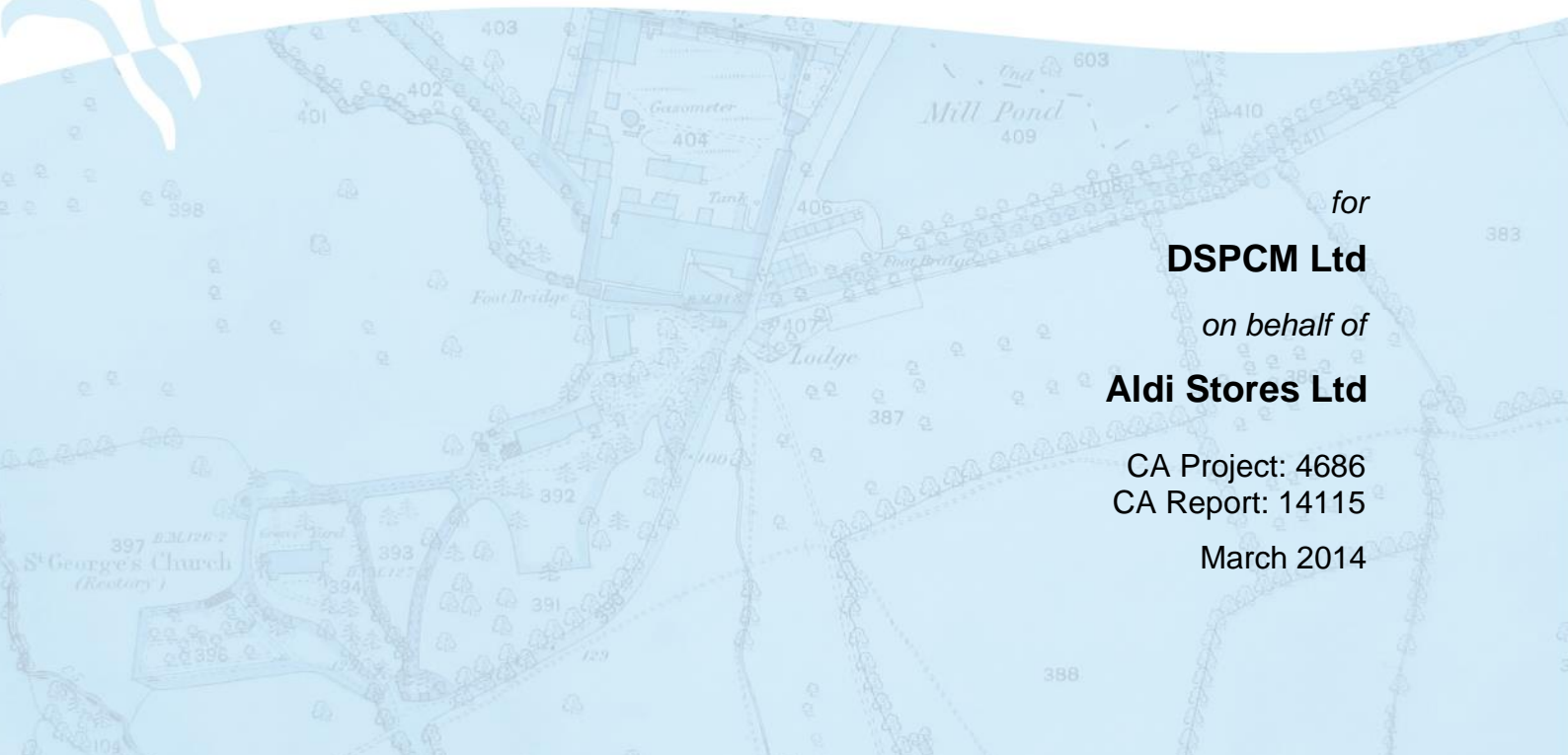


**Longfield Place  
Plymouth  
Devon**

Historic Building Recording




for  
**DSPCM Ltd**  
on behalf of  
**Aldi Stores Ltd**

CA Project: 4686  
CA Report: 14115  
March 2014

# Longfield Place Plymouth Devon

## Historic Building Recording

CA Project: 4686  
CA Report: 14115

prepared by	Peter Davenport Historic Buildings Consultant
date	31 March 2014
checked by	Duncan Coe, Senior Heritage Consultant
date	April 2014
approved by	Duncan Coe, Senior Heritage Consultant
signed	
date	April 2014
issue	01

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<b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ <b>t.</b> 01285 771022 <b>f.</b> 01285 771033	<b>Milton Keynes</b> Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS <b>t.</b> 01908 218320	<b>Andover</b> Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH
<b>e.</b> <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>		

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Longfield Place  
**Location:** Greenbanks, Plymouth  
**NGR:** SX 48601 55433  
**Type:** Historic Building Recording

Plymouth Prison was built on a new site in 1849 by Fuller and Gingell at the beginning of their distinguished careers. It remained a prison until c. 1930. The site of the men's exercise yard was built over as a laundry for the nearby City Hospitals (Greenbank Hospital) by 1933 and the prison wings were converted into police headquarters, magistrates courts and an ambulance station by 1935. A fire station was built on the southern quarter of the prison enclosure at this time (since rebuilt), resulting in the first and major loss of prison boundary wall, although the stretch along Longfield Road had been rebuilt on a new alignment between 1893 and 1907. The police moved out in 1976 and the south-eastern wing they had occupied was taken over by the NHS. They moved out in the early 1990s and the other services also left at around this time, except for the fire service, who still remain on site. An assessment in 1996 showed the complex was in good condition (but not including the laundry which was not included in the assessment), but it has since deteriorated to the extent that the interiors are completely derelict and in parlous structural condition. In 2007, after partial demolition, the remaining structures were Listed Grade II. This report treats the remains of the north-west range of the 1849 prison (demolished to ground floor level) and the laundry built by 1933.

The basement of the north-west wing contained services, but not cells (which did exist in the other wings). It retained some evidence of the major alterations of 1933-5.

The laundry was a new build of c.1930, essentially a steel-framed, north-lit shed, but incorporated some otherwise unrecorded stone structures added to the prison after 1867. It was very plain and its only exposed elevation was in a minimalist Art-deco style typical of the 1930s. It was itself much altered in a modernist idiom, probably between the later 1950s and the 1970s. Some laundry equipment was left in place. This appeared to date to the same period.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2013 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by DSPCM Ltd, on behalf of Aldi Stores Ltd, to carry out a programme of Historic Building Recording on buildings at Longfield Place/Greenbanks Road, Plymouth (centred at SX 48601 55433, Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for demolition of the former Laundry Building and repair and conversion of former Greenbank Prison (and Annexe) to provide 65 self-contained student flats, construction of 1,410m<sup>2</sup> food store and associated access off Greenbank Road, parking and landscaping was granted by Plymouth City Council (ref: 13/01103/FUL & 13/01104/LBC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work as follows:
- *(22) No part of the development allowed by this permission shall be commenced until the applicant (or their agent or his successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, to include a buildings recording programme, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme and in accordance with other such details as may subsequently be agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.*
- 1.3 This report describes the results of a building recording programme on that part of the site that will be occupied by the new Aldi Store and the car parking for it. It does not cover the conversion of the standing prison building to student accommodation. That will be dealt with in another report.
- 1.4 A brief for this programme of works was produced by Plymouth City Council Historic Environment Officer, Mr Mike Daniels (PCC 2013), and Cotswold Archaeology produced a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) to meet its requirements (CA 2014). Mr Daniels approved the WSI as the basis for the work.



## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.85ha, and occupies the site of the remains of the former Greenbank Prison built in 1849 (Fig. 2). The prison buildings were partly demolished prior to listing at Grade II in 2007. The surviving ranges are badly affected by vandalism, arson and water ingress. The building is positioned facing, but set back from, Greenbank Road, with a secondary entrance off Longfield Place (Fig. 2). The site borders Greenbank Road to the south-west, Longfield Place to the south-east, the rear of the properties along Kensington Road to the north-east and Greenbank Cottages to the north-west.
- 2.2 A large former laundry building occupies the eastern corner of the site. This building has lost much of its roof covering and is derelict. The north-west side of the site is empty, all buildings here having been demolished, and had become derelict and over-grown. This overgrowth was removed by the developers prior to our site visits. The former prison wall remains in place for parts of the site boundary, especially along Greenbank Road and behind Kensington Road. The former section has been reduced in height. The owner (Aldi) also owns a section of land to the north-west of the site to the rear of Greenbank Cottages, but this does not form part of the development site.
- 2.3 As the site is being developed by two separate owners, this report only deals with that part in the ownership of Aldi Stores Ltd, i.e. the demolished north-west wing of the prison and the Laundry Building.
- 2.4 The site lies at approximately 61-63m AOD. The site is fairly level, but there is a consistent difference of just over a metre in ground level between the site and the residential properties that back on to it from Kensington Road. This presumably results from the levelling-up of the prison site, and the natural downward slope of the ground to the north-east.
- 2.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as “Torpoint Formation; Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 359 to 385 million years ago in the Devonian Period. This indicates a local environment previously dominated by open seas and pelagite deposits” (BGS).

