

HISTORIC BUILDING  
RECORDING  
OF TIPTON POLICE STATION,  
SANDWELL  
WEST MIDLANDS

Shona Robson-Glyde

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2858  
Report 1402  
TGTPS05

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# **Historic Building Recording of Tipton Police Station, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough**

**Shona Robson-Glyde**

## **Part 1 Project summary**

Historic Building Recording was undertaken of Tipton Police Station, Sandwell, West Midlands (NGR SO 965 924). It was undertaken on behalf of West Midlands Police, who intend to demolish the existing police station building and construct a new police building for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to 'to establish the origins, chronology, technical history and significance of Tipton Police Station'.

Tipton Police Station was constructed in 1864-65 as a police station on the ground floor and magistrate's court on the first floor. It was a five-bay symmetrical building with decorative corbels, string courses and Stafford Knot. It was constructed by a local builder with locally made materials and incorporated tie rods during the building, as it was constructed on land susceptible to subsidence. The building was little changed during its life with the only major change being to the Magistrate's Court following its disuse in the 1960s. The disuse and blocking off of the cells in the 1920s and 1960s meant that they remained intact including the original wooden benches and toilets of 1892. Later extensions were added to the building in the 1880s and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly the 1950s.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

Historic Building Recording was undertaken of Tipton Police Station (NGR SO 965 924), Sandwell, West Midlands (Fig 1) on behalf of West Midlands Police. They intend to demolish the existing police station building and construct a new police building. A planning application was submitted to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (reference DC/05/44907), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (TGTPS05).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA 2001).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC 2005) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2005).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the project were ‘to establish the origins, chronology, technical history and significance of Tipton Police Station’ (SMBC 2005).

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map at 1:1250 and 1:2500 dated 1887-88
- Ordnance Survey 6” map square SO 68 SW date 1889

##### *Documentary sources*

- West Midlands and Staffordshire Police Museums were approached
- Staffordshire Record Office Q/APs/1; Q/FAm/7/1
- Historical directories
- Cook in prep
- Hurst *et al* 2000

#### 2.2 Fieldwork methodology

##### 2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005).

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Fieldwork was undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006. The site reference number and site code is TGTPS05.

Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building, drawn survey and building analysis. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out with a Nikon D70 camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. This record was complemented by annotating ground and elevation plans and by completing pro-forma Building Record and Building Phase sheets.

### 2.3 **Building recording methodology**

The building recording project conformed to the specification for a level 3 survey as defined by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996). This required the following elements of survey.

Survey and drawings

- Plans of all main floors as existing (based on architects drawings).
- Cross-section through the building.

Photography

- Overall appearance of rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance.
- Any detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use, which does not show on general photographs.

#### 2.3.1 **Building analysis**

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms original drawings and annotated architects drawings. It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above. This allowed plans to be drawn up showing the structural development of the building (Figs 2 and 3). A cross section through the building was completed and can be seen as Figure 4.

### 2.4 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted for the project have allowed a detailed record to be made of Tipton Police Station. The brief requested that a north-south section be drawn of the building, however this was changed with the agreement of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough, to an east-west section on discovering that a north-south section would not include the cells attached to the rear of the building. The brief also requested that access into the roof space would be required to draw the roof trusses and therefore complete the section drawing, however there was no safe access into the roof space to allow this so it was not completed. Despite the lack of access to the roof space a detailed record of the building was produced and it is possible to make an informed guess about the form of the roof trusses. Due to the age of the building and style of roofs, it is probable that the central truss, for both the main building and the cells, would be a king-post truss with hip rafters forming the hipped roof at the north and south ends of the main building.

The brief required that West Midlands Police Museum was included within the documentary search. However, once approached they revealed that any records relating to Tipton Police Station would be held at Staffordshire Police Museum. This Museum was contacted on numerous occasions in order to arrange a visit. No reply was made and the museum appears to be closed for the time being. Therefore any records that may be held are not currently accessible. Staffordshire Record Office, held a large number of papers relating to the Staffordshire police including treasurers accounts, letters and specifications relating to the construction of Tipton Police Station.

There is a high degree of confidence that the aims of the recording have been met and, whilst there is a possibility of further documents being held by Staffordshire Police Museum, the large number of

papers relating to the Police Station held by the Record Office allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the documentary search have been met.

### 3. **Topographical and historical context**

#### 3.1 **Tipton**

Tipton parish is bounded by Dudley, Bilston, Darlaston, Wednesbury and West Bromwich parishes, and covers about 3000 acres of land. Most of the land is built upon or occupied by former coal and ironstone mines. Tipton Green is the largest village in the parish with neighbouring villages of Bloomfield, Burnt-Tree, Dudley Port, and Horseley Heath (White 1851).

The earliest history of Tipton is little known although the area was once part of the Royal Forest of Cannock. There are records of landownership in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and St John's Church had been constructed by the 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century Tipton only consisted of a collection of hamlets. With the discovery of ironstone and coal the area began to grow and the construction of the Birmingham-Wolverhampton Canal in 1772 started the industrialisation of the area. The Toll End Communication Canal in 1809 and Telford's New Main Line canal in 1838 completed a communications network around the area allowing industrialisation and the population to grow (White 1851, 294). By 1811 the population was 8407 (Parson and Bradshaw 1818, clxxxiii), which had risen from 4280 in 1801 and continued rising to 14952 in 1831 (ibid, 294).

Tipton Police Station is situated on Lower Church Lane on the southern boundary of Tipton close to Dudley Port. This area was historically known as Horseley Heath and was a village within Tipton parish. The area around Tipton Police Station was largely industrial with Horseley colliery (9635 – MBL3240) to the north-east and Church Lane Iron Works to the south-east. The imposing buildings of the Police Station, St Martin's Church (585 – MBL3040) and the school show that the area was not only industrial but was important enough to warrant a large amount of money to be spent on its buildings. This money was probably coming from the industrial works in the area.

There are only two records on the Sandwell SMR that are in the area of Tipton Police Station. These are detailed below.

SMR No.	Grid Ref	Site Name	Date	Description
585 – MBL3040	SO 9663 9233	Church of St Martin	1795-7	By F Keyte of Kidderminster, partly rebuilt early 1960s after damage by subsidence. Stuccoed brick with hipped slate roof. Comprises nave, round west tower 20 <sup>th</sup> C brick replacing earlier taller structure, 20 <sup>th</sup> C brick chancel replacing chancel 1874-6. North and South sides each have 5 bay arcades of round arches springing from moulded imposts. Set within each is round-headed window with rusticated surround. At the west end there is a doorway to each side of the tower, restored in artificial stone, with architrave and pediment. Interior: flat ceiling. Galleries on three sides carried on slim iron columns.
9635 – MBL3240	SO 9670 9245	Horseley Colliery	19 <sup>th</sup> century	'Old Canal' formed the south side. Still open land

#### 3.2 **Police history**

In the early part of 19th century England, prior to 1829 and the appearance of the Metropolitan Police, it was up to the private individual to pursue any prosecution individually. The victim was expected to make an arrest and take the offender to the local or parish constable, who would act as a custodian until the court appearance. In the same period, alarm had been growing at the increase in theft and violence across the country, with riots and public disturbances occurring on a regular basis. By 1800, over one million people lived in London and crime rates were increasing daily; no doubt due to the squalor and deprivation felt by most of the inhabitants. In 1822 Robert Peel became Home Secretary and in September 1829 the first Metropolitan Police Officers were appointed and patrolling the streets of London (Dspace 2006).

