



LIVERPOOL LIBRARY, WILLIAM BROWN STREET, LIVERPOOL

Building Survey Report



Oxford Archaeology North

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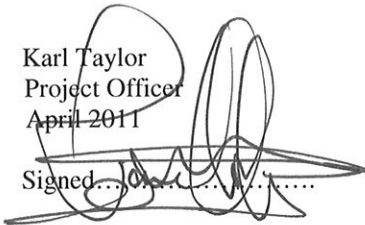
National Grid Reference: SJ 3499 9080

Prepared by: Caroline Raynor
Position: Project Officer
Date: April 2011

Checked by: Jamie Quartermaine
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: April 2011

Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Operations Manager
Date: April 2011

Karl Taylor
Project Officer
April 2011

Signed.....

Signed.....

Oxford Archaeology North

Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1GF
t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

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Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

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SUMMARY

The Liverpool Central Library Complex is to be remodelled as part of a £50 million development. Currently, the library comprises the William Brown Library which suffered severe bomb damage during World War II and was rebuilt in the 1950s, the William Brown Extension, the Clayton Stack, the Picton Reading Room, the International Library, the Hornby Library and the Oak Room.

As part of the redevelopment it is proposed that the modern sections of the William Brown Library and the William Brown Extension be demolished to make way for a new, lighter and more modern structure. Oxford Archaeology North were commissioned by Shepherds Construction and CgMs to conduct a building survey in advance of the demolition works. The Clayton Stack has also been included in this survey, even though it is not scheduled for demolition, as it is anticipated that the proposed redevelopment will result in major alterations to the character of the building.

The Liverpool Central Library was constructed at the instigation of William Brown, merchant and MP for South Lancashire, and was opened on 18th October 1860. The building interior was spacious and the upper floor was illuminated by skylights to provide adequate natural light, and provided storage for about 100,000 volumes, as well as considerable reading room space.

The library was very successful, resulting in a series of additions being made, notably the Picton Library and Reading Room between 1875-9, which is a domed rotunda based on that of the British Museum, London. It provided a large, well illuminated reading room and storage for about 60,000 books. Subsequent to the Picton Library was the construction of the Hornby Library, opened in 1906, to accommodate the books bequeathed to the city by wealthy merchant Hugh Frederick Hornby.

Liverpool suffered greatly during the Second World War and was targeted by German bombers due to the city's part in ship building and commerce which kept the Allied war machine supplied. The first bombs fell on the city in July 1940, although the heaviest bombings came in the summer of the following year. Among the buildings struck by bombs was the William Brown Library and Museum. The façade was largely undamaged; however, the interior and rear of the building was destroyed. Rebuilding commenced in 1957 behind the existing facade and a new five-storey structure was completed in 1962 by architect Ronald Bradbury. The Clayton Stack is a four-storey depository built in the 1930s but subsequently rebuilt in 1957-60. An additional building, the eight-storey William Brown Extension, was constructed on the north side of the William Brown Library between 1974-1976.

The survey demonstrated five principal phases of construction. The earliest phase (c 1860s) comprised the extant neo-classical facade which forms the south-facing elevation of the existing structure, which survived the 1941 bombings largely intact. There is little evidence of this earliest phase within the area of the library that was examined aside from two small ante-rooms (6 and 7), which were constructed of brick rather than concrete block. The second phase (c 1930s) identified during the course of the survey is the Clayton Stack at the rear of the main library building which was constructed in 1930, but re-built in 1957. The third phase identified is the William Brown Library, which was constructed in 1957-60, behind the existing facade and butted the east side of the Liverpool World Museum and the west side of the Picton Library. The fourth phase was the construction of

the William Brown Extension between 1974-6, and involved removing the north-facing elevation of the recently-constructed William Brown Library and butting additional concrete beam floors against the existing structure to extend the main library building. The fifth phase (*c* 1980s) was the construction of the interior timber-framed plaster partition walls, which were used to create smaller office spaces within the larger open plan structures of the William Brown Extension, the William Brown Library and the Clayton Stack.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to Paul Gajos of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the archaeological building survey and Shepherd Construction Ltd for initiating the work and for assistance in the course of the project. Particular gratitude is expressed to John Messer and Gary Trainer of Shepherd Construction Ltd for setting up the project and for their continued support during the on-site phase of the investigation. Thanks are also due to Liverpool Library staff for allowing access to the property.

The building recording was undertaken by Caroline Raynor and Karl Taylor. The report was written by Caroline Raynor and the drawings were produced by Caroline Raynor, Anne Stewardson and Karl Taylor. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A building survey of the Liverpool Central Library (specifically the area reconstructed in 1957-60) was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in October 2010, at the request of Shepherds and CgMs Ltd. The work was required to provide a mitigative record of the building in advance of its partial demolition, as part of a £50 million redevelopment, which has a planned reopening in 2012.
- 1.1.2 The Liverpool Central Library is situated on William Brown Street (Fig 1), and lies within the William Brown Street Conservation Area (designated in 1969) which comprises the Grade I listed St George's Hall, and several Grade II* listed buildings, including the William Brown Library and Museum, the Picton Reading Room and Hornby Library, the Walker Art Gallery, the County Sessions House, the Steble Fountain and the Wellington Column (Fig 2). The William Brown complex comprises the William Brown (lending) Library, the William Brown Extension, and the Clayton Stack, which will be largely demolished as part of the proposed development. The adjoining and related buildings which will be retained during the redevelopment include the Picton Library, the Hornby Library, the Oak Room, the International Library and the Picton Stack. As these are unaffected by the redevelopment they are not included in the scope of this report.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the investigation relating to the modern sections of the library including the Central Lending Library, the William Brown Extension and the Clayton Stack in the form of a short document with accompanying photographs and plans.

1.2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site under investigation is located at NGR SJ 349 908, and occupies approximately 0.5ha. The Central Library is located on the south side of William Brown Street near to the crest of a west-facing slope (formerly known as Shaw's Brow) at approximately 20m AOD. The Central Library complex comprises the William Brown Library, the Picton Reading Room, the Hornby Library, the Oak Room and the extant modern extensions (including the Picton Stack and Clayton Stack) which were completed in 1962.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site comprises Helsby Sandstone Formation Sandstone. The south-facing elevation of the building is sited directly on the sandstone bedrock (Gajos 2010, 10).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design submitted by OA North (*Appendix 1*), used as the basis for this investigation, was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice
- 2.1.2 The project design highlighted the requirement to provide a full record of the section of the library which was reconstructed following the World War II bombings. No record of the other earlier sections of the Central Library complex was compiled as these structures will remain extant throughout the renovation and refurbishment.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 A conservation plan was prepared by TFT Cultural Heritage and a desk-based assessment (DBA) by CgMs Ltd (Gajos 2010). Consequently, there was not a requirement to undertake further historical work as part of the present programme. However, additional records, particularly cartographic sources, held by OA North were drawn upon to enhance the historical background (*Section 3*). This report should be read in conjunction with the DBA as it provides an historical context to the results of the building investigation, as well as outlining all statutory and non-statutory sites within the environs of the development site.