### 3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the work was to produce a record of the building complex in its current state, comprising drawings, photographs and a written description including a discussion of the buildings' historical development.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The work followed the provisions of the WSI which was guided in its composition by the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008), the Brief produced by Plymouth City Council Historic Environment Officer (PCC 2013), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).
- 4.2 The work on site was carried out during two visits on the 13th and 14th of March 2014, conditions on both visits were dry and mostly bright. Major Demolition and construction work had not yet begun on the site, except that the Laundry building had been cleaned of asbestos.
- 4.3 Historic documents, especially historic maps and site plans, were consulted to give a documented chronology to the changes seen in the fabric.
- 4.4 The site and some building plans and elevations were provided by DSPCM Ltd and modified and annotated by CA. In addition, CA carried out an REDM survey of the Laundry building supplemented by hand measurement. The basement rooms were already plotted on the DSPCM surveys but more detailed measurements were taken.
- 4.5 The photographic record consisted of digital photographs of the interior, exterior and structural and architectural details, taken with a Canon 24Mp SLR camera, supplemented with a Panasonic 14Mp pocket camera.

## 5. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

### *The North-west range*

- 5.1 This was the north-west wing of the prison built to the designs of Fuller and Gingell in 1849. All that now survives of this block is the semi-basement capped by a concrete floor (Figs 3 and 5). The external walls were largely obscured by demolition rubble, although the highest part of them was visible above the scree (Fig. 6).
- 5.2 Comparing the 1856 OS survey (Fig. 8) with the present day survey shows that the visible walls represent the longer south-western side of the range, the shorter north-east range not being visible on the ground. The extent of the latter north-west to south-east seems to be indicated by the length of north-east wall with no facing (Fig. 7).
- 5.3 The concrete floor of this block covers a stone slab floor, visible in places around the edge of the block. The concrete itself presumably dates to the 1930s changes. It will have contained evidence of the layout of rooms in that period, but was obscured by debris, vegetation and building materials. It was evident, nonetheless, that there was no stair to the basement within this part of the building in the 1930s and later.
- 5.4 Access to the basement rooms seems to have been from the corridors assumed to underlie those shown on the ground floor plan of 1856 (Fig. 8). The only stairs shown on this plan (admittedly small scale but quite detailed) are external to the north-east wing, clearly leading down to a basement area in the canted junction of the north-east and south-east wings.
- 5.5 Basement cells are known to have existed in these wings, but were not clearly described in Pye and Rance 1996, 6. Their Fig 7 shows the ground-floor cells in the north-east wing (their East wing) ranged either side of a wide corridor matching, as they say, the plan of 1856. The central pier in that photograph may or may not be an insert. No such pier is shown in the 1856 plan (Fig. 8)
- 5.6 Their Fig. 8 shows the basement cells off the corridor under the south-east range (their South range). These cells only occupy the north-western quarter of the range. This may be the original layout as there are no windows in the basement in the adjacent section of this range on the north-east side (these cells currently also have no windows but this is the result of their being blocked up).
- 5.7 The arrangement under the north-west range seems to have been quite different. What survived at basement level during our site visits seems to have been a room

and a corridor underlying the wide ground floor corridor as it entered the north-west wing and three rooms plus a lobby on the south-west side of it (Fig. 3).

- 5.8 These were revealed by partial clearance of demolition rubble from the southeast face of the basement structure. There was no sign of the existence of further structures at this level, although further rooms ranked north-west of Cellar 1 could have been reached by the supposed corridor (Fig. 3).
- 5.9 The room under the corridor (Fig. 3, Cellar 1) had been truncated to the south-east but seems never to have extended further north-west than its present extent, marked by a solid rubble wall with no openings in it. Its present south-eastern extent was marked by a brick wall (Fig. 9).
- 5.10 The latter was clearly a secondary feature as the ceiling of the room was a jack vault of brick supported on an iron girder, another bay of which, fragmentarily visible within Cellar 1, had been cut away for the insertion of the brick wall (Fig. 10).
- 5.11 This later brick wall seems to have run between the original stone walls on the south-west and the north-east (Fig. 3). Whether it ran across the supposed corridor blocking it, or contained a door to it, or stopped short, could not be determined.
- 5.12 The jack vault of Cellar 1 continued for one more bay south-eastwards. The stub of a wall on the north-east face of the central block was the south-eastern wall of this particular room and had clearly supported the truncated jack vault (Figs 3 and 11).
- 5.13 This stub wall lined up nicely with the end of the straight section of north-east corridor-wall at the ground floor where it was then canted at 45 degrees to meet the north-west wall of the corridor of the north-east wing (Figs 3 and 8). How the rest of this trapezoidal space at the junction of the three ranges was ceiled is presently irrecoverable, but was very likely vaulted. Gingell vaulted a similar space at the Bristol General Hospital just a few years later with shallow, intersecting barrel-vaults (CA 2013).
- 5.14 The other three cellars (2-4) were originally reached though an arched doorway in the south-west end of Cellar 1 (Figs 3 and 12). The door had no proper jambs but the arched head was in brick. This doorway is now closed up with concrete blockwork. The doorway was widened at some point prior to this.
- 5.15 The cellars are now reached from a sort of lobby. This was constructed relatively recently, certainly post-World War II, by lining a light well of the original design with

- neatly laid concrete blockwork and roofing it with precast concrete roof slabs (Figs 3 and 13). Access to it was from the north-east through what appears to have been originally a window borrowing light from this well (Fig. 9). The window was narrowed when the concrete lining was set in place, but is it not clear that it was lengthened, as the base was partly covered in debris but some kind of sill is still in place.
- 5.16 The window had a stone head with a keystone, ashlar jambs and a brick rear arch (Fig. 9). All of the architectural dressing in the building above ground is render, but at basement level, presumably because of concerns with damp, they appear to have been of stone.
- 5.17 The doorway from this lobby into Cellar 2 was very plain, similar to that between Cellars 1 and 2. It was closed by a modern iron grill door but a substantial groove for some kind of earlier door frame was visible in the jambs (Figs 3 and 12). This suggests that the cellar was somehow accessible from the light well earlier.
- 5.18 Cellar 2 had a canted southern angle reflecting the ground floor plan (Figs 3 and 8). It was ceiled with a shallow, unpainted brick barrel-vault (Fig. 12). It had no other openings.
- 5.19 Cellars 3 and 4 were very similar but were rectangular in plan, and again contained no windows. A difference was that they had no doorways except those connecting them with each other and Cellar 2. These were insertions in the sense that they had concrete block jambs and a concrete lintel and there was no sign of an earlier doorway (Fig. 14). If they were not complete replacements of older doorways (i.e. leaving no older traces), then the only access would have been the manholes or chutes in the vaults towards the north-east end. These are now blocked with similar brick to the vault (Fig. 15). These chutes would have appeared in the floors of the south-western range of rooms in the north-western range. These were marked as “cells” in the 1856 OS plan.
- 5.20 At the north-west end of the block the originally external wall was plastered and painted (Fig. 16). This was clearly the result of the addition of the buildings to the north-west end of this block in the 1920s or 30s (before 1933, see Pye and Rance 1996, figs 2 3 and 8). The floor level shown was lower than in the older block, and reflects that implied by the window levels in Pye and Rance 1996, fig. 3, showing this addition and the older work.

- 5.21 Also visible at this end was a concrete-capped and stone-walled pipe duct running along the middle of the north-west range (Fig. 16). Its south-west wall was the south-west wall of the central corridor, the opposite one being built for the duct, of thin, sandstone slabs in cement mortar. Plywood and other timber shuttering was still in place.
- 5.22 The other end of this duct was noted cutting through the brick vault of Cellar 1, built of brick and supported on steel girders (Fig. 17). It did not continue beyond the south-east wall of Cellar 1 and is presumed to have ended and the pipes emerged upwards.
- 5.23 The prison walls survive in places around the site. The 1849 entrance on Greenbank Road was demolished in 1947 (Fig. 40) and it was probably then that the walls along Greenbank Road were reduced in height (Fig. 41). The walls forming the north-east boundary are still in place largely at their full height.

***Buildings later than 1867 and pre-dating the laundry***

- 5.24 The brick shed of the laundry (described below) incorporated elements of older stone buildings that are not part of the prison as mapped in 1867, and in some cases can be seen to abut the prison building walls. As the interior of the prison was not mapped again until 1933, the date of these structures within that range is not known. However, the use of neat rangework in both of these buildings and the realigned prison wall (para 5.38 below) suggests a similar date range.
- 5.25 A stone-built range was added to the rear of the south-east range (Fig. 4). This was rough rubble-built on the interior but neat rangework on the exterior (Figs. 18 and 19). Its eaves had a continuous ashlar stone corbel table. A lower range of similar style seemed to be contemporary and extended from its north-west side (Fig. 18). A doorway opened into it from the taller range and its north-eastern wall either fell on the line of the later laundry or was truncated to fit and was incorporated into it (Fig. 4).
- 5.26 The brick wall of the laundry continued across the line of the main stone range (Fig. 4) indicating that the gable end of this building was too far north-east to be used and the building had therefore been truncated when the laundry was built. This indicates that the building was originally probably T-shaped .
- 5.27 The present roof of the main range was of light gauge steelwork similar to the main shed, but heavy stone corbels in the side walls and in the rebuilt brick gable end

suggest that that an earlier trussed timber roof was retained at first (Figs 20 and 21). Such a roof suggests a 19th-century date for this T-shaped building.