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The counties had similar problems, but did not want to go down the route of what they considered to be "military interference" by a uniformed body. They preferred their parish constable, or set up local associations to prevent and detect crime, such as the "Newport Association for the Prosecution of Felons," who posted rewards and financed the cost of a trial. It was not until the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, that Counties were forced to elect "Watch Committees" to appoint and oversee a local police force. Even by 1840, there was still a great disparity between counties, with no single style of policing (ibid).

In 1839 came the Rural Constabulary Act, which caused some places to reorganise their own police forces to avoid the high expense of being involved with county forces. The Act did not meet the demands for a national police force, however it allowed for one policeman per 1,000 people. Response was poor and by 1853 only 22 counties had police forces. The provinces were slow to implement the 1839 Act because there was opposition to the idea of police (ibid).

In 1853 the Select Committee on the police examined the effectiveness of policing arrangements. It discovered that crime had reduced in areas where police forces were introduced; the fundamental idea behind the new police was good; any existing problems were due to low staffing; there was fragmented organisation and unhealthy rivalry between counties and boroughs and that previous attempts to revitalise the old system were a failure. Therefore the County and Borough Police Act of 1856 was important in its reorganisation of the system. It made the introduction of police compulsory in both counties and boroughs; introduced an Inspectorate of Constabulary to regulate policing; enabled the treasury to pay a quarter of the costs of running a local police force; forced the very small boroughs to amalgamate with the local county force thus reducing the overall number of very small independent police forces. The 1856 Act went beyond making police forces compulsory. It also introduced the basis for a program of police standardisation (Leeds 2006a).

Following the 1856 Act there were three separate traditions of policing, in boroughs, counties and Metropolitan police, each with different command structures and accountability. Between 1856 and 1918 various legislation improved the lot of the police and its organisation. But by the First World War the police were in a mess. The Desborough Committee was formed to look into police conditions of service, the government pre-empted its report by passing the 1919 Police Act, which prohibited the police from being unionised. The Desborough Committee looked into all aspects of police organisation and made recommendations about pay and conditions, it started to see policing as a career and a profession (Leeds 2006b).

The inter-war years were important in the development of policing. The Royal Commission of 1929 and the 'Select Committee on Police Forces Amalgamation' identified the problems of the police as being rooted in the quality of senior command. A police college at Hendon was proposed to train and fast track future senior officers and solve the Metropolitan Polices' problem of finding suitable senior officers. The effects of Hendon created great disquiet as the promotion of ordinary officers was frozen to allow the Hendon graduates to fast track. Hendon closed at the outbreak of the Second World War and never re-opened. The Second World War was a crucial turning point in the battle between central and local government for influence over the police. Wartime Regulations gave the Home Secretary virtual control over policing, especially chief constables. This power was used to the full and was not relinquished after the war. In practice the provincial authorities could no longer appoint whomever they wished (ibid).

Policing today, compared with the past is no longer just a matter of keeping the dangerous classes off the streets. The role of the police has changed; there are now greater demands upon the police due to more laws, more complicated and less class driven society. Methods of policing have changed; there are new large squads to deal with white-collar crime, technology and sophisticated beat organisation. The management of policing is now more controlled by central government and changes in the organisation of policing have resulted in fewer but larger forces.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Documentary search

Prior to Tipton Police Station being built, a property in Horsley Heath was rented for £6.0.0 every three months. This first appears in the treasurer's accounts at the end of March in 1862 (Q/FAm/7/1). In May 1863 the Police Committee ordered that a Petty Session Court be set up at the Navigation Inn on Park Lane in Tipton. The police station at Horsley Heath appeared to be inadequate as by June 1863 plans were being considered for the construction of a new Police Station at Tipton (Q/APs/1; Fig 5). Even so the construction was not quickly agreed as the Horsley Heath Station was repaired in October of the same year. In July 1864 an advertisement was sent out asking builders and contractors in Staffordshire to tender for the construction of a police station and magistrate's room at Tipton (Q/APs/1). The Police Committee of 13<sup>th</sup> August 1864 recommended that the Court of Quarter Sessions accept the tender of Mr George Heveningham of Wolverhampton for building the new Police Station at Tipton (Q/APs/1; Fig 6). It appears that construction of the building had started by the end of August that year as correspondence was taking place between various firms for supplying building materials and Robert Griffiths, the Chief Constable for Staffordshire (Q/APs/1). The building of the police station took place throughout the rest of 1864 and most of 1865. In April 1865 a loan was taken to cover the cost of the building of the new police station. This was recorded in the end of year accounts in September 1865 in the treasurer's accounts (Q/FAm/7/1; Fig 7). The loan was for a total of £2800 for a term of 10 years and was repayable at a rate of 5%. Horsley Heath Police Station was still being rented for £6.0.0 every 3 months at this time, which continued until the end of September 1866 as it was not mentioned in the treasurer's accounts for December 1866 (Q/FAm/7/1).

### 4.2 Description

Tipton Police Station is an imposing, elegant building that was fully symmetrical on its front elevation (Fig 8). It was five bays wide with large segmental-arched sash windows (Fig 9), corbels, dentil cornice and string courses (Fig 10). It had a central gable pediment (Fig 11) with eaves brackets (Fig 12) over an arched entrance way (Fig 13). The two outside bays formed projecting single bay wings. Behind the central part of the building was a two-storey cell block (Fig 14). The projecting wings also had extensions to the rear.

### 4.3 1864-65

#### 4.3.1 Construction

As a result of the 1856 County and Borough Police Act, in 1864, following over a year of planning, Staffordshire Police Committee give permission to build a police station and magistrates room on Lower Church Lane in Tipton. It was to be built incorporating, not only the magistrate's court but also magistrate's rooms, inspector's house, accommodation for 8-10 men and 6 cells (Q/APs/1). Mr George Heveningham was commissioned to build the structure and work began fairly soon after the Committee in August.

The building was, in the main, constructed using blue bricks that measure 8  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long by 3  $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep and 4  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, they are coursed in Flemish Bond. The bricks were made in Kingswinford by W E Partridge, as they marked with the name and place. The rear of the building was constructed in red brick coursed in English Bond and measuring 9" long by 3  $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep and 4  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. The cells are also constructed of the same brickwork.

