

The Jennie Lee Centre,
Wednesfield,
Wolverhampton



**Historic Building Recording
and Desk-Based Assessment**



August 2013

**Client: Andrew Josephs Associates
on behalf of Taylor Wimpey**

OA East Report No: 1514

OASIS No: oxfordar3-156733

NGR: SJ 394981 300637

The Jennie Lee Centre, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton

Historic Building Survey and Desk-Based Assessment

By Taleyna Fletcher BA, MifA

Editor: Chris Thatcher BA

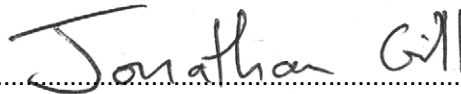
Illustrators: Stuart Ladd BA MA PifA and Taleyna Fletcher BA, MifA

Report Date: August 2013

Report Number: 1514
Site Name: The Jennie Lee Centre, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton
HER Event No: n/a
Date of Works: 6th-7th August 2013
Client Name: Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Taylor Wimpey
Client Ref: Jennie Lee Centre
Planning Ref: TBA
Grid Ref: SJ 394981 300637
Site Code: WEDLEE13
Finance Code: WEDLEE13
Receiving Body: Wolverhampton Archives Service
Accession No: TBA

Prepared by: Taleyna Fletcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: August 2013

Checked by: Jon Gill
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: August 2013
Signed:



Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2013
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	8
1 Introduction.....	9
1.1 Scope of work.....	9
1.2 Site Location and Layout.....	9
1.3 Acknowledgements.....	10
2 Aims and Methodology.....	11
2.1 Aims.....	11
2.2 Site Conditions.....	11
2.3 Methodology.....	11
3 Historical Background / Desk-Based Assessment.....	12
3.1 General Background.....	12
3.2 Cartographic Evidence.....	12
3.3 Governor's Signed Minutes and Papers (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116).....	14
3.4 Press Cuttings (WAVE Refs LS/L07CUT/23 and LS/L07CUT/102)	15
3.5 Photographs of Wards Bridge "RSLA" (WAVE Refs. P/2523 and P/2524)	15
4 Building Descriptions.....	16
4.1 External Description.....	16
4.2 Internal Description (Figures 20a and 20b).....	18
5 Phasing and Discussion.....	26
5.1 Phasing.....	26
5.2 Discussion.....	27
6 Bibliography.....	28
Appendix A. Inventory of Rooms (at time of building closure)	30
Appendix B. Brief for Building Assessment and Recording	32
Appendix C. OASIS Report Form.....	34

List of Figures

- Figure 1 Site location map
- Figure 2 Plan of buildings surveyed at the Jennie Lee Centre (from data supplied by client)
- Figure 3 Extract from 1955 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed
- Figure 4 Extract from 1964 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed
- Figure 5 Extract from 1975 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed
- Figure 6 Extract from 1986 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed
- Figure 7 Extract from 2001 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed
- Figure 8 Furniture Order (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)
- Figure 9 Handing Over Certificate (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)
- Figures 10a-g Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)
- Figure 11 Letter from Headmaster to the Education Architects Department (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)
- Figure 12 Memorandum (26th September 1958) (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)
- Figure 13 Cutting from Express and Star reporting on retirement of headmaster (27th March 1969)
- Figure 14 Newspaper article from the visit of Tessa Sanderson to Wards Bridge
- Figure 15 Cutting from Express and Star reporting on the closure of Ward's Bridge School (9th September 1987)
- Figure 16 Cutting from Express and Star reporting on the opening of the Jennie Lee Centre (1990)
- Figure 17 Cutting from Express and Star reporting on cost of opening ceremony (13th July 1990)
- Figure 18a-b Cutting from Express and Star reporting on sale of Jennie Lee playing fields (10th July 1992)
- Figures 19a-b Photographs of the Ward's Bridge "RSLA", 1986 (WAVE Ref. P/2523 and P/2524)
- Figures 20a-b Floor plans of the building surveyed (from data supplied by client)

List of Plates

- Plate 1 North-facing elevation of the eastern extension
- Plate 2 North-facing elevation of the original eastern end of the school
- Plate 3 North-facing elevation of entrance with Tower 2 behind
- Plate 4 North-facing elevation of med-section of building with Tower 2 behind
- Plate 5 North-facing elevation of recessed section of building and Tower 1 behind

Plate 6	North-facing elevation of entrance with Tower 2 behind
Plate 7	North-facing elevation of north-south block, enclosed walled area and Tower 1 behind
Plate 8	North-facing elevation of hall at western end of building
Plate 9	West-facing elevation of hall and north-south block
Plate 10	Detail of door on west-facing elevation
Plate 11	Elements of the original building as viewed from car park on west side of school
Plate 12	North-facing elevation of east-west orientated block at western end of building
Plate 13	South-facing elevation of blocks at western end of building
Plate 14	East-facing elevation of block at western end of building
Plate 15	South-facing elevation of recessed element of building
Plate 16	East-facing elevation of Tower 1
Plate 17	Tower 1 as viewed from car park at south of the building
Plate 18	West-facing elevation of Tower 2
Plate 19	Detail of rear access in Tower 2 (west-facing elevation) showing different brick types used
Plate 20	South-facing elevation of recessed section of building
Plate 21	South-facing elevation of the original eastern end of the school
Plate 22	South-facing elevation of the eastern extension
Plate 23	Lobby/reception area (36)
Plate 24	Internal doors from lobby (36) into hall (28)
Plate 25	General view of hall (28)
Plate 26	Windows on northern elevation of hall (28)
Plate 27	Detail of window opening mechanism in hall (28)
Plate 28	Detail of stage in hall (28)
Plate 29	balcony at eastern end of hall (28)
Plate 30	Seating area of balcony over hall
Plate 31	General view of corridor (35)
Plate 32	Detail of iron shelf within corridor (35)
Plate 33	General room view of office (33)
Plate 34	Interior view of access and roller doors in "boys gym" (06)
Plate 35	General room view of boys gym (06)
Plate 36	Windows on eastern elevation of boys gym (06)
Plate 37	Detail of sliding equipment rails on ceiling in boys gym (06)
Plate 38	General room view of kitchen (43)
Plate 39	General room view of kitchen (43)

Plate 40	Office within kitchen area (43)
Plate 41	General view of dining hall (39)
Plate 42	Stage/storage areas at eastern end of dining hall (39)
Plate 43	General room view of library reception area (68)
Plate 44	Detail of entrance doors on north-facing elevation from within library reception area (68)
Plate 45	Raised skylight above library reception area (68)
Plate 46	General room view of library (69)
Plate 47	Detail of shelving within raised section of library (69)
Plate 48	Detail of shelving within raised section of library (69)
Plate 49	Windows at northern end of library (68)
Plate 50	General room view of library (61)
Plate 51	General view of ground floor area of stairs (62)
Plate 52	General room view of toilets (71)
Plate 53	General view of corridor (75)
Plate 54	General view of conference room (80)
Plate 55	General view of conference room (82)
Plate 56	General view of conference room (84)
Plate 57	General view of reception area (111)
Plate 58	Entrance doors on north-facing elevation from within reception area (111)
Plate 59	Internal partition in ground floor office (101)
Plate 60	General view of subdivided ground floor office (102)
Plate 61	General view of corridor (121)
Plate 62	General view of training room (114)
Plate 63	General view of computer server room (113)
Plate 64	General view of office (115)
Plate 65	Detail of original ceiling (115)
Plate 66	Original window and arched ceiling in office (117)
Plate 67	Detail of original ceiling in office (117)
Plate 68	Original ceiling above inserted partition walls in store room (120)
Plate 69	Location of former doorway with a later inserted window and sink (122)
Plate 70	View of access into room (123) also showing former doorway and exposed ceiling
Plate 71	Internal partitions within room (123)
Plate 72	Location of possible former wider opening between ground floor rooms (122 and 123)
Plate 73	Stairs within northern “wing” of Tower 1 (first floor level)

- Plate 74 General view of office/former classroom (192), Tower 1, first floor
- Plate 75 Detail of drop handles
- Plate 76 Windows on north-facing elevation, room 191, Tower 1, first floor
- Plate 77 Internal partition, room 198, Tower 2, second floor
- Plate 78 Staircase area, Tower 1, second floor (199)
- Plate 79 Staircase area, Tower 1, third floor (209)
- Plate 80 Skylight above Tower 1 stairwell
- Plate 81 Central staircase, Tower 2, second floor (171)

Summary

In August 2013 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an historical building survey at the Jennie Lee Centre in the Wednesfield district of Wolverhampton.

This work was carried out in response to a request from Wolverhampton City Council Historic Environment Service. The brief required that a survey, equivalent to an English Heritage Level 2/3 Survey was carried out on the original school buildings as well as a detailed desk-based assessment to investigate the background of the site.

The Jennie Lee Centre was originally constructed as the Wards Bridge Secondary School which was constructed in 1955. Background research at Wolverhampton City Archives uncovered a number of interesting documents relating to the construction of the school and its formal opening in 1958 through to its closure in 1988. Maps, newspaper cuttings and governors records and minutes provide an insight into the development and running of the school as well as the names of the architects and contractors involved in the design and construction of the building. The building was re-launched as the Jennie Lee Centre, a professional training and conference venue in 1990, named after the MP for the Cannock constituency, which included Wednesfield. The centre finally closed in 2009.

The survey of the fabric of the building revealed that the layout has changed very little since its construction, except for internal modernisation and the addition of a wing at the eastern end in the mid 1970s.

Despite modernisation when converted into the Jennie Lee Centre, most original features and key designed room layouts still exist including a large, well lit hall, boys and girls gymnasiums and the locations of the science, art and woodwork rooms. The classrooms were located within two four storey towers designed in a cross shape.

The school is a good example of a post-war educational establishment where the emphasis on the design was to create large, well lit spaces in contrast to the existing Victorian schools which were notoriously cramped and poorly heated and lit. The development of new building techniques and availability of pre-fabricated materials, overhaul of the building procedures, and close co-operation between architects, the Local Education Authorities and educationalist helped modernise and add innovation to school architecture in the post-war years.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 An historic building recording survey was conducted at the Jennie Lee Centre (the former Ward's Bridge Secondary School) in the Wednesfield district of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out in advance of any alterations to the existing site.
- 1.1.2 The building surveyed dates from the mid 1950s. There was an additional extension on the eastern side of the building which dates to the 1970s, however, it was not possible to access the interior of this part of the building. As the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI) stated, the survey would specifically look at the original school and therefore only an external record was made of the later extension.
- 1.1.3 The work was undertaken at the request of Wolverhampton City Council Historic Environment Service (Bates 2013), supplemented by a Written Scheme for Investigation by OA East (Fletcher 2013). The Brief (Appendix B) also required a detailed background/Desk-Based Assessment to be undertaken. The proposed development will see the demolition of the present buildings and the construction of a new residential development of more than 200 homes on the site.
- 1.1.4 The work was designed to adequately record the structure in its current state before the demolition work began. The objective of any building recording is to provide a comprehensive visual and descriptive record of the structures including a suitable level of documentary research prior to the permitted alterations, as they represent potential upstanding archaeological/historical remains of local importance. The specific aims were:
- Undertake a recording of the building to a level corresponding to Level 2/3 as defined by English Heritage (EH 2006). This should comprise phase plans showing the growth and layout of the building and its internal arrangements; elevations showing the principal features of the building, sections through the building, a written description and photographs. Where available, adapt, check and amend existing architects' plans for much of this work.
 - Undertake a desk-based assessment comprising examination of material in the Wolverhampton Archives and other archives including maps, primary documentation, architect's drawings and secondary material such as histories, and standard on-line resources such as A2A, NMR and Staffordshire County Council Archives' Gateway to the Past.
 - To produce a report with the results of the desk-based assessment, giving the history of the buildings and site, and of the building recording, detailing those parts of the historic structure which survive to the agreed level of recording.
- 1.1.5 On completion of the work a copy of the final report and the associated archive will be deposited with Wolverhampton Archives Service. This will be undertaken once the reports have been approved and any further stages of investigation which may be required have taken place.

1.2 Site Location and Layout

- 1.2.1 The Jennie Lee Centre is located in the Wednesfield area of Wolverhampton (SJ 395009 300639) (Figure 1). It is located approximately 4km to the north-east of the city

of Wolverhampton, within a mostly suburban residential area. The site comprises the Jennie Lee Centre and associated sports pitches and recreation areas to the south. The total area of the site is approximately 6.9 hectares.

- 1.2.2 The site comprises a single building range on an east-west alignment (Figure 2), the majority of which is thought to date to the mid 1950's and comprises single, two and four storey elements.
- 1.2.3 The site lies at around 144mOD and is bounded to the north by Litchfield Road, to the east by Lakefield Road and to the west by the Wyrley and Essington Canal.

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 The author would like to thank Andrew Josephs for commissioning the work on behalf of Taylor Wimpey and for supplying the plans used in this report. The author carried out all background research and fieldwork. Thanks to the staff of Wolverhampton City Archives for their assistance with locating and retrieving the relevant archives. Thanks also to Stuart Ladd for preparing the report figures and to Chris Thatcher for editing the text.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of this investigation was to carry out a historic building survey equivalent to English Heritage Level 2/3 (English Heritage 2006) on the known earlier buildings believed to have been constructed in the mid 1950s. The aims were clearly set out in the approved Specification (Fletcher 2013) which was in response to the Brief (Appendix B).

2.2 Site Conditions

2.2.1 The school was unoccupied at the time of the survey and full access was possible throughout except for the extension on the eastern end of the building for which no access key was available. There was no power supply to the site which meant flash photography was required for a number of the digital images. All furniture and most fixtures and fittings had been removed prior to the survey.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists and was undertaken by an experienced buildings archaeologist. Scaled architect's plans, supplied by the client, were used for field notes and were annotated on site and amended during the post-recording phase as necessary. These have been reproduced with the client's permission in Figures 20a and 20b.

2.3.2 All rooms were inspected, however, as there were 220 rooms in total, not every room is described nor a photograph produced for this report. All photographs will be available via the site archive. A sample of rooms have been selected for this report, which will include descriptions of original fixtures and fittings. A full list of rooms (at the time of the buildings closure) is supplied in Appendix A.

2.3.3 Photographic survey was carried out using a 35mm camera (colour slide) with additional digital photographs using a high resolution Canon EOS 450D digital camera.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1 General Background

Wednesfield in the Twentieth Century

- 3.1.1 The following section looks at the development of Wednesfield during the 20th century to see how the establishment of the school was influenced by the economy and development of the immediate area. Most of the following section has been drawn from the following website: www.historywebsite.co.uk/articles/Wednesfield/twentieth.htm.
- 3.1.2 The turn of the century saw the beginning of industrialisation in Wednesfield and, as the century progressed, increasing amounts of residential development. During the Second World War there was a good deal of industrial expansion, in particular from several steel manufacturing and motor firms. Most of this development was to the south of the village centre. An account of the area in 1954 is as follows: "It was in January 1954 that I first visited Wednesfield to view the new housing estates over Ward's Bridge. The fields beyond were unspoiled, and in the summer, now in residence, I viewed them filled with wheat and barley and the herds of cows being driven along the Lichfield Road".
- 3.1.3 Overcrowding and a lack of space for council housing within Wolverhampton lead to the development of the open fields around Wednesfield through an Overspill Agreement. One of the solutions to the post-war housing crisis was the building of new towns, which moved people out of overcrowded towns and cities to brand new towns. Wednesfield continued to build its own estates and the Long Knowle, Lichfield Road, Linthouse Lane and Ashmore Park estates were created. Nearly all the fields of Wednesfield had now disappeared and the town had changed from its old agricultural aspect to industry in the south and suburbia in the north.
- 3.1.4 By the mid-1960s, when the local economy was thriving, the government believed that bigger local authorities would get many advantages of scale and in 1966 local authorities throughout the country were amalgamated. Wednesfield, containing a vast number of Wolverhampton council houses, was amalgamated into Wolverhampton.