- 5.28 The smaller range was divided into three rooms. The division of the south-eastern half into two dates from the use of concrete blocks, probably mid or late 20th century (Fig. 4). The north-western room was inaccessible as the only doors into it were bricked up. It had been reduced in width and new walls built in brick (Figs 4 and 22).
- 5.29 The north-western wall of the main stone range of the T-shaped building was pierced by a number of openings. The south-western door is an inserted one with a brick-arched head and brick jambs, and is now blocked up in concrete blockwork (Figs 4 and 23).
- 5.30 Next to it is the stone ashlar jamb of an original doorway with a corbel at its head. This supports an iron girder, spanning a double width opening whose other end is resting on a similarly-shaped corbel but made of brick and on brick jambs (Fig. 23). It seems probable that this represents a widening of an earlier opening.
- 5.31 The opening has been bricked up with a central pier to support a steel inserted into the wall above it to support a water tank (Fig. 23 and cf Figs 19 and 21). Another door to the north-east was inserted when the concrete dividing wall was built in the arm of the T to provide access to the new room (para 5.28 and Figs 4 and 23). The wide central door from this main room into the main laundry shed was reduced in width at some point in concrete block (Figs 4 and 20).
- 5.32 There was no sign of an original doorway to this main added stone range and certainly no access from the south-eastern prison range. The building must have been entered from its now vanished north-east end or from the arm of the T.
- 5.33 Other changes included a new door into the narrow yard between the laundry and the south-east range, using similar bricks to in its jambs to the main shed (Fig. 19), the addition of an external room in stone in the western angle of the T and the blocking of the windows and doors in the re-entrant, rebuilt, brick walls of the smaller arm of the T (Figs 4, 18 and 22).
- 5.34 The north-eastern section of prison wall, near where the bulge returns to the straight alignment, contains a coped gable. This represents a small building that butted up to the wall here. This was demolished before the laundry was built, but appears on OS maps until today (Fig. 24).

### ***The laundry***

- 5.35 The prison was finally closed in the early '30s. The mapping of 1933 does not label the property (all previous mapping has H.M. Prison), but does label the Laundry and shows the extensions added to the northern end of the north-west wing (Fig. 25).
- 5.36 The map also shows some minor alterations to the south-eastern end of the south-eastern wing which are not visible in the 19th century prison plans, but which are not those commissioned for the police in 1933 (PWDRO 1933) and completed in 1935 (Pye and Rance 1996, 5). As all previous OS mapping between 1867 and 1914 shows no interior detail of the prison, this resource cannot tell us when these changes took place.
- 5.37 The plain style of all the added buildings that survived the 1935 changes is hard to date, but suggests a late 19th/early 20th-century date (Pye and Rance 1996, figs 2 and 3).
- 5.38 One change that was mapped earlier is the realignment of the prison wall along Longfield Place. Until after 1893, the first time that the houses on the same side of Longfield Place as the prison are shown, the prison boundary projected around 8 feet (2.24m) beyond their building line (Fig. 26). The mapping of 1907 shows it cut back to its present position, in line with the neighbouring houses, presumably as part of the extension and realignment of Longfield Place through what had been the long, narrow and dead-end access yard between the prison and the workhouse, to link up to Greenbank Road.
- 5.39 This realignment explains the very different stonework in the otherwise carefully replicated rebuilt prison wall, along Longfield Place (Fig. 27). This wall has a small entrance door and several lorry loading doors, but all appear to be insertions dating to the 1920s or 30s (or even later), especially the Art Deco pedestrian access (Fig. 28).
- 5.40 The block along Longfield Place has been extensively rebuilt, but both it and the original laundry retained the rebuilt prison wall as the Longfield Place ground floor elevation and the original prison wall along the north-eastern side (Figs 4 and 27).
- 5.41 The laundry was inserted into the eastern corner of the prison grounds by 1933 (Fig. 25). Stylistically and technically, as far as can be judged from the very plain structure, it must date to shortly before this date. It was built as the laundry for the Plymouth City Hospital which was across the street from the prison, next to the



workhouse. It was in use until the hospital moved to Derriford in 1981 and seems to have been abandoned and derelict since.

- 5.42 The laundry was a steel-framed single-storey structure with a saw-tooth, north-light roof of five rows aligned north-west/south-east (Figs 4 and 29). This is presently clad in plastic translucent roofing, much of which is missing and damaged. It is presumed that the roof was originally of some material such as corrugated asbestos or steel sheet with north-east facing glazing.
- 5.43 The roof, as designed, was supported on four rows of steel, H-section stanchions and slightly heavier gauge stanchions along the walls, dividing this section of the building into eight bays (Figs 4, 29). Each bay was marked at roof level by a simple truss of riveted angle iron (Fig. 30).
- 5.44 The carcass of the building was of 9" brick where it could not make use of earlier structures (paras 5.24 et seq above). The main north-light room was rectangular in plan and included older structures where their walls coincided: along the north-east side, where part of the prison wall was utilised (Figs 4 and 31), and along the north-western end of the south-western wall where the earlier stone structure was incorporated (Figs 4 and 32).
- 5.45 The irregular space on the north-east side where the prison wall bulged out in plan was occupied by ancillary rooms and yards, some of which changed character over the years (Figs 4, and 33). On the south-west side the stone structures were re-roofed and modified adding significant space to the laundry building.
- 5.46 The simple and logical layout of the roof supports was modified at a later date. Most of the north-east row was removed, leaving only two stanchions. No attempt seems to have been made to strengthen the structure which was left to span more than double what was designed (Fig. 4).
- 5.47 The next row had several stanchions removed but in one case a stanchion was moved to make a pair and heavier girders were set in place of the original arcade plates (Fig. 30).
- 5.48 The next was the least disturbed, but had the north-western-most stanchion moved next to its neighbour, in the same bay as the pair mentioned above, and the arcade plates were again replaced with deeper ones. The south-western row was completely removed.

- 5.49 The floor had been renewed in places, but it was possible to see the marks where some stanchions had been removed.
- 5.50 This rearrangement of the structure of the building must have been related to the installation of new machinery and processes. Some stanchions and metal work, painted blue to distinguish it from the yellow-painted structural members, were clearly installed at this time to support machinery. This is common in the south-western side of the laundry shed (Fig. 34), but particularly so in the south-eastern end of the range along Longfield Place, next to be described.
- 5.51 It is assumed that the shed extended all the way to the Longfield Place boundary wall when first built. However, this part of the site is now occupied by a two-storey concrete and steel, stone-clad structure (Figs 4, 27 and 39). At the ground floor the interior is open to the shed (Fig. 29) and divided into two by a concrete block wall running back from the street frontage (Figs 4 and 35).
- 5.52 North-east of the wall the space is clear of machinery and contains an enclosed sunken loading bay, originally reached from a large door at street level, with a roller shutter, but now closed up with concrete blocks (Figs 4 and 35). The loading platform of a lorry backed into this bay would have been at interior floor level. A steel-caged ladder in the northern corner leads up through a hatch into the first floor (Fig. 35). This was not visited for health and safety reasons.
- 5.53 This section of the frontage block is constructed in heavy, reinforced-concrete beams and columns supporting a concrete floor, all cast *in situ* (Fig. 35). South-west of the dividing wall, the first floor is supported by steel stanchions and beams, clearly of a different design from the shed structure, and supporting a floor of precast concrete slabs (Fig. 36).
- 5.54 It is not clear if this difference in construction represents a difference in date, but it may be that the steel and pre-cast slab construction is an inserted floor in a tall, two-storey high room. The girders supporting the first floor are themselves supported on girding beams bolted into the concrete walls and piers similar to those in the north-east end, suggesting a secondary work. Again, the upstairs was not visited for health and safety reasons.
- 5.55 The machinery in this part of the building was complex, and only partly surviving, but seems to represent some sort of heavily built conveyor system for dealing with laundry and descending from, or ascending to, the upper floor (Figs 4 and 37). its

- detailed functions are not known, but stylistically would appear to be of 1960s date or later.
- 5.56 As the base of this conveyor is by one of the loading doors from the street, it may be that it was used to take dirty laundry in bags to the upper floor for sorting. A large platform hoist by the rest of the equipment may have been used to bring it down for processing (Fig. 38).
- 5.57 The water tanks and pipe systems clearly represent the plumbing required for the laundry, but detailed analysis of the processes used in the building have not been attempted. It is clear that these were not the ones for which the building was designed in c. 1930, it having been massively altered for new machinery introduced in the 1950s or later.
- 5.58 Externally the concrete and steel Longfield Place block is visible only at first floor level where it is a windowless, rectangular block apparently with a flat roof and clad in rusticated, stone range work (Figs 27 and 39). The south-western wall, south-east of the 1930s brickwork, is of similar construction, facing concrete blockwork (Fig. 4). Below the abutting roofline of the older shed the walls are of concrete blockwork throughout.
- 5.59 The canopied loading door on the southern corner of the building also belongs to this phase of work, being first cut through the 1930s work and, later on, blocked in (Figs 39 and 37).
- 5.60 This work is clearly post-Second World War and probably later 1950s-70s. It's construction may coincide with installation of the machinery presently on site, although in some cases must somewhat precede it
- 5.61 There are four doors and a window in the old prison wall (Figs 27 and 39). The small pedestrian door (Fig. 28) and the door blocked in stone are almost certainly part of the original laundry design, the former on stylistic grounds, and the latter because it was rendered unusable by the present disposition of machinery and structural supports (Fig. 4). The north-eastern door to the sunken loading bay is blocked with concrete blockwork, presumably post 1981. The south-western door is still functioning with a roller-shutter door and avoids the steel framing inside. All the openings are insertions into the realigned wall.
- 5.62 The curved south-west corner of the prison wall presumably dates to the rebuild of 1935 when the rest of the wall was removed and the fire station and police station

