

Taunton's College Hill Lane Southampton



Targeted Excavation and Building Recording Report



May 2008

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Northcroft on behalf of
Taunton College

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Northcroft on behalf of Taunton's College

Taunton's College, Southampton, Hampshire

NGR SU 410 142

TARGETED EXCAVATION REPORT

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Summary

During April 2008 Oxford Archaeology carried out targeted excavations at Taunton's College Southampton (NGR SU 411 142). The excavations revealed slight evidence of a group of 19th-century farm buildings and boundaries as well as some demolished Second World War structures.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 In April 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a targeted archaeological investigation and programme of building recording at Taunton's College, Southampton (NGR SU 411 142).

1.1.2 Taunton College are proposing redevelopment of the Taunton College site at Hill Lane Southampton. The redevelopment comprises demolition of the existing college building and the erection of new two- and three-storey buildings with associated landscaping access and sport facility improvements.

1.1.3 Conditional approval has been granted for the redevelopment (planning application 07/00907/FUL – SCCHU/LPA internal reference 6694). The condition states

'No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority'

1.1.4 In addition a specification/scheme of investigation has been produced by The Southampton City Archaeologist (Morton 2008) explaining in further detail the planning requirement.

1.1.5 Northcroft Construction Consultants acting on behalf of Taunton College have appointed OA to carry out the archaeological works. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA detailing methodology for the works (OA 2008a). This was approved by Alan Morton. This document is a report on the targeted excavation work and building recording.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1.1 The site is located at grid reference SU 411 142. It is bound by Bellemoor Road to the North, Hill Lane to the north east and the rear property boundaries of houses fronting onto Wilton Gardens and Radway Road to the west and south respectively.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1.1 The site is generally flat (lying at c28 m OD). The underlying geology of the site is Barton, Bracklesham and Bagshot Beds bedrock overlain by superficial deposits of either gravel or brickearth.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 The following is summarised from Morton 2008 with additional references from the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). Referenced maps are generally illustrated in Morton 2008 but not reproduced here.
- 4.1.2 The site lies within a general area of prehistoric finds, mostly made to the east and north-east on the Common. These include Palaeolithic finds to the south-west of the site at Hollybrook (ADS identifiers NMR_NATINV-1097274 and NMR_NATINV-1097917) a Mesolithic axe head to the South of the site adjacent to Radway Road (Bonsall & Wymer, 1977) unstratified worked flints (from SOU 901 the site of the 'new swings' on the common, to the east of the college) and a hoard of Bronze Age axes (Morton 2008 – not listed on ADS).
- 4.1.3 The origins of Hill Lane are unclear. It is probably the "king's dyke" that formed the eastern boundary to the Late Saxon estate of Hill (Millbrook charter of 1045), and even more probably the "way" that separated Shirley and Southampton in a judgement of 1226.
- 4.1.4 In the early modern period, this part of Shirley was held by Arthur Atherley (1778 estate plan, HRO 3 M55/1), the relevant part being a set of fields known as "Cock Roachs", the adjacent part of Hill Lane being marked as "Cock Roach Lane" (in both instances, the second word appears to have been altered, and may originally have read "Road"). No building appears hereon the 1778 plan, however, nor on the 1791 map of Hampshire. The unit known as "Cock Roachs" is irregular, comprising what is shown on the 1870 OS map as fields 309–314 and 556 (see Morton 2008) without internal divisions.
- 4.1.5 A map of Southampton in 1800, by Doswell shows a building next to Hill Lane and known as Cockerwood House. The first OS map of Hampshire shows an unnamed building within a rectangular enclosure. The details are very similar to those shown on the 1826 map of Hampshire. The enclosure map of Hill and Shirley in 1830 shows two main building complexes, both aligned north–south, one adjacent to Hill Lane and the other, to the north-west of it, set slightly back from Hill Lane. This second building interrupts a rectangular enclosure that otherwise surrounds the building on Hill Lane. The layout appears to be basically the same as is shown on the OS 1/2500 map from 1870. In this respect, it may be noted that the rectangular enclosure may not be the same as that shown on the Hampshire maps: they show a north–south enclosure along Hill Lane, but the 1830 and 1870 maps show a west–east enclosure abutting Hill Lane.
- 4.1.6 The one unit shown in 1778 has been divided into what are shown on the 1870 map as fields 309, 310, 311/312, 314, and 313 (with 556, the rest of the large field to the south of that). The 1870 map marks "Cockroads Farm", the name that appears on subsequent maps. It is possible that buildings had been added between 1830 and 1870, most obviously a small, separate building next to an enclosed area of mixed

trees (312, a separate unit that does not appear on the 1830 map), the effect being to create a northern entrance to a farm yard.

4.1.7 Subsequent maps chart the progress of the farm up to 1933.

4.1.8 By 1897 the mixed woodland had been removed and the main field and part of the northern part of the adjacent field being given over to an orchard. Further farm buildings had been added to the north of the older ones, creating a new farmyard, there were also further (? open) structures to the south-west, and extensions had been added to the older buildings. By 1910 some of the older buildings had been demolished.

4.1.9 Further structures had been added by 1933 but it is not clear if these were open or roofed, and it appears that some of the structures in the south-west had disappeared.

4.1.10 The various structural elements shown on map regressions have been collected together in Morton 2008 and are shown as a block on Figure 1.

4.1.11 The school buildings were erected in the late 1930s as the Southampton Grammar School for Girls, renamed shortly after as Southampton College for Girls. It later became Hill College, and since 1993 it has been the new home of Taunton's College.

5 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

5.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the investigation were as follows:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- To record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits
- To preserve a record of a late-thirties educational establishment and its subsequent alterations.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

6 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

6.1 Scope of fieldwork

6.1.1 The evaluation comprised 4 trenches, the first three of which were targeted on the site of the former C19th 'Cockroads Farm', based on the findings of an historic map survey provided by A. Morton of Southampton City Council's Heritage Conservation Unit. Trench 4 was sited at the request of Northcroft on the position of a suspected WWII air raid shelter and was a photographic survey only.

6.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 6.2.1 Mechanical excavation was carried out with a JCB. All mechanical excavation was carried out in such a manner so as to avoid or minimise damage to the archaeological remains. All machinery used was of an appropriate nature and power to suit the situation and mechanical excavators were fitted with ditching buckets. The Project Officer in charge of fieldwork directly supervised all machine work.
- 6.2.2 All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon.
- 6.2.3 Spoil was scanned for artefacts, which were recorded and retained. The depth and complexity of the deposits across the site was characterised. Records were made of the stratigraphy of all trenches.
- 6.2.4 Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts within Trenches 1-3 were made in accordance with best archaeological practice. Archaeological deposits, which were not excavated, were recorded to the maximum extent possible *in-situ*. Records include overall trench and site plans. A single context planning methodology was used as appropriate. All excavation and recording was in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations (IFA 2001)*.
- 6.2.5 Fieldwork procedures unless stated otherwise above were as set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the *OA Field Manual (Wilkinson, D 1992)*.

6.3 Finds

- 6.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.
- 6.3.2 Recording, cleaning and conservation of finds followed the IFA *Guidelines for collection, documentation research and conservation of archaeological materials (IFA 2001)*.

6.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 6.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling and analysis were revealed during the works.

6.5 Presentation of results

- 6.5.1 In the following sections the deposits are described by trench. There is additional comment on the finds and the reliability of the results. The stratigraphy of each trench is described individually, in summary form followed by a detailed description. A discussion, interpretation and conclusions of the evaluation then follows. A context inventory, including finds lists, is included in Appendix 1.

7 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

7.1 Trench 1 (See Fig.2 and 3)

- 7.1.1 Trench 1 was located on the grassed area to the east of the main entrance. It was aligned east-west and measured 30 m by 1.5 m. Natural brick earth (105) was revealed 0.6 m below ground level at a height of 26.80 m OD.
- 7.1.2 Towards the eastern end of the trench, a shallow, circular feature (cut 110) was revealed cutting into the brickearth. The fill of the feature contained no finds. The feature fill was overlain by a subsoil consisting mainly of disturbed natural (104), which ran throughout the trench.
- 7.1.3 Overlying subsoil 104 was a sand-silt layer (102). This contained brick rubble and mortar and may represent the remains of the farm building depicted on the 1897-1933 maps.
- 7.1.4 Towards the western end of the trench two pipe trenches were recorded. Cut 103 was aligned northwest-southeast and Cut 106 was aligned northeast-southwest. These features cut through Deposit 102 and are likely to relate to World War II structures (see below).
- 7.1.5 A four metre wide cut (115) was recorded running in a north-south direction through the middle of the trench. The cut was filled with concrete rubble (108) and a soil infill deposit (113). At the eastern extent of this feature, a cast concrete wall (structure 112) was revealed within a construction cut (116). This measured 0.3 m wide and was aligned north-south. The wall had been cast in-situ between the natural brick earth and corrugated iron to the west. It was truncated in height to 26.70 m OD. The wall is presumed to represent the remains of a WWII building. Topsoil (context 101) overlay the trench at 27.46 m OD to the west and 27.30 m OD to the east.

7.2 Trench 2 (See Fig.2 and 3)

- 7.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the east side of the college sports pitch adjacent to the eastern boundary of the college. The trench was orientated north-south and measured 15 m long by 1.5 m wide.
- 7.2.2 Natural brick earth (206) was revealed at 26.60 m OD to the north of the trench and at 26.74 m OD to the south (0.9 m below existing ground level). In the central southern part of the trench the brick earth was cut by an east-west aligned ditch cut (204). This

feature was 2.80 m wide and 0.54 m deep with shallow sides and a flat base. Its single fill, (context 205), yielded finds including glass and Iron fragments, a sherd of 17th-19th century Verwood pottery and a small fragment of a child's skull (no other evidence of human remains was present). The fill was indistinguishable from the overlying 'loamy' subsoil (203). Subsoil 203 was in turn overlain by layer 202, which contained modern demolition material. The trench was sealed by turf and topsoil (201).

7.3 Trench 3

7.3.1 Trench 3 was located to the south of Trench 2 to the east of the sports pitch and adjacent to the college's eastern boundary. The trench measured 15 m long by 1.5 m wide. Brick earth (context 307) was recorded at 27.40 m OD (0.9 m below existing ground level). In the southern end of the trench, the brick earth was cut by a NW-SE aligned gully (cut 305). It measured 0.40 m wide x 0.26 m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. Its fill, (306) contained no finds. The feature was sealed by a deposit of disturbed brick earth (304) which contained inclusions of CBM flecks and slate fragments, this in turn was overlain by a silty clay (context 303).