The frontage of the building incorporated decorative elements that give the building a distinctive appearance. One of these was the inclusion of ironwork on the front door (Fig 15) - of which only that above the door survives - and the decorative knot above the door (Fig 16). This is the Stafford Knot, the symbol for the County. There are a number of possibilities for the origin of the knot. One of the most popular stories originated following the sentencing of three criminals to death by hanging in Stafford. When the executioner arrived he found he only had one piece of rope. He could not just hang one of the criminals and it would be unfair to the other two to give precedence to only one of the



condemned. He therefore tied his single rope into three loops and dispatched all three criminals at the same time. Another story of the knot stems from its motto: "The Knot Unites". The knot was said to bind three local areas that joined to form what is now known as Staffordshire. A more detailed account tells us of Ethelfleda, eldest daughter of Alfred the Great, who, over a thousand years ago, defended a stronghold at Stafford. She symbolically took off her girdle and said to the local lords: "With this girdle, I bind us all as one", and the three areas became Staffordshire. The anniversary of this event was celebrated in 1913, a thousand years after it was said to have happened (BBC 2005).

The building was constructed incorporating tie rods. There are number of letters from Mr Heveningham to Robert Griffiths discussing the adding the of the tie rods (Q/APs/1). These are usually only used after a building has been constructed and suffered from subsidence. However it seems that the area was known to suffer from subsidence due to the nature of the local industry, coal mining. It is important that the building was constructed with these tie rods. Staffordshire Police and Mr Heveningham knew the area suffered from subsidence and were trying to counteract the possibility of it occurring to the building once constructed. Even though the tie rods were used the building still suffered from subsidence in the 1890s (Q/APs/1) and possibly at later dates also. The evidence of some of the subsidence can be seen in Figure 9, which shows a crack running from the top of the window out of the top of the picture, and Figure 13 which shows a crack in the 'POLICE' sign and window cill above it.

A number of the tie rods included in the building whilst it was being erected are now partially below ground level (Fig 17) and others were included against the back walls immediately prior to the construction of the cells that were then cut by the entrance wall to the cells. It was because of this feature that it was originally believed the cells were constructed at a later date than the police station building, as at Bloxwich Police Station (Hurst *et al* 2000). However, documents relating to the construction of Tipton Police Station show that the cells were planned and built from the start (Figs 18 and 19).

#### 4.3.2 **Layout**

Much of the internal walling appears to have survived the later alterations and can still be made out on the ground plans (Figs 2 and 3). But the room layout of the building is unsure. It incorporated an inspector's house, probably the southern side of the building as this had its own entrance (Fig 20) and the original internal walls can still be seen amongst the later divisions (Figs 2 and 3). The documents show that the layout also included a kitchen and brewhouse close to St Martin's Church (Q/APs/1; Fig 21) - there is mention of the construction of the chimney being started in the wrong colour brick (Fig 22), a men's day room, men's mess room and exercise yard (Figs 2 and 23) as well as the cells, offices and magistrate's court and rooms.

#### 4.3.3 **Law court and cells**

There were six cells altogether, three on each floor, and they had wooden benches and toilets. Each cell had a stone small window opening with small panes of glass and iron bars on the outside (Fig 24). The cell doors were thick and had two openings, one to pass things through and one to look through (Fig 25). There were two staircases, one linking the ground and first floor cells with the courts (Fig 26) and one linking the Court to the Offices. The cells on the first floor were used for the holding of prisoners waiting for their appearance in Court. The staircase from the Court was then used to take prisoners to the ground floor cells, ready for transportation to Stafford gaol. The ground floor cells were used as a 'lock-up' for holding prisoners when arrested.

The other Law Courts staircase (Fig 27) had wooden instead of stone steps and a simply decorated, newel post (Fig 28). This staircase was used to take free prisoners from the court and led down to the offices on the ground floor. The Law Court was to be fitted with the same type of fixtures as Bilston Court (Q/APs/1, Fig 29). It is probable that the fittings were similar to those still surviving in Kidderminster Town Hall Court (Cook in prep; Fig 30). The public gallery may have been situated at the north end of the room (Fig 31) as the moulding is missing at this end of the room (Fig 32). The Court had its own external entrance. This was from the north wing of the building (Fig 33) and allowed first floor access to the Courtroom up a set of stone stairs (Fig 34), now worn with age. There was a large doorway into the Court (Fig 35) that was presumably for the Magistrate to enter through.

In the ceiling of the Court were two grills from which were suspended gas-lit chandeliers. The supply to these was controlled through a tap set in the wall of the Court (Fig 36). The Court held sessions once a week and included Bloomfield, Dudley Port, Horseley Heath, Ocker Hill, Prince's End, Summerhill, Tipton Green, Burnt Tree and Toll End within its division.

#### 4.4 **By 1888**

Very little changes appear to have been made to the build since it was constructed. By 1888 there were extensions to the rear of the two wings (Figs 37 and 38) as they are shown on the Ordnance Survey first edition map of that date (Fig 39). These extensions to the building are constructed of red brick and coursed in Flemish Bond measuring  $8\frac{3}{4}$ " long by 3" deep and  $4\frac{3}{8}$ " wide. The function of these buildings is not known and their construction style and materials do not give any possibilities for their use.

#### 4.5 **1892**

In October 1892 repairs and alterations to the building were carried out. The majority of these repairs were to the toilet and plumbing system and they are detailed in specifications of this date (Q/APs/1; Fig 40). The alterations were mainly to the cells and involved moving the benches from one of the cell to the other and the removal of the old and fitting of new toilet pans. Those that were fitted appear to be the ones still in place in some of the cells (Fig 41). Changes were also made to the kitchen and magistrate's toilet.

#### 4.6 **20<sup>th</sup> century**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the biggest changes to the building. To begin with extensions were built to the rear of the cells and north wing (Fig 42). These were constructed using modern machine made brown and brown-red bricks coursed in Flemish Bond. The bricks measure  $8\frac{7}{8}$ " long by  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " deep by  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. The extensions were used as a boiler room (Fig 43), a parade room (Figs 44 and 45), an office (Figs 43 and 46) and a store (Figs 47). Also around the same time a toilet block was built in the exercise yard (Fig 48), with the entrance inside the building. The usage of this brick appears to date from around 1950 although these structures may have been constructed at a later date.

The interior of the building also saw some changes during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with internal divisions being taken down, cut through or added (Figs 2 and 3). Even so some of the original features remained intact, such as the cupboard in the enquiry office (Fig 49). The most damaging alteration was the removal of the Court fittings when it went out of use in the 1960s. The Court Room (Fig 50) was last used as a men's locker room and is now just a large empty space.

The cells were also blocked off during this time, which accounts for their being so intact in comparison to Bloxwich Police Station (Hurst *et al* 2000) and Kidderminster Town Hall (Cook in prep).

