

# THE GUILDHALL BUTCHERS ROW BARNSTAPLE DEVON

Historic Building Recording



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 170830



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## The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple, Devon

### Historic Building Recording

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Report Version: FINAL  
7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Work undertaken by SWARCH  
for Sam Nolan of David Wilson Partnership  
On Behalf of Barnstaple Town Council

### Summary

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*South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Sam Nolan of the David Wilson Partnership (The Agents) on behalf of Barnstaple Town Council (The Clients) to undertake building recording for the Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple, Devon, in order to assess the fabric affected by the conversion, restoration and development of the building.*

*The Guildhall retains both the civic and mercantile functions for which it was built. The main chamber retains much of its original character, although much of the rest of the building has seen numerous phases of alteration and redecoration. Many of the historic features in the building were originally housed in other buildings in the town and have gradually been incorporated into the decorative scheme of the Guildhall.*

*While there are areas of the building that should be preserved without alteration and historic fabric that should be retained, there is a lot of capacity for change within the building, especially in the modern extensions and rooms which have been subject to heavy alteration in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The open nature of the ground floor and its link with the Pannier Market should be retained. The division of space between the public and town officials needs to be readable even if it is opened up to mixed use.*

*It is recommended that work in areas which may expose historic fabric should be monitored in order to further inform the record of the development of this building.*

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September 2017

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL (THE CLIENTS)  
SAM NOLAN OF THE DAVID WILSON PARTNERSHIP (THE AGENTS)

## PROJECT CREDITS

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EDITING: NATALIE BOYD; DR. SAMUEL WALLS

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	THE GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW
<b>PARISH:</b>	BARNSTAPLE
<b>COUNTY:</b>	DEVON
<b>NGR:</b>	SS 55790 33251
<b>SWARCH REF:</b>	BGU17

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Sam Nolan of the David Wilson Partnership (The Agent) on behalf of Barnstaple Town Council (The Clients) to undertake building recording for the Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple, Devon. This work was undertaken in order to assess the fabric affected by the conversion, restoration and development of the building.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Guildhall in Barnstaple is located on the corner where High Street and Butchers Row meet. It lies in the centre of the Barnstaple Town Centre Conservation Area and is surrounded by buildings of varied architectural styles, including a number of historic buildings. The town of Barnstaple sits on the generally flat valley floor of the River Taw, 8 miles inland of the Bristol Channel and at the confluence of the Taw and the Yeo. The Guildhall sits at approximately 30m AOD.

The soils of this area are classified as Urban (SSEW 1983), overlying the sedimentary mudstone of the Pilton Formation (BGS 2017).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The settlement of Barnstaple is first recorded on coins struck in the late 10<sup>th</sup> to early 11<sup>th</sup> centuries as '*Beardastapol*', but by Domesday is known as '*Barnestaple*'. There are two potential origins for the name, '*Bearda's*' market or pool, or from *Bar* and *staple* meaning market town on the mouth of a river. The town was one of the four early Devon boroughs, second in size to Exeter, and by the 13<sup>th</sup> century its defensive walls were lowered, suggesting it was already an established and wealthy trade centre.

The present Guildhall was constructed in 1826 adjacent to the meat market. In 1852 planning for the adjacent Pannier Market began and it was opened in 1855, the south wall of the Guildhall rebuilt at the same time and the archway on High Street leading through the Pannier Market connecting the High Street with Boutport Street. Butchers Row was constructed to re-house the butchers as the meat market had now become a vegetable market.

### 1.4 METHODOLOGY

The assessment of the building was conducted by Emily Wapshott in July 2017. The work was undertaken in line with best practice and follows the guidance outlined in: ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014) and Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Processes* (2016).

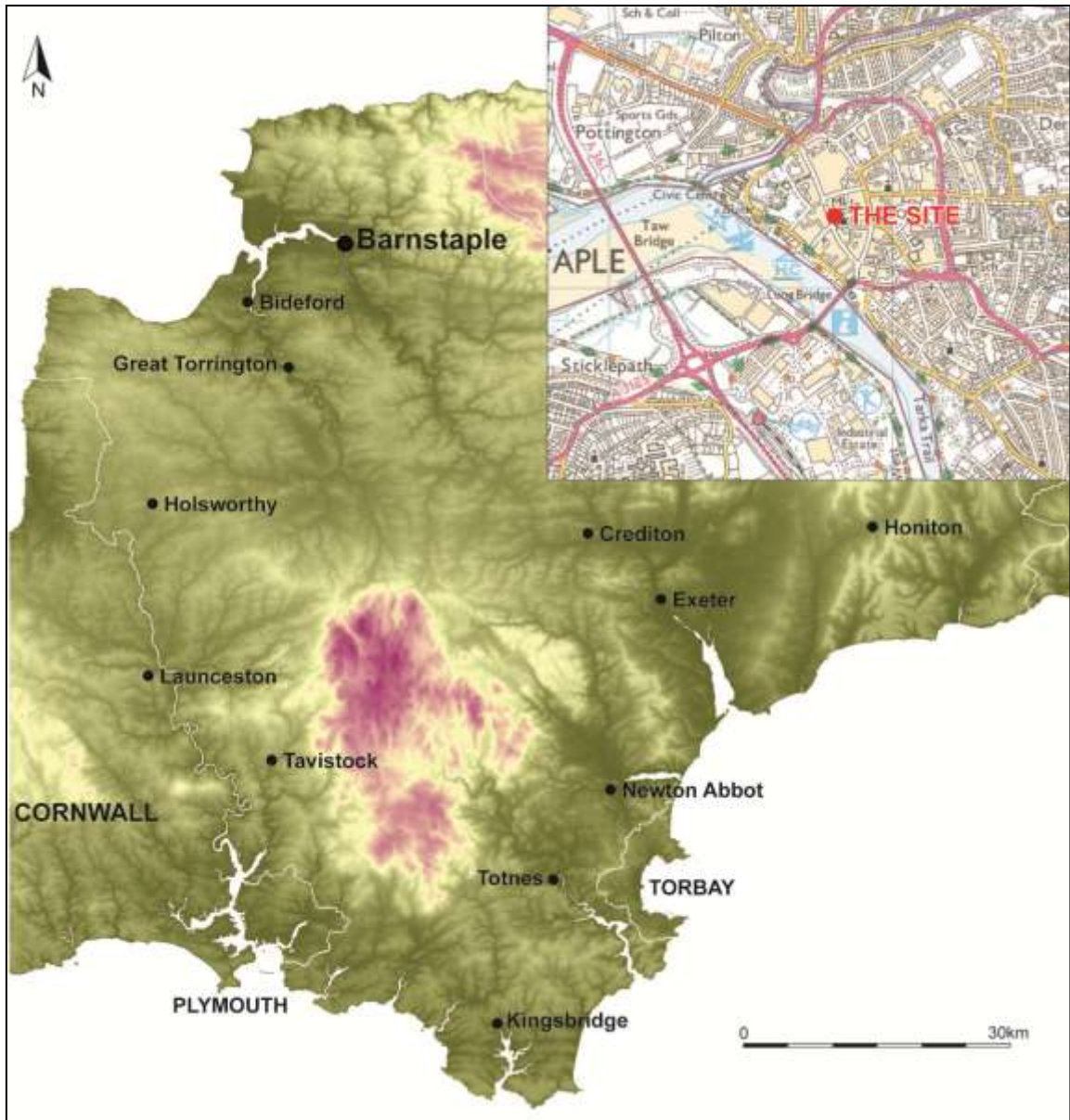


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

## 2.0 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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### 2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site consists of a fine early 19<sup>th</sup> century civic building of elaborated classical style, with a fine surviving interior; of particular note the first floor magistrates' court chamber. The building is of architectural interest and immense local importance, the building personifies the ambitions of the town's establishment. In its construction and in its complex layered development the Guildhall displays the changing attitude of the town guilds and later town council in their restoration and remodelling of the spaces within it.

### 2.2 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The exterior of the Guildhall is of simple classical proportions. The main elevation is to the west, facing the High Street, with fluted pilasters of the Ionic order, entablature and triangular pediment and three central ground floor round-arched openings with channelled ground floor quoins. The elevation is of five bays, the two outer bays each have a sash window, and the inner two bays have round-arched niches, which flank the central bay with a further sash window. The elevation is of two tall stories with a disguised internal second floor mezzanine at the south end of the building. A plain parapet hides the pitched slate roof but an octagonal bell cupola occupies the centre of the ridge, with leaded roof and decorative weather vane. The building abuts its neighbour to the north and is abutted by the Pannier Market to the east. The other presentation front is to the south; a later 1855 stucco frontage, with fluted Ionic pilasters supporting channelled ground floor reveals and an identical entablature and plain triangular pediment, pierced by a later 20<sup>th</sup> century semi-circular window. A blind first floor window contains a reset historic octagonal clock face. Round-arched opening in the centre ground floor, with iron railed gate, leading to partially open panelled vestibule.

The interior of the building is of particular interest and value, with an open arched ground floor, originally market space, with plain heavy columns, now leading to the Pannier Market, with enclosed modern shop spaces to the north and the original constable's charge room and cell remodelled to form a Mayor's Parlour and waiting room to the south. These early 20<sup>th</sup> century administrative spaces are fitted with fine 17<sup>th</sup> century-style decorative scheme and an original salvaged 17<sup>th</sup> century pendant plaster ceiling in the open vestibule, from a demolished building on The Strand. A grand stone stair rises to the first floor opening onto a small lobby which leads to the smaller councillors meeting room, main chamber and second floor. The meeting room is known as the Dodderidge Room and contains an exceptional collection of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century architectural salvage, gifted to the town council by an Alderman in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The main chamber is accessed via a grand moulded doorcase (the door of which has been removed) and is obscured by a small panelled lobby on the north side. The chamber is of double height with a decorative plaster roof, second floor galleries carried on slender fluted columns and panelled box seating, with a large tiered public gallery seating area to the north, behind a heavy timber baluster railing. This room contains some very fine 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings of past councillors, mayors and other benefactors. The judges' bench area appears to have been altered, but otherwise the courtroom is largely complete. The ground floor constable's charge room and cell have not survived. The magistrates courtroom is an important part of the building's multi-functional civic purpose, both mercantile and dispensing law/justice. Behind the main chamber, to the east, is a modern suite of rooms providing toilets and a kitchen. The small second floor mezzanine is accessed via a small stair in the south-east corner of the building, the space divided further into jurors' meeting room and a small additional office. The second floor main chamber balconies are also accessed from this floor, which is strongly 20<sup>th</sup> century in character having been a main focus for the 1920s remodelling works.

## 2.3 SIGNIFICANCE

The Guildhall is a Grade II\* Listed building, recognised and protected as a building of special architectural and historic interest and of national importance. The Guildhall has received numerous phases of repair and modernisation throughout its life, impacting some areas of its significance through loss or alteration of historic fabric, but overall this more complex development tells a more interesting and layered story of the civic life of the town.