7.3.2 Layer 303 was overlain throughout the trench by a bedding layer of gravel (302). This formed the construction horizon for two north south aligned brick walls. Wall 309 ran along the eastern edge of the trench. It comprised as single course of frogged red bricks (230 mm x 80 mm x 130 mm) generally laid end to end, but with six offset bricks, and bedded with yellow sandy/lime mortar. A parallel wall (Structure 310) ran on the same orientation, 1.2 m to the west of Wall 309. The wall was constructed of dark reddy-purple bricks measuring 230 mm x 70 mm x 110 mm. The bricks were laid as a line of bedded stretchers. A central mortar scar running down its length suggested that the overlying wall had been one brick (70 mm) wide. The brick structures were overlain by a buried topsoil deposit, (301), which lay under the present topsoil (context 300).

7.4 Trench 4

7.4.1 Trench 4 was a test pit measuring 1.5 m x 1.5 m square located to the north of the grassed area at the eastern entrance to the college. The lowest fill, (403) was not bottomed at 27 m OD (0.75 m below existing ground level) and consisted of large blocks of broken up concrete with occasional pieces of re-bar (steel reinforcement bar). Many of the blocks bore the imprinted pattern of corrugated iron, as seen in Trench 1. This was overlain by a mixed backfill deposit (402), and sealed by topsoil (401).

7.5 Table of finds

Context	No. frags	Weight (g)	Material	Description	Date
102	2	18	Stone	Slate fragments	-

Context	No. frags	Weight (g)	Material	Description	Date
	1	995	Ceramic (BM)	Brick fragment	C19th century
	2	4	Pottery	Fragments of willow pattern and bone china	Victorian
103	2	10	Stone	Slate fragments	-
	1	116	Ceramic (BM)	Fragment of field drain	Modern
	4	39	Pottery	Fragments of willow pattern and bone china	Victorian
205	1	2	Human bone	Skull fragment from a child	-
	1		Iron	Miscellaneous (possible nail)	-
	9	333	Ceramic (BM)	Peg tile fragments	PM/modern
	1	42	Flint (burnt)	Misc. fragment of burnt flint	-
	1	49	Pottery	Verwood type	C17th-C18th
301	1	1	Animal bone	Not identifiable to species	-
	1		Iron	Knife with a bone handle	Modern
	1	4	Ceramic	Clay pipe stem fragment	-
	4	297	Glass	Two glass vessels: a small vase and a fish paste pot.	Modern
	3	191	Pottery	Two fragment of willow pattern one from a wash bowl (with a hole at the centre) and a ceramic bird possibly a spout.	Victorian
303	1	13	Flint		
309	1	2490	Ceramic (BM)	Brick	C19th century
310	1	2284	Ceramic (BM)	Brick (with frog)	C19th century

8 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

8.1 Trench 1

8.1.1 A single undated posthole in Trench may be caused by an orchard tree-support post (the area has been planted as an orchard by the 1897 OS edition).

8.1.2 The 19th-century building shown on the 1897 OS edition and present until the 1930's has been levelled and is only visible as a layer of demolition material. This is probably due to land clearance for the construction of the Second World War buildings, represented in Trench 1 by a partially grubbed out foundation and infilled cellar/shelter (?) as well as two service pipes.

8.2 Trench 2

8.2.1 Two mapped land boundaries pass through the location of Trench 2. One predates the 1870 OS edition, the second appears only on the 1897 and subsequent OS editions. Only one cut feature was revealed in Trench 2. If both boundaries were cut features (as oppose to fence lines) then the later feature may have been cut along the line of the former leaving one ditch.

- 8.2.2 The presence of a fragment of child's skull in Ditch 204 cannot be entirely coincidental with the location of Southampton Cemetery across the road from the site. The cemetery was established in 1846. Map regressions show no indication that the road separating the school grounds has moved over time – so it is unlikely that the present school grounds have subsumed any part of the cemetery. Therefore the fragment must be redeposited; either by animal action (rodent/scavenger) or movement of soils from one site to the other during a process of landscaping.
- 8.3 Trench 3
- 8.3.1 The gully recorded in Trench 3 may be the southernmost of the site boundaries visible on the 1870 OS map within the proposal area.
- 8.3.2 The two lines of brick wall in Trench 3 are clearly structures seen on the 1897 OS map but removed by the 1933 edition. The two walls are not part of the same building; they are constructed on different bricks bonded with similar but not identical mortar. The easternmost line is the external western wall of a building while the westernmost is more likely to be a boundary wall – the two defining a pathway between the two buildings shown on the map regressions. Both structures show truncation to foundation level.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>
001				
	101	Deposit	Topsoil	
	102	Deposit	Rubble layer	Pot
	103	Cut	Pipe cut	Pot
	104	Deposit	Disturbed brickearth	
	105	Natural	Brickearth	
	106	Cut	Pipe trench	
	107	-	Voided context	
	108	Deposit	Concrete rubble	
	109	Void	Voided context	
	110	Cut	Pit	
	111	Fill	Fill of 110	
	112	Structure	World War II concrete structure	
	113	Fill	Infill of 112	
	114	Deposit	Buried topsoil	
	115	Cut	Demolition cut	
	116	Cut	Construction cut	
002				
	201	Deposit	Topsoil	Pot
	202	Deposit	Demolition layer	
	203	Deposit	Loam subsoil	
	204	Cut	Ditch cut	
	205	Fill	Fill of 204	Pot (Verwood 17th- 18th) bone, flint, glass, metal
	206	Natural	Brickearth	
003				
	300	Deposit	Topsoil	Pot

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>
	301	Deposit	Loam subsoil	
	302	Deposit	Gravel bedding layer	
	303	Deposit	Ploughsoil	
	304	Deposit	Disturbed brickearth	
	305	Cut	Ditch cut	
	306	Fill	Fill of 305	
	307	Natural	Brickearth	
	308	Structure	Brick structure	
	309	Structure	N-S line of brick wall	
	310	Structure	N-S line of brick wall	
004				
	401	Deposit	Topsoil	
	402	Fill	Infill of 403	-
	403	Concrete	Remains of WWII structure	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bonsall, C J & Wymer, J J 1977 *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales with a gazetteer of Upper Palaeolithic sites in England and Wales: Report No. 20*
- Morton A 2008 Taunton's College, Hill Lane, Southampton Targeted Excavation; General Watching Brief; and Building Recording Scheme of Investigation and Recording
- Oxford Archaeology (OA) 2008 Written Scheme of Investigation for Taunton's college, Hill Lane, Southampton, Targeted Excavation; General Watching Brief; and Building Recording.
- SCC 2007 Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives (Southampton City Council, 2007).

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Taunton's College

Site code: SOU1472

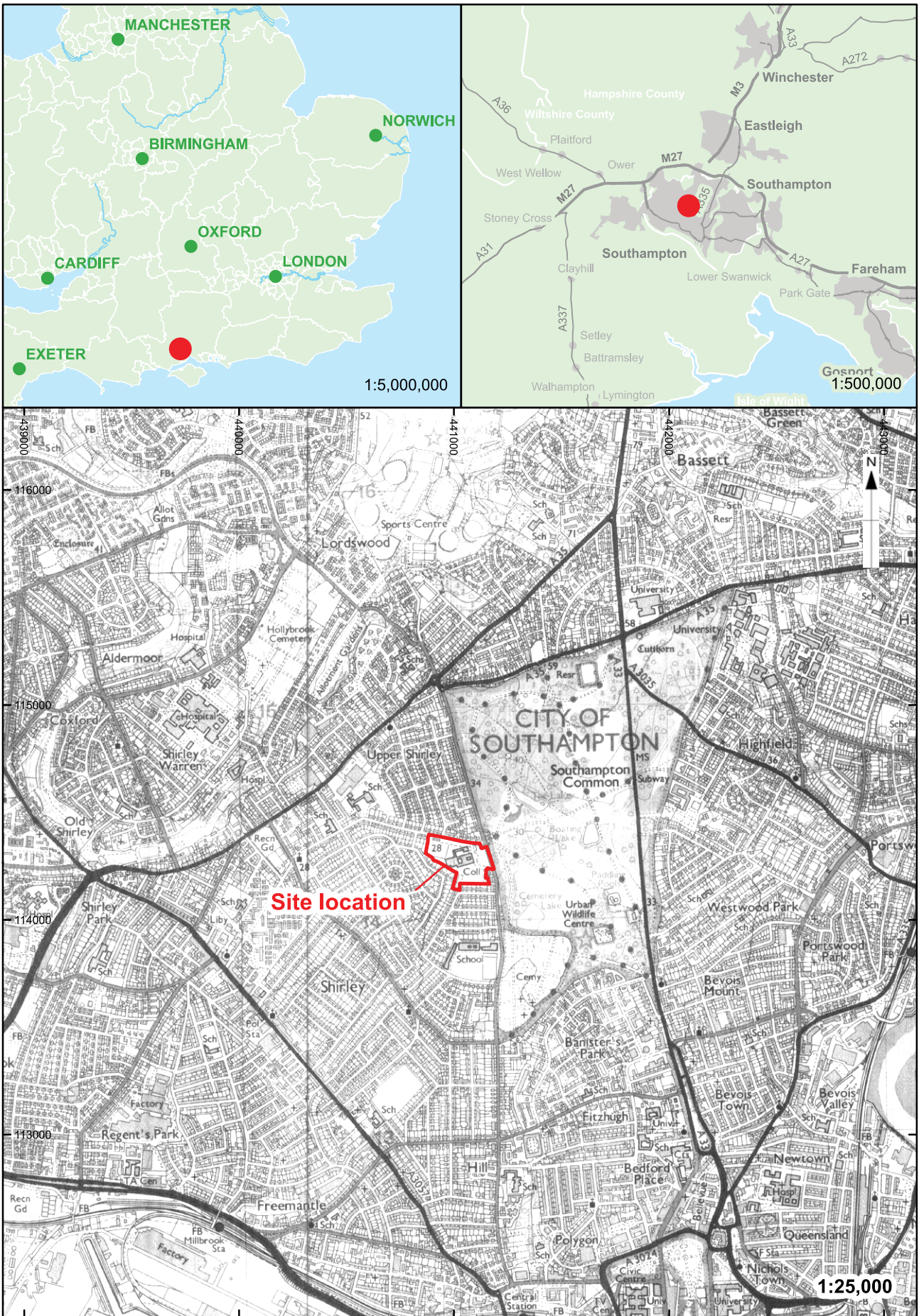
Grid Reference: SU 411 142

Type of Project: Targeted Investigation and Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 7th-11th April 2008

Summary of results: During April 2008 Oxford Archaeology carried out targeted excavations at Taunton's College Southampton (NGR SU 411 142). The excavations revealed slight evidence of a group of 19th century farm buildings and boundaries as well as some demolished Second World War structures.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Southampton City Museum