2.3 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 2.3.1 **Descriptive Record:** written records to English Heritage Level 2 (2006), using OA North *pro forma* record sheets, were made of all principal building elements, both internal and external, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance. Particular attention was paid to the relationship between those areas of the building where its development, and any alterations, could be observed. These records are essentially descriptive, although interpretation was carried out on site as required.
- 2.3.2 **Site drawings:** the drawings produced were based upon existing architects survey data supplied by the client. The additional detail was created by means of manual survey and the annotation of paper copies. The corrected drawings were digitised into an industry standard CAD package (Autocad 2004) for the production of the final drawings. The following drawings were produced:
- Plans of the ground, first and second floors of the Clayton Stack building, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance. Produced for output at 1:250 scale;
 - Plans of the basement, ground, first, second, third, fourth and fifth floors of the William Brown Library building, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance. Produced for output at 1:150 scale;

- Plans of the ground, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh floors of the William Brown Extension building, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance. Produced for output at 1:125 scale;

2.3.3 **Photographs:** photographs were taken in both monochrome print and high-resolution digital format using 35mm SLR and DSLR cameras respectively. The photographic archive consists of general images of the buildings, both internal and external, and detailed internal and external scaled coverage of architectural and decorative features and/or structural detail

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Merseyside Record Office on completion of the project a paper copy of the report will be sent to the Merseyside Archaeological Service.

3. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

3.1 LIVERPOOL CENTRAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1.1 The development of the public library in the UK parallels the growth of nineteenth century liberal ideology and reform where it was thought that if people were given the tools with which to better themselves, including free uninhibited access to books and information, then this increased the chance of producing better and more civilised citizens. William Ewart, the public library's legislative pioneer, held the opinion that libraries were 'temples of knowledge' through which 'self education will receive an impulse which no time or circumstances can control' (Black *et al* 2009, 31). It was a widespread idea that more educated people, with greater exposure to arts and culture, would lead to a reduction in crime and political discontent.
- 3.1.2 In Liverpool this idea was championed by individuals such as Canon A Hume. In urging the people of Liverpool, in 1848, to support the idea of a public library, Canon Hume reminded them that in the city there was 'no library to which a sailor could go and ask, with certainty of being accommodated, to look at a Nautical Almanac, where a clergyman might go to look at the Clergy list, or where a merchant or other person might be able to go and see *Pigot's Directory*' (*ibid*). Continuing this material theme, in 1860 William Brown, the merchant benefactor of the Liverpool Public Library asked :
- 'What would the power and social position of England be without our commerce...I am sanguine that the library... from the valuable works that will be found there, will contain information that will prevent much loss of time and many of those disappointments to our thoughtful and enquiring people, as there they will have an opportunity of referring to the specifications of all existing patents, and more or less information on every subject interesting to mankind' (*ibid*).
- 3.1.3 Following the Public Library Act of 1850 Liverpool still remained a city without a public library, despite its explosive growth in population and burgeoning merchant class, although there was a private library within the Athenaeum, a Gentleman's Club, which had been founded in 1797. However, in 1852 the first public library was opened in the Union Newsroom on Duke Street (Plate 1). A competition was held in 1856 to find an appropriate design for the proposed Liverpool Library and Museum. The winning design came from the architect Thomas Allom, a noted architect who was involved in designing numerous prestigious buildings of the period including the Houses of Parliament, although it was heavily modified by Corporation Architect J Weightman, who removed the Italianate specifications of the original design and replaced them with Graeco-Roman designs (Pollard *et al* 2006, 81)
- 3.1.4 ***Liverpool Central Library:*** William Brown, merchant and MP for South Lancashire pledged to dedicate £6000 in support of the construction of the library which began with the laying of the foundation stone on 15th April 1857 (Gajos 2010, 16) but the costs on completion actually totalled close to £40,000. The corporation initially pledged £10,000 to the cause. The exterior of the building was constructed using stone from quarries around Wrexham with additional material coming from Yorkshire and Derbyshire (Plate 2). The front masonry is returned for a short

distance at each end of the building, which then continued in Staffordshire cream brick with stone dressings. It was a two-storey rectangular building with a rusticated stone basement, 17 bays wide. The library occupied the eastern flank of the building, with the central and western flank of the building being given over to the Museum (Gajos 2010, 17).

- 3.1.5 Upon its opening by William Brown MP on 18th October 1860, the Liverpool Library was hailed as a tremendous success with celebrations and official functions continuing for three days and an estimated attendance of 10,000 people (Cowell 2007, 77). The building interior 'was spacious and the upper floor was illuminated by skylights to provide adequate natural light. The building was divided into practical spaces, including a reading room which was divided from the reference library by a long counter. The reference library comprised a light iron gallery in front of which was a 'students room' where people could study and work in peace and quiet. The historic floor plans indicate that what is referred to as a reference library was in fact a book room (the term 'stack' not yet being in use). The book room contained double presses forming two-storey high alcoves, about eight feet high and lit by narrow windows (this was about the same shelf spacing as in the British Museum's Iron-Library) and around it room for step ladders, and most importantly the penetration of natural light. The two-storey alcoves of the reference library including the shelves in the students' room contained about 30,000 volumes. On the top floor above the reference library three more top-lit rooms provided additional book storage capacity for when it was needed. Altogether there was space for about 100,000 volumes' (Black *et al* 2009, 90).
- 3.1.6 **Picton Library and Reading Room:** the library was very successful and this resulted in a series of additions being made to the original plot on William Brown Street. The next building to be constructed was the Picton Library and Reading Room (Plate 3) which was built between 1875-9. It was designed by Cornelius Sherlock, who also designed St Stephen's church and who contributed to the design of the Walker Gallery, also on William Brown Street (*ibid*). The building is a domed rotunda based on that of the British Museum, London. The south-facing elevation is a semi-circular corinthian portico which faces onto William Brown Street. The portico comprises a colonnade of 18 columns. The cornice surmounting the colonnade is decorated by a frieze of floriated scroll design above which is a low balustrade which acts as a screen to the roof (Cowell 2007, 130). The portico itself is decorated with niches which originally contained statues including Jeanie Deans, The Lady of the Lake and Highland Mary, all of which were executed by Benjamin Edward Spence (Cavanagh 1997, 248).
- 3.1.7 Internally, the room is 100 feet (30.5m) in diameter and the dome stands at a height of 56 feet (17.1m). Oak shelving 8 feet (2.4m) high runs uninterrupted around the circumference of this room and from this springs at equal distance, 16 projecting book cases (Cowell 2007, 130). Above the shelving is an ornamental iron gallery with wall and projecting book cases similar to those below. About 60,000 books were accommodated, many of which were large quartos and folios. Reading tables (no longer present) radiated out from the centre of the room like spokes of a wheel providing seating for 200 readers (Cowell 2007, 131). The room is lit primarily by natural light radiating from an oculus in the dome. The building is named after Sir James Allanson Picton, Chairman of the Liverpool Libraries Committee, and was completed at a cost of £20,000. Sir James Picton memorably asserted that 'Man does not live by bread alone. It is in vain that wealth accumulates... if people remain

uneducated and insensible to the higher qualities which dignify and elevate human nature' (Black *et al* 2009, 32).