access was created. It may have been built in 1930/33 however, in anticipation of the 1935 work (Fig. 39). The canopied “porch” on the south-west return with a pedestrian door and a roller-shutter door are contemporary with the upper floor of the laundry. It is not visible on the 1951 OS mapping (or indeed later mapping). Access from it to the main laundry space is now closed off to vehicles by a concrete block wall (Fig. 37) and it contains stands for machinery.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The basement rooms in the north-west range were clearly not cells. They may have been coal cellars but access to them was very limited. They were brick-vaulted and window-less. It seems probable that the basement was not co-extensive with the ground floor and only had rooms at the south-east end. The area at the junction of the three ranges, now mostly demolished, but including Cellar 1 seems to have been brick vaulted and include some jack vaulting. Unlike the ground floor, this area was not all one open space. They had undergone significant change before the demolition, probably in the 1933-5 campaign, and certainly later.
- 6.2 There was no direct access from the ground floor to the basement in any wing.
- 6.3 A set of stone buildings were erected after 1867 and before 1933 on the north-east side of the south-east wing. They abutted it but there was no direct access from one to the other. The purpose of these buildings is unknown but were presumably service buildings. The similarity of the rangework facing of these walls with the realigned prison wall suggests a similar date range, i.e. 1893-1907.
- 6.4 These stone buildings were incorporated where possible in the new laundry block, built in about 1930/33 for the City Hospital which was built next to the Workhouse in 1879. The new gable end built when the laundry truncated the main stone building contains large stone corbels which seem to have been intended to support the truncated roof timbers. However, these are now redundant, the present roof structure being a steel one similar to the main shed.
- 6.5 The laundry as first built appears to have been a simple steel shed of four aisles running from the Longfield Place boundary wall to a new brick elevation. It

incorporated all the odd spaces around its nominally rectangular form into ancillary rooms and courtyards.

- 6.6 It had a small access pedestrian door on the north-west elevation, and another, more monumentally-treated, on Longfield Place. There were probably two loading doors for lorry deliveries on Longfield Place: the one blocked in stonework and perhaps the one with the sunken loading bay. The corner one could only have been in use once the entrance for the new police station was created, or if it was built in anticipation of that work. It is not clear whether the canopied porch was contemporary with this entrance or was added. The later seems more likely.
- 6.7 Both these loading doors went out of use and new openings were made in the Longfield Place elevation. This was part of the construction of the two-storey block along Longfield Place, which probably took place in the 1950s to 70s, along with the rearrangement of the steel frame of the laundry shed, and the installation of new machinery, although these various actions need not have been absolutely contemporaneous.
- 6.8 The city hospitals moved to Derrilands in 1981, but the NHS retained a presence on the Longfield House site until the early 1990s (Turley Associates para 3.24).
- 6.9 The buildings were largely intact and in good order in 1996 (Pye and Rance 1996, *passim*), but have since become derelict and parts have been demolished.

## 7. REFERENCES

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- English Heritage 2006a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. English Heritage (Swindon)
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- Plymouth City Council 2013 *Former Greenbank Prison Site, Greenbank Road, Plymouth; Brief for a Buildings Recording and Archaeological Evaluation Project* Plymouth City Council Planning Services: Historic Environment
- PWDRO 1933 Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. Plans and elevations of the proposed new Police Station, Magistrates' Courts etc ref.no. 1080/53; 1080/54 1080/55 1080/56
- Pye, A. R. and Rance, C. 1996 *An Archaeological Assessment of Longfield House, Greenbank Hospital and Freedom Fields Hospital, Plymouth*. Exeter Archaeology typescript report **96.35**
- Turley Associates 2013 *Aldi Stores and Forshaw Land: Site of Former Greenbank Prison, Greenbank Road, City of Plymouth, Heritage Statement*

## APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Longfield Place, Greenbanks, Plymouth	
Short description	<p>Plymouth Prison was built on a new site in 1849 by Fuller and Gingell at the beginning of their distinguished careers. It remained a prison until c. 1930. The site of the men's exercise yard was built over as a laundry for the nearby City Hospitals (Greenbank Hospital) by 1933 and the prison wings were converted into police headquarters, magistrates courts and an ambulance station by 1935. A fire station was built on the southern quarter of the prison enclosure at this time (since rebuilt), resulting in the first and major loss of prison boundary wall, although the stretch along Longfield Road had been rebuilt on a new alignment between 1893 and 1907. The police moved out in 1976 and the south-eastern wing they had occupied was taken over by the NHS. They moved out in the early 1990s and the other services also left at around this time, except for the fire service, who still remain on site. An assessment in 1996 showed the complex was in good condition (but not including the laundry which was not included in the assessment), but it has since deteriorated to the extent that the interiors are completely derelict and in parlous structural condition. In 2007, after partial demolition, the remaining structures were Listed Grade II. This report treats the remains of the north-west range of the 1849 prison (demolished to ground floor level) and the laundry built by 1933.</p> <p>The basement of the north-west wing contained services, but not cells (which did exist in the other wings). It retained some evidence of the major alterations of 1933-5.</p> <p>The laundry was a new build of c.1930, essentially a steel-framed, north-lit shed, but incorporated some otherwise unrecorded stone structures added to the prison after 1867. It was very plain and its only exposed elevation was in a minimalist Art-deco style typical of the 1930s. It was itself much altered in a modernist idiom, probably between the later 1950s and the 1970s. Some laundry equipment was left in place. This appeared to date to the same period.</p>	
Project dates	13th and 14th March 2014	
Project type	Historic Building record	
Previous work	DBA by Exeter Archaeology, Pye and Rance 1996	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Longfield Place, Plymouth	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	8447m <sup>2</sup> (whole site) 5267m <sup>2</sup> (this report)	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SX 48601 55433	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Plymouth City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Duncan Coe	
Project Supervisor	Peter Davenport	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Prison and Laundry	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	n/a	finds
Paper		Site notes, plans
Digital		BW and digital photos, pdf report
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Longfield Place, Plymouth, Devon: Historic Building Recording</i> . Typescript Report 14115		

**APPENDIX B LISTED BUILDING**

## PLYMOUTH

740/0/10061 GREENBANK ROAD  
 30-APR-08 GREENBANK  
 CENTRAL BLOCK OF GREENBANK PRISON (FORMERLY LONGFIELD HOUSE)

## II

## PLYMOUTH

740/0/10061 GREENBANK ROAD  
 29-NOV-07 Greenbank  
 Greenbank Prison (formerly Longfield House)

## II

Former central block of Plymouth Borough Gaol. Opened in 1849 to the designs of Thomas Fuller (1823-1898) and William Bruce Gingell (1819-1899) with William Cliff as building contractor.

**MATERIALS:** coursed rubble limestone with ashlar and rendered dressings and a slate roof. It is two storeys in height with a basement and a taller bell tower to the centre.

**EXTERIOR:** The west front facing onto Greenbank Road was designed as the principal front and the central pavilion has the most architectural treatment. It is of three bays with arched, flat-backed niches to either side of the central arched door with voussoirs. A central blank niche to the first floor is flanked by original sash windows of nine panes. There are chamfered quoins to the corners and a simple but emphatic cornice with dentil blocks beneath the eaves. Above the central bay rises the bell tower with a keyed oculus and an arched and louvered opening. The shallow-pitched, pyramidal roof has deep console brackets at eaves level. This entrance front is one bay deep and behind it rises the windowless bulk of the main central block which also has quoins and a cornice. The flanks of this larger block have four bays to each side with taller windows to the first floor. The original north and east wings have now been demolished and there is a consequent scar to the rear of the entrance block which shows the position of a former interior imperial staircase which may have led to the Magistrate's court. The attached south wing (of lesser interest than the central block, having undergone considerable alteration) has 12 bays with blocked openings to the ground floor and sash windows to the first floor on both fronts, all with ashlar surrounds and simple consoles at eaves level; the south-eastern end has a façade added c.1935 when the function changed to the Plymouth Police Headquarters.

**INTERIOR:** Not inspected. A survey undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in 1996 noted that 'the whole of the rear part of the east wing and north-west part of the south wing are underlain by basements containing a series of cells opening off a central corridor. Those under the east wing have outside light, whereas those under the south wing were either lit by artificial light or their external lightwells have been in-filled'. The magistrate's court in the former central block also survives with portions of the joinery of the bench dais and the coffered ceiling.

**HISTORY:** The town gaol was formerly part of Plymouth Guildhall, but this proved inadequate in the early C19 and a new position was chosen on the site of the former Longfield House, Greenbank, which was also to become the setting for the workhouse and the hospital. The surgery, receiving cells and governor's office were situated in the shortest west wing. The south wing was set apart for women and it included a wash house at its south-eastern end. The north and east wings contained more cells, presumably for men. The governor's house and lodge which are both now demolished flanked the entrance on the present Greenbank Road and there were formerly 'airing yards' arranged as a circle and semi-circle, divided by partition walls into segments for solitary exercise and with a warder placed at the hub, to the south-east of the site. The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map, which was surveyed in 1856, shows the wings with cells set at either side of wide corridors to the eastern and north blocks and to the western side of the south block. Part of the original boundary wall survives and is incorporated in the fabric of the laundry built over the site of the male airing yard. The building was officially closed by the Home Secretary in August 1878 but subsequently re-opened and functioned until the early 1930s. After its final closure the buildings were converted to create the Plymouth Police Force headquarters and in 1935 considerable alterations were undertaken, including the removal of much of the ornate ironwork. The west wing was converted to a magistrate's court and the east wing first floor into magistrates' rooms and a coroner's court. The south eastern end of the south wing was rebuilt, incorporating a new entrance to the police headquarters. Other organisations housed in the buildings included the St John's Ambulance Association, the Petty Sessional Courthouse and the Central Fire Station. The principal use by the Police continued until 1976 when Plymouth Health Authority took over the site and subsequently moved out in the early-1990s.



