

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING:  
ASHFORD HOSPITAL  
KING'S AVENUE  
ASHFORD  
KENT**

NGR: TR 0026 4307

*For Tribal MJP, on behalf of NHS Eastern & Coastal Kent*



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JULY 2009

ASC: 1177/AAH/1



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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	AAH	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1177
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol 2-62120	<i>Kent HER ref:</i>	Mke17390
<i>County:</i>	Kent		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Ashford		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Ashford (unparished)		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TR 0026 4307		
<i>Present use:</i>	Former hospital		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of existing; Construction of new health centre, access and landscaping, and residential development		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Pre-planning		
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<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Tribal MJP 87-91 Newman Street London W1T 3EY		
<i>Client:</i>	NHS Eastern & Coastal Kent		
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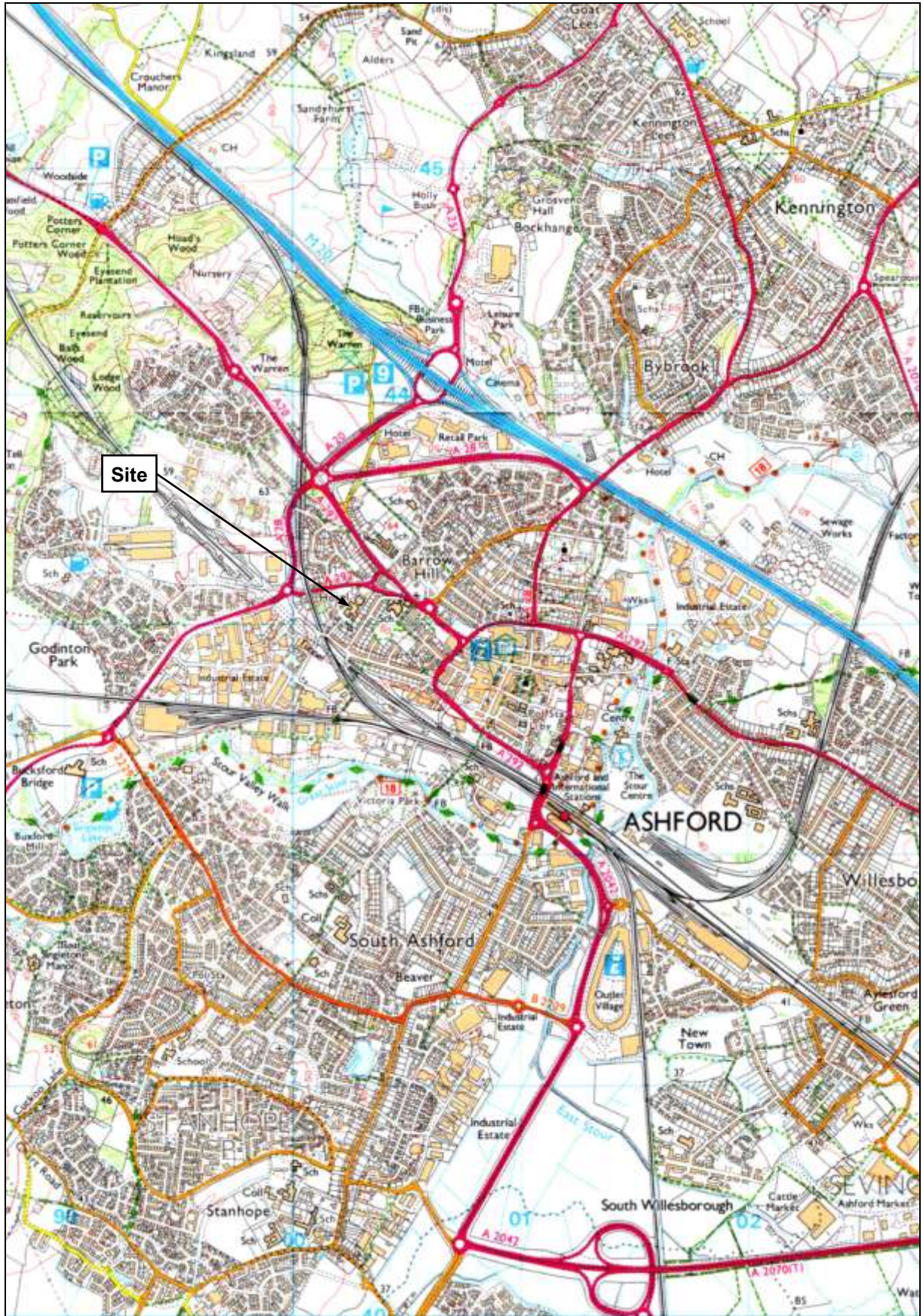


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In May and June 2009 an historic building survey was undertaken of the buildings at Ashford Hospital, Kings Avenue, Ashford, in order to achieve a record of the site prior to demolition and redevelopment of the site, and to inform decisions regarding the future of a WW2 air raid shelter within the hospital grounds.*

*Ashford Hospital was built between 1926 and 1928, to a design by a local architect, Edward A Jackson. It was funded by public subscription, and opened in 1928, with a capacity of 90 beds. Its design was based on the pavilion-plan hospital that originated on the Continent in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. From a two-storey neo-Georgian style administration block, an axial corridor nearly 100m in length provided access to separate theatre, casualty, domestic, obstetrics and ward blocks. Ancillary buildings comprised a mortuary, laundry and nurses' home.*

*Jubilee House, comprising two brick-built semi-detached houses adjoining the hospital, was given to the hospital by the town in May 1935. During WW2, a gas decontamination unit and associated air raid shelter were constructed in the hospital grounds. Following the war and the establishment of the National Health Service, many additions were made to the hospital in the 1950s and 1960s, including extensions to the wards, an outpatients' department, a boiler house and a large detached rest room/dining room. The former decontamination unit became the physiotherapy department and nurses' training centre. In the 1970s a second operating theatre was constructed, along with an incinerator.*

*In the late 1970s the site ceased to function as a general hospital. Following a programme of refurbishment and conversion, part of the complex was officially reopened in 1980 as a hospital for the elderly. The nurses' home, which had been significantly extended to the rear, became the Community Health offices. Jubilee House, also extended to the rear, became a children's clinic.*

*The hospital closed in the late 1990s, and all re-useable fixtures and fittings were removed. By the time of the survey the site was heavily overgrown, and suffering badly from lack of maintenance and vandalism. Only the Community Health offices and Jubilee House remained in use.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In May & June 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out historic building recording at Ashford Hospital, King's Avenue, Ashford, Kent. The project was commissioned by Tribal MJP on behalf of NHS Eastern & Coastal Kent (NHSECK), and was carried out according to a brief (Rogers 2009: Appendix 1) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Ashford Borough Council*, by their archaeological advisors (AA), *Kent County Council Heritage Conservation*.

### 1.2 **Planning Background**

This building recording project has been required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15* (PPG15), in order to inform proposals for the development involving buildings on the site.



### 1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

*Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.4 *Management*

The project was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

### 1.5 *The Site*

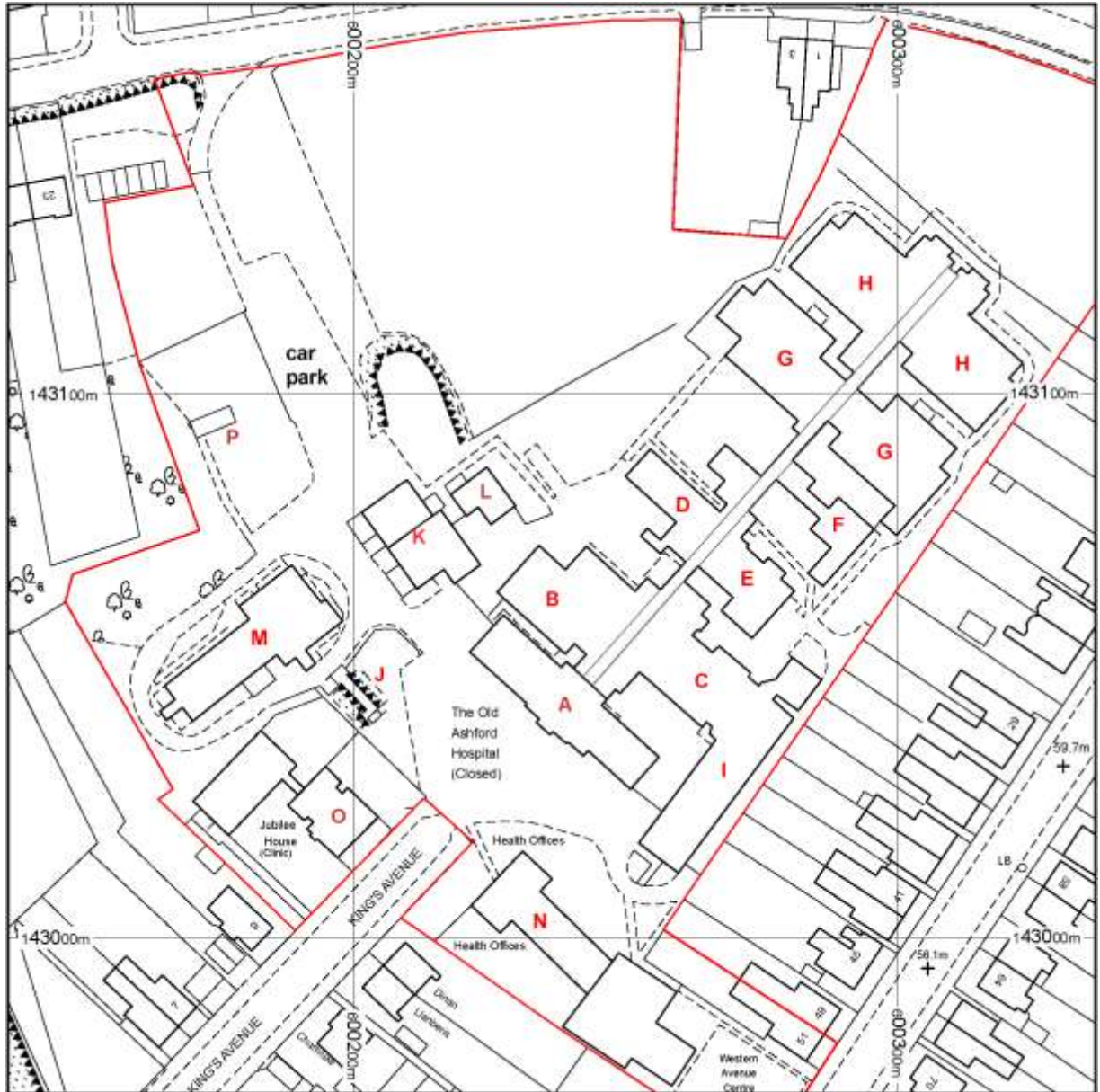
#### 1.5.1 *Location & Description*

Old Ashford Hospital is located in the district and town of Ashford, Kent. The site is in the north-west quarter of the town, in an area known as Barrow Hill, and is centred on NGR TR 0026 4307 (Fig. 1). It extends over a total area of c.2.4ha, bounded by Chart Road to the north, gardens of Western Avenue to the south-east, and residential plots and open ground to the south and west. Access is from King's Avenue, which approaches the site from the south-west (Fig. 2). The site is at an elevation of c.60m AOD, and slopes gradually away to the south and south-east.

The main hospital buildings, occupying the south-east side of the site, consist of a series of one and two-storey rectangular blocks (A-H), linked by an axial corridor which follows the same south-west to north-east alignment as King's Avenue. To the south-east is a long single-storey block which housed the out-patients' department (I). To the west of the main building are several smaller detached structures which formerly comprised an air raid shelter (J), the boiler house and laundry (K), the mortuary (L), the nurses' training and physiotherapy departments (M), and the incinerator (P). South-east of the main entrance from King's Avenue is the Community Health Office, formerly the nurses' home (N), and to the north-west is Jubilee House, now a children's clinic (O). Fronting the main building to the south-west is a car park: a second car park lies to the north-west, with an access to Chart Road, now closed.

#### 1.5.2 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development scheme for the site will comprise erection of a new health centre with new access and associated parking and landscaping (FULL), and residential development (Outline with all matters reserved).



**Figure 2:** Site plan (2009) and building numbers used in report (scale 1:1,250)

## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section B4.1), the aim of the building recording was:

- To provide a basic descriptive record of the historic buildings, structures and other features likely to be affected by the development proposals, in order to inform planning decisions and the development design process.

Subsequently, as a result of discussions with the LPA, the client requested an assessment of the significance of the air raid shelter (Building J), in order to inform decisions regarding its retention/disposal. The assessment has been incorporated into the conclusions of this report.

### 2.2 *Standards*

The work conforms to the brief, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### 2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the brief (Sections B5-B8), which required:

- A programme of historic building recording equivalent to English Heritage Level 2 (EH 2006).

Cameras used for the survey were a Canon EOS 3000N 35mm SLR and a Canon EOS 400D digital, with a resolution of 10 megapixels. A laser distance meter was used for internal measurement: floor plans were based on drawings provided by NHSECK. These were digitised, checked for accuracy, and updated and amended as necessary.

### 2.4 *Constraints*

With the exception of the former nurses' home and Jubilee House, at the time of the survey the hospital had been disused for about ten years. Externally, the site was heavily overgrown in places (Plates 1 & 2), making it difficult to achieve external photographic coverage of some of the buildings. Security measures taken to prevent vandalism and theft have involved boarding up all the windows and external doors. Consequently, access to the interiors of the Boiler House and Mortuary (Buildings K and L) was not feasible. Internally, most of the buildings are in a poor condition as a result of vandalism and structural decay.

In order to mitigate these constraints, use has been made where possible in the descriptive section of this report of black-and-white photographs taken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) in 1992/3.



**Plate 1:** Constraints: Building M (Physiotherapy) from north-east  
(compare with *Plate 98*)



**Plate 2:** Constraints: Area between ward buildings G & H

### 3 Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available historical background to the site and its environs. This section has been compiled with information from the Kent Heritage & Environment Record (HER), the Kent County Record Office, Maidstone (CRO), the National Monuments Record (NMR), the Internet, and ASC's library.

#### 3.2 *Historical Evidence - General*

Until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Ashford was a relatively small but prosperous market town, serving a community of about 2000 individuals. Its prosperity lay in its nodal location, at the crossing of the river Stour and the meeting of roads linking Canterbury, Faversham, Folkestone, Hastings and Maidstone. Between 1760 and 1840 all these routes became turnpikes, bringing additional trade and encouraging the growth of the town. In 1797, at the start of the Napoleonic Wars, a military barracks was built in Barrow Hill (Fricker und.).

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the coming of the railways consolidated Ashford's position as a centre of communication in East Kent. The London & Dover Railway obtained its Act in 1836, for a line from London via Redhill, Tonbridge and Ashford to Dover. The railway, renamed the South Eastern Railway (SER), opened to Ashford in 1842, reaching Dover two years later (Lawson & Killingray 2004, 124). Branches from Ashford to Canterbury opened in 1846, and to Hastings in 1851. In the same year the SER opened its locomotive and carriage works in Ashford, which transformed the town into a major industrial centre. At the same time a new town housing employees of the railway works was laid out by Samuel Beazley to the south of the existing settlement (Newman 2002, 135). This rapid expansion brought about a significant increase in population, from under 3,000 in 1841 to nearly 13,000 in 1901 (Ruderman & Filmer 1991). Other industries that became significant in the town in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were food processing and paper manufacture. In 1884 the London, Chatham & Dover Railway (LCDR) opened its line from Maidstone to Ashford (Lawson & Killingray 2004, 124).

Like many 19<sup>th</sup>-century towns, this growth in population, and commercial and industrial activity, was not immediately matched by improvements to water supply, drainage etc. The Stour was used both as a source of water and for sewage disposal, not unsurprisingly resulting in a range of health problems including a major cholera outbreak in 1866 (*ibid*, 161). A sewage treatment plant was eventually opened in 1887 (Ruderman & Filmer 1991). Piped water was provided from 1868 and gas lighting from 1824, but a public electricity supply was not made available until 1926, because of concerted local opposition (*ibid*).

Another consideration in improvements to public health was the provision of hospitals. In 1878 Mr W.P. Pomfret, an Ashford banker, established the Ashford Cottage Hospital on the corner of Hardinge Road and Wellesley Road as a memorial to his late wife. A children's ward was added subsequently, but by the 1920s the hospital was suffering from lack of space. With nowhere to expand, it was proposed that a new general hospital should be constructed by public subscription. This was the 'new' Ashford Hospital, which forms the subject of this report.

### 3.3 *Historical Evidence – Site-Specific*

Ashford Hospital was built between 1926 and 1928, to a design by Edward A. Jackson, a local architect, assisted by Mr T.W. Harrison. The builders were Messrs Godden & Sons of Hamstreet (Filmer 1988, 119). The Duke of York, later King George VI, laid the foundation stone on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1926 (Filmer 1988, 119). The hospital opened in 1928, with a capacity of 90 beds (RCHME: Appendix 3). Its design, with the administration, domestic and theatre blocks linked to the wards by an axial corridor, is based on the pavilion-plan hospital that originated on the Continent in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and developed in Britain at sites such as Blackburn Infirmary (Richardson 1998, 28-29). Funding for the hospital was raised locally: wards were named in recognition of the various local contributors towards its construction. *Tenterden Ward* recognised the contribution from the inhabitants of that village, *Rotary Ward* the funds raised by the Rotary Club, and *Southern Ward* the contribution from the Southern Railway and its employees (Lawrie 2004, 79).

Research undertaken for this survey has revealed little readily available information regarding the subsequent history and development of the hospital. In the late 1970s the hospital ceased to operate as a general hospital, and in 1980, following refurbishment and conversion works, part of the site reopened as a hospital for the elderly. The actor Bill Owen, formerly Compo in the BBC series *Last of the Summer Wine*, performed the reopening ceremony (Lawrie, *op. cit.*).

In 1992 surveyors from the RCHME visited the hospital in the course of preparing a major study on the history, development and architecture of hospital buildings (Richardson 1998). Their report is reproduced in Appendix 3. Although it contains some inaccuracies (the theatre and kitchen buildings are described as ‘ward blocks’: the former detached dining room/rest room is labelled ‘theatre block’), it provides a useful snapshot of the site towards the end of its working life. Even more useful are the accompanying photographs. These are listed below (Section 8): some are reproduced in the descriptive section of this report.



**Plate 3:** Ashford Hospital, 1928 (*after Lawrie 2004, 79*)

### 3.4 *Cartographic Evidence*

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Barrow Hill district of Ashford, in which the hospital was later built, consisted of Barrowhill House and Barrowhill Farm, located close to the junction of four roads. The surrounding area was predominantly open farmland, though housing development was extending to Barrow Hill from the south-east. The First Edition Ordnance Survey 25” sheet of 1871 (Fig. 3) shows the hospital site as open fields between Chart Road to the north and Godinton Road to the south-west. West of the site, at the junction of the aforementioned roads, is a brickworks with two small brick pits. In the north-west corner of the site is a small square building, presumably a field barn, with associated rectangular enclosure. The Second Edition 25” sheet of 1891 (not illustrated) shows the same picture.

By the Third Edition of 1901 (Fig. 4) the area around the site had developed significantly. The railway line from Ashford to Maidstone, opened in 1884, passes mostly in a cutting to the south-west of the site. Godinton Road crosses the railway by a bridge, and the railway passes over Chart Road by an overbridge and embankment. The brickworks, now to the west of the railway, have extended to the east of the line as well. At the north end of the site, two semi-detached houses have been constructed on Chart Road. To the east, Western Avenue has been laid out and largely developed. To the south, Kings Avenue has been laid out, and development has commenced. The hospital site itself is shown as allotments. In the north-west corner is a group of buildings, either agricultural or connected to the adjoining brickyard extension.

The Ordnance Survey 25” sheet of 1933 (Fig. 5) is the first to show the hospital, five years after it opened. To the north-west, the brickyard extension is shown as an open field, and the adjoining buildings have gone. To the south, the development of Kings Avenue has reached its present extent: the southern section has been renamed Sackville Crescent. Turning to the hospital itself, this sheet most likely provides the best illustration of the hospital buildings as originally constructed. The ward blocks (Buildings G & H) are shown as simple rectangular structures with projecting utility blocks to the rear: the later extensions to the south-west are absent. Building F lacks its later south-west extension (Room F3). The north section of Building B comprises only its north-east part (Rooms B2, B3 and B4). South-east of Buildings A and C, the later outpatients’ department (Building I) is absent. Ancillary buildings shown are the Laundry (south-east part of K), Mortuary (L), Nurses’ Home (N) and Jubilee House (O). Another small building, no longer extant, is shown north-west of the Laundry.

A number of plans of the hospital were made available for this survey by NHSECK. Among these was a sheet prepared for the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, originally at a scale of 8’ to 1” (1:96), showing proposed alterations to the cold water supply system. The date of the plan has been truncated during scanning, and reads either ‘8/7/42’ or ‘8/7/62’. On balance the latter date seems more likely. This plan is extremely significant because it lists the functions of all the rooms in the hospital at that time. The main and ancillary hospital buildings shown on this plan are reproduced in Figures 6 and 7 respectively: the accompanying key appears on the following page. The building designations are also used in the current report.