- 3.1.8 The basement of the Picton Library (now known as the International Library) occupies exactly the same area as the reading room and was originally designed as a lecture theatre with the seats being cut out of the solid bedrock. The roof of the hall, which is the floor of the Picton Reading room, is supported by immense iron brackets springing from the walls, consequently leaving the hall free from columns and creating an unobstructed view of the lecture platform. This room has a seating capacity of 1,200 people (Cowell 2007, 131).
- 3.1.9 A number of the original features of the Picton Reading Room and the International library, in particular portions of book cases and the wood panelling, are currently obscured by 1920s formica cladding. This obscures the detailed cast iron banisters, the wood panelling, the stone seats and the iron springer brackets which support the ceiling. Recent asbestos survey work, undertaken at the same time as the building survey, has demonstrated that in actuality this formica covering has served to protect many of the original features which now survive in excellent condition.
- 3.1.10 In 1892, due to the congested state of the reference library, additional storage became imperative, and was obtained by remodelling the basement. According to Cowell 'Here a complete transformation was effected and an area brought into requisition which provides excellent storage for the voluminous collection of newspapers and specifications of patents, and also a light and commodious reading room to the front of the building with its own separate entrance, where the numerous body of readers who came to consult them could do so with facility and comfort' (Cowell 2008, 151).
- 3.1.11 **Hornby Library:** subsequent to the alterations to the basement was the construction of the Hornby Library, located behind the Picton Reading Room. The Hornby Library was designed specifically to accommodate the books bequeathed to the city by wealthy merchant Hugh Frederick Hornby. The building is Edwardian in character and baroque in design. It was designed by Corporation Architect Edward Shelmerdine and features ten alcoves (five bays) with an overhead stone balustrade gallery. The leaded skylights in the plaster-vaulted roof comprise coloured mosaic glass. Areas above the bookshelves are decorated with classical friezes in *bas relief*, including a representation of Alexander the Great ordering the works of Homer to be placed in the Sarcophagus of Achilles. Adjacent to the Hornby Library is the Oak Room, which was constructed in 1914 to provide additional storage for special collections (Gajos 2010 17).
- 3.1.12 **The Blitz:** Liverpool suffered greatly during the Second World War and was targeted by German bombers as a site of importance due to ship building and commerce in the city, which kept the Allied War machine supplied. The first bombs fell on the city in July 1940, although the heaviest bombings came in the summer of the following year. Attacks in May 1941, and during the first two weeks of June, saw devastation wreaked upon Liverpool as night after night of raids accounted for 1,300 lives and caused almost £500,000 worth of damage (Belchem (ed) 2006, 393).
- 3.1.13 Among the buildings struck by bombs was the William Brown Library and Museum. Although the façade was largely undamaged, the interior and rear of the building was destroyed. Rebuilding commenced in 1957 behind the existing facade

and the five-storey structure was completed in 1962 by architect Ronald Bradbury, with the existing nineteenth century skyline being wrecked in the process by a roof top addition (Pollard *et al* 2006, 298). The library was cited as a positive example of Liverpool City Council's post-war use of resources and adherence to the principles of the welfare state in Bradbury's 1966 publication, 'Liverpool Builds' (Couch 2003, 203).

- 3.1.14 The Clayton Stack is a four-storey depository built in the 1930s but subsequently rebuilt in 1957 (Keevil and Izzard 2003). An additional building, the eight-storey William Brown Extension, was constructed on the north side of the William Brow Library between 1974-6 (*ibid*).

4. BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The buildings subject to investigation comprised the William Brown Library, the William Brown Extension and the Clayton Stack (Fig 2). Each element was recorded in turn, and the results of the investigation are outlined below. These buildings are surrounded on both sides by other elements of the William Brown Street neo-classical group, including the Picton Library, The Hornby Library and the Liverpool World Museum, all of which are Grade II* listed. These buildings are, however, not under threat from the development and were not investigated at this time.

4.2 GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE BUILDINGS

- 4.2.1 This is a complex of nineteenth century, 1930s and 1950s buildings set behind a south facing nineteenth century façade of which some are the subject of the present survey and others are not (Fig 2). Facing onto William Brown Street to the south, are the World Museum, William Brown Library and the Picton Library buildings. On the western side of the complex is the World Museum, which is a largely intact nineteenth century building, which is not subject to development and is not a part of the present study. To its immediate east is the William Brown Library which has a nineteenth century facade, and a 1950s rebuild behind. To the east of it is the circular Picton Library, which was constructed 1875-9, which survived the blitz largely intact; it will not be redeveloped and is not the subject of the present survey. Behind the Picton library are two smaller buildings, the Hornby Library, opened in 1906, and the Oak Room, opened in 1914 (Gajos 2010). Both survived the blitz and are not being redeveloped.
- 4.2.2 To the rear of the complex and facing onto Cuerden Street and Churchill Way to the north are the William Brown Extension, the Clayton Stack and the Walker Art Gallery. Behind the William Brown Library is the William Brown extension which was intended to provide additional book storage space and was constructed in 1974-6. At ground floor level it is separated from the main William Brown library building by an access road but from the first floor up it is conjoined with the main library building and there is open access between the two buildings (Plate 4). To the east of the William Brown Extension is the square-planned Clayton Stack, which was originally constructed in the 1930s, but was rebuilt in the 1950s. The building was recorded as part of the present survey. It is separated from the Hornby Library to the south by an access road. To the east of the Clayton Stack is the Walker Art Gallery Building, which will not be subject to redevelopment and was not studied as part of the present project.
- 4.2.3 Although each of the buildings is a separate structure, the Clayton Stack is built against the William Brown Extension, it is not accessible from it, but is accessible from the Walker Art Gallery to the east, which presently uses the first and second floors of the stack (Fig 2).
- 4.2.4 The main entrance to the William Brown Library, and by association the William Brown Extension, is via the wide steps leading to the large portico at the front of

the building on William Brown Street (Fig 2; Plate 2). There are other external service entrances to the building(s) which are at the rear. The Clayton Stack is only accessible externally via a doorway on the south elevation. Internally, the William Brown Library is accessible from the main entrance on the southern elevation and from a corridor linking it with the Picton Library; however, this corridor (which leads to an external door) has been off limits to the general public for some time.

4.3 CLAYTON STACK: EXTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.3.1 The Clayton Stack is located at the rear of the Picton and International Library, and is accessible from the library loading bay area via an external door in the south-facing elevation at ground floor level; the stack has no basement. The upper two floors are accessed through a linking floor at the rear of the gallery. The building was originally constructed in the 1930s for book storage, albeit rebuilt in the 1950s. It comprises four floors; however, only three of these belong to the William Brown Library, with the upper floor being owned and used by the Walker Art Gallery. Due to its dual purpose as both a book stack and a functioning part of the art gallery, the Clayton Stack is scheduled for refurbishment, not demolition. The third floor, belonging to the Walker Art Gallery, was not accessible at the time of survey and was not examined.
- 4.3.2 ***Fabric:*** the exterior of the Clayton Stack comprises reddish-brown brick, arranged in English Garden Wall bond (arrangement of three rows of stretchers to one row of headers) with a white cement mortar. There is a variation in the brick work (a change from English Garden Wall bond to linear bands using one course of stretchers sandwiched between a course of headers) above the windows between the second and third floor. A decorative band and corbels were also visible at roof level; these represent the only exterior decorative elements (Plate 5 (below)). The roof has two, parallel narrow gabled roofs, each with a shallow peak. The roof is surrounded by a balustrade terrace with the balustrade being constructed of unadorned metal railings.
- 4.3.3 ***Principal elevation (south-facing):*** the main feature of the principal elevation are six tall rectangular Crittal windows. The exterior doorway was a modern fireproof double door opening onto the loading bay area. Access to this door was gained via a set of plain concrete steps with metal hand rails (Plate 5 (below)). A stretcher bond and a band topped by corbels are the only decorative elements on the south-facing elevation.