The building's significance lies primarily in its aesthetic value as a defining element of Barnstaple High Street; with its simple but imposing cream painted stucco Classical facade. Much of its significance lies in the surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century interiors and decorative details, the main chamber being an excellent example of an Imperialist British adoption of Neo-classical style, borrowing more heavily from the elaborate and ornate Roman influence than the minimalist Greek school of design. It is also locally important for its historic association with the town's guilds and in its current civic role in town life it holds immense communal value. The regeneration project will highlight much of the visible physical phasing but the societal development that the building evidences is worthy of ongoing study, the building therefore holding further evidential value. The building is also of increased significance as part of an exceptional 19<sup>th</sup> century group with Butchers Row, the Pannier Market and Queens Theatre, all part of a locally and regionally important period of growth in Barnstaple. These buildings form the historic core of the modern settlement and their setting is protected as part of the conservation area.

## 2.4 COMPARISON WITH OTHER DEVON GUILDHALLS/TOWN HALLS

### 2.4.1 BIDEFORD TOWN HALL

The Town Hall in Bideford was designed by R. D. Gould, who also designed the Pannier Market, Butcher's Row and south facade of the Guildhall in Barnstaple. It was constructed in 1850, 5 years earlier than his work in Barnstaple and was of a very different style. Bideford's Town Hall is of red brick with limestone detailing, designed to mimic the early Tudor style. In 1905, Dunn designed a library to adjoin the Town Hall, running south along the quay. The two buildings are very closely matched. Bideford's Town Hall is detached from its markets, within a cluster of administrative buildings.

### 2.4.1 GREAT TORRINGTON TOWN HALL

Great Torrington Town Hall was constructed in 1861, shortly after the construction of the Pannier Market and Butcher's Row in Barnstaple and the remodelling of the southern elevation of the Guildhall. The name of the Architect does not appear to have been recorded. The Town Hall is also of classical style and there are similarities between it and the Barnstaple Guildhall in the round archways that lead into the open ground floor, with the administrative rooms enclosed above. Great Torrington's Town Hall is located in the centre of the sub square formed by High Street, South Street, Fore Street and Cornmarket Street, which have infilled the open medieval market place. The area continued to house the markets in the post-medieval period, as indicated by street names and the width of High Street and Fore Street in comparison to those around them, a tradition which continued with the construction of the Victorian Pannier Market shortly before the replacement Town Hall in 1842. The relationship between the Town Hall and its markets is strikingly similar to that of the Barnstaple Guildhall.



#### 2.4.1 SOUTH MOLTON GUILD HALL AND MARKET HALL

The Guild Hall and Market Hall in South Molton are much older than their Barnstaple counterpart, but the styling is very similar. South Molton's Guild Hall has two constructional phases, in 1743 and 1773. The materials for the first phase were purchased from the demolished Charles II mansion, at Stowe, and the building consisted of the Court Room, the Constable's Room and the Mayor's Parlour. The second phase saw the addition of a stone rubble 2-storey hospitality wing, including a dining room now known as the Old Assembly Room. The Guild Hall has rounded arches leading to an open space on the ground floor, as with Barnstaple and Great Torrington. Also, in a similar style, the Guild Hall is adjacent to its Pannier Market and in the trading centre of the town.

#### 2.4.1 TIVERTON TOWN HALL

Tiverton's Town Hall was built slightly later than Barnstaple's Guildhall, in 1862-4. It was designed by H. Lloyd of Bristol and is of a very different style, richly decorated, with turrets and semi-circular, stepped elevations. There is no open ground floor to the structure, but it does stand at the west end of Fore Street, which was likely the site of the late medieval market.

### 2.5 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT/PHASING

#### 2.5.1 EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (1826)

This building replaced an earlier medieval Guildhall further down the High Street (see cover plate). Like its predecessor the building was required to fulfil several important civic functions, with a ground floor leading to an open butchers' yard behind the building, street access of mercantile character, a formal first floor, with a grand main chamber/magistrates court and meeting room and an internal mezzanine second floor with offices/storage. The building was of a Neo-classical style, with a stucco frontage, Ionic order fluted pilasters and round-arched openings, but it is its elaborated interior of a more ornate style which defines the building's significance, with a grand two-storey main chamber. The majority of the building we see today dates from this first phase and the building, whilst altered in numerous minor ways remains largely complete.

#### 2.5.2 PANNIER MARKET ALTERATIONS (1855)

The adjacent house to the south of the Guildhall was demolished in 1855 to make way for Butcher's Row and the new covered market building, the Pannier Market. This was built immediately to the east of the Guildhall in the area previously occupied by the butchers' yard and the buildings effectively abutted one another, designed to be symbiotic. This development affected the south wall of the Guildhall requiring an unquantified level of rebuilding/remodelling including the south-east corner, where the formal stair rises to the first floor. The new south elevation was built in a decorative stucco style, broadly copying the west elevation. The stone steps within Room 14 are 19<sup>th</sup> century, finely dressed and faced, but the flights are surprisingly shallow and elongated; this stair was probably initially symmetrical to that to the north, but on a grander scale, reworked to serve the new Butcher's Row entrance. It is likely that the stair projection to the north-east, which serves the public gallery will also have had its east wall remodelled, infilling the space between the Guildhall and market. On the first floor the expansive sash window lighting the main chamber in the west wall had to be refitted, and on the second floor the south-east corner was altered/repaired.

### 2.5.3 EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (1910-1930)

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a considerable remodelling project was initiated. On the ground floor, the charge room, office and town cell were knocked through and combined, forming the Mayor's Parlour, lobby/waiting room and vestibule. The previous layout of this space is completely obscured by the remodel and no historic fixtures or fittings of the original functions of these rooms survive. The new suite of rooms now served the Butchers Row entrance and grand stair, dividing the ground floor and restricting access between the administrative and retail areas. The new spaces were decorated with 17<sup>th</sup> century style panelling, with an original 17<sup>th</sup> century pendant plaster roof fragment installed in the small vestibule. This work completely changed the character of the ground floor, bringing it within the more formal areas of the building, previously limited to the first and second floors. The style of decoration of these rooms also indicates a post-First World War impulse to 'hark back to a golden age' in installing Jacobean style features in a rigorously Italian-influenced classical building.

The 1922 renovations extended up the grand stair, with the panelling continuing and a fine oak carved war memorial positioned on the stair half-landing. On the first floor, within the main chamber, the tiered rows of seating have been altered. probably early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, seen in the panelling on the walls which is cut and refitted at the base. The benches are fairly crude, timber braced with metal and bolted by narrow straps to the floor, not like the elegant fitted benches of the rest of the chamber. The lobbies were also fitted to the doors of the main chamber in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, although this probably predates the 1920s remodel on the ground floor. This may have been to reduce drafts, control access and reduce sound intrusion to the magistrates court. Up to the second floor the stairs were reconfigured and the space was divided into a further meeting/jury room and an office.

### 2.5.4 1949 – DODDERIDGE ROOM REMODEL

In 1949 the Dodderidge Room was remodelled, with 17<sup>th</sup> century panelling and carved pilasters installed as well as a late 16<sup>th</sup> century overmantel, and early 17<sup>th</sup> century fretwork frieze/top rail of 1617. Previously the councillors meeting room had been a relatively simple classical space, very much of secondary status to the main chamber. The shallow plaster cavetto cornice of the earlier decorative scheme is still visible above the reset panelling. The fireplace is a conglomeration piece; the frieze/top rail is typical of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, relatively simply carved in English oak, with scrolls, lotus foliate finials and initialled shield cartouches, with PD and ED. These cartouches identify Pentecost and Elizabeth Dodderidge. This piece was attached at a much later date, probably the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the top of an overmantel of 'late Elizabethan/early Jacobean' style (c.1580-1610). Speculation about a possible European influence for the piece cannot be confirmed; local folklore states it was brought from Seville on the 'Prudence' the Dodderidge's merchant vessel in the 1590s. It is very dark in colour, patina from smoke and age; however it is likely also oak.

### 2.5.5 LATER 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (1950S ONWARDS)

On the ground floor, the area to the north was enclosed with glazed panels and doors to form two shops, either side of the public gallery steps. On the first floor behind the main chamber and between the stair projections a modern series of small rooms were built in the c.1950s/1960s, providing toilets, robing rooms and a small kitchen. The rooms are all fitted with mahogany effect veneered doors, with Bakelite handles, narrow plank boarded floors and other mid century fittings. Fairly recently the rear ground floor rooms have been forced and opened up, a disabled toilet and lift installed. The grand stair had to be altered to accommodate the lift. In the main chamber, sound proofing of modern timber and glass frames has been fitted to the windows which overlook the High Street and there have been modernisations to the judges' bench, which presumably sat further back

against the wall before the lobbies were inserted to the main chamber. The bench has been further altered for electrics and for access due to modern regulations. The lobby to the south-west corner of the main chamber has been significantly altered for the provision of sound loops and other electrical devices.



FIGURE 2: PHASE PLAN OF THE GROUND FLOOR.



FIGURE 3: PHASE PLAN OF THE FIRST FLOOR.



FIGURE 4: PHASE PLAN OF THE SECOND FLOOR.

## 2.6 AREAS WITH SENSITIVITY/CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

### 2.6.1 THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

The second floor was developed in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are no remaining architectural details from prior to this and no indications of the previous function of the space. The stair is 20<sup>th</sup> century with a baroque style baluster.

### 2.6.2 FIRST FLOOR

In Room 4 the doorways in the north and west walls are from the original decorative scheme and require restoration. These doorways should be retained as they are and are already of larger than standard proportions. The walls in the room have been re-plastered and re-painted many times and the modern wiring, piping, alarm system and brown paint on the doorframes give an institutional feel. This space and the modern doorways have capacity for change.

Rooms 4A and 5A are lobbies which are very similar to each other. These spaces were created with cut sections of historic panelling, with reused doors and windows of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date. In both lobbies, above the doors are glazed panels with textured glass. Each lobby has a cohesive appearance due to the thick brown and grey paint schemes which have been used. In 4A, a doorway was forced into the east wall in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century to provide access to the kitchen/toilet extension. Both lobbies have the capacity for change; however both have a historic door in their south walls which is from the original decorative scheme and should be retained unaltered as they are key features and the former access into the chamber. These doors require some restoration.

Room 5, the Dodderidge Room, is decorated with highly significant features, including 17<sup>th</sup> century panelling, a grand fireplace and surround. These were all gifts and have been reset in this room from their former locations. These represent the heritage of the town and the wealth of its merchants and should be retained; there is little capacity for alteration in this room.

Room 6 is the main chamber and the key civic space in the building. There is capacity for change in limited areas of this room, around the lobbies, 4A and 5A, discussed above, as well as around the dais, which has been subjected to numerous alterations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The public tiered gallery has been altered and fitted with 20<sup>th</sup> century benches. The room has a number of decorative features surviving from its original decorative scheme and a number of decorations and oil paintings which have been added during the lifetime of the building. The division of the space which reflects the division of the town council from the public should be retained in order to help with reading the room, along with the historic decoration and features, including the galleries and panelled box seating.