3.2 Cartographic Evidence

- 3.2.1 As part of the background research, a number of historic maps were consulted to assist with providing a date or understanding of the development of the building.
- 3.2.2 A search of the archives held at Wolverhampton City Archives (WAVE) was carried out in order to establish whether or not there was any cartographic or documentary representation of the site within the archives held there. Enquiries were also made to the city council about any surviving documents or plans they might hold relating to the school, however at the time of writing this report, no response has yet been received. Each map consulted is briefly described and evaluated below in chronological order.

1955 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) (Figure 3)

- 3.2.3 The 1955 Edition Ordnance Survey Map shows the site prior to the construction of the school (Figure 3). Documentary research suggests that the building work started in this year and therefore the map was produced prior to its initiation or completion.
- 3.2.4 This map shows the area currently occupied by the site as what appears to be open fields. There is a footpath running approximately north-south and a drain, pond and

field boundary on the eastern side. As today, Litchfield Road bounds the site to the north and the canal to the west however Lakefield Road, now situated on the eastern side of the site, has yet to be constructed.

3.2.5 The surrounding area comprises farms, industrial buildings and residential areas.

1964 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) (Figure 4)

3.2.6 By the time of the next available map in 1964, the school has been fully constructed and is labelled “Ward's Bridge County Secondary School” (Figure 4).

3.2.7 Other than an additional extension added on the eastern end of the building, the basic layout of the school in 1964 is the same as it was at the time of the survey (Figure 2).

3.2.8 The 1964 map also depicts four small rectangular buildings on the western side of the school which may have been bike sheds. There is a significant area to the south for a playing field and there is still no evidence for the creation of Lakefield Road. The main entrance leading from Lichfield Road is the same as today, as are a number of pathways at the side and rear of the school.

3.2.9 The area to the north of Lichfield Road and on the western side of the canal appears relatively unaltered, however some form of development appears to have taken place just beyond the south-eastern corner of the site.

1975 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) (Figure 5)

3.2.10 At some point between 1964 and 1975 an extension has been added onto the eastern side of the school towards the site boundary, which is now limited by the construction of Lakefield Road. By this time the school is labelled “Wards Bridge High School” (Figure 5).

3.2.11 Tennis courts have been constructed at the rear of the school and the playing field still occupies the remaining plot to the south.

3.2.12 Three elongated buildings have been constructed between the tennis court and the new eastern extension. Furthermore, two new entrances with footpaths have been created leading from Lichfield Road to the north side of the building.

3.2.13 On the eastern side of the school a new rectangular building has been constructed which is still present today; this may have been accommodation for an on-site caretaker. Another small building has been constructed in the south-eastern corner which is no longer present.

1986 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) (Figure 6)

3.2.14 By the time of the next detailed Ordnance Survey Map, produced in 1986 (Figure 6), there appears to be very little alteration to the plan of the building/s or the layout of the site.

3.2.15 The three elongated buildings on the north-east side of the tennis court have been removed and the playing field still occupies the remaining plot to the south.

2001 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) (Figure 7)

3.2.16 The only major obvious changes by the map of 2001 are the change of name to “The Jennie Lee Community and Professional Centre” and the construction of the large “games court” on the south side of the site (Figure 7).

3.3 Governor's Signed Minutes and Papers (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

- 3.3.1 A selection of folders are available to view at WAVE which include letters, memos, correspondence and minutes from the school governors, teachers and boards. Although some documents were restricted (including admissions lists etc), the early folders relating to the school's construction and early years was very informative and interesting.
- 3.3.2 One of the earliest documents consulted was an order for furniture for the school dated 2nd March 1955 (Figure 8). This lists amongst the furnishings desks and chairs and states that it will be required for the school's opening on 1st September 1955.
- 3.3.3 Another document viewed was the official "handing over" certificate issued by the Education Architects Department of Staffordshire County Council, signing the school and the keys over from the building contractor C Cuss to the Headmaster (Figure 9). Dated 1st October 1956, the certificate also outlines some building works still outstanding. On this handover certificate, the site is named Ward's Bridge Secondary Modern School, however, in an earlier letter dated 27th November 1956, the headmaster requests in a letter to the Divisional Education Officer that the school be named "Ward's Bridge County Secondary School" which is how it appears on the 1964 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 4).
- 3.3.4 The school was formally opened on 2nd October 1958, despite having been in use since 1956. Letters and correspondence within the archives detail who was invited and preparations which were made for food, flowers etc for the event. An opening ceremony programme (Figure 10a-10g) details the names of the Board of Governors at the time as well as key personnel of the Staffordshire Education Department. A photograph taken from the school playing field clearly depicting the large glass windows of the hall on the left and the imposing towers in the centre and right is included and is the earliest image of the school found. The programme also contains a page long description of the school which gives an insight into the accommodation provided (Figure 10d). It states that the school opened in September 1956 with 400 moving into the partially completed building. The school was apparently constructed on farm land which is why it had a generous area for a playing field. The classrooms occupied the rooms within the tower blocks and the remaining accommodation comprised a gymnasium block, dining and administration block, a hall which could seat up to 650, a library, staff rooms and an art and craft and house-craft department. At the eastern end were the science laboratories, woodwork and metalwork rooms.
- 3.3.5 The opening ceremony programme also included a full list of teaching staff, caretaker, cook and secretary; lead by the headmaster Mr E.M.Kennings (Figure 10f). Another interesting list within the programme is of those involved in the construction of the school. This includes the architect A.C.H. Stillman, the main contractor W. Kendrick and Sons and a full list of the sub-contractors responsible for works including heating and electrical installation, steelwork construction and flooring, window and paving installers (Figure 10g). Additional research both online and at WAVE revealed that the County Architect (Stillman) was Staffordshire County Architect and was responsible for the design and construction of a number of schools within the county from the 1920s to the 1960s (www.blackcountryhistory.org).
- 3.3.6 Correspondence between the school's headmaster and the architects department reveals that after opening in September 1956, there were still a number of issues with the design and completion of the building including a lack of heating and an incomplete science room (Figure 11). On final completion, the school was able to accommodate

904 children by 1958 according to a memorandum within the governors archives (Figure 12).

3.4 Press Cuttings (WAVE Refs LS/L07CUT/23 and LS/L07CUT/102)

- 3.4.1 A selection of newspaper cuttings are available to view at WAVE which reveal stories and events surrounding the school as published in the local press. Many related to league tables and exam results, however there are some more interesting articles relating to closures, special visitors and staff. A selection of these cuttings are presented in Figures 13-18b.
- 3.4.2 The earliest article published in the Express and Star in March 1969 documents the retirement of the headmaster, Mr Edward Kennings, who had been the head of the school since its opening in 1956 (Figure 13).
- 3.4.3 Another article (date and source unknown) celebrates the visit to the school of former pupil, Olympic medalist Tessa Sanderson (Figure 14). She visited the school to encourage involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
- 3.4.4 In 1987 an article in the Express and Star reports that the school was signalled to close (Figure 15). From September that year, there would be no new admissions to the Ward's Bridge Comprehensive School and as a result of political decisions as well as falling admissions, the school would begin a phased closure with existing staff and pupils being transferred to other nearby schools.
- 3.4.5 In 1990, the building re-opened as the Jennie Lee Community and Professional Centre by the then Labour shadow education spokesman Jack Straw, reportedly at a cost of £300,000 (Figure 16). The opening of the centre, was not without controversy as an article in the Express and Star on 13th July 1990 reports (Figure 17). Conservative councilors claimed the cost of the centre was £500,000 and that the re-opening ceremony was "lavish".
- 3.4.6 By 1992 there were several articles reporting on the proposed sale of the 15 acres of community playing fields at the back of the centre which were described as a drain on the education resource (Figures 18a and b). This caused controversy amongst the community who used the fields for weekend sports and events. It also raised further questions about the effectiveness of the centre which had opened just two years earlier. In September 1993 the Express and Star reported on the protests made by local residents against the land sell-off for housing, despite claims by councilors that the land was not in full use and that the local community would benefit from the profits of the sale with the construction of a flood-lit all weather pitch.

3.5 Photographs of Wards Bridge "RSLA" (WAVE Refs. P/2523 and P/2524)

- 3.5.1 Two images held at Wolverhampton City Archives depict the extension on the eastern side of the school (Figures 19a and 19b). Unfortunately access was not possible to these parts of the building and photography was restricted by trees and shrubbery. These images were taken in 1986.

4 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction

For the purposes of this report, the rooms surveyed have been labeled in accordance with the floor plans supplied by the client. Figure 2 shows the layout of the building and Figures 20a and 20b show building floor plans and locations of plates referenced in the report.

All rooms were inspected, however, as there were 220 rooms in total, not every room is described nor a photograph produced for this report. All photographs will be available via the site archive. A sample of rooms have been selected for this report, which will include descriptions of original fixtures and fittings.

4.1 External Description

The school building has a number of elements and therefore the external description below is presented from each side of the building from left to right.

North-facing side

- 4.1.1 The school is accessed from Litchfield Road on this side of the site and the area between the school and the road is laid to lawn with tall trees and bushes.
- 4.1.2 At the far eastern end of the site is the later extension which was not accessible for internal inspection (Plate 1). It is constructed from a dark reddish coloured brick in a stretcher bond with a row of tri-part windows at ground floor level and a flat roof. It appears that the windows have been replaced within the last 30 years as this side of the building is shown in the photograph taken in 1986 (Figure 19b) where the windows comprise four panes, the outer two of which appear to open outwards. The extension is connected to the original part of the building via an open-sided covered walkway.
- 4.1.3 The next element of the building is an original part of the structure dating from the mid 1950s. It is constructed from an orange coloured brick in a stretcher bond with a “wavy” roof constructed from concrete or what may be a type of asbestos sheet (Plate 2). There are six sections to this part of the building, four of which have two rows of large paned glass windows with steel frames and glazing bars and two with two red painted double fire-exit doors. Each section sits beneath a curve of the roofline and downpipes positioned between them allow for drainage of water from the roof. Between the window and the roofline are corrugate sheets of an unknown material as inspection was not possible at this level.
- 4.1.4 The next section along was recessed in two positions, constructed using the same brick in a stretcher bond and with a flat roof (Plate 3). The section of building on the left had a blocked-up window and the furthest set back section comprised an entrance door of modern UPVC with windows to the right. This entrance to the building first appears on the Ordnance Survey Map dated 1975 (Figure 5). Two sets of raised skylights are visible extending from the roofline and one of the four storey towers can be seen positioned behind.
- 4.1.5 The next part of the building comprises another six-part component as noted in 4.1.3 with wavy roofline and elevations comprising two rows of large windows (Plate 4). These windows would allow significant amounts of light to enter the rooms making the most of their north-facing aspects. Within the roofline are small raised skylights allowing additional light into the rooms. The last two section of windows on the right are recent

replacements using UPVC frames and cills. Replacement brickwork beneath confirms that the original windows were the same length as those to the left.

- 4.1.6 To the right, there is another long recessed section, with flat roofline and raised skylights above (Plate 5). On the left is an elongated section of original steel-framed casement windows and to the right there are four modern UPVC framed casement windows probably inserted within the last 20 years (Plates 5 and 6).
- 4.1.7 In the next section along there is another entrance to this side of the building which is present on the earliest map of the site dated 1964 (Figure 4) and therefore is likely to be original. There is a set of double doors with large windows either side and smaller square ones above, all with steel frames and glazing bars (Plate 6). It is covered with a flat roof which has raised skylights extending from it. Positioned behind is the second of the two four-storey tower blocks.
- 4.1.8 Continuing westwards the next section along comprises an enclosed walled area used for bin storage and loading access to the kitchens, to the right of which is a rectangular building with small, square casement windows with steel frames and concrete cills (Plate 7). This entire section of the building, including the enclosed walled area is thought to be original and features on the 1964 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 4).
- 4.1.9 The main entrance to the school and the hall are located at the western end of the building (Plate 8). The entrance doors are thought to be a modern UPVC replacement but most likely in the position of the original entrance. The shelter over the entrance is original and comprises a flat concrete/asbestos board supported by upright steel pillars on the right. The remaining section of the building comprises the school hall. Apart from a small brick plinth at ground level and a brick section at the end, the entire elevation to the roofline comprises an arrangement of eight sections of steel-framed windows. The roofline is mono-pitched with a slight fall reducing the number of panes in the upper section from two to one. This would allow a significant amount of light into the hall and the stairway and balcony area which can be seen at one end of the hall.

West-facing side

- 4.1.10 This side of the building comprises the end of the main hall (Plate 9). There is an entrance on the left comprising a set of wooden double doors with rectangular and square glass panels (Plate 10).
- 4.1.11 The middle section of the building comprises a single storey block with a row of windows which were boarded up at the time of the survey (Plates 9 and 11). It has a flat roof with raised skylights above and is built using the same brick as the rest of the building, laid in a stretcher bond.
- 4.1.12 At the southern end of this side of the building is an east-west orientated block with two rows of steel-framed windows in the upper section, most of which have been vandalised since the building was left unoccupied (Plate 12). Constructed in the same brick and bond with a flat roof, this block appears to be a single storey construction with no windows in the lower section.

South-facing side

- 4.1.13 The south-facing side of the school is accessed via a vehicular access from Lakefield Road and a pedestrian access between the two phases of the building as noted on the north-facing side. It comprises several blocks and elements all of which, with the exception of the far eastern block, are considered to be an original part of the 1955 construction.

- 4.1.14 At the western end of this side of the school is the south-facing side of the block recorded on the north-facing elevation with a row of windows positioned at the top of the elevation (Plate 13). This elevation has escaped vandalism and as Plate 13 shows, the central, lower two panes in each section of the window have pivot openings to allow for ventilation. To the right of this block is a north-south orientated single storey construction without windows or doors on its south-facing side, however the east-facing side of the block has the same windows at the same height, which may indicate rooms/blocks of a similar use (Plate 14). Alongside this is the opposite side of the middle section of the building as noted on the west-facing elevation.
- 4.1.15 Set back within a recess is another section of the east-west orientated part of the main building which has a fire escape door on the left and a row of UPVC replacement windows that span much of the height of the elevation (Plate 15). This section has a flat roof and is constructed from the same dark orangish red bricks in a stretcher bond as the rest of the original building.
- 4.1.16 The next main component of the building on this side is Tower 1, one of the two four storey blocks (Plate 16). Constructed in a Flemish bond with a slightly lighter, more brown coloured brick, these towers are known to be an original part of the building, described and photographed in the opening ceremony programme (Figures 10c and 10d). They are constructed in a cross shape form and are known from the opening ceremony programme to have been designed and constructed for the location of the classrooms. Plate 16 depicts the east-facing side of the western-most tower block and shows the different types and positions of windows used in order to maximise light into the rooms depending on the different aspects/sides of the building (Plate 17). The zig-zag/concertina windows were used on the elevations where there are classrooms and where there are stairwells and at the very end of the walls, solid brick or smaller windows have been used in the design. Plate 18 shows the opposite, west-facing side of the second tower which has been designed and built in the same form with the same types and positions of windows. The windows used are all steel framed with metal boards beneath.
- 4.1.17 Positioned between the main east-west block and the second tower is a recessed entrance to this part of the building (Plate 19). This section, as shown in Plate 19, demonstrates the different bricks used in the original construction of the school within different sections, all considered to be contemporary as represented on Figure 4.
- 4.1.18 Positioned between the two towers and on the eastern end of the range are the south-facing sides of one of the sections of the building with the wavy designed roof as noted on the north-facing side (Plates 20 and 21). As with the north-facing elevation, they comprises six sections with large steel framed windows and downpipes between each section.
- 4.1.19 On the very eastern end of the range, although separated from the original school building, is the extension which is believed to have been added in the mid 1970s (Plate 22).