## KEY TO FIGURES 6 & 7

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>BUILDINGS</b>			
<b>A</b>	Administrative Block	<b>G</b>	Men's Ward Blocks
<b>B</b>	Operating Theatre Block	<b>H</b>	Women's & Children's Ward Blocks
<b>C</b>	Casualty & X Ray Block	<b>K</b>	Boiler House & Laundry
<b>D</b>	Domestic Block	<b>L</b>	Mortuary
<b>E</b>	Children's Ward Block	<b>M</b>	Nurses Training Centre & Physiotherapy
<b>F</b>	Obstetric Block	<b>N</b>	Nurses Home
<b>ROOMS</b>			
AMO	Assistant Matron's Office	MRO	Medical Records Office
BR	Bathroom	NR	Nurses Bedroom
C	Cupboard	PW	Private Ward
DR	Duty Room	SB	Sisters Bedroom
HC	Heating Chamber	St R	Sterilizing Room
HC1st	Housemaid's Closet	W	Water Closet
L	Lavatory	WK	Ward Kitchen
MB	Maids Bedroom	WR	Washing Room

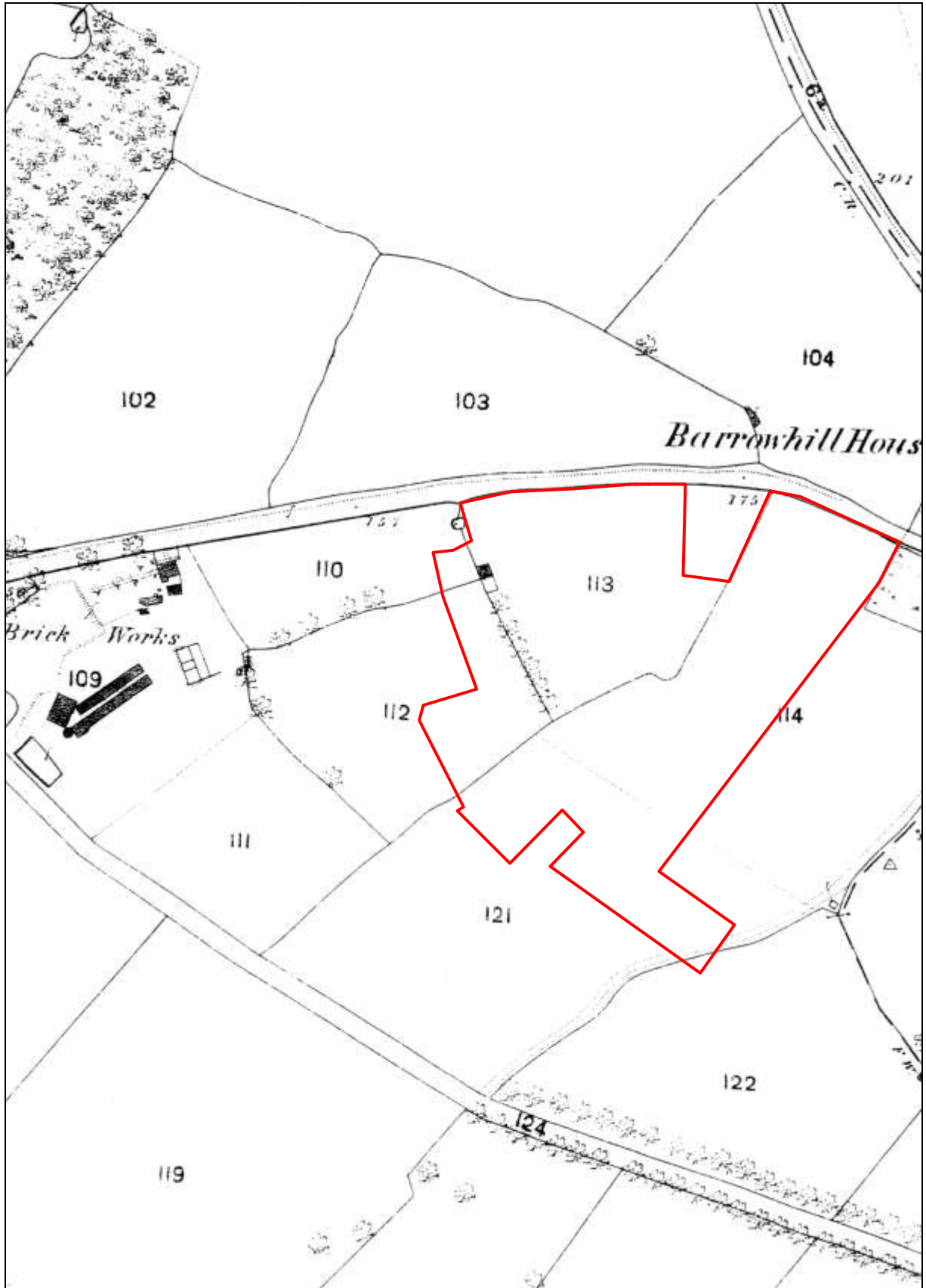
The plan shows that by this time the four main wards had been extended to the south-west, that the laboratory had been built between the ward blocks, that a south-west extension had been added to the Building F, the obstetric block (Fig. 6, labelled 'Shelter'), and a staff cloakroom had been added to the Building C, the Casualty and X Ray Block (Fig. 6, labelled 'Nurses Cloak Room'). Of the ancillary buildings, the Mortuary and Nurses' Home (Buildings L and N) appear unchanged, but the present Boiler House has been constructed on the north-west side of the Laundry (Building K), and a T-shaped building, labelled 'Rest Room' and 'Dining Room', with adjoining kitchen and toilet facilities, has been added north-west of the Domestic Block (Building C), linked to the axial corridor by a covered way. Another new building (M) housing the Nurses' Training Centre and Physiotherapy Department has been constructed, south-west of the Boiler House and Laundry and north-west of Jubilee House. The HER records that this was built during WW2 as a gas decontamination facility (Mke17390). Although of contemporary date, the adjoining air raid shelter (Building J: Mke17391) is not shown on the 1962 site plan, presumably because it was out of use and sealed by this time.

The next available Ordnance Survey coverage of the site is provided by the 1:2,500 sheets for 1968 (Fig. 8). These show the same buildings as the 1962 plan, with the addition of the incinerator (Building H), north-west of the Boiler House, the air raid shelter (Building J), and the new outpatients block (Building G). Extensions are shown to the four ward utility blocks, to the Laundry, Mortuary and to the rear of the Nurses' Home.

Based on current Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2), the principal changes to the form of the hospital since the late 1960s have been:

- Construction of day room extensions and related facilities to all four wards
- Demolition of the Rest Room/Dining Room, and associated walkway
- Construction of a second operating theatre adjoining the first
- Extensions to the rear of Jubilee House.





**Figure 3:** Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey 25'' sheet LXV.5, 1871

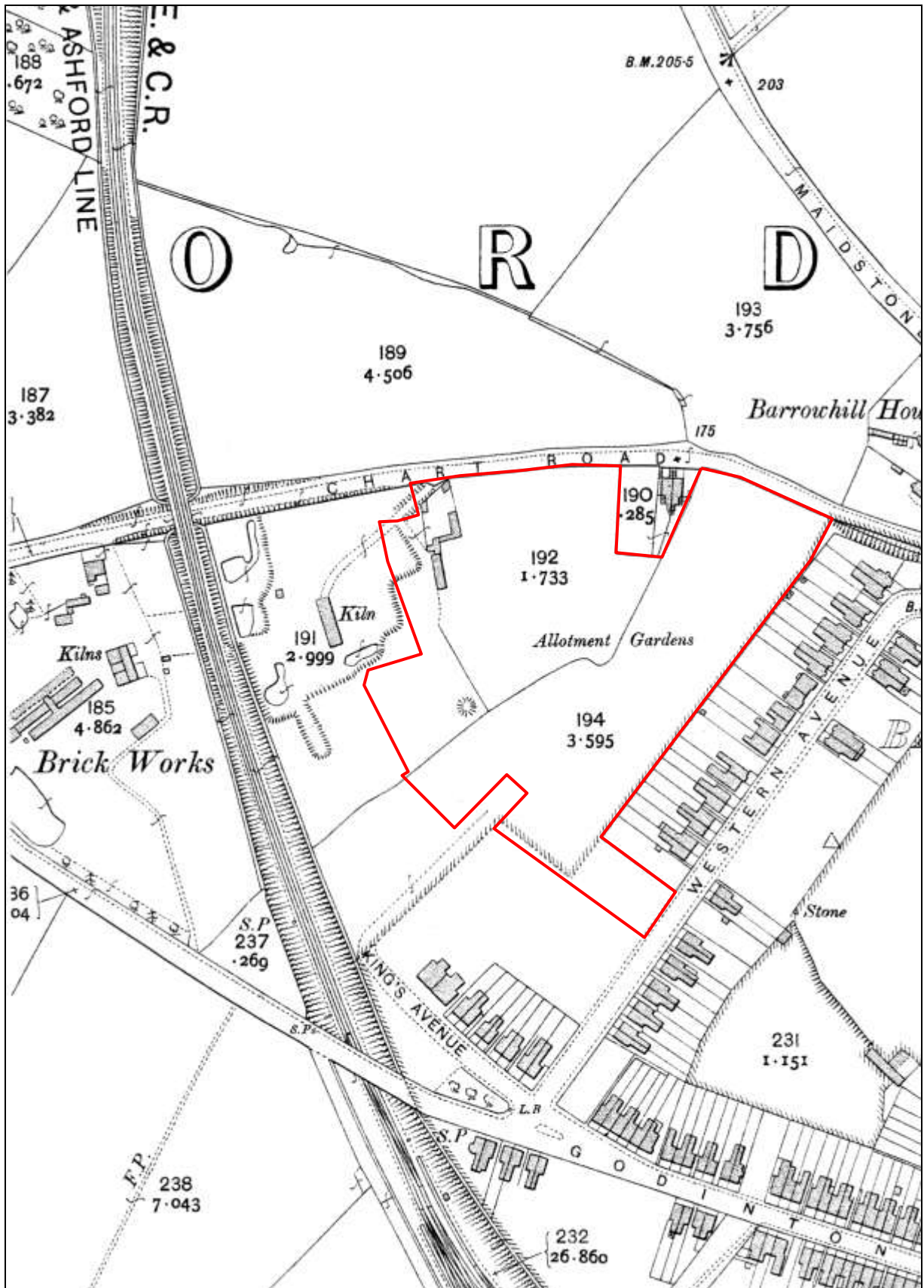
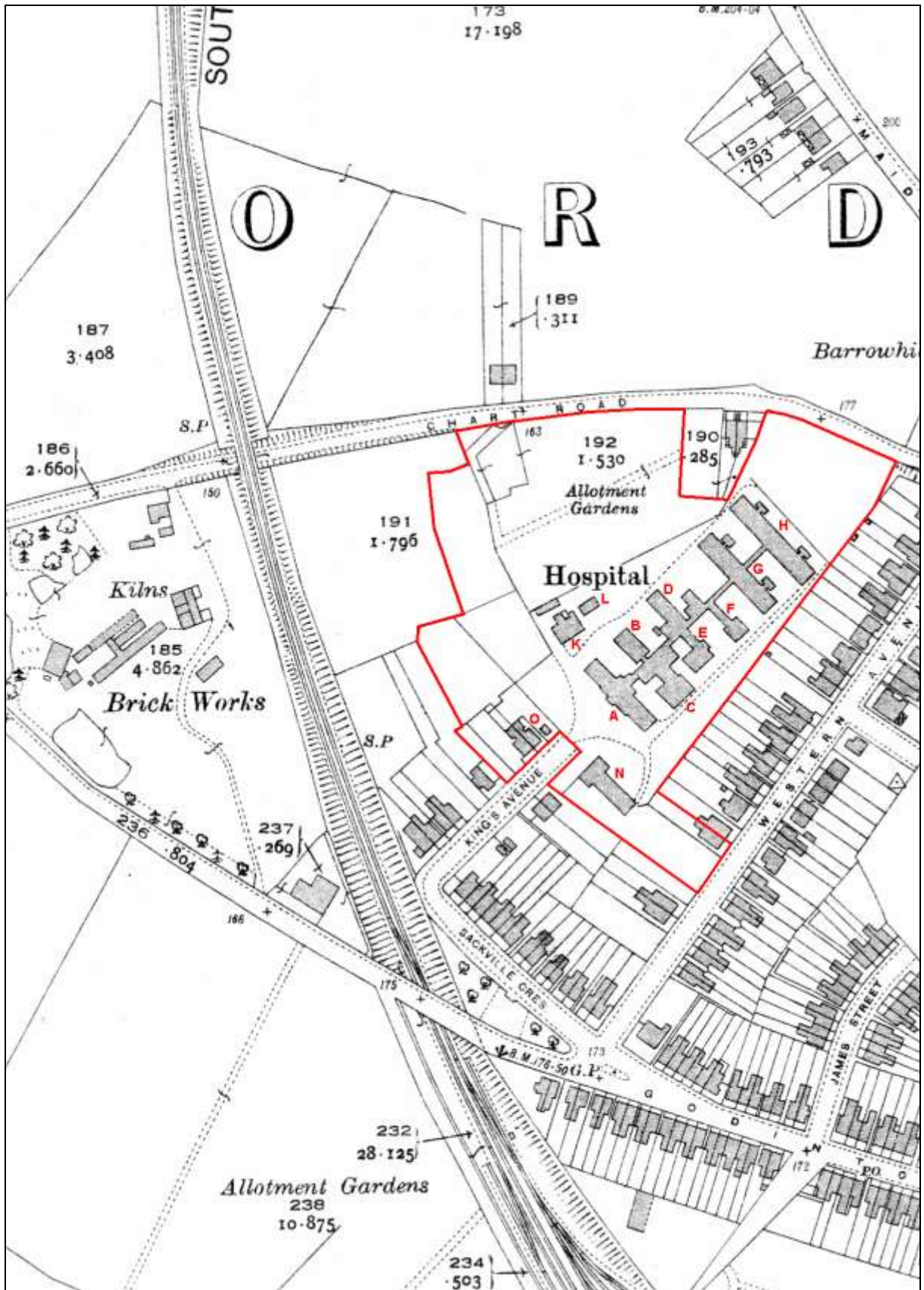


Figure 4: Extract from Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25" sheet LXV.5, 1907



**Figure 5:** Extract from Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey 25" sheet LXV.5, 1933  
(Building numbers added)

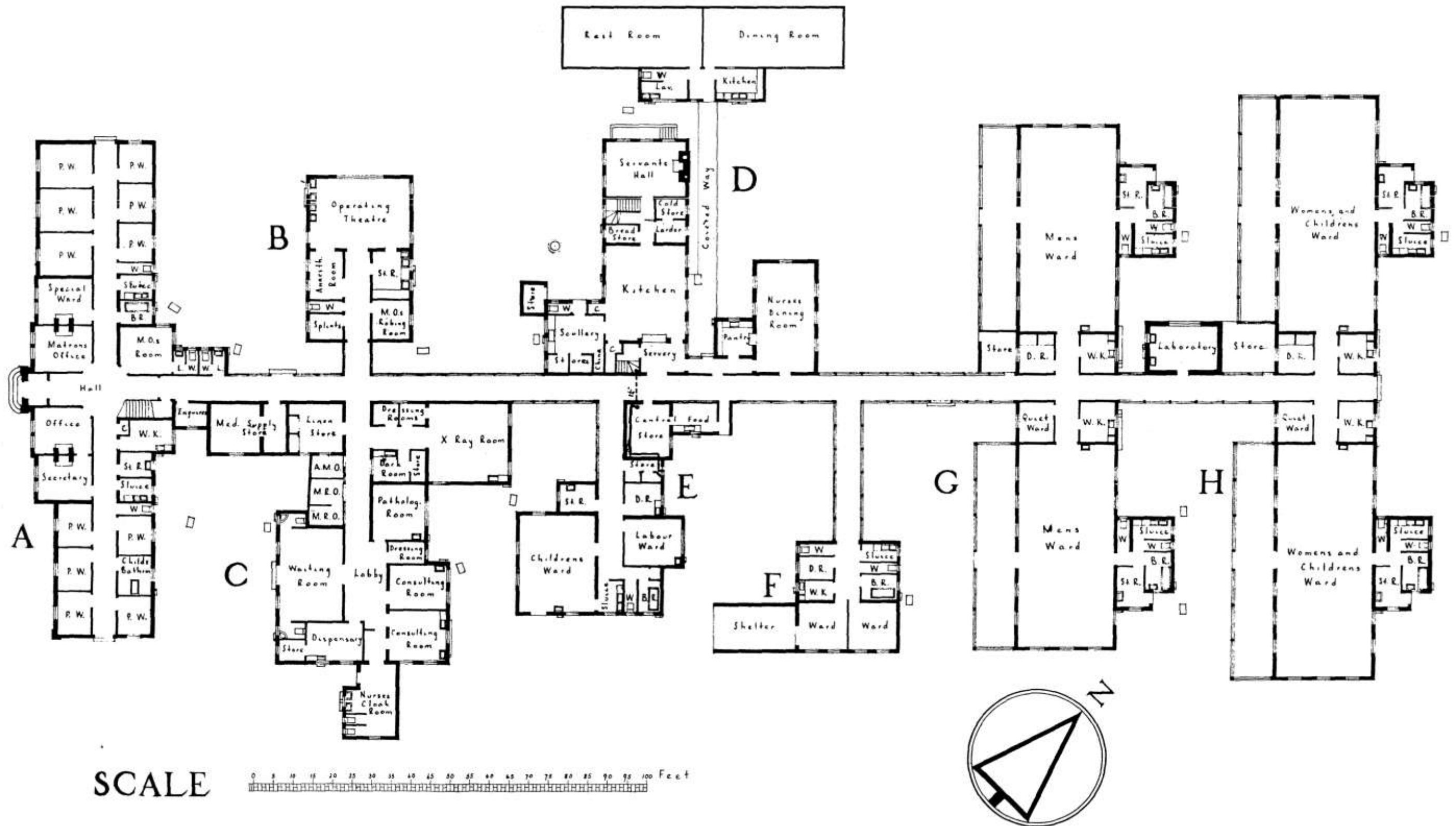


Figure 6: Ground floor plan of main hospital building, 1962 (scale as shown)

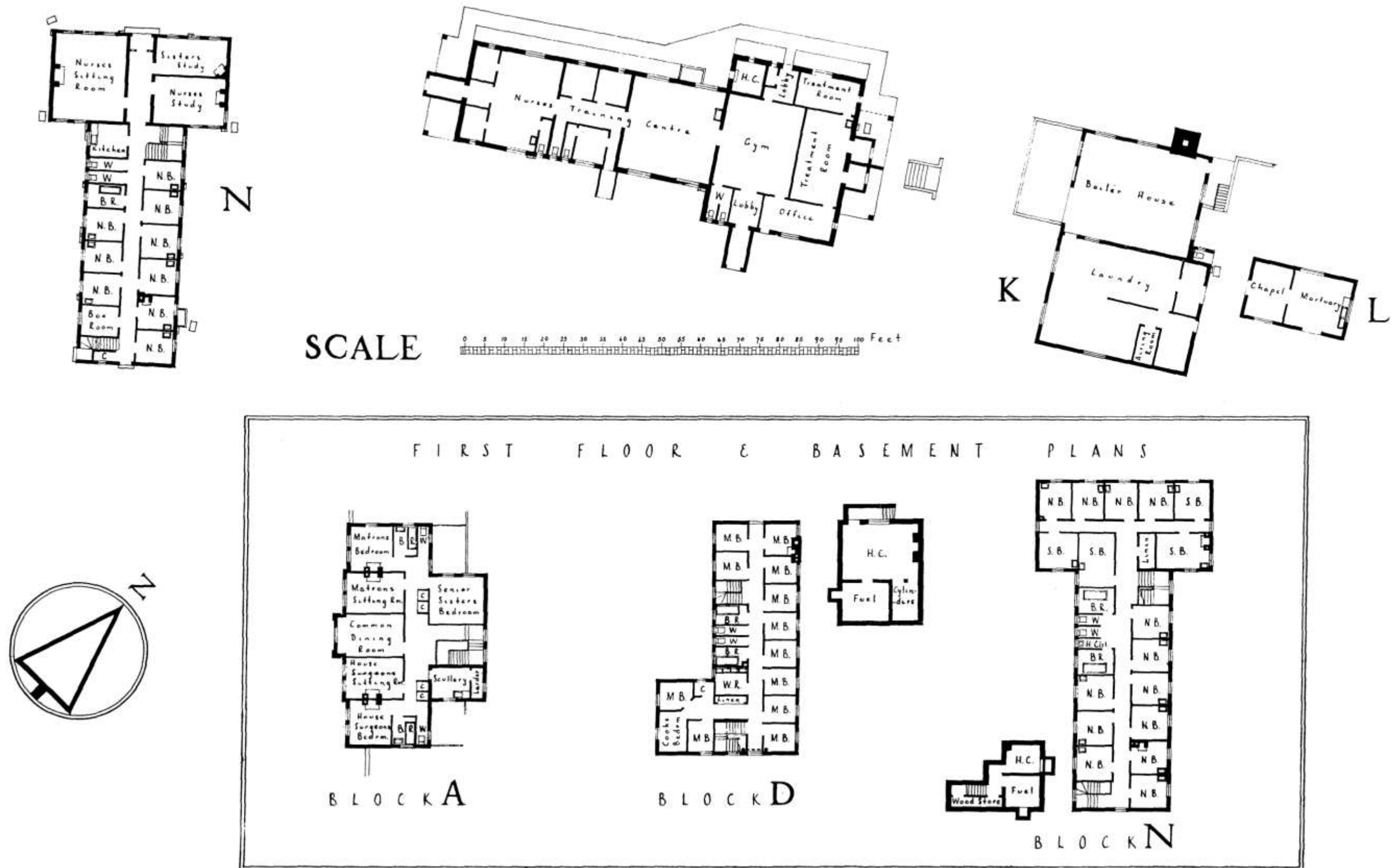
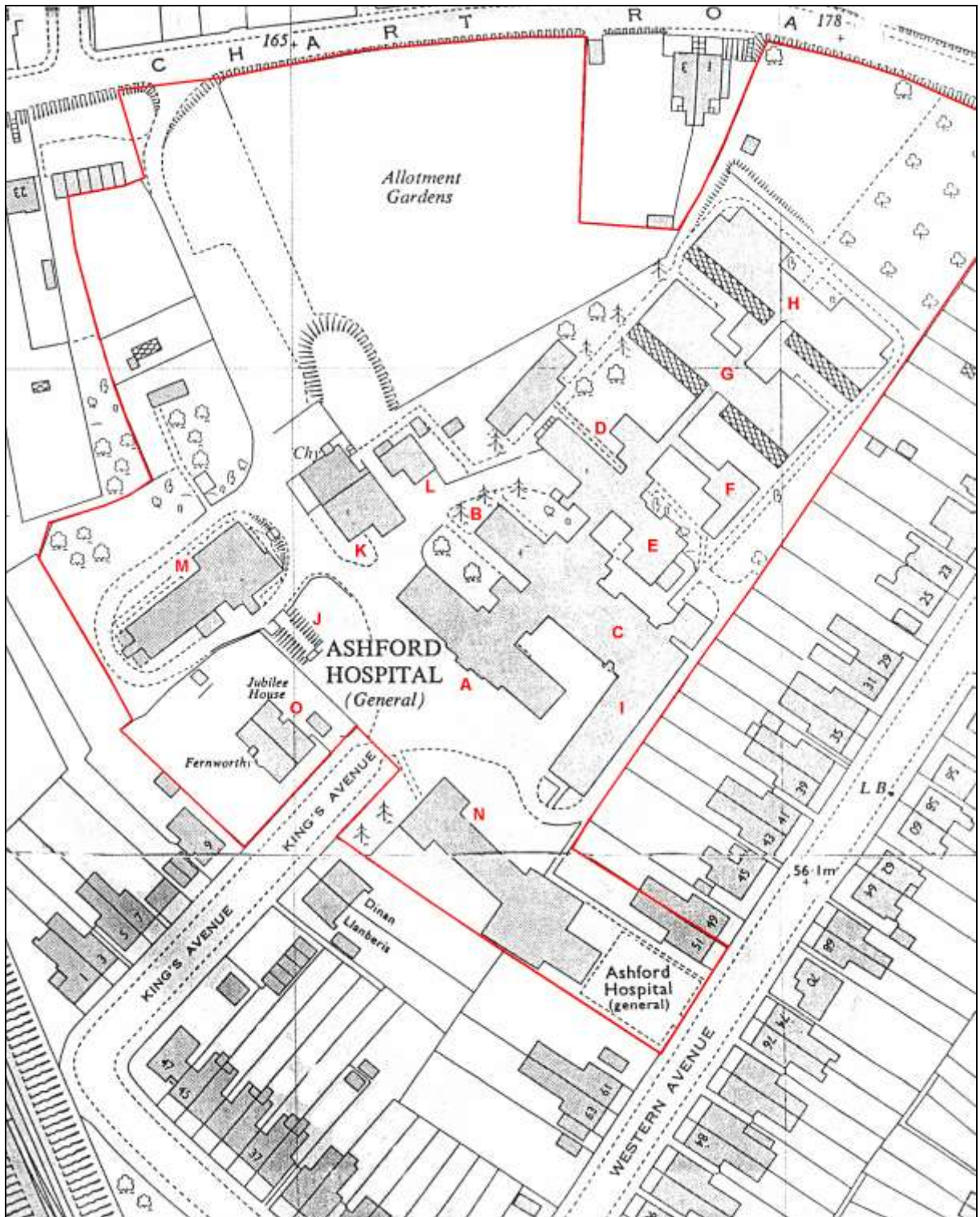


Figure 7: Plan of upper floors, cellars and ancillary buildings, 1962 (scale as shown)



**Figure 8:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 sheets TR 0043 SW & TR 0042 NW, 1968  
(Building numbers added)

## 4 Description

### 4.1 *General*

The main hospital building consists of a complex of linked structures within a roughly rectangular area, *c.*120 × 57m, aligned north-east to south-west. The complex comprises eight discrete buildings on north-west to south-east alignments, linked by an axial corridor, and a single structure on a north-east to south-west alignment. For the purposes of this report, the nine structures are identified as Buildings A-I (Fig. 9). This designation scheme is extended to other buildings on the site included in this survey (Fig. 2).

All the buildings comprising the main hospital are single-storey, with the exception of the central part of Building A (administration block) and Building D (domestic block), which have an upper floor: the latter also has a cellar. All the buildings surveyed are of brick, with the exception of the axial corridor, which is timber framed and part glazed, and the air raid shelter (J), which has a body of corrugated steel sheet covered with earth, and brick-built ends. The ward blocks (Buildings G & H) and the operating theatres (Building B) are rendered externally. Roofs are either pitched and slate clad, or flat.

