 1948, the two parts were reunited and became Burnley General Hospital (Higginbotham 2006, 45).
- 3.1.7 Ordnance Survey mapping published in 1947 and 1954 show the six separate cottage homes located to the south side of the hospital complex (Figure 5). By 1960, however, Ordnance Survey mapping (not reproduced here) shows that the central two buildings had been connected to form an I-shaped block. The possible porter's lodge to the east side of the site, at the entrance to Briercliffe Road, had been demolished by this time. In the 1970s, the other two sets of cottage homes had also been connected to form an H-shape, resulting in three I-shaped blocks, the same form as the buildings remain at the time of this historic building survey (Eden Heritage 2021, 4).



4 Historic Building Survey

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The historic building survey is concerned with six former cottages, originally each T-shaped in plan, but each set of two has been joined together by two-storey brick infill in the second half of the 20th century, creating three I-shaped blocks which will be referred to here as Block A (nearest Briercliffe Road), Block B and Block C (Figure 6).
- 4.1.2 As each cottage was constructed in the same style and form, the descriptions below will refer to the overall design and architectural features, but where some difference was noted between individual cottages, this will be referred to in relation to that particular original cottage (numbered 1-6 on Figure 6). The existing ground and first floor plans for each block as shown on Figures 7 to 9.
- 4.1.3 The interiors of each cottage were inspected for any original or historic features of interest; however some areas could not be accessed due to unsafe floors as a result of unauthorised access and decay since the buildings became unoccupied.

4.2 Exteriors

- 4.2.1 Each of the six former cottages are of the same plan form, are two-storeys in height and are constructed of coursed, rock-faced stonework and slate roofs (Plates 1 and 2). Flues for fireplaces are located against the north-east facing gables of each cottage, although the chimney stacks have been removed from some of the buildings; the flues provide an indication of where the internal fireplaces were located (Plate 3). All of the elevations have ashlar string courses apart from those which face towards the south-west, which would have been away from the workhouse complex, and along the base of the elevations there is a chamfered plinth.
- 4.2.2 Original doorways into each of the cottages are located in the north-east facing elevations (Plates 4 and 5). Original doors survive in some of the cottages, set beneath projecting canopies which have decorative woodwork supporting the slate roofs, characteristic of the late 19th century (Plates 6 to 8). Not all of the cottages have these canopies over the doorways, which may indicate they have been removed or were not present originally (Plate 9). The doorways that are set in the projections against the north-east elevations are two-storeys in height, with a two- light window providing natural light to the first-floor level (Plate 5); these appear to have related to toilets located at the top of the stairwells.
- 4.2.3 The two cottages which form Block C, as well as having doorways in the north-east elevations, also have a doorway set in a projection against the south-west elevations; these appear to have been added later,



but the large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1892 shows them present at this date (Plates 10 and 11; Figure 3b). Both of these doorways are accessed by a set of steps with concrete treads, needed due to the slight decrease in ground level to the south-west side of the buildings. Some later doorways have been inserted, for example Cottage 3 and Cottage 1, where new entrances with ramps have been added into the north-west facing elevations to the rear (south-west side) of the properties (Plates 12 and 13).

- 4.2.4 Each of the cottages were provided by plenty of natural light through the generally regularly-spaced windows at ground and first floor levels in all the north-east, south-east, and south-west elevations. It was noted that the longer elevations, i.e., the north-west and south-east facing sides, have not only single-light but double-light fenestration. The windows have plain ashlar sills but decorative lintels to the sides which would have faced towards the workhouse complex and Briercliffe Road (Plates 14 to 16), but those which face away (the south-west facing elevations) have plain sills and lintels (Plates 17 and 18). In the south-west elevations of Blocks A and B (Cottages 1 to 4) there is a tall first floor window which would have lit the stairwell for each of these cottages (Plates 18 and 19). These tall windows are not present in Block C (Cottages 5 and 6) presumably due to the presence of the projections which house entrances, indicating that these projections appear to be original features as there was no clear evidence for former taller windows having been partly infilled (Plate 10).
- 4.2.5 All of the cottages have ventilation grilles present, these are generally rectangular in form and regularly-spaced, set between two courses of the stonework (Plate 15). The grilles are grid-like in form, but there are decorative examples, and within the north-east facing elevations of Blocks A and B are round vents set within the string course (Plates 20 to 22); these are not present within the same elevations of Block C (Plate 23).
- 4.2.6 Each of the six cottages have been linked to another through the insertion of two-storey brick infill in the second half of the 20th century (as evidenced from cartographic sources). This is clearly visible in each of the three blocks with clear construction breaks visible between the original stone fabric and the brickwork that is laid in stretcher bond. This brick infill contains a large doorway and windows in the north-east elevations and windows in the south-west facing elevations (Plates 24 to 27). The brick infills have obscured any evidence that could be viewed from the exterior for the original north-west or southeast elevations of the projections that formed the original T-shape.