Plate 5: South-facing elevation of Clayton Stack

- 4.3.4 **North-facing elevation:** the north-facing elevation is characterised by three tall rectangular Crittal Windows located at the western end of the building. Access to the rear of the building is via Cuerden Street and a single fire door; however, this door leads to the upper floor portion of the building occupied by The Walker Art gallery, via a spiral stair. As with the south-facing elevation, soldier bond and a band topped by corbels are the only decorative elements on the north-facing elevation (Plate 6 (below)).



Plate 6: North-facing elevation of the Clayton Stack

4.4 CLAYTON STACK: INTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.4.1 The ground floor was orientated east/west on its long axis, and originally had an open plan (Plate 7), being used exclusively as a book stack; the floor has now been partitioned into three smaller spaces. There are no permanent fittings to suggest why the original stack space was divided into two separate stack spaces, (1) and (2) (Fig 3); however, workroom (3) at the east side of the building contains a window on the west-facing partition suggesting that it was intended for use and occupation by library staff, rather than as a storage area. The first floor and second floor have similar open plan spaces on the same orientation, but they have not been partitioned and still contain north/south orientated rows of densely-packed metal-framed free-standing bookcases (Plate 8). The first and second floors were not subjected to detailed analysis or recording as they were still fully furnished at the time of the survey and it was not possible to take accurate measurements.
- 4.4.2 All the walls comprised dark coloured brick, the same fabric as the external elevations; and although the walls have been whitewashed, the construction bond is still visible. The walls are solid and fire proof, and brick trusses support the horizontal beams at each side of the room. The modern (late twentieth century) partitions are constructed from timber-framed plaster board. The floor is concrete and appears to be original, although areas of the floor are presently obscured by linoleum floor covering.
- 4.4.3 The walls and floor were uniform through the first and second floors (Figs 4 and 5). Each floor has a sectioned fireproof ceiling comprising inverted 'U'-shaped concrete channels supported on concrete cross beams held in place by concrete columns (Plate 9 (below)). No roof trusses were visible in the areas of the building that were surveyed.



Plate 9: Internal beam/column arrangement on the first floor of the Clayton Stack

- 4.4.4 Each floor was divided into bays by 15 columns. All of the columns are concrete and each one features four run-out stop chamfers, and each support the east/west orientated plain concrete beams. A slight variation in beam design and orientation was observed on the second floor suggesting that part of this ceiling may have been replaced or repaired. The central east/west orientated line of columns are thicker than the outlying columns.
- 4.4.5 The Crittal windows on the south- and north-facing elevations (Plate 5) have segmented squares of glass set in metal frames. The windows extend vertically beyond the limits of the ground floor and encompass the height of the first, second and third floors. All doors within the building are late twentieth century fire doors.
- 4.4.6 Access from the ground floor to the first and second floors could be gained using the elevator on the west side of the building or by an open well steel staircase (4) on the same side. Access between the first and second floors could also be gained via an open well cast iron spiral staircase (5) in the north-east corner of the stack (Plate 10). Both staircases and lift appear to be original fixtures. The elevator has two sets of doors with the secondary set allowing access between the Clayton Stack and the William Brown Extension but only between the ground, first and second floors.

4.5 WILLIAM BROWN LIBRARY: EXTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.5.1 The William Brown Library, designed by Thomas Allom (who also designed the Houses of Parliament), was originally constructed in 1857-60, with the construction costs of £40,000 which was substantially paid for by Banker, Merchant and Philanthropist, William Brown. The building was heavily damaged during the May Blitz of 1941 and was rebuilt in 1960 with the original facade being retained. The present survey has recorded the 1860s elevation, but otherwise records only the 1960s fabric.



Plate 11: South-facing elevation of the William Brown Library facade

- 4.5.2 **The principal elevation (south-facing elevation):** the facade of the south-facing elevation is an excellent example of Neo-classical architecture and historically the main entrance included a large pediment supported by large sandstone columns with corinthian capitals (Plate 11 (above)) and is on the western side of the library facade. It led into a lobby that is within the footprint of the World Museum building and from there extended into the first floor of the library. The present main library entrance is on the ground floor and is in the centre of the facade, but is less elaborate with sandstone-clad walls and small laurel wreath friezes set in relief. On the east side of the facade is a large niche designed to be occupied by a statue, straddled on either side by two square-sectioned pilasters topped by corinthian capitals. The former principal entrance and the lower entrance both comprise wood panelled double doors with stylised circular wooden handles dating from the 1970s.
- 4.5.3 East of the main entrance is the imposing circular form of the Picton Library and International Library (Plate 3). Also constructed in the same Neo-classical style but built later than the main building in 1879. The Picton Library was designed by architect Cornelius Sherlock, who was also involved in the design of the Walker Gallery and St Stephen's Church. The Picton Library was modelled on the newly constructed British Library Reading Rooms.
- 4.5.4 All of the existing Neo-classical facades will remain *in-situ*; however, a central door is to be added directly beneath the commemorative foundation stone in the eastern side of the existing lower south-facing elevation of the William Brown Library (Plate 12).
- 4.5.5 **North-facing elevation:** the north-facing elevation is plain dark coloured brick and lacks the elegant sandstone cladding as the north-facing elevation belongs to the secondary, post-war phase of the William Brown Library re-build (Plate 4). The north-facing elevation does not possess any windows as it is linked to the more expansive William Brown Extension.
- 4.5.6 The roof of the William Brown Library (Plate 13) is flat with parallel lines of circular reinforced glass skylights extending across the area. The roof is concrete slab, with lead flashing around the interior and exterior edges and a low brick parapet surrounding the edges. The brick parapet is topped by rectangular concrete copings.
- 4.5.7 **Exterior Landscaping:** the majority of the landscaping outside the building appears to be post-war, with large sunken brick-lined flower beds, cutting into the bedrock. The ground rises from west to east and has been subjected to terracing which reflects the respective heights of the corresponding buildings. The perimeter walls are original and are constructed of sandstone with saddle-back copings set above a stone balustrade. The saddle-back copings bear evidence of a cast iron railing which has been removed.

4.6 WILLIAM BROWN LIBRARY: INTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.6.1 **William Brown Library Internal Layout:** the William Brown Library is internally divided into two main areas; the William Brown Library, as remodelled in 1957, which encompasses the main areas accessible to the public and includes the lending library and the Liverpool Records Office. Adjoining this, and accessible through floors 1 - 4 inclusive, is the William Brown Extension. The William Brown Extension also has a fifth, sixth and seventh floor which are not accessible to the

public. These floors are accessed through the lift on the west side of the extension and through stairwells on the east and west-facing elevations (Figs 2 and 6). This section describes only the main William Brown Library building.

- 4.6.2 The modern refurbishment of the William Brown Library, following on from the destruction of the original building by bombing in May 1941, is a strong example of 1950s architecture and post-war rebuilding. The whole library behind the original façade is constructed of red brick. Each floor is supported by a series of central columns made of red brick and concrete, through which a series of utility ducts connect each floor. The heating system (operated from the basement) comprises a series of pipes encircling the rooms on each floor but boxed-in behind laminate panels and horizontal metal grills set into panelling.
- 4.6.3 The carpeting, decorative finishes and light fittings are uniform and include minimal strip lights, or pendant lights, with no variation between the floors. The walls are painted with white emulsion and the floors are covered most recently with blue or green carpet tile which in turn overlays earlier cork tile flooring. The bare minimum of decoration has been applied to the re-built area of the library and this minimalism speaks not only of the functionality of the building but also of the limited post-war finances available to rebuild a city which was so heavily bombed.