The modern extension to the rear (east) of the first floor includes rooms 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. This was constructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and there are no significant features identified.

Room 13 is the Public Stair. These 19<sup>th</sup> century stairs are in good condition and restoration or minor adaptations which do not affect the character of the stairs would be feasible. The stairs ought not to be significantly altered as they allow the building to be read correctly. The grand doorway which leads to the chamber, with double doors and air vents, is also important to understanding the privileged access of the room beyond.

Room 14 is the Grand Stair. These stone steps were heavily reworked during the restoration of the Guildhall in the 1920s, having likely been altered previously in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when the south wall was rebuilt. Some of the main phases of development of the building can be seen in this area,

along with the carved 20<sup>th</sup> century war memorials. This is the route which councillors and their guests enter the main chamber, and is therefore important for understanding the status divisions of the building. The 1920s bolection and 17<sup>th</sup> century style panelling is cohesive with rooms 15 and 16. A lift has been inserted into this stairwell and the short upper flight of stairs and first floor landing appear to have been remodelled. Sections of the panelling here have been replaced. There is capacity for change in this reworked area.

### 2.6.1 GROUND FLOOR

The Vestibule, Room 15, contains an extraordinary mix of 17<sup>th</sup> century plaster ceiling and 1920s bolection copy panelling. The space would have been heavily altered when the adjacent building was demolished and the south wall rebuilt in the 1850s as well as the work received during the 20<sup>th</sup> century renovations. The space represents the juxtaposition of the open, classical European villa style of emulated in the original building with the older, Jacobean panelling and 17<sup>th</sup> century decor inserted at a later date when fashions had changed. The screening provided by the railed iron gate reflects the restricted access of this area. Restoration of this area would be acceptable but no significant material changes should be carried out.

Room 16 is the Mayor's Parlour. This is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century parlour/office with elements of a mixture of historic styles, appearing cohesive due to the consistent use of oak. The room includes a 17<sup>th</sup> century style bolection mould fireplace surround with a mid 20<sup>th</sup> century projecting brick hearth, 19<sup>th</sup> century style ¼ height dado panelling echoing the panelling in the chamber above, 17<sup>th</sup> century style doors and doorframes, late Georgian/Regency arched sash windows and early 20<sup>th</sup> century block parquet flooring. The stained glass in the arches in the north wall may be 19<sup>th</sup> century, but their Arts & Crafts characters suggest they are more likely early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is little flexibility for change in this room.

Room 17 was created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and contains forced and blocked doorways. There is a lot of flexibility for change in this area. The glazed and leaded screen and fanlight above should be retained as they represent the 1920s restoration of the building, helping tell the story of its development.

Rooms 18 and 19 have been extensively altered, extended and modernised to provide disabled toilets, fire access and a lift. This area is entirely open for change.

Room 20 is clear of historic features save the railed gates at the bottom of the Public Stair. This area is the main entrance into the Pannier Market off the High Street and is often used as an extension of the market. Aside from the gates this area is able to accommodate change.

Room 21 is currently used as a cafe. There are historic elements such as the window, but the majority of historic fittings have been removed and it can therefore be modified. Within Room 21, Room 22 is a late 20<sup>th</sup> century toilet with no features that require retention.

Room 23 is a shop which has undergone modern conversion. No historic details have been retained. Room 24 is reached through Room 23 and contains modern toilets with no restrictions on alteration.

## 2.7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Considerations of the initial proposed plans for the guildhall in Barnstaple, Options A and B; have merits and points for discussion, with the main historic areas preserved and maintained.

### 2.7.1 OPTION A

This proposal brings the ground floor shops back into the fold of the Guildhall, re-purposed as the new museum. This change will largely only affect the 20<sup>th</sup> century interior of the shops, with some minor historic fabric loss, such as an opening would be forced under the stairs (Room 13). Room 20, the surviving open space and walkway through to the Pannier Market would be enclosed with glass partitions and doors and used as an information hub and further museum display space. The enclosure of this space using glass will allow a continuation of its thoroughfare character but allow the area to be used for a more community focused function/meeting space.

A new reception to the building would be formed within Rooms 18/19, the already heavily modernised and expanded spaces to the east of the Mayor's Parlour. As with the shop space, the rear rooms on the ground floor have already been so heavily modernised that very little historic fabric would be affected. The toilets would be moved to the lobby area on the ground floor, Room 17, placing them against the north wall where the glazed screen blocks the arched opening. If the leaded screen could be adapted and partially retained in some way then this would minimise this loss, whilst positioning the toilets away from the main flow of traffic through the building, improving access and practical use of the spaces. The division of these rooms, the Mayor's Parlour and lobby are of early 20<sup>th</sup> century heritage, this area formerly the cell and charge rooms, vastly different in appearance and layout in the 19<sup>th</sup> century than the spaces seen today. An open and accessible ground floor would re-engage the building with the community and visitors, allowing the town to display some of its prized collections and present its complex history in a modern and interactive environment. It would also preserve the suite of rooms which link the Mayor's Parlour and Main Chamber, via the grand staircase (Rooms 14, 15, 16). This suite of rooms contains the majority of the historic features and defines the evolving function and importance of the building.

### 2.7.2 OPTION B

This proposal involves the retention of the cafe and shop on the ground floor, Rooms 21 and 23, allowing this lower level to retain a semblance of its intended retail/mercantile function and minimize works and disruption.

The central walkthrough, Room 20, would form the basis of a new museum and information hub, with glazed partitions enclosing the arched openings, allowing a continuation of the thoroughfare usage of this space and open character. The glazed screen to Room 17 will be wholly removed and the open archway reopened, forming a new entrance lobby to the building. To the east, Rooms 18 and 19 would be opened up forming a new reception and toilet, with lift, similar to their current use. The Mayor's Parlour, vestibule and stairs would be retained as is. This proposal would restore the open feel of the ground floor, as the building is currently artificially divided. However, this possible configuration makes less use of the more modern and altered spaces in Room 18/19, placing the burden of fabric loss on the leaded screen in Room 17, which is a significant feature from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century restoration of the building. Care must be taken not to leave the parlour disconnected from the rest of the building, the suite of rooms and flow from parlour, to lobby/waiting room, to vestibule and up the stairs or out onto Butchers Row (Rooms 14, 15, 16 & 17) is an intentional, ordered design which facilitates the ceremonial/civic function of the building.



On the first floor, Option B retains the public gallery stairs as a shop store, Room 13, which is far from advisable, with both weight and the damp from water condensation caused by fridges detrimental to the wooden structure. It also shows the forcing of a door in the wall of the stairhall, giving access to the stairs for a new kitchen. The kitchen and toilets, as in Option A, would be located within the 20<sup>th</sup> century extension (Rooms 7-12) and access through the existing main chamber doorway would be provided. It is not clear how the privacy of a shop store and required public access to kitchen and toilets would be achieved, division of the stairhall space will affect interpretation of the area and impact the historic fabric of the timber structure. The kitchen and new toilets (Rooms 7, 10 & 12) will respect the large window in the main chamber, fitted into the space between the Guildhall and Pannier Market. A new display room formed to the south, (Rooms 11, 8 & 9) will necessitate the blocking of the doorway in Room 4A and the forcing of a doorway at the top of the stairs, Room 14. Further historic fabric would be lost, which would fundamentally alter the flow of the building and the main chamber focus of the first floor. The war memorials on the formal stairs (Room 14) would have to be moved elsewhere; these are of immense communal value and potential damage to these must be considered. A suitable relocation site for both must be considered, as it would not be appropriate to divide the two boards. The lift would be remodelled, providing public access to the second floor. It is not clear how the option would aid access for wheelchairs into the main chamber, but access to the newly formed display room would be easier than at present.

On the second floor there would be a considerable change as it would be opened up for public access, with the meeting room (Room 1) and office (Room 3) reworked to form further display rooms for the museum, whilst their layout is maintained. This would leave the museum's collections very disparate throughout the building and may cause disconnect between the areas. Significant amounts of signage would be required to ensure the collections housed on the upper floors do not go unvisited. The lift extension would rise above the roof of Room 14, meaning the 19<sup>th</sup> century plaster and timber roof structure would be lost and the facades on the east side unbalanced. It would also project upwards and be very visible within the conservation area, particularly from Butcher's Row. Allowing general public access to the second floor would fundamentally change the character of the Guildhall as it has been configured for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> and all of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with this area being largely private meeting rooms, offices and stores. The division of the building as it has developed has always maintained the southern elements on ground, first and second floors as private for the town council, with restrictions to access increasing as one rises through the building to the functional, simpler, working spaces on the top floor. If the relationship and status between the spaces in the building is changed it will affect the visitors' understanding of how the building was built and designed. The building will continue to be a working town council building and there is no provision here for offices or workable space, again a fundamental change as the building was purpose-built. However, the second floor is also the area most altered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is currently little used, other than for storage, so this is an area which has far more capacity for change than some of the more historically sensitive rooms.

## 3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 3.1 CONCLUSIONS

The Guildhall shares similarities with other Town/Guild Halls across North Devon. The south wall and the buildings with which it forms a group (Butcher's Row and the Pannier Market) shared the same architect as Bideford Town Hall. In its classical style, with open ground floor accessed through rounded arches, it bears great similarities with South Molton Guild Hall and Great Torrington Town Hall. In its closeness to the historic markets and trading centres of their towns, it is also akin to South Molton, Great Torrington and, to a lesser extent, Tiverton Town Hall.

The Guildhall retains both the civic and mercantile functions for which it was built. The main chamber retains much of its original character, although much of the rest of the building has seen numerous phases of alteration and redecoration. Many of the historic features in the building were originally housed in other buildings in the town and have gradually been incorporated into the decorative scheme of the Guildhall.

While there are areas of the building that should be preserved without alteration and historic fabric that should be retained, there is a lot of capacity for change within the building, especially in the modern extensions and rooms which have been subject to heavy alteration in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The open nature of the ground floor and its link with the Pannier Market should be retained, and it is advisable that the use of glass or similar is used to create any partitions within this space so that a visual link can be maintained. The division of space between the public and town officials needs to be readable even if the building becomes opened up to more of a mixed use. Work in areas which may expose historic fabric could be monitored in order to further inform the record of the development and history of this building.