Plate 1: View looking north-west from Briercliffe Road showing the former cottages, Block A is in the foreground



Plate 2: View looking south-east showing the former cottages, Block C is in the foreground





Plate 3: North-east elevation of Cottage 1, Block A, showing the projecting chimney flue



Plate 4: North-east facing elevations of Block A showing the projection for a doorway to Cottage 1





Plate 5: View looking south showing north-east elevations of Cottage 1 showing the projection which houses the main entrance (blue door)



Plate 6: Detail of main entrance to Cottage 1, Block A (Scale = 2m)





Plate 7: Projecting canopy above the main entrance to Cottage 1, Block A, north-east elevation



Plate 8: Detail of main entrance to Cottage 2, Block A showing ashlar surround and projecting canopy





Plate 9: Doorway to Cottage 4, Block C, showing lack of projecting canopy over the door (Scale = 2m)



Plate 10: South-west elevation of Block C showing an apparent later doorway to Cottage 5 (Scale = 2m)





Plate 11: Doorway in projection against south-west elevation of Cottage 6, Block C



Plate 12: Inserted doorway, north-west facing elevation of Cottage 3, Block B





Plate 13: Inserted doorway, north-west facing elevation of Cottage 1, Block A, also showing a blocked window



Plate 14: North-west elevation of Cottage 2, Block A showing the fenestration and plinth





Plate 15: South-east elevation of Cottage 1, Block A, showing the decorative lintels of the windows



Plate 16: Detail of window in south-east elevation of Cottage 1 showing decorative lintel (Scale = 2m)





Plate 17: South-west facing elevations of Block B showing the fenestration with plain sills and lintels



Plate 18: South-west elevation of Cottage 3, Block B showing plain lintels and sloping sills of the windows





Plate 19: South-west elevations of Cottage 2, Block A, showing the tall first floor window that lit the stairwell



Plate 20: Example of one of the ventilation grilles, Block B





Plate 21: Decorative ventilation grille, Cottage 4, Block B



Plate 22: North-east elevation of Cottage 4, Block B showing the round ventilation grilles





Plate 23: North-east and north-west elevations of Cottage 6, Block C, showing lack of round ventilation grilles



Plate 24: North-east elevation of Block A showing inserted brick infill between Cottages 1 and 2





Plate 25: South-west elevation of Block A showing inserted brick infill between Cottages 1 and 2



Plate 26: North-east elevation of Block B





Plate 27: North-east elevation of Block C

4.3 Interiors

- 4.3.1 As noted above, the interiors of each of the blocks was inspected, although access was slightly restricted due to unsafe floors. It was noted during the site visit that each of the former cottages has more latterly formed part of buildings associated with Burnley General Hospital, for example Block C was the 'Department of Physiological Services', and Block B was the 'Mary Burbery Unit'. Consequently, the interiors of all of the former cottages have undergone modernisation, including the installation of suspended ceilings and stud walls to create additional offices and consulting rooms. The floor plans of each of the blocks as they were prior to becoming redundant are reproduced as Figures 7 to 9.
- 4.3.2 Evidence for the presence of fireplaces has already been referred to when describing the exterior, with chimney flues present against the north-east gables of each cottage. Evidence for the locations of internal fireplaces was only noted in two cottages, in the form of a projecting chimney breast in Block A (fireplace aperture infilled) (Plate 28), and a surviving fireplace with blue tile surround in Block C (Plate 29). It is possible that further fireplaces were present within each cottage, possibly in the walls that have been removed or altered when the brick infills were inserted; this is suggested by possible chimney breasts shown on the ground floor plan of Block C (Figure 9). Warmth has more recently been provided by central heating, although some historic radiators do survive (Plate 30).
- 4.3.3 Each cottage would have had a dog-leg staircase, with natural light provided by the tall windows already



referred to above. The staircases are relatively plain with metal balusters, concrete treads and metal handrails (Plates 31 to 33). At the top of each staircase there are two WC's, seemingly an original feature as they are located within the projections against the north-east elevation with the main entrances located below at ground level (Plate 34 and Figures 7 to 9).