4.2 Internal Description (Figures 20a and 20b)

There were more than 200 rooms within the building, most of which did not retain or feature any original fixtures or fittings of interest. As a result, for the purpose of this report, a selection of rooms representing different areas of the building will be described in the following sections. All room locations are shown on Figures 20a and 20b and the photographs of the sample of rooms described are presented at the end of this report. A full list of rooms (at the time of the buildings closure) is supplied in

Appendix A. More photographs will be available for consultation within the project archive.

Ground Floor

Lobby/Reception (Room 36)

- 4.2.1 The lobby/reception area is accessed on entering the building through the main entrance (Plate 8). The floor of this area is covered with carpet and the walls are all plastered and painted (Plate 23). The ceiling has exposed steel joists with sections of plasterboard between and all painted white.
- 4.2.2 A staircase opposite the main entrance provides access to the first floor where there is a meeting room (216) and a store (217). The staircase has recently had the balusters removed but retains a wooden handrail and is considered to be original. The area is lit via the main entrance doors and windows and by additional strip lights on the ceiling.
- 4.2.3 On the right are two sets of double doors and a central concertina glass-panelled door which all provide access into the main hall (Plate 24). To the left on entering, a corridor (40) leads to the kitchen areas and dining hall and at the end of the lobby a corridor leading off to the right (35 and 26) provides access to offices and toilets and the gymnasiums and changing rooms beyond.

School Hall (Room 28)

- 4.2.4 The hall is a large open plan room lit by large steel-framed windows on both sides (Plate 25). The windows are almost floor to ceiling height on the north side (Plate 26) with two rows within the upper section of the south-facing elevation. Upper sections of windows can be opened on either side using a winding mechanism operated at ground level (Plate 27). Beneath the windows are radiators which, until recent vandalism, were concealed behind boards.
- 4.2.5 At the western end of the hall is a small stage accessed via four steps with vertical white painted board at the front (Plate 28). The stage and hall floor is covered with varnished oak parquet flooring, typically found in school halls and sports halls as well as in churches and other public buildings (Plate 28).
- 4.2.6 At the eastern end, above the entrance is a balcony which is accessed from the stairs noted within the lobby area. The balcony itself (218) comprises rows of concrete steps for seating with green painted metal handrails at the front and a set of access steps on either side (Plate 30).

Corridor, Toilets and Offices (Rooms 29-35)

- 4.2.7 Running parallel to the hall is a corridor (35) from which a row of smaller rooms are accessed (29-34). The corridor floor is covered with the same red carpet as noted in the lobby area and has a set of green painted double doors as well as wall mounted radiators (Plate 31).
- 4.2.8 Mounted onto the wall along one side are a range of cast iron shelves (Plate 32). Considered to be an original fixture within the building, there are also brackets below to secure something to the wall (function unknown).
- 4.2.9 The rooms which are accessed from the corridor include offices and toilets. The offices were all carpeted and painted (Plate 33) with replacement modern windows while the toilets has modern fixtures and linoleum/tiled flooring. There were no obvious original fixtures or fittings present within these rooms.

Gymnasiums, Changing Room and Toilets (Rooms 05-26)

- 4.2.10 There are two large blocks at the southwestern end of the building, as noted from the west and south-facing external elevations. These blocks (05 and 06) were constructed as the boy's and girl's gymnasiums and interior inspection revealed that they remained in use until the closure of the building. Unfortunately, the girl's gym (05) was not accessible at the time of the survey, however the boy's gym (06) was.
- 4.2.11 The boy's gym (06) is accessed via corridor 12 through a set of turquoise painted double doors with square glass panes at the top (Plate 34). To the right (on entering) is a small storage area with roller/shutters which were locked at the time of the survey.
- 4.2.12 The gym has the same parquet floor as noted in the school hall and the walls are exposed grey coloured brick with large steel girders positioned at intervals spanning the walls and ceiling (Plate 35). There are original steel-framed windows positioned within the upper sections of the long elevations with protective netting on the inside (Plate 36). The lower panes have pivoted hinges to allow them to be opened for ventilation, operated by the same winding mechanism as noted on the hall windows.
- 4.2.13 There are fold-away wooden screens as well as the remnants of climbing ropes which slide out along rails and are secured to the wall when not in use (Plate 37). These are likely to be original gym equipment contemporary with the construction of the school.
- 4.2.14 There are several rooms within the area of the gymnasiums including toilets, changing rooms and store cupboards. All of these rooms were inspected, none of them contained any fixtures or fittings considered to be of any age or interest. Most had exposed concrete floors and rendered/painted walls.

Dining Room, Kitchens, Servery and Stores (Rooms 39-58)

- 4.2.15 On the left of the main lobby (36) is access to a series of rooms including kitchens, associated offices, servery and a dining room.
- 4.2.16 The main kitchen area (43) is accessed through a set of double doors from a loading area with roller shutters (41). At the time of the survey, all of the catering equipment and associated work surfaces had been removed. It has a red tiled floor and a ceramic tiled drainage channel set within it (Plate 38). There are also a number of gas fittings which presumably connected to the ovens located in the middle of the room.
- 4.2.17 The kitchen is lit by a wide four-part steel-framed casement window on the east-facing elevation and additional light is achieved through a large raised skylight in the ceiling (Plate 39).
- 4.2.18 In the corner of the main kitchen area is a small office (44) with wooden framed windows (Plate 40). Access to various storage cupboards and a toilet was also gained at the rear of the room (rooms 44-48).
- 4.2.19 Further along the short corridor (40) and on the right is a large open room (39) which is thought to be the original dining hall (Plate 41). This room is carpeted with white painted walls and red ceiling. There are two pairs of structural support pillars on either side of the room allowing the corridor on the left to be opened up and additional light to be let into the area. Any original light fittings in this area have been removed and replaced by rows of strip lights suspended from the ceiling. On the south side of the room there is a large window reaching to ceiling height with plastic frames and glazing bars; this has the same winding opening mechanism as the earlier steel framed

windows noted in the gym and hall. At one end there is a stage (55) with four small store rooms, two on either side (rooms 54, 56, 57 and 57) (Plate 42).

Libraries, Store, Office and Stairwell (Rooms 60-69)

- 4.2.20 Through a set of double doors to the left of the stage within the dining hall, the next area of the building comprises library areas (60, 61, 68 and 69) and associated stores and offices as well as the ground floor stairs which lead to the upper floors of "Tower 1".
- 4.2.21 The first room (68) has a set of steps as well as a ramped access leading down to a reception desk area (Plate 43). From this area there are doors leading to the stairwell (66), a library room (69) and access to the north side of the building via the set of original double doors as noted on the north-facing elevation (Plate 44). These doors, as well as an elevated skylight (Plate 45), allow plenty of light into this area.
- 4.2.22 The first of two main library rooms (69) is accessed from the reception desk as well as two additional doors either side and a set of double doors from the corridor. This room has a red coloured carpet and white painted walls with turquoise painted plain skirting boards (Plate 46). Almost the whole of the east-facing elevation comprises a large steel-framed window and there are radiators positioned along the walls. At the southern end of the room is a small set of steps leading up to an area of additional shelves. These shelves (Plate 47) may be contemporary with the construction of the school and where a small area of carpet has been recently removed, the original red tiled floor covering has been exposed (Plate 48). At the southern end of the room additional lighting is achieved through another large window which spans the full width of this elevation (Plate 49). This steel-framed window, which is also thought to be part of the original build, has a zig-zag/concertina design, presumably to allow lots of light in and the central panes have a pivoted opening with simple drop handles. There is a small store room (63) and an office (65) located to the side of this area, neither of which retained any interesting features, fixtures or fittings.
- 4.2.23 Rooms 60 and 61 are two more former library rooms, both of which have red coloured carpets and plain grey painted walls. Room 61 has the same concertina windows on both east and west elevations as noted in room 69, as does the southern elevation of room 61. Other than the windows, there are no other original fixtures or fittings of note in these rooms (Plate 50).
- 4.2.24 There are two staircases providing access to the first, second and third floors which create the "cross shape" above rooms 60, 61 and 69. Both stair cases have the same structural techniques and materials. The steps themselves are constructed from concrete and have a solid metal green-painted handrail with plain balusters below (Plate 51). The entire stairwell is lit by wall mounted lights as well as by a skylight allowing daylight in from the roof. The walls are all solid, plastered and painted in a pale green.

Toilets, Lobby, Corridor, Service Room and Office (Rooms 70-79)

- 4.2.25 The next section of the ground floor comprises a range of small rooms on the north side of corridor 75 and a larger room on the south side.
- 4.2.26 A long, narrow plant/service room (70) and male and female toilets (71 and 73) occupy the western end of the corridor. The service room has painted brick walls and a concrete floor, all original machinery/devices had been removed at the time of the survey and the toilets (71 and 73) both had modern toilet partitions and ceramic sinks as well as modern plastic frame windows, cement covered floor and modern tiles (Plate 52).

4.2.27 The short length of corridor (75) had red coloured carpet and white painted walls and ceilings (Plate 53). There is a skylight allowing natural daylight into the area and on the wall is a small iron shelf as noted within corridor 35.

4.2.28 Rooms 76-78 all had plain painted walls, modern replacement plastic-framed windows and carpeted floors. Most recently used as an offices and a store, these rooms did not contain any fixtures or fittings of historical or architectural value.

Training Rooms, Corridor and Offices (Rooms 80-89)

4.2.29 This section of the building comprises one of the two elements with the wavy rooflines as noted on the external elevations.

4.2.30 This block is thought to have originally accommodated either the science laboratories or the woodwork and metalwork rooms which, according to the opening ceremony programme, were located at the eastern end of the building. It appears from inspection, that all of these rooms have been internally re-modeled, probably during the early 1990s as part of the building's conversion to the Jennie Lee Centre to provide rooms for training and conferences.

4.2.31 All of the rooms within this section had plain, white painted walls, carpeted floors and ceiling tiles (Plates 54-56). Room 82 had a replacement UPVC window as noted on the external elevation, the rest of the windows on the north and south-facing elevations were the original steel-framed casement windows.

4.2.32 The floor plan of this area (Figures 20a and 20b) shows the rooms in their present layout/arrangement, however it is possible that there were originally three large rooms on each side and that rooms 83/85, 84/86 and 88/89 have been created by inserting partition walls. This could only be confirmed by additional investigation during the demolition phase.

Reception, Copyroom, Offices, Toilets and Stairs (Rooms 90-111)

4.2.33 This part of the building comprises a reception area for the external access on the north elevation, a series of small offices and stores and conference room. On the southern side, this area comprises the ground floor part of the second "tower" which is known from the opening ceremony programme to have accommodated classrooms, however, much of this section of the building appears to have been remodeled as part of the 1990s conversion to the Jennie Lee Centre.

4.2.34 On entering this area from the conference rooms corridor (81) there is a large open reception area (111) with a separate reception office within the corner (110) (Plate 57). The floor of this area is covered with carpet and the walls are all painted. The ceiling is also plain and painted, with modern ceiling lights and an elevated skylight which allows natural daylight into the area. On the northern side of the reception area are the modern doors and windows as noted on the external elevation (Plate 58), this entrance first appears on the Ordnance Survey Map dated 1975 (Figure 5).

4.2.35 Two of the three rooms which create the cross-shape of the ground floor of the tower have been internally subdivided to create separate rooms (99-105). Internal partition walls have been added to create smaller areas (99-101) to be used for offices. Glass panes in the upper sections allow for natural light to pass through into these newly created areas (Plate 59). Rooms 102-105 have also been created in a similar way. The concertina full elevation windows on the east and west sides of the building provide enough light for these office rooms (Plate 60).

Offices, Stores and Corridor (Rooms 114-123)

- 4.2.36 This section of the building comprises the eastern part of the two elements with the wavy rooflines, as noted on the external elevations, and is also the easternmost end of the original 1955 school building.
- 4.2.37 This block is thought to have originally accommodated either the science laboratories or the woodwork and metalwork rooms which, according to the opening ceremony programme, were located at the eastern end of the building. It appears from internal inspection, as with the other wavy-roof block, that all of these rooms have been internally re-modeled, probably during the early 1990s as part of the building's conversion to the Jennie Lee Centre to provide rooms for training and conferences.
- 4.2.38 All rooms within this part of the building are accessed from the central corridor (121). This corridor is carpeted throughout, with white painted plastered walls and a blue painted ceiling comprising six arches which correspond with the "waves" of the roofline. Within each section is a skylight allowing natural light to flood into this area (Plate 61).
- 4.2.39 Most of the rooms in this section have carpeted floors and plastered and painted walls as well as the original steel-framed windows. Unlike the other block with the wavy roofline, this section has its original interior ceiling exposed in a number of the rooms. Room 114 for example has modern strip-lights hanging down from the ceiling as opposed to from an inserted tiled ceiling, with the original arches/waves exposed (Plate 62). The original skylights are exposed, three in each arched section. However, they have been covered over, perhaps for safety reasons, which means that no additional light enters the room from the roof. The computer server room (113) is accessed from this room. It has boarded walls and ceiling and no other fixtures or fittings of any historical or architectural value (Plate 63).
- 4.2.40 Room 115, like 114, is a large square shaped room which had not been sub-divided up as part of the 1990s alterations. However, the arched roof/ceiling had been concealed beneath a suspended ceiling comprising white ceiling tiles and flush strip lights and at the eastern end of the room, two modern inserted doors provide access into rooms 116 and 117 (Plate 64). Where parts of the suspended ceiling have been damaged, the original ceiling can be seen with the row of skylights in each arched section as noted in room 114 (Plate 65).
- 4.2.41 Rooms 116 to 120 are all thought to have been created from one single room as part of an internal remodeling phase, possibly from the 1970s or 1990s. Room 117 may be an original smaller room, perhaps an office or store room (Plate 66), and each section has the original ceiling exposed (Plate 67) but the partition walls do not reach to the full ceiling height between 116, 119 and 120 (Plate 68).
- 4.2.42 Room 122 also has the exposed original ceiling as well as original steel-framed windows on the external elevation. Also on this elevation is evidence of a former doorway into which a window and sink has been inserted (Plate 69). This corresponds with one of the red-painted double doorways recorded on the external elevation (Plate 2). On entering this room from the corridor there is a low-level brick wall on the right and two steps up.
- 4.2.43 Room 123 also has a small low level wall on the right on entering with a ramp up into the room from the corridor (Plate 70). Opposite the entrance, on the opposite external wall is another recess, as recorded in room 122 which is presumed to be the second of

the former double doors into which a window has also been inserted. The ceiling in this room has also been concealed with suspended tiles and lights and it has the original steel-framed windows on the external elevation. The room has been subdivided with the insertion of an internal partition wall (not depicted on Figure 20) (Plate 71). There is a doorway which leads into room 122, and there is a suggestion in the surrounding wall of a former wider opening where the brickwork on either side is exposed (Plate 72).

Eastern Extension Block (Rooms 125-156)

- 4.2.44 These rooms were located within the eastern extension, which was not accessible for internal inspection at the time of the survey.