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Figure 1: Site location

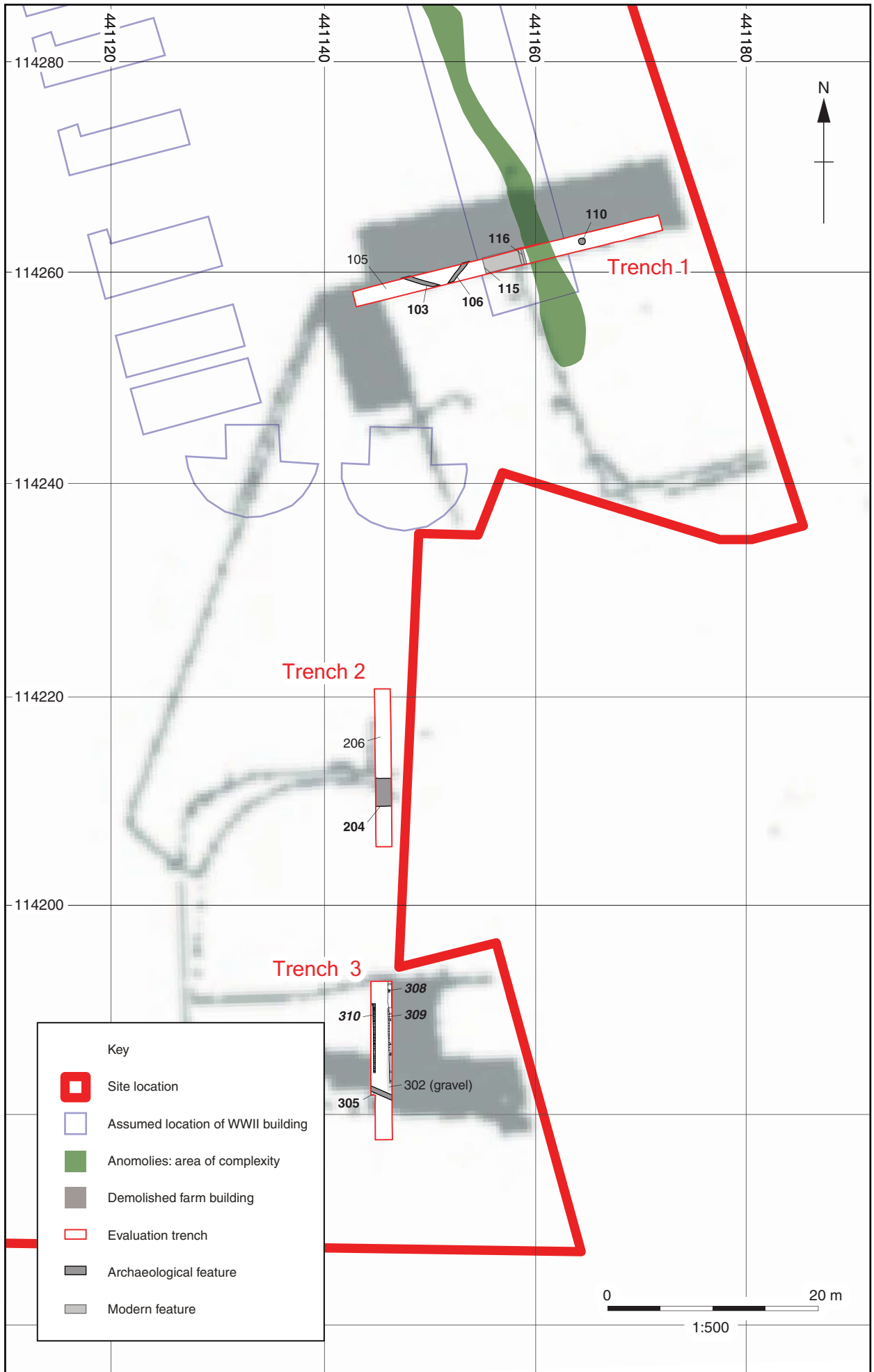


Figure 3: Detail of trenches



Plate 1: Trench 1 Posthole 110



Plate 1: Trench- trial pit 4 Concrete foundation and infilling



Plate 3: Trench 3 (looking north)

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Taunton's College, Southampton***HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING*****CONTENTS**

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Summary

The buildings of the Hill Lane site of Taunton's College, Southampton date back to 1936 when the Southampton Grammar School for Girls relocated to the newly built school building. The school underwent many name changes until its merger with the Richard Taunton College in 1989.

The 1936 school building was designed by the architects HC Hollis and FJ Amott following a design competition and has many details typical of school design during the interwar period. The classical brick and artificial stone facades of this main building enclose a modern steel frame encased in concrete. Many changes have been made to the main school buildings over the years. The class sizes have varied and there have been various small additional extensions to the main build. The former dining hall and gymnasium have been converted into a modern entrance hall with mezzanine offices and a drama studio and some interior decoration, particularly panelling has been removed. Some interior decoration remains with fluted pilasters in key areas such as main entrance hall, the dining hall and the assembly hall as well as primary phase staircases, radiators and decorative dado rail.

There are three main further phases of extension mostly sited to the north and west of the main build. A separate art block was constructed in the 1970s and a sports hall and further classrooms were added in the 1990s, parts of which link the 1970s art block to the main school building. A separate two-storey classroom block was added around 2003. All of these extensions stand out from the main build with white rendered walls and blue steel beams and supporting columns.

The college buildings were surveyed by Oxford Archaeology as part of a proposed demolition and expansion of the college site. The college was photographically recorded, inside and out and archive research produced documentary evidence of the school buildings in 1936.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Taunton's College are proposing redevelopment of the Taunton's College site at Hill Lane, Southampton. The redevelopment comprises demolition of the existing college building and the erection of new two and three storey buildings with associated landscaping access and sport facility improvements. Conditional approval has been granted for the redevelopment The condition states:

'No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority'

- 1.1.2 In addition a specification/scheme of investigation has been produced by the Southampton City Archaeologist explaining in further detail the planning requirement. Northcroft Construction Consultants acting on behalf of Taunton's

College have appointed Oxford Archaeology to carry out the archaeological works including targeted excavation, watching brief and building recording.

1.1.3 This report is for the building recording which was carried out by Alison Kelly, a Supervisor within Oxford Archaeology's Historic Buildings Department. The site survey took place over a week in April 2008 with some further research beyond this date.

1.1.4 The recording was to level 2 as set out within English *Heritage's Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006) and as set out within the Oxford Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation dated March 2008.

1.1.5 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Graeme Kiloh, buildings manager and the team of the building maintenance department for assisting with access and the tracking down of building plans. Judy Milne on reception was a valuable source of information, having been a pupil at the High School for Girls prior to its conversion to a college.

1.2 **Aims and objectives**

1.2.1 The purpose of this investigation was to:

- To preserve for posterity a record of a late-thirties educational establishment and its subsequent alterations.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

1.3 **Methodology**

1.3.1 The recording was to level 2 as set out within English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006) and consisted of three principal elements.

1.3.2 **The photographic survey** - This consisted of general shots and specific details and was undertaken using 35 mm black and white print film. Digital shots were also taken to ensure a full photographic record. Appropriate scales (1m and 2m) were used where possible and the locations, angle and photograph numbers were recorded on plans of the college (ground floor, first floor and roof). A photographic record sheet was also completed for each film.

1.3.3 **The drawn survey** - Despite requests, the college was unable to produce detailed and accurate up to date plans for the building and so initially photography was marked on a copy of the 2004/2005 site plan. This was, however, unsuitable for the building recording as it was not to scale and did not include vital elements (windows, doors etc.). After discussion with Graeme Kiloh, Buildings Manager, three drawings showing the electrical installations during the 1990s refurbishment were located. Two drawings show the ground and first floor of the main 1930s building and were both by Buro Happold dated 1991. The third drawing was by the Southampton Directorate of Technical Services, dated 1992 and showed the sports hall extension. All three drawings were at a scale of 1:100 at A1 but were A3

copies. Drawings for the art studio extension and the 2003 extension to the north and north west of the main 1930s building were not located. The 1930s building drawings were redrawn by hand on permatrace by the author and are shown, with archaeological annotations as figs 2 & 3. The outline of the modern extensions are also shown on these drawings but are not to scale.

- 1.3.4 **The descriptive survey** - This consisted of written notes and annotated plans complementing the other two surveys with analytical and descriptive detail.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The History of the School

- 2.1.1 The Southampton College and High School for Girls was founded in 1875 by the trust of the Taunton's Boys School, which had been established in 1760. By 1889 the girls school had moved to larger premises in Moira Place. In 1907 Southampton Council took responsibility for education and the girls school became the Grammar School for Girls and relocated to Argyle Road.

- 2.1.2 Construction of new premises at Hill Lane began in 1935 and the building was officially opened on 22 October 1936 and had over 500 pupils. The new premises was designed by Hollis & Amott Architects, who won the project after an open design competition in 1932, with the main contractor being by Crosby & Co. A weather vane which still sits on top of the south range lantern was designed by a pupil, Ruth Parry, following a competition. An account of the new school described the building:

'Built in the Georgian style and with a pleasing exterior, the main entrance hall is panelled with teak from the old SS Mauritania...the large main hall has pastel colouring; its wooden panelling adds an unusual note to the main effect of pleasing lightness. Most of the classrooms face south, on the north are the art and domestic science rooms and labs. The dining room, like the main hall, has wood panelling... the reference library is situated to the south side.'

*Miss Platt writing for Hants & Dorset Magazine (1936)
(from The History of the Southampton School for Girls by Hobbs H, 2007, p. 56)*

- 2.1.3 The school was photographed and described in 'The Builder' on 13 November 1936 and a copy of this is attached to this report as Appendix II. The total cost of the building is given as £63,563, including furniture.

- 2.1.4 The girls school occupied the premises until the outbreak of war in 1939 when it was evacuated to Bournemouth and then to Boscombe in 1942 (Hobbs 2007, p. 79). As with many other government buildings, the school building was used by the military during the war. The nearby Taunton's Boys School Highfield building was used as an alien internment camp but it is not clearly known what the Hill Lane School was used for, however it is presumed to have been either accommodation or offices. Records tell us of the building condition when the school returned to Southampton in 1945, with small pin holes surrounding a circular void on the wall

of one room indicating the location of a dartboard and the tennis courts ruined by their use as coal dumps (Hobbs 2007, p143 & 154) for which a repair bill of £4000 was sent to the MOD.

- 2.1.5 In 1967 the school became the Southampton College for Girls, a sixth form college and in 1979 was renamed Hill College with admittance opened to boys for the first time. In 1989 Richard Taunton College (previously the Taunton's School for Boys) was merged with Hill College and became Taunton's College with Hill Lane becoming its main site. Refurbishment of the Hill Lane site commenced and was completed by 1993. During refurbishment the dining room was rearranged to become the college main entrance with the 1936 plaque re-sited on this elevation and the coat of arms moved to the gate. A time capsule from the 1935 build was discovered during these works, its contents including: A copy of the Southampton Echo, a school prospectus, coins and a medal celebrating King George V's anniversary (Hobbs 2007, p. 240). First and Second World War memorial plaques and a stained glass window from Taunton's school site were moved to the Hill Lane premises and inserted into the hall (pers. comm. Graeme Kiloh).