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## APPENDIX 1: RECORDING TABLES

<b>BUILDING</b>		<b>General Description</b>
Function/Summary:		19 <sup>th</sup> century Guildhall, on High Street in Barnstaple.
Dating Evidence:		Style and form of building, its interior, historic mapping and documentary evidence.
Figure Numbers:		
<b>BUILDING INTERIOR</b>		Description
<b>Second Floor</b>		
<b>Room 1</b>		
Function:		Jury meeting room
Walls:		Plastered and painted, with timber appliqué moulded picture rail, painted moulded dado rail and deep beaded skirting boards.
Floor:		Boarded floor, covered by commercial grade carpet.
Ceiling:		Painted plaster ceiling.
Opening – Doors:	2	Matched pair of four panel doors, upper long narrow panels glazed with obscured glass, brass door knobs and iron locks.
Opening – Windows:	1	One inset semi-circular arched window in recess to upper part of south wall. Timber framed beaded window with central opening hopper, with brass screw catch and pulley, brace system, with timber brace attached to wall below, for winding window open?
Significant Details:		Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century fireplace with painted timber surround occupies the south-west corner of this room, within a very shallow semi-projecting stack, a flue forced into the thickness of the wall.
Fittings:		Mid to late 20 <sup>th</sup> century oak panelled bar structure, with green baize top, against west wall.
Dating Evidence:		The style of all of the fittings/decorations in this room are 20 <sup>th</sup> century and it has a very early to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century character to it.
<b>Room 2</b>		
Function:		Second floor hallway/corridor and staircase.
Walls:		Walls are plastered and painted, narrow beaded skirting to hallway, deeper beaded skirting and stair plate to stair hall at east end. Stripped timber picture rail attached to walls in stair hall area for hanging paintings, similar to in room 1.
Floor:		Boarded floor, seemingly raised with void over 19 <sup>th</sup> century floor level, seen by doors to balcony. The floor is carpeted. A mixture of historic and modern floorboards have been used to create current floor.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted ceiling, two hatches to roof space at the east end.
Opening – Doors:	6	Two doors to the balconies, simple plain four panel faces to hallway, moulded sides to balconies, with ogee and bead mouldings. Plain flat panels. Beaded pegged frames. Brass door knobs and original locks, newer locks also fitted. One early to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century partition door to centre of hallway, in a plain narrow timber frame with square light above, obscured modern glass. The door has two large plain panes, the top also glazed with obscured glass, bakelite handle. Modern flat MDF style door to room 3, single obscured glass pane and brushed chrome handle with lock. Two matching four panel early 20 <sup>th</sup> century part glazed doors to room 1.
Opening – Windows:	1	One large sash window in altered opening, with one shallow sloping reveal and one straight sided reveal, with patching. Beaded window frame, narrow glazing bars, small panes. Horned sash, the lower panes replaced with modern obscured glass.
Significant Details:		Early to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century stair in more elaborate 18 <sup>th</sup> century style with heavy moulded newel posts and turned narrow vase-style balusters.
Dating Evidence:		This area was probably developed in the early to mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century, but incorporates elements from earlier in the buildings history, such as the doors to the balconies. No clearly defining features from the pre-1900 use of this space, which indicate a function.

<b>Room 3</b>		
Function:		Judges office, now store room with cupboard
Walls:		Painted and plastered walls, fairly recent redecoration. The north wall is a thin, late 20 <sup>th</sup> century partition.
Floor:		Boarded floor, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted ceiling, newly inset with modern, metal framed skylight providing access to roof.
Opening – Doors:	1	One modern MDF, or similar, door with inset glazed pane, brushed metal handle and internal lock. Late 20 <sup>th</sup> century in date/style.
Opening – Windows:	3	Timber framed glazed fixed panes in partition wall forming office, frame doorway. Obscured modern glass. Large glazed fixed pane in the dividing wall between rooms 1 and 3. Original sash window in west wall, only top seen as two storeys in height.
Significant Details:		Large cupboard formed by enclosing the south end of the room under the eaves, large modern flat boarded doors.
Dating Evidence:		All features in this room are later 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Balcony 1 (west) Main Chamber</b>		
Function:		Viewing gallery over main guildhall chamber.
Structure:		Timber boarded and framed balcony, carried on slender fluted cast iron column to the north end. The balcony has a simple moulded hand rail, of polished exposed wood and turned painted column balusters, painted with a plain kerb board to the base. The structural framing of the baluster has a wide moulded cornice entablature to the base.
Floor:		Boarded floor, wide boards, some reset narrow boards, covered with timber fibre sheeting and carpeted for sound proofing.
Opening – Doors:	1	One small, four panel, typical 19 <sup>th</sup> century door gives access to balcony. Fine ogee and bead mouldings to panels, which are flat and plain. Brass door knob. Stepped bead and ogee moulded doorframes, pegged to corners, but this door has been cut and reset at an angle to fit the frame which is dropping due to structural issues.
Opening – Windows:	1	The large, double height sash window which lights the main chamber also lights this gallery. It has a chunky beaded frame and is a relatively lightweight hornless sash with fine beaded glazing bars, 12x12 panes to each sash. Much of the glass in the lower sash has been replaced with modern obscured glass. The opening has a chunky timber beaded moulding to its edge and the windows have shallow sloping plastered reveals. A modern timber frame and polystyrene sound proofing panels have been inserted into the window opening to reduce sound in the chamber from the street. The window opening is braced by a single polished wood moulded handrail, possibly rosewood or mahogany, with simple plain stick balusters.
Significant Details:		Simple, timber plank, free standing benches occupy the two tiers of seating in the balcony, they have crude scroll bracket-shaped legs and pegged frames; the plank seats have been covered with padded leather. The interior face of the balusters has been infilled with boarding covered by padded leather, to reduce noise. A simple rail covers the window opening for safety, with exposed polished wood hand rail and painted stick balusters.
Dating Evidence:		The style and general form of the decorative balcony structures is cohesive with the rest of the main chamber, room 6.
Comments:		The balcony on this side, has pulled away from the wall, a small timber fillet has been inserted. There is also some cracking to the plaster at the south end of the balcony where it adjoins the wall and where the door frame has dropped. This may be evidence of structural movement and ought to be checked.
<b>Balcony 2 (east) Main Chamber</b>		
Function:		Viewing gallery over main guildhall chamber.

Structure:		<p>Timber boarded and framed balcony, carried on slender fluted cast iron column to the north end.</p> <p>The balcony has a simple moulded hand rail, of dark-coloured polished wood and turned painted column balusters, painted with a plain kerb board to the base. The structural framing of the baluster has a wide moulded cornice.</p>
Floor:		Boarded floor, wide boards, some reset narrow boards, covered with timber fibre sheeting and carpeted for sound proofing.
Openings – Doors:	1	One small four panel typical 19 <sup>th</sup> century door, gives access to balcony. Fine ogee and bead mouldings to panels, which are flat and plain. Brass door knob. Stepped bead and ogee moulded doorframe, pegged to corners.
Opening – Windows:	1	<p>The large double height sash window which lights the main chamber also lights this gallery. This window is a triple-light, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century sash, probably installed in the 1850s during work on the pannier market. The window is in a wide beaded frame, with beaded chunky mullions between the narrow side lights and main wide central window. Horned sashes, with further bead moulding. Much of the glass has been replaced with obscured panes.</p> <p>The lower part of this window has been brought up in a plastered slope, shortening the window opening.</p>
Significant Details:		<p>Simple, timber plank, free standing benches occupy the two tiers of seating in the balcony, they have chunky, bracket shaped legs, pegged frames and the plank seats have been covered with padded leather.</p> <p>The interior face of the balusters has been infilled with boarding covered by padded leather, to reduce noise.</p> <p>A simple rail covers the window opening for safety, with exposed polished wood hand rail and painted stick balusters.</p>
Dating Evidence:		The style and general form of the decorative balcony structures is cohesive with the rest of the main chamber, room 6.

<b>First Floor</b>		
<b>Room 4</b>		
Function:		Stair hall/lobby.
Walls:		Plastered and painted, contiguous with room 2 stairs which drop to the first floor in the south-east corner. Scarring on the east wall around the doorway to Room 14 suggest there have been significant alterations. Deep beaded skirting boards.
Floor:		Timber boarded floor covered by lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted ceiling.
Fittings:		<p>Stairs to second floor rise in south-east corner. The steps are early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century but the baluster to the upper flight is of elaborate 18<sup>th</sup> century style, with turned narrow vase-style balusters and chunky moulded handrail.</p> <p>A small square panelled cupboard door, in wide beaded frame is built into the void under the stairs, with wooden knob and modern hinges.</p> <p>Larger metal and wood 1930s/40s cupboard installed on west wall by stairs, rounded corners, small brass catch, contains former service/utility meters.</p>
Opening – Doors:	3	<p>Wide panelled 20<sup>th</sup> century historic copy double doors from Room 14, the main stairs to the ground floor, in the east wall. Mouldings to panels and moulded doorcase designed to imitate the original 19<sup>th</sup> century doors in the north and west walls.</p> <p>Tall opening, with moulded frame to Room 4a, in north wall. The door is missing but the frame has deep bands of ogee and bead mouldings, painted in brown wood-grain effect paint, commonly used in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Wide doorway to Room 5, in west wall. This polished doorframe has the same mouldings as that to the north, but on a slightly smaller scale, it has a fine six panel 19<sup>th</sup> century mahogany door, with brass fittings.</p>
Significant Details:		The doorway to room 4a, is the original entrance to the main chamber and as such is taller and wider than the other doors, emphasising the status of the important civic space beyond.

		The door to room 5, is the next highest, with the doors to the stairs the lowest, allowing us to read the natural flow of the building, the status of the spaces and therefore clues to their historic function.
Dating Evidence:		The doors/doorframes where they survive are typically fine and elegant, of classical style, cohesive with the rest of the building's period details.
<b>Room 4A</b>		
Function:		Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century lobby structure. Built over original door to main chamber to reduce noise intrusion/control access to courtroom.
Walls:		Cut sections of 19 <sup>th</sup> century panelling, of the same style as seen elsewhere in the main chamber form the short partition walls of this lobby. These have panels cut out at the top with inserted glazed panes of differing styles of obscured glass to light the lobby. Cut stretches of beaded skirting. All woodwork painted in heavy coats of wood-grain effect brown paint common in mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
Floor:		Boarded floor covered by lino flooring. Timber step up to the east to Rooms 7-12.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted ceiling.
Openings – Doors:	3	Tall, wide, elegantly proportioned former main door to chamber (Room 6) in south wall of lobby, large scale mouldings designed to be viewed within the scale of the double-height courtroom. No door survives here, probably removed upon construction of lobby. Small, later 19 <sup>th</sup> century panelled door now leads to main chamber, in north wall of lobby, set in a beaded and moulded frame which has been cut and reset with scarfed in plain timbers to fit proportions of lobby. Reused here from unknown source. Padded and covered with leather on rear side for sound proofing. Small, deep panelled door casement and door set into a forced opening in the east wall, the mouldings and style are very similar to the other original doorways and this may have been reused from elsewhere in the building.
<b>Room 5</b>		
Function:		Council meeting room/councillors dining room.
Walls:		Plastered and painted. The walls have been set with architectural salvage panelling from a house in Cross Street. Fine 17 <sup>th</sup> century panelling, with irregularly sized panels and carved pilasters. The panelling has been cut and reset to fit this room, mismatched at some joints. Inset panelled 17 <sup>th</sup> century door, very similar to panelling but not identical. Separate 16 <sup>th</sup> century fireplace overmantel and jambs, heavily carved. This feature is much altered and repaired in the later 19 <sup>th</sup> and probably 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries, when reset a couple of times. Window obscured by mock gothic/Jacobean stained glass internal shutters, probably early 20 <sup>th</sup> century, art nouveau style or similar, oak framing.
Floor:		Polished narrow even width boarded floor. Plain oak skirting fitted to bottom of panelling.
Ceiling:		Plain plaster ceiling, cavetto moulded simple classical plaster cornice.
Fittings:		Fireplace Overmantel: decoration on the inset panelled overmantel is vine scroll and bunches of grapes to the top; to the panels studded scrolled strapwork, geometric strapwork, dancing putti and central projecting cartouches of classical putti heads. These panels are flanked by flat pilasters with Greco-Roman influenced deities. The central figure has a one-shoulder tunic/chiton, with wrapped headwear, partly bare-chested this figure appears to have breasts and a tall square headdress. The side figures appear to be wearing cap-sleeved tunics and leather protective armoured skirt/belts (Pteruges/Pteryges). The fairly crude rendition of both leaves their gender fairly ambiguous, all with longer curling hair, that to the left with more obvious 'breasts' but the dress appears to indicate the craftsman was intending interpretation warrior gods/goddesses from either Greek or Roman mythology, but with typically Christian hand placements of 'in prayer' or 'crossed repose'. These pilasters are supported on square plinth brackets with lion heads,