Tower 1 : First, Second and Third Floors

- 4.2.45 The first floor comprised rooms 183-192 and form a cross shape in plan. The opening ceremony programme indicates that the rooms in the block originally accommodated the classrooms. The two staircases occupy the middle section and the northern wing of the block on each level and the east, south and west wings are each occupied by a single room with windows on each side on entering and no openings on the end walls. The first floor is accessed via two sets of stairs; 189, which is a continuation of that noted on the ground floor (62) (Plate 51) and a second set of stairs constructed using the same material, with the same handrail and balusters but with a tiled floor covering (Plate 73). Small square windows, as noted on the external elevations, light this area in addition to a skylight, as in the other stairwell. The three rooms which occupy the east, south and west wing (188, 191 and 192) are all accessed from corridor/landing area 189 and were all carpeted with plastered and painted walls and plain boarded ceilings with strip lights. The windows on either side of the room in 192 (on the southern side of the block) were the concertina-style windows with drop handles (Plates 74 and 75), those in 191 (on the eastern side of the block) were concertinaed on the west-facing elevation but comprised a row of three steel-framed casement windows (Plate 76) and room 188 (occupying the western side of the block) has the concertinaed windows on the south-facing elevation and three casement windows with modern security fittings on the north-facing elevation. The rooms within the northern part of the block comprised a toilet (184) with a lift shaft in the corner (183) and a small kitchenette (186).
- 4.2.46 The layout on the second floor (rooms 193-203) mirrors that recorded on the first floor except for a sub-division of the room on the western wing into two separate areas (197 and 198) (Plate 77). This subdivision, using plasterboard panels with glass panes at the top to allow the diffusion of natural light, created two office areas and was most likely done as part of the 1990 renovations. The position of the window types is the same on this floor and accessed from the central staircase in the same way. Rooms 202 and 203 were decorated and carpeted in the same way and the staircases were the same as noted on the floor below. The only difference within the staircase areas is a barrier to prevent falling (Plate 78, staircase area 199).
- 4.2.47 The third floor layout is again a repeat of the room sequence on the floors below, with classrooms occupying the east, south and west rooms of the block (212, 213 and 218) and access stairs in the centre and north wings as well as a lift shaft (204), kitchenette (207) and a store as opposed to toilets (205). The top of the central staircase (209) also had a safety barrier and radiator with small iron shelf above (Plate 79) and the skylight, which is positioned at the top of the stairwell, is also visible at this level (Plate 80). The skylight could be opened for ventilation via a winding mechanism accessed from the

landing area (209) positioned next to the door into room 213 (Plate 79), however the handle had been removed.

Tower 2 : First, Second and Third Floors

- 4.2.48 The design layout of the first, second and third floors within the second tower is a repeat of that recorded in the first tower with three classrooms on each floor, a central staircase, a second staircase in the north wing and a range of service rooms including toilets, kitchenettes and service shaft. The windows are also all positioned in the same way on each elevation.
- 4.2.49 There is one main difference however within the central staircase which is the addition of a central lift-shaft which is not present within Tower 1 and is considered to be a later addition. Centrally located within the stairwell, the layout was not altered by its addition. The concrete stairs remain, however the inner open stairwell has been replaced by the solid walls surrounding the lift-shaft (Plate 81).

5 PHASING AND DISCUSSION

This section provides a discussion and suggested phasing for the buildings surveyed. Figure 15 provides an overall suggested phase plan for all buildings.

5.1 Phasing

Phase 1: 1955; Construction of Ward's Bridge Secondary School

- 5.1.1 The earliest phase is known to be the construction of the Ward's Bridge Secondary School which was started in 1955, completed and in use by 1956 and formally opened in 1958. As opposed to school buildings of the past, an established architect/designer was employed to ensure that the governments new ideas for modern schools were achieved.
- 5.1.2 Constructed using newly available materials in a contemporary design, the building would have represented a new style of school accommodation with large rooms able to accommodate bigger sized classes from the local, expanding population. The rooms would have been a change from the previously designed schools which had smaller classrooms, poor heating and ineffective lighting. The new building had purpose-built facilities within specifically designated parts of the building to house new teaching subjects such as science, home technology and woodwork. The classrooms were especially located within the two towers of the building, each classroom specifically designed to allow as much natural light into the rooms as possible through the large windows on each aspect.
- 5.1.3 Externally, there was a large area at the rear of the school for recreation and sport. This would have been something that many of the children moving from the built-up areas of Wolverhampton would not have been used to before and was part of the deliberate planning of a newly developing suburb which had the luxury of open spaces.

Phase 2: Mid 1960s- mid 1970s; Extension to eastern end of building

- 5.1.4 During the late 1960s - mid 1970s an additional block was added onto the eastern end of the school. Unfortunately, little information could be found out regarding the purpose of this extension. Also, as internal access was not possible, little information could be collated regarding its most recent use.
- 5.1.5 The photographs of the extension available at WAVE simply describe it as "Ward's Bridge RSLA"; unfortunately no definition of the acronym RSLA could be found.

Phase 3: 1990; Internal alterations and opening of the Jennie Lee Centre

- 5.1.6 Following the closure of the school, the building was re-opened in 1990 as a training and conference centre named after local MP, Jennie Lee.
- 5.1.7 It appears from the survey that no major change to the layout of the original school was made when the building was re-opened. Internally, partitions were added to create more offices and administrative rooms and some doors and windows were replaced. Many of the large rooms at the eastern end of the building had new suspended ceilings inserted, concealing the former arched rooflines and all of the floors were carpeted and the walls painted.

- 5.1.8 Most of the alterations appear to have been made to the main east-west block of the school and the towers were left unchanged, other than cosmetic updating. It would appear that the large, well lit rooms which were part of the original 1950s school design were still suited to the educational and training needs of the 1990s conference centre.

5.2 Discussion

- 5.2.1 After the Second World War, the rising birth rate and the extension of the school leaving age to 15, led to the greatest expansion of school building since the 1870s. The dark, cramped, gothic windowed and insanitary establishments of the Victorian schools yielded to the vision of an airier and more expansive age. The development of new building techniques, overhaul of the building procedures, and close co-operation between architects, the Local Education Authorities and educationalist helped modernize and add innovation to school architecture. The Ministry of Education administered cost limits and building regulations, leading to the widespread use of prefabricated material.
- 5.2.2 Modernisation was pioneered by local authorities, who carried out a large building programme designed to provide many new schools for the County using innovative prefabricated components. The Wolverhampton archives revealed that the architect employed to design the Ward's Bridge School, A.C.H. Stillman, is known to have been instrumental in the design of a number of other schools within the district around the time including nearby Bilston Grammar School which also followed a similar design and use of available new materials and building techniques.
- 5.2.3 The new-type buildings called for structures with ceilings and roofs of wider span, with few or no intermediate supports. Cheaper steel and the wider application of advanced techniques made steel construction the obvious choice. Amongst the new techniques employed was the use of Castella beams. These beams, ideally suited to wide spans with light loading, not only meant weight-saving and more economical construction; they also had aesthetic possibilities which were seized upon by architects such as Stillman, and they can often be seen remaining exposed in such finished structures as halls and gymnasias, where they blend well with the 'contemporary' style. Bilston School (also designed by ACH Stillman) used the Castella beams and special composite stanchions, with exterior cladding of precast concrete blocks and hardwood panels, which achieved a saving in cost and halved the time required for more traditional construction (New Steel Construction 2010).
- 5.2.4 The original 1950s Ward's Bridge School is a good example of a post-war educational establishment where the emphasis on the design was to create large, well lit spaces in contrast to the existing Victorian schools.
- 5.2.5 The survey of the Jennie Lee Centre has successfully achieved the initial objectives. A permanent record of the structure in its present state has been created. The survey will preserve by record the character, state, preservation and architectural and historic significance of the site.
- 5.2.6 The information collected in the background research was useful for understanding the development of the site from the 1950's onwards and it is intended that the report will not only assist planning, conservation and archaeology professionals in assessing future plans for this site, but also, from dissemination of the report, inform people on a local level as to the local significance and historical development of the site.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bates, M. (Wolverhampton City Council Historic Environment Service)	2013	Brief for Building Assessment and Recording : The Jennie Lee Centre
English Heritage	2006	Understanding Historic Buildings – A Guide to Good Recording Practice
Fletcher, T	2013	Specification for desk-Based Assessment and Historic Building Recording : Jennie Lee Centre, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, Staffs.
Institute for Archaeologists	2001	Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings
New Steel Construction	2010	New Steel Construction Vol. 18 / No.7 July 2010

Maps and other Sources Consulted

Document Description	Date	Wolverhampton City Archives Ref.
1955 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500	1955	SJ9400/Map 53 and SJ9500/Map 54
1963 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500	1963	SJ9400/Map 53NE
1975 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500	1975	SJ9400NE/Map 53 and SJ9500NW /Map 54
1986 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500	1986	SJ9400/Map 53NE and SJ9500/Map 54NW
2001 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500	2001	SJ9400/Map 53NE and SJ9500/Map 54NW
Ward's Bridge High School Governors signed minutes and papers, log book and administration registers 1955- 1989	1955- 1989	D-EDS-116
Press Cuttings: Education folder 55. Jennie Lee Centre 1940s-1990s	1940s- 1990s	LS/L07CUT/23
Press Cuttings: Education	1940s-	LS/L07CUT/102

folder 79 – Wards Bridge	1990s	
Wards Bridge “RSLA”	1980s	P/2524
Wards Bridge “RSLA”	1980s	P/2523

Websites Consulted

www.old-maps.co.uk

www.blackcountryhistory.org

www.historywebsite.co.uk/articles/Wednesfield/twentieth.htm.

APPENDIX A. INVENTORY OF ROOMS (AT TIME OF BUILDING CLOSURE)

001 Office	051 Meters	101 Office
002 Store	052 Stair	102 Office
003 Office	053 Service Shaft	103 Office
004 Entrance	054 Store	104 Office
005 Gymnasium	055 Stage	105 Copier Room
006 Gymnasium	056 Store	106 Office
007 Chairstore	057 Store	107 Corridor
008 Store	058 Store	108 Lift
009 Store	059 Corridor	109 Office
010 Cleaners Store	060 Library	110 General Office
011 Toilet	061 Library	111 Reception area
012 Corridor	062 Stair	112 Store
013 Male Public Toilet	063 Store	113 ICT Server Room
014 Male Public Toilet	064 Corridor	114 Office
015 Lobby	065 Office	115 Office
016 Store	066 Circulation	116 Store
017 Male Changing	067 Service Shaft	117 Office
018 Office	068 Library	118 Office
019 Store	069 Library	119 Store
020 Lobby	070 Switch Gear Room	120 Store
021 Changing Room	071 Female Toilet	121 Corridor
022 Male Public Toilet	072 Lobby	122 Office
023 Changing Room	073 Male Public Toilet	123 Office
024 Changing Room	074 Lobby	124 Office
025 Store	075 Corridor	125 Copier Room
026 Corridor	076 Interview Room	126 Store
027 Toy Library	077 Office	127 Office
028 Hall	078 Store	128 Store
029 Office	079 Conference Room	129 Entrance
030 Office	080 Training Room	130 Circulation
031 Male Public Toilet	081 Corridor	131 Male Public Toilet
032 Female Toilet	082 Training Room	132 Male Public Toilet
033 Office	083 Training Room	133 Wash Room
034 Office	084 Training Room	134 Lobby
035 Corridor	085 Training Room	135 Reception area
036 Lobby	086 Training Room	136 Office
037 Store	087 Training Room	137 Store
038 Store	088 Office	138 Store
039 Dining Room	089 Office	139 Lobby
040 Corridor	090 Interview Room	140 Office
041 Servery	091 Kitchenette	141 Garage
042 Store	092 First Aid	142 Kitchenette
043 Kitchen	093 Store	143 Boiler
044 Kitchen Office	094 Female Toilet	144 Meters
045 Kitchen Store	095 Lobby	145 Meters
046 Kitchen Store	096 Disabled Toilet	146 Office
047 Dry Store	097 Service Shaft	147 Corridor
048 Kitchen Staff Toilet	098 Corridor	148 Office
049 Kitchen Store	099 Store	
050 Kitchen Store	100 Office	

149 Office	196 Kitchenette
150 Meeting Room	197 Office
151 Training Room	198 Office
152 Kitchenette	199 Circulation
154 Female Toilet	200 Lobby
155 Wash Room	201 Circulation
156 Female Toilet	202 Office
157 Office	203 Office
158 Circulation	204 Service Shaft
159 Service Shaft	205 Store
160 Male Public Toilet	206 Lobby
161 Lobby	207 Kitchenette
162 Circulation	208 Office
163 Kitchenette	209 Circulation
164 Office	210 Lobby
165 Circulation	211 Circulation
166 Office	212 Office
167 Service Shaft	213 Office
168 Store	214 Circulation
169 Kitchenette	215 Circulation
170 Office	216 Meeting Room
171 Circulation	217 Store
172 Circulation	218 Balcony
173 Office	219 Boiler House/Gas Meter
174 Office	220 Switch Gear Room
175 Service Shaft	
176 Store	
177 Kitchenette	
178 Office	
179 Circulation	
180 Circulation	
181 Office	
182 Office	
183 Service Shaft	
184 Male Public Toilet	
185 Lobby	
186 Kitchenette	
187 Lobby	
188 Office	
189 Circulation	
190 Circulation	
191 Office	
192 Office	
193 Service Shaft	
194 Female Toilet	
195 Lobby	

APPENDIX B. BRIEF FOR BUILDING ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

Introduction

The Jennie Lee Centre is proposed for demolition as part of the redevelopment of the site. The planning permission requires that an appropriate level of survey and recording is undertaken prior to the new development commencing.

Specific requirements

The purpose of the work is to record the building ahead of demolition and to record any architectural features that may be of interest.

The work should comprise:

- Desk-based assessment
- Building Recording
- Report

The desk-based assessment should comprise examination of material in the Wolverhampton Archives and other archives including maps, primary documentation, architects drawings and secondary material such as histories, and standard on-line resources such as A2A, NMR and Staffordshire County Council Archives' Gateway to the Past.

The building recording should comprise recording of the building to a level corresponding to Level 2/3 as defined by English Heritage (EH 2006). This should comprise phase plans showing the growth and layout of the building and its internal arrangements; elevations showing the principal features of the building, sections through the building, a written description and photographs. It may be possible to adapt, check and amend existing architects' plans for much of this work.

The report should include the results of the desk-based assessment, giving the history of the buildings and site, and of the building recording, detailing those parts of the historic structure which survive, including plans, sections and elevations of the buildings to the agreed level of recording.

General conditions

The building recording work should be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced building recording specialists, with a proven background in the analysis of heritage assets.

An appropriate recording strategy should be used and the method and justification for this stated in the report.

The code of conduct, standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists should be adhered to. The buildings analysis should also adhere to the guidance issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (*Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings*, ALGAO 1997) and English Heritage (*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, EH 2006).

A specification for the work required should be prepared by the contractor and agreed with the sponsor and the local planning authority before the work commences. It is advisable to submit a draft of the specification to Wolverhampton City Council Historic Environment Service before the submission of a tender in order to ensure that the work proposed meets the requirements of the brief.

On completion of the work a copy of the final report and any associated archive should be deposited with Wolverhampton Archives Service (tel: 01902 552480).

A copy of the report should be provided for the planning service and Wolverhampton Historic Environment Record. The Historic Environment Service should also be provided with a digital copy of the report, preferably in PDF and word formats. The report will normally become a publicly accessible part of the Wolverhampton Historic Environment record within 6 months of completion.