In line with the recommendations of the AA, the modern structures to the rear of the former nurse's home (Building N) and Jubilee House (Building O) were not recorded, because of their relatively recent date.

### 4.2 **Building A: Administration Block** (Fig. 10, Plates 4-16)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00242 43041

*Dimensions (external):* 39.5 × 11.3m, two storeys

*Date:* Built 1928.

*Description:* Building A is located at the south-west end of the main hospital complex. It is built in a simple neo-Georgian style, in red brick laid for the most part in Stretcher bond, in cement mortar. The south-west elevation, which forms the hospital frontage facing Kings Avenue, comprises a central section of two storeys beneath a slate-clad hipped gable roof, flanked by single-storey wings with flat roofs. A stone plinth and plat band run the full length of the elevation. The wings have low brick parapets with stone cappings, and ball finials on the west and south corners. At the centre of this elevation, a projecting section rises to eaves height, and is capped by a broken pediment, which in 1992 had a clock at its centre. The central main entrance has a stone surround, flanked by columns supporting a segmental pediment. On the left side of the entrance is a foundation stone, which reads:

‘This stone was laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of York. K.G., P.C., K.T., G.C.V.O. October 20, 1926.’

Current fenestration is UPVC: the available photographic evidence (p.13, Plate 3) shows that the original windows were 6/6 sashes.

The ground floor layout of Building A comprises a central foyer (A1) with corridors to the north-west (A3) and south-east (A4) running the length of the building, and the main axial corridor (A2) running north-east to the rest of the hospital. The corridors are 1.6m wide: ceilings on this floor are all *c.*3.2m in height. Grouped around the

foyer are the main office (A5; 3.6 × 4.4m) and a number of other offices. On the 1962 plan (p.19, Fig. 6) these are shown as the Matron's office (A6) and Medical Officer's room (A7). The Secretary's office (A18) is adjacent to A5, and was originally linked to it by a doorway that is now blocked. On the east side of the foyer, a broad staircase with plain newel posts and spindles leads to the first floor. Rooms A5, A6, A9 and A18 have fireplaces, all now blocked. In the north-west wing, Rooms A10-12 and A15-17 were used as private wards, while A9 was a 'special ward'. Room A14 was the sluice for this wing, and A13 the bathroom. A similar arrangement existed in the south-east wing, where A19-21 (each measuring 3.4 × 2.6m), A24 and A26 (each measuring 3.1 × 2.6m) were private wards, probably for children, as A25 is labelled 'child's bathroom' on the 1962 plan. The sluice for this area, A23, retains its original fittings. Room A22 was the sterilising room for these private wards, and A8 (4.0 × 2.5m) was the ward kitchen. Room A27 (1.9 × 2.3m) was originally for patient enquiries. The above description is based heavily upon the 1962 plan of the hospital: it is clear that room functions subsequently changed, though in the absence of diagnostic features it is difficult to determine what these later functions were. This is also the case elsewhere in the hospital. The main office (A5) subsequently became the reception office, as a counter was opened up to the foyer. Other rooms on this floor seem to have become offices.

The first floor extends over the central part of Building A. Its plan comprises a central landing and NW-SE corridor (A28), giving access to all rooms. Floors are boarded throughout. In the corridor are two large fixed cupboards, probably for linen, towels etc. From the 1962 plan it is apparent that this floor provided accommodation for senior members of the medical and nursing staff. Room A29 (3.9 × 2.5m) is labelled 'scullery': from the presence of a larder at its north-east end (now removed) it most likely also served as a kitchen. Rooms A31 (3.6 × 3.2m) and A32 (4.5 × 3.2m) were the House Surgeon's bedroom and sitting room respectively, and A35 and A34 respectively served the same functions for the Matron. Room A36 (3.8 × 4.2m) was the Senior Sister's bedroom. Room A33 (5.2 × 3.4m) served as a communal dining room. At each end of A28 is a bathroom and WC. With the exception of A29, all the rooms have tall skirtings and picture rails: in lieu of cornicing, the plaster finish on the walls has been radiused to join that of the ceilings. Rooms A31, A32, A34 and A35 have fireplaces: all are bricked up.

Room 30 (3.5 × 2.5m), at the east corner of this floor, appears to be a later addition to the building. It is accessed from A28 by a door that probably replaced a former window. The room has two north-east facing windows. It does not appear on the 1962 plan, but its precise date is not known. Its function is also uncertain, as are the later functions of the other rooms on this floor.

#### 4.3 **Building B: Theatre Block** (Fig. 11, Plates 17-24)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00241 43062

*Dimensions (external):* 21.2 × 17.6m, single storey

*Date:* Built 1928. Second theatre added 1969-80.

*Description:* This flat-roofed block is located immediately north-east of Building A, north-west of the axial corridor. It comprises two distinct parts. The original operating theatre block, constructed as part of the original hospital, was a freestanding structure 13.6 × 8.4m, linked to the axial corridor by a short corridor 2.5m long. This



corridor extended through the building, passing the robing room, sterilising room, anaesthetist's room (B3), etc. to the operating theatre (B2), which measured  $5.6 \times 7.8\text{m}$ , at the north-west end. Apart from Rooms B2 and B3, none of this layout survives: the doorway from the axial corridor is blocked, and the resulting space (B1) is accessed from B2, and from corridor B4 (below) to the south-west. No diagnostic fixtures or fittings remain in the theatre: Room B3 was sealed, and could not be examined.

During the 1970s a second operating theatre was constructed between the original theatre block and Building A. The new theatre (B5:  $8.9 \times 6.0\text{m}$ ) was located immediately south-west of its predecessor, and was lit and ventilated by a north-east facing row of skylights, opened mechanically. It was linked to the axial corridor by a new corridor, B4 ( $9.8 \times 2.6\text{m}$ ). On the north-east side of this corridor was a doorway to B1: to the south-west were four rooms including a WC, an adjoining robing room, and two offices/storerooms. On the north-west side of B5 was a large room (B6;  $4.8 \times 7.6\text{m}$ ), with a kitchen/laboratory (B7;  $3.65 \times 2.5\text{m}$ ) and a storeroom at its north-east end. The functions of B6 and B7 were not determined. Again, no diagnostic fixtures or fittings remained in theatre B5 or its associated rooms.

#### 4.4 **Building C: Casualty & X Ray Block** (Fig. 11, Plates 25-32)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00262 43049

*Dimensions (external):*  $23.6 \times 21\text{m}$ . Single storey.

*Date:* Built 1928, with additions 1963-68.

*Description:* This flat-roofed block is located directly opposite Building B, north-east of Building A: its central corridor (C1) was aligned directly with corridor B1. At its south-east end, Building C is directly linked to the later Building I. Due to the excessive vegetation growth and site security, it was not possible to gain access to examine the exterior of this building.

Commencing on the north-east side of C1, a short corridor (C2) running parallel to the axial corridor leads to the X ray room (C4), passing the changing rooms and darkroom (C3). The X ray room measures  $6.1 \times 6.3\text{m}$ , with a small WC and lavatory added later to its south-east side. In the centre of the room is the X ray table, with the camera mechanism to the north-west, and the control panel behind a protective screen in the south corner. A steel cabinet containing the control wiring is located in the north corner of the room. Two windows fitted with shutters face north-eastwards. A bench with cupboards beneath runs the length of the south-east wall. Returning to C1, the next room (C7:  $4.1 \times 2.7\text{m}$ ) is shown as the pathology room on the 1962 plan. Adjoining this is a small room, shown as a dressing room in 1962, but now a WC. A second larger WC adjoins this.

On the south-west side of corridor C1, at its junction with the axial corridor, is the medical and dispensary store (C5;  $7.9 \times 4.4\text{m}$ ). Adjoining this is the dispensary (C6;  $5.7 \times 4.7\text{m}$ ). This room is fully tiled, and has sinks and a work surface against the south-west wall, and an opening and counter facing south-east. From the available historic evidence, the area occupied by C5 and C6 was subject to significant remodelling when the outpatient department (Building I) was constructed. The plan of the area prior to this appears in Fig. 9 (p.59).

The remainder of Building C, comprising its south-east end and its south corner, is now represented by a large open space (C8;  $13.0 \times 10.4\text{m}$ ). This was originally

occupied by most of the original casualty department (Fig. 6), subdivided into a waiting room, lobby, consulting rooms, etc. The final function of this large open area remains uncertain.

Prior to the construction of Building I, at the south-east end of Building C was a single-storey structure,  $6.0 \times 4.5\text{m}$ , containing a nurses' cloakroom (Figs 9 & 15). From the available cartographic evidence this was constructed between 1933 and 1962, and was demolished for the construction of Building I.

#### 4.5 **Building D: Kitchen Block** (Fig. 12, Plates 33-43)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00260 43080

*Dimensions (external):*  $19.0 \times 21.6\text{m}$ . Two storeys, with cellar.

*Date:* Built 1928.

*Description:* Building D is located on the north-west side of the axial corridor, north-east of Building B and opposite Building E. It is constructed of buff brick, laid in Stretcher bond, in cement mortar. The roof has hipped gables, slate clad. Lintels are curved, constructed in the same buff brick: sills are pre-cast concrete. The windows were boarded, though photos taken by the RCHME in 1992 suggest that all had been replaced by modern UPVC units, with the exception of those at the north-west end of the ground floor (storerooms off corridor D4: Room D5), which retained their original 4/4 and 6/6 sash windows respectively.

Beneath the north-west end of Building D is a cellar, maximum dimensions  $6.0 \times 7.4\text{m}$ , extending beneath D4 and D5, accessed by a flight of external steps at the north-west end. The cellar was sealed and could not be accessed. However, its layout, comprising a boiler room with a fuel store and chute in the south corner, is included in the 1962 hospital plans (Fig. 7).

Much of the ground floor of Building D is taken up by the kitchen (D2;  $7.6 \times 6.2\text{m}$ ), which is accessed from the axial corridor by a foyer (D2). On the 1962 plan this foyer is labelled 'servery', separated from the kitchen by a counter. From the axial corridor adjacent to the foyer entrance, a flight of stairs leads to the first floor of the building. The 1962 plan shows that the stairs originally commenced on the south-west side of the foyer, but have since been relocated. The kitchen walls are fully tiled. All the equipment has been removed: only the gas supply pipes remain. On the north-west side of the kitchen, a short corridor (D4) passes between three small storerooms and gives access to a second flight of stairs to the floor above, ending at a room (D5;  $4.3 \times 6.2\text{m}$ ) with a large fireplace, now blocked, on its north-east side. This room, now subdivided and probably last used for storage, is shown on the 1962 plan as 'servants hall.' Returning to the kitchen, a door on its south-west side leads to a fully tiled scullery (D3;  $4.6 \times 4.2\text{m}$ ). The 1962 plan shows a WC on its north-west side, adjacent to an external door, and sinks and drainers along the south-west wall, though no fixtures remain in situ. From the north-east side of D1, a short corridor (D6) leads through a tiled former pantry (D8) to the nurses' dining room (D7;  $8.9 \times 4.8\text{m}$ ), a single-storey, flat-roofed structure with rendered external walls located north-west of Building D, but included in its description for convenience.

The upper floor of Building D extends over Rooms D1-D5. Its plan consists of a central corridor (D9) running the length of the building, and a short NE-SW corridor. At either end of D9 are the staircases rising from the axial corridor and D4. On either side of D9 are ten bedrooms, intended for domestic staff. Dimensions of these rooms

vary, but all have an area of *c.*5 sq. m. Original fittings appear to consist of a high-level corner shelf, also providing a point for hanging clothes: a single room (D10) was recorded as being representative of this. None of the rooms were heated: presumably heat rising from the kitchen provided sufficient warmth. Only one room (D12) located in the north corner of the building, had a fireplace. On the south-west side, between the two staircases, were two bathrooms, two WCs, and a washroom, originally fitted with four wash basins. The short NE-SW corridor led to two more staff bedrooms, and a slightly larger room in the south corner, identified on the 1962 plan as the cook's bedroom.

Access to the roof space was not possible for health and safety reasons. However, observations made through the small access hatch on D9 revealed that the roof was fully boarded.

#### 4.6 **Building E: Children's Ward Block** (Fig. 12, Plates 44-48)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00272 43066

*Dimensions (external):* 17 × 13m. Single storey.

*Date:* Built 1928, with additions 1969-80.

*Description:* Building E is located to the south-east of the axial corridor, between Buildings C and F and opposite Building D. It is constructed of brick, rendered, under a flat roof. Recording of the exterior was not possible due to heavy vegetation growth. Internally, its layout comprises a central NW-SE corridor (E1) flanked by a number of rooms.

On the north-east side of E1, at its junction with the axial corridor, are two linked rooms, E2 and E3, accessed from the axial corridor. Room E2 (4.2 × 3.3m) has a Belfast sink against the north-east wall, and a substantial shelf in the east corner: E3 (3.4 × 2.1m) contains no diagnostic fittings. On the 1962 plan (Fig. 6) these two rooms are labelled 'central food stores'. Adjoining E2, and accessible from E1, is a small storeroom. Next to that is E4 (2.5 × 2.6m), labelled 'duty room' in 1962. The original door from E4 to the corridor has been blocked up, and the room has been linked to the adjoining room E5. This room, designated 'labour ward' on the 1962 plan, measures 4.4 × 3.8m, and retains its original south-east facing sash window, indicating that it has not had a medical function for some time. To the south-east, Room E5 links with E6, now a single room with an external door, but shown on the 1962 plan as subdivided into a bathroom and WC. This room also retains its original windows.

On the south-west side of E1, at its junction with the axial corridor are two small windowless rooms, E8 and E9. The roof in both rooms had partly collapsed, so detailed examination was not possible. From the cartographic evidence, both rooms were added in the 1970s. Both were poorly constructed: their outer walls appeared to be of concrete block construction. Adjoining these rooms was another small room, last used as a store, but shown on the 1962 plan as a sterilising room. At the southern corner of the building is Room E7 (5.7 × 7.6m). This room has an external door to the south-east, and retains its original sash windows on three sides. Adjacent to the external door was a wash basin. This room is labelled 'children's ward' on the 1962 plan, but the survival of its original windows and external door suggest that it has not had a medical function for some time.

4.7 **Building F: Obstetric Block** (Fig. 13, Plates 49-51)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00291 43075

*Dimensions (external):* 14.7 × 9.0m: corridor 10.5m long. Single storey.

*Date:* Built 1928, with additions 1934-62 and 1969-80.

*Description:* This small building lies to the south-east of the axial corridor, between Buildings E and G. It is constructed in brick, rendered externally, with a flat roof. It appears to have retained its original wood-framed sash windows. The building is linked to (separated from?) the axial corridor by a long corridor (F1). At the junction of the two corridors, a section of F1 has been doubled in width, possibly for parking the carts used for transporting linen, supplies etc around the hospital. Cartographic evidence suggested that this addition was made to the corridor in the 1970s.

At its south-east end, corridor F1 enters the building, passing between two WCs, a bathroom and washroom, storeroom and 'duty room'. These have long been out of use, most of the fittings have been removed, and some of the partition walls have been demolished. The corridor ends at a wide sliding door, beyond which is a large room (F2; 7.8 × 3.7m), formerly divided into two small wards. A two-leaf part-glazed door in the south corner of F2 leads to a room (F3; 6.3 × 3.6m) with an external door and small window in its south-west end. F3 appears to have been a later addition to Building F, constructed between 1934 and 1962 as an open-ended structure. It appears in this form on the 1962 plan, labelled 'shelter', evidently acquiring its south-east end wall at some later date.

Building F is identified in the key to the 1962 plan as the Obstetrics Ward. From its present state, and the fact that its windows were not replaced by modern UPVC units, it seems likely that this building fulfilled a service role, such as storage, or may even have been disused, for some time before the closure of the hospital.

4.8 **Building G: Men's Wards** (Fig. 13, Plates 52-62)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00289 43098

*Dimensions (external):* original wards 41.7 × 12.6m: with extensions 53.2 × 18.3m. Single storey.

*Date:* Built 1928. Ward extensions 1934-62; toilets etc 1963-68; day rooms 1969-80.

*Description:* Building G extends both sides of the axial corridor, between Buildings D and F and Building H. It is constructed of rendered brick, and has hipped gable roofs, slate clad, over the wards, and flat roofs above the axial corridor, utility blocks and ward extensions.

As constructed, the two wards forming Building G were mirror image. A short corridor (G1, G10) led from the axial corridor to the ward, passing between the ward kitchen (G2, G11; each 3.2 × 2.8m) and the duty room and quiet ward (G3 and G12 respectively; each 3.2 × 2.2m). The ward (G4, G13/14; 16.2 × 7.4m) had six tall sash windows to the south-west, and four to the north. In the ward were fittings for 13 beds, ranged along either side. On the north-east side, a near-central door led to a utility block (G6, G17; 9.6 × 4.5m overall), comprising a sterilising room, bathroom, sluice and two WCs.

At some time the wards were both extended to the south-west. The extensions (e.g. G5) were 3.6m wide, and ran the full length of the ward. These were in place by 1962. Subsequent additions included day rooms (G7; 7.4 × 5.6m: G18; 15.1 × 5.4m),

dispensary (G8, G20; 4.3 × 2.8m) and additional WCs (G9, G19), accessible from the day room. Because of the space available, the day rooms differ considerably in shape and size between the two wards.

In addition to this, the south-east ward appears to have undergone further structural alteration. The ward itself was divided by a glazed screen with central doors into two areas, G13 (10m in length) and G14 (5.9m in length). Room G15 (3.4 × 2.8m) was inserted in the north corner of G13. An additional block of WCs (G21) was constructed adjacent to the original utility block.

#### 4.9 **Building H: Women's & Children's Wards** (Fig. 14, Plates 63-72)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00302 43115

*Dimensions (external):* original wards 46.7 × 12.5m: with extensions 41.7 × 23.0m. Single storey.

*Date:* Built 1928. Ward extensions 1934-62; toilets etc 1963-68; day rooms 1969-80.

*Description:* Building H extends both sides of the axial corridor, north-east of Building G. It is constructed of rendered brick, and has hipped gable roofs, slate clad, over the wards, and flat roofs above the axial corridor, utility blocks and ward extensions.

As constructed, the two wards forming Building H were mirror image. A short corridor (H1, H10) led from the axial corridor to the ward, passing between the ward kitchen (H2, H12; each 3.2 × 2.2m) and the duty room and quiet ward (H3 and H13 respectively; each 3.2 × 2.6m). The wards (H4, H14; each 18.7 × 7.2m) had seven tall sash windows to the south-west, and four to the north. In the ward were fittings for 15 beds, ranged along either side. On the north-east side, a near-central door led to a utility block (H6, H16; each 7.4 × 4.3m overall), comprising a sterilising room, bathroom, sluice and two WCs.

At some time the wards were both extended to the south-west. The extensions (H5, H15) were 3.1m wide, and ran the full length of the wards. These were in place by 1962. Subsequent additions included a dispensary (H7, H17; 4.0 × 2.9m) and additional WCs (H8, H18). Day rooms (H10, H20; each 6.2 × 5.8m), each linked to their respective ward, were constructed between the existing utility blocks during the 1970s. They were linked to the wards by foyers (H9, H19, each containing a WC, accessible from the day room. The axial corridor was extended by c.9m to pass between these extensions. Between the corridor and H9 and H19 were open courtyards, each 4.0 × 2.2m, accessed from the corridor.

#### 4.10 **Building I: Outpatient's Unit** (Fig. 15, Plates 73-80)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00272 43034

*Dimensions (external):* 34.2 × 11.2m: with extension 44.3 × 11.2m. Single storey.

*Date:* Built 1963-68. North-east extension added during same period.

*Description:* This structure is aligned NE-SW, located to the south-east of Buildings A and C, and joined to the south-east end of the latter. It is constructed of red brick laid in Stretcher bond, with cement mortar, beneath a flat roof. At its north-east end is a roughly rectangular extension, similarly constructed. Windows appear to be metal-framed Crittall-type units.

The main entrance to Building I is from the south-east at its junction with Building C. Double doors lead past the curved window of the reception office into a roughly

rectangular foyer (I1; max dimensions 9.0 × 6.2m). On the south-west side of the foyer is the reception office (I2; max. dimensions 4.6 × 4.6m), with a counter and a distinctive curved window to the north. From the foyer a door leads south-eastwards to a small lobby flanked by four WCs. From the lobby a corridor (I3) runs the length of the building, to a fire exit door at the south-west end. The corridor is flanked on both sides by a range of small rooms, none containing any diagnostic fixtures or fittings. From an undated architect's plan of Building I, provided by NHSECK, it is evident that most of these rooms were intended as consulting rooms. Near the south-west end of the corridor, two rooms appear to have been knocked together to create a lobby or waiting area (I4).

Returning to the foyer (I1), from its north-east side a doorway leads up a short flight of steps and along a curving corridor to a single-storey brick-built extension, 9.4 × 7.7m overall, with a flat roof. This building contained a lobby (I5), two small rooms (I6, I9) and two larger rooms (I7, I8). The larger rooms were probably offices: no diagnostic features were noted in any of the rooms. This extension does not appear on the aforementioned architect's plans for Building I: this, and its relationship to the latter, suggests that it was built very shortly after. Cartographic evidence shows that it was in place by 1968.

#### 4.11 *Main Building: Axial Corridor* (Fig. 10, Plates 81, 82)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00243 43047 to TR 00310 43123

*Dimensions:* see below

*Date:* Built 1928. Extension to north-east end 1969-80.

*Description:* The corridor linking the component parts of the main hospital building runs from the foyer of Building A (Room A1) to the rear entrance of the hospital, a distance of c.100m. Internally it measures c.2.0m in width, and 2.6m in height, with a flat roof. The freestanding sections of corridor are timber framed, with principal uprights at c.1.8m (6ft) centres. The lower parts of the walls are timber clad internally and externally: the upper parts appear to be mostly glazed with fixed lights. Where the corridor passes through or between buildings, its walls may be either brick, or timber-framed. The floor is concrete, with a linoleum-type surface. Alongside the north-west wall a main service duct runs beneath the floor, covered with lift-out access panels.

#### 4.12 *Building J: Air Raid Shelter* (Fig. 16, Plates 83-89)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00200 43045

*Dimensions (external):* c.12.5 × 7.5m, height c.3.2m above present ground level.

*Date:* Built 1939-45.

*Description:* The shelter is aligned NW-SE, located west of the main hospital building in a grassed area beyond the car park. It is heavily overgrown, and its external form could only just be made out. Externally, detailed measurement was only possible of the entrance structure at the north-west end of the shelter. The south-east end was totally inaccessible. The plan of the shelter has been reconstructed from its internal measurements, by extrapolation from the entrance structure, and from its depiction by the Ordnance Survey. It should be noted that this is an above-ground structure, not an underground shelter, as described by the Royal Commission (RCHME 1993) and the Kent Historic Environment Record (Mke17391).

The body of this surface shelter consists of a barrel-vaulted structure, 7.93m in length and 2.89m internal diameter, constructed of pre-curved corrugated metal sheets, bolted together. The sheets have corrugations at 305mm centres, similar to modern Armco sheeting, and are painted white. There are no indications of any internal fixtures, e.g. benches or bunks, on the walls. The shelter floor is laid in concrete. Owing to the circular cross-section, the width at floor level is narrower. The ends of the central chamber are butted up to brick structures, extending by at least c.0.6m beyond the curvature of the chamber. Both are constructed of frogged bricks, laid in English bond with cement mortar. Door lintels are reinforced concrete. Exposed wall tops are cement rendered.

The structure at the north-west end measures 5.70 × 2.55m overall, with a maximum height of 2.8m. The entrance, in the west corner, leads into an unroofed area 1.71 × 2.59m. From its north-east end, a doorway 1.02m wide gives access to a foyer 2.16 × 1.10m, which leads south-eastwards through a doorway into the central chamber. On the north-east side of the foyer, a doorway leads to a toilet compartment, 0.93 × 1.83m. The roof of the compartment is corrugated iron sheeting, supported by a reinforced concrete beam. The entrance enclosure, foyer and toilet compartment all have concrete floors.