2.2 **The Extension Buildings**

- 2.2.1 There were three major extensions to the building as well as other alterations and smaller additions. Documentary sources say a new art block was constructed in the 1970's (Hobbs 2007, p240). It is not clear where or which extension this is but from looking at the buildings it is probably the current art studio which has some earlier windows. The 'arm' linking the studio to the main building appears to be part of the 1990s works. The 1990s works also included the addition of the sports hall and further classrooms to the east of the main build. This two storey extension enclosed the external rear wall of the former gymnasium which was in turn converted into a drama studio.
- 2.2.2 A single storey portacabin lies to the north beyond the art block and contains two classrooms. Two small buildings of unknown date were added to the courtyard of the art extension and the north range of the 1930s building. These were probably also portacabins and were removed sometime between 2005 and 2007 as they do not show up on the 2007/2008 fire plan.
- 2.2.3 Another extension lies to the north-west of the site. This extension is divorced from the other buildings except at 1st floor level where it is connected to the sports hall extension. This extension was constructed in 2003 and houses the Child Health and Social Sciences classrooms.

3 **DESCRIPTION**

3.1 **Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The main building construction is described in 'The Builder' in 1936:

'For simplicity of organisation, these new buildings are planned around two open quadrangles, with the assembly hall between them; accommodation is provided for 550 girls. The construction is of steel framing, encased in concrete with reinforced concrete floors and tiled roofs...The walls are cavity walls, faced externally with sand faced multi-coloured bricks with artificial stone dressings, the inner lining being built of molar earth blocks.'

3.1.2 The bricks are a deep rose/orange colour and generally measure 22.2 x 6.5 x 10.5cms. The flat pointed mortar is pale sandy coloured with a gritty texture and friable in places.

3.1.3 The modern extensions are rendered and painted white although are probably of concrete block construction as seen within the sports hall. The exterior detailing includes blue steel columns, which supports overhanging roofs and steel beams, which are also painted blue. The roofs are all hipped with blue slate covering.

3.2 **External description - The 1930s building**

3.2.1 The **south elevation** is dominated by a projecting central section topped with a artificial stone and brick pediment, which rises over the main entrance. Below, there are four pilasters with brick facing and plain artificial stone plinths and capitals. A coat of arms containing a shield with three roses sits within the pediment and the surrounding face is of brick. This central section is further decorated with a stone string-course and coping-stones on the parapet wall adjoining the pediment.

3.2.2 The whole elevation has many windows, all have steel frames, and fittings and the majority of which have 5 x 6 lights. The lintels are brick and the sills are concrete with some moulding to each join with the brick jambs. The openings vary with some standard casements and some horizontally hung casements, all windows have simple metal catches. Some ground floor windows have artificial stone keystone detailing to the gauged brick lintel.

3.2.3 There are three primary phase doorways each with artificial dressed stone pediments and column details. The central doorway is the widest and the pediment has a low pitch and the flanking columns have scroll detailing to the top. The remaining two doorways have plainer detailing to the columns and the stonework continues upwards to enclose the window above. All three doors retain a decorative fretwork metal grille, which fits on the glass light above the door and is part of the primary build. The central door was originally the main entrance for staff and visitors to the school. The timber doors are not original but the timber frames remain and are moulded and varnished.

3.2.4 The central section has a slightly raised roof with two brick chimneys, which have raised brick detailing. A wooden bell lantern with clock sits centrally on this roof. The lantern is classical in style, with leadwork to the base and cap. Above a gilded clock face are slatted openings and sitting on top of the cap is a metal weather vane which was designed in 1936 by one of the school pupils. The remainder of the

elevation has a hipped roof. All parts of the roof are covered with red clay tiles. Air vents punctuate the elevation, both high and low. These are formed using tiles and tile fragments. Metal downpipes on the elevation are painted grey.

- 3.2.5 A fountain with a figure depicting the 'Spirit of the Spring' originally formed part of the entrance way but has since been removed, presumably to make way for the sports playing field.
- 3.2.6 The **drama studio** (previously the gymnasium) forms a separate section to the main building. This was originally connected to the main building by a covered corridor. The drama studio is now joined to the 1990s extension and the north elevation external wall is now enclosed with the extension. The south elevation shows the building to have four large arched windows flanked by two smaller square headed ones. The windows are UPVC replacements and two of the arched windows have doorways inserted in them, which may have been part of the original design for this elevation. The arched windows have keystone detailing and stepped brick arches. The square headed windows have 4 x 9 lights with central horizontal casements. They also have keystone detailing but the lintel mainly consists of gauged bricks. The elevation also has an artificial stone course and three circular stone decorative details, which sit between the arches of the central windows. The central section is further defined by a parapet wall topped with coping stones. A second parapet wall on the now enclosed north elevation can be seen from the roof. The roof is separate to the main building and consists of a hipped roof covered with red tiles.
- 3.2.7 The **east elevation** is made up of the ends of the north and south ranges and a single storey with high roof building connected with single storey sections. The range ends have one ground floor window surrounded by stone and topped with a pediment. The first floor window above is ogee shaped with stone surround and a metal lattice frame, which centrally swivels open.
- 3.2.8 The central section of this elevation was originally the dining room but was converted to form the main entrance in the 1990s. This section has its own hipped roof and central parapet detailing. The roof also has a small lantern, which may also contain a bell. As with the south range the lantern is of wood construction with slatted openings and a hanging tile base. The cap is leaded and topped with a small ball finial. Centred beneath the parapet wall are two arched windows with brick and stone arches and concrete sills. These flank the central doorway, now the college main entrance. This was originally another arched window. The facade has been rendered in this central point and a new semi-circular porch supported by plain round column has been added. The windows and door are all modern UPVC. The two outer windows are 4 x 6 light with standard detailing and the frames are primary steel.
- 3.2.9 Under the arched windows are two stone plaques. The south-east plaque is from the primary build and commemorates the opening of the school on 1st June 1936, the north-east one from the 1990s refurbishment and is dated 14th January 1994. The primary build plaque originally sat under the central window and was resited during

the 1990s conversion, which also saw the coat of arms (formerly inserted above the central window) resited to the gate wall beside the art block.

- 3.2.10 The two linking sections are single storey with deeply pitched roofs and were originally deeply recessed within the elevation but have since been extended. These have small vented lanterns on each, presumably for air conditioning or other services, and probably part of the 1990s works. The north end has a small brick pier which is presumably a vent for the underground services chamber - again a later addition.
- 3.2.11 The protruding central section has three windows (4 x 3 light) to both sides. There is extensive remortaring to these areas and it would appear from early pictures that these replaced two larger primary phase windows. The south range has no window overlooking the dining hall, the north range has one first floor window.
- 3.2.12 The entrance for pupils was originally via the **north elevation**. As with the south elevation, the central section projects slightly from the range. Centred on this is the entrance which is flanked by two brick face and artificial stone pilasters either side of the doorway. These columns support an artificial stone section with plain parapet above. The parapet runs across all of the central section. Beside the stonework are two stone courses. The upper windows for this section are extremely large (11 x 7 light). This is intentional as the Art studios and science laboratories were originally on the first floor of this range. The original windows have been replaced with UPVC. The ground floor windows are a mix of 3 x 4 (within the columns) and 4 x 4 lights all with the primary build concrete sills and brick lintels.
- 3.2.13 The central doorway is recessed with dressed stone lintel supported by two large stone columns and two half columns. The entrance flooring is red tiled and it is likely that the adjacent rooms were originally cloakrooms. There are no original decorative features inside this entrance as seen in the main entrance. The door is metal but possibly later in date. The lintel is of polychrome brickwork. There were two other primary phase doorways on this elevation - both now infilled and replaced with windows. The doorways are surrounded by artificial dressed stonework and the windows above are also surrounded in stonework. However unlike the south elevation the stonework does not extend up to enclose the first floor windows.
- 3.2.14 The north-west blocked door has a small window beside which also has extensive remortaring. This is beside the 1990s extension which has covered a further 5 primary phase windows. The north-east blocked doorway has a metal grille over and is now part of the kitchen. This area also has extensive remortaring with two new doorways.
- 3.2.15 There is a brick wall with gate providing access to the rear entrance. The brickwork appears as two different phases. The second is probably part of the 1990's extension works. Adjacent to this is a stone plaque inserted into the wall which had been resited from the former dining hall exterior. The motto on this plaque is 'esse quam videri' (meaning 'To be, rather than to seem') and the plaque features a shield

with three roses, a symbol which also features on the coat of arms on the south elevation.

3.3 **External description - The extensions**

3.3.1 The mostly rectangular 1991 sports hall extension is rendered, painted white and has and grey, slate covered hipped roof. There are large plain glass windows and smaller 3 light windows with horizontal glazing bars and horizontal casements. The lowest pane of the windows are screened for privacy and the frames are UPVC with simple catches. The southern elevation has a small round window on the ground floor. The roof overhangs the building and is supported on steel beams and round columns, painted bright blue. The building is supported on a red brick base in the eastern end due to the slope in the ground level.

3.3.2 The 2003 extension is of a similar design but has smaller windows. The building is connected to the sports hall extension on the first floor by a glass walkway. The north western corner of the building is angled and the slate roof is only half hipped with red ridge tiles. This building also has steel columns and beams supporting the overhanging parts of the roof.

3.3.3 The single storey art block extension is again rendered white with a grey slate covered roof. The linking section to the 1930s building also has similar detailing to the other modern extensions, with blue columns supporting blue steel beams. The windows are large with the lowest light blocked. There are also some circular windows as seen before on the south face. The large art room at the end of this extension has older windows, a higher roof and no blue detailing suggesting this was the earlier 1970s art block. The whole extension is however, covered by a single phase hipped roof complete with rooflights, probably dating to the 1990s works.

3.4 **The Roofs**

3.4.1 Access was gained to the roofspace above rooms 218 and 219. The main building roof is of metal frame construction supporting timber rafters and purlins. The metals sections are bolted together and the two halves of the frame are connected to timber beams which are supported on the top plate of the walls below. The two sections of metal frame are connected at the apex. The ceiling joists are also timber.

3.4.2 Access to the roof was gained via an access door beside the staff room. The main building roof is hipped above the classrooms. The roof above the corridor is flat with a small parapet wall running around the courtyards. The north range has some stacked tile supports under the corners of the inside central section of the roof.

3.4.3 Various extensions within the main school building have separate roofs. Those surrounding the covered courtyard have are roofed with grey slate. The sports hall and classroom extension also has a grey slate roof, with a large central rooflight over the sports hall. The 2003 extension roof is of grey slate with red ridge tile. The extensions either side of the east courtyard are of similar hipped red tile roof to

the main building roof but are less aged in appearance and probably predate the 1990s works.

- 3.4.4 The Hall roof is partly used for offices 252 & 254 and there are rooflights, probably later insertions, however the central light is a dormer and may be part of the primary build. The hall roof also has several wooden vents which sit within a dormer.