### 5. **Synthesis**

The County and Borough Police Act of 1856 was a catalyst for the construction of a large number of police stations across the country. In Staffordshire Bilston Police Station was planned and built in the 1860s at the same time as Tipton Police Station. At the time, the area around the police station was highly industrial, with a very small number of large non-industrial buildings in the landscape.

The police station and magistrate's court have been little changed externally since they were constructed in 1864-1865. The new police station was built by a local contractor with bricks made in nearby Kingswinford. The inclusion of tie rods as it was being built, show an awareness of the peculiarities of the land on which the building was constructed. It was therefore a rare example of preventative measures being built into the structure from its inception. The frontage was imposing but well designed with decorative window arches, corbels, string courses and the Stafford Knot. The building was a replacement for the Horseley Heath Station and Tipton Petty Court.

The cells at the police station have remained intact due to their being blocked off in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Which makes them a very good example of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century style of imprisonment. The first floor cells were locked first, possibly in the late 1920s, and the ground floor cells were locked in the 1960s but not before prisoners had made their marks on the walls (Fig 51).

## 5.1 Research frameworks

There are no real frameworks to base the study of Tipton Police Station upon. Numerous histories have been produced about the history of the police force and in particular the Metropolitan Police. Studies have also been carried out on prison architecture, in particular 'Behind bars' (Brodie *et al* 1999). However there have been no in depth studies of the architecture and design of Police Stations on which to draw comparison for Tipton. The record of Tipton Police Station should be included alongside the record of Bloxwich Police Station (Hurst *et al* 2000) and Kidderminster Town Hall (Cook in prep) to provide an overall impression of this type of building.

## 6. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*Historic building recording was undertaken on behalf of West Midlands Police at Tipton Police Station, Sandwell, West Midlands (NGR ref SO 965 924; SMR ref TGTPS05). Tipton Police Station was constructed in 1864-65 as a police station on the ground floor and magistrate's court on the first floor. It was a five-bay symmetrical building with decorative corbels, string courses and Stafford Knot. It was constructed by a local builder with locally made materials and incorporated tie rods during the building, as it was constructed on land susceptible to subsidence. The building was little changed during its life with the only major change being to the Magistrate's Court following its disuse in the 1960s. The disuse and blocking off of the cells in the 1920s and 1960s meant that they remained intact including the original wooden benches and toilets of 1892. Later extensions were added to the building in the 1880s and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly the 1950s.*

## 7. The archive

The archive consists of:

- 7 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 11 Photographic records AS3
- 425 Digital images
- 1 Building record form AS43
- 7 Scale drawings
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Community History and Archives Centre,  
Smethwick Library,  
High Street,  
Smethwick,  
West Midlands  
B66 1AB  
0121 558 2561

## 8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Nick Burton, West Midlands Police; Charlotte Lewis and Graham Eyre-Morgan, Sandwell MBC; staff of Staffordshire Record Office and West Midlands Police Museum.

## 9. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Shona Robson-Glyde. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde and Adam Lee and illustration by Carolyn Hunt and Shona Robson-Glyde.

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Q/APs/1 *Letters, Tenders, Specifications concerning Police Stations 1863-1901*