The three exits from the foyer were originally fitted with doors. Of these only the toilet compartment door remains, albeit in a fragile condition. This comprises a vertical-planked door set in a wooden frame, with strap hinges and a Suffolk latch. There is also a galvanised padlock hasp, which looks more modern. The external door was presumably removed when the entrance to the shelter was bricked up, and no evidence of it remains. The door to the inner chamber has also been removed, though surviving mortar fillets on either side of the opening show that the doorframe was set at an angle, presumably to ensure that the door always swung shut, as a precaution against gas attack.

Internally, the structure at the south-east end of the shelter consists of a compartment measuring 1.29 × 2.03m, possibly for a toilet, entered by a doorway centrally located in the south-east wall of the central chamber. Within the central chamber, in front of this doorway, a rectangular iron frame projects at an angle from the wall. The function of this remains uncertain. In the north-east wall of the compartment is a rectangular escape hatch, its sill 0.98m above the floor level of the shelter. From the Ordnance Survey's depiction of the shelter, it is likely that the escape hatch opens externally into an area bounded by brick walls to the north-east and south-west, and open to the north-east. The roof of the compartment is corrugated iron sheeting, supported by a reinforced concrete beam.

The only service present in the shelter is mains electricity. This enters in a metal conduit through the main entrance, running around the top of the toilet compartment door to a light switch. From there it continues into the central chamber, where it is carried on a steel strip bracketed to the apex of the roof, to a centrally located light fitting. The only other fitting is a block of heavy-duty metal racking, in the north-east corner of the central chamber. It is likely that both the electricity supply and the racking are post-war additions to the shelter.

On the whole, the shelter appears to be in a reasonably sound structural condition. The visible brickwork appears free of deterioration, settlement cracks etc. The central steel structure, though spotted with rust, retains much of its paint, and no holes are visible.

The concrete floors are largely covered with silt and rubbish, but appear sound. The only possible areas of weakness appear to be the corrugated sheet roofs of the toilet compartments. As noted above, only the toilet compartment door survives, and this is very friable. Tests with a gas detector revealed no build up of noxious gases: a degree of ventilation is provided by gaps in the blocking of the escape hatch. Externally, the shelter lies beneath very heavy vegetation, which prevents detailed inspection.

4.13 **Building K: Laundry & Boiler House** (Fig. 17, Plates 90-94)

NGR (*centre*): TR 00211 43074

*Dimensions (external)*: Laundry 12.3 × 12.0m: Boiler House 10.5 × 8.3m. Both single storey.

*Date*: Laundry built 1928, with extension 1963-68. Boiler House built 1934-62.

*Description*: These two linked buildings are located c.15m north-west of Building A. The Laundry, the larger of the two, is the southernmost. It is constructed of red brick, laid in Stretcher bond in cement mortar. The roof consists of twin asymmetric gables clad with slate, each with large north-east facing glazed panels. Windows and doors have arched brick lintels and concrete sills, and in each of the south-east gables is an *oeil-de-beouf* window, set in a brick surround. Windows appear to have been timber-framed casements. There are entrances to the north-east. Bonded to the south-east elevation is a flat-roofed extension, constructed of similar brick, with pre-cast concrete lintels above the windows and doors. Windows appear to be Crittall metal-framed units.

Examination of the interior of the building revealed that it had last been subdivided into small office spaces by means of studding and plasterboard partitions. These had collapsed due to neglect and vandalism, and detailed examination was not possible. No evidence of the building's original function as a laundry was apparent.

The Boiler House, to the north-west of the Laundry, is constructed of rusticated red brick, laid in Stretcher bond in cement mortar. The roof consists of a single NE-SW gable clad in slate, with *oeil-de-beouf* windows in each gable end. Window and door openings have pre-cast concrete lintels: all have been bricked up. The scar of a brick-built chimney is present on the north-west wall: this is shown on the 1968 Ordnance Survey sheet (Fig. 8), and was presumably demolished some time after. Adjacent to the south-west wall is a large oil tank, within a brick enclosure.

As the entrances to the Boiler House were sealed, the interior was not examined. The 1962 plan (Fig. 7) shows the interior of the Boiler House as a single space, and it is known that all the plant was removed some years ago (*pers. comm.* Mike Wingfield).

Cartographic evidence indicates that the Laundry was constructed as part of the original hospital complex in 1928, and extended in the 1960s. On the same basis, the Boiler House has been dated to between 1934 and 1962.

4.14 **Building L: Mortuary** (Fig. 17, Plates 95-97)

NGR (*centre*): TR 00223 43081

*Dimensions (external)*: 8.4 × 4.7m: with extension 8.4 × 8.5m. Single storey.

*Date*: Built 1928, with extension 1963-68.

*Description*: This small building is to the immediate north-east of the Laundry. It is constructed of red brick set in Flemish bond, in cement mortar, under a slated roof.



Windows and doors have flat brick lintels and brick sills. Windows appear to have been timber framed. A single-storey flat-roofed extension of similar construction is bonded to the south-east wall. The south-west wall of the extension is pebble-dashed and painted white.

At the time of the survey, the Mortuary was very securely boarded up, and it was not possible to arrange access. However, the 1962 plan (Fig. 7) shows that the original structure was divided into two rooms. To the north-west was the mortuary, 4.2 × 4.7m, lit by a south-east facing skylight, with an entrance to the south-east and a connecting door to the Chapel, both wide enough for a bier. The normal entrance door in the north-east gable is not shown on the 1962 plan, and may be a more recent insertion. The chapel of rest measured 3.0 × 4.7m, and had a wide entrance door to the south-east and a normal-width door in the south-west gable. The extension more than doubled the size of the mortuary, and was presumably intended for that function.

According to the cartographic evidence, Building L was contemporary with the main hospital building, and was extended between 1963 and 1968. It ceased to be used as a mortuary some time ago, and all the related fixtures and fittings had been removed. It was last used as offices (*pers. comm.* Mike Wingfield).

#### 4.15 **Building M: Physiotherapy & Nurses' Training Centre** (Fig. 18, Plates 98-107)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00177 43051

*Dimensions (external):* 35.4 × 16.8m, single storey.

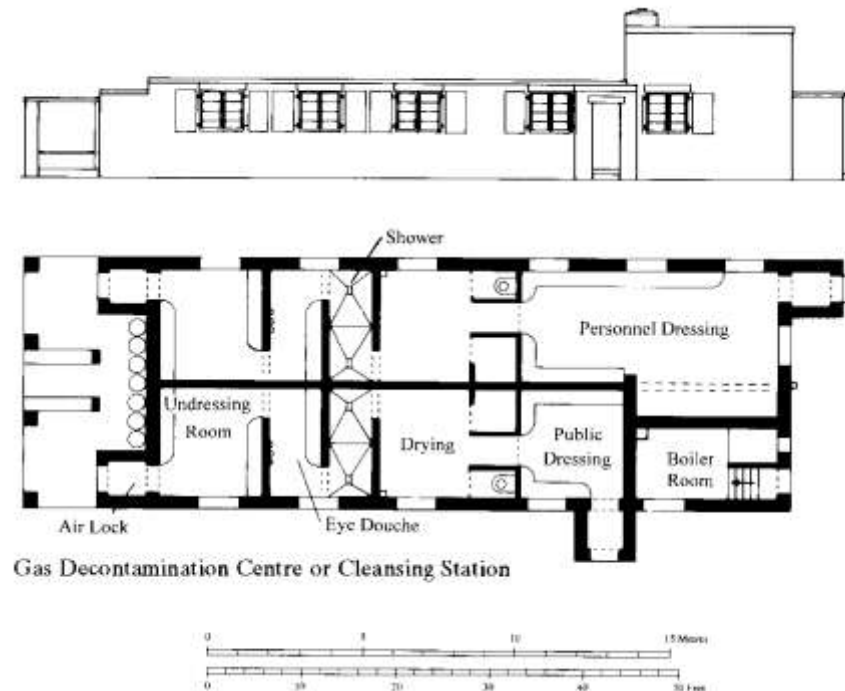
*Date:* Built 1939-45 as gas decontamination unit. Change of use before 1962.

*Description:* This 'T' shaped structure is located c.50m north-west of the hospital main entrance, close to the air raid shelter (Building J), with which it is contemporary, and probably associated. It is constructed of red brick, laid in Stretcher bond with cement mortar. The flat roofs are concrete, c.150mm thick and probably reinforced, carried on substantial steel 'I' beams. Windows are of the metal-framed Crittall type, with concrete lintels and brick sills. Although there are now entrances from all four sides, the building appears to have had two original access points, to the south-east and south-west, each with a characteristic 'air lock' arrangement of double doors.

Internally, floors are painted concrete. Walls are painted brick, or rendered and painted. Ceilings are painted concrete. At the wider north-east end are two large central rooms (M2, M6) beneath a raised clerestory roof, flanked by a number of smaller rooms. The larger room (M6; 6.3 × 7.4m) has been reduced in width by the insertion of a corridor on its south-east side. From the south-west side of M6, a door leads to a square central hall (M7; 7.2 × 7.2m). Continuing south-westwards, a corridor (M8) flanked on both sides by a number of small rooms leads to another large room (M9; 7.2 × 5.0m) and thence to a small square foyer (M10; 1.8 × 1.9m), leading to the south-west entrance. No fittings of any significance were noted within the building.

Although its internal layout has subsequently undergone some changes, it is apparent from its general appearance and structural details that Building M was constructed during WW2 as a gas decontamination unit. Such units were set up in anticipation of enemy use of poison gas or other chemicals in bombs or shells. As shown in the following illustration (*after* Lowry 1996, fig. 31), the affected individuals entered at one end of the building, where they undressed, passed through showers and allied treatments, dried, dressed, and exited the opposite end of the building. The example

shown has two separate, parallel decontamination routes: from its two original entrances, Building M probably had only one.



At some point after 1945, Building M was converted to house the Physiotherapy Department and the Nurses' Training Centre. The building appears with these functions on the 1962 hospital plan (Fig. 7). Physiotherapy occupied the north-east end of the building. A new entrance was made from the north-west, Rooms M1 and M2 were used as treatment rooms, M3 was an office or consulting room, and M6 was the gym. There were toilets in the south corner of this part of the building. Other small rooms (e.g. M4) were probably used for storage. The Nurses' Training Centre occupied the rest of the building. The 1962 plan provides no information on how the training centre functioned, though it seems likely that M7 and M9 were the main teaching areas, while the smaller rooms served as offices or for storage.

#### 4.16 **Building N: Nurses' Home** (Fig. 18, Plates 108-119)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00239 43000

*Dimensions (external):* 22.2 × 11.6m, 2 storey.

*Date:* Built 1928. Rear extension 1963-68.

*Description:* This 'T' shaped building is located c.30m south of the main hospital entrance, alongside the main gate. Its broader north-west end is constructed of red brick, set in Stretcher bond, in cement mortar. At first-floor level a plat band, five courses deep, is present on the north-west elevation only. Windows have pre-cast concrete lintels: those on the ground floor have splayed lintels of hand-cut bricks. The north-west facing main entrance has a stone surround, flanked by columns supporting a plain pediment. The hipped gable roof is slated, with grey ceramic ridge tiles. The narrower rear part of the building is constructed of buff-grey bricks laid in Stretcher bond. Window sills are pre-cast concrete, but lintels are red brick, curved. Windows are modern UPVC units throughout. The roof is flat.

The ground floor plan of Building N comprises an entrance foyer (N1; 1) and a corridor (N6) running the length of the building. On the north-east side of the foyer are two rooms, shown on the 1962 plan (Fig. 7) as the sisters' study (N2; 2.4 × 4.4m) and the nurses' study (N3; 3.0 × 4.4m) respectively. Both have fireplaces, now bricked up, plain skirtings and picture rails. Ceilings are 2.82m high. On the south-west side of the foyer are two offices (N4, N5) and a storeroom. This area was formerly a single room, the nurses' sitting room, with a fireplace in the centre of the south-west wall (now bricked up).

Corridor N6 has dogleg staircases rising at each end to the floor above. The north-western staircase has plain newel posts and spindles: the handrails on the south-eastern staircase are modern, bracketed to the walls. Along both sides of the corridor are a range of small rooms, formerly nurses' bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen and boxroom, with two WCs. These are currently used as meeting rooms, and for storage. The dimensions of the nurses' bedrooms vary, but all are c.4.8 sq. m. in area. One room (N8) retained its original fittings, and was recorded. N7 is currently a staff kitchen.

The first floor of Building N has a similar layout to the floor below. A central NW-SE corridor (N9) runs the length of the building, meeting a NE-SW corridor (N10) running through the north-west section of the building. Both corridors are flanked by a number of small rooms, currently offices and storerooms. Comparison with the 1962 plan reveals that the layout has not changed, except that two bathrooms have been removed (N11, formerly a bathroom, is now a staff kitchen). None of the former bedrooms retain their original fixtures and fittings. Four rooms at the north-west end of the building are marginally bigger than the rest: these were originally designated as sisters' bedrooms.

Building N is contemporary with the main hospital building, and was intended to house 22 nurses and 4 sisters. Structurally it appears to have changed little since it was built, though most of its original internal fixtures and fittings have been removed. No record was found of the date when it ceased to be used as a nurses' home, though it is likely that this followed the construction of the extensions to the rear in the late 1960s.

#### 4.17 **Building O: Jubilee House** (Fig. 19, Plates 120-133)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00196 43024

*Dimensions (external):* 14.3 × 11.4m, 2 storey with attic.

*Date:* Built 1908-1933. Given to hospital 1935. Rear extension 1969-80.

*Description:* Building O comprises two semi-detached Edwardian villas, with a modern extension to the rear, located on the north-west side of Kings Avenue, just outside the hospital gates. The walls are constructed of orange-red brick, laid in Stretcher bond with cement mortar. The front (south-east) elevation has full height bay windows on each house, and a plat band three courses high at first-floor level. Lintels are arched, constructed of hand-cut red brick, and window sills are pre-cast concrete. The roofs are clad with plain tiles, and the red ceramic ridge tiles are toothed. Adjacent to the front door of the northern house is a stone plaque, which reads:

‘Jubilee House. This House was given to the Hospital by the town of Ashford. King George’s Jubilee, May 1935.’

Internally, the two houses have the same layout, in mirror image: the northern house is described below, with reference to the southern house where there are differences. Entering from the porch, a hall (O1) runs the full depth of the house. From this, an open-string staircase gives access to the floors above. This has turned newel posts with acorn finials and turned spindles, two per tread. The hall retains its original detailing, comprising tall skirtings, picture rails and cornice, and decorative arch. The front room (O2) measures 3.6 × 3.8m, with the bay window to the south-east and fireplace (blocked) to the north-east, flanked by fitted cupboards. This room also has a picture rail, but no cornice. The rear parlour (O3; 2.2 × 3.4m) has a fireplace (blocked) to the north-east, and two large built-in cupboards to the south-east, which may be later insertions. Moving into the rear part of the building, O4 (2.1 × 2.1m), currently fitted out as a staff kitchen, has an external door to the north-east. This leads to an external storeroom, and an outside WC. At the rear of the house is O5 (3.4 × 3.5m), currently an office, with a fireplace (blocked) to the north-east. It is likely that O5 was originally the kitchen.

On the first floor, a landing (O8) gives access to four rooms, and also has a later interconnecting door to the adjoining house. Room O9, at the front of the house, measures 5.1 × 3.9m, and has a blocked fireplace to the north-east, with a built-in cupboard similar to those in O2 to the right. From its size and location, this was originally the master bedroom. The adjoining room (O10; 3.1 × 3.4m) has a blocked fireplace to the north-east. In the rear part of the house, the small adjoining room is currently a storeroom. The rear bedroom (O11) measures 3.4m square, and has a blocked fireplace to the north-east.

The attic, which only extends over the front part of the house, is accessed by an enclosed stairway from the first floor landing. The attic over the northern house was unsafe and was not examined: the southern attic was recorded. From a narrow landing (O16), a door leads to a single attic room (O17) at the front of the house. This measures 5.1 × 3.1m overall, with a dormer window to the south-east and sloping ceilings. In the north corner is a built-in cupboard. From the north-west end of the landing, a door gives access to the unlined roof space above the rear part of the house.

Jubilee House was most likely constructed between 1908 and 1933, as part of the development of Kings Avenue. Jubilee House was originally the name of the northern house only: the southern house is shown as *Fernworthy* in 1968 (Fig. 8). Beyond the donation of Jubilee House to the hospital in 1935, no record of its subsequent history or use was available. The large single-storey extension to the rear was constructed between 1969 and 1980, presumably when Jubilee House became a children's clinic.

#### 4.18 **Building P: Incinerator** (Plates 134, 135)

*NGR (centre):* TR 00174 43094

*Dimensions (external):* 9.6 × 3.8m, single storey.

*Date:* Built 1963-68.

*Description:* This small building is located 40m north-west of the Boiler House (Building K). It is aligned NE-SW, and is constructed of salmon-pink frogged stock bricks, set in Stretcher bond in cement mortar. It is divided in two internally by a full-height brick wall: entrances to both rooms face to the south-east. A square-section brick chimney, bound with iron straps and corner pieces, rises alongside the western room to a height of c.5m against the north wall, with a cylindrical sheet metal

extension *c.*4m long above. The roof of the building is now missing, but the angle-iron purlins that supported it remain in situ.

The building was in a very poor state, and was therefore not examined internally. However, it appears that some equipment, presumably the incinerator, remained in situ in the western room. This had a separate cylindrical metal chimney rising through the roof.



**Plate 4:** Building A, south-west elevation



**Plate 5:** Building A, general view from south-east



**Plate 6:** Building A, detail of main entrance



**Plate 7:** Building A ground floor, foyer A1, looking north-west



**Plate 8:** Building A ground floor, corridor A4 looking north-west



**Plate 9:** Building A ground floor, main office A5 looking west



**Plate 10:** Building A ground floor, main office A5 looking south-east



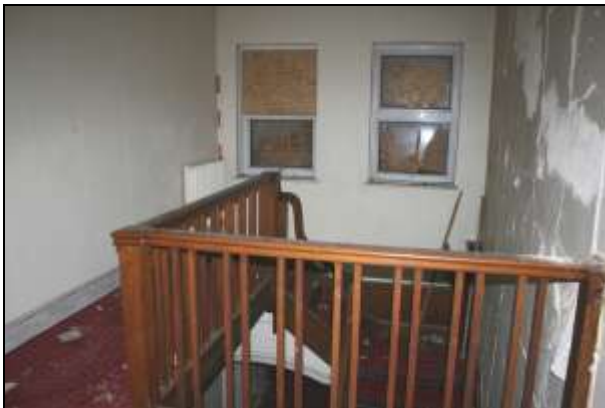
**Plate 11:** Building A ground floor, private room A20, looking south



**Plate 12:** Building A ground floor, sluice A23, looking east



**Plate 13:** Building A ground floor A1, stairs looking east



**Plate 14:** Building A first floor, landing and stairwell A28 looking south-west



**Plate 15:** Building A first floor, house surgeon's sitting room A32, looking west



**Plate 16:** Building A first floor, Room A30 looking east



**Plate 17:** Building B, theatre block, north-west elevation



**Plate 18:** Building B, theatre B2, looking south-west



**Plate 19:** Building B, recovery room? B1, looking south-east



**Plate 20:** Building B, area B1, looking west



**Plate 21:** Building B, theatre B5, looking north



**Plate 22:** Building B, theatre B5, detail of roof lights



**Plate 23:** Building B, Room B6, looking west





**Plate 24:** Building B, corridor B4, looking south-east



**Plate 25:** Building C, corridor C1 looking south-east



**Plate 26:** Building C, Radiography darkroom C3, looking north



**Plate 27:** Building C, Radiography C4, looking north-east



**Plate 28:** Building C, Radiography C4, looking south



**Plate 29:** Building C, Room C5 looking south



**Plate 30:** Building C, kitchen? C6, looking west



**Plate 31:** Building C, reception C8, looking west



**Plate 32:** Building C, reception C8, looking east



**Plate 33:** Building D, south-east elevation



**Plate 34:** Building D, outer north-west elevation



**Plate 35:** Building D, north-east elevation



**Plate 36:** Building D, kitchen D2 looking west



**Plate 37:** Building D, scullery D3 looking south-west



**Plate 38:** Building D, nurses' dining room D7, looking south-east



**Plate 39:** Building D, first floor, south-east stairs



**Plate 40:** Building D, first floor, corridor D9 looking north-west



**Plate 41:** Building D, first floor, corridor to D11 looking south-west



**Plate 42:** Building D, first floor, bedroom D10 looking north-east



**Plate 43:** Building D, first floor, bedroom D12 looking north-east



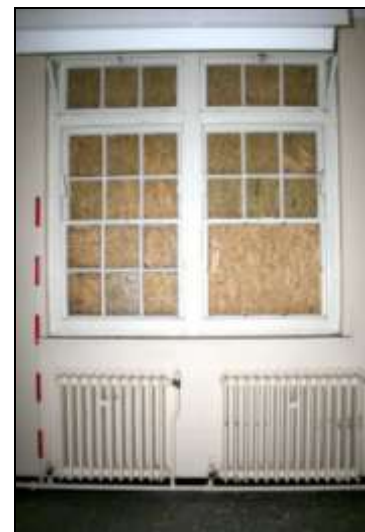
**Plate 44:** Building E, corridor E1 looking north-west