3.5 **Internal description - The 1930s Main Building**

- 3.5.1 The 1930s interior is easily recognisable as there is a decorative dado rail 98-102cms from the floor. The dado consists of a roll recessed in the wall plasterwork. The skirting is generally low (only 7cm high) and in some cases set at an angle. Much of the interior has been altered, particularly the dividing walls between classes and the introduction of small offices/WCs. The presence of the dado as well as other primary fixtures (e.g. radiators) on corridors suggests the flow through these areas of the school has not been altered. Much of the ground floor has parquet flooring made from Jarra-wood blocks, although this has mostly been covered up due to the wood lifting. However, the pattern can be seen through areas of linoleum (e.g. cafe entrance). There are four primary phase staircases set adjacent to the main hall. The stairs are dogleg with simple metal banisters with rolled ends, the steps are of granolithic paving, some now quite worn. The dado continues on the stair walling. The dado can be seen within classrooms to the SW on the first floor. Dado may exist elsewhere but the plastic casing for electrical fittings is often at this level obscuring the view. The second floor classrooms have small clerestorey windows set above door level on the inner walls, a scheme typical of the interwar period of school building as it allowed daylight into the classes on both sides (Saint 1987, p47). The ceiling is generally plain plastered except within the library which has a suspended ceiling, adapted in areas to allow for the high windows. The lights and other electrical fittings are all modern. There are several primary phase radiators located on both floors, particularly in the corridors around the west courtyard.
- 3.5.2 The **hall** has a good deal of primary fixtures and fittings. In between the windows on the east and west elevations are pilasters, rendered with fluted decoration to the top. The walls also have detailing in render which continues upwards to the height of the doorways.
- 3.5.3 The most noticeable detail is the war memorial which has been resited from Taunton's School and is now displayed on the west elevation of the hall. The centrepiece is a square headed window with stained glass window central to the north elevation which depicts St George with a sword holding a banner with the St George's Flag and the quotation 'RIGHT FAITHFUL TRUE HE WAS IN DEED AND WORD' (from Spenser's Faerie Queene). The stained glass was designed by an old Taunton's School pupil, the artist and sculptor Sidney Boyes. The stained glass window has two windows flanking both sides and all are of the same size. Below the windows on this wall are 3 roll of honour plaques and one central plaque. The NW plaque is for 1939-1945, the central one is 1914-1918 and inscribed 'OLD BOYS OF TAUNTON'S SCHOOL WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR' (dated

1927). Another plaque dated 1939-1945 is to the NE of this. Below the central plaque is a smaller one with 'We will remember them' and the dates 1914-1928 and 1939-1945. All of these plaques have been relocated from the Taunton's Boys School Highfield building, probably at the time of its closure.

3.5.4 The north elevation has the outline of the stage, which has been infilled. Either side of this are two storage rooms with original doors. The doors are of varnished wood and have an art deco style glass window. The east elevation has 2 portraits - Richard Taunton and Frances, Wife of Richard Taunton, again probably resited from the boys school. The wall also has decorated pilasters as before. The south wall has a low stepped arch recess with decorative fluted plaster panels above. Below the recess are three storerooms - two accessed from outside the hall.

3.5.5 The windows on the east and west walls are tall, clerestorey, with 5 x 7 lights with a mixture of thick and thin glazing bars, complimenting the glasswork on the doors. The sills are tile and the jambs are rounded but not decoratively moulded. The window frames are metal and probably original with horizontal casement openings operated by a winding mechanism fixed to the wall below.

3.5.6 The ceiling has detailed sections running north to south down each side, presumably to hold services. The style is similar to the other 1930s fittings as seen within the school but it may be a later addition. The flooring is wood parquet as used elsewhere in the building. Historical accounts tell us the hall was originally panelled with wood at the lower levels, as Miss Platt recorded:

'...The large main hall has pastel colouring; its wooden panelling adds an unusual note to the main effect of pleasing lightness...' (Hants and Dorset Magazine, 1936).

The flush oak and birch panelling was probably removed during the refurbishment following the amalgamation of the Highfield and Hill Lane sites.

3.5.7 The **drama studio (formerly the school gymnasium)** consists of a single storey building with tall arched windows. This is part of the main building and the style of windows is generally different to the main building except for those in the old dining room (now the main entrance). The windows have been replaced with modern UPVC with the two outer windows having doors set within (may originally have had doors).

3.5.8 Internally little remains of the former gymnasium. The walls are painted brick and the floor is of wood strips which are probably not the 'oak board' as described in 'The Builder' (p949). It is clear that there has been much upgrading of facilities during its conversion to a drama studio. A small technical booth has been added in the south-eastern corner and behind this is the changing room. The west end has been blocked off to form a storeroom. The northern wall has four arched windows which have been infilled and rendered, the outline remains. The windows still remain in situ within the corridor outside, complete with primary phase frame and glass. There are four arched windows flanked by two smaller square headed ones.

The wall has been partially left as exposed brickwork with concrete lintels but the elevation has been rendered from the springing point of the archway upwards.

3.6 **Internal description - The Extensions**

3.6.1 To the south-west of the main building is an extension which was added in the 1990s. This consists of a sports hall surrounded by classrooms to the west and north and WC's/changing rooms to the south-east corner. The southern side adjoins onto the Drama Studio (previously the gymnasium). There is no visible connection to the Drama studio apart from the visible previously external wall.

3.6.2 The sports hall is of concrete block construction, which has been painted but not rendered. The roof is high with a large central rooflight. The sports hall is sunken and accessed via two stairs in the east corridor. The surrounding corridors and rooms have been rendered and the dado seen in the 1930s main building has not been replicated. The flooring is linoleum. The extension has the same low skirting seen in the main building. The windows are aluminium with horizontal casements. There is occasionally a circular window, both on interior dividing walls and exterior walls.

3.6.3 Both the 2003 and the arts extensions are similarly finished with clean, unadorned walls and suspended ceilings. The staircase within the 2003 extension is carpeted with metal banisters.

4 **CONCLUSION**

4.1.1 Most of the main building exterior elevations are little changed since 1936. The main building utilises many different construction technologies behind a plain brick and artificial stone facade. The interior has, however, been subject to much alteration and rearrangement of rooms sizes. The dining room and gymnasium have been converted as well as the addition of various small extensions, particularly around the courtyards. Wooden panelling decorating the interior spaces has been removed but decorative detailing in plasterwork remains as well as many primary phase fixtures (doors, windows etc.). The wooden parquet flooring remains in some areas but is mostly covered up with modern linoleum.

4.1.2 The college site has expanded with several modern extensions dating back to the 1970s. The largest expansion was in the 1990s with the addition of a new sports hall and classrooms. The latest extension was added in 2003 and was designed to complement the other modern extensions.

Alison Kelly
Oxford Archaeology
May 2008

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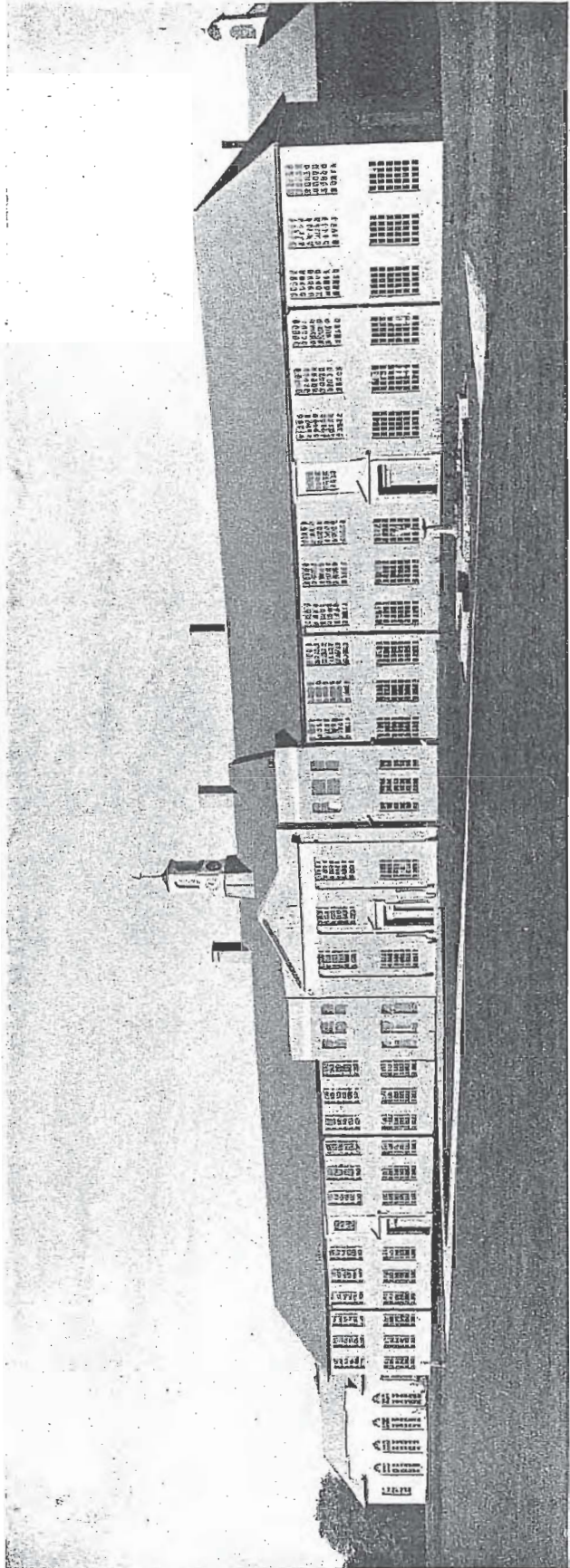
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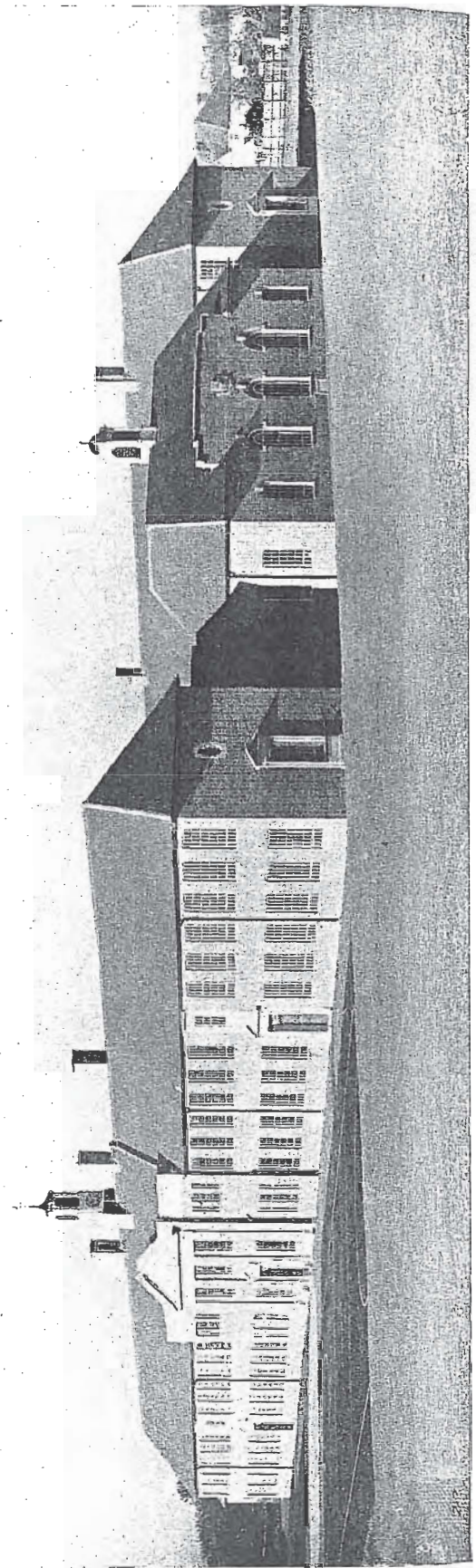
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APPENDIX II ARTICLE FROM 'THE BUILDER' 13 NOVEMBER 1936

The following article appeared in 'The Builder' p 933 - 936 and p 949 on 13 November 1936.