		and central anthropomorphic human head, with foliate frieze of palms and lilies(?) carved in relief, flanked to outside by scrolled brackets carrying carved figures of fawns. The overmantel is supported on elaborately carved jambs, with vases bursting with ripe fruit and flowers, making this more unusual; these are dominated by large figures depicting a late medieval troubadour with a lute and a hunter with a hawk, both with typical 16 <sup>th</sup> century versions of billowing breeches and doublet or jerkin. Both figures are again fairly ambiguous in gender, both barefoot.
Opening – Doors:	2	Fine six panel 19 <sup>th</sup> century mahogany door to Room 4, lobby. Reset 17 <sup>th</sup> century panelled door to Room 5A; part of a double doorway with door on 5A side as well.
Openings – Window:	1	Large classical sash window to west wall overlooking High Street. This has shallow sloping reveals and beaded opening. This windows is obscured by an oak framed leaded glazed hinged screen/shutters of arts and crafts style installed at the same time as the panelling to give the room as more historic effect.
Significant Details:		This room presents as a grand 17 <sup>th</sup> century dining room, with several exceptionally valuable pieces. It is significant that in the second post-war period of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century the town council again turned back to a more prosperous time for Barnstaple in their adoption of 17 <sup>th</sup> century style, fitted to a Greco-Roman classical building. This indication of societal attitude provides added evidential value to the historical associative value with the Dodderidges making this room very important for the building and Barnstaple's general history.
Dating Evidence:		The shallow stack on the south wall, proportions of the room, door from Room 4 and classical plaster cornice give away the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century heritage of this room, despite its earlier 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> century appearance due to the architectural salvaged items reset here.
<b>Room 5A</b>		
Function:		Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century lobby structure built over original door to main chamber to control access to judge's bench and screen linking door to councillors meeting room.
Walls:		Cut sections of 19 <sup>th</sup> century panelling, of the same style as seen elsewhere in the main chamber form the short partition walls of this lobby. These have panels cut out at the top with inserted glazed panes of differing styles of obscured glass to light the lobby. Cut stretches of beaded skirting.
Floor:		Boarded floor covered by carpet. Timber step up to the east to judge's bench.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted ceiling.
Openings – Doors:	3	Tall, wide, elegantly proportioned main door to chamber in south wall of lobby, large scale mouldings designed to be viewed within the scale of the double-height courtroom. Doorcase has been cut into to accommodate the lobby structure. Fine panelled mahogany 19 <sup>th</sup> century door with brass fittings survives here, matches that to Room 5. Small, later 19 <sup>th</sup> century panelled door to chamber, set in a beaded and moulded frame which has been cut and reset with scarfed in plain timbers to fit proportions of lobby. Reused here from unknown source. Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century panelled and partly glazed door to judge's bench. All woodwork is painted in heavy layers of grey paint which makes it look more cohesive than it actually is.
Fittings:		There is a panelled cupboard and open set of shelves fitted here to cover the services and electrical equipment for the courtroom.
<b>Room 6</b>		
Function:		Historic courtroom and town council main chamber.
Walls:		Plastered and painted walls, panelled to the north end around the tiered public gallery seating, behind the panelled box seating to east and west and behind the judge's bench. Deep beaded skirtings.



		<p>Ogee moulded picture rail just beneath cornice at the top of wall, supports extensive collection of paintings.</p> <p>Typically elaborate 19<sup>th</sup> century deep plaster cornice, with stacked bands of cavetto, beading and ogee mouldings.</p> <p>Above the cornice is a deep cavetto area, now set with anaglypta wall paper, painted oxide red, this wall paper is probably later in date than the rest of the decoration, later 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
Floor:		Boarded floor, covered in corporate grade heavy duty carpet, floor boards can be felt in certain areas beneath.
Ceiling:		Compartmentalised plaster ceiling, with ribs of ovolo and foliate plaster banding. Deep plaster ceiling roses with brass fretwork fittings to chandeliers, probably associated with previous gas fittings. Plaster foliate roundels and decorative metal grids to air vents.
Openings – Doors:	3	Doors to lobbies to south-east and south-west corners, described with those rooms (Room 4A & 5A). Door to Room 13, public gallery access stairs.
Openings – Windows:	3	Two large sash windows in the west wall, in splayed sloping openings, with beaded edges. These windows have been reset with obscured glass panes. Narrow, simple beaded frames. Bottom sashes are horned. These windows have been fixed with modern timber glazed screens, with polystyrene tiled sound proofing. These windows have chunky flat timber sills, built into the surrounding panelling. One large window in the east wall. Three-light later style sash, with narrow side lights and wide central window, horned beaded sashes, beaded glazing bars and chunky beaded mullions between lights. This window is of a later style, possibly altered in 1855 when the Pannier Market was built adjacent to the Guildhall. The base of this window has been built up with boarding and plaster to a steep slope, the window not as deep as those to the west.
Seating to the West:		<p>Beneath the west second floor gallery is a section of panelled box seating. This is made using older salvaged panelling, moulded to exterior but with raised plain panels on the interior. The box can be seen to be made of longer stretches but also includes sections with fixed former doors. It is likely this panelling has come from an earlier demolished chapel or similar structure elsewhere in Barnstaple. In age it may be anywhere from late 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, out of context.</p> <p>The panelling has been fitted with a fairly crude document/file rest and a reused door has been set to a cut out opening on the south end of the box, with a built plank step for access.</p> <p>The box has two tiers of seating; a fine fixed bench built into the wall panelling, with turned pilaster legs, the seat padded in leather. There is also a free standing chunky bench similar to those seen in the balcony galleries. Between these a more modern timber handrail with iron bracings has been added, a 20<sup>th</sup> century feature.</p> <p>To the north end of the box a small four pane window, of later 19<sup>th</sup> century date, with narrow beaded glazing bars and large glass panes has been fitted between the balcony and panelled box, there are also iron coat hooks attached to the panelling here.</p> <p>Beyond the box seating, between it and the public gallery are two tiers of beaded boarded planks, holding freestanding benches, with panelling behind.</p> <p>The seating to the west is a conglomeration of panelling and architectural elements salvaged from other buildings, of differing ages and styles, the seating later adapted several times.</p> <p>Despite the symmetrical effect due to paint colours, the seating to east and west is markedly different in form and capacity.</p>
Seating to the East:		<p>Beneath the east second floor gallery balcony there is a raised single tier of bench seating, built into the panelling, with turned pilaster legs, the seats padded with leather. This bench is enclosed by a panelled screen with sloping document/file rest to top. This screen has been altered, cut off and reset, but it likely comes from a chapel or similar structure, fitted here to a slight raised beaded plank board dais.</p> <p>Two small steps access this bench at the north end, covered by carpet. These steps are framed by a short baluster rail, with chunky polished plain hand rail and narrow</p>

		<p>turned column balusters.</p> <p>To the south, near the lobby, the fixed bench has been cut off and a section of older panelling with different mouldings has been cut and reset here boxing in the corner between seating and lobby. The historic panelling used here does not match anything else in the building and its source is unclear.</p> <p>Between the box seating and the public gallery are two tiers of beaded, boarded planks, holding freestanding benches, with panelling behind.</p> <p>The seating to the west is a conglomeration of panelling and architectural elements salvaged from other buildings, of differing ages and styles. This east side has been more significantly altered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century than the west, with less capacity for seating.</p> <p>Despite the symmetrical effect due to paint colours, the seating to east and west is markedly different in form and capacity.</p>
Public Gallery Railing:		<p>This is divided from the courtroom by a heavy timber baluster rail with chunky turned column balusters, the handrail moulded, with appliqué iron railing, decorative finials of roundels with fleur-de-lis speared tops. This railing has a gate to the west, fixed shut, where tiered steps have been altered. To the east end is a wider angled gate, giving access to the public gallery steps, this gate is on modern hinges, having been altered, with a heavy iron bolt.</p> <p>Deep beaded skirting to base, beaded boards form base of rail structure.</p> <p>There is a long chunky bench built into this railing on the courtroom side, now padded with leather.</p>
Public Gallery:		<p>The public gallery comprises rows of tiered seating, boarded steps that are now covered by commercial grade carpet. The area is panelled in places. On the east wall the moulded panels are cut across by the tiered floor, suggesting this has been reset.</p> <p>The current benches are very plain, chunky timber legs and plank seats, with curved iron strap bracing to back supporting a simple timber rail backrest. These are bolted to the floor with iron L-shaped straps. These benches are 20<sup>th</sup> century replacements.</p>
Judge's Bench:		<p>The panelled curved bench is now braced between the lobbies which screen the original doors to the chamber, so it is very likely the current structure dates from the same period of remodel, projecting further out into the main space than may be expected in a period bench, which may have been a closer panelled boxed structure similar to the seating. Some of the sections of panelling look cruder and older; access hatches for maintenance reveal the timber framework is probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The raised area is boarded and carpeted and lots of electronic elements have been fitted. A freestanding set of chairs, made for Barnstaple Town Council, with castle motif crest, occupy the rear wall.</p> <p>The raised dais is accessed via a set of wooden steps, with plain handrail. A small bench is attached to the panelling next to the steps.</p>
<b>Room 7</b>		
Function:		Robing room, 20 <sup>th</sup> century changing room, purpose built within small extension to back of Guildhall.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Boarded floor, carpeted.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted, skylight.
Openings – Doors:	1	Plain boarded, veneer door, with bakelite handle, modern hinges, plain narrow chamfered frame.
Openings – Windows:		A glass wall, to east metal framed, crittal style allows light to enter the room from the large arched fanlight of the pannier market, which it is built up against.
<b>Room 8</b>		
Function:		Corridor linking small suite of 20 <sup>th</sup> century service rooms.
Walls:		Plastered and painted. Narrow plain skirting. Long plain row of coat hooks attached to south wall of corridor, behind door to Room 4A.
Floor:		Narrow even width plank boarded floor, polished, dark stained wood.

Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	6	Plain boarded, veneer doors, with bakelite handles, modern hinges, plain narrow chamfered frames, all identical. One fine deep panelled door casement and plain panelled door gives access from Room 4A. 19 <sup>th</sup> century door, but rest here in forced opening.
Openings – Windows:		A glass wall, to the west, opens out onto a small open area between modern extension and rear wall of Guildhall. Allows light to enter the corridor, allows views of large window in main chamber.
<b>Room 9</b>		
Function:		Ladies toilet
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Boarded floor, covered by lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	2	Plain boarded, veneer door, with bakelite handle, modern hinges, plain narrow chamfered frame. Plain painted boarded door to toilet cubicle.
Openings – Windows:	2	Two small metal framed window openings to sink and cubicle opening onto semi-circular arched fanlight of pannier market structure which is immediately adjacent.
Fittings:		Mid century ceramic toilet and slightly later 20 <sup>th</sup> century sink unit.
<b>Room 10</b>		
Function:		Kitchenette
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Boarded floor, covered by lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	1	Plain boarded, veneer door, with bakelite handle, modern hinges, plain narrow chamfered frame.
Openings – Windows:		A glass wall, to east metal framed, crittal style allows light to enter the room from the large arched fanlight of the pannier market, which it is built up against.
Fittings:		Later 20 <sup>th</sup> century MDF or similar kitchen units and appliances.
<b>Room 11</b>		
Function:		Guest toilet.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Boarded floor, covered by lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	1	Plain boarded, veneer door, with bakelite handle, modern hinges, plain narrow chamfered frame.
Openings – Windows:	2	Small metal framed window opening to north wall, looks out into open space between extension and Guildhall.
Fittings:		Mid to late 20 <sup>th</sup> century ceramic toilet and ceramic sink.
<b>Room 12</b>		
Function:		Gentlemans toilet.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Boarded floor, covered by lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	1	Plain boarded, veneer door, with bakelite handle, modern hinges, plain narrow chamfered frame. Plain painted boarded door with modern handle to cubicle.
Openings – Windows:	2	Small metal framed window opening to east wall of cubicle looks out onto semi-circular fanlight in wall of pannier market which is immediately adjacent.
Fittings:		Mid to late 20 <sup>th</sup> century toilet and sink unit.
<b>Room 13</b>		
Function:		Stair projection serving access steps to public gallery in main chamber.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Wide even width chunky floor boards.
Ceiling:		Beaded planks board the ceiling on a diagonal, sark boarding over heavy framed roof structure with chunky purlins carrying slimmer rafters.

Openings – Doors:	2	Pair of panelled moulded heavy doors to main chamber, set in a panelled door casement with heavy moulded frame, with panelled hopper opening air vents above doors, with brass fittings. Round arched opening at base of stairs leads out to the ground floor open area and walkway, Room 20. The opening is secured by railed gate with decorative finials.
Openings – Windows:		Row of narrow slanting fixed pane windows at the top of the east wall, lighting the stair.
Stair Structure:		Chunky plank treads and risers, of wide even width, form the stair structure, with heavy, plain handrail. On crude plain corner posts, with rails, probably a later replacement. Plain plank heavy stair plate.
Significant Details:		Beaded plank cupboards in the north-east corner of the wide half landing. There is a wider section of wall to the south of this space, in a straight line and cohesive with the staircase. This is chunkier, probably of stone, it sits at 90 degrees to the rear wall of the Guildhall. The wall above and the wall to the east are both at odd angles and are lighter weight. The half landing is unusually wide and this projection may have been altered on the building of the Pannier Market.
Dating Evidence:		All details are cohesively 19 <sup>th</sup> century in character, functional, heavy duty and relatively plain, but on a large scale. In keeping with the public nature of this space.
<b>Room 14</b>		
Function:		Grand stair serving main chamber and councillors meeting room.
Walls:		Plastered and painted. ½ height moulded panelling in dark wood, 1920s in date but 17 <sup>th</sup> century in style rises with stair, deep beaded stair plate.
Floor:		Stone stair and half landings, boarded first floor landing, covered in lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered box-framed ceiling, with chamfered ribs, carried on timber braced off the east wall.
Openings – Doors:	2	Double doors on first floor landing leading to Room 4, modern copy panelled doors. The grand double doors at the base of the stair are bolection moulded and panelled, 17 <sup>th</sup> century in style, with large rectangular fanlight above with diamond timber framed panels and obscured textured glass panes.
Openings – Windows:		Long narrow slanting rectangular three pane windows at the top of the east wall, as seen in Room 13.
Stair Structure:		The stone is of heavy stone slabs, the irregularity in colour and lengths of these slabs may suggest this stair has been taken apart and reset, possibly in the 1855 remodel when the Butcher's Row entrance was formed. The stair may have previously risen at a different configuration, more similar to that to the north. The upper flight and landing are at least partially replaced in timber. The stair has been altered to accommodate the new lift structure in the centre.
Significant Details:		There are two fine large war memorial boards with carvings set on the main half landing and first floor landing, commemorating the First and Second World War losses to the community.
Dating Evidence:		The room has a mix of 17 <sup>th</sup> and later 19 <sup>th</sup> century character. It was in fact remodelled in both 1855 and the 1920s. Significantly altered again with the insertion of the modern lift.

<b>Ground Floor:</b>		
<b>Room 15</b>		
Function:		Vestibule, serving Grand stair, Mayor's Parlour and exterior Butcher's Row entrance.
Walls:		Panelled in fine dark wood bolection style panelling of 17 <sup>th</sup> century influence, although 1920s in date. Large fanlight above doors to stair and waiting room, with diamond framing and obscured glass. Even larger diamond framed glass lightwell to top of north wall, providing extra light to the Mayor's parlour.
Floor:		Heavy dressed and faced stone flagstones, reset here as pattern is quite disordered.
Ceiling:		Fine 17 <sup>th</sup> century ribbed pendant ceiling fragment brought from a house in The Strand part of the town and installed here in the 1920s.
Openings – Doors:	4	Pair of low narrow three panel 17 <sup>th</sup> century style doors face opposite each other in

		<p>the east and west walls, to the north end of the vestibule, leading to Room 16 and Room 17 respectively.</p> <p>The grand double doors at the base of the stair are bolection moulded and panelled, 17<sup>th</sup> century in style, with large rectangular fanlight above with diamond timber framed panels and obscured textured glass panes.</p> <p>Round arched opening with quoin illusion channelled reveals in the south wall, opening onto Butcher's Row. This is secured by a railed iron gate, with decorative finials, as seen in Room 20.</p>
Dating Evidence:		This has a strongly 17 <sup>th</sup> century character but is in fact 1920s in date and in stark contrast to the classical exterior.
<b>Room 16</b>		
Function:		Mayor's Parlour.
Walls:		Plastered and painted walls, panelled below dado height in panelling similar to that in Room 6, with heavy bolection style dado rail to top. There is an ogee moulded timber picture rail to the top of the wall. Between the picture rail and dado panelling the walls are wallpapered. Deep beaded skirting boards.
Floor:		Oak block parquet flooring.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted. Deep wooden cornice, with bands of beading and ogee moulding, imitating that to the main chamber, room 6.
Openings – Windows:	2	Two large round arches sash window, in plain casements. Beaded frames and slender glazing bars. Both fitted with internal timber and glass frames to reduce street noise? Low timber plank sills, panelling respects openings.
Openings – Doors:	2	Door to Room 15, vestibule in south-east and further door to Room 17, to centre of east wall. Both are three panel moulded 17 <sup>th</sup> century style doors, but of 1920s date.
Significant Details:		There is a fine bolection moulded Palladian style timber fireplace surround with mantelpiece. The central panel contains the Barum castle motif. The hearth is of small bullnose bricks, open, with projecting brick plinth, with raised brick kerb.
Dating Evidence:		The character of the room decorative scheme is predominantly late 17 <sup>th</sup> century, the furnishings, such as window drapes Georgian in style and all is in fact of 1920s date when the room was formed from the former constable's charge room.
<b>Room 17</b>		
Function:		Lobby/Waiting Room to Mayor's Parlour.
Walls:		Plastered and painted walls, narrow dark wood skirting boards. Ogee moulded wooden picture rail to tops of walls.
Floor:		Solid floor covered by carpet.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	3	Tall and finely moulded 17 <sup>th</sup> century style panelled 1920s door to Room 15, with large square fanlight above, with diamond timber framing and obscured textured glass panes. Lower three panel 17 <sup>th</sup> century style 1920s door in moulded doorframe to Room 16, Mayor's parlour. Modern dark wood effect fire door to rear lift room (Room 18) in east wall, where an opening has clearly been forced and then blocked in the former rear wall of the building.
Openings – Windows:	1	Large timber framed leaded glazed screen has been fitted to the round-arched opening, leading into the open walkway area, Room 20. This screen has a small hopper opening to the centre but is otherwise fixed, blocking an open space, 1920s.
Significant Details:		There is a small leaded semi-circular arched fanlight above a blocked doorway in the east wall, the original doorway through to Rooms 18 & 19. This is in a wide beaded frame and is very similar in style to that adjacent in the north wall. 1920s.
Dating Evidence:		This room has a strong early 20 <sup>th</sup> century character and was formed as part of the 1920s remodel to create the Mayor's Parlour.
<b>Room 18</b>		
Function:		Store room/Lift room.
Walls:		Plastered and painted. The north wall has been forced, forming one large room from two smaller ones, with wide but low opening between.