**Plate 45:** Building E, central food store E2, looking south-east



**Plate 46:** Building E, labour ward E5, looking north-west



**Plate 47:** Building E, labour ward E5, detail of window



**Plate 48:** Building E, children's ward E7, looking south



**Plate 49:** Building F, corridor F1 looking south-east



**Plate 50:** Building F, ward F2, looking south-west



**Plate 51:** Building F, storeroom F3, looking south-west



**Plate 52:** Building G, south-west elevation



**Plate 53:** Building G, south-west elevation



**Plate 54:** Building G, ward G4 looking north-west



**Plate 55:** Building G, ward G4 looking south-east



**Plate 56:** Building G, ward extension G5 looking south-east



**Plate 57:** Building G, day room G7 looking north-east



**Plate 58:** Building G, dispensary G8



**Plate 59:** Building G, ward G13 looking east



**Plate 60:** Building G, ward G14 looking west



**Plate 61:** Building G, ward extension G16 looking south-east



**Plate 62:** Building G, day room G18 looking south-west



**Plate 63:** Building H, north-east elevation (north end)



**Plate 64:** Building H, north-west elevation, detail of brickwork



**Plate 65:** Building H, kitchen H2



**Plate 66:** Building H, Ward H4 looking south-east



**Plate 67:** Building H, ward H4 looking north-west



**Plate 68:** Building H, dispensary H7



**Plate 69:** Building H, extension H5 looking south-east



**Plate 70:** Building H, ward H15, surviving fittings at bed location



**Plate 71:** Building H, passage H19 and WC





**Plate 72** Building H, day room H20 looking south



**Plate 73:** Building I, south-west elevation



**Plate 74:** Building I, north-west entrance



**Plate 75:** Building I, lobby I4 looking south-west



**Plate 76:** Building I, lobby I4 looking north-east



**Plate 77:** Building I, reception office I2, looking west



**Plate 78:** Building I, corridor I3, north-east end, looking north-east



**Plate 79:** Building I, corridor I3, looking south-west



**Plate 80:** Building I, foyer II, looking south-west



**Plate 81:** Building C/E corridor, north-west elevation



**Plate 82:** Building G/F corridor, looking south-west



**Plate 83:** Building J from west



**Plate 84:** Building J, entrance from west



**Plate 85:** Building J, entrance lobby and toilet doorway



**Plate 86:** Building J, detail of entrance



**Plate 87:** Building J, interior looking north-west



**Plate 88:** Building J, interior looking south-east



**Plate 89:** Building J, escape hatch and south-east compartment



**Plate 90:** Building K from west



**Plate 91:** Building K from east



**Plate 92:** Building K, north-west elevation



**Plate 93:** Building K, north part, south-west elevation



**Plate 94:** Building K, laundry interior



**Plate 95:** Building L from south



**Plate 96:** Building L, south-east elevation



**Plate 97:** Building L, north-east elevation



**Plate 98:** Building M, from north-east



**Plate 99:** Building M, from south



**Plate 100:** Building M, from south



**Plate 101:** Building M, from west



**Plate 102:** Building M, treatment room M2 looking south-east



**Plate 103:** Building M, office M3, detail of window



**Plate 104:** Building M, gym M6, looking north



**Plate 105:** Building M, Room M7 looking south



**Plate 106:** Building M, corridor M8, looking south-west



**Plate 107:** Building M, Room M9 looking east



**Plate 108:** Building N, north-west elevation



**Plate 109:** Building N, north-east elevation, west end



**Plate 110:** Building N, north-east elevation, east end



**Plate 111:** Building N, south-east elevation, looking east



**Plate 112:** Building N ground floor, foyer N1 looking south-east



**Plate 113:** Building N ground floor, office N3 looking east



**Plate 114:** Building N ground floor, corridor N6 looking north-west



**Plate 115:** Building N ground floor, north-west stairs



**Plate 116:** Building N ground floor, room N8 looking south-west



**Plate 117:** Building N first floor, corridor N9 looking south-east



**Plate 118:** Building N first floor, corridor N10 looking south-east



**Plate 119:** Building N first floor, room N12 looking south-west





**Plate 120:** Building O, south-east elevation from east



**Plate 121:** Building O, north-east elevation



**Plate 122:** Building O, south-west elevation



**Plate 123:** Building O, south-east elevation, detail of front door



**Plate 124:** Building O ground floor, hall O1, looking north-west



**Plate 125:** Building O ground floor, hall O1, detail of stairs



**Plate 126:** Building O ground floor, office O2,  
looking north-east



**Plate 127:** Building O ground floor, office O3,  
looking north-east



**Plate 128:** Building O first floor, landing O12  
looking south-east



**Plate 129:** Building O first floor, office O9,  
looking east



**Plate 130:** Building O first floor, office O10,  
looking east



**Plate 131:** Building O attic, landing O16 looking  
north-west



**Plate 132:** Building O attic, room O17 looking east



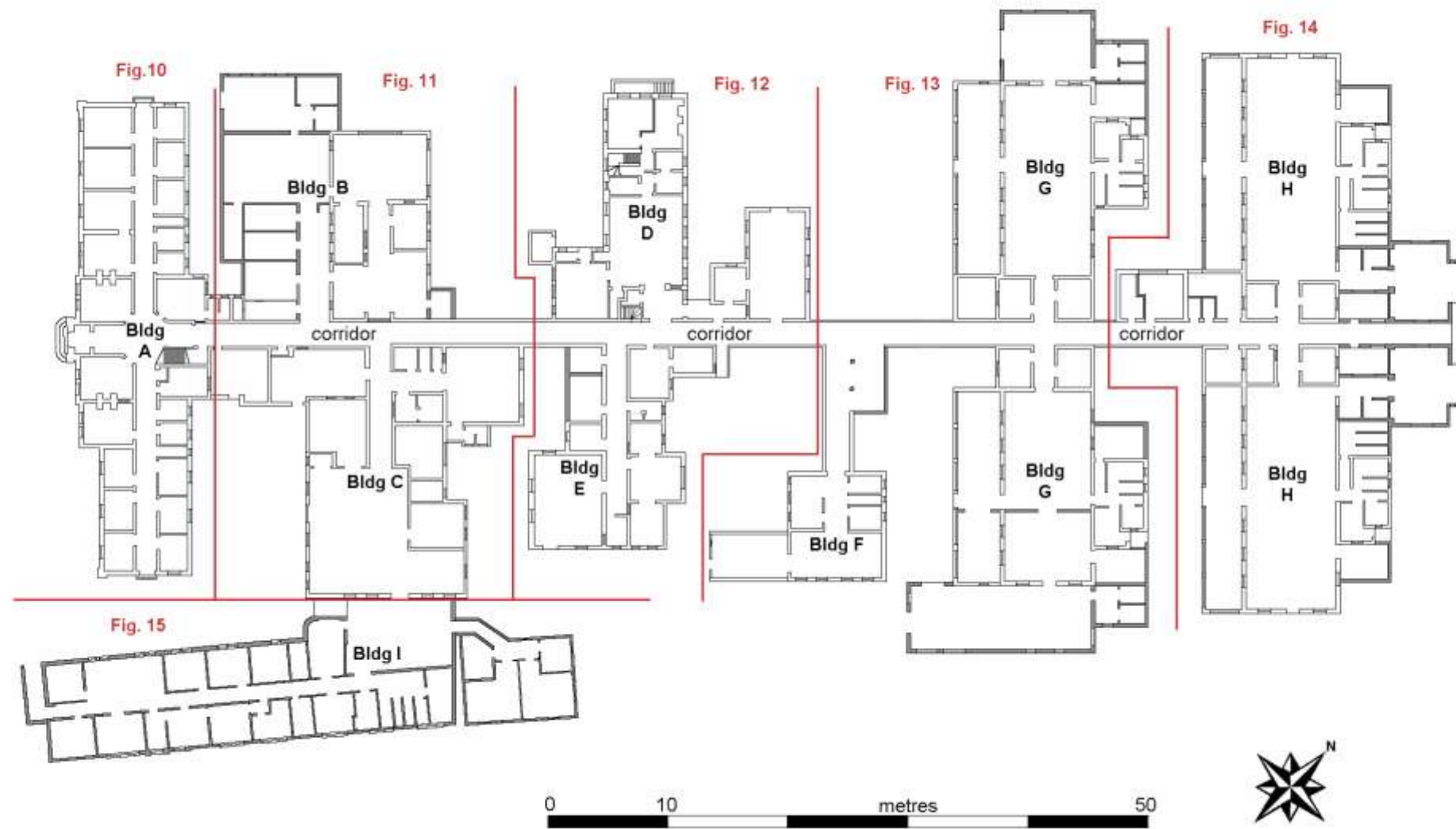
**Plate 133:** Building O attic, rear roof space looking north-west



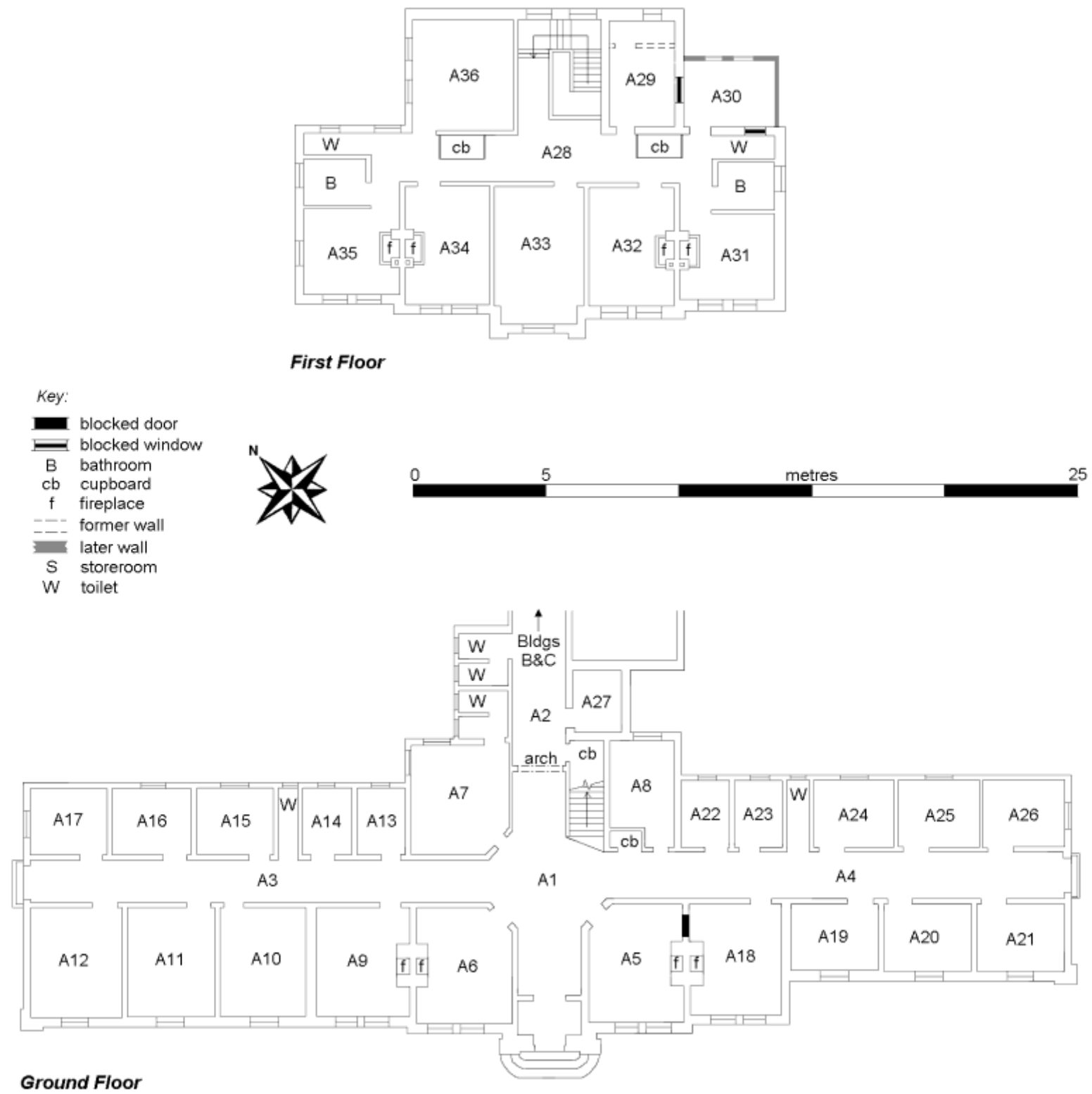
**Plate 134:** Building P, close-up from south-west



**Plate 135:** Building P, from north



**Figure 9:** Main hospital block: key to detail drawings (scale 1:500)





**Figure 11:** Main hospital block: Buildings B & C (scale 1:200)

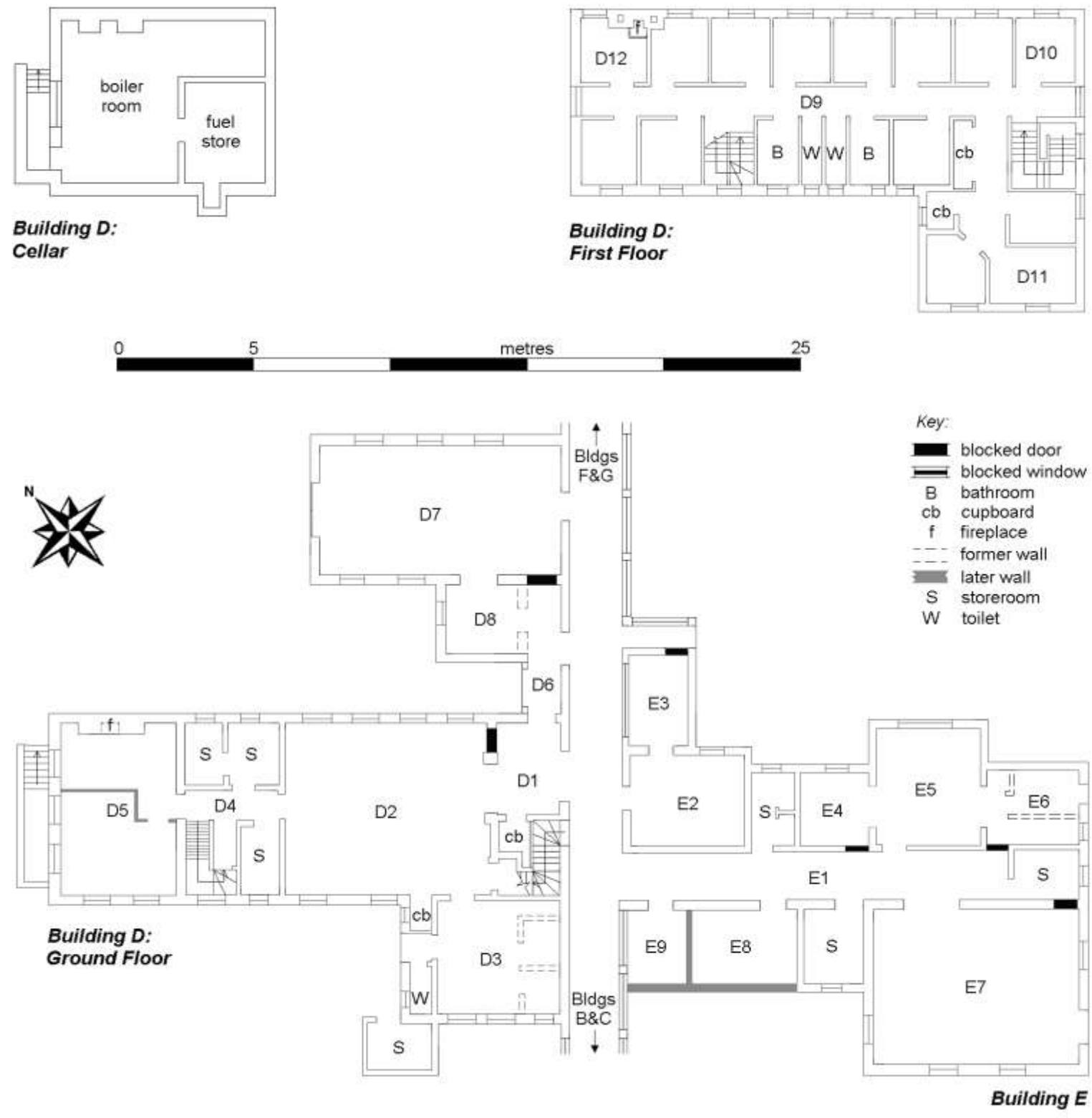


Figure 12: Main hospital block: Buildings D & E (scale 1:200)

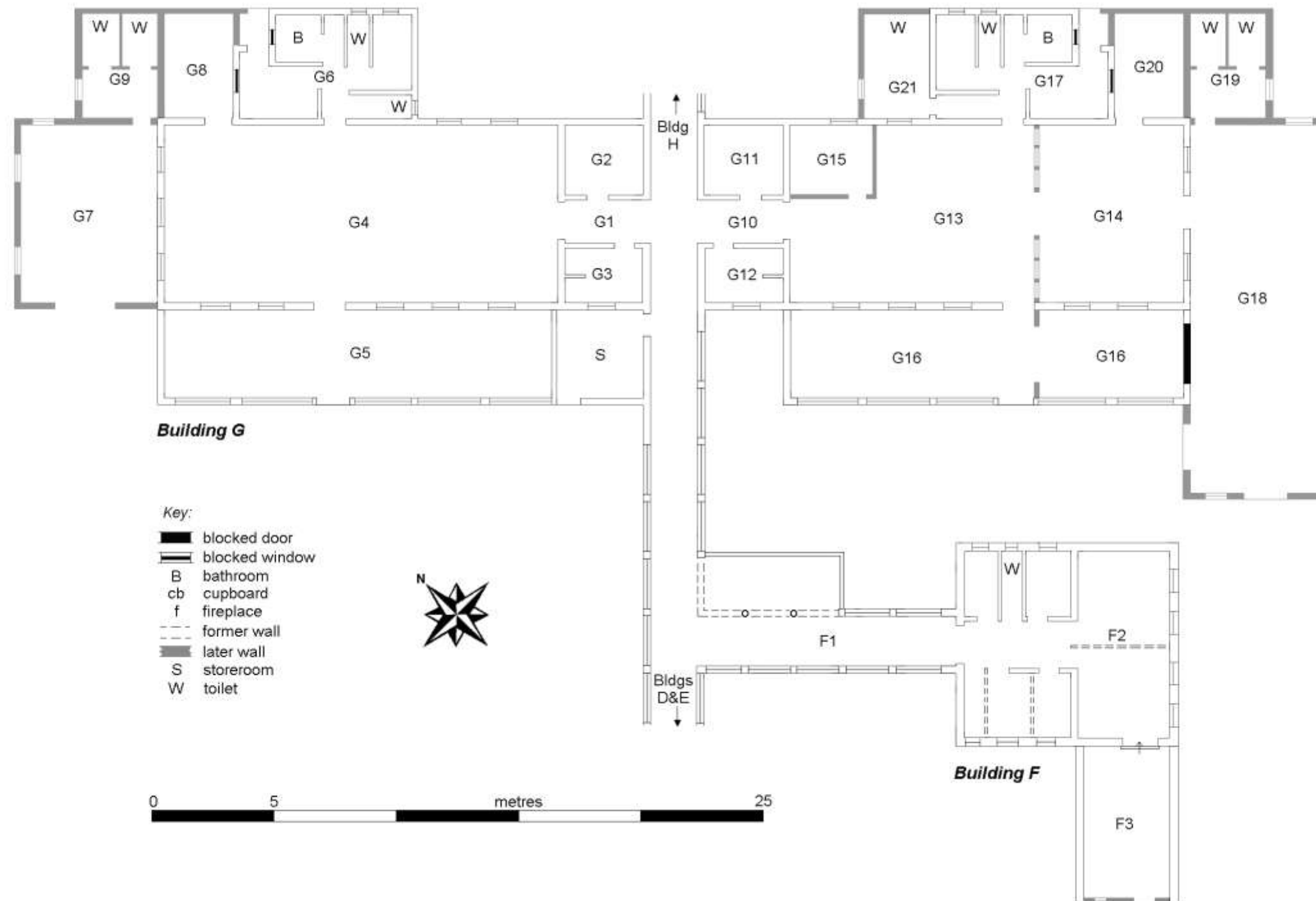


Figure 13: Main hospital block: Buildings F & G (scale 1:200)



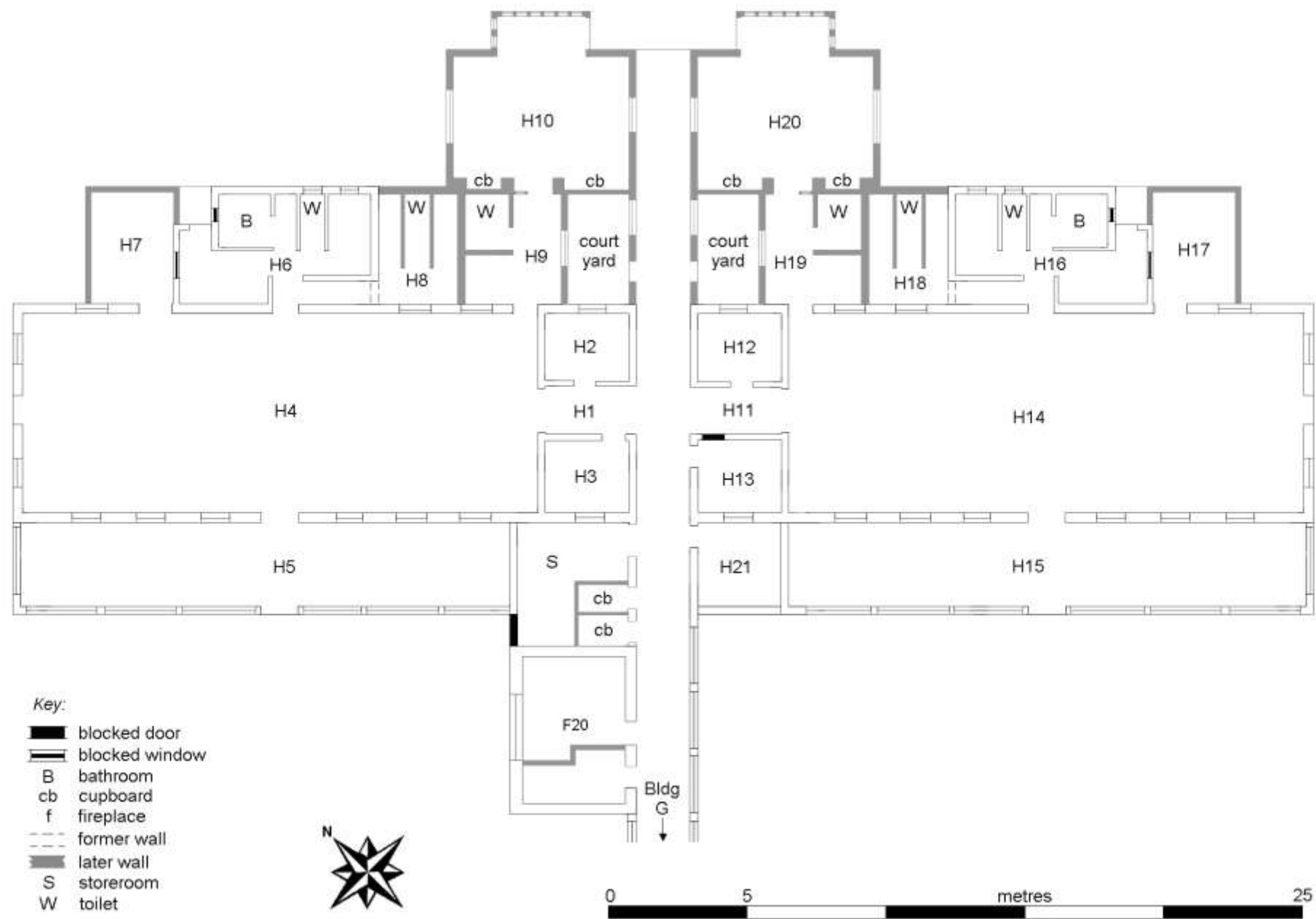


Figure 14: Main hospital block: Building H (scale 1:200)