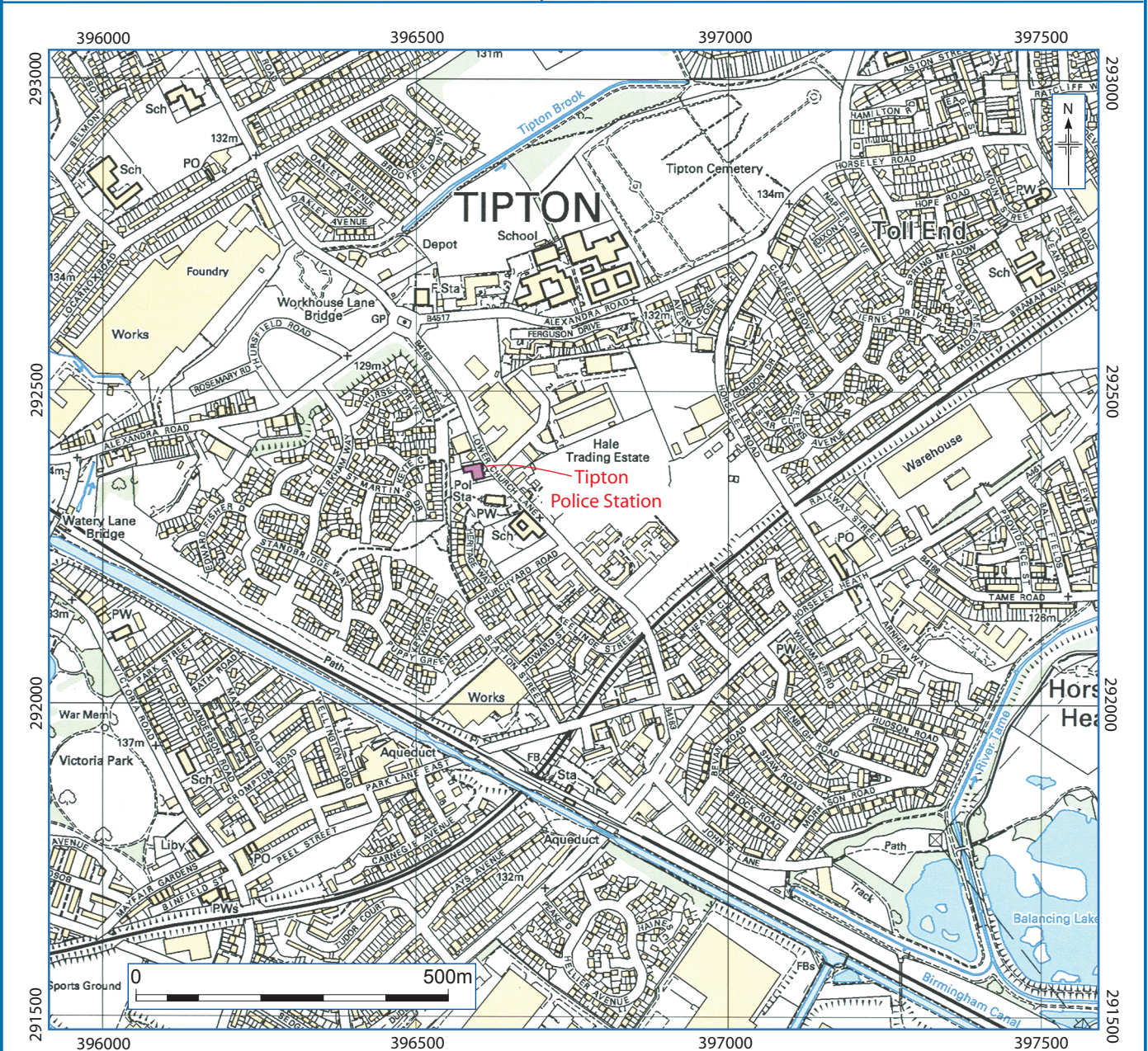
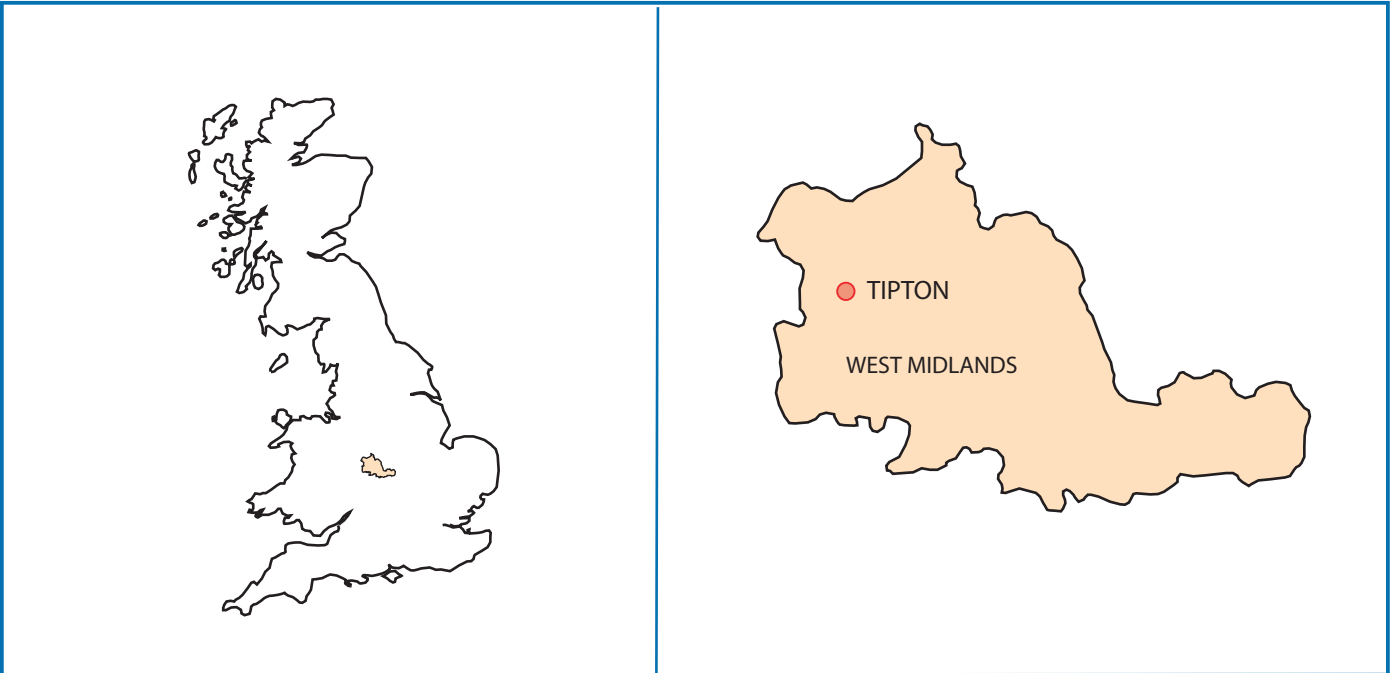
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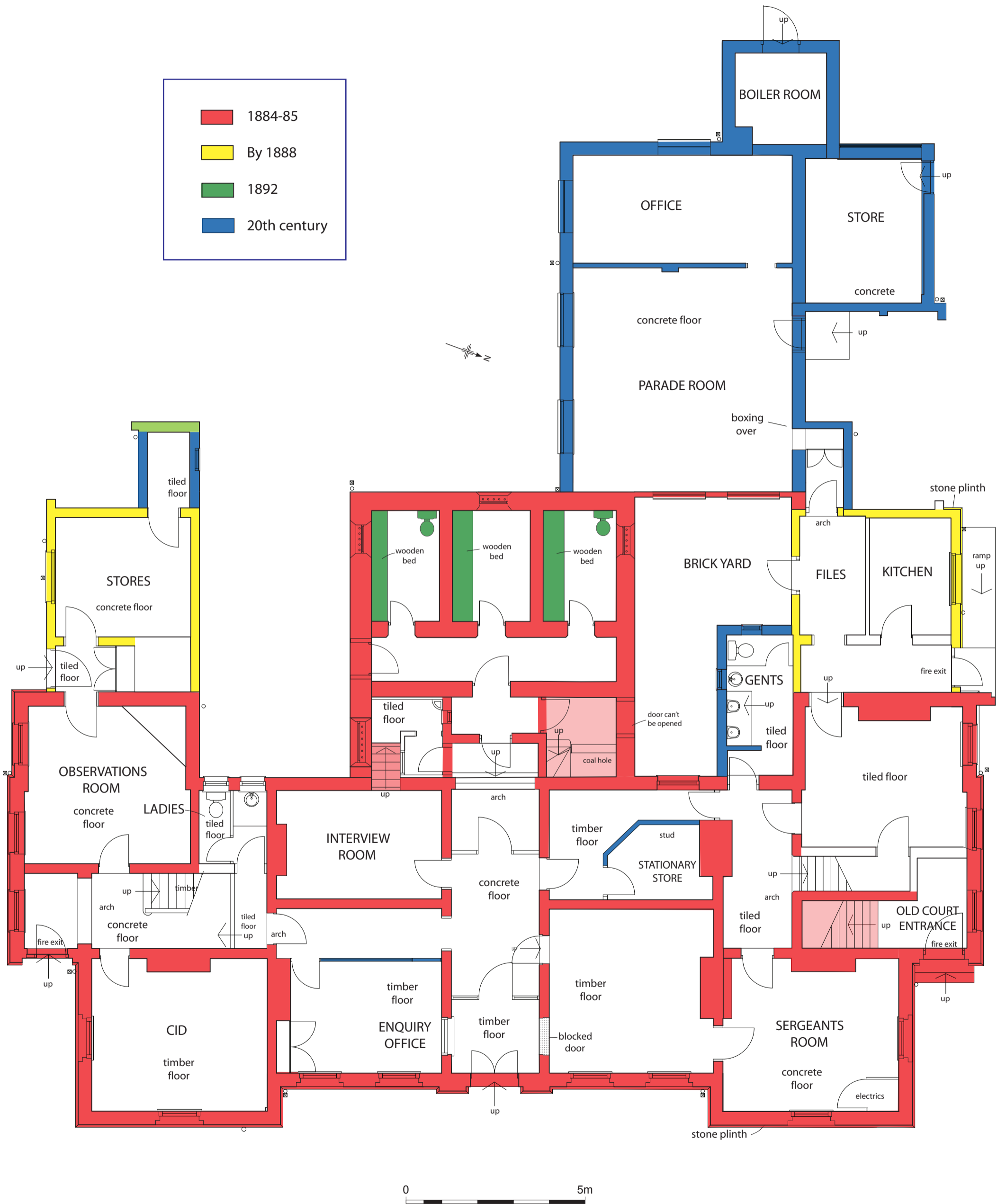
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Location of Tipton Police Station