The report should contain the following information:

- Location, aims and methodology
- Results of documentary research
- A written summary of the survey findings together with appropriate illustrations, which should be related to the national grid.
- List of sources consulted and their full titles/reference numbers
- A copy of the brief

Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Site procedures should be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-156733"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="The Jennie Lee Centre, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="06-08-2013"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="07-08-2013"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="No"/>	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="WEDLEE13"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used: Building Survey

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
<input type="text" value="School"/>	<input type="text" value="Modern 1901 to Present"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Staffordshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="Wolverhampton"/>	<input type="text" value="The Jennie Lee Centre,
Lichfield Road,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Wednesfield"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Wolverhampton"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="6.8 hectares"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="SJ 394981 300637"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Wolverhampton City Council Hist Envmt Serv
Project Design Originator	Taleyna Fletcher
Project Manager	Jon Gill/Taleyna Fletcher
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

Project Archives

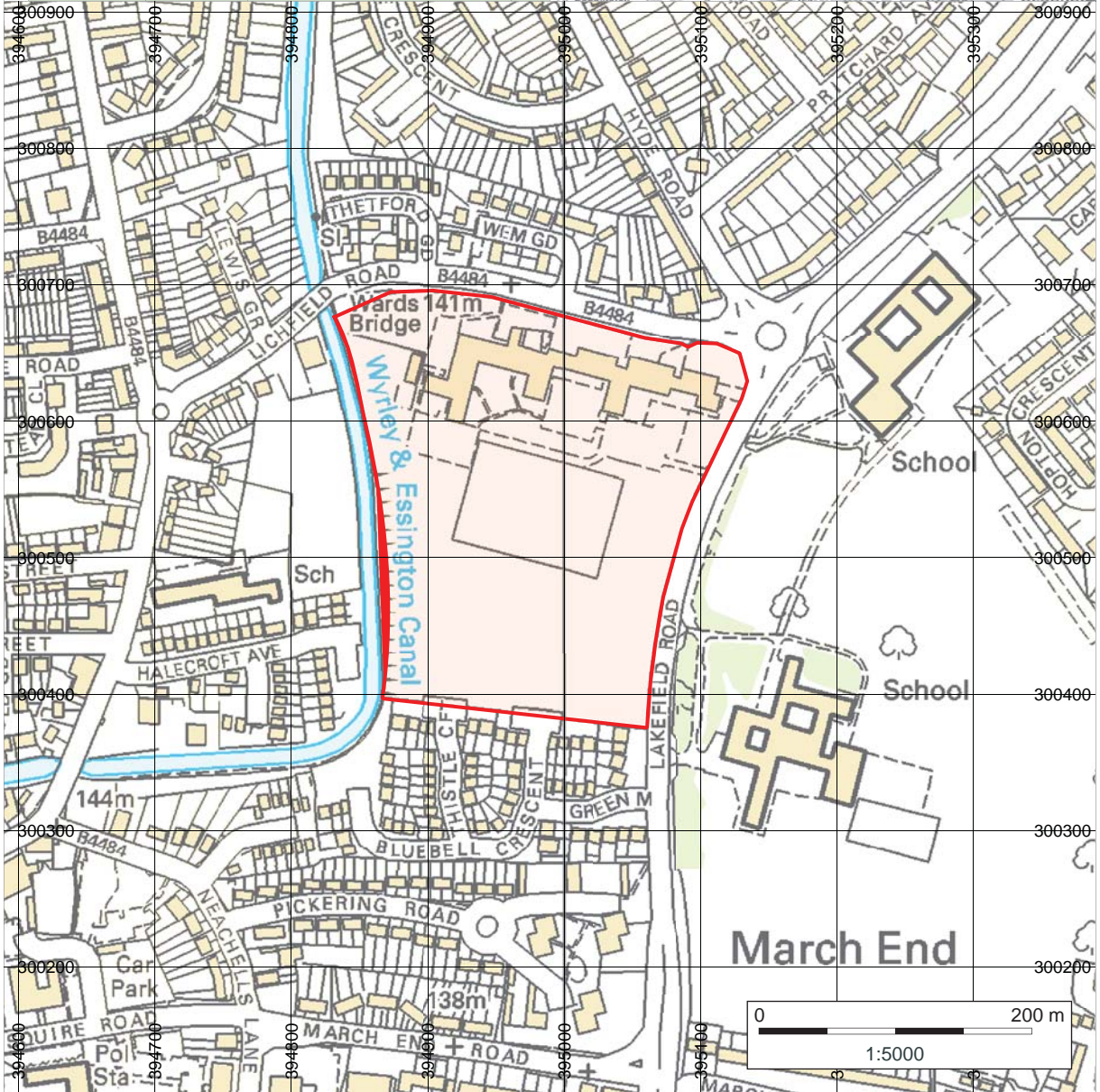
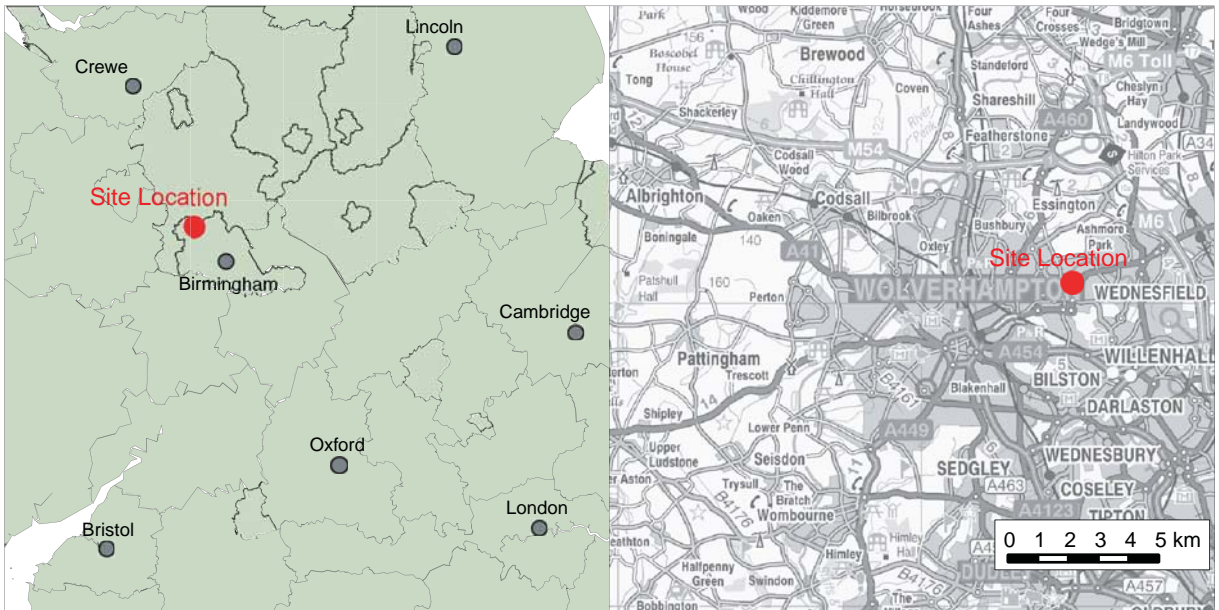
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Wolverhampton Archives Service	OA East	Wolverhampton Archives Service
TBA	WEDLEE13	TBA

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes: none



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013. All rights reserved. License number: 10001998

Figure 1: Site location showing project area (red).



Figure 2: Plan of buildings surveyed at the Jennie Lee Centre (from data supplied by client)

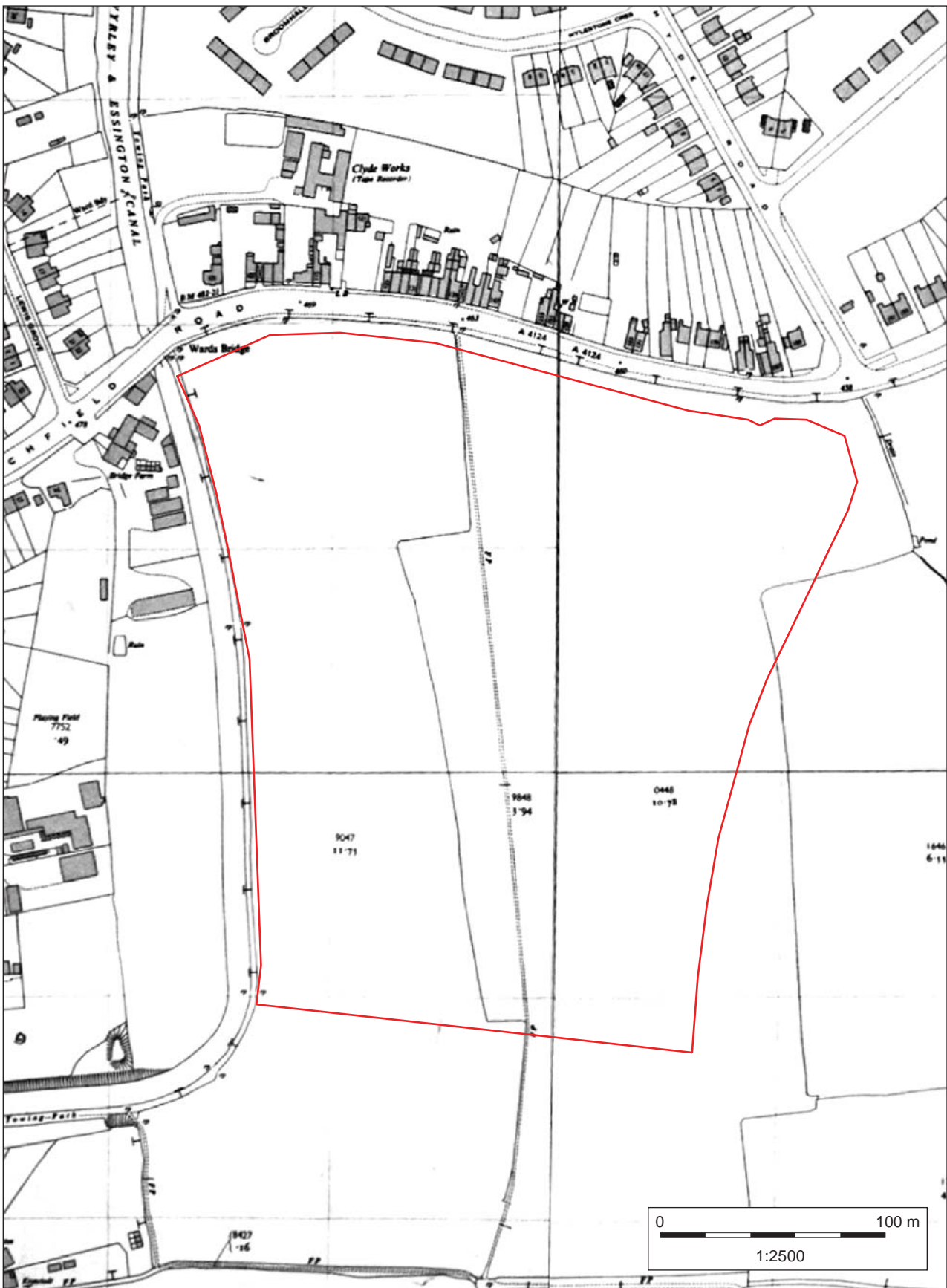


Figure 3: Extract from 1955 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed



Figure 4: Extract from 1964 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed



Figure 5: Extract from 1975 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed



Figure 6: Extract from 1986 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed (shown at 1:2000)



Figure 7: Extract from 2001 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500) showing location of buildings surveyed

Order No. F. 2082

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Education Committee
SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

SE.
DIV.
FOR
INFORMATION

ORDER

COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE
STAFFORD
TELEPHONE No. STAFFORD 760

To:—Messrs. E.S.A.

ORDER FILE
SCHOOL FILE
FIRM'S FILE

Please supply the goods described or carry out the work indicated, to/at

Ward's Bridge County Secondary Modern School,
Wednesfield,
NEAR WOLVERHAMPTON.

Nearest Railway Station School Telephone No.

Number required	Description	Cost per item			Total Cost		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
216	Single locker desks No. 1300 30" high	2	12	0			
216	Wooden chairs No. 4 fitted with rubber silencers 18" high.	1	3	3			
6	Single pedestal desks as drawing No. 3724.C.	14	16	3			
10	Wooden arm chairs No. 1137, green rexine seat	2	16	3			

DELIVERY: During July and August 1955.
This furniture will be needed for use on 1st September.

Loan A/c.

Please send your invoice to The Director of Education, Supplies Department, County Education Offices, Stafford.

Date 2nd March, 1955. Signed J.H.P.O.
64

Figure 8: Furniture Order (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

HANDING OVER CERTIFICATE
(In Triplicate)

COPY FOR ACTION TO
H.K. Simcox B.A.
(South-East Div)

Telephone: STAFFORD 1614

GREEN HALL,
LICHFIELD ROAD,
STAFFORD.

Date: 28-8-1956.

To: **The Architect.** From: R. G. Cuss.

Site: Wednesfield, Ward's Bridge Secondary Modern School.

Project: Erection and Completion.

The above building(s) or project(s) have today been inspected by the signatories of this Certificate and are taken over on behalf of the Education Committee as from 1-10-1956 (date).

The contractors maintenance period will expire on 1st April, 1957. and during this period he will be responsible for making good defects. It is agreed that the schedule of works below remain to be carried out by the contractor, who has agreed they be carried out forthwith.

The keys have been handed over to The Headmaster.

NOTE:
The procedure for actioning this Certificate is outlined on the back hereof.

Initials:

1. Architect

2. Deputy Architect.....

3. C.C.A.

Observations to go on the back

W. Jackson p.p. W. Kendrick & Sons.
Contractor's signature

R. G. Cuss.
Clerk of Work's signature

K. M. Raw.
Signature of Architect, Deputy Architect,
or Designated Officer.

SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING WORKS.

Capping to Balustrades to Stairs Tower B.

Room 122 - Still operating as Store Room as agreed.

4/1010/5.