- 4.3.4 When the brick infill was inserted in the 20th century between the three sets of cottages, this presumably created more efficient space for services associated with the hospital. Once the brickwork was inserted, the original north-west and south-east walls of the cottages had openings inserted to allow access to the new infill space (Plate 35). The exception to this was seemingly the ground floor of Block C where the brick infill created a separate room on this level, although the first-floor section has, at least more recently, allowed access between what would have been Cottage 5 and Cottage 6 (Plate 36 and Figure 9).
- 4.3.5 As the buildings have been utilised as part of the hospital up until they became redundant, the internal layout of each of the blocks reflects this, with stud walls having been inserted to create additional rooms. The original layout may have consisted of four rooms on the ground floor, plus the entrance lobby and the stairwell, as suggested by the existing ground floor plan of Block A (Cottage 1), and the second floors may also have had four rooms (serving as wards or dormitories) plus the WC's and the stairwell (Figure 7). There was no evidence noted at the time of survey for cellars under any of the cottages.





Plate 28: Projecting chimney breast, Block A (Scale = 2m)

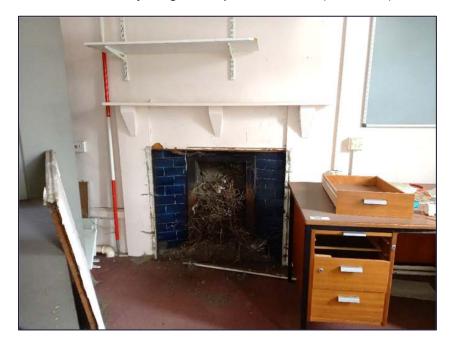


Plate 29: Surviving fireplace, first floor of Block C





Plate 30: Examples of historic radiators, first floor of Block A (Scale = 2m)



Plate 31: Detail of staircase, Block A (Scale = 2m)





Plate 32: Detail of staircase, Block C



Plate 33: Example of one of the tall windows which light the stairwells





Plate 34: The first floor WC's, Block C (Scale = 2m)



Plate 35: View looking north-west showing the first floor of Block A as seen from the original cottage looking into the brick infill section





Plate 36: View looking south-west showing the first floor of the brick infill section in Block C, the doors to the right provide access to modern offices



5 Conclusions

5.1 Origins, Development and Use

- 5.1.1 The historic building survey was concerned with six T-shaped cottages for children constructed in *c*.1890 to the south-west side of the original Burnley Workhouse complex on Briercliffe Road. The cottages were certainly in existence by 1892, when historic mapping shows them as evenly spaced to the south-west side of a lawned area. The cottages would presumably have provided more homely accommodation for groups of children, compared to the large dormitories of the Workhouse.
- 5.1.2 The survey has identified the six cottages as still being in existence, although each set of two has been linked together through the insertion of brick infill to create three I-shaped blocks. Each cottage was generally of the same plan form, and contained the same architectural features, fenestration and location of doorways, although the north-western block (Block C) did have some small differences. It was clear that when the cottages were constructed, they were meant to be viewed from Briercliffe Road and from within the workhouse complex itself, as these are the sides which contain the architectural detailing, whilst the rear elevations (the south-west facing sides) are much more utilitarian in character.
- 5.1.3 Internally, the cottages did not contain much in the way of original or historic features, and it is recognised that when constructed, there may have been little in the way of architectural detailing within the buildings themselves. There was some evidence for the location of fireplaces, although others may have been removed when the brick infill was inserted. The original plan forms have been altered as they have been adapted for more recent use as buildings associated with Burnley General Hospital, but from what survives it was possible to suggest that each cottage may have had four rooms each on the ground and first floors, with two WC's at first floor level at the top of the stairwell.



6 References

Maps

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The Workhouse in Burnley, Lancashire (workhouses.org.uk) - Accessed December 2021