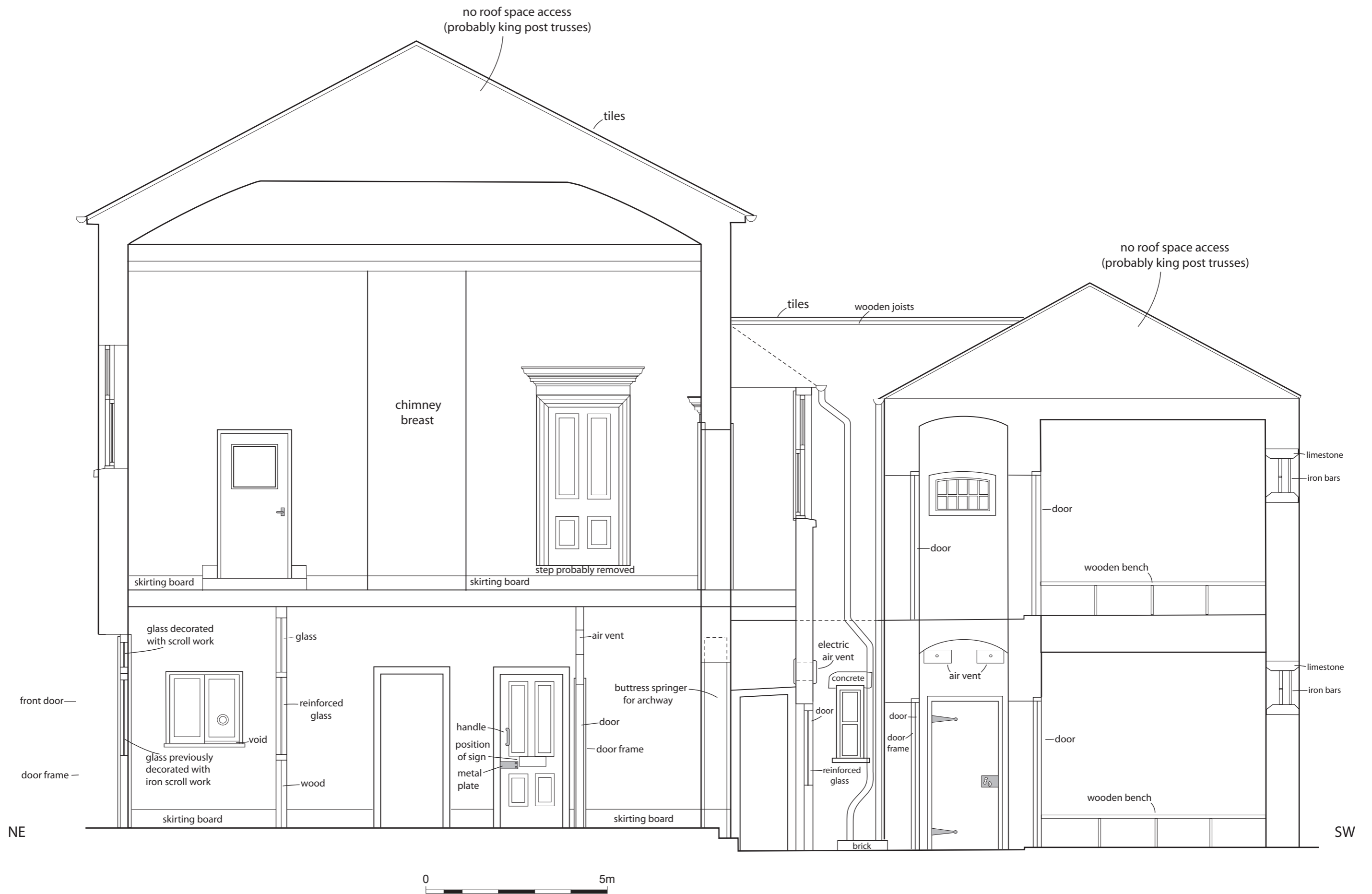
Figure 1



Tipton Police Station; Ground Floor Plan

Figure 2





Tipton Police Station: Cross section

Figure 4



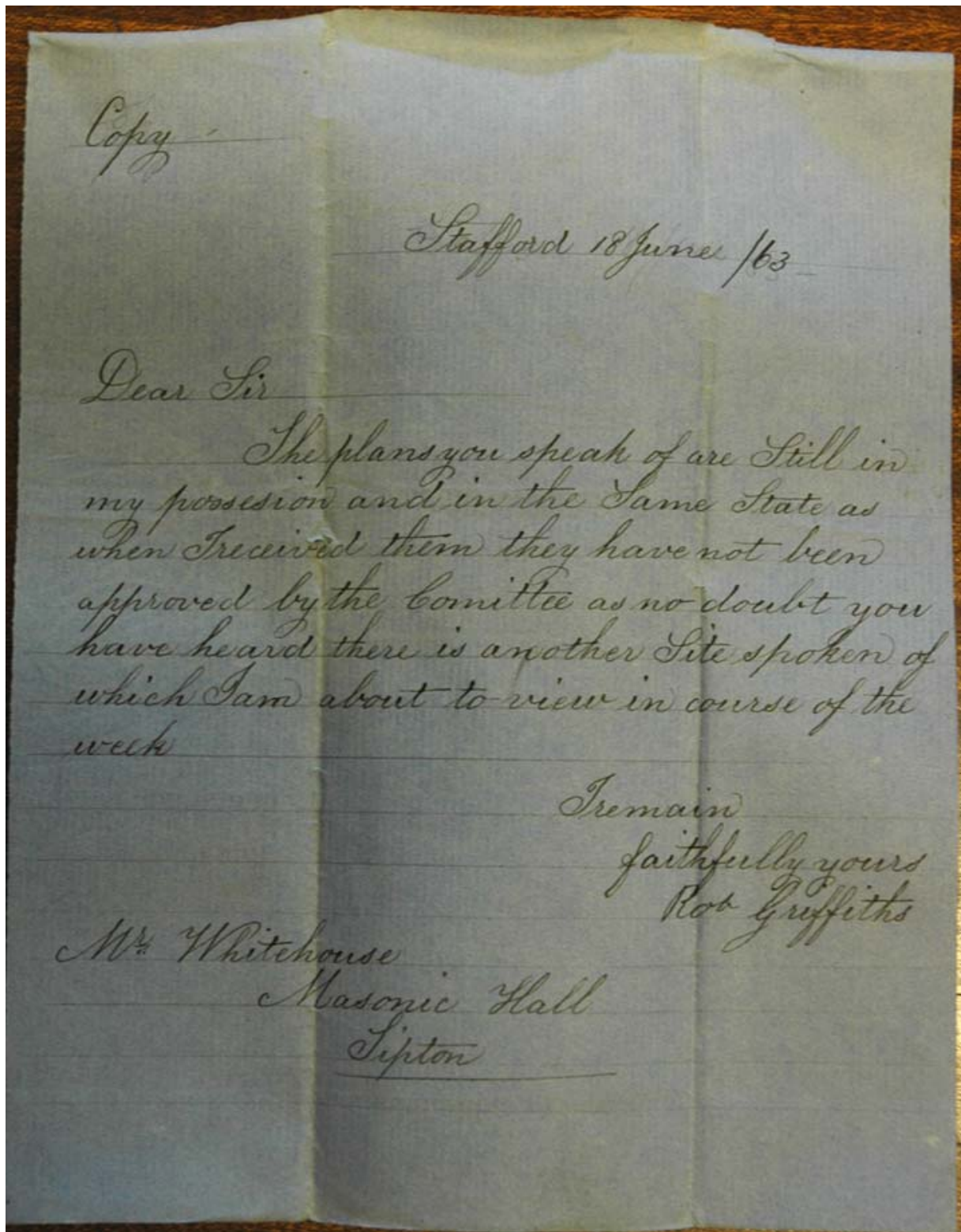


Figure 5: Letter of June 1863 from Chief Constable

That a sum not exceeding £25..10 be expended under the direction of the County Surveyor in the necessary repairs at Burslem Police Station -

That the Court of Quarter Sessions be recommended to accept the Tender of Mr. George Heveningham of Wolverhampton for erecting the New Police Station at Tipton at the sum of £2186 be accepted provided the securities are to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor -

Resolved - That the County Surveyor do meet Mr. Campbell at Stoke Police Station relative to the alterations ordered at the last Sessions

Figure 6: Extract from Police Committee minutes of August 1864





*Figure 8: Front elevation of Tipton Police Station*



*Figure 9: Sash window on Tipton Police station*



Figure 10: Dentilated string course



Figure 11: Gable pediment



*Figure 12: Eaves brackets*



*Figure 13: Front entrance bay*



*Figure 14: Two storey cell block*





Figure 15: Decorative ironwork above front door



Figure 16: The Stafford Knot



*Figure 17: Buried tie rod*

Tipton Station March 2. 1864 —

Stated to Mr. Parnell Cost of Land  
 " ————— 677.00  
 Buildings ————— 2000.00  
 2677.00

agreed to cost for a sum not  
 exceeding £ 2800.00 —

Accommodation —  
 6 cells —  
 8 or 10 Men  
 Inspector's Room  
 Magistrate's rooms —

The cost of the accommodation is £ 3000.00  
 the building cost by Mr. Parnell  
 determined to be £ 2250.00 —

Figure 18: Letter of March 1864 detailing accommodation at Tipton Police Station

Mr. Hampton  
Feb 8. 1865

Tipton Police Station

Robt. Griffiths Esqre

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
inst. I duly received, and I have  
given instructions, to the Foreman &  
to Heveningham, to adhere to the  