Figure 9: Handing Over Certificate (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

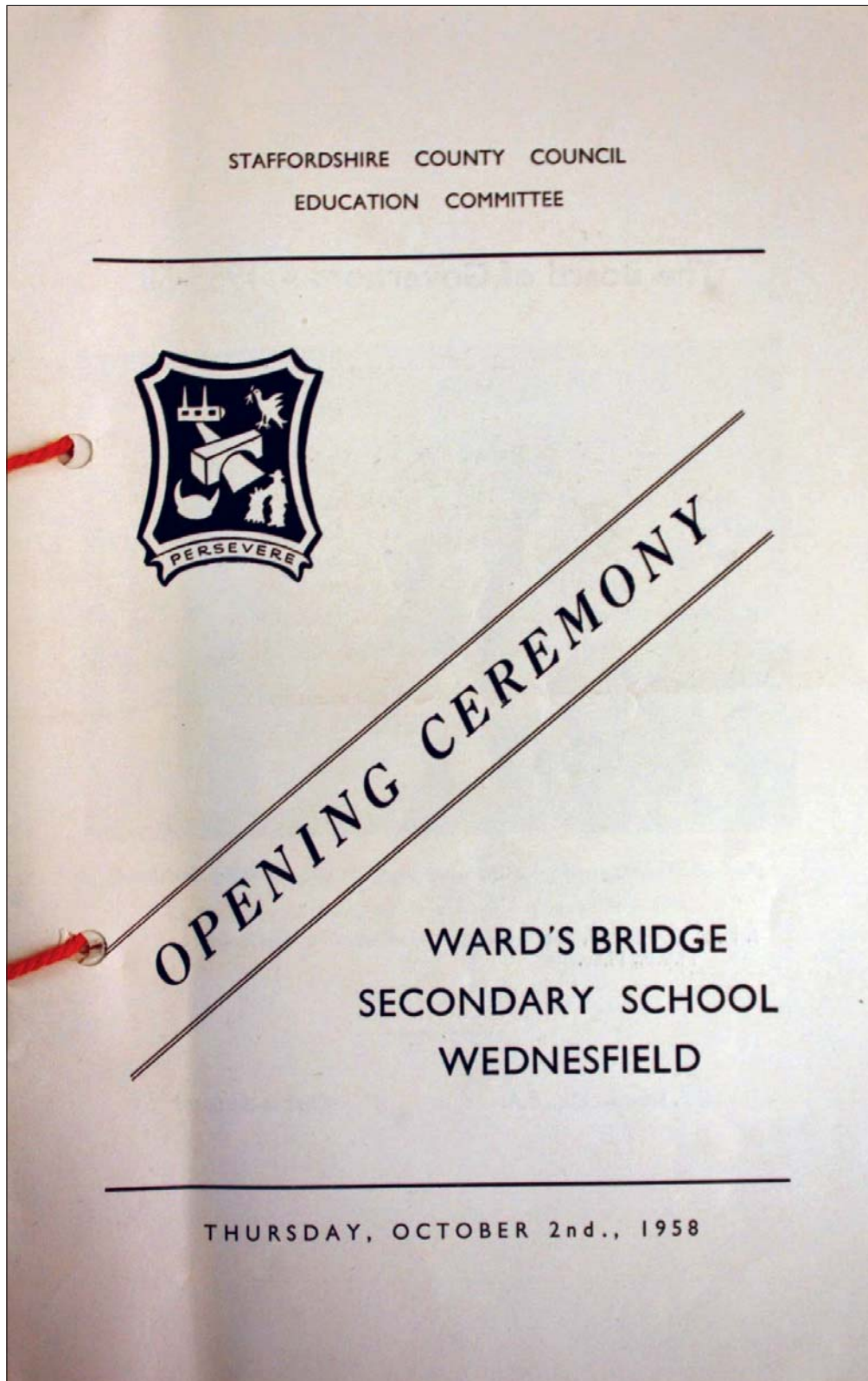


Figure 10a: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

The Board of Governors - 1955-58

C. Haden, Esq., *Chairman.*

Mrs. J. E. Gregory
Mrs. B. Lowe
Mrs. W. M. Perks
Mrs. D. E. Venville
Mrs. L. M. Walton

H. W. Corns, Esq.
A. Johnson, Esq.
W. G. Ratcliffe, Esq.
Rev. E. R. Roe
A. M. Stevens, Esq.

C. T. Squire, Esq.

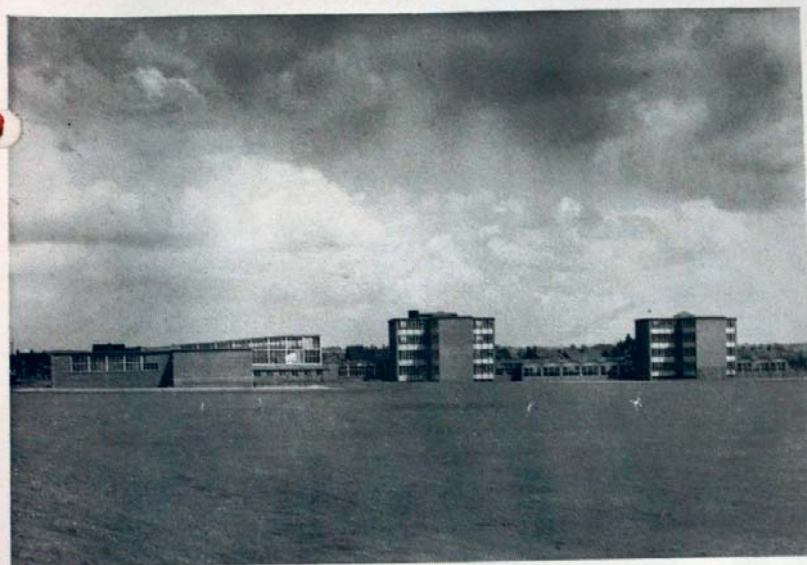
C. R. Stringer, Esq.

Ex-officio :

F. J. OXFORD, Esq.	<i>Chairman Staffordshire Education Committee</i>
A. GUEST, Esq.	<i>Chairman South-East Staffordshire Divisional Executive</i>
J. H. P. OXPRING, Esq. M.B.E., M.Sc.	<i>Director of Education, Staffordshire</i>

H. K. Simcox, Esq., B.A. *Clerk to the Board*

Figure 10b: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)



View of School taken from school playing field
(Courtesy of School of Photography, County Technical
College Wednesbury)