APPENDIX: Figures

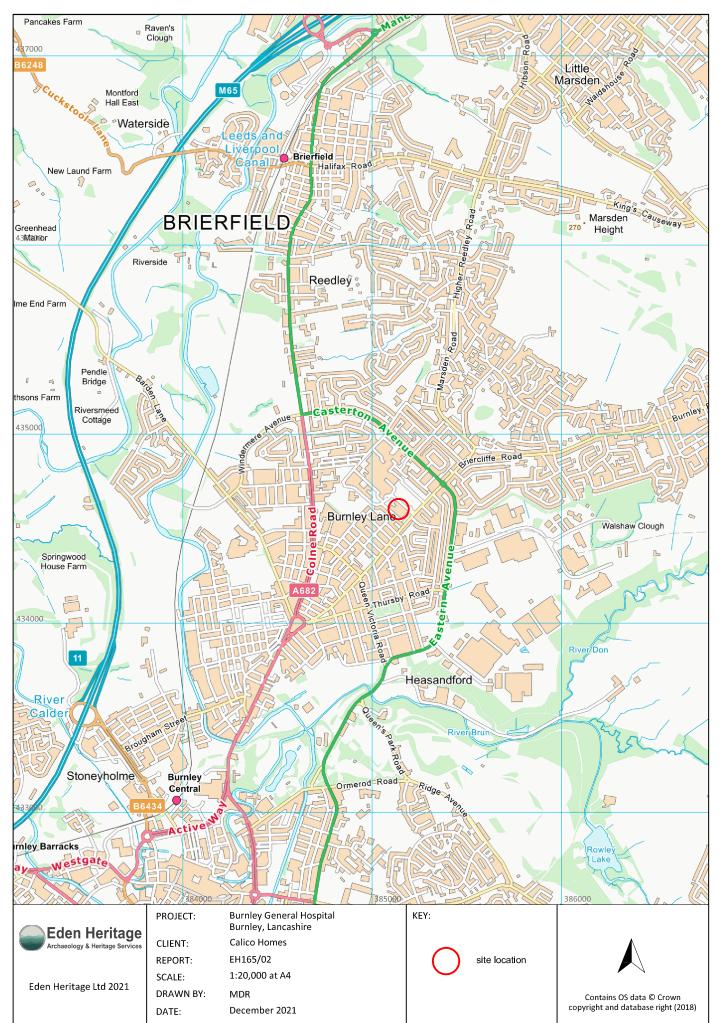


Figure 1: Site Location.

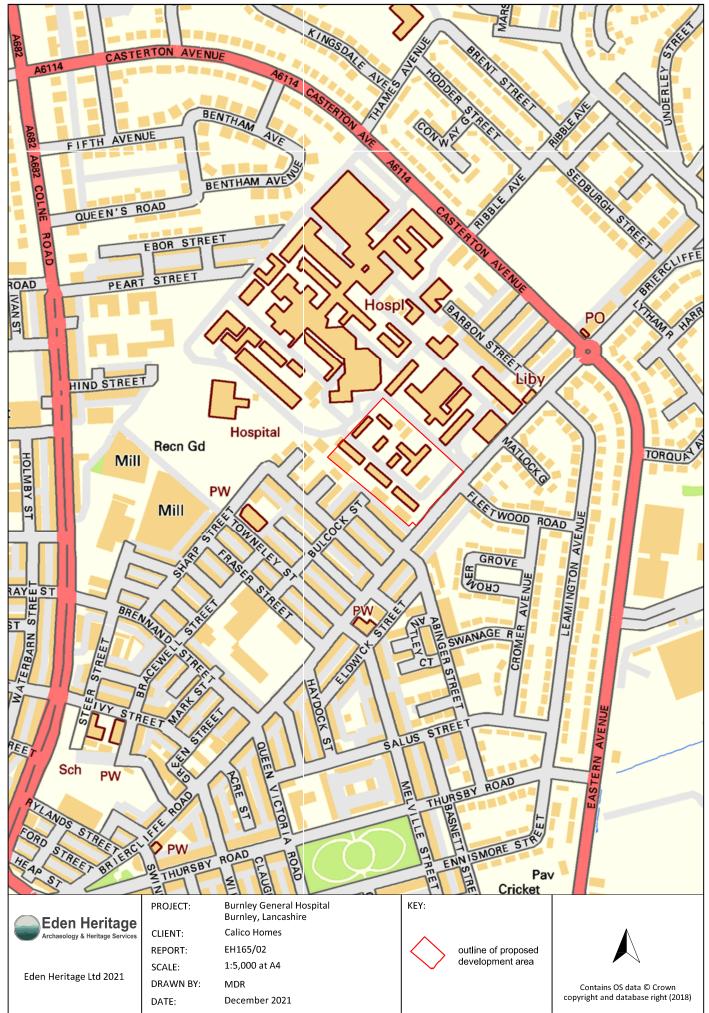


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location.