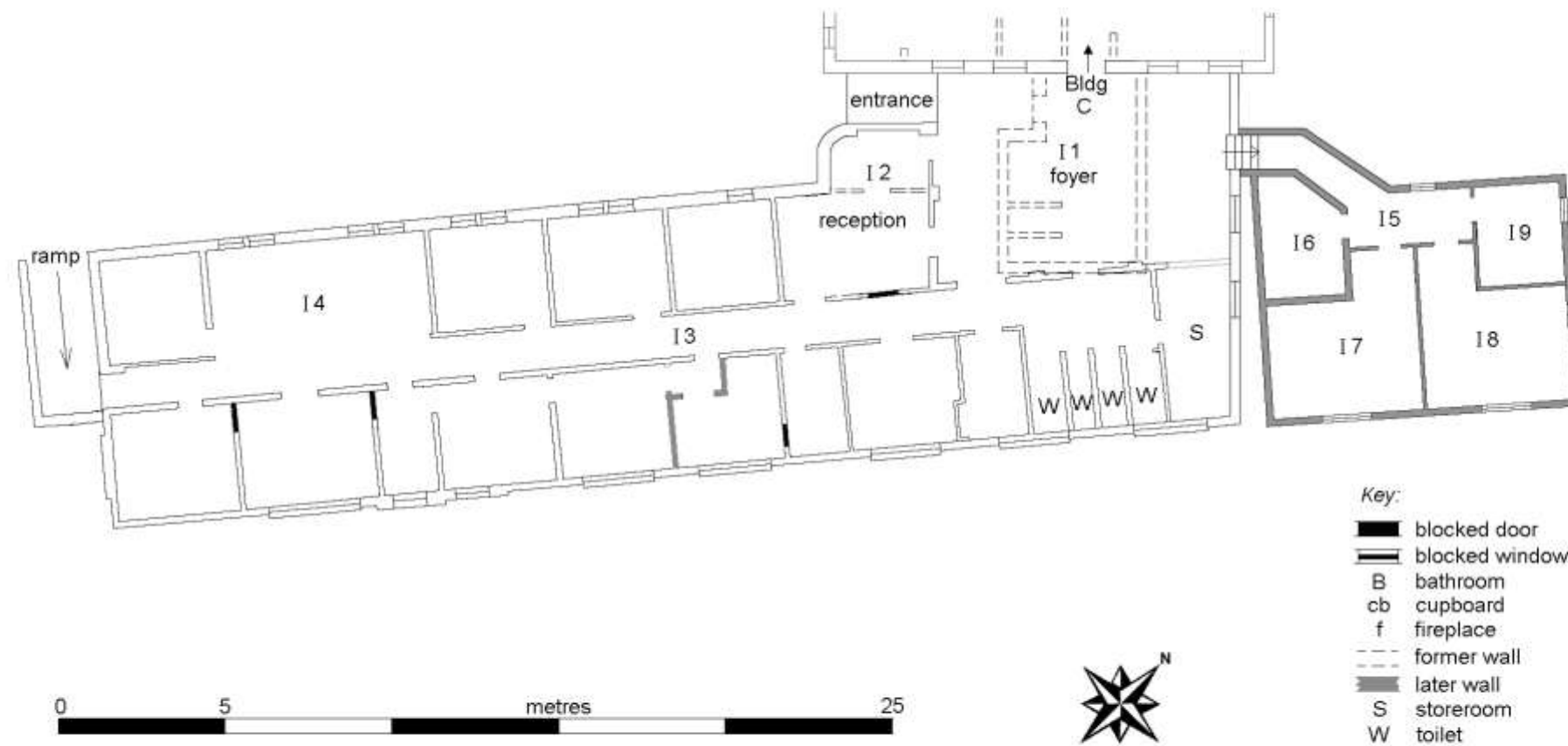
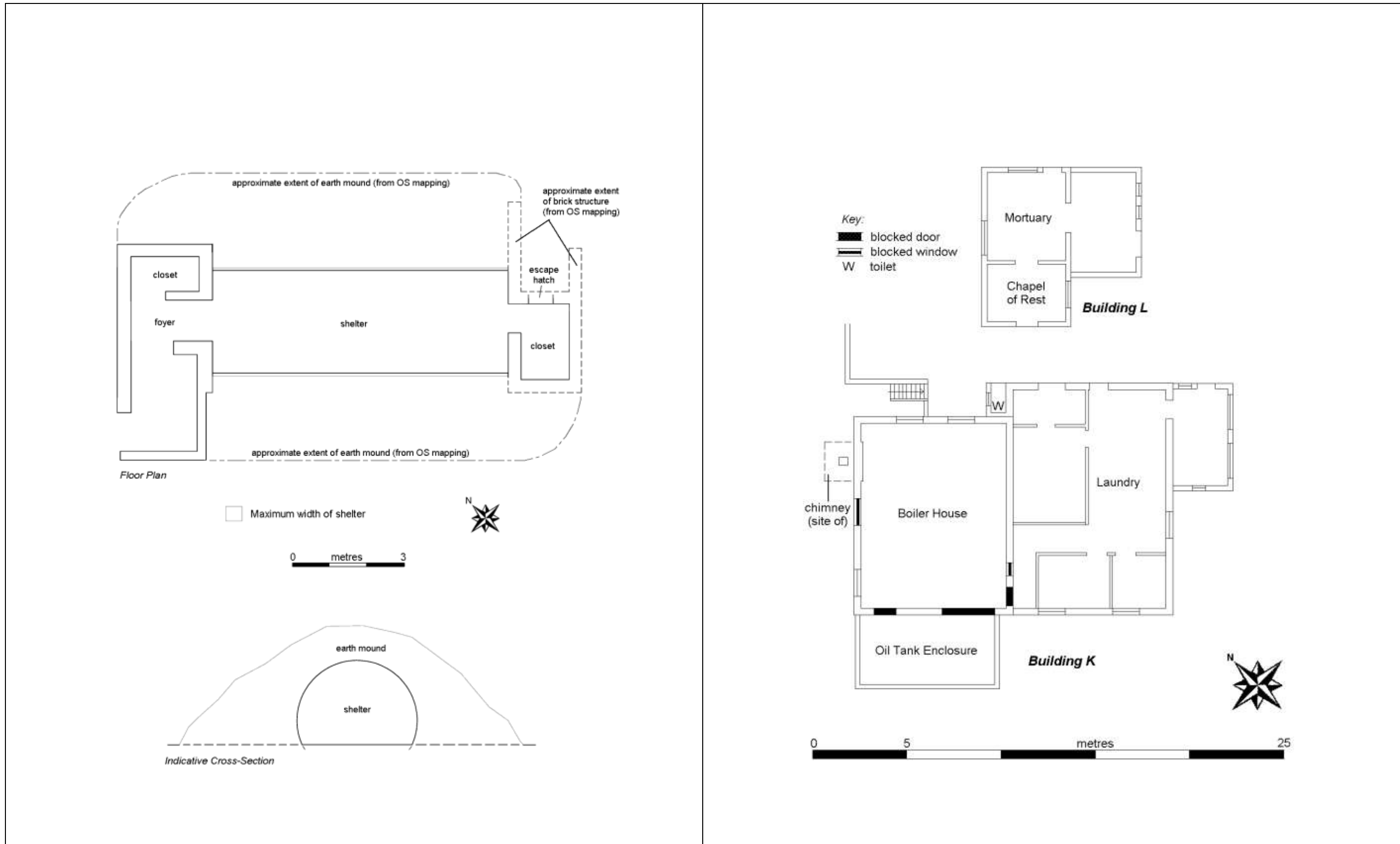


Figure 15: Main hospital block: Building I (scale 1:200)



**Figure 16:** Air raid shelter (Building J): plan & section (scale 1:100)

**Figure 17:** Buildings K & L, floor plans (scale 1:200)

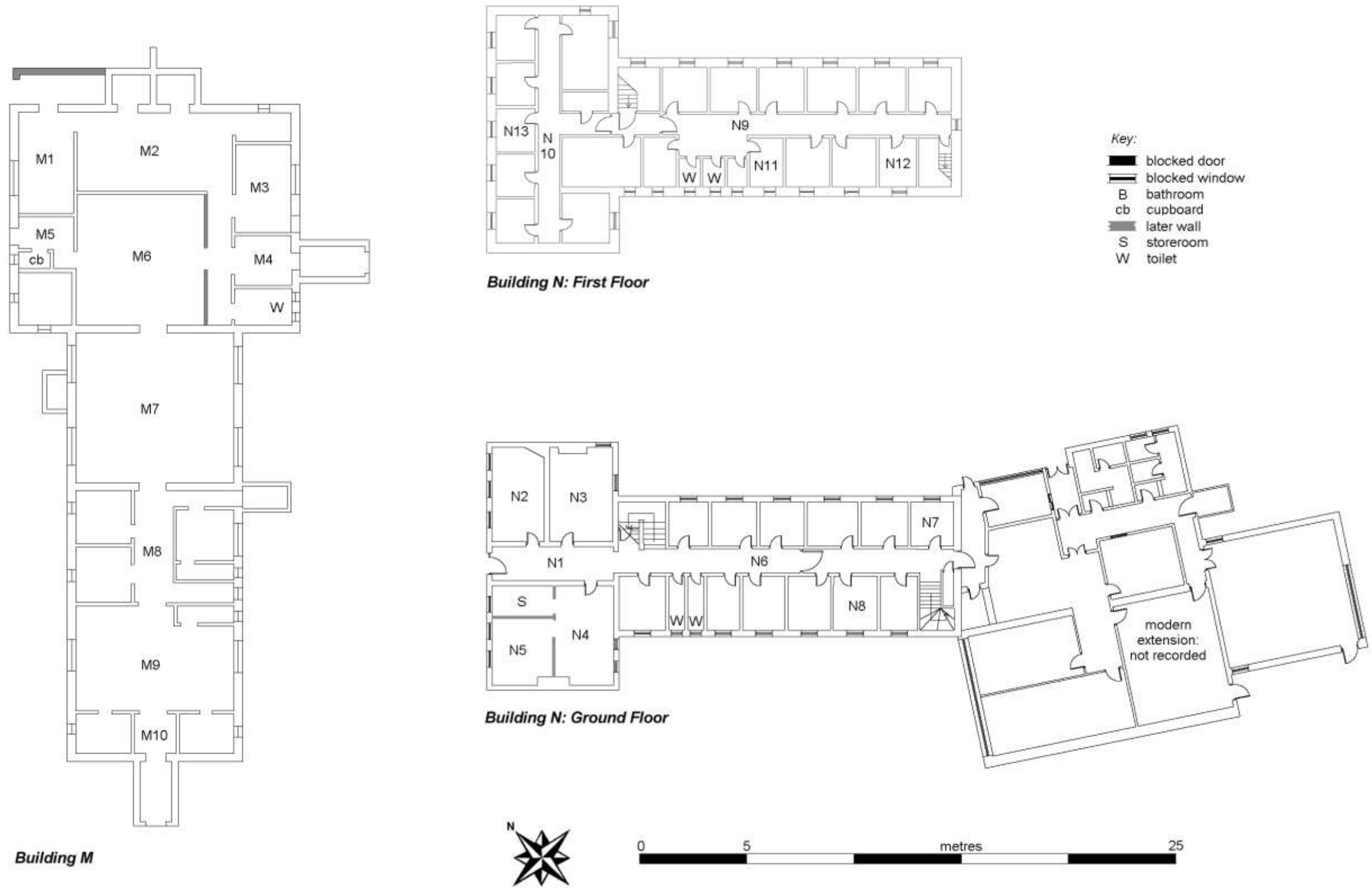
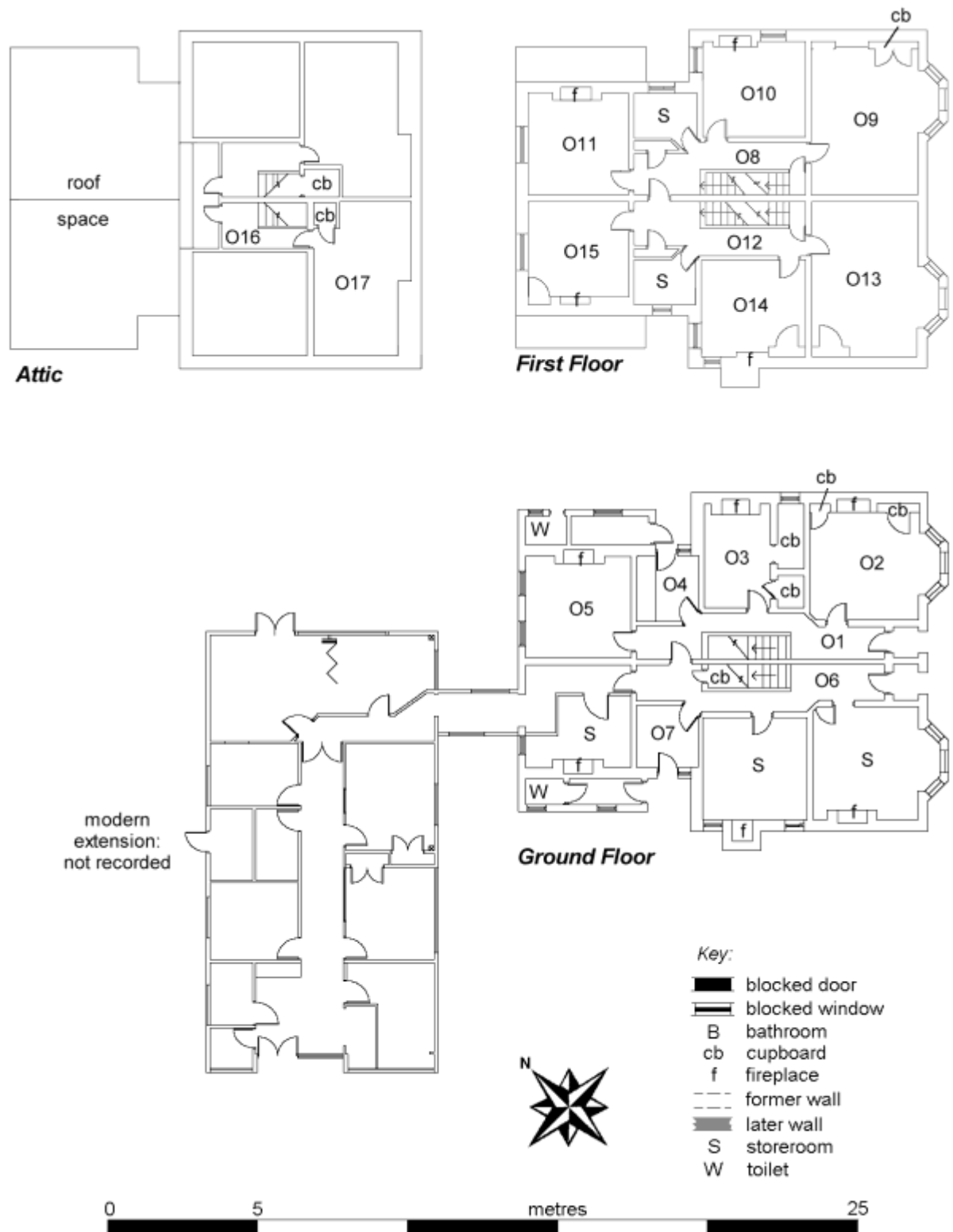


Figure 18: Buildings M & N, floor plans (scale 1:200)



**Figure 19:** Building O, floor plans (scale 1:200)

## 5 Conclusions

### 5.1 *The Hospital*

Ashford Hospital was constructed between 1926 and 1928 on a green-field site, at that time on the edge of the town. It was very much a local project, designed by a local architect, built by a local contractor, and funded by public subscription. The hospital was laid out on the pavilion plan, the wards, domestic offices etc being contained in separate buildings, linked by an axial corridor. Although this design originated on the Continent in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was still in favour half a century later.

The hospital continued to operate as a general hospital until the late 1970s. A block plan showing the approximate dates of the structures present on site is shown in Fig. 20. During WW2, a gas decontamination unit and associated air raid shelter were constructed in the hospital grounds. Following the end of the war the gas decontamination unit was converted to house the physiotherapy department and the nurses' training centre, removing almost all the original diagnostic features. The shelter was bricked up: its significance is discussed in detail below. Major additions prior to the late 1970s included an outpatients' department and a new operating theatre. In the late 1970s the site ceased to operate as a general hospital and, following a period of conversion and refurbishment, re-opened in 1980 as a specialist hospital for the elderly. It closed in the 1990s, with the exception of the former Nurses' Home, now the community health office, and the children's clinic in Jubilee House.

During the research for this project, little has come to light regarding the detailed history of the hospital. It has been possible to trace its structural development, in general terms, from the available cartographic evidence, though in the absence of written records and surviving diagnostic fixtures and fittings, determining the past functions of parts of the complex has been difficult. The 1962 plan of the hospital has been of great significance in this respect. However, while this provides a snapshot of a functioning general hospital, and in all probability can be taken as an indication of the original hospital layout, it has been almost impossible to determine how the building functioned following its conversion in 1980. For certain elements, notably Jubilee House, there is no recorded information at all, except for the plaque recording the gift of the house to the hospital in 1935. Did the town present the hospital with Jubilee House itself alone, or was the adjoining *Fernworthy* also included? What use did the hospital make of the two houses, prior to the establishment of the present clinic? The answers to these questions may be found in more detailed research, beyond the remit of this survey.

Based on the results of this survey, the hospital can certainly be judged to be of local historical interest, in relation to the development of the town. While some of the buildings, notably the Administration Block and Jubilee House, are pleasant in appearance, none can be deemed to be of architectural or historical significance. Internally, few fixtures or fittings survive, with the exception of those in the X Ray room, which were presumably left in situ because they were obsolete. Finally, with the exception of Buildings A, C and I, all the disused buildings on the site are in a poor condition and are rapidly deteriorating due to the combined effects of neglect, vandalism and theft of fixtures (piping, wiring etc). It is a great pity that the site was left to reach this state before recording could be arranged.

## 5.2 *The Air Raid Shelter*

Surface shelters comprise the most numerous form of civilian air raid shelter used in World War II. These ranged from the corrugated *Anderson* shelter, intended to house a single household, through a range of proprietary designs such as the steel *Consol* and the pre-cast concrete *RaidSAFE* and *Stanton*, which could be built to varying lengths. The typical features of such shelters are all present in this example: dogleg main entrance, central chamber, toilet compartments (originally housing simple chemical toilets), and an escape hatch. While such shelters were often buried beneath a simple earth mound, it is possible that the corrugated metal structure was given added protection by an outer concrete sheath: an example of this was recorded by the writer at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, Essex (Zeepvat 1997). Similar examples have been recorded in Kent at Lodge Hill, Rochester (Mke 42290), Chatham dockyard (TQ 76 NE 374 & 375) and in Herne Bay (Mke 42568, 42580). Others of a similar type, described as ‘Nissen-hut shelters’, intended to hold 50 persons, were erected in 1941-42 at various locations in Canterbury (Mke 42487 – 42506), but all have since been demolished.

In operating condition, it is likely that the external entrance and the inner doorway to the central chamber were fitted with doors, probably gas-tight. There is no evidence to show whether these were simple planked doors, such as that surviving in the toilet compartment, or more substantial fittings. The inner door was hung at an angle, so as to swing shut. There is also no evidence for battery lighting, commonly used in shelters, though this could have been removed when the existing mains lighting was installed. Benches along the walls are also conspicuous by their absence, though these could have been freestanding, subsequently removed.

Allowing for benches along each wall, and a provision of 0.5m per person, the shelter would have held 30 people. With a central double row of benches the capacity could just possibly be increased to 50, though this would be a tight squeeze.

Consideration of the shelter’s capacity leads to the question of its intended function. Even if it held 50 people, this was clearly insufficient to house all the hospital staff, let alone any patients. A possible clue to the shelter’s function may be found in its close proximity to the contemporary gas decontamination building, with which it may have been associated.

In considering the significance of the shelter at Ashford Hospital, it is perhaps useful to define suitable criteria by which judgement can be objectively made. A useful starting point for this is provided by English Heritage’s guide for the selection of military buildings for listing (EH 2007). This considers historical association, local/national significance, rarity, site significance and group value, survival and sustainability.

*Historical Association:* The shelter and adjoining decontamination unit relate to a brief period in the history of the hospital, namely WW2 (1939-45), and are associated with activities specific to that conflict, though the decontamination unit was subsequently converted to house the physiotherapy and nurse training departments of the hospital.

*Local/National Significance:* Because of its relationship to the hospital, and the fact that this type of shelter appears to be common regionally and nationally, the shelter is judged to be of no more than local significance.

*Rarity:* From the available evidence, the hospital shelter is the only example of this type of shelter to be recorded in Ashford, and is the only surviving purpose-built WW2 air raid shelter in the district. However, this is a common type of shelter nationally, and a number of similar examples have been recorded in Kent and beyond.

*Site Significance & Group Value:* The possible association between the shelter and the adjoining decontamination unit has already been noted. Although the shelter lies within the hospital site, its relatively small size suggests that it was never intended for the use of patients or staff, and therefore is of no great significance in relation to the hospital as a whole.

*Survival:* The shelter is a robust structure, and appears to be in a generally sound condition, largely due to having been sealed for many years. However, the possible effects of the heavy growth of shrubs on the overlying mound, and of any corrosion to the steel walls and roof, could not be assessed by visual inspection alone.

*Sustainability:* The shelter has survived thus far because of its location in an otherwise unused corner of the hospital grounds, and because it has been sealed for many years. In considering its possible retention, consideration must also be given to its future function within the context of the proposed development, and to arrangements for its future management and maintenance.

In conclusion, an assessment of the air raid shelter confirms that its retention would not meet the criteria adopted by English Heritage in selecting military buildings for listing. Although it is believed that this is the only surviving purpose-built WW2 air raid shelter in the district, it is common nationally and there are also known examples in Kent and beyond.

There is no compelling reason to preserve in-situ from a historic point of view. Retention raises the prospect of purpose and access, both of which raise funding issues. Dismantling and relocation of the shelter to another location where it can be preserved for posterity is beyond the remit of NHSECK.

The pragmatic solution in the context of the redevelopment that is planned to take place at the site is to undertake building recording as a prelude to demolition.





**Figure 20:** Phase plan (*not to scale*)

## **6 Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned by Tribal MJP, acting for NHS Eastern & Coastal Kent. The writer is grateful to Faye Pedersen of Tribal MJP, Chris Osman of NHSECK, and Mike Wingfield of UK Security for their assistance. The project was monitored by Wendy Rogers of the Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group, on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Victor Green for information and comments on the air raid shelter.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA. Fieldwork and research were carried out by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Bob Zeepvat, with drawings by Calli Rouse, and edited by Karin Semmelmann.

## **7 Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Report
3. Historical & Survey notes
4. Architect's survey drawings
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints
7. B/W negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be retained by ASC until suitable deposition arrangements in line with the requirements of the brief can be agreed.

## 8 References

### ***Standards & Specifications***

- EH 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.
- Rogers W 2009 *Specification for Historic Building Recording Work at the Old Ashford Hospital, Kings Avenue, Ashford*. Heritage Conservation Group.

### ***Books and Historical Sources:***

- Filmer R 1988 *Ashford in Old Photographs*. Alan Sutton (Stroud).
- Fricker D undated *The Development of Ashford, 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Ashford Museum website.
- Lawrie L 2004 *Ashford: A History and Celebration*. Ottakars.
- Lawson T & Killingray D (eds), 2004 *An Historical Atlas of Kent*. Phillimore (Chichester).
- Lowry B (ed.) 1996 *20<sup>th</sup> Century Defences in Britain: An Introductory Guide*. Council for British Archaeology, Practical Handbooks in Archaeology 12 (York).
- Newman J 2002 *The Buildings of England: West Kent and The Weald*. Pevsner Architectural Guides. Yale (New Haven & London).
- RCHME 1993 *Notes on a Field Visit to Ashford Hospital, 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1993*. National Monuments Record, Swindon (unpublished).
- Richardson H 1998 *English Hospitals 1660-1948*. RCHME (London).
- Ruderman A & Filmer R 1991 *Ashford, a Pictorial History*. Phillimore (Chichester).

### ***Maps***

- 1872 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" sheets
- 1898 Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" sheets
- 1907 Ordnance Survey Third Edition 25" sheets
- 1933 Ordnance Survey Fourth Edition 25" sheets
- 1962 *Ashford Hospital: Proposed Additions & Alterations to Cold Water Supply Mains & Fire Hydrants*, dated 02/07/1962 (NHSECK archives)
- 1968 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 sheets TR 0043 SW & TR 0042 NW
- 2009 Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 Siteplan

### ***Pictorial Sources***

National Monuments Record, Swindon, 1992/93:

- |          |  |            |
|----------|--|------------|
| 187/B/28 | Administration block (Bldg A), south-west elevation    |            |
| 187/B/29 | Nurses' home (Bldg N), north-east elevation from north |            |
| 187/B/30 | Nurses' home (Bldg N), from north                      |            |
| 187/B/31 | Outpatients Block (Bldg I) from west                   |            |
| 187/B/32 | Outpatients Block (Bldg I), north-west entrance        | (Plate 74) |
| 187/B/33 | Administration block (Bldg A), main entrance           | (Plate 6)  |

187/B/34	Old Boiler House (Bldg K), from west	(Plate 90)
187/B/35	Gas Decontamination plant (Bldg M), from north-east	(Plate 98)
187/B/36	Air Raid Shelter (Bldg J), entrance	(Plate 83)
187/C/1	Gas Decontamination plant (Bldg M), from south	(Plate 100)
187/C/2	Gas Decontamination plant (Bldg M), from south	(Plate 99)
187/C/3	Gas Decontamination plant (Bldg M), from west	(Plate 101)
187/C/4	Old Mortuary (Bldg L), from south	(Plate 95)
187/C/5	Old Boiler House (Bldg K), from east	(Plate 91)
187/C/6	Kitchen block (Bldg D), from north	
187/C/7	Ward block (Bldg G), from south-west	(Plate 52)
BB92/31922	Old Boiler House (Bldg K), from north-east	
BB92/31923	Administration block (Bldg A), south-west elevation	(cover plate)
BB92/31924	Gas Decontamination plant (Bldg M), from north-east	
BB92/31925	Gas Decontamination plant (Bldg M), from south	
BB92/31926	Kitchen block (Bldg D), from north	
BB92/31927	Nurses' home (Bldg N), north-west elevation	
BB92/31928	Nurses' home (Bldg N), north-east elevation	

## Appendix 1: Kent CC Heritage Conservation Brief

### SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

#### Specification for Historic Building Recording Work at the Old Ashford Hospital Kings Avenue Ashford

1. **Summary:** This specification covers historic building recording programme to be undertaken of Old Ashford Hospital off Kings Avenue Ashford Kent. The buildings are due for demolition and a heritage record needs to be achieved prior to this.
2. **Site Location & Description:** The site is located within the centre of Ashford. It is accessed off Kings Avenue to the south and is bounded by Chart Road to the west.
3. **Planning Background & Nature of Development:** There are proposals to develop this site although no application has been submitted yet. The principle of development has been established. The buildings are due to be demolished prior to submission of any application. English Heritage have provided comments on the buildings and consider they are not of national importance and do not merit listing. However, the buildings are of local heritage interest and a basic record needs to be undertaken prior to demolition. On the basis of present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Borough Council would recommend that the site should be subject to a programme of historic building recording work in order to provide a documentary record of the historical within the site. As demolition of these buildings will be undertaken soon, the historic building recording work needs to take place prior to determination of the application and prior to demolition work commencing.
4. **Geological & Topographical Background:** The site may contain 4<sup>th</sup> Terrace River Gravels towards the eastern side.
5. **Archaeological & Historical Background Potential:** The potential of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains. Ashford Hospital was the first development on this plot of land. The original buildings were designed by local Ashford architect, Edward A Jackson in 1926-1928. The development was a purpose built complex and therefore reflects the building designs, materials and architectural fashions of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as well the distinctive style of a local architect.  
  