Floor:		Carpeted to south side, north covered by lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:		Modern fire escape wood effect door to Room 20, open walkway. Modern wood effect fire door to Room 17, in forced opening. Modern wood effect toilet door to disabled toilet.
Openings – Windows:		One large leaded round-arched window forced in the east wall looking out onto the pannier market. To the north side of the room, beyond the forced opening, there are several small iron-framed hopper openings at the very top of the wall near the ceiling.
Dating Evidence:		No historic details survive of previous uses of these rooms. The modern lift has been fitted to the southern portion of the room.
<b>Room 19</b>		
Function:		Disabled Toilet.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Solid, covered in lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	1	Wide modern timber effect boarded door, disabled access enabled.
Dating Evidence:		This is a wholly modern 21 <sup>st</sup> century space designed to provide a specific welfare service to visitors. It is formed by the blocking of the doorway in Room 17 and a division of the space in Room 18.
<b>Room 20</b>		
Function:		Open covered area, historically used by merchants and later as a walkthrough to Pannier Market.
Walls:		Stucco and plastered walls.
Floor:		Paved floor, contiguous with pannier market.
Ceiling:		Arched vaulted ceiling, rising from plain imposts on chunky square pillars.
Openings – Doors:	6	Three round-arched openings to the west leading directly onto the High Street, enclosed by railed iron gates, with decorative finials. Two larger arched openings lead into the Pannier Market to the east. Narrower arched opening in north wall between the two shops, with railed gateway, leads to Room 13, the steps to the public gallery.
Dating Evidence:		This space is still broadly 19 <sup>th</sup> century in form and character but has been heavily modernised throughout the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Room 21</b>		
Function:		Cafe space.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Solid tiled floor.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	2	Wide glazed door to walkway, Room 20.
Openings – Windows:		Sash window round arched to west wall, looking out onto High Street. Glazed partitions form the walls of the shop to the south, facing onto the open walkway, Room 20.
Dating Evidence:		The shop is wholly 20 <sup>th</sup> century in character. Modern counter and kitchenette fittings behind.
<b>Room 22</b>		
Function:		Toilet.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Solid covered with lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	1	Plain modern boarded door to small lobby and cubicle beyond.
Dating Evidence:		Wholly modern toilet space formed under stairs, serving the rear shop.
<b>Room 23</b>		
Function:		Retail Shop Space.
Walls:		Plastered and painted, shop signage.
Floor:		Solid.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.

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Openings – Doors:	2	Glazed 20 <sup>th</sup> century door to walkway, Room 20.
Openings – Windows:		Glazed partitions looking out onto pannier market space light the shop area.
Dating Evidence:		The shop is wholly 20 <sup>th</sup> century in character. Modern counter and display cabinets.
<b>Room 24</b>		
Function:		Toilet.
Walls:		Plastered and painted.
Floor:		Solid covered with lino.
Ceiling:		Plastered and painted.
Openings – Doors:	2	Plain modern doors to toilet and cubicle.
Significant Details:		Modern toilet to cubicle and modern sink, late 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century.
Dating Evidence:		Wholly modern toilet space formed under stairs, serving the rear shop.

APPENDIX 2: SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Room Nos:	Historic Features of Interest
Second Floor	
Room 2	Panelled 19 <sup>th</sup> century doors and doorframes to east and west ends of the north wall; these serve the second floor balconies within room 6.
Room 3	External window in west wall, top of two storey sash to High Street, 19 <sup>th</sup> century in date.
First Floor	
Room 4	19 <sup>th</sup> century moulded door casement/frame in north wall, tallest in the hallway, indicating the significance of the main chamber beyond. The door is missing. 19 <sup>th</sup> century moulded doorcase and fine panelled door with brass furniture in the west wall – identical to doorway in north wall, but slightly lower, indicating the slightly lower status of the smaller chamber beyond.
Room 5	Fine 17 <sup>th</sup> century reset panelling applied to the north, west and south walls, with a smaller amount cut around a display case to the east. Carved pilasters, also 17 <sup>th</sup> century, but some heavily restored and with copied 'scarfed in' sections. Panelling is cut to fit in places, with frieze and heavily moulded cornice, carefully reset to the cut sections. A 17 <sup>th</sup> century door has been reset to the opening to room 5A. A much restored and altered but fundamentally 17 <sup>th</sup> century carved overmantel has been fitted over the fireplace. The fireplace is probably an early 20 <sup>th</sup> century Gothic revival stone Tudor-arched surround, with shallow projecting stone hearth. Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century oak framed leaded glass panels used in a screen covering the sash windows behind appear to have been made for this room. Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century, but altered, two storey sash window to High Street, west wall, behind screen. The 19 <sup>th</sup> century polished plank floor appears complete and unaltered, there is a narrow plaster cornice of basic classical style. A fine panelled 19 <sup>th</sup> century door to Room 4 and wide moulded door casement.
Room 5A	Fine 19 <sup>th</sup> century polished panelled door and door casement leading through double width doorway to Room 5. Screened by lobby and the frame is partially cut off at the east side, but largely complete.
Room 6	Exceptionally fine 19 <sup>th</sup> century plaster ceiling, with some repairs and patching, with brass 20 <sup>th</sup> century chandeliers. 19 <sup>th</sup> century panelling and some beaded plank boarding, cut and altered but survives well in public gallery area. Second floor galleries to sides, 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Panelled box seating under galleries, this seating shows evidence of reusing 18 <sup>th</sup> and possibly even late 17 <sup>th</sup> century panelling, probably from remodelled chapels in the town Long, wooden pillared gallery rail with turned balusters and additional cast-iron finial rail, 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Sets of fixed pillared benches to seating and chunky loose benches, 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century benches to public gallery, all remade as a set, not clear what style benches they replaced. Fine 19 <sup>th</sup> century doors to Room 13, in panelled casement, air vents above with brass fittings. Two original early 19 <sup>th</sup> century, but much altered, sash windows in the west wall overlooking the High Street. Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century three-light sash window in the east wall.
Room 13	Plank steps and boarded floor to public gallery stairs, 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Boarded ceiling to extension and 19 <sup>th</sup> century glazed panels in east wall, hopper opening for air flow. Boarded plank cupboards to north-east corner on stairs, 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Timber rail to stair, 20 <sup>th</sup> century replacement, but relatively early, 1920s? Iron railings at bottom of stair, probably 19 <sup>th</sup> century, but altered, repaired and restored over the



	years.
Room 14	<p>Stone steps, two short flights to a half landing, survives as original, 19<sup>th</sup> century, not clear if continues above, stair altered for lift here.</p> <p>Early 20<sup>th</sup> century (1920s?) panelling in Jacobean style, dark wood, ½ height rises with stair, beyond the half landing the panelling has been reset and replaced; only the first section survives.</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> century framed/panelled ceiling, similar to Room 13, but grander.</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> century war memorial boards, utilising section of older foliate and fruit carvings.</p>
Ground Floor	
Room 15	<p>Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Jacobean style panelling and doors to Rooms 14, 16 and 17.</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> century stone floor.</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> century railings and gate, much altered and restored.</p> <p>Exceptional 17<sup>th</sup> century plaster ceiling reset here as a piece of architectural salvage from another building in Barnstaple.</p>
Room 16	<p>Arched 19<sup>th</sup> century sash windows x2 in west wall.</p> <p>Early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century fireplace in late 17<sup>th</sup> century Palladian style, with bolection mouldings.</p> <p>Early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century panelling ½ height to dado, similar in style/copy of that to Room 6 on first floor.</p> <p>Early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century doors, in 17<sup>th</sup> century style, 3 panels.</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> century parquet block flooring.</p> <p>Plaster ceiling, timber moulded cornice, and picture rail below, early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Textured glass panel to south wall, early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Stained and painted leaded glass panels to north wall, later 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century (earlier date memorialised) panels have an art nouveau influence/style.</p>
Room 17	<p>Glazed and leaded oak framed screen infilling arch to Room 20, early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Glazed and leaded semi-circular fanlight above blocked doorway in the east wall, to Room 19, early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Early 20<sup>th</sup> century timber moulded picture rail and skirting.</p>
Room 20	<p>Iron railed gateways and railing to arched opening to walkway through to Pannier Market. 19<sup>th</sup> century but altered and restored.</p> <p>Paved floor, altered throughout 20<sup>th</sup> century for drainage etc.</p> <p>Some minor detailing around arches and to openings.</p>
Room 21	<p>Arched sash window in west wall, 19<sup>th</sup> century, altered in 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>

APPENDIX 3: LISTING TEXT FOR THE GUILDHALL

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BARNSTAPLE  
 SS5533SE HIGH STREET  
 684-1/7/173 (East side)  
 19/01/51 The Guildhall  
 GV II\*

Guildhall. 1826. By Thomas Lee; side wall facing Butchers' Row probably 1855 by RD Gould. Solid rendered walls, portions exposed internally in 1991 suggest that front wall is of red brick and right side wall (probably a pre-1826 party wall) is of stone rubble. Slated roof. Rendered chimney with moulded cornice on right gable-end. Open ground storey in centre, originally leading to butchers' market at rear; latter replaced by Market (qv) in 1855. To right, mayor's parlour, created in 1922 out of the former charge-room and cell; shop to left. 2nd storey has courtroom to left (rising through 3rd storey) and council chamber to right with jurors' rooms above. Stair projection to rear left, giving access to public seating; main staircase behind mayor's parlour with 1855 entrance from Butchers' Row. There was originally a house abutting this side. 2 storeys, with disguised 3rd storey at right-hand end. 5-bay front to High Street. Ground storey has horizontal channelling. Round-arched openings, the centre one wider than the rest; this and the arch to left of it have iron gates with spearhead uprights; the others have small-paned glazing. Upper-storey bays flanked and separated by fluted Ionic pilasters supporting an entablature which breaks forward over the 3 narrower centre bays and is there finished with a triangular pediment. Middle and end bays have windows with 8-paned sashes (adjusted at right-hand end to accommodate 2 floors); moulded architraves, friezes and cornices. The 2 bays flanking the centre have semicircular, round-headed niches, continued moulded cills; sunk oblong panel beneath each window. Similar 4-bay design to Butchers' Row with triangular pediment overall. No windows, apart from a blind one in centre of upper storey. Round-arched doorway in centre of ground storey. Semicircular window in pediment. On the roof an octagonal bell-turret with round-arched opening in each face; domed leaded roof with ornate weather-vane; contains 1714 bell from the old butchers' market. The bottom quoin on the street corner is a block of polished granite inscribed CENTRE OF BARUM TURNPIKE MILEAGE 1879. In the blind window facing Butchers' Row is an octagonal clock face originally on the Northgate c1760-1842; on the Bluecoat School 1842-1971; moved here 1982. To the left of the doorway below is the mayor's iron poor box dated 1895; frame and door with elaborate scrollwork.

INTERIOR: open part of ground storey is divided by an arcade of 3 round arches with plain impost; 2 similar arches at rear. A further arch opens into the rear stair; this has an iron gate with spearhead uprights. Entrance lobby from Butchers' Row has late C17-style panelling of 1922 with single-rib Jacobean plaster ceiling and pendant brought from an unnamed demolished building in The Strand. Stone staircase to upper floor. Courtroom has dado of small rectangular panels with matching justices' bench at S end; similar side-benches and 2 square mobile boxes on rollers for accused and witnesses. Above the side benches are short galleries for ladies and grand jury with access from 3rd storey above council chamber; quatrefoil-section iron columns, rail of turned wood balusters. At N end tiered seating for the public; at the front of it a similar wood railing, but with decorated iron cresting. In front of the bench a large table (probably an enlargement of the original) for clerk and lawyers. Coved ceiling having 3 large rectangular panels with enriched frames; patterned chandelier boss in centre panel, patterned ventilator grilles in the other 2. Council chamber fitted out with Jacobean panelling, enriched pilasters and carved overmantel dated 1617 and with initials of Pentecost and Elizabeth Dodderidge. It was removed to a Marist Convent in Barnstaple on the demolition of Cross Street in 1910 and brought here in 1949. C19 moulded cornice. Behind the panelling a C19 papier-mache dado.