Figure 10c: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

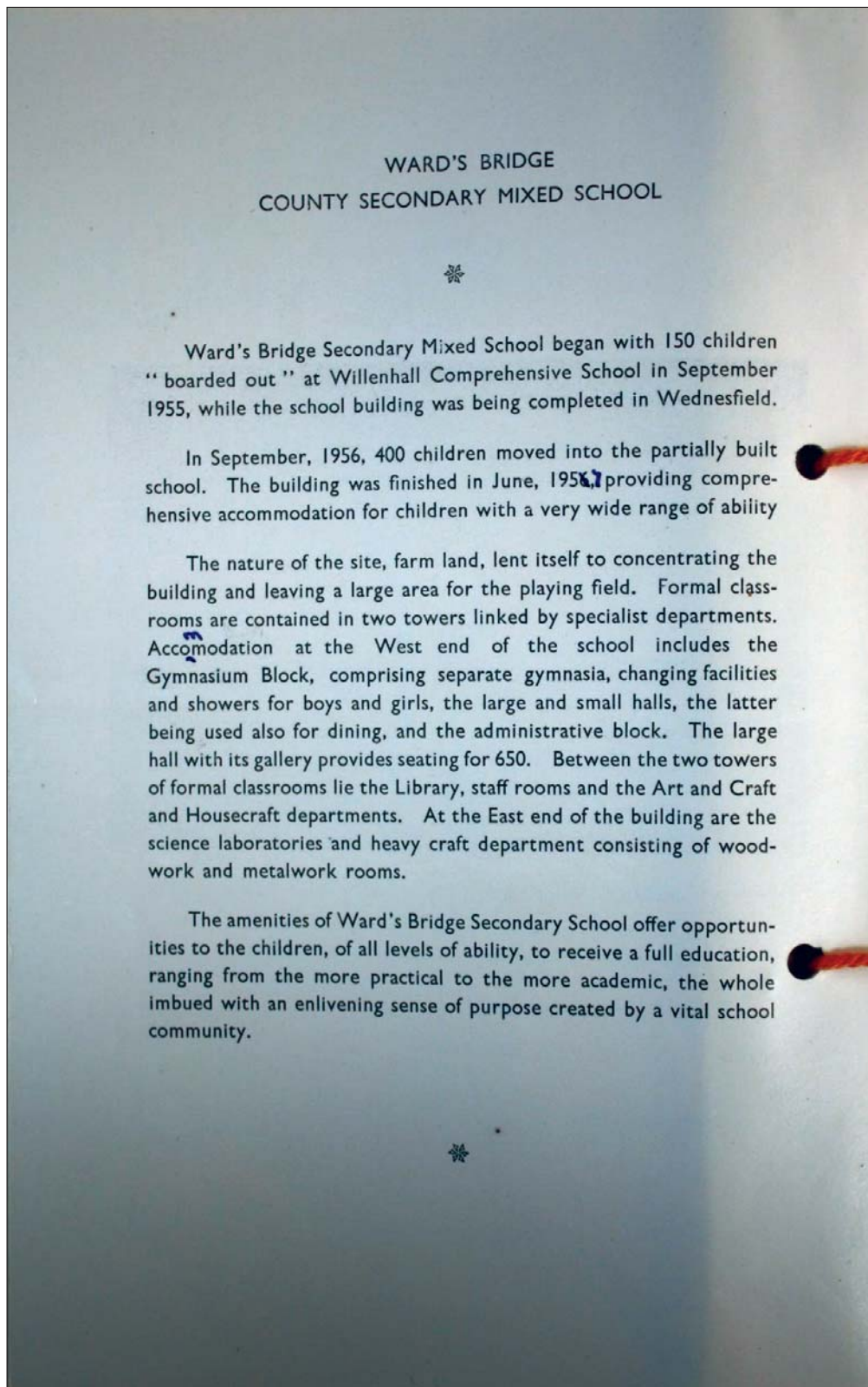


Figure 10d: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

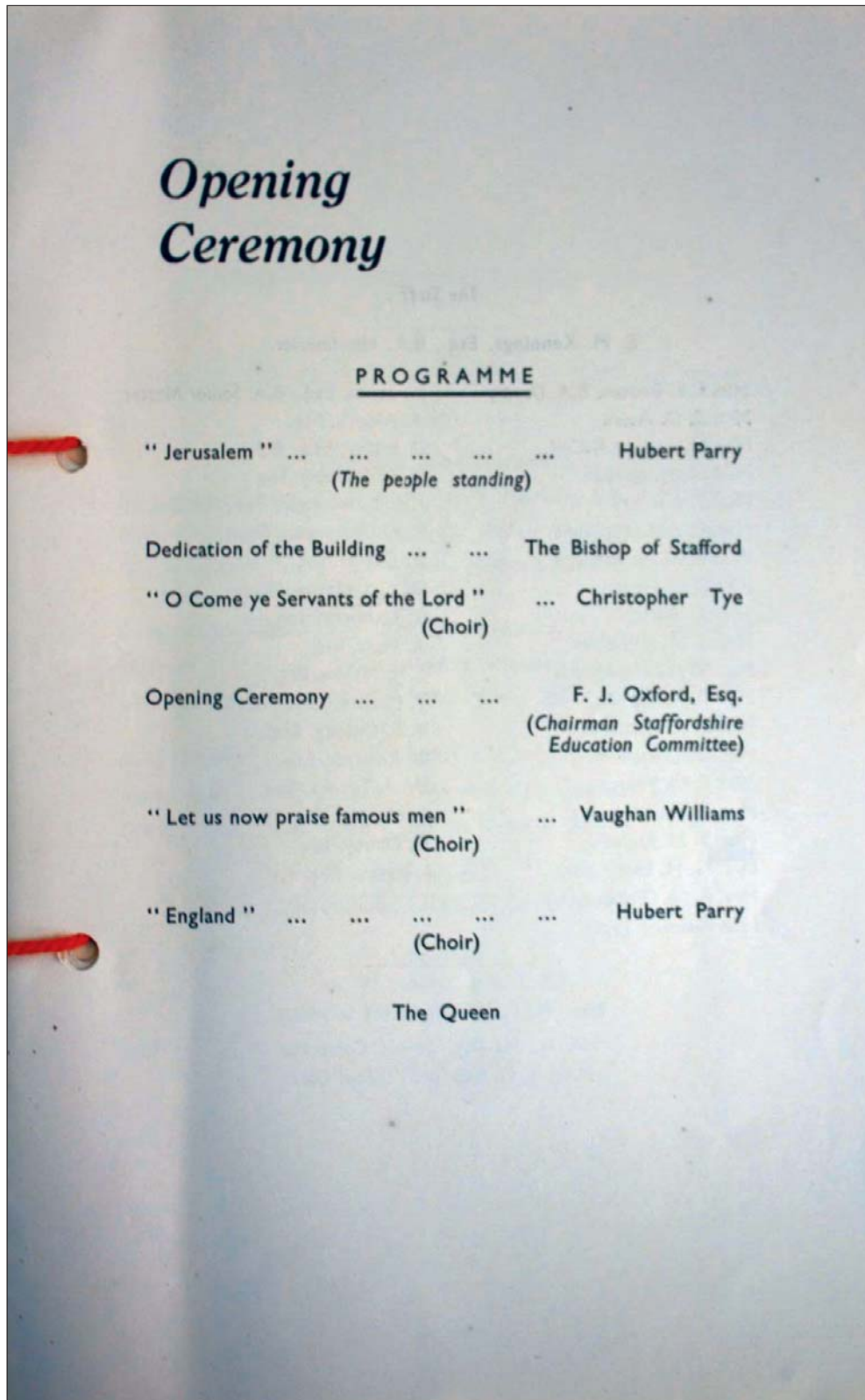


Figure 10e: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

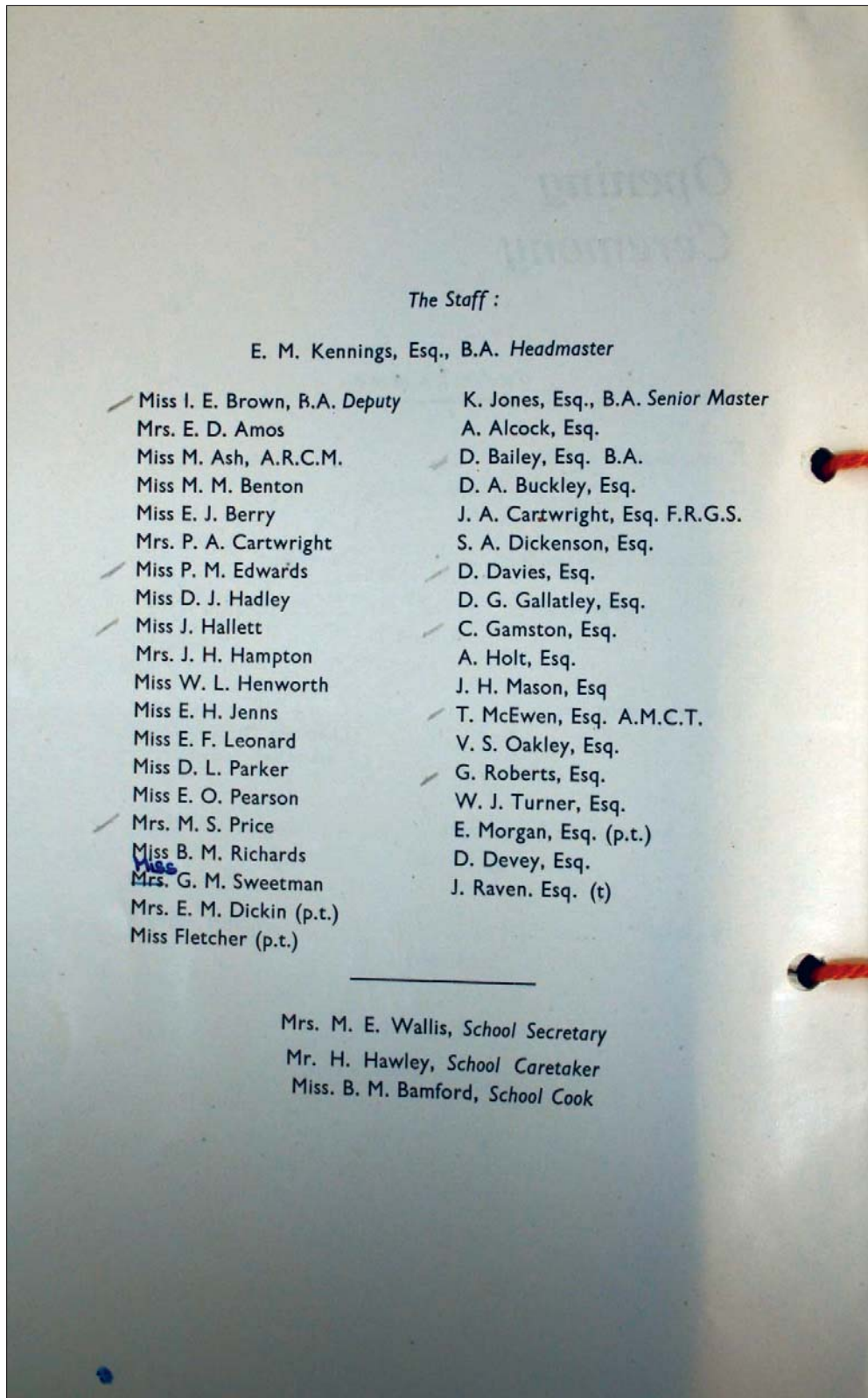


Figure 10f: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

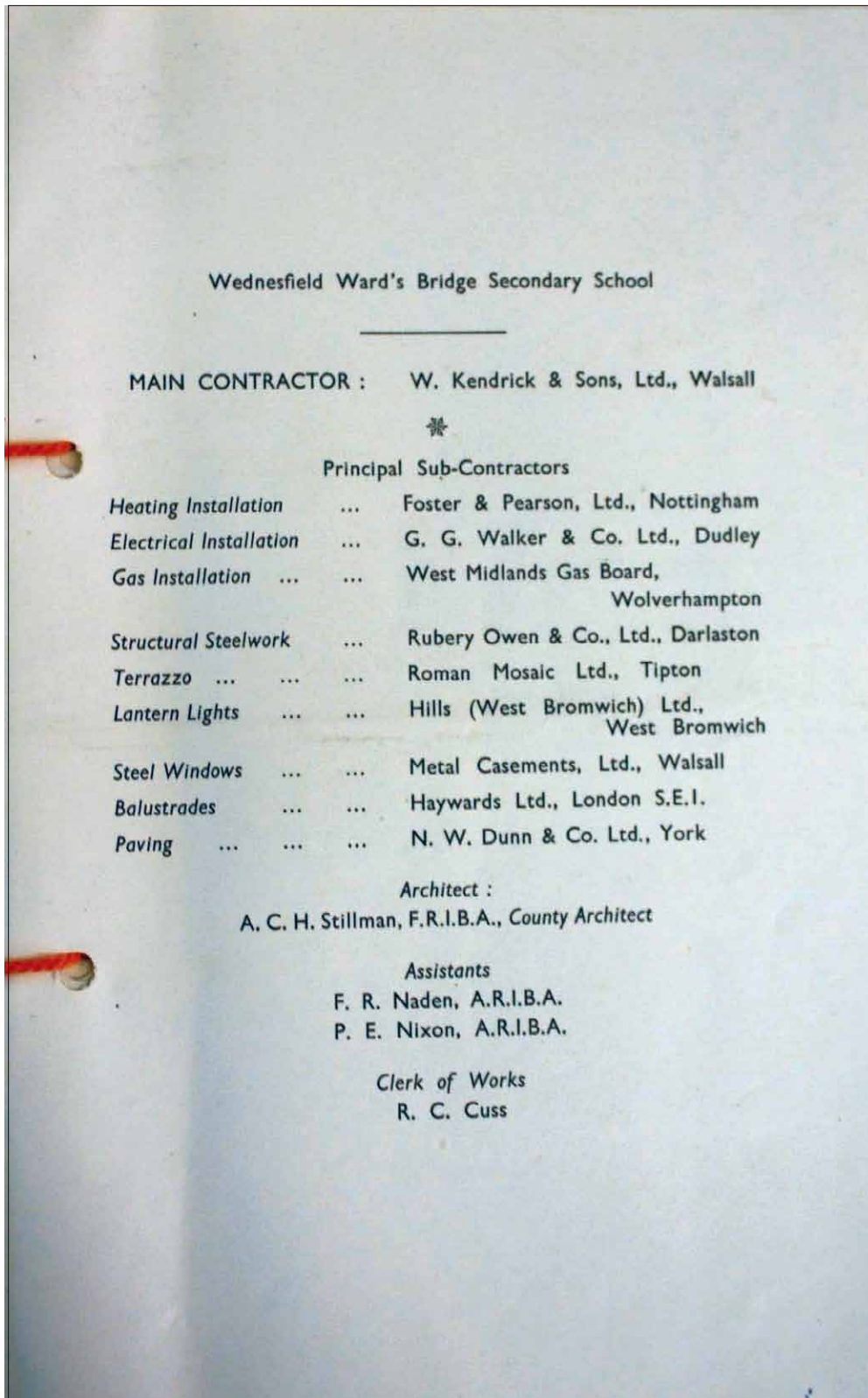


Figure 10g: Programme of Opening Ceremony (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

STAFFORDSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

WARD'S BRIDGE SEC. MIXED SCHOOL
WEDNESFIELD

c/o WILLENHALL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
WILLENHALL

Headmaster :
E. M. KENNINGS, B.A.

19th September, 1956.

For the attention of Mr. Hobkinson.

Dear Sir,

Re Ward's Bridge County Secondary Modern School,
Wednesfield.

1. The temperature of the school has dropped considerably during the last two days and this, aggravated by the newness of the building, allied with my experience with broken promises by the contractors over dates for completion of work, etc., prompts me to ask you to urge the builders to get on with the job of making heating available for the section of the building now occupied as soon as possible. I fear at the moment that at some time in the near future I may have to consult the Medical Officer about the wisdom of keeping the children in an unheated school unless steps are taken to see that heating is available.

2. The Science Room promised for occupation by September 4th, 1956 and then by the 12th or 13th of this month is still far from ready in spite of this undertaking by the contractors' foreman. As I see it the room will not be ready for another week from today. This is for your information and action should you consider this necessary.

Yours faithfully,

E. M. Kennings

Headmaster.

Education Architect's Dept.
Stafford.

Figure 11: Letter from Headmaster to the Education Architects Department (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

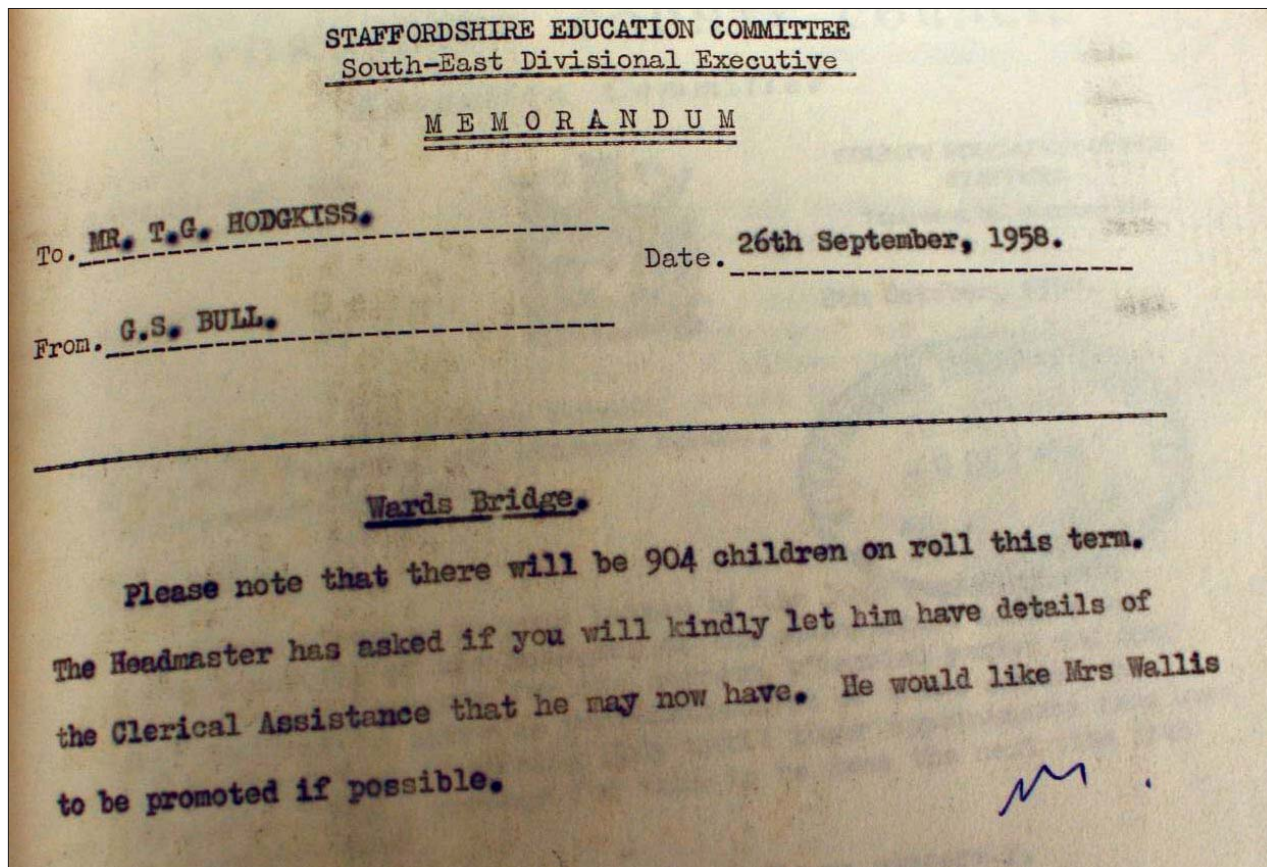


Figure 12: Memorandum (26th September 1958) (WAVE Ref D-EDS-116)

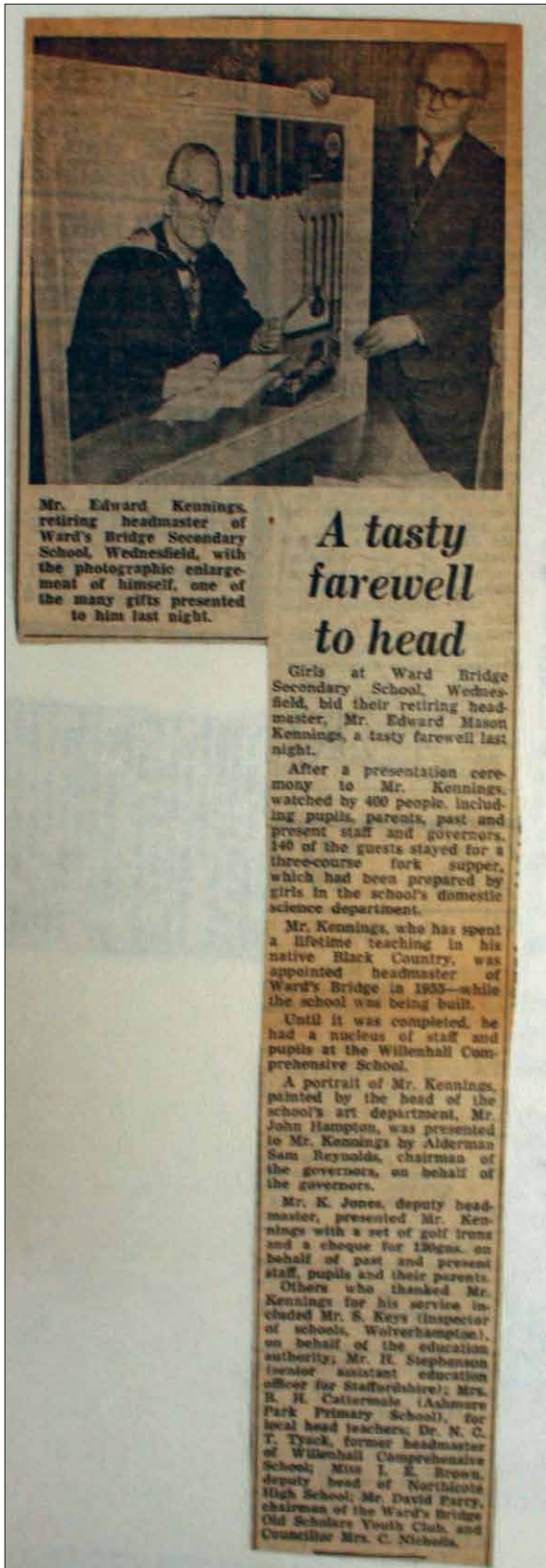


Figure 13: Cutting from Express and Star reporting on retirement of headmaster (27th March 1969)



Figure 14: Newspaper article following the visit of Tessa Sanderson to Ward's Bridge



Figure 15: Cutting from Express and Star reporting on the closure of Ward's Bridge School (9th September 1987)



Figure 16: Cutting from Express and Star reporting on the opening of the Jennie Lee Centre by Jack Straw (1990)

Cost row on centre's opening ceremony

Labour rulers have been accused of diverting much-needed education cash for a "lavish" ceremony to open a new £500,000 centre in Wolverhampton.

Conservative councillors Mrs Wendy Thompson and Mr Bob Ward say the recent opening of the Jennie Lee Professional and Training Centre, in Wednesfield, was a "completely unnecessary" expense.

But Labour leader Councillor Norman Davies claims it is a "scurrilous attack" on a money-saving venture that is motivated for cheap political propaganda.

Both Conservative councillors attended the opening and say they were appalled at what they described as a "lavish" buffet for hundreds of people.

Councillor Davies hit back by saying the project would result in huge savings to the borough's education budget.

A spokesman for the council today said that the cost of the ceremony was not known.

Figure 17: Cutting from Express and Star reporting on cost of opening ceremony (13th July 1990)



Figure 18a: Cutting from Express and Star reporting on sale of Jennie Lee playing fields (10th July 1992)

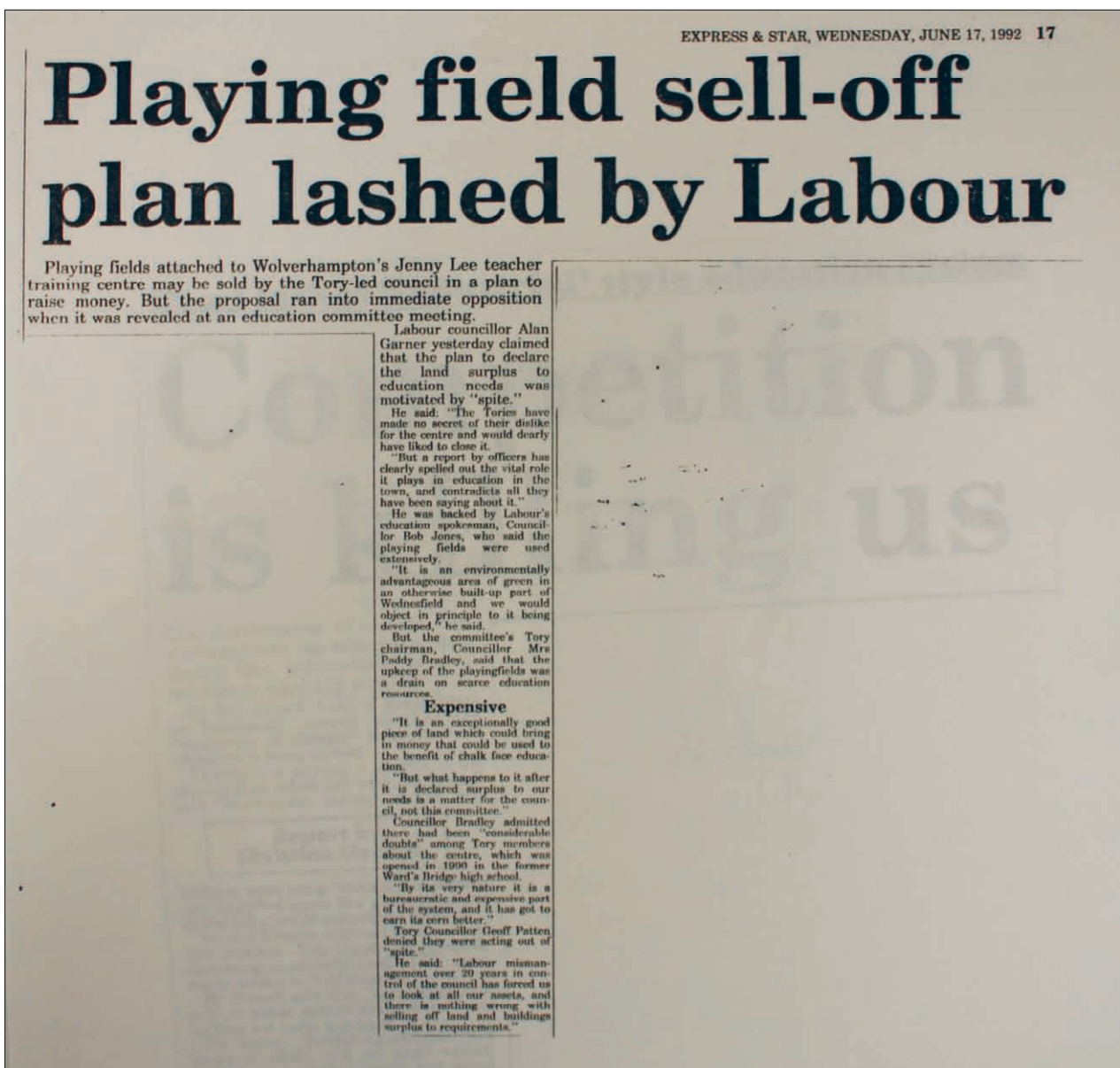


Figure 18b: Cutting from Express and Star reporting on sale of Jennie Lee playing fields (17th June 1992)