Thomas Fuller and William Gingell both trained in the office of James Wilson. Their partnership lasted for 4 years and both went on to establish eminent careers. Prominent buildings by Gingell include the Italianate design for Nos. 53-55 Corn Street Bristol (Grade II\*) and Bristol General Hospital (Grade II). Fuller designed the Houses of Assembly in Ottawa, Canada, and the New York State Capitol in Albany and the San Francisco City Hall and Law Courts.

SOURCES: Allan Brodie, Jane Croom & James O. Davies, *English Prisons, An Architectural History* (2002) 108; Bridget Cherry & Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, Devon* (1989) 660; A. Pye and C. Rance, *An Archaeological Assessment of Longfield House, Greenbank Hospital and Freedom Fields Hospital, Plymouth, Exeter Archaeology report No.96.35* (1996).

Reasons for Designation Decision:

The Former Borough Prison, Greenbank Road, Plymouth is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- \* The building, particularly the central block facing onto Greenbank Road, makes a strong architectural statement despite constraints imposed by budget and function.
- \* Although several parts of the building have been demolished and altered since the change of use from a prison in the 1930s, the exterior is still readable as a gaol.
- \* The architects, Fuller and Gingell, both went on to enjoy considerable esteem in their own right and several of their buildings are designated at higher grades. Plymouth gaol is an interesting example of an inspired design which dates from an early period in their careers.



FERRIES  
 Ship  
 Roacoff  
 Santander (Summer only)

CITY OF PLYMOUTH  
 PLYMOUTH, SUTTON BC  
 SOUTH WEST EURO ERJ



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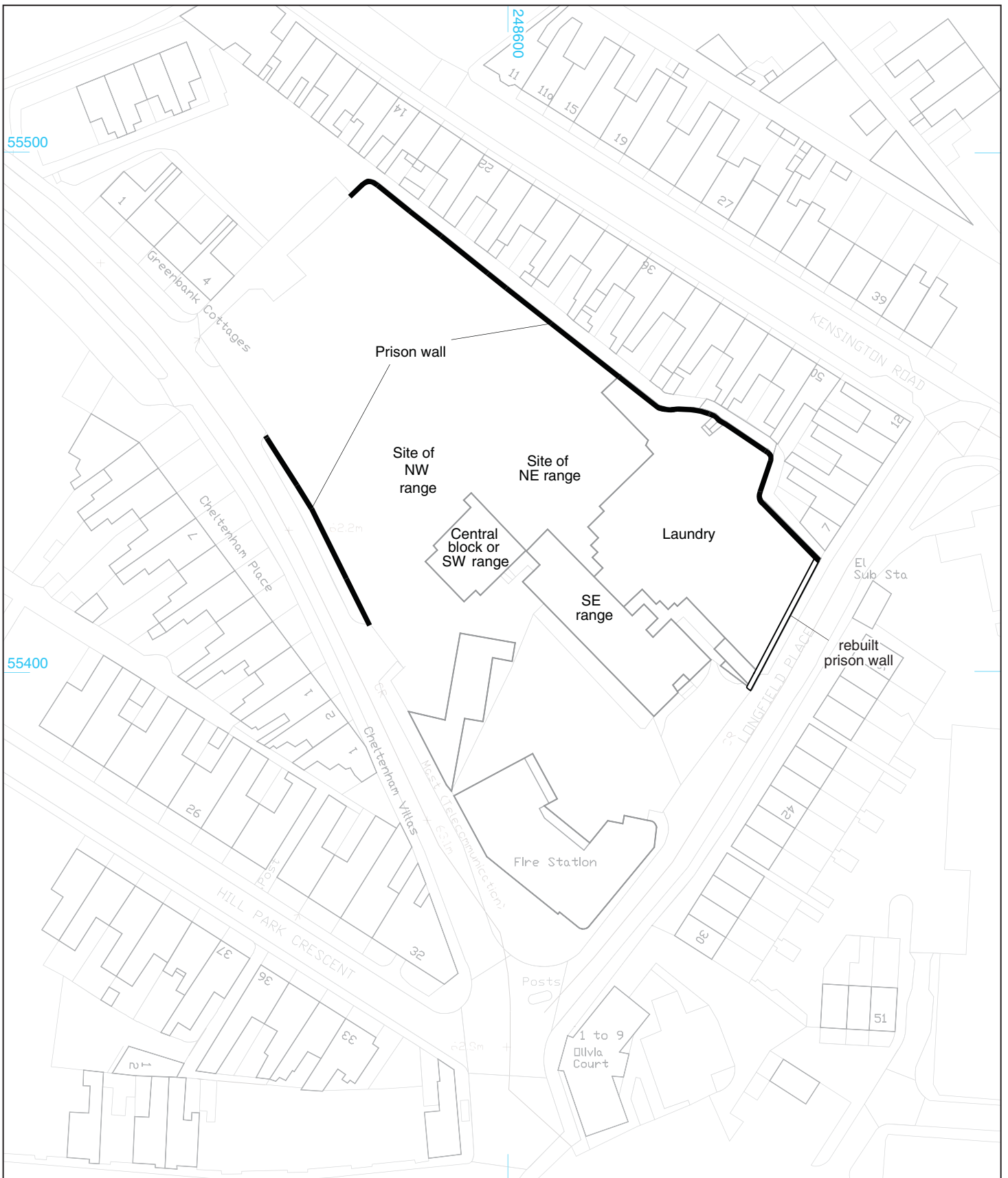


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 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 347630  
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
**Longfield Place, Plymouth, Devon**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO. 4686	DATE 8/04/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	<b>1</b>
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



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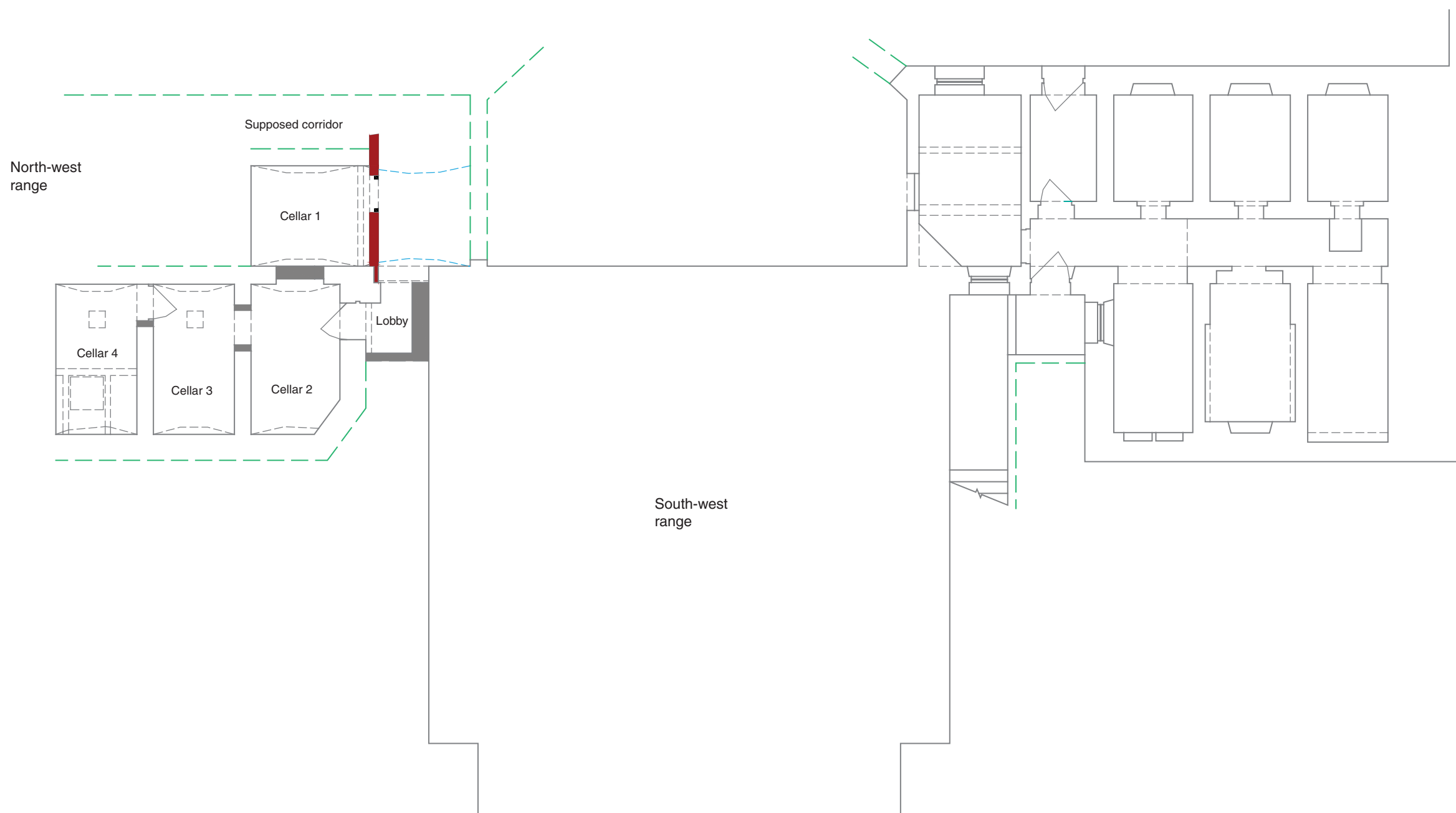
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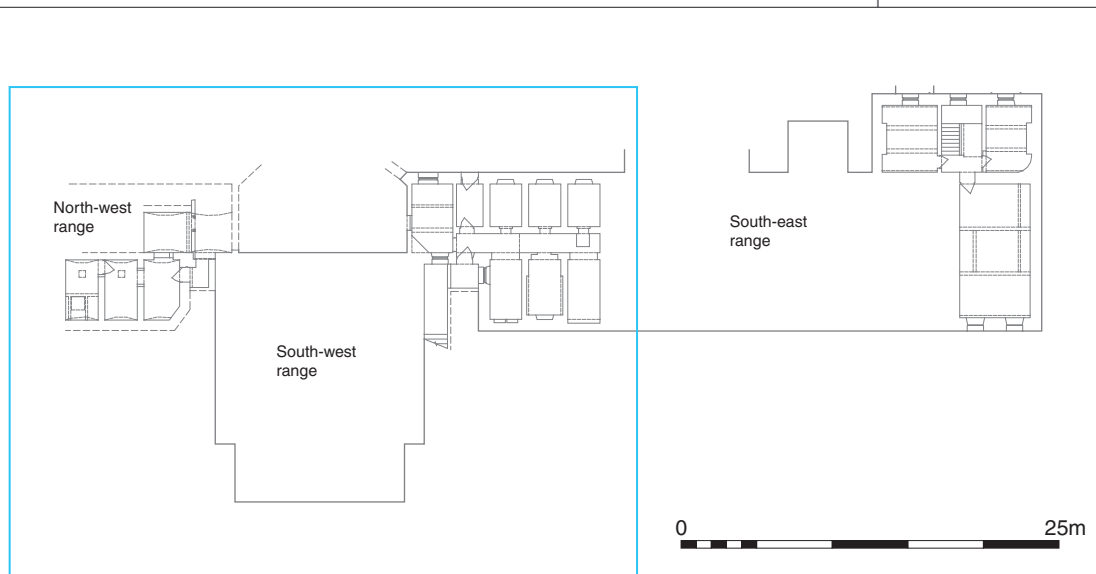
**FIGURE TITLE**