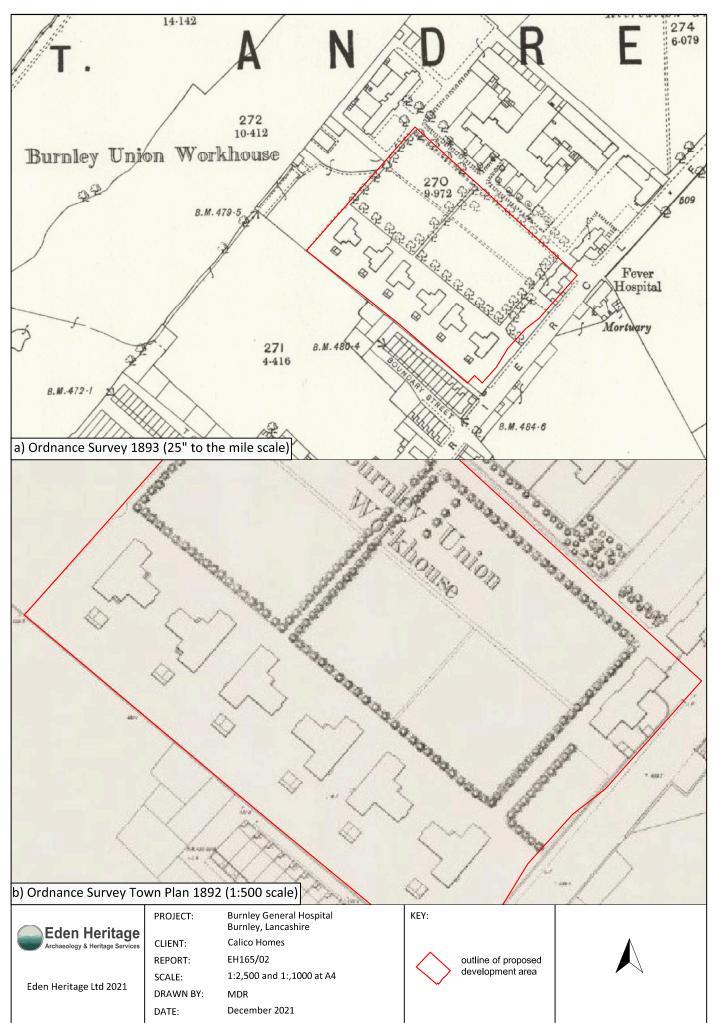


Figure 3: Extracts from historic Ordnance Survey maps (1892 & 1893).

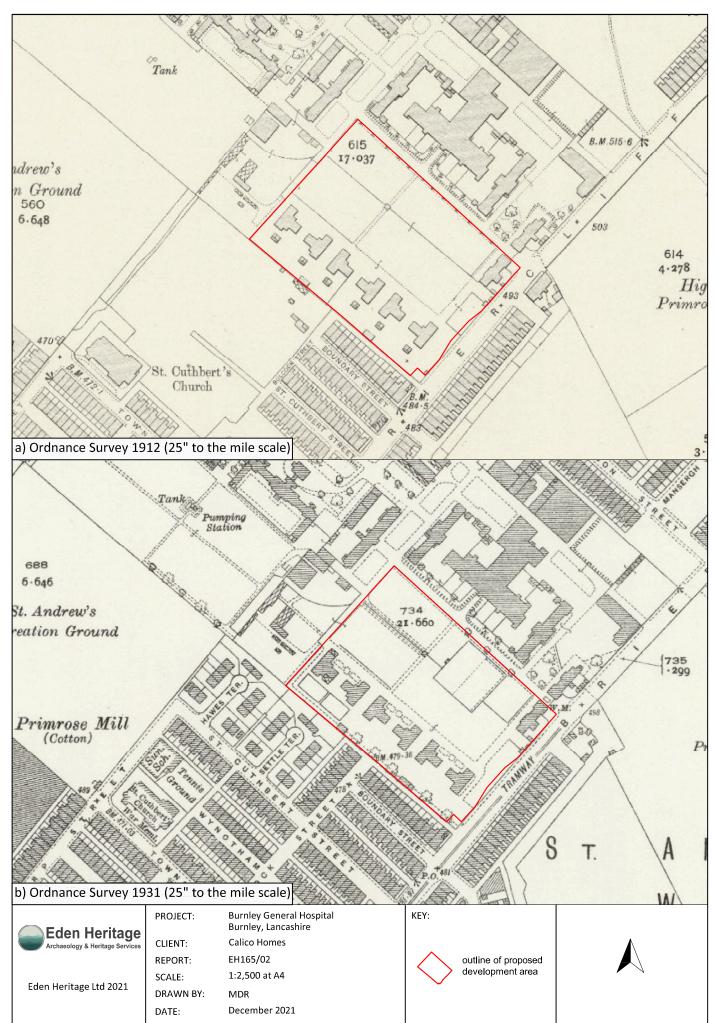


Figure 4: Extracts from historic Ordnance Survey maps (1912 & 1931).