THE SOUTH ELEVATION.



VIEW SHOWING (LEFT) SOUTH FRONT AND (RIGHT) EAST FRONT WITH DINING HALL.

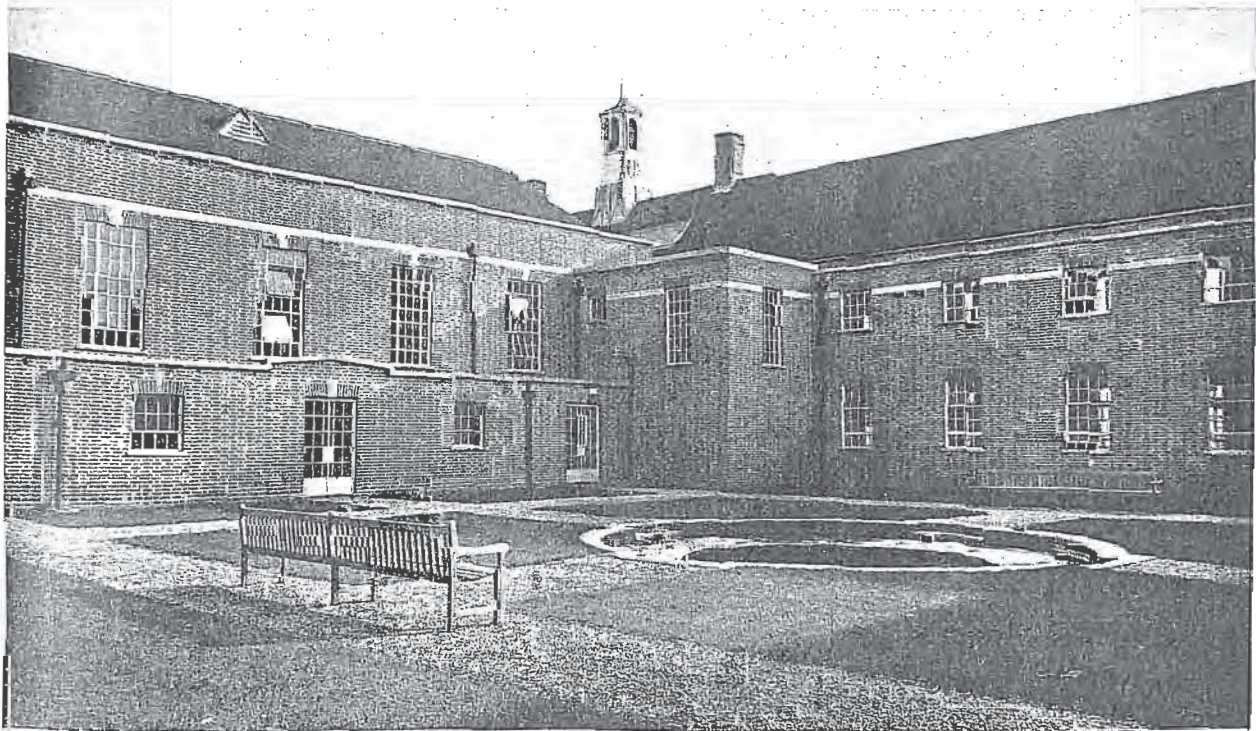
THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SOUTHAMPTON.

MESSRS. H. CLIFFORD HOLLIS, A.R.I.B.A., AND F. J. AMOTT, P.A.S.I., Architects.

(See page 949.)

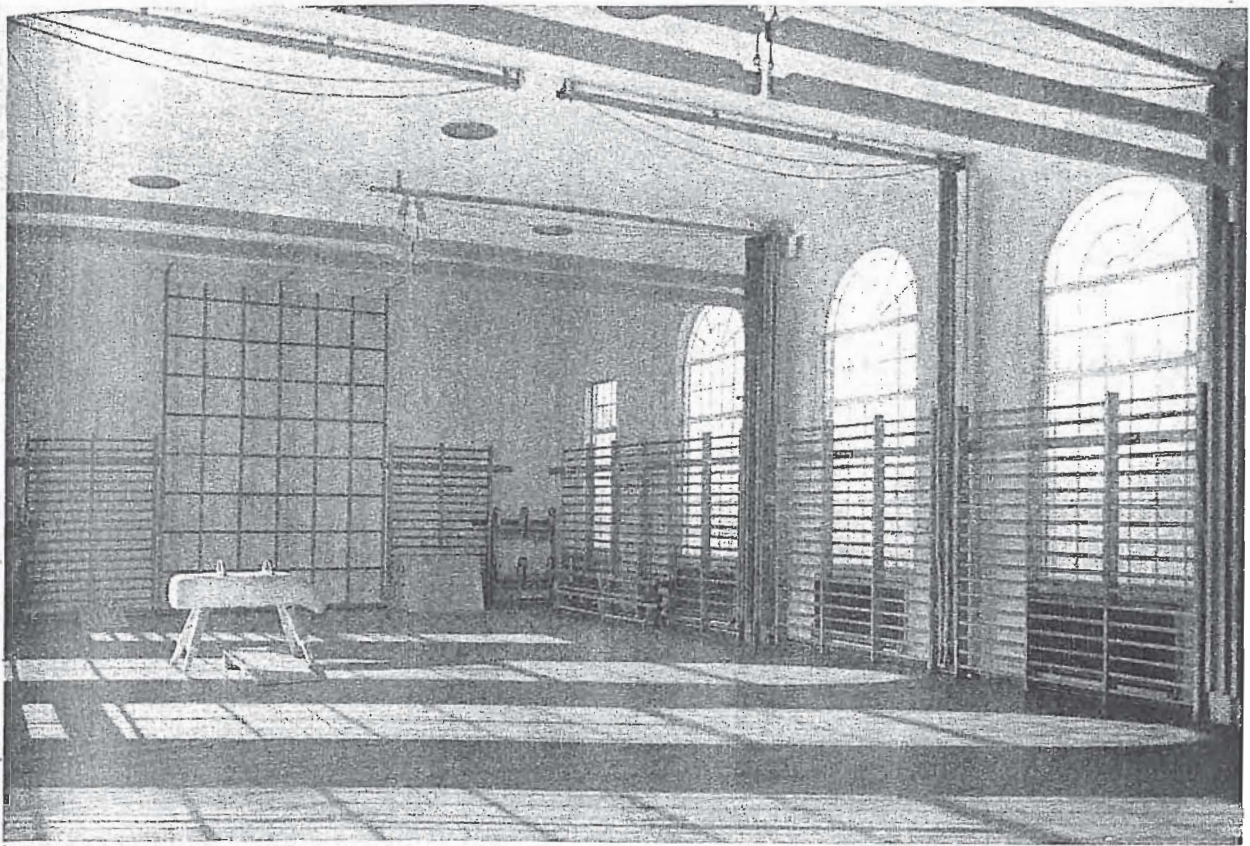


THE MAIN ENTRANCE.



THE QUADRANGLE.

THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SOUTHAMPTON.
MESSRS. H. CLIFFORD HOLLIS, A.R.I.B.A., AND F. J. AMOTT, P.A.S.I., Architects.
(See page 949.)



THE GYMNASIUM.



THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SOUTHAMPTON.
MESSRS. H. CLIFFORD HOLLIS, A.R.I.B.A., AND F. J. AMOTT, P.A.S.I., Architects.
(See page 949.)

ILLUSTRATIONS PLATES

Our Illustration Plates.

Our illustration plates this week are perforated to permit of their being removed for filing purposes, if so desired.

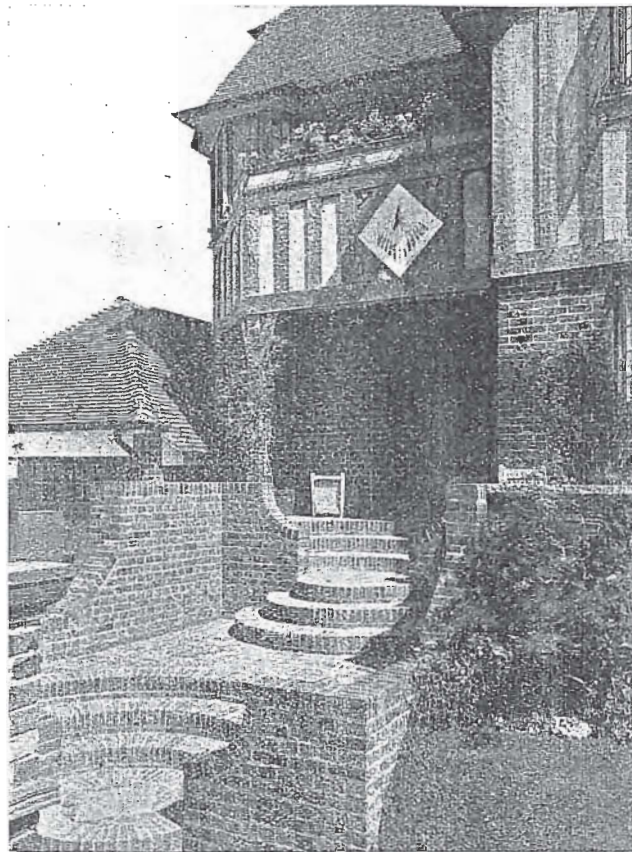
The New Grammar School for Girls, Southampton.