Site plan





- 1849 stonework
- 1930s? brickwork
- later 20th century
- inferred wall
- overhead detail (beam, vault etc)
- overhead detail (inferred)

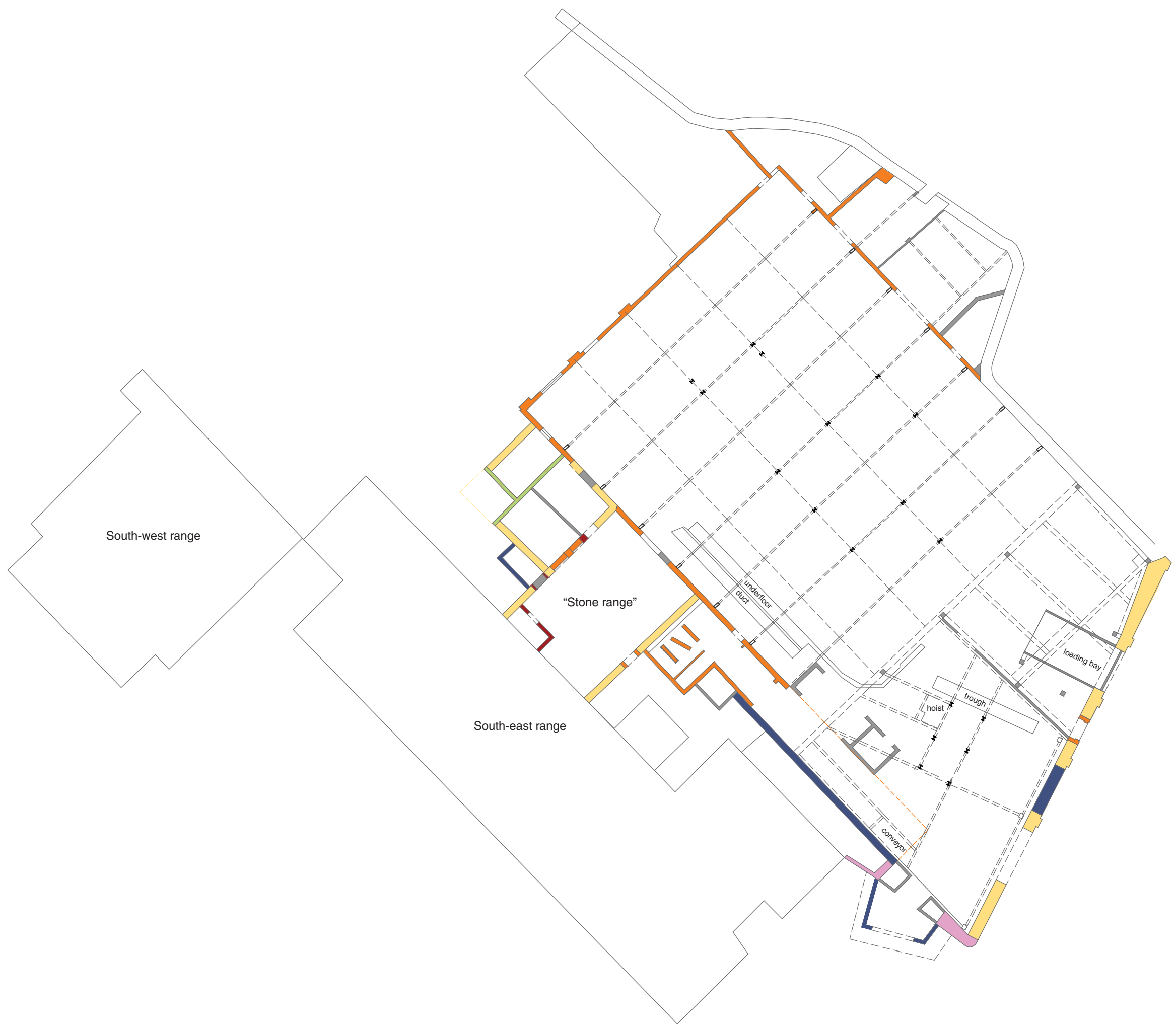


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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Phased basement plan of the remains of the north-west wing (scale 1:100)**

PROJECT NO. 4686	DATE 8/04/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE @A3 1:125 and 1:500	



- 1849
- 1893 - 1907
- pre-1930 changes?
- c. 1930 laundry (brick)
- c. 1930 stonework
- post-war brickwork?
- post-war (1960s?) stonework
- post-war concrete work
- steel stanchions
- overhead detail (beams etc)



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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Phased ground floor plan of the laundry building**

PROJECT NO.	4686	DATE	8/04/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	<b>4</b>
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE @A3	1:250	



5

**5 The concrete ground floor of 1935 over the basement of the north-west range, looking north-west (scale 2m)**



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

**5**



6



7

**6** The north-east side of the north-west block, looking south-west (scales 1m)

**7** The unfaced length of wall representing the extent of the wider part of the north-west range, now demolished



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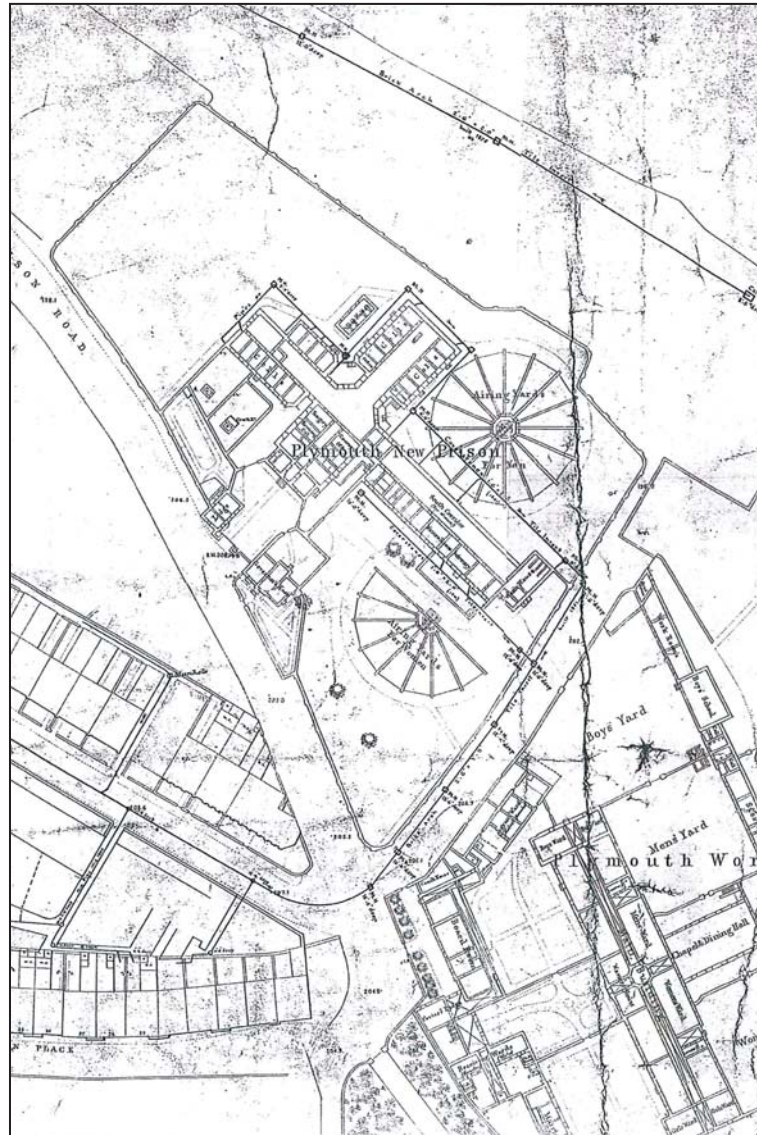
FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

**6 & 7**



**8 The prison shortly after completion: the OS map of 1856**



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**FIGURE TITLE**

**Historic map**

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 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 Not to scale

**FIGURE NO.**

**8**





9



10

- 9** The brick wall (and door through it, on the right) which closed off the truncated Cellar 1, looking west; basement wall of central block on left (scale 2m)
- 10** The truncated section of jack-vault in Cellar 1, looking up and to the north, from the entrance to the Lobby



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

9 & 10



**11 The wall stub projecting from the basement wall of the central block, which would have supported the south-east end of the jack vault before it was truncated. Looking south-west (scale 2m)**



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**11**



**12 The north-east end of Cellar 2 with the blocked doorway to Cellar 1**



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FIGURE NO.