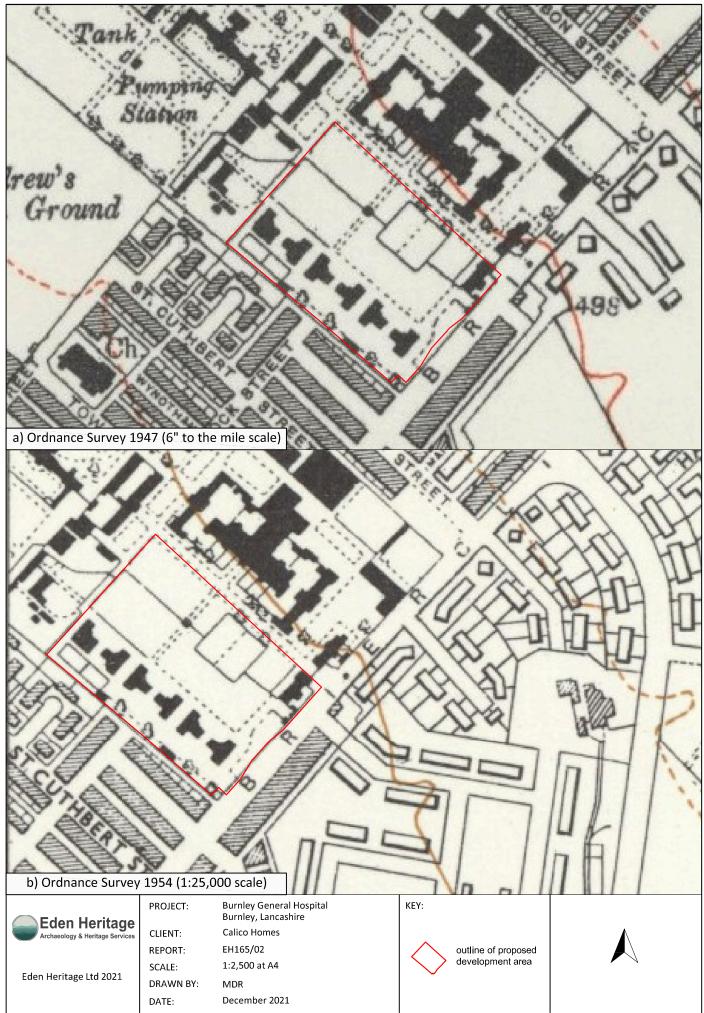


Figure 5: Extracts from historic Ordnance Survey maps (1947 & 1954).