For simplicity of organisation, these new buildings are planned around two open quadrangles, with the assembly hall between them; accommodation is provided for 550 girls. The construction is of steel framing encased in concrete, with reinforced concrete floors and tiled roofs. Where there are any flat sections of roof, these are of concrete covered with asphalt, overlaid with pumice concrete slabs as a protection against solar heat. The walls are cavity walls, faced externally with sand-faced multi-coloured bricks with artificial stone dressings, the inner lining being built of molar earth blocks. The windows are of steel and can be opened fully.

The treatment of the interior is more modern than that of the exterior, especially in the assembly and dining halls. The upper part of the wall in each hall has been plastered and distempered a rich cream; the lower part has been panelled with flush oak paneling (with the addition of birch in the assembly hall), banded with mahogany and relieved with recessed lines picked out in blue. This colour has also been used on the fluted caps of the pilasters, and in varying shades around the stage opening in the assembly hall. Steel trucks under the stage serve the dual purpose of housing the assembly hall chairs when these are not in use, and providing an extension to the stage when this is required. The electric lighting is concealed behind flush glazed panels let into the stepped ceiling. The dining-hall is lighted by means of inverted bowl fittings of modern design. The dining-hall is linked by a servery with a large kitchen, fully equipped, with a separate tradesman's entrance. The walls of the classrooms and corridors are distempered cream with brown or grey-blue painted dadoes. The floors are covered with Australian jarrah-wood blocks. Tiles coloured light cream have been laid in the entrance lobbies, and granolithic paving in cloak-rooms, lavatories and offices. Teak paneling from R.M.S. "Mauretania" has been adapted and fixed in the front entrance hall.

The following special rooms have been provided: Laboratories for general biology (with heated greenhouse), advanced biology, chemistry and physics, with preparation and dark-rooms; a lecture-room; a large art-room and a handicraft room decorated in lavender grey; a domestic science room with walls enamelled white and a white-tiled dado; specially equipped rooms for needlework and dressmaking, and for the teaching of geography; a range of three music-rooms in an isolated position. The school library has been given pride of place over the main entrance, and is a dignified room with concealed lighting and with oak-panelled walls, which harmonise with the book-stacks, reading tables and chairs. The gymnasium is a separate building with an oak-boarded floor, and with ample windows reaching from floor to ceiling, and it is connected by a covered corridor with the main building. It has a changing-room attached, with shower-baths fitted with hot and cold water, and close to it in the main building are remedial and rest-rooms. Near to the girls' cloakrooms are drying-rooms for towels, etc.

Administrative rooms have been provided near the main entrance for the headmistress and the secretary, for parents and others visiting the school, and for the second mistress and assistant staff. Among other accommodation that has been provided are a book-store opening out of the library, general store-rooms and service-rooms for the caretaker, storage space above the dining-hall, and two rooms, one of which is also used as a fiction library, to serve as green-rooms when



BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, ROEDEAN, SUSSEX: Detail of Entrance.

(See page 950)

the stage is in use. One special feature is the excellent range of well-lighted notice-boards inside the pupils' entrance. In the western quadrangle is a memorial pool designed by the architects, and erected by staff, old pupils and friends of the school as a memorial to Miss M. G. Ison, headmistress from 1907-1928. In front of the school a fountain has been erected by present staff and girls as a gift to the school. The weathervane was designed by a pupil of the school, who won the prize given by the architects for the best design submitted. In the grounds, cycle-sheds and a caretaker's house have been built.

The buildings are centrally heated by the low-pressure hot-water system with wall radiators, but ceiling panel radiators have been installed in the science-rooms. Hot water is supplied by an independent boiler. The cost of the building, including furniture, was £63,563. The architects (who won the job in open competition in 1932) are Messrs. H. Clifford Hollis, A.R.I.B.A., and F. J. Amott, P.A.S.I., and the quantity surveyor Mr. G. Mitchell. The builders are Messrs. Crosby and Co., Ltd. Laboratory equipment was supplied and fitted by the North of England School Furnishing Co., Ltd., and gymnasium equipment was supplied and fitted by Messrs. Neils Larsen. The electrical contractors were Electrical Installations, Ltd.

Among the sub-contractors were: Matt. T. Shaw and Co., Ltd., steelwork; Kleine Co., Ltd., reinforced concrete floors; G. N. Haden and Sons, Ltd., heating; Blokerete Co., Ltd., artificial stone; F. A. Norris and Co., Ltd., gates and railings; Adamsez, Ltd., and Wm. Dibben and Sons, Ltd., sanitary fittings; Stevens and Adams, Ltd., wood block flooring; Benham and Sons, Ltd., kitchen equipment; Finniss and Ruault, bricks; Crittall Manufacturing Co., steel windows; Colliers, tiling; Southampton Sculptors' Guild, stone carving; Wm. Dibben and Sons, Ltd., and Parker, Winder and Achurch, ironmongery; Decorative Tile Co., floor tiles; Henry Hope and Sons, Ltd., R.W. heads; Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., ventilators; Mellows and Co., Ltd., patent glazing; Kingsmill Metal Co., Ltd., hand-

rails; R. C. Cutting and Co., lightning conductors; Permanite, Ltd., pumice roof covering; Clark, Hunt and Co., Ltd., steel trolleys; Alfred Brown and Co., cloakroom fittings; J. S. and F. Folkard, Ltd., fireplaces; Kalee, Ltd., curtains; Cashmore Art Workers, nameplates; and S. W. Francis and Co., Ltd., rolling shutters.

Sessions House, Maidstone.

The Sessions House, Maidstone, comprises the Courts of Justice of the County and the administrative offices of the Kent County Council. The Courts of Justice in this building were designed by Sir Robert Smirke and erected about 1830. There are two courts in the Sessions House, the Crown Court and the Nisi Prius Court. The Crown Court was remodelled by the late County Architect in 1905, and in 1935 the Nisi Prius Court was redesigned and modernised under the direction of the County Architect, Mr. W. H. Robinson, F.R.I.B.A. The existing court room was gutted and stripped of all the fittings and a new floor inserted, new fittings and furniture installed, and the walls treated with acoustic plaster and paneling. The ceiling was redesigned and a new system of concealed electric lighting was installed, together with a warm air-heating system and artificial ventilation. Owing to the dates of the meetings of the Assizes it was necessary for the whole of the remodelling to be completed within the space of three months.

The centre block of administrative offices was erected in 1912 to the design of the late County Architect, Mr. Frederick Ruck, and in 1932 a scheme for the enlargement of these offices was planned. The schemes for extensions and alterations to the Sessions House were divided into sections "A," "B," "C" (Records Building), "D" and "E." Sections "D" and "E" were first put in hand, and comprised a mansard roof to the existing centre block. Block "B" (illustrated this week) was next commenced, and is now completed. This block provides accommodation for the County Surveyor, County Medical Officer of Health, and County Veterinary Officer. The building con-

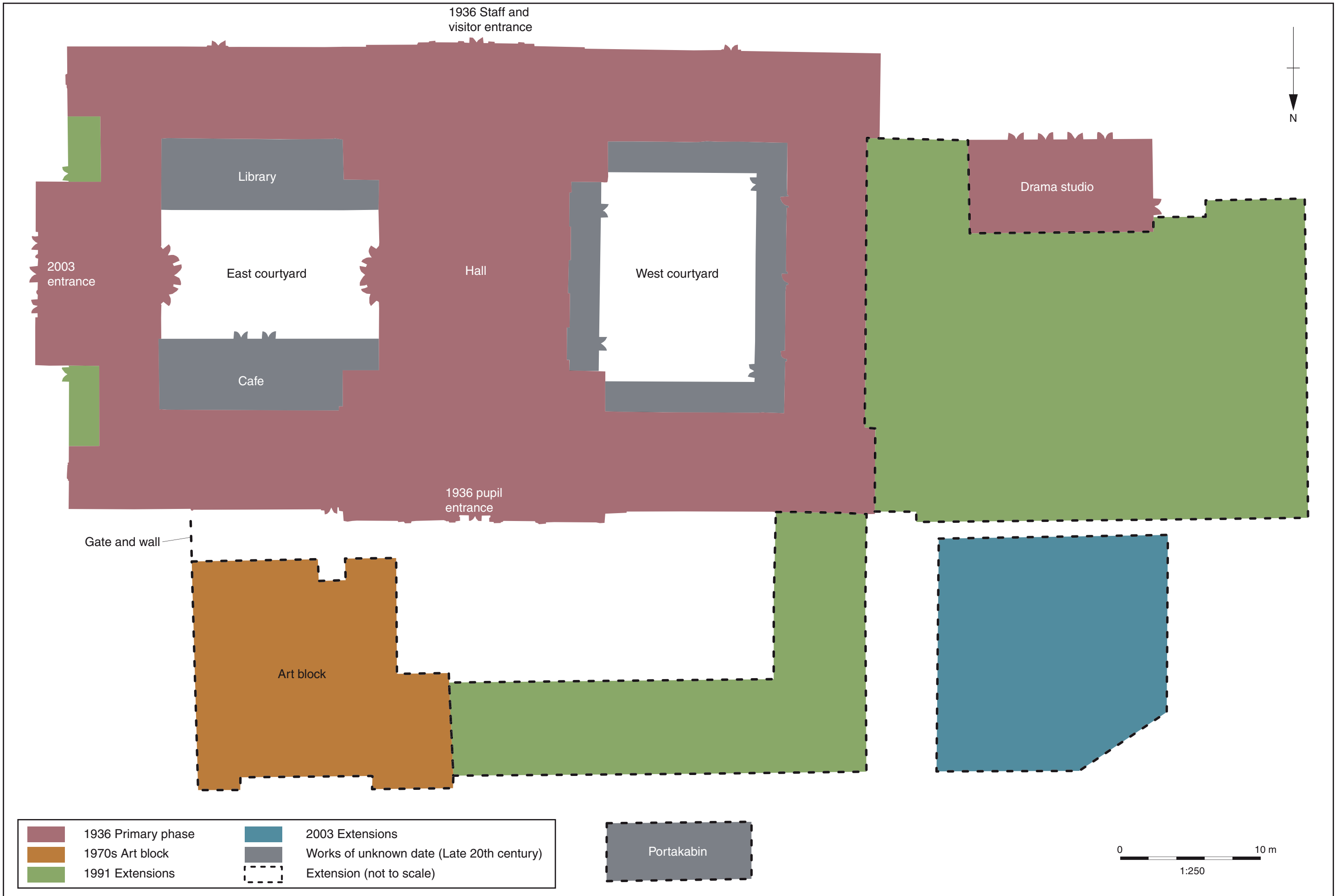


Figure 1: Taunton's College, Southampton, Phase plan of buildings (Ground floor)