Plate 15: Detail showing mini-empire staircase and ground floor of William Brown Library

- 4.6.4 **Ground floor plan (Fig 6):** the ground floor of the main building is accessed via a set of double wood-panelled doors and a set of modern electronic doors on the south-facing elevation (Plate 14). The ground floor is divided into three large main modern rooms (8, 10 and 12), the largest of which (8) is overlooked by the mezzanine design of the first floor (14). The walls are constructed of concrete block in a stretched bond. Floors are constructed of concrete slab, but obscured by modern carpet tile. Access to higher floors is gained through a lift shaft on the west

wall and via a mini-empire-styled staircase (Plate 15) at the centre of the room (9). The staircase is typically 1950s in design, comprising a steel frame with steel rod balustrade, wooden steps and handrail. Access to subsequent floors and the Picton and Hornby Libraries can also be gained via the main open well staircase (11).

- 4.6.5 The main gallery (8) is open plan and lined with book cases against the east-and west-facing walls. Six small sash windows are present on the south-facing elevation only (the north-facing elevation leads directly to the loading bay and boiler room). To the east of foyer and main room is the Children's Lending Library (10) which is orientated north/south on its long axis and is separated from the main gallery by a glass partition set in a wooden frame. To the north-east of the main room is a large open plan space (12) previously used as the audio-visual library. All of these rooms date from 1957 and the post-war rebuilding phase. In each room, the floors above are supported by linear arrangements (nine columns in two rows) of square concrete columns which have been boxed-in to obscure service ducts. The columns on each floor are clad in black and grey faux serpentine marble tiles.
- 4.6.6 At the north-west side of the ground floor are two small ante-rooms (6 and 7), which currently function as a staff cloakroom and store room. Both appear to be the only surviving ground floor remnants of the original library building, and are small cell-like structures; the cloakroom (6) measures 2.5m by 3.5m long and the store room (7) measures 2.6m by 5.5m long. Both rooms are constructed of brick, rather than concrete block, the courses of which are obscured behind a layer of lime wash and modern emulsion. The store room (7) has a plastered barrel-vaulted ceiling and a recessed niche at the north end. There are no windows, no ventilation and no heating in either room indicating that they were not intended for prolonged human occupation. Both rooms are fireproof and may have acted as vault or strong rooms prior to the bombings.



Plate 16: First floor mezzanine style gallery

- 4.6.7 **First Floor Plan:** the first floor (Fig 7) is principally a mezzanine gallery (Plate 16 (above)) from which the ground floor can be seen. The gallery (14) measures 15.6m by 6.2m and is orientated north/south on its long axis. Both the east and west sides of the gallery are lined with bespoke book cases fitted to the walls. The floor above is supported by two rows of nine columns orientated north/south down the centre of the room. The central space between the columns is demarcated by a series of glass panels with metal handrails. The columns are of identical alignment and fabric as those described on the ground floor. Three staircases (two sets of stairs at the north-east and north-west sides of the room, and one set at the south-east side) provide access to the second and third floors. Two doors on the east wall lead to a large adjoining room (15) identical to the audio-visual room on the ground floor which housed a further music and AV catalogue and to a further stair well which extends between the ground floor and the fourth floor. North-east of room (15) is a small two-room suite of offices (19). As with the ground floor, the first floor is devoid of mouldings or décor and has the appearance of a very minimal utilitarian space.
- 4.6.8 Separating the first floor proper and the second floor, is a half floor identified as Floor 1A for the purposes of this survey (Fig 7). This floor was located at the southern end of the building and comprises a small open plan area (16) previously used as a recess area. A partition at the eastern side of the floor created using wood and glass (c 1970s) provides a separate rectangular workroom previously used as a job seekers resource room (17). The north-facing elevation of this floor contains four large twin-paned sash windows. Access to the first floor is via the continuation of the central mini-empire staircase (18) or via the main open well staircase (11) (Plate 17) which could be accessed via workroom (17) and music room (15).
- 4.6.9 **Second Floor Plan:** the second floor is accessed via the main stairwell (11) and via the mini empire-style staircase (18) at the south side. The second floor (Fig 8) is a large open plan rectangular space (20), used as a lending library and orientated north/south on its long axis and measuring 15m by 37m long. The open floor space (20) is divided into a series of bays by two rows of nine columns orientated north/south. Located to the east of the main room is the search room (21), a smaller rectangular room orientated north/south on its long axis and which is almost identical in layout to the audio visual and music rooms on the ground and first floors (Figs 6 and 7). A partition comprising glass and wood panel doors at the north side of the room leads into the William Brown extension. At the north-east of the second floor is a small suite of offices (22).
- 4.6.10 **Third Floor Plan:** the third floor also has a mezzanine gallery design (23) (Fig 9), and is almost identical in design and layout to the first and fifth floors (Plate 18). The southern room (24) of the floor functioned as an open plan bookstore with access through a door in the north-east area to a vestibule are leading to the main stair well (11). It was partitioned off from the main gallery by a glass partition in a steel surround (24); the glass is embellished with a frosted pattern in the form of a stylised heraldic motif representing the Liverpool Library Service (Plate 19). The second floor can be viewed from the third floor mezzanine at the centre of the gallery.
- 4.6.11 The east and west elevations of the room are lined with bespoke book cases and access to the second floor is gained by three sets of stairs all of which are identical in location and design to those described on the first floor. As with other floors the

rooms are largely free of embellishment or design, emphasising their utilitarian function. The main stairwell (11) is located on the east side of the gallery.

- 4.6.12 The William Brown extension can be accessed from the north end of the third floor via a partition comprising glass-panelled wooden double doors (28). As there are no windows in the main gallery on this floor, the room is predominantly lit by artificial light, partly provided by bowl-shaped pendant central ceiling lights (c1970s). The northern partition, however, does allow the access of some natural light from the windows in the William Brown Extension.
- 4.6.13 Accessed from the main gallery (23) is a further section of the lending library (26), which was laid out in the same fashion and orientation as the audio visual room on the ground floor and music and AV room on the first floor. Three large picture windows with frosted glass, located on the east-facing elevation of the room, provide light to this area of the building. North of this room is a small square room (27) designated as office space and contained no features of note.
- 4.6.14 **Fourth Floor:** the fourth and fifth floors of the main building (Figs 10 and 11) were previously occupied by the Liverpool Records Office. The Liverpool Records office is one of the busiest in the country, probably because it houses a large number of documents dealing with the mass migration of people from the UK, Europe and Ireland via the Liverpool Landing Stage to the New World in the very early part of the Twentieth Century. Due to the valuable and singular nature of the documentation kept here, these floors are configured slightly differently.
- 4.6.15 Differences in configuration can be predominantly attributed to access which is more restricted in order to provide secure storage for unique historic documents. The fourth and fifth floors can only be accessed via the main stairwell on the east side of the building (11), with the fourth floor only being accessible by the elevator on the west side of the building. There are the usual small staircases (37a, b and c) (steel frame with steel rods, wooden steps and handrails) at the north-east, north-west and south-east side of the main room; however these only link floors four and five.
- 4.6.16 The fourth floor comprises one large open plan room (29) orientated north/south on its long axis and is partitioned at the east and south sides to form two additional rooms which are accessible to the public (31 and 34). Three small archive/ book storage rooms (35) are accessible by staff only from a single fire door from the north side of the main archive room (34). The main room is overlooked by the mezzanine gallery of the fifth floor. At the southern end of the floor are the study rooms (31/32), partitioned from the main room by a mirrored glass and wood frame partition which is accessed by two doors in the partition leading from the main room. The study room is rectangular, orientated east/west on its long axis, contains no windows and has no permanent fittings or mouldings. Room 31 is divided into five bays by a row of rectangular concrete columns, and it is illuminated by 1970s strip lighting.