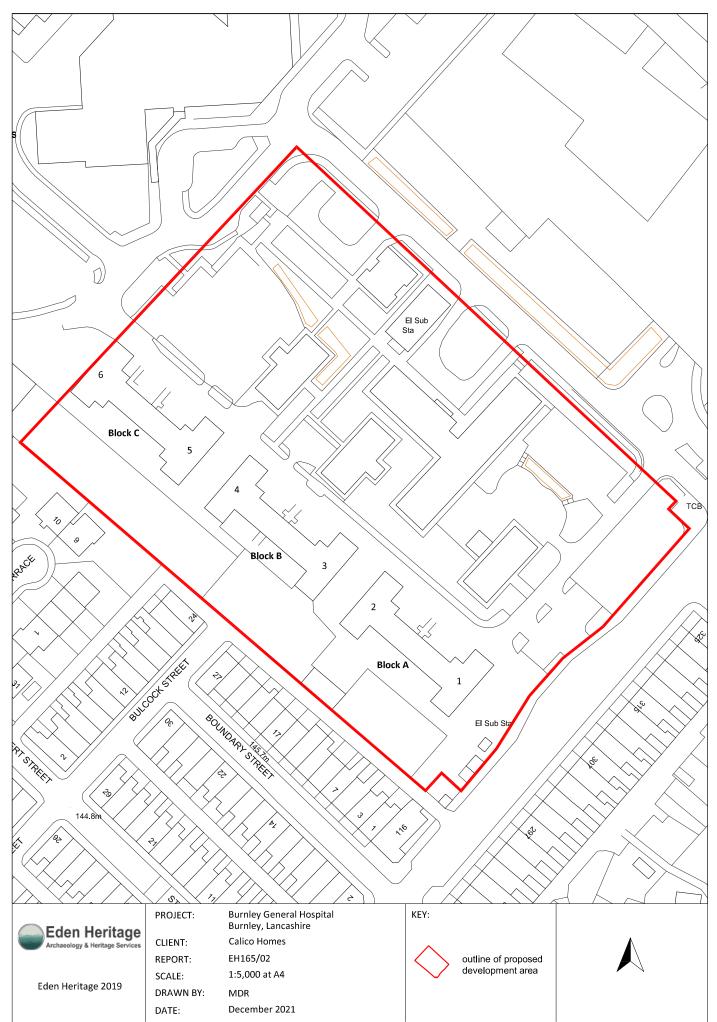


Figure 6: Site plan showing Block A, Block B and Block C.

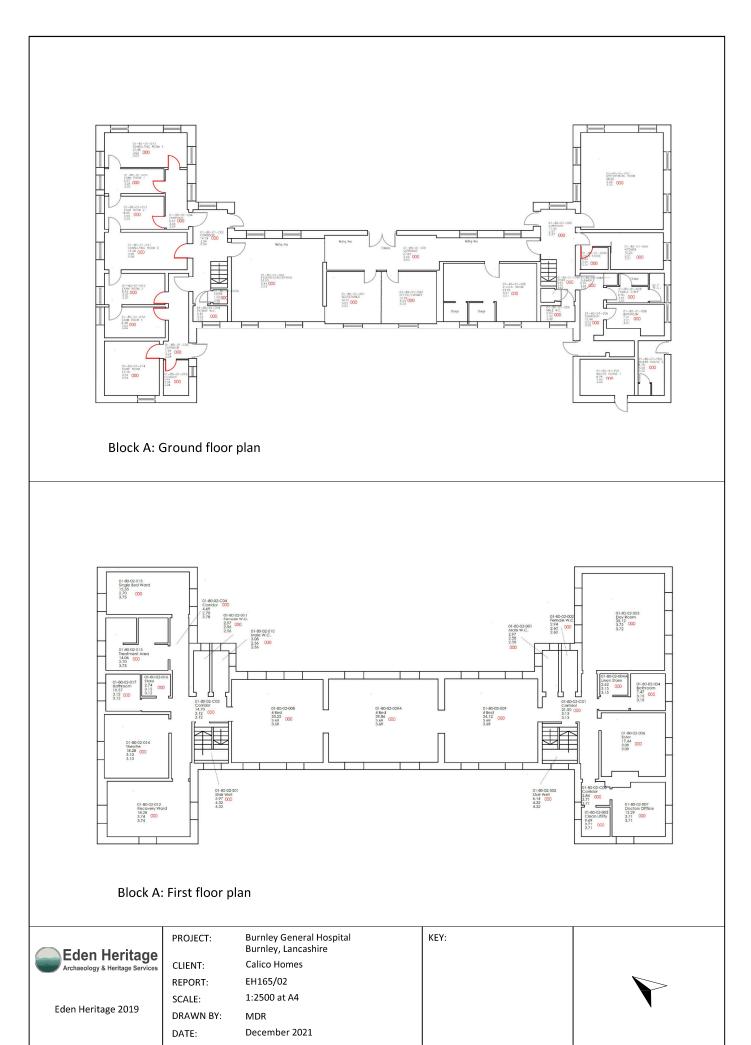


Figure 7: Floor plans of Block A.