original plan for cell doors -

I met Heveningham at the building  
today and he has promised to  
push on faster with the work

Yours truly  
John Miller

Figure 19: Letter of February 1865 discussing cell doors



*Figure 20: Possible entrance to Inspector's House*

P.S. I shall be obliged if you will  
inform me if the whole of the  
Chimney shaft on main roof  
are to be faced with blue bricks,  
the stacks from kitchen & brewhouse  
next to backyard they have started  
red bricks. I have stopped them until  
I hear from you

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1865

W. Johnson  
Mrs Miller

Figure 21: Letter of July 1865 describing kitchen and brewhouse chimneystack



*Figure 22: Chimneystack, partly built in wrong colour brick*



*Figure 23: Exercise yard*



*Figure 24: Cell window*





*Figure 25: Cell door showing openings*



*Figure 26: Staircase from cells to Court*



*Figure 27: Staircase to Court from Offices*



*Figure 28: Wooden newel post*

(Copy)

Stafford 12<sup>th</sup> May 1865

Mr. Driveningham  
 Bilston Police Station

Sir

You may put a Stone  
 Pediment in lieu of Wood if you  
 can do it without an extra

The barge rafters were not taken  
 as wrought but 1 1/4" beaded fascia  
 and 2" molding taken to gables;  
 the soffits plastered to match projecting  
 eaves

For the description of Fittings of  
 Public Room see "Bilston". P.S. as  
 Desks, seats, enclosures, but the  
 arrangement is quite different

The closet pans of bells are flushed,  
 with 1" lead pipes with stop cocks in  
 passages The Ventilators in ceiling of  
 Public Room may be common gratings  
 with perforated zinc at back instead of  
 the Valvular gratings as described but  
 must have the wooden shutter as well

As to the construction of Rain roof  
 it will be best for you to make a

Figure 29: Letter of May 1865 describing fittings for Court



Figure 30: Kidderminster Town Hall Courtroom (with permission of M Cook).