Plate 20: Fifth floor records office with view of circular ceiling lights

- 4.6.17 The main room is divided by two rows of nine columns (all comprising the same fabric and cladding as previous floors), creating three long bays and the east and west-facing elevations are lined by bespoke built-in book cases below which are situated the original heating ducts. At the centre of the room is a free-standing hexagonal wooden information desk installed c1990 (30). The main room is illuminated by 10 circular port hole styled light-wells recessed into the ceiling above the fifth floor gallery and additionally by four half globe-shaped pendant lights (c1970s) suspended on wires between the light wells (Plate 20 (above)). The area beneath the fifth floor gallery is lit by strip lights affixed to the ceiling. A wood-framed, glass-panelled, double door (36) in the north wall provides access to the William Brown Extension.
- 4.6.18 The Archive Room (34) is a smaller rectangular room orientated north/south on its long axis, and was used as a study room for those wishing to examine rare books and maps housed in the Record Office archive. The eastern wall is composed of iron-framed plain glass windows (38) which look out over the north-facing elevation of the Picton Reading Room and the roof of the Oak Room. Beneath the windows are boxed-in heating ducts with metal vents. Both the windows and the heating appear to be contemporary with the 1957 construction period. The north and west walls are lined with bespoke built-in book cases. The room is divided into two bays by the same concrete columns which are present elsewhere in the building, although in this room they are not clad in the customary faux serpentine marble tiles. This room contains no other embellishments or mouldings. There is a single fire door in the south-facing elevation leading into the stairwell. A single heavy wood-panelled door in the northern wall leads into a small corridor lined with bookshelves. Leading off this corridor to the north and east are three small book rooms which were used for storage of archived and rare books (35).
- 4.6.19 **Fifth Floor:** the fifth floor is the uppermost floor in the main part of the William Brown Library (Fig 11), and is almost identical to the third and first floors being a mezzanine gallery floor orientated north/south on its long axis. The rectangular gallery is arranged around a central void with a view to the fourth floor below. The wall niches are lined with bespoke purpose-built wooden bookcases. The edge of

the gallery is protected by a steel rod and wood rail balustrade. Three small steel and wood staircases (same design as all previous floors) provide access to the fifth floor from the fourth floor Records Office with two staircases at the north-east and north-west sides of the gallery and one at the south-east side. These staircases only provide a link between the fourth and fifth floors.

- 4.6.20 The south end of the fifth floor is occupied a large open plan meeting room (40) orientated east/west on its long axis, and partitioned from the main space by a wood and glass partition. The southern wall of the meeting room has been partitioned using plasterboard in a timber frame into two separate store rooms (41a, 41b). The meeting room is accessed through single doors on the eastern and western sides of the gallery.
- 4.6.21 Adjacent to the meeting room is a stack room known as the Chambre Hardman Collection Room (41) (named after Chambre Hardman, the noted Irish photographer who resided in Liverpool). This room is separated from the meeting room by a timber and plasterboard partition, which is devoid of fixtures or fittings. The Chambre Hardman Collection Room is constructed from the uniform fabric of concrete-block, seen elsewhere in the building; it has no windows or sky lights and is illuminated by rows of strip lights.
- 4.6.22 At the northern side of the Chambre Hardman Collection room is a series of smaller rooms, formed by later partitions and includes a small office/administrative room (42) which has no windows, but has two doors, one of which opens into the Chambre Hardman room. There is also a small empty room (43) which principally acts as a thoroughfare between other areas of the building. Leading on from this space is a similar, small enclosed room (44) within the hallway at the top of the main stairwell (11), and again serves, in part, as a thoroughfare between the meeting room (46) and the Chambre Hardman collection room (41). This room is unfurnished and constructed using wooden partitions with glass panels.
- 4.6.23 Arrayed along the eastern side of the main gallery are seven smaller rooms including: a meeting room (46); a staff room (47); kitchen; cloakroom; toilet facilities (49); and a linear ventilation shaft (48), which spans the length of meeting and staff room on the west side (48). All of these rooms have been created using timber-framed plaster board partitions and were added subsequent to the construction of the building. The meeting room and staff room both receive natural light from steel-framed Crittal windows on the eastern side, overlooking the roof of the Hornby Library and Oak Room. The kitchen, toilets and cloakroom are all accessed via a single door in the north wall of the staff room. The kitchen is equipped with modern mobile catering tables and the floors and walls are covered in ceramic tile. The bathrooms contain c. 1957-style fittings and Belfast sinks. Two sets of wood-framed, glass-panelled, double doors in the north wall of the fifth floor (50) provide access to the fifth floor of the William Brown Extension.
- 4.6.24 **Basement:** the basement of the William Brown building is out of bounds to the general public and houses the boiler and generator for the building (Fig 12). The main area of the basement (51) comprises a large open plan L-shaped room accessed via stairs on the north side of the William Brown building in the loading bay area.
- 4.6.25 Descent via a steel staircase leads to the boiler room proper (51), and is constructed of red brick with the ceiling supported by four large concrete columns arranged

north/south in the centre of the room. The boiler room is furnished with a mixture of 1950s and 1980s machinery (Plate 21). The southern end of the room (52) contains numerous empty concrete plinths which would have housed some of the original machinery used to heat the building.

- 4.6.26 A smaller room at the north-west of the L-shaped room contains two control panels (53) dating to the 1950s; a pressure gauge with Cambridge indicator and control panel with controls for three tanks manufactured by Ronald Trist and Co. of Slough, England (Plate 22).

4.7 WILLIAM BROWN EXTENSION: EXTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.7.1 The William Brown Extension was constructed between 1974-6, to provide extra storage space and office space for the existing central library (Plate 23 (below)). The building is seven stories high (including the ventilation/boiler room) with the central section of the building being elevated by concrete stilts so as to provide access to the loading bay, Clayton Stack and the rear of the Walker Gallery (Fig 13). The building is directly linked to the north-facing elevation of the William Brown library and, as such, has no south-facing elevation. All of the floors are uniform in size aside from the seventh floor which is narrower, thus affording space for a walkway along the north and south-facing elevations which allows access to the roof. The additional floor (which spanned elements of the roof of both the William Brown Library and the William Brown extension, but is not the full width of either building) is given over to ventilation and boiler rooms, all of which were still active at the time of this survey and so were not investigated. This floor was most clearly visible from the seventh floor of the William Brown Extension but is not evident from a ground floor perspective.