4<sup>th</sup> Terrace River Gravels lie towards the eastern side of the site and would be of archaeological interest if they are revealed during demolition works.  
  
Further information on the above is provided in the County Sites and Monuments Record Kent which is located at KCC Strategic Planning, County Hall, Maidstone.
6. **Specific Aims of the Historic Building Recording Work:** :The programme of historic building recording work will be undertaken in a systematic manner and in accordance with the Spec Manual Part B.
7. **Methodology:** in accordance with the Spec Manual Part B.
8. **Site Recording:** in accordance with the Spec Manual Part B.
9. **Site Reporting and Archiving:** in accordance with the Spec Manual Part B.
10. **Monitoring:** in accordance with the Spec Manual Part B.
11. **General:** in accordance with the Spec Manual Part B.

## **HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING REQUIREMENTS: BASIC PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY FOR APPRAISAL**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The following specification sets out a set of standards and requirements for the completion of a basic photographic survey for appraisal purposes. The intention is to provide an initial record of historic buildings, structures and other features to inform decision making. More detailed forms of photographic recording for both appraisal and mitigation purposes are covered by separate specifications. The basic survey comprises three elements:

- A basic written description
- An annotated ground plan
- General photographic coverage and selected detailed photographs

### **2. General Requirements**

2.1 The survey will be carried out by an individual or organisation (from here on referred to as 'the Surveyor') acceptable to the relevant Local Planning Authority, with recognised experience and expertise in the type of survey to be undertaken. A good working knowledge of the type of buildings or structures to be surveyed will also be considered highly desirable.

### **3. Pre-survey Requirements**

- 3.1 Prior to undertaking the photographic survey, the Surveyor will confirm with the Local Planning Authority's Conservation Officer and / or the County Archaeologist (whichever is appropriate) the level of survey work that is required and specific aspects that should be recorded by the survey.
- 3.2 The Surveyor will ensure that all reasonable measures have been taken to identify any constraints to undertaking the photographic survey. The Surveyor will seek information on any risks to health and safety.
- 3.3 Full copies of the Specification must be issued to the Surveyor.

### **4. Objectives**

4.1 The purpose of the survey is to provide a basic descriptive record of historic buildings, structures and other features that may be affected by development proposals. Sufficient information should be recorded and described to be able to inform planning decisions and the development design process where appropriate.

### **5. Scope of Survey**

- 5.1 The survey will comprise a written, drawn and photographic record. The following sections detail general standards and requirements for recording and reporting that should be followed.
- 5.2 Particular issues that will be addressed by the survey are set out in Part A of this specification.
- 5.3 Any amendment to the scope of the survey should be agreed with the Conservation Officer / County Archaeologist in advance of the work being undertaken.

### **6. Photographic Survey**

- 6.1 Photographs will be taken to not only show a building or structure's appearance but also to record the evidence on which the analysis of its historic development is based.
- 6.2 Photographs will normally be taken in 35mm format, although good definition digital photography may be adequate for assessment purposes. While black and white photography is

preferable for permanent, archival purposes, colour photography should be used to record decoration and significant structural detail. Where digital photography is used image resolution must exceed five megapixels.

6.3 The survey will include:

- Photographs of each building or structure in its setting;
- Oblique photographs of all principal exterior elevations;
- Where an exterior elevation embodies complex historical information,
- Photographs taken at right angles to the elevation.
- Photographs demonstrating the overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Photographs to illustrate specific historic details or features relevant to the proposals under consideration. These should include relevant details of construction, fittings, machinery, architectural detailing and finishes.

6.4 Each photograph should be printed on archival quality photographic paper and clearly labelled with the subject, the orientation and date taken. The photograph should be cross-referenced to a negative or digital file name.

## **7. Drawn Survey**

7.1 Wherever possible, the Surveyor should make use of existing plans available for the site and building.

7.2 A site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at a scale of 1:1250 should be drawn.

7.3 A site plan at a scale of 1:500 or better should be produced showing the principal buildings and structures and clearly identifying those included within the photographic survey.

7.4 A site plan at a scale of 1:500 or better showing the position from which photographs have been taken and their direction of view.

7.5 Internal plans of buildings at a scale of 1:200 or better showing the position from which photographs have been taken and their direction of view.

7.6 All plans are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

7.7 Plans must be fully captioned and scale drawings must include a bar scale. Standard drawing conventions must be used. North must be included on all plans and will be consistent.

## **8. Written Survey**

8.1 A general written description should be made for each building, structure, room or feature identified in the survey. The written description should include the type of building or structure; its scale / approximate size; its place in the wider site; materials used in its construction, any visible alterations or additions.

8.2 A register of photographic images should be maintained.

## **9. Reporting**

9.1 The site archive is to be consolidated after completion of the survey, with all site drawings inked-in, and records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record.

9.2 Within three weeks of completion of the survey (or longer in case of complex sites as agreed with the Conservation Officer / County Archaeologist) the Surveyor will produce a report, copies of which (as a minimum) are to be provided to:

- the Developer
  - the County Archaeologist
  - the Local Planning Authority's Conservation Officer / Planning Team
  - a copy should remain with the project archive
- 9.3 When submitting the report to the Local Planning Authority / County Archaeologist the Surveyor will provide written confirmation that the report has been submitted to the above parties.
- 9.4 If the Surveyor is required, contractually, only to submit reports directly to the developer or their agent, the Surveyor must inform the Local Planning Authority / County Archaeologist in writing that they have completed the report and whom it has been forwarded to. The Surveyor must ensure that the developer is made aware of the need to circulate the report as in 9.2 above.
- 9.5 The Surveyor may determine the general style and format of the report but it must be completed in accordance with this specification. The report must provide sufficient information to enable the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority to reach an informed decision regarding any further mitigation measures that may be required and to stand as an appropriately detailed report on the survey of the property for future research.
- 9.6 Reports that do not provide sufficient information or that have not been compiled in accordance with the relevant sections of this specification will be returned to the Surveyor for revision and resubmission.
- 9.7 The report will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority / County Archaeologist in a bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied in pdf format and will contain all text, images and plans present in the hard-copy report in a single pdf file. The medium will be a CD-ROM formatted according to ISO 9660:1999.
- 9.8 **Report Format** - The final survey report will include, as a minimum:
- 9.8.1 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the survey.
- 9.8.2 An **Introduction** including:
- the location of the site with a National Grid Reference for the centre sufficient to locate the site to 1m accuracy (e.g. TQ 55555 77777 or easting: 555555, northing: 177777);
  - an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
  - a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference, together with a planning condition (where appropriate);
  - the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;
  - the scope and date of the survey, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
- 9.8.3 A brief account of the **Historical Background** of the development site including any designations. A map regression using readily available historic maps of the development site (including as a minimum all available Ordnance Survey editions and the Tithe Map) should be included in the report and the site development described.
- 9.8.4 The **Methodology** employed during the survey must be detailed in the report. Any aims and objectives specified in the specification will be included as will any further objectives identified during the course of the survey. Constraints on the survey will also be described.
- 9.8.5 The report will include a quantification of the project archive contents, their state and future location.
- 9.8.6 The report will include a descriptive summary of the site layout and topography.



- 9.8.7 The report will include a general description of each building, structure or identified feature (see section 8.1 above) cross referenced to plans and illustrations.
- 9.8.8 A short narrative **Discussion** of the site describing the significance of the findings and the potential impact of development proposals on historic elements.
- 9.8.9 **Figures** - The report will include copies of the maps and plans detailed above in sections 7.2 to 7.5 above. Figures are to be fully cross-referenced within the document text. Any relevant historic maps should also be included.
- 9.8.10 Photographs illustrating the general descriptions (see 10.8.7 above) of each historic building, structure or feature will be selected from the survey archive and reproduced in the report. All photographs will be appropriately captioned.
- 9.8.11 Photographs not illustrated in the report will be listed, with subject matter, as an appendix to the report. Copies of all photographs should be provided separately in digital format on CD-ROM or alternatively on a printed contact sheet..

## **10. Archive Preparation & Deposition**

- 10.1 The site archive, to include all project records, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the Surveyor will arrange for the archive to be deposited with a suitable record office. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.

## **11 Monitoring and Liaison**

- 11.1 The Surveyor will liaise closely with the Local Planning Authority / County Archaeologist throughout the course of the survey and will arrange for on-site meetings if clarification on any particular issue is required.

## **12. Copyright and data protection**

- 12.1 Information submitted to the Local Planning Authority / County Archaeologist in conjunction with planning applications automatically becomes publicly accessible and can be viewed by anyone at any time. In addition, the Local Planning Authority and Kent County Council are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Information may be subject to Fol or EIR requests and any documentation submitted in connection with the project may be made publicly available unless doing so contravenes the Data Protection Act (1998).
- 12.2 While copyright of reports and other information arising from the survey remains with the originator, the Surveyor will undertake to make this information available to interested parties. The Surveyor will agree to allow reports of the survey to be copied and made available to interested parties for historical research. The reports may be made available on the Internet no sooner than three months after the submission of the report. Surveyors who believe that there are special reasons for not publishing the report on the Internet should reach a separate agreement with the Local Planning Authority / County Archaeologist.

## **13. Health and Safety**

- 13.1 The Surveyor will conduct the work in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and will carry out a risk assessment before commencing survey work.

## **14. KCC SMR/HER**

- 14.1 The Surveyor is to provide the Kent Sites and Monuments Record with copies of all reports in both hard copy and digital format (see above).

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NO/CODE: 1177/AAH			Site Name: Ashford Hospital, Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent
Digital	Neg.	Plate	Subject
1	1/21		Building P, from south
2	1/20	134	Building P, closeup from south-west
3	1/19	135	Building P, from north
4	1/18	1	Building M, from north-east
5	1/17		Building M, from south-west
6	1/16		Building M, from south
7	1/15	84	Building J, entrance from west
8	1/14	92	Building K, north-west elevation
9	1/13	93	Building K, north part, south-west elevation
10	1/12		Building K, south part, south-west elevation
11	1/11		Building K, south-east elevation
12	1/10		Building A, general view from Kings Avenue
13	1/09	4	Building A, south-west elevation
14	1/08		Building A, foundation stone left of entrance
15	1/07		Building A, south-west elevation, main entrance
16	1/06		Building A, south-west elevation, main entrance (upper part)
17	1/05	73	Building G, south-west elevation
18	1/04	5	Building I, general view from south-east
19	1/03		Building I, north-west elevation
20	1/02		Building K, north-east elevation
21	1/01	96	Building L, south-east elevation
22	2/36	97	Building L, north-east elevation
23	2/35	17	Building B, theatre block, north-west elevation
24	2/34		Building B, theatre block, north-east elevation
25	2/33		Building B/C corridor, from north-west
26	2/32	33	Building D, south-east elevation
27	2/31		Building D, inner north-west elevation
28	2/30	34	Building D, outer north-west elevation
29	2/29	35	Building D, north-east elevation
30	2/28	81	Building C/E corridor, north-west elevation
31	2/27	53	Building G, south-west elevation
32	2/26	2	Gap between buildings G & H, north-west side
33	2/25		Building H, north-west elevation
34	2/24	64	Building H, north-west elevation, detail of brickwork
35	2/23	63	Building H, north-east elevation (north end)
36	2/22		Building H, north-east elevation (entrance)
37	2/21	88	Building J, interior looking south-east
38	2/20	87	Building J, interior looking north-west
39	2/19	86	Building J, detail of entrance
40	2/18	85	Building J, entrance lobby and toilet doorway
41	2/17	89	Building J, escape hatch and south-east compartment
42	2/16		Building J, detail of light fitting on roof
43	2/15		Building H, day room H20 looking north
44	2/14	72	Building H, day room H20 looking south
45	2/13	71	Building H, passage H19 and WC
46	2/12		Building H, ward H14 looking north-west
47	2/11		Building H, ward H14 looking south-east

Shot	Neg.	Plate	Subject
48	2/10		Building H, entrance to toilets H16
49	2/09		Building H, dispensary H17
50	2/08		Building H, H15 extension looking south-east
51	2/07		Building H, H15 extension looking north-west
52	2/06	70	Building H, H15, surviving fittings at bed location
53	2/05		Building H corridor, looking south-west
54	2/04		Building H corridor, looking north-east
55	2/03		Building H, ward H4 looking south-east
56	2/02	67	Building H, ward H4 looking north-west
57	2/01	66	Building H, entrance to toilets H6
58	3/36	68	Building H, dispensary H7
59	3/35	69	Building H, extension H5 looking south-east
60	3/34		Building H, extension H5 looking north-west
61	3/33		Building H, ward kitchen H2
62	3/32	65	Building H, door to kitchen H13
63	3/31	54	Building G, ward G4 looking north-west
64	3/30	55	Building G, ward G4 looking south-east
65	3/29		Building G, day room G7 looking south-west
66	3/28	57	Building G, day room G7 looking north-east
67	3/27	58	Building G, dispensary G8
68	3/26		Building G, entrance to toilets G6
69	3/25		Building G, ward extension G5 looking north-west
70	3/24	56	Building G, ward extension G5 looking south-east
71	3/23	62	Building G, day room G18 looking south-west
72	3/22		Building G, day room G18 looking north-east
73	3/21		Building G, ward G14 looking north-west
74	3/20	60	Building G, ward G14 looking west
75	3/19		Building G, ward G14 looking east
76	3/18		Building G, ward G13 looking west
77	3/17	59	Building G, ward G13 looking east
78	3/16	61	Building G, ward extension G16 looking south-east
79	3/15		Building G, ward extension G16 looking north-west
80	3/14	82	Building G/F corridor, looking south-west
81	3/13	49	Building F, corridor F1 looking south-east
82	3/12	50	Building F, ward F2, looking south-west
83	3/11		Building F, ward F2, looking north
84	3/10	51	Building F, storeroom F3, looking south-west
85	3/09		Building F, storeroom F3, looking north-east
86	3/08		Building F, corridor F1, looking north-west
87	3/07		Building D, nurses' dining room D7, looking north-west
88	3/06	38	Building D, nurses' dining room D7, looking south-east
89	3/05		Building D, pantry D8, looking south-west
90	3/04	45	Building E, central food store E2, looking south-east
91	3/03		Building E, central food store E3, looking north-east
92	3/02		Building D, servants' hall D5, south side looking west
93	3/01		Building D, servants' hall D5, blocked fireplace on north side
94	4/36		Building D, passage D4, looking north-west
95	4/35		Building D, kitchen D2 looking east
96	4/34	36	Building D, kitchen D2 looking west
97	4/33	37	Building D, scullery D3 looking south-west

Shot	Neg.	Plate	Subject
98	4/32		Building D/E corridor, looking north-east
99	4/31	48	Building E, children's ward E7, looking south
100	4/30		Building E, children's ward E7, looking north
101	4/29	44	Building E, corridor E1 looking north-west
102	4/28		Building E, Room E6, looking south-east
103	4/27	46	Building E, labour ward E5, looking north-west
104	4/26	47	Building E, labour ward E5, detail of window
105	4/25	39	Building D, first floor, south-east stairs
106	4/24	40	Building D, first floor, corridor D9 looking north-west
107	4/23	42	Building D, first floor, bedroom D10 looking north-east
108	4/22	41	Building D, first floor, corridor to D11 looking south-west
109	4/21		Building D, first floor, north-west stairs
110	4/20	43	Building D, first floor, bedroom D12 looking north-east
111	-		Building D, first floor, view into attic (didn't work!)
112	4/19	80	Building I, foyer I1, looking south-west
113	4/18		Building I, corridor I3, looking north-east
114	4/17	78	Building I, corridor I3, north-east end, looking north-east
115	4/16	79	Building I, corridor I3, looking south-west
116	4/15	77	Building I, reception office I2, looking west
117	4/14	75	Building I, lobby I4 looking south-west
118	4/13	76	Building I, lobby I4 looking north-east
119	4/12	31	Building C, reception area C8, looking west
120	4/11		Building C, reception area C8, looking north
121	4/10	32	Building C, reception area C8, looking east
122	4/09		Building C, reception area C8, looking south
123	4/08	30	Building C, kitchen? C6, looking west
124	4/07	29	Building C, Room C5 looking south
125	4/06		Building C, Room C5, central heating control point
126	4/05	25	Building C, corridor C1 looking south-east
127	4/04	26	Building C, Radiography darkroom C3, looking north
128	4/03	27	Building C, Radiography C4, looking north-east
129	4/02	28	Building C, Radiography C4, looking south
130	4/01		Building C, Radiography C4, looking north
131	5/36		Building C, Radiography C4, control panel
132	5/35		Building B west, theatre B2, looking north-east
133	5/34	18	Building B west, theatre B2, looking south-west
134	5/33	19	Building B, recovery room? B1, looking south-east
135	5/32	20	Building B, recovery room B1, looking west
136	5/31		Building B, theatre B5, looking south
137	5/30	21	Building B, theatre B5, looking north
138	5/29	22	Building B, theatre B5, detail of roof lights
139	5/28	23	Building B, Room B6, looking west
140	5/27	24	Building B, corridor B4, looking south-east
141	5/26	8	Building A ground floor, corridor A4 looking north-west
142	5/25	11	Building A ground floor, private room A20, looking south
143	5/24		Building A ground floor, office A18, looking south-west
144	5/23	12	Building A ground floor, sluice A23, looking east
145	5/22	9	Building A ground floor, main office A5 looking west
146	5/21	10	Building A ground floor, main office A5 looking south-east
147	5/20	7	Building A ground floor, foyer A1, looking north-west

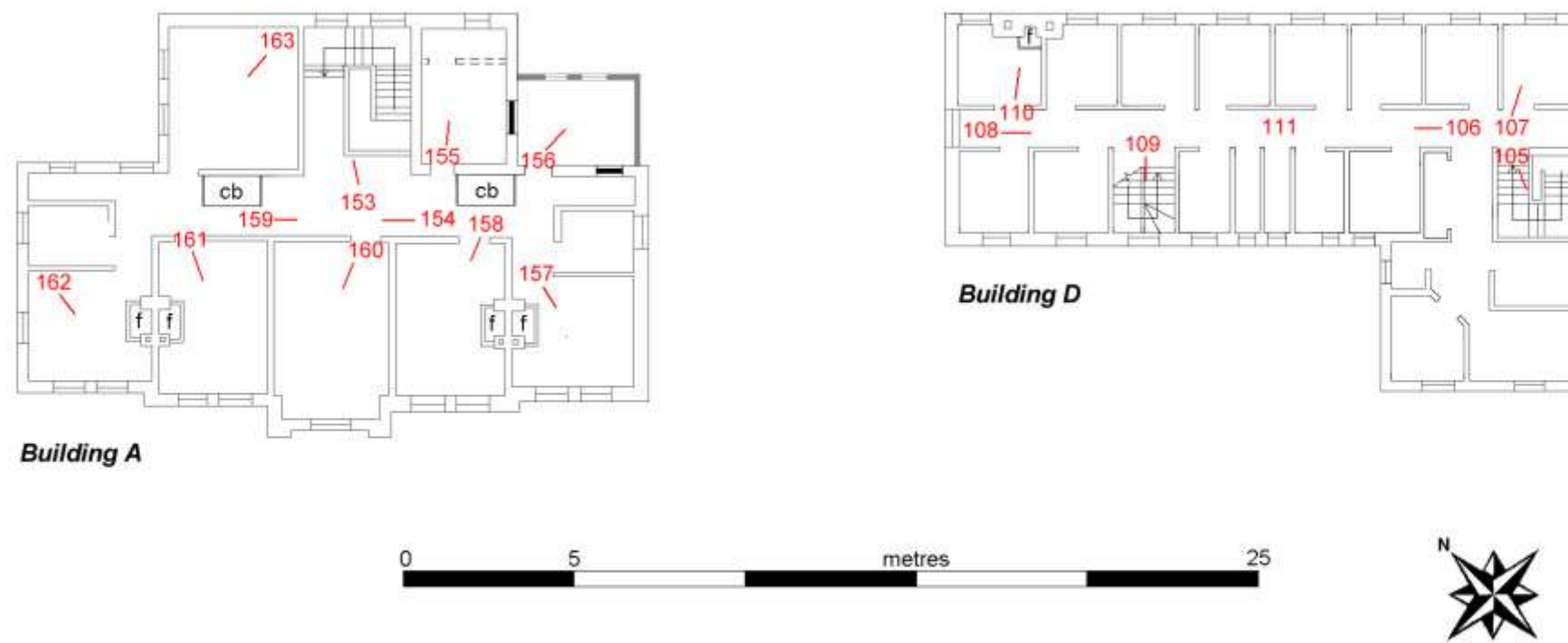
Shot	Neg.	Plate	Subject
148	5/19		Building A ground floor, foyer A1, looking south
149	-		Building A ground floor, foyer A1, looking north-east
150	5/18		Building A ground floor, foyer A1, looking north-east
151	5/17	13	Building A ground floor A1, stairs looking east
152	5/16		Building A ground floor, MO's room A7, looking north
153	5/15	14	Building A first floor, landing and stairwell A28 looking south-west
154	5/14		Building A first floor, landing A28 looking north-west
155	5/13		Building A first floor, scullery A29 looking north-east
156	5/12	16	Building A first floor, Room A30 looking east
157	5/11		Building A first floor, house surgeon's bedroom A31, looking south
158	5/10	15	Building A first floor, house surgeon's sitting room A32, looking west
159	5/09		Building A first floor, landing A28 looking south-east
160	5/08		Building A first floor, dining room A33, looking south-west
161	5/07		Building A first floor, matron's sitting room A34, looking south-west
162	5/06		Building A first floor, matron's bedroom A35, looking south
163	5/05		Building A first floor, senior sister's bedroom A36, looking west
164	5/04		Building A ground floor, corridor A3 looking south-east
165	5/03		Building A ground floor, special ward A9 looking south-east
166	5/02	94	Building K, laundry interior
167	-		Building K, laundry interior
168	-		Building K, laundry interior
169	5/01		Building J, mound looking south-west
170	6/36	108	Building N, north-west elevation
171	6/35	109	Building N, north-east elevation, west end
172	6/34	110	Building N, north-east elevation, east end
173	6/33		Building N, north-east elevation from east
174	6/32		Building N, modern structures to rear, looking north-west
175	6/31	111	Building N, south-east elevation, looking east
176	6/30	119	Building O, south-east elevation from east
177	6/29	122	Building O, south-east elevation, detail of front door
178	6/28		Building O, north-east elevation
179	6/27	120	Building O, north-east elevation
180	6/26		Building O, south-west elevation from south
181	6/25	121	Building O, south-west elevation
182	6/24	102	Building M, treatment room M2 looking south-east
183	6/23		Building M, treatment room M2 looking north
184	6/22	103	Building M, office M3, detail of window
185	6/21	104	Building M, gym M6, looking north
186	6/20		Building M, gym M6, looking south
187	6/19		Building M, Room M7 looking north
188	6/18	105	Building M, Room M7 looking south
189	6/17	106	Building M, corridor M8, looking south-west
190	6/16		Building M, Room M9 looking west
191	6/15	107	Building M, Room M9 looking east
192	7/20	125	Building O ground floor, office O2, looking north-east
193	7/19	123	Building O ground floor, hall O1, looking north-west
194	7/18	126	Building O ground floor, office O3, looking north-east
195	7/17		Building O ground floor, kitchen O4, looking north-east
196	7/16		Building O ground floor, office O5, looking north-east
197	7/15	124	Building O ground floor, hall O1, detail of stairs