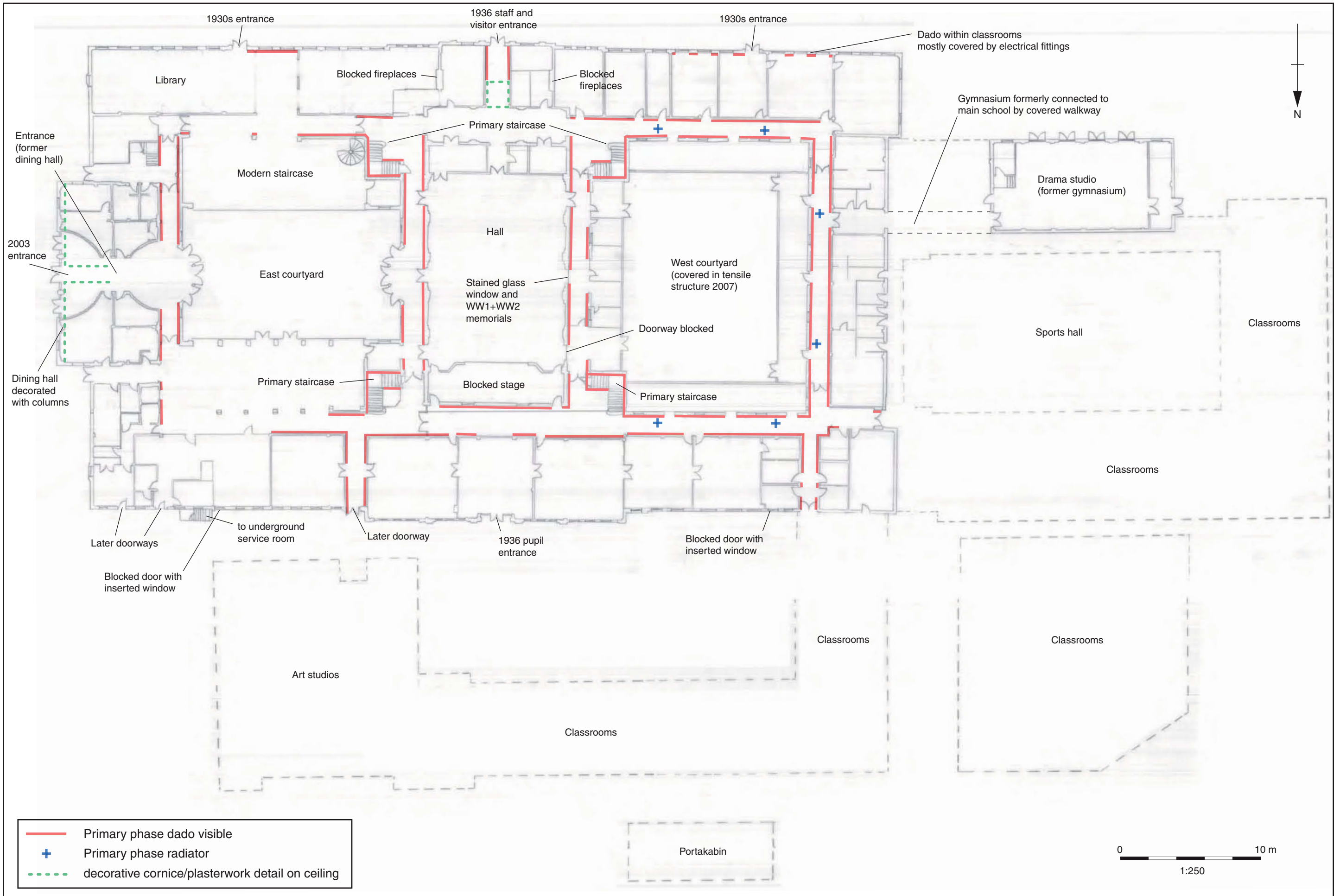


Figure 2: Taunton's College, Southampton, Details of 1930s buildings (Ground floor)



Plate 1: The south elevation in 1936 (picture: school magazine)



Plate 2: The south elevation today



Plate 3: The central section of the south elevation



Plate 4: The main entrance (previously the dining hall)



Plate 5: The 1936 plaque



Plate 6: The drama studio (previously the gymnasium)



Plate 7: The intersection of the drama studio and the 1936 main building



Plate 8: The 1991 sports hall extension east elevation



Plate 9: The 2003 extension south elevation



Plate 10: The corridor connecting the sports hall extension to the 1930s main building



Plate 11: The 1991/1970s art block



Plate 12: The gate with coat of arms



Plate 13: Blocked doorway in north elevation



Plate 14: The north elevation



Plate 15: The east courtyard



Plate 16: The west courtyard



Plate 17: Detail from previous dining room as seen from within mezzanine offices



Plate 18: The cafe



Plate 19: A 1930s stair and corridor



Plate 20: A 1930s radiator



Plate 21: Detailing from the former main entrance hall

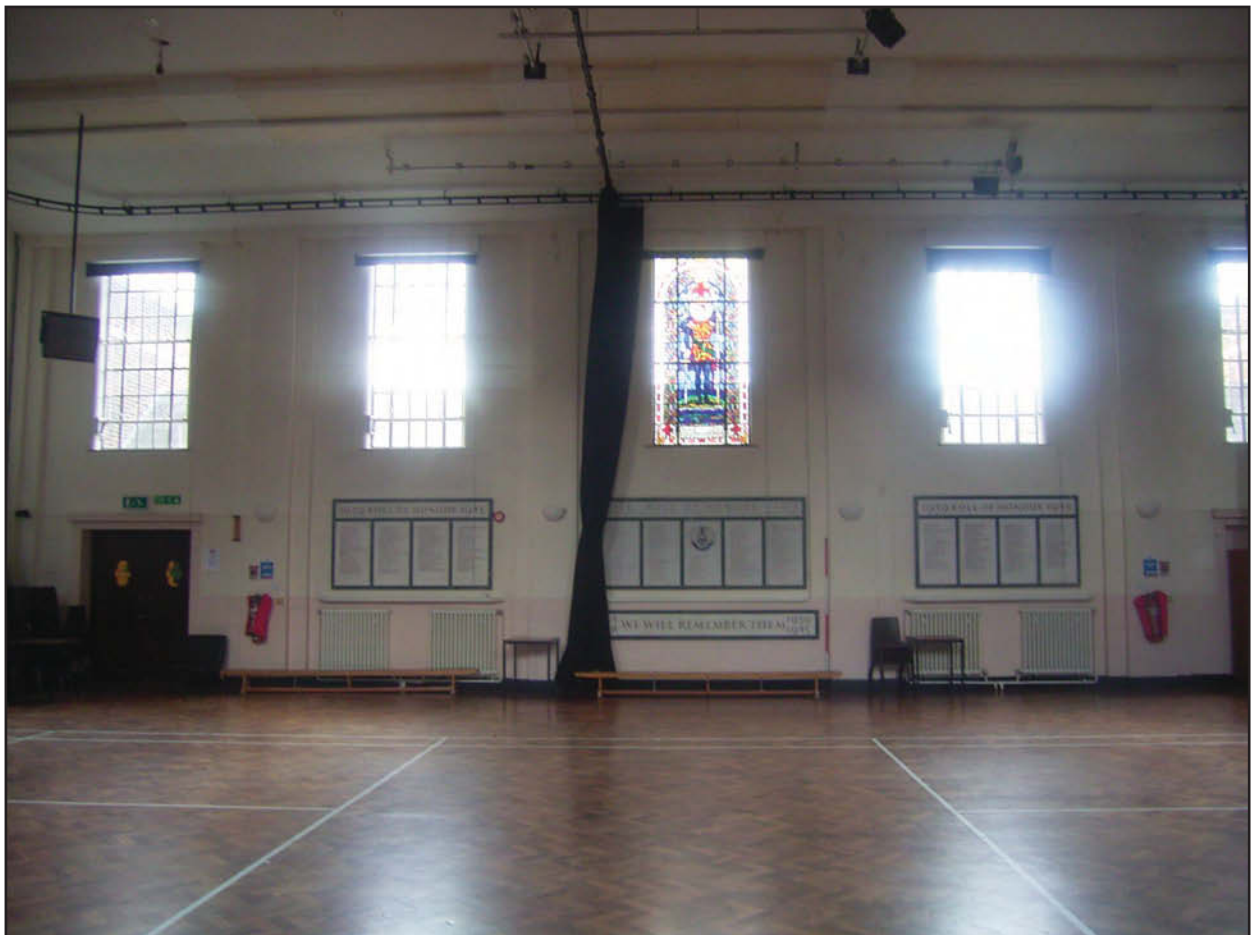


Plate 22: The hall east elevation



Plate 23: The hall north elevation showing blocked stage



Plate 24: The hall west elevation showing plaster decoration

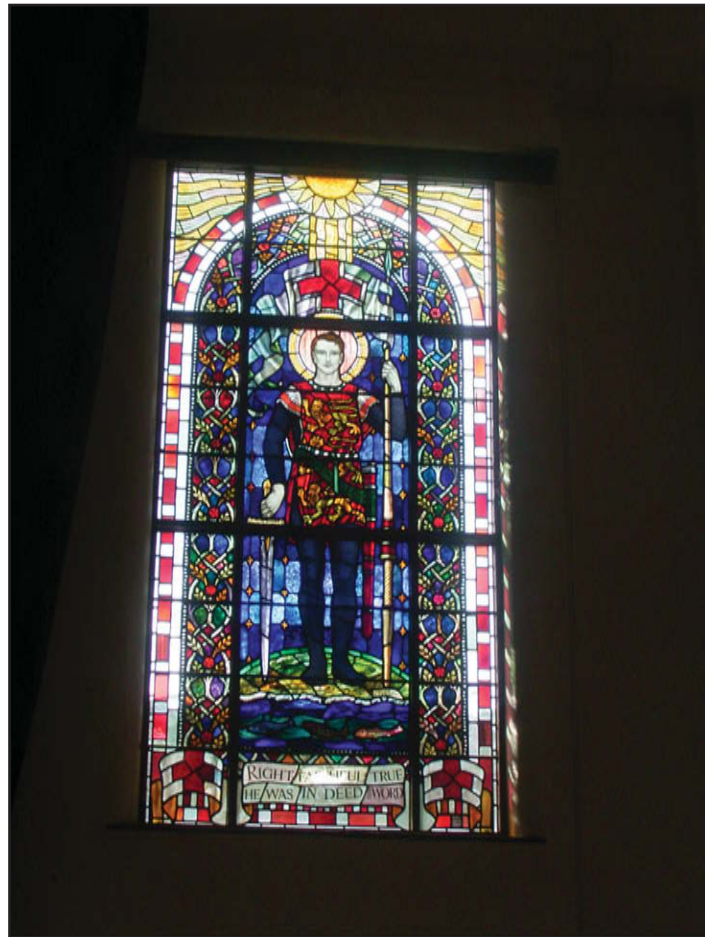


Plate 25: The stained glass window (resited from Tauntons School)



Plate 26: The now enclosed external wall of the drama studio



Plate 27: The 1991 sports hall extension - interior view



Plate 28: The 1936 south range roof trusses



Plate 29: The south range lantern and chimneys



Plate 30: Office created by the blocking of the stage within hall



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