Plate 23: Exterior elevation of the William Brown Extension (view from the north-west)

- 4.7.2 ***The west-facing elevation:*** the exterior of the building is dark red-brick arranged in a stretcher bond with grey/white cement mortar fabric with visible grey concrete bands indicating the level of each floor slab. The stairwell and lift shaft project from the west-facing elevation and take the form of solid towers constructed in a darker-brown brick, also arranged in stretcher bond. There are no windows in the stairwell on the west-facing elevation. Six single light fixed, tall and narrow casement-style windows are present on each floor of the west-facing elevation of the northern part of the building (Plate 23 (above)). A similar design of tall, narrow casement window, but combined into a single six-light widow, is present on each floor of the southern section of the building.
- 4.7.3 ***The east-facing elevation:*** the east-facing elevation (Plate 2) is to a greater extent, obscured by the Clayton Stack to the east. The east facing elevation is composed of a small section of the William Brown Library and the William Brown Extension. The character of the elevation of the southern section of the building is identical to the west-facing elevation with the exception of the windows. The windows on the east-facing elevation are single, six-light frosted reinforced glass windows on each floor, and reflect that this aspect of the building overlooks areas of the Walker Gallery and the inner courtyards behind the William Brown Street complex. The narrow exposed part of the northern section of the building has single, narrow casement-style windows, on each floor, and extend almost from floor to ceiling of each floor.
- 4.7.4 ***The north-facing elevation:*** the north-facing elevation (Plate 23 (above)) is constructed of the same dark brick fabric with visible grey concrete bands indicating the level of each floor slab. The arrangement of the windows is similar with 16 individual casement windows grouped into pairs on each floor, plus a large eight-light combined window on the western side of the building. This corresponds with the later interior partitions for smaller offices, which have taken advantage of the superior lighting.

4.8 WILLIAM BROWN EXTENSION: INTERIOR DETAILS

- 4.8.1 All floors of the William Brown extension are constructed of stretcher bond concrete-block walls with concrete slab floors supported from below by concrete columns in a grid pattern across each floor, albeit with slightly uneven spacing between the rows of columns (Plate 24). Access can be gained to each floor from the personnel lift and staircase on the western side of each floor, or via the goods lift and staircase on the eastern side of each floor. Additional access can be gained between floors 1- 5 via the William Brown Library.
- 4.8.2 All floors of the William Brown extension appear to have been designed as open-plan spaces and all the partitions are later additions. The first floor (Fig 14), second floor (Fig 15) and fourth floor (Fig 17) all show little sign of any remodelling and no partitions or divisions have been added to these open plan floors. These floors have no decoration or embellishment and were previously occupied by large numbers of book cases reflecting their utilitarian purpose. The rooms are lit by horizontal rows of strip lights orientated east/west across the room. The placement of the lights typically corresponds with the orientation of the concrete pillars and beams. Each floor is sparsely decorated with a thin coat of emulsion covering the bare concrete-block walls. Carpet tiles in shades of blue and green overly earlier

linoleum tile flooring. There are no decorative mouldings or outstanding architectural features visible within this building and is a classic example of utilitarian post-war architecture of the 1950s.

- 4.8.3 **Ground Floor:** the ground floor of the William Brown Extension (Fig 13) has been modified from a largely open plan space to incorporate five smaller rooms (57-62) by the installation of timber-framed, plaster board partitions. The intended function of each room is unclear as, during the time of the survey, the ground floor was being used as a holding area for books and furniture awaiting distribution to other libraries in the Merseyside area. There are no windows in the ground floor of the extension suggesting that it was originally designed for book storage only. Room 61 at the south-east side of the building, adjacent to the loading bay, appears to have served as a reception area for dealing with deliveries.
- 4.8.4 **Third Floor:** the third floor of the William Brown extension (Fig 16) is a mezzanine gallery with views down to the second floor. The perimeter of the gallery is constructed of glass panels in a steel frame with a wooden hand/guide rail (Plate 25 (below)). This floor was originally open plan (66) however the north-western corner is now partitioned into three small offices (67 - 69) using timber frame and plaster board partitions. These smaller offices are segregated from the main space by corridor (70). An additional interior steel-framed staircase with wooden steps and hand rails provides direct access between the second and third floors only (65).



Plate 25: Mezzanine-style floor in the William Brown Extension

- 4.8.5 **Fifth Floor:** the fifth floor of the William Brown extension (Fig 18) has been heavily partitioned using a combination of timber frame plaster board partitions and the position of the bookshelves themselves to act as a temporary wall, dividing the room in half on a north/south orientation. The western half of the room (72) was designated for archive storage and the eastern half for a book stack (73). The western room is further subdivided by a partition in the north-west corner (74) which has been used to form a small office space adjacent to the western stairwell (52). This area was not open to the public, and consequently, there was no access from the fifth floor of the main William Brown library building and the existing doors were obscured behind temporary partitions. Additionally, a plaster board

partition had also been placed around an interior staircase which leads to the fourth floor on the south-east side of the building (63). Two wood-framed, glass-panelled double doors (75) on the south side of the room provide access for library staff between the Records Office and the Archive store.

- 4.8.6 **Sixth and Seventh Floors:** the sixth floor of the extension (Figs 19 and 20) remains almost unchanged from the original architects plans (76), with the exception of the later addition of a timber-framed plaster board partition in the far north-west corner of the room, creating a small office space (77), adjacent to the main stairwell (Plate 26). There is no access to the main William Brown library from this floor.
- 4.8.7 The seventh floor of the extension (Fig 20) served as open plan offices and shows evidence of having been remodelled, probably in the 1980s, with the addition of several smaller rooms being created at the east and west sides of the main room. Rooms on the western side of the building appear to have been financial (80) and administrative offices (78 and 79), an interpretation reinforced by the presence of a large free-standing compartmentalised steel safe (81) (Plate 27), manufactured by Matthews Office furnishers (offices in Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester). The partitioned eastern rooms are located around the goods lift (88) and stairwell (87) and appear to have been constructed to provide additional storage (86) and a cloakroom facility (84) for those working in the offices. The eastern side of the building also features a server room (91) between the stairwell and lift shaft.
- 4.8.8 **Roof:** the roof is a flat concrete structure, divided on an east/west axis by the presence of a double line of convex glass skylights (Plate 28). Access to the roof can be gained from the seventh floor via doors in the north-east and south-west-facing elevations (89, 90) (Plate 29).

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The William Brown Library re-build and the William Brown extension are prime examples of post-war architecture. They are minimalist and utilitarian in design with a bare minimum of decorative internal fixtures and fittings. The fixtures and fittings which are present (such as the stairs and lights) are all representative of the materials and fashions at the time of construction. However, although they undoubtedly lack the architectural finesse of the buildings which they were replacing, they are in a way aspirational, reflecting the ideals and principles of the state at the time, which was seeking the improvement of education and welfare for the population, albeit in a period of post-war austerity.