Figure 31: Tipton Courtroom, possible public gallery (north) end



*Figure 32: Courtroom north end, no moulding*



*Figure 33: Entrance to Magistrate's Court*



*Figure 34: Magistrate's Court staircase*



*Figure 35: Magistrate's doorway in Court*



*Figure 36: Gas tap in Magistrate's Court*



Figure 37: south wing extension



Figure 38: north wing extension



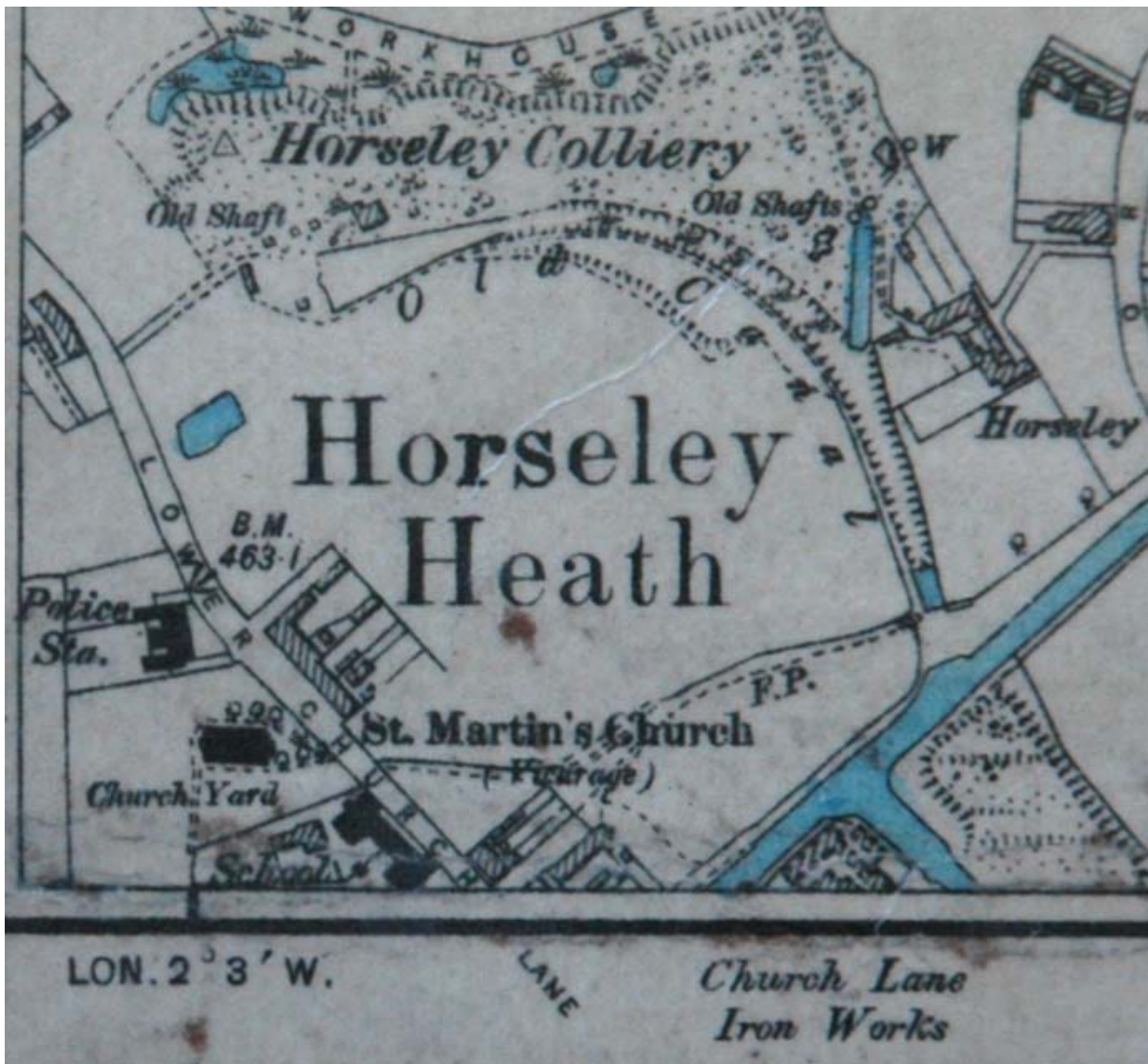


Figure 39: Ordnance Survey map of 1888

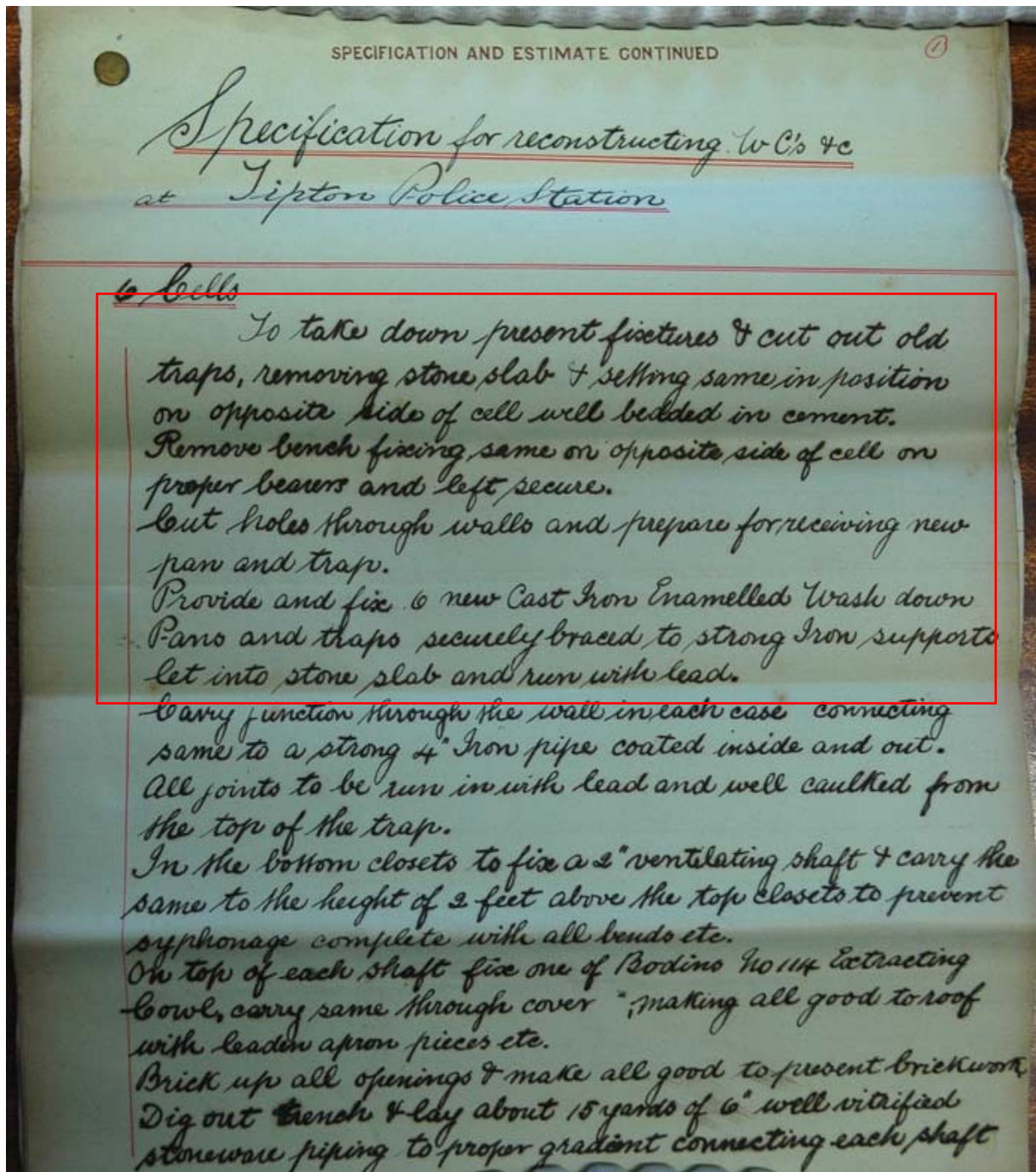


Figure 40: letter of October 1892 discussing removal of cell benches and toilets



*Figure 41: Interior of cells showing bench and 1892 toilets*



*Figure 42: Extensions to rear of cells*



*Figure 43: Boiler room extension*



Figure 44: Parade room and office extension



Figure 45: Parade room interior



*Figure 46: Office interior*



*Figure 47: Store extension*



*Figure 48: Exercise yard toilet block*





*Figure 49: Enquiry room cupboard*



*Figure 50: Magistrate's Court*



*Figure 51: cell graffiti*