Shot	Neg.	Plate	Subject
198	7/14		Building O ground floor, hall O6, looking north-west
199	7/13		Building O attic, room O17 looking west
200	7/12	132	Building O attic, room O17 looking east
201	7/11	131	Building O attic, landing O16 looking north-west
202	7/10	133	Building O attic, rear roof space looking north-west
203	7/9		Building O first floor, office O13, looking south
204	7/8		Building O first floor, office O13, looking north
205	7/7		Building O first floor, office O14, looking west
206	7/6		Building O first floor, landing O12 looking north-west
207	7/5	128	Building O first floor, landing O12 looking south-east
208	7/4		Building O first floor, office O15, looking west
209	7/3		Building O first floor, office O11, looking north
210	7/2		Building O first floor, landing O8 looking north-west
211	7/1		Building O first floor, landing O8 looking south-east
212	8/36	129	Building O first floor, office O9, looking east
213	8/35		Building O first floor, office O9, looking south
214	8/34	130	Building O first floor, office O10, looking east
215	8/33	112	Building N ground floor, foyer N1 looking south-east
216	8/32	113	Building N ground floor, office N3 looking east
217	8/31		Building N ground floor, office N2 looking north-east
218	8/30		Building N ground floor, office N4 looking south-west
219	8/29		Building N ground floor, office N5 looking north-west
220	8/28		Building N ground floor, room adjacent to stairs, looking east
221	8/27	115	Building N ground floor, north-west stairs
222	8/26	116	Building N ground floor, room N8 looking south-west
223	8/25		Building N ground floor, kitchen N7, looking north-east
224	8/24	114	Building N ground floor, corridor N6 looking north-west
225	8/23		Building N ground floor, south-east stairs
226	8/22	117	Building N first floor, corridor N9 looking south-east
227	8/21	118	Building N first floor, corridor N10 looking south-east
228	8/20	119	Building N first floor, room N12 looking south-west
229	8/19		Building N first floor, room N13 looking south-west

Photo locations are shown in Figs 21 - 25, below. A CDROM containing copies of all the digital photos listed above is included in the back cover of this report



Figure 21: Main hospital building, photo locations (scale 1:500)



**Figure 22:** Main hospital building, upper floor photo locations (scale 1:200)



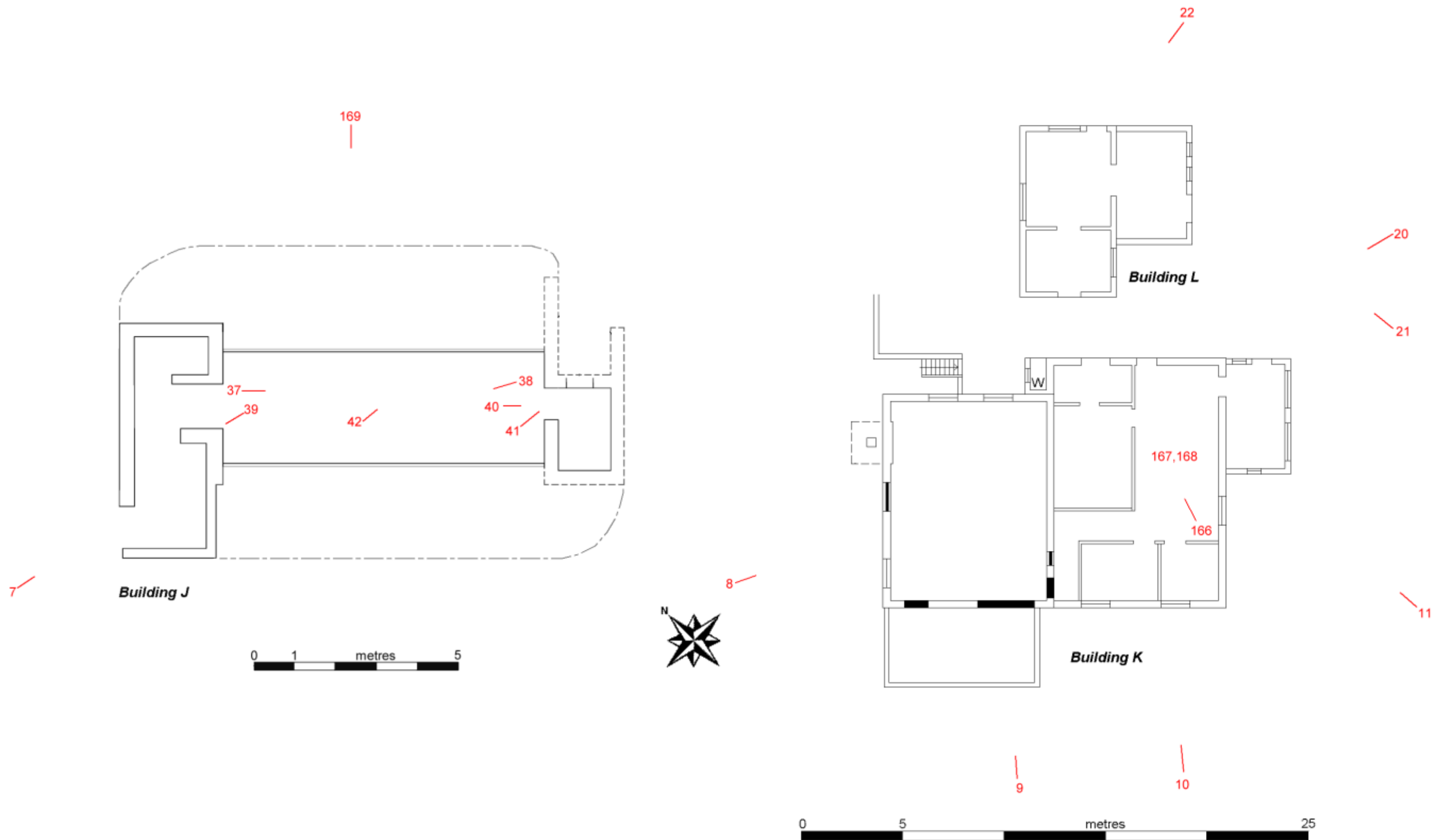


Figure 23: Buildings J, K & L, photo location plans (scales as shown)

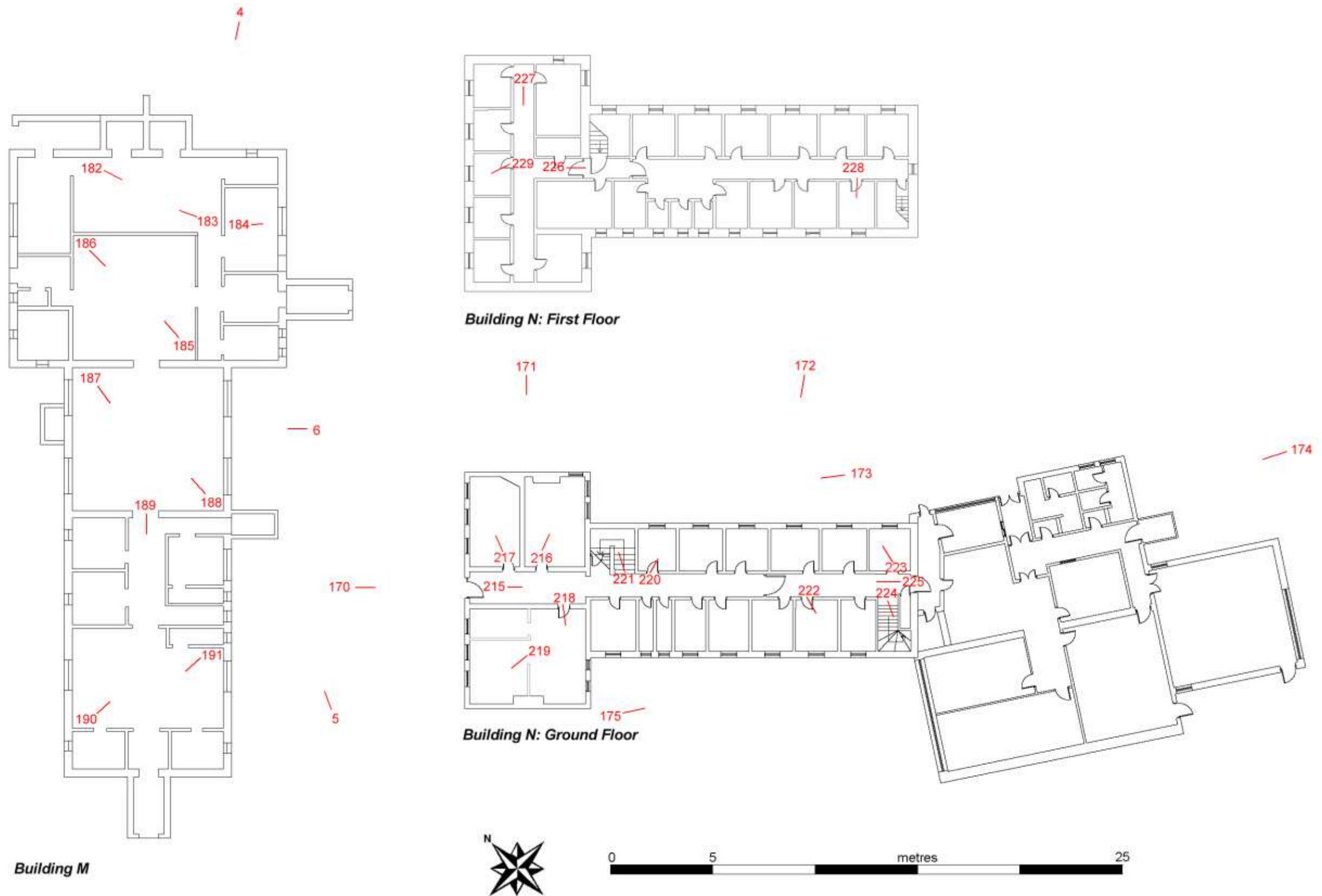
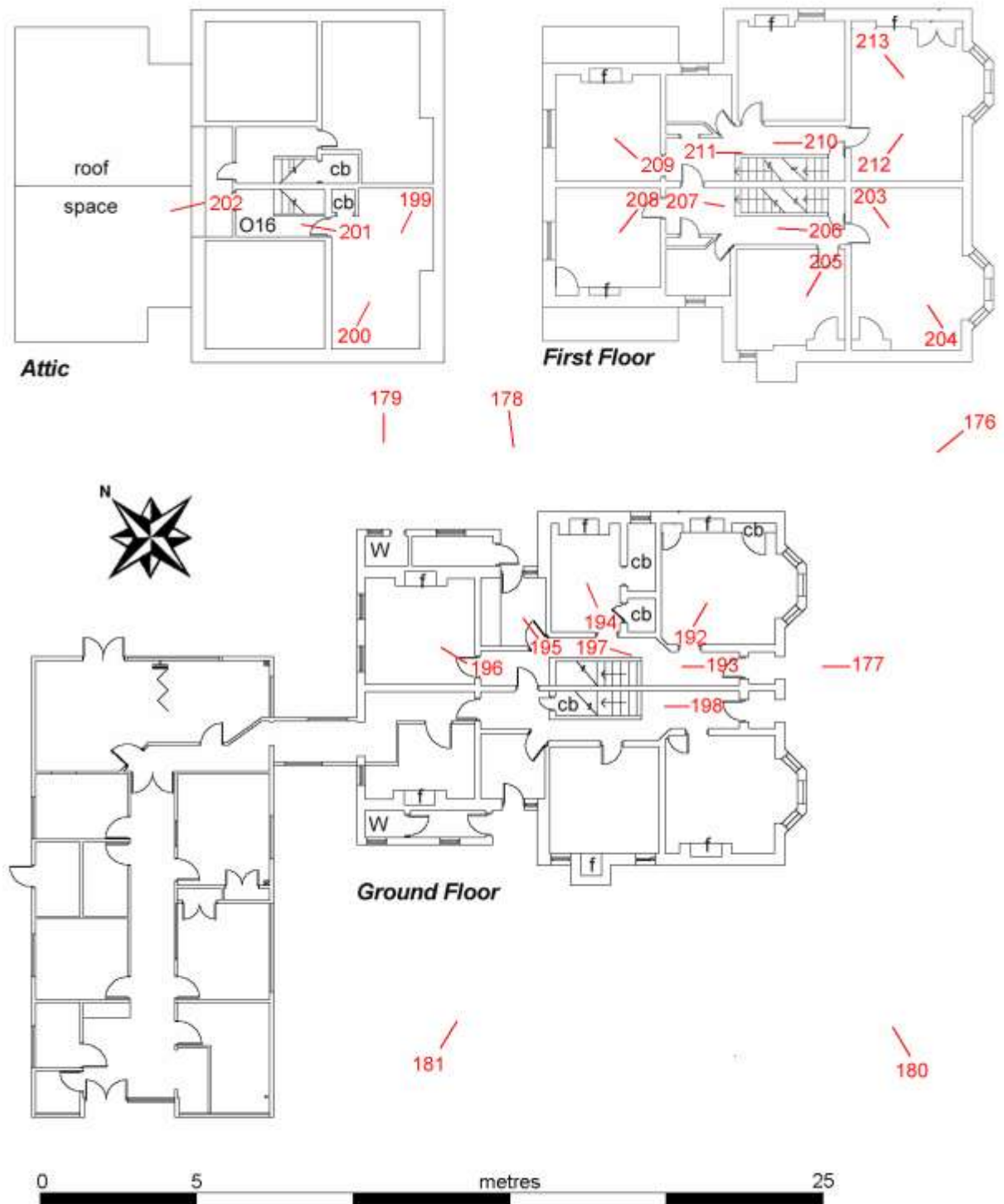


Figure 24: Buildings M & N, photo location plans (scales as shown)



**Figure 25:** Building O, photo location plans (*scale as shown*)

## Appendix 3: RCHME Report, 1992

**KENT**  
**ASHFORD DISTRICT**  
**ASHFORD**  
**KING'S AVENUE**  
**ASHFORD HOSPITAL**

**NBR No: 101323**  
**NGR: TR 002 431**

### SUMMARY

This small general hospital, built in 1926-8 to designs by Edward A. Jackson, of Ashford, comprises a two-storey brick administration block, connected by a long central corridor to similar ward blocks behind. There are also a nurses' home, an old boiler house, and a mortuary. Wartime additions include a brick-built gas decontamination plant (now a physiotherapy department) and an underground shelter. Recent developments include a new day hospital.

### REPORT

Ashford Hospital was designed by Edward A. Jackson, a local architect, and built between 1926 and 1928 on a site at the end of King's Avenue, to the south of Chart Road. The hospital opened in 1928 with 90 beds (Kelly 1938: foundation stone at hospital).

The hospital has many wartime and recent additions, but appears to have originally comprised a two-storey administration block (building 01 on attached plan), connected by a long central corridor to ward wings (02) to the north, with detached nurses' home (03), boiler house (04), mortuary (05) and operating theatre (06, now demolished).

The administration block (01) is a two-storey building, in a simple neo-Georgian style, faced with red brick at the front but of plain stock brick at the rear. The hipped roof is of slate. The central bay, which advances slightly, is crowned by a broken pediment, and has a stone entrance porch with Tuscan Doric columns and a segmental pediment. The fenestration is modern, and there are single-storey, flat-roofed additions at either side of the building, probably of wartime origin.

The original ward blocks (02) are plain two-storey buildings of stock brick with hipped slate roofs. Single-storey ward blocks to the rear have recently been upgraded, with modern verandas, and may be of a later date. The nurses' home (03) is in a similar style to the administration block, again faced in red brick at the front but in stock brick at the rear, with a simple stone entrance porch. A plainer, flat-roofed addition at the rear, solely of stock brick, may again be of wartime origin. The old boiler house (04) and mortuary (05) are simple red brick buildings, with steeply-pitched slate roofs and top lights.

To the east of the main hospital buildings, and partly hidden by a dip in the ground, is a large, mainly single-storey brick building (07). This was erected during World War Two as a gas decontamination plant and is now used as the hospital's physiotherapy department. Adjacent to it is the brick-built entrance to an underground bomb shelter (08).

Modern additions to the site include a new day hospital.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER SOURCES

Kelly's *Directory of Kent*, 1938  
(OS) Ordnance Survey of 1972

Site visited by Colin Thom and Harriet Richardson, 20 Jan. 1993  
Report by Colin Thom, June 1993

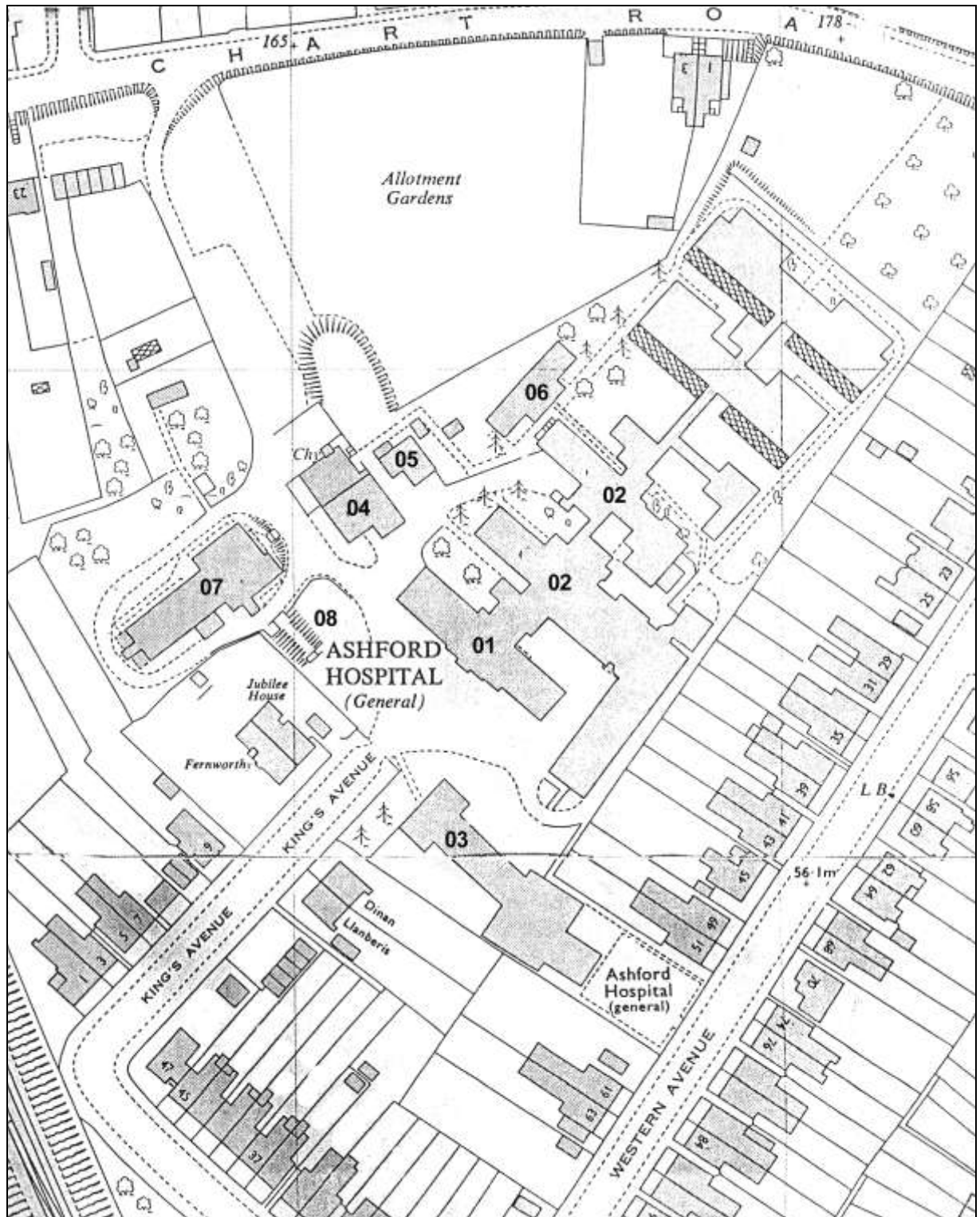


Figure 26: Key to RCHME report (scale 1:1,250)

## Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Ashford Hospital, Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent		
Short Description:	<p>In May and June 2009 an historic building survey was undertaken of the buildings at Ashford Hospital, Kings Avenue, Ashford, in order to achieve a record of the site prior to demolition and redevelopment of the site, and to inform decisions regarding the future of a WW2 air raid shelter within the hospital grounds.</p> <p>Ashford Hospital was built between 1926 and 1928, to a design by a local architect, Edward A Jackson. It was funded by public subscription, and opened in 1928, with a capacity of 90 beds. Its design was based on the pavilion-plan hospital that originated on the Continent in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. From a two-storey neo-Georgian style administration block, an axial corridor nearly 100m in length provided access to separate theatre, casualty, domestic, obstetrics and ward blocks. Ancillary buildings comprised a mortuary, laundry and nurses' home.</p> <p>Jubilee House, comprising two brick-built semi-detached houses adjoining the hospital, was given by the town to the hospital in May 1935. During WW2 a gas decontamination unit and associated air raid shelter were constructed in the hospital grounds. Following the war and the establishment of the National Health Service, many additions were made to the hospital in the 1950s and 1960s, including extensions to the wards, an outpatients' department, a boiler house and a large detached rest room/dining room. The former decontamination unit became the physiotherapy department and nurses' training centre. In the 1970s a second operating theatre was constructed, along with an incinerator.</p> <p>In the late 1970s the site ceased to function as a general hospital. Following a programme of refurbishment and conversion, the hospital was officially reopened in 1980 as a hospital for the elderly. The nurses' home, which had been significantly extended to the rear, became the Community Health offices. Jubilee House, also extended to the rear, became a children's clinic.</p> <p>The hospital closed in the late 1990s, and all re-useable fixtures and fittings were removed. By the time of the survey the site was heavily overgrown, and suffering badly from lack of maintenance and vandalism. Only the Community Health offices and Jubilee House remained in use.</p>		
Project Type:	Historic building recording		
Site status:	none	Previous work:	none
Current land use:	Disused hospital	Future work:	Not known
Monument type:	hospital	Monument period:	20 <sup>th</sup> century
Significant finds:			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Kent	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TR 0026 4307
District:	Ashford Borough	Parish:	Ashford (unparished)
Site address:	Ashford Hospital, Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1LU		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	2.4ha	Height OD: (metres)	60
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Wendy Rogers, KCC	Project design originator:	N/a
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Eastern & Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	May 2009	End date:	June 2009

<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	To be confirmed	None	
Paper:		Historical & survey notes, historical & survey illustrations, RCHME report, KCC brief, ASC report	
Digital:		CD with copies of all digital files	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Historic Building Recording: Old Ashford Hospital, King's Avenue, Ashford, Kent		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1177/AAH/1		
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA		
Page nos	95	Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2009