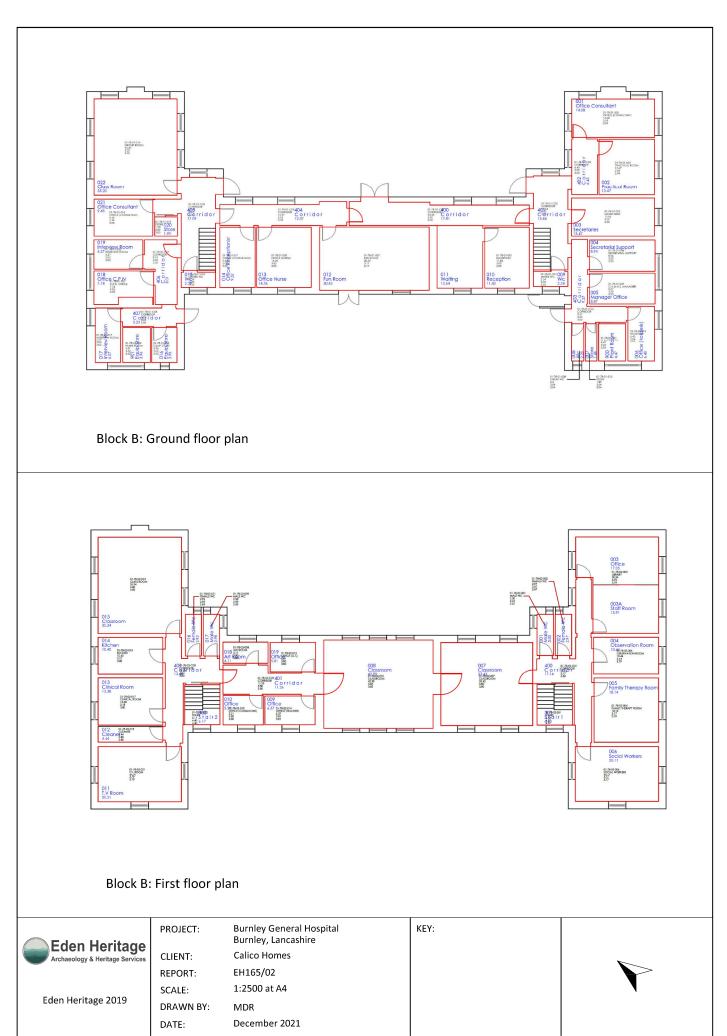


Figure 8: Floor plans of Block B.

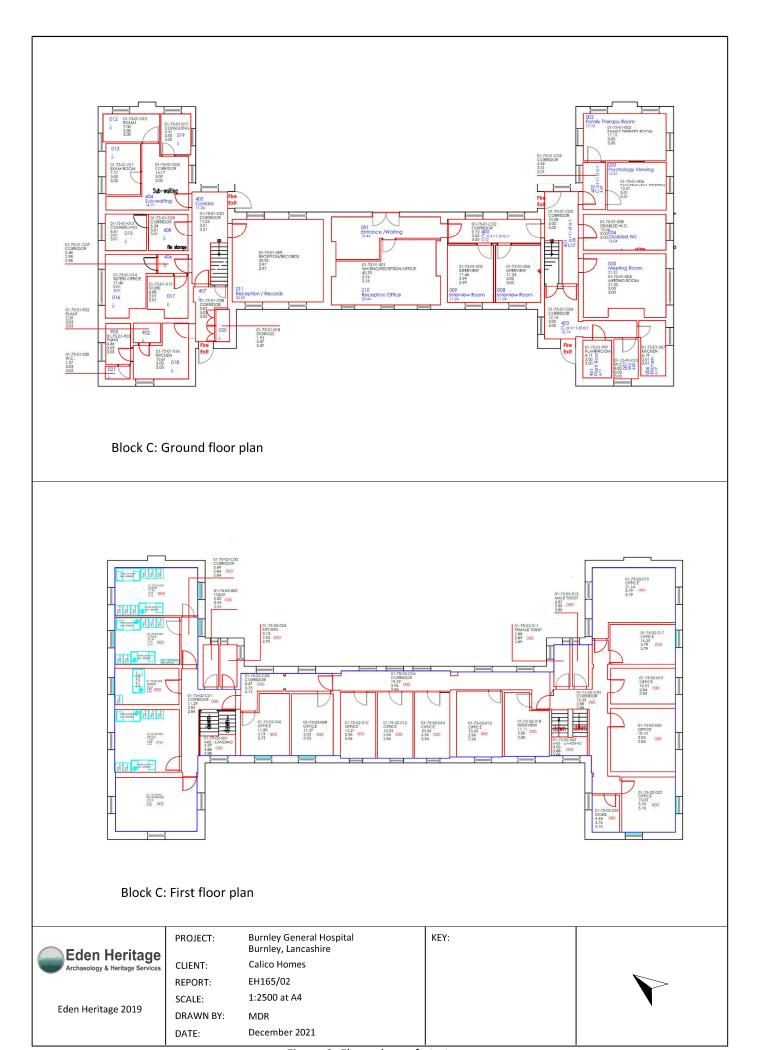


Figure 9: Floor plans of Block C.

Heritage Impact Assessment Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Historic Landscape and Building Surveys Written Scheme of Investigation Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
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