Listing NGR: SS5579133247

Appendix 4: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



ROOM 15; FRAGMENT OF 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PENDANT PLASTER ROOF, RESET AND REWORKED INTO A COPY CEILING; FROM THE SOUTH (BELOW).



LEFT: ROOM 15; THE BLIND WINDOW STYLE NOTICEBOARD ANNOUNCING THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR; FROM THE SOUTH, SOUTH-WEST.

RIGHT: THE FINE PANELLED DOORS AND FANLIGHTS ABOVE THE OPENING TO THE WAITING ROOM; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



LEFT: ROOM 15; THE ROUND ARCHED BUTCHER'S ROW ENTRANCE IN THE SOUTH ELEVATION; FROM THE NORTH-EAST. RIGHT: 1920S PANELLING INSTALLED IN THE VESTIBULE, WITH A FRAGMENT OF A PENDANT 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PLASTER CEILING FITTED ABOVE.



LEFT: THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY STYLE DOORWAY WITH GLAZED FANLIGHT TO THE OPEN VESTIBULE (ROOM 15) AND PANELLED DOOR TO MAYOR'S PARLOUR (ROOM 16); FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST. RIGHT: ROOM 18, LOOKING THROUGH THE FORCED WALL OPENING TO FIRE ESCAPE AND DISABLED TOILETS; FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST.



ROOM 18, WITH INSERTED LIFT AND 1920S FORCED GLAZED WINDOW, THIS AND ROOM 19 MAY HAVE BEEN THE CELLS, OR STORAGE FOR MERCHANTS, WITH VERY HIGH WINDOWS IN THE NORTH-EAST CORNER; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.



THE FANLIGHT ABOVE THE BLOCKED DOORWAY OFF THE WAITING ROOM (ROOM 17). THIS WOULD HAVE LED TO ROOM 19, FORMERLY TWO DISTINCT ROOMS WITH ROOM 18, POSSIBLY THE CELLS; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



THE LOBBY/WAITING ROOM (ROOM 17) TO THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WITH LEADED GLAZED SCREEN IN THE BLOCKED ARCHED OPENING TO THE REST OF THE GROUND FLOOR AND SMALLER GLAZED LEADED FANLIGHT ABOVE A BLOCKED DOORWAY LEADING EAST; FROM THE SOUTH.



ROOM 16; THE GRAND MAYOR'S PARLOUR ON THE GROUND FLOOR, FORMED IN THE EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, THE STYLE IS OF 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY INFLUENCE; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



ROOM 16; THE GRAND MAYOR'S PARLOUR ON THE GROUND FLOOR, FORMED FROM THE FORMER CONSTABLE'S CHARGE ROOM AND CELL IN THE EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, WITH FINE 1920S PANELLING; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



AS ABOVE; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



THE NORTH WALL OF THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR (ROOM 16), WITH LEADED STAINED GLASS FANLIGHTS, COMMEMORATING THE TOWN WITH THE CASTLE AND BARUM SWAN IMAGERY; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



THE GRAND STONE STAIR WHICH RISES FROM THE BUTCHER'S ROW ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING, BUT MAY HAVE BEEN RESET, WITH 1920S PANELLING TO SIDES; FROM THE WEST.





ONE OF THE FINE CARVED WAR MEMORIALS ON THE GRAND STAIR (ROOM 14); FROM THE SOUTH, SOUTH-EAST



LEFT: THE MODERN DOORS ON THE FIRST FLOOR LANDING TO THE GRAND STAIR (ROOM 14), LEADING TO THE LOBBY ROOM 4; FROM THE EAST.  
RIGHT: ROOM 5; THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY RESET DOOR TO ROOM 5A, PART OF A DOUBLE DOOR SYSTEM TO SCREEN SOUND; FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST.



ROOM 5; THE ELABORATELY CARVED OVERMANTEL, FITTED TO A TYPICAL SHALLOW 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY STACK, WITH LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> OR EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NEO-GOTHIC STONE COMPOSITE FIREPLACE; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



ROOM 5; THE EAST WALL OF THE DODDERIDGE ROOM WITH DEEP DISPLAY CASE AND DOOR TO THE FIRST FLOOR LOBBY; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.



ROOM 5; THE SOUTH WALL OF THE MEETING ROOM, WITH SALVAGED RESET 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PANELLING, CAVETTO SIMPLE PLASTER CORNICE, 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND FINE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SALVAGED CARVED OVERMANTEL; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



LEFT: ROOM 5; THE OAK LEADED SCREEN ACROSS THE CLASSICAL SASH WINDOW IN THE DODDERIDGE ROOM; FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.  
RIGHT: ROOM 4; THE SMALL FIRST FLOOR LOBBY, LEADING OFF THE GRAND STONE STAIR, WITH DOORWAYS TO THE COUNCILLORS MEETING ROOM (ROOM 5) AND MAIN CHAMBER (ROOM 4A & 6); FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



THE LARGEST OF THE TWO CEILING ROSES ON THE MAIN CHAMBER CEILING (ROOM 6), WHICH HAS BEEN RESTORED AFTER A COLLAPSE.



DETAIL OF THE ANAGLYPTA WALLPAPER APPLIED IN THE LATER 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TO THE SIMPLE CAVETTO SIDES OF THE MOULDED PLASTER CEILING OF ROOM 6; FROM THE WEST.



THE BEAUTIFUL PLASTER ROOF OF THE MAIN CHAMBER (ROOM 6); FROM THE SOUTH-WEST



VIEW DOWN INTO THE MAIN COURTROOM CHAMBER (ROOM 6) FROM THE WEST BALCONY; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST



LEFT: ROOM 6; THE WEST SECOND FLOOR BALCONY, WITH FREE STANDING BENCHES AND LEATHER PADDED BALUSTER RAIL; FROM THE SOUTH.  
RIGHT: ROOM 2; THE DOOR TO THE SMALLER FORMER JUDGE'S OFFICE, NOW STORE ROOMS; FROM THE EAST.



LEFT: ROOM 2; THE CORRIDOR SERVING THE MEETING ROOM AND OFFICE SPACE ON THE SECOND FLOOR; FROM THE EAST.  
RIGHT: ROOM 1; THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY JURORS MEETING ROOM, WITH BAR AND GLAZED PANELS WITHIN PARTITION WALLS; FROM THE EAST.



LEFT: ROOM 2; THE SMALL 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PANELLED DOOR LEADING TO THE EAST SECOND FLOOR BALCONY; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.  
RIGHT: ROOM 4/ROOM 2; THE STAIRS TO THE SECOND FLOOR, A 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY STAIR, A HISTORIC COPY; FROM THE SOUTH.



LEFT: ROOM 4/ROOM 2; THE STAIRS TO THE SECOND FLOOR, A 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY STAIR, A HISTORIC COPY; FROM THE NORTH.  
RIGHT: THE GLAZED WALL WITHIN ROOM 8, OF METAL FRAMED CRITTAL STYLE; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



LEFT: ROOM 8; VIEW TO THE ROBING ROOM (ROOM 7) AND KITCHEN (ROOM 10); FROM THE SOUTH.  
RIGHT: THE DOORWAY FORCED IN THE EAST WALL ACCESSING ROOMS 7-12, RESET WITH PANELLED DOOR CASEMENT; FROM THE WEST.



LEFT: ROOM 4A; THE MOULDED DOORCASE WITHIN THE SOUTH-EAST LOBBY TO THE MAIN CHAMBER; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.  
RIGHT: ROOM 6; THE LOBBY FORMED IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE MAIN CHAMBER, OBSCURING THE LARGE MOULDED DOORCASE; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.





ROOM 6; THE JUDGE'S BENCH IN THE MAIN CHAMBER; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.



ROOM 6: THE FIXED PILASTER BENCHES WITH TURNED LEGS AND THE CHUNKIER FREE STANDING BENCHES WITHIN THE PANELLED SEATING AREA; FROM THE SOUTH.



ROOM 6; ONE OF THE EAST SASH WINDOWS WHICH LIGHT THE MAIN CHAMBER; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



THE LOBBY (ROOM 4A) IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE MAIN CHAMBER (ROOM 6), OBSCURING THE LARGE MOULDED DOORCASE; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



ROOM 6; THE POST-1855 THREE-LIGHT HORNED SASH WINDOW IN THE EAST WALL OF THE MAIN CHAMBER; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



ROOM 6; THE HEAVY TIMBER BALUSTER RAIL WHICH DEFINES THE PUBLIC GALLERY SEATING AND COURTROOM SPACES; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



ROOM 6; THE EAST SECOND FLOOR GALLERY, SUPPORTED ON SLENDER COLUMN, AND PANELLED SEATING BELOW, WITH OPEN BENCHES TO THE NORTH; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



ROOM 6; THE WEST SECOND FLOOR GALLERY, SUPPORTED ON SLENDER COLUMN AND PANELLED SEATING BELOW, WITH OPEN BENCHES TO THE NORTH; FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



ROOM 6; THE PANELLING TO THE SIDES OF THE TIERED PUBLIC GALLERY SEATING, SHOWING PANELS CUT IN HALF, SUGGESTING THE TIERS OF SEATING HAVE BEEN RESET OR RECONFIGURED; FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.



THE MAIN COURTROOM CHAMBER IN THE GUILDHALL (ROOM 6); FROM THE NORTH.



ROOM 6, SHOWING SOME OF THE FINE GILDED FRAMED PORTRAITS OF HISTORIC TOWN NOTABLES; FROM THE WEST, NORTH-WEST.



THE MAIN COURTROOM CHAMBER IN THE GUILDHALL (ROOM 6); FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



THE MAIN COURTROOM CHAMBER IN THE GUILDHALL (ROOM 6); FROM THE NORTH-EAST



THE TIERED PUBLIC GALLERY AREA OF THE MAIN CHAMBER (ROOM 6), WITH REFITTED 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BENCHES; FROM THE EAST, SOUTH-EAST.



LEFT: THE PUBLIC GALLERY STEPS (ROOM 13) DROPPING TO THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GUILDHALL; FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST.  
RIGHT: THE BEADED PLANK BOARDED CUPBOARDS ON THE LANDING OF THE PUBLIC GALLERY STEPS (ROOM 13); FROM THE WEST.



LEFT: THE STAIR PROJECTION (ROOM 13) SERVING THE PUBLIC GALLERY IN THE MAIN CHAMBER; FROM THE WEST  
RIGHT: THE DOORS TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY STAIRS (ROOM 13) FROM THE MAIN CHAMBER (ROOM 6); FROM THE WEST.





THE OCTAGONAL TIMBER BELL CUPOLA ON THE ROOF OF THE GUILDHALL WITH 1714 FORMER BUTCHERS' YARD BELL; FROM THE SOUTH, SOUTH-WEST.



The Old Dairy  
Hacche Lane Business Park  
Pathfields Business Park  
South Molton  
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