Figure 19a: Photograph of the Ward's Bridge "RSLA", 1986 (WAVE Ref. P/2523)



Figure 19b: Photograph of the Ward's Bridge "RSLA", 1986 (WAVE Ref. P/2524)

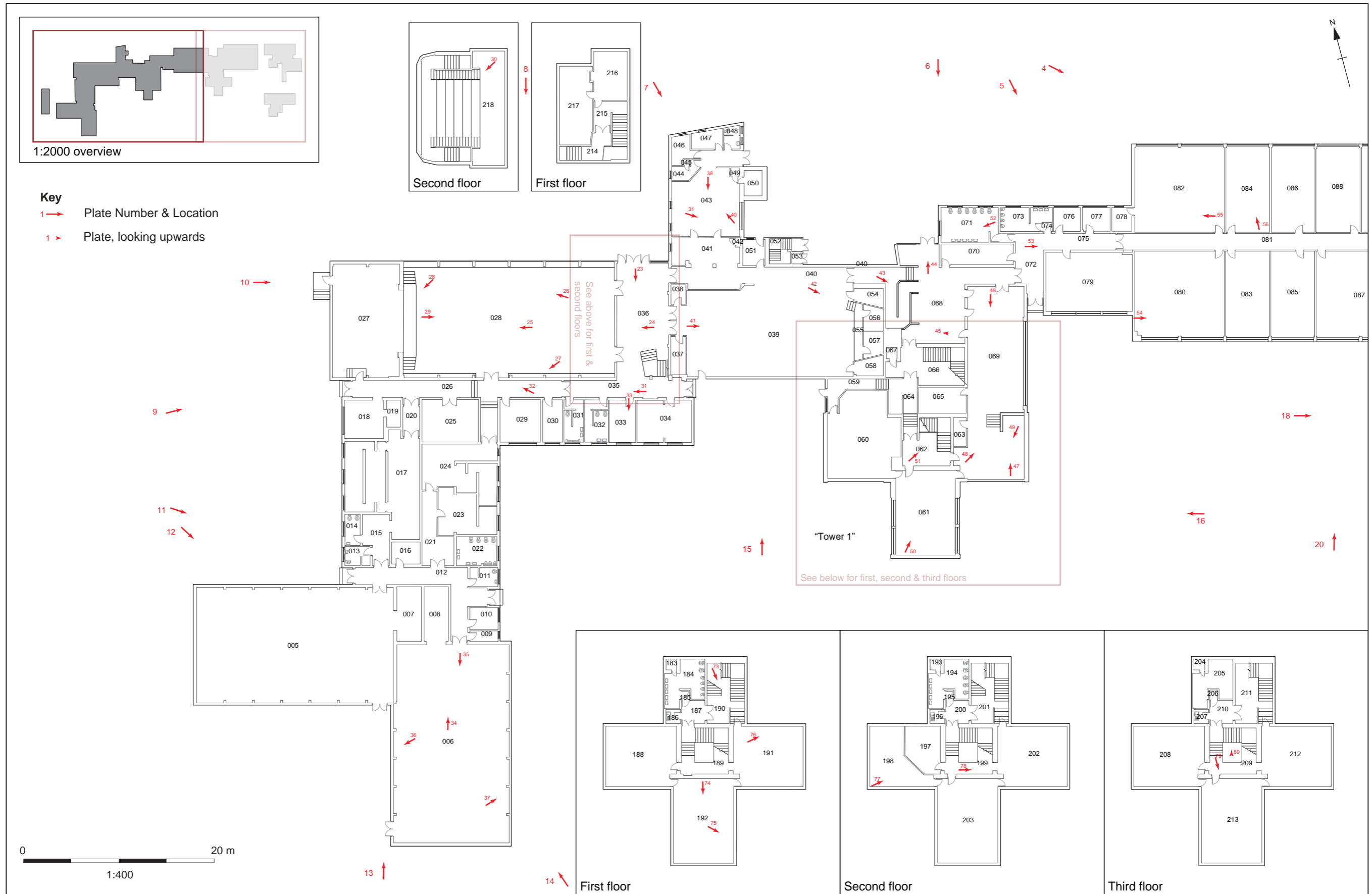


Figure 20a: Floor plans of the building surveyed (from data supplied by client)



Figure 20b: Floor plans of the building surveyed (from data supplied by client)



Plate 2: North-facing elevation of the original eastern end of the school



Plate 4: North-facing elevation of med-section of building with Tower 2 behind



Plate 1: North-facing elevation of the eastern extension



Plate 3: North-facing elevation of entrance with Tower 2 behind



Plate 6: North-facing elevation of entrance with Tower 2 behind



Plate 8: North-facing elevation of hall at western end of building



Plate 5: North-facing elevation of recessed section of building and Tower 1 behind



Plate 7: North-facing elevation of north-south block, enclosed walled area and Tower 1 behind



Plate 10: Detail of door on west-facing elevation



Plate 12: North-facing elevation of east-west orientated block at western end of building



Plate 9: West-facing elevation of hall and north-south block



Plate 11: Elements of the original building as viewed from car park on west side of school



Plate 14: East-facing elevation of block at western end of building



Plate 16: East-facing elevation of Tower 1



Plate 13: South-facing elevation of blocks at western end of building



Plate 15: South-facing elevation of recessed element of building



Plate 18: West-facing elevation of Tower 2



Plate 20: South-facing elevation of recessed section of building



Plate 17: Tower 1 as viewed from car park at south of the building



Plate 19: Detail of rear access in Tower 2 (west-facing elevation) showing different brick types used



Plate 22: South-facing elevation of the eastern extension



Plate 24: Internal doors from lobby (36) into hall (28)



Plate 21: South-facing elevation of the original eastern end of the school



Plate 23: Lobby/reception area (36)



Plate 26: Windows on northern elevation of hall (28)



Plate 28: Detail of stage in hall (28)



Plate 25: General view of hall (28)



Plate 27: Detail of window opening mechanism in hall (28)



Plate 30: Seating area of balcony over hall



Plate 32: Detail of iron shelf within corridor (35)



Plate 29: balcony at eastern end of hall (28)



Plate 31: General view of corridor (35)



Plate 33: General room view of office (33)



Plate 34: Interior view of access and roller doors in "boys gym" (06)



Plate 35: General room view of boys gym (06)



Plate 36: Windows on eastern elevation of boys gym (06)



Plate 38: General room view of kitchen (43)



Plate 40: Office within kitchen area (43)



Plate 37: Detail of sliding equipment rails on ceiling in boys gym (06)



Plate 39: General room view of kitchen (43)



Plate 42: Stage/storage areas at eastern end of dining hall (39)



Plate 44: Detail of entrance doors on north-facing elevation from within library reception area (68)



Plate 41: General view of dining hall (39)



Plate 43: General room view of library reception area (68)



Plate 45: Raised skylight above library reception area (68)



Plate 46: General room view of library (69)



Plate 47: Detail of shelving within raised section of library (69)



Plate 48: Detail of shelving within raised section of library (69)



Plate 50: General room view of library (61)



Plate 52: General room view of toilets (71)



Plate 49: Windows at northern end of library (68)

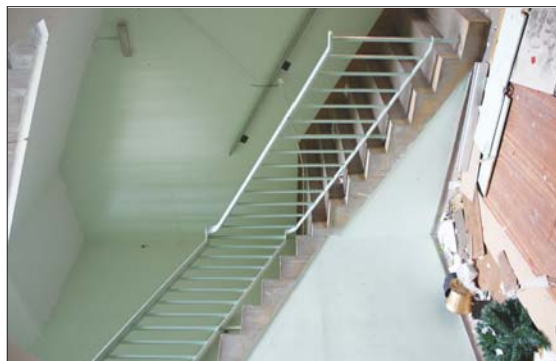


Plate 51: General view of ground floor area of stairs (62)

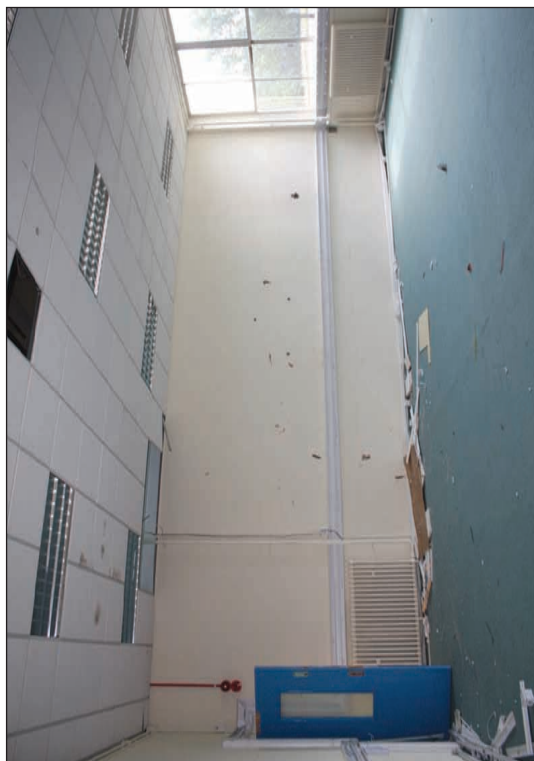


Plate 54: General view of conference room (80)



Plate 56: General view of conference room (84)



Plate 53: General view of corridor (75)



Plate 55: General view of conference room (82)



Plate 58: Entrance doors on north-facing elevation from within reception area (111)



Plate 60: General view of subdivided ground floor office (102)



Plate 57: General view of reception area (111)



Plate 59: Internal partition in ground floor office (101)



Plate 62: General view of training room (114)

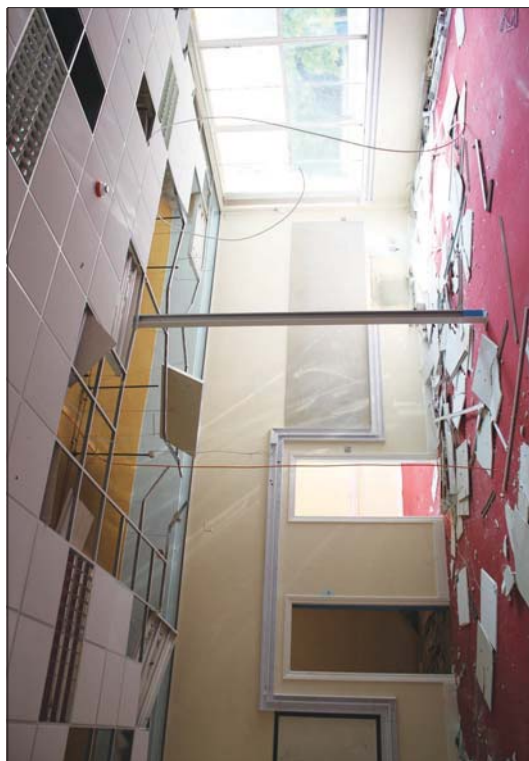


Plate 64: General view of office (115)



Plate 61: General view of corridor (121)



Plate 63: General view of computer server room (113)



Plate 66: Original window and arched ceiling in office (117)



Plate 68: Original ceiling above inserted partition walls in store room (120)



Plate 65: Detail of original ceiling (115)

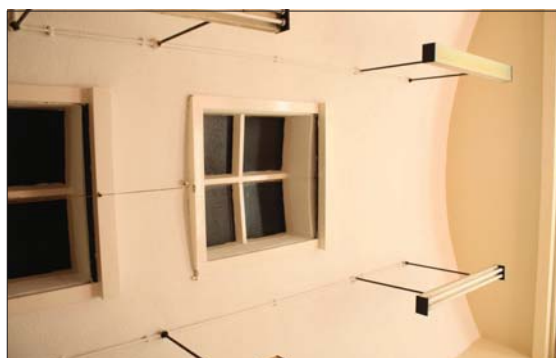


Plate 67: Detail of original ceiling in office (117)



Plate 70: View of access into room (123) also showing former doorway and exposed ceiling



Plate 72: Location of possible former wider opening between ground floor rooms (122 and 123)



Plate 69: Location of former doorway with a later inserted window and sink (122)



Plate 71: Internal partitions within room (123)



Plate 74: General view of office/former classroom (192), Tower 1, first floor



Plate 76: Windows on north-facing elevation, room 191, Tower 1, first floor

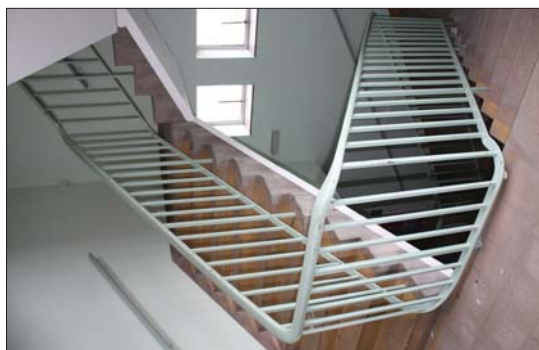


Plate 73: Stairs within northern "wing" of Tower 1 (first floor level)



Plate 75: Detail of drop handles



Plate 78: Staircase area, Tower 1, second floor (199)

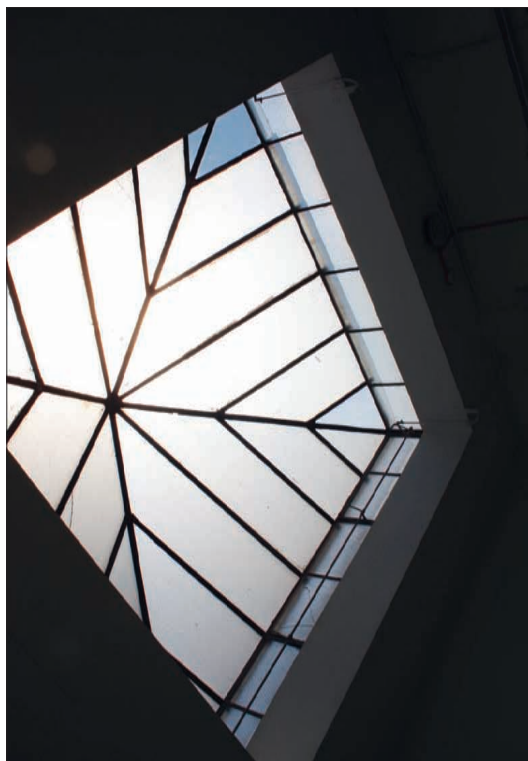


Plate 80: Skylight above Tower 1 stairwell



Plate 77: Internal partition, room 198, Tower 2, second floor



Plate 79: Staircase area, Tower 1, third floor (209)



Plate 81: Central staircase, Tower 2, second floor (171)



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*