**12**



**13 The concrete block lining of the light well forming the lobby access to Cellar 2, looking south-west**



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*FIGURE NO.*

**13**



**14 The new or completely replaced concrete block door jambs from Cellars 2-3 and 3-4, looking north-west (scale 2m)**



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*FIGURE NO.*

**14**



15



16

**15 Blocked delivery holes in the brick vaults of Cellars 3 and 4**

**16 The plastered and painted (originally external) wall showing the position of the addition of the north-western blocks to the north-western range, and the service duct (scales 1m)**



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FIGURE NO.

15 & 16



**17 The other end of the service duct in Fig. 16 in the vault of Cellar 1**



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

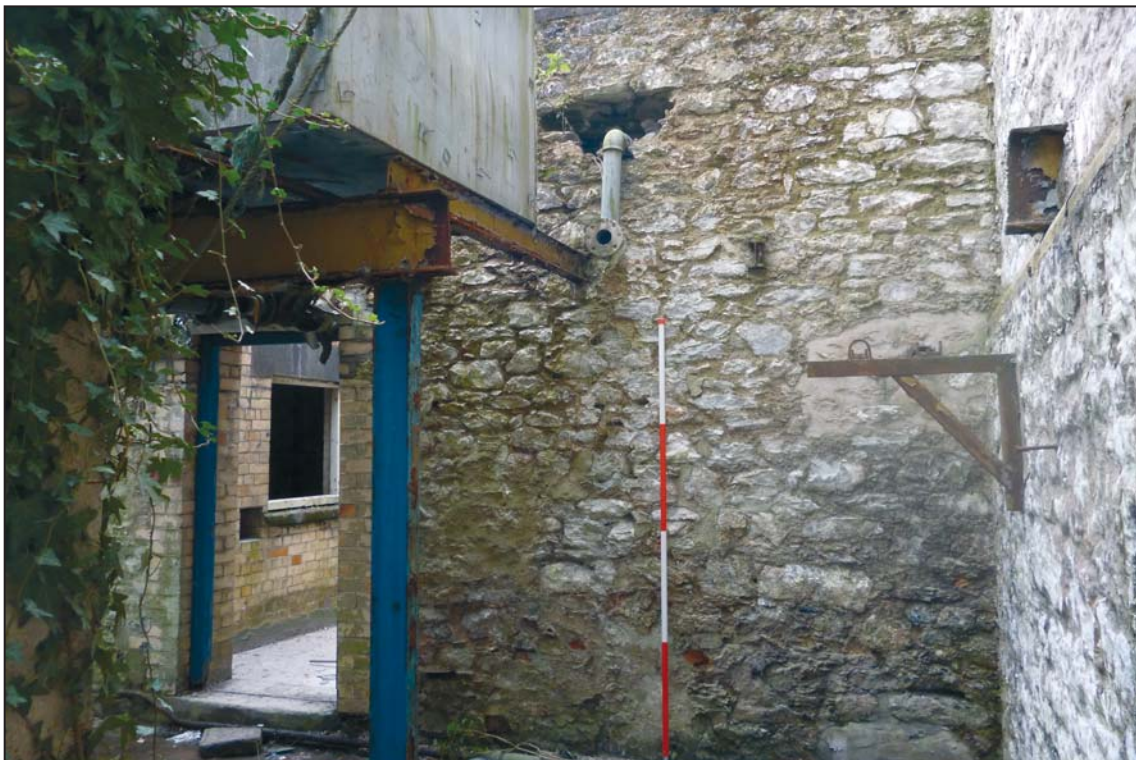
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FIGURE NO.

**17**



18



19

- 18** The exterior of the north-west wall of the later stone range, showing the rangework construction. Note the continuous corbel ledge at the eaves and the lower and truncated north-west range, extreme left
- 19** The interior of the south-east wall of the later stone range, showing the rubble construction and the brickwork alterations of the laundry building, looking south-east. The steelwork supporting the water tank is more recent again (2m scale)



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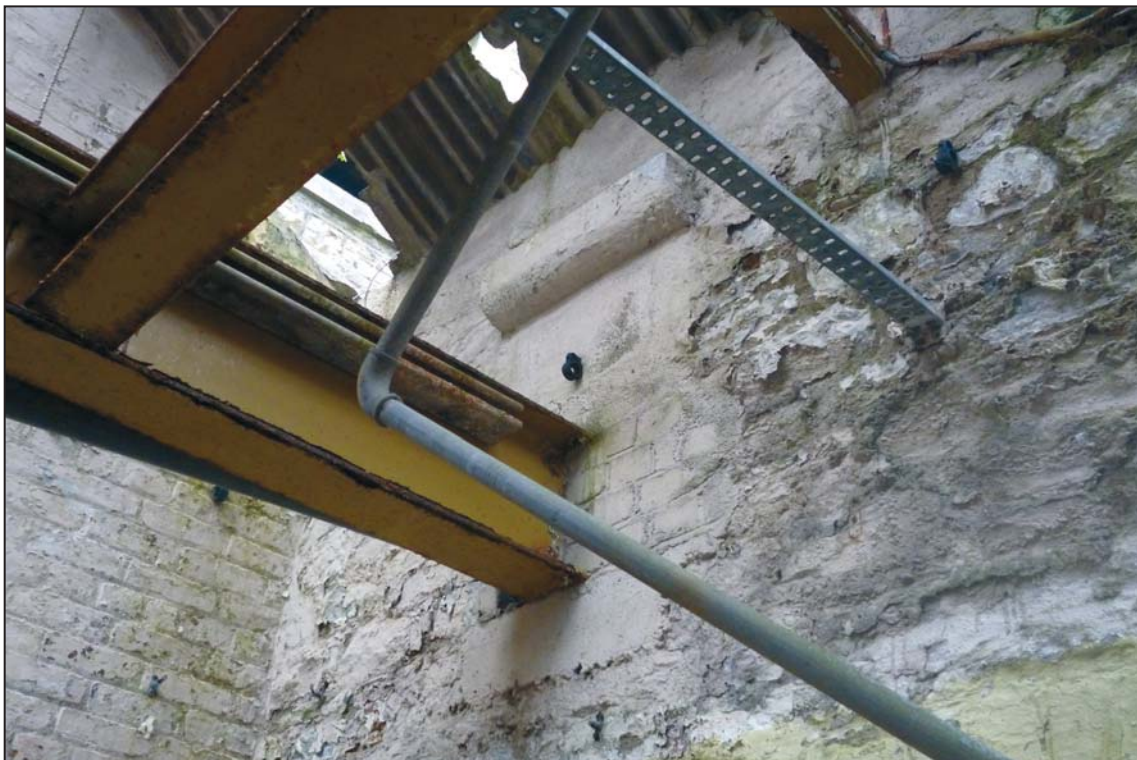
FIGURE NO.

18 & 19





20



21

**20** The replacement gable of the stone range showing the large stone corbels to pick up the earlier roof, looking north-east

**21** One of the lateral corbels for the stone range tiebeams. Later inserted steels to support a large water tank



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FIGURE NO.

20 & 21



- 22** The cut-out corner in the north-western end of the stone range, rebuilt in brick, looking east. Note window on site of blocked door. Another blocked door was present behind the wire fencing
- 23** The succession of openings in the north-western wall of the stone range, looking north (scale 2m)