5.2 DISCUSSION

- 5.2.1 The existing elements of the William Brown Library, William Brown Extension and Clayton Stack, together with the extant 1860 neo-classical facade represent five phases of construction and internal alterations.
- 5.2.2 **Phase 1:** the earliest phase (c1860s) identified during the course of the building survey is the extant neo-classical facade which forms the south-facing elevation of the existing structure. Constructed in 1857-60, the facade survived the 1941 bombings largely intact. There is little evidence of the earliest phase of the library within the area of the library which was examined as part of this survey aside from two small ante-rooms (6 and 7), which appear to be the only surviving ground floor remnants of the original library building. Both rooms are small cell-like structures and both are constructed using brick, rather than concrete block, although the courses are obscured behind layers of lime wash and modern emulsion. Room 7 has a plastered barrel vaulted ceiling and a recessed niche at the north end suggesting that it once housed a purpose-built piece of furniture, perhaps bookshelves or a safe. There are no windows, ventilation or evidence of heating in either room indicating that they were not intended for prolonged human occupation. Both rooms are fireproof and may have acted as a vaults or strong rooms prior to the bombings.
- 5.2.3 It is likely that these rooms survived the World War II bombing due to their close proximity to the facade, their diminutive size and because of the presence of the thicker barrel vaulted brick roof in room (7). These rooms are now included within the superstructure characterised by phase three and the north elevation of room (7) abuts the south-west corner of the central lift shaft.
- 5.2.4 **Phase 2:** Clayton Stack was originally constructed in the c1930's, but was subsequently re-built in 1957. In theory it is representative of construction phases two and three, but in practice there was no evidence of pre-1957 fabric identified in the area surveyed and the building is to all intents and purposes of 1950s build.
- 5.2.5 **Phase 3:** the third phase identified during the course of the survey is the William Brown Library which was constructed in 1957-60, behind the existing facade and butting the east and side of the Liverpool World Museum and the west side of the

Picton Library. Very little of the third phase can be seen externally as the construction was designed to abut existing phase one facades.

- 5.2.6 **Phase 4:** the fourth phase (c1970s) was the construction of the William Brown Extension which was constructed between 1974-76. This appears to have involved removing the north-facing elevation of the recently constructed William Brown Library re-build and butting additional concrete beam floors (in the same design as the William Brown Library) against the existing structure to create a continuation of the third phase across all five floors.
- 5.2.7 **Phase 5:** the fifth phase (c1980s) identified during the course of the survey is the construction of interior timber framed plaster partition walls which were used to create smaller office spaces within the larger open plan structures of the William Brown Extension, the William Brown Library and the Clayton Stack. None of the fifth phase additions affected the core elements of the earlier structures, reflecting that the temporary internal divisions were butted against the interior of the phase three and phase four walls. All phase five structures could easily be removed without affecting the integrity of the phase three and phase four elements of the building.

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Pollard, R, Pevsner, N, and Sharples, J, 2006 *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Lancashire: Liverpool and the South-West*, London

6.2 WEBSITES

<http://www.civichalls.liverpool.gov.uk>

<http://www.istructe.org>

<http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles>

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Background:** it has been proposed that the William Brown Library and the William Brown extension be substantially revitalised entailing major change to the existing fabric, and the demolition of the William Brown Extension. The library dates back to 1857, but in the subsequent years there have been many changes and additions. The proposed development will not affect the nineteenth century build but will affect the 1950s extensions, and it is these elements that require recording prior to the works. CGMS Ltd have requested that OA North undertake a level 2 survey of those elements of the structure that will be affected by the development. This will culminate with plans, an annotated photographic record, and an illustrated final report. The work is informed by a conservation plan by TFT Cultural Heritage, and a desk based assessment by CGMS Ltd, as a consequence there is no need for undertaking historical work as part of the present programme.
- 1.2 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has considerable experience of the survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has particular experience in the recording and analysis of standing ancient monuments, historic buildings and industrial landscapes, and is widely recognised as one of the foremost specialists in archaeological building recording.
- 1.3 OA North has undertaken surveys of major building complexes throughout the region, and has developed recording and analytical techniques over the years in order to improve the efficiency and quality of the surveys. OA North has completed the survey of the major complex of Murray's Mills, Ancoats, and recently undertook a survey of the weaving sheds used in the manufacture of waterproof garments at Macintosh Mill, Chorlton-on-Medlock. OA North has undertaken major surveys of major buildings, warehouses and 1950s build in advance of the PSDA development in central Liverpool.
- 1.4 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct. OA North is a registered organisation of the IFA (No 17).

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The principal objective of the archaeological survey is to provide an understanding of the historical development of the site, and to identify significant architectural elements within the surviving fabric.
- 2.2 The project aims may be achieved via the following stages:
- demonstrate the buildings' plan, form, fabric, function, age and developmental sequence from the historical and archaeological evidence available;
 - identify key architectural features within the surviving fabric;
 - annotate existing plans and elevations of the surviving fabric;
 - undertake a comprehensive and detailed photographic survey of the surviving fabric;
 - produce a final report and project archive.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Historical Background

- 3.1.1 An historical background is an essential prerequisite of the proposed survey, and this has been informed by a conservation plan by TFT Cultural Heritage and a desk based assessment by CGMS Ltd. As a consequence there is no requirement to undertake additional documentary work.

3.2 Fabric Survey

- 3.2.1 in order to complete the survey of the site and produce a full and complete record of the library complex, a full set of base drawing information will be provided by the Client in CD format, upon which additional detail will be draughted. Any requirement for the acquisition of supplementary survey detail will be undertaken by manual enhancement survey of existing drawings.
- 3.2.2 Manual survey is typically applied to furnish additional architectural detail to existing drawings and is appropriate for the editing of plans and elevations. Paper plots of existing drawings will be produced from the digital copy for enhancement in the field. Detail from the completed field drawings will be digitised to allow the correction of the digital copy.
- 3.2.3 The drawings will be manipulated in AutoCAD software. The advantage of a CAD system is that it allows for efficient manipulation and editing of drawings. The adoption of a layering system has significant benefits during the analysis stage as it allows for the display of information such as feature types, fabric and phasing as necessary to the requirements of the analysis, without the necessity to produce further drawings. Finished drawings can be plotted at the required scale or sheet sizes.
- 3.2.4 **Written Description:** a visual inspection of the buildings will be undertaken utilising the OA North buildings *pro-forma* sheets. An outline description will be maintained to English Heritage Level II survey (EH 2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice*). This level of recording comprises a descriptive record (EH 2006, 14), and will provide a systematic account of the buildings' origins, development and use.
- 3.2.5 A features gazetteer will be compiled as part of the written description, and will be a combination of single feature and feature-type recording. This method of recording allows for detail and accuracy at the analysis stage, for improved accuracy in phasing and for a thorough and close inspection of features on site. The written record methodology will be applied to all historical phases of the buildings internally and should include all levels of the buildings as appropriate. The feature record will be compiled using OA North building *pro-forma*.
- 3.2.6 **Photographic Archive:** a photographic archive will be produced utilising a digital camera (at least 8megapixel) and also black and white contact prints. The archive will comprise general shots of the building and its surroundings, as well as selected shots of architectural detail.

3.3 PERMANENT PRESENCE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.3.1 **Methodology:** the detailed methodology for the watching brief is presented in CgMs 11844/10/02: A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Liverpool Central Library. The specification for works will be adhered to in full.

3.4 Report

- 3.4.1 Copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and Merseyside Archaeological Service within five weeks of completion of fieldwork. The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will include an historical and archaeological background to the library complex, an outline methodology of the investigation, and present, summarise, assess, and interpret the results of the programme of archaeological works detailed above. It will provide an account of the building's past and present use, with supporting archaeological and historical evidence, provide an assessment of the relative significance of the various rooms and appurtenances within the complex, and place the library in its local and regional context. The report will also include a gazetteer of key architectural features which should be preserved *in situ*.
- 3.4.2 The report will also present, summarise, and interpret the results of the watching brief detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered

from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