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**22 & 23**



**24 The gable of a pre-laundry building against the north-east prison wall, looking north-east**



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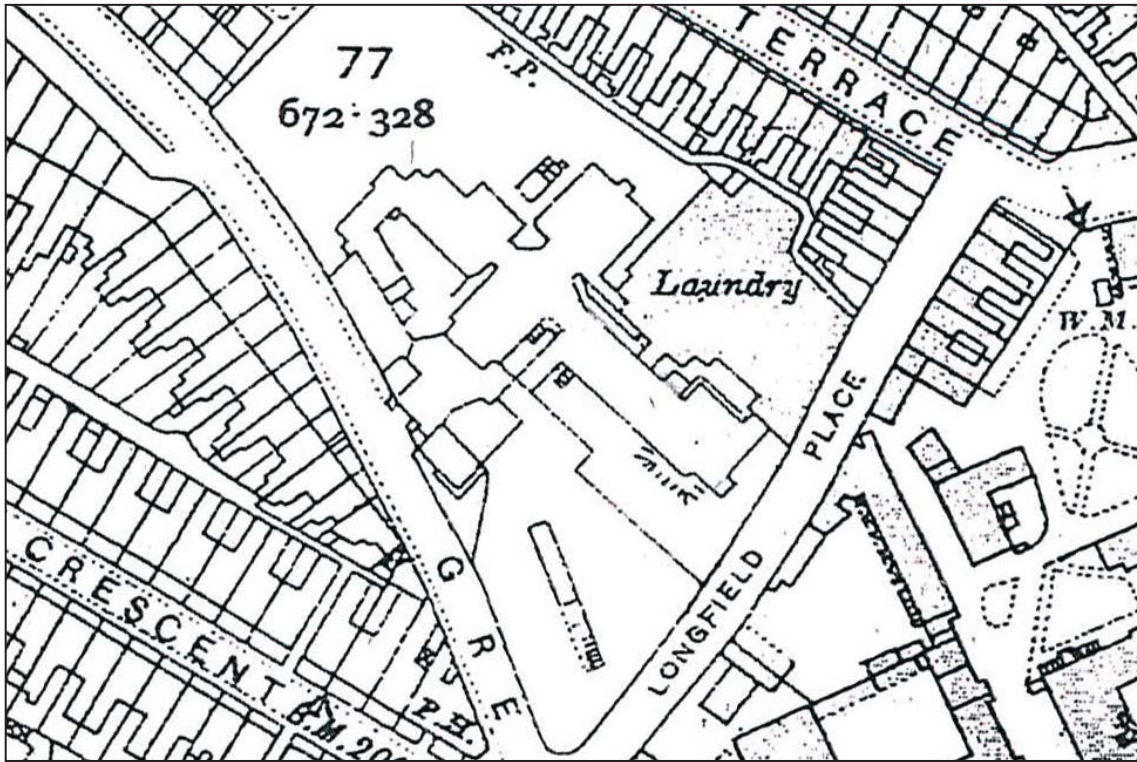
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*FIGURE NO.*

**24**



25 Extract from the 1933 OS map of Plymouth, showing the laundry and other additions, but predating the alterations completed in 1935

26 Extract from the 1893 OS mapping showing the earlier alignment of the south-eastern prison wall before Longfield Place was extended through to Greenbank Road



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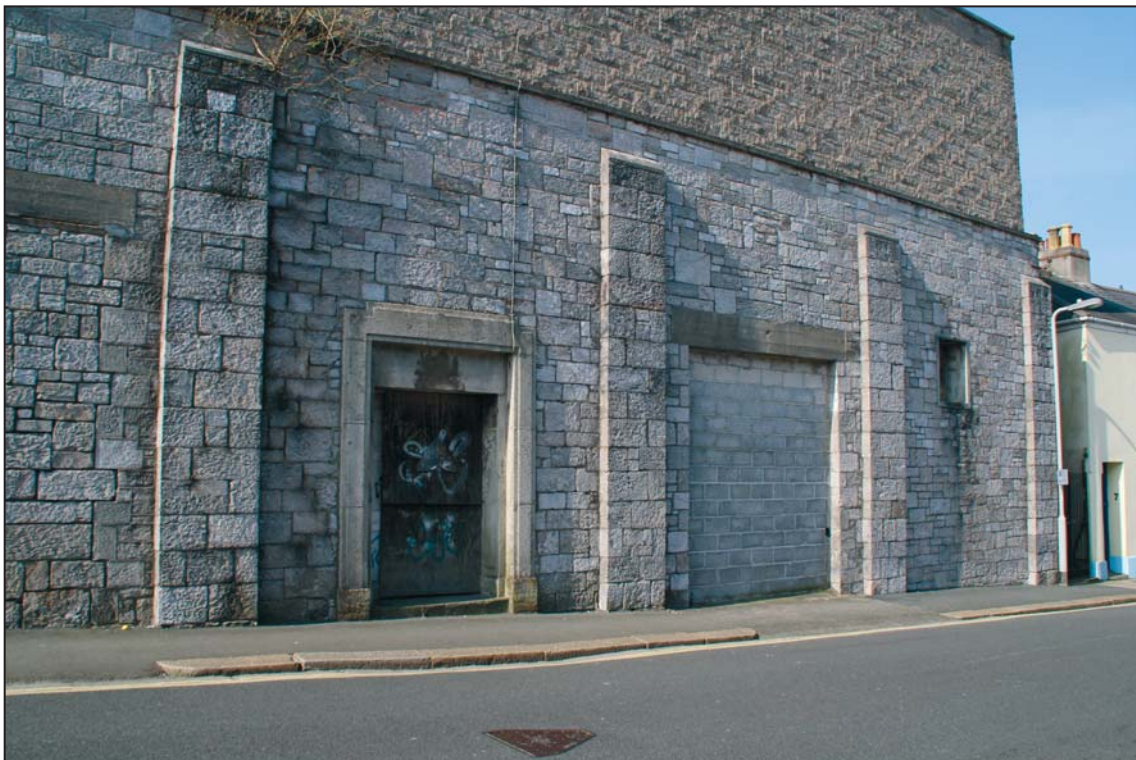
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Historic maps

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FIGURE NO.

25 & 26



**27** The south-eastern prison wall along Longfield Place, as realigned between 1893 and 1907, the laundry access doors of different periods, and the post-war addition of the upper floor/south-eastern range, looking west

**28** The north-eastern end of the Longfield Place elevation, showing the distinctive stonework and the inserted Art Deco door



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FIGURE NO.

27 & 28



29



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**29** General view of the interior of the laundry shed looking east

**30** The simple roof structure of each roof section over the laundry shed, looking south



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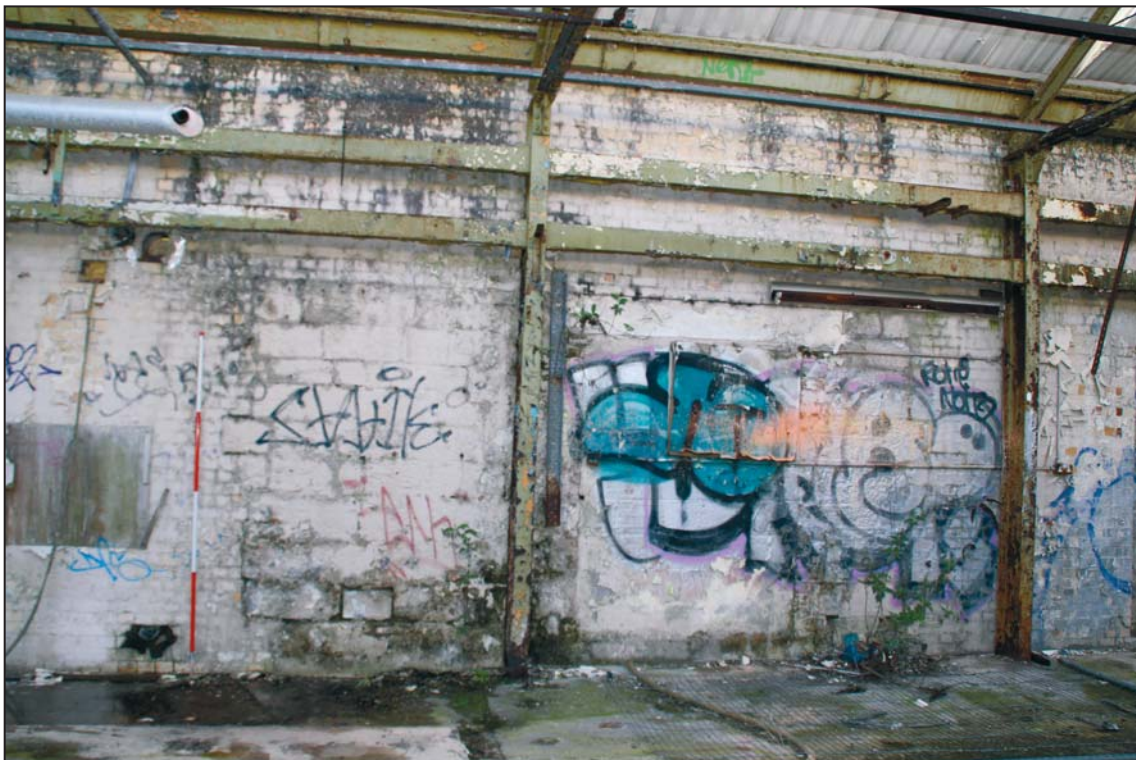
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FIGURE NO.

**29 & 30**



- 31 The north-western prison wall (south-east end) incorporated in the laundry wall (brick, to left), looking north-east
- 32 The stone wall of the northern part of the stone range of the later 19th century incorporated in the laundry's brick south-west wall , looking south-west (scale 2m)



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FIGURE NO.

31 & 32



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**33** The larger space north-east of the laundry main shed, with a skylight supported on a steel structure, looking north-east



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FIGURE NO.

**33**





**34 View along the south-west side of the laundry shed to the south-east, showing the blue-painted machinery steels and the underfloor duct**



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*FIGURE NO.*

**34**



35



36

**35** View to south-east into the ground floor of the Longfield Place block, concrete structure and loading bay (scale 2m)

**36** The south-western end of the Longfield Place block, looking south, showing the steel structure, trough and blue-painted, steel machinery supports



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FIGURE NO.

35 & 36



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**37 The base of the railed conveyor system and motor, looking south, in the southern corner of the Longfield Place block. The installation of this must post-date the blocking of the loading bay behind it**



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**37**



**38** The hoist cage in the south-western end of the Longfield Place block, with the end of the metal trough on the left (scale 2m)



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**39** The canopied loading door on the southern corner of the Longfield Place block, looking north, also showing the upper floor of the block



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FIGURE NO.

**39**



**40** The Greenbank Road entrance gate to the prison under demolition in 1947, from the Western Evening Herald



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**5**



**41 The prison walls along Greenbank Road today,  
looking north (scale 2m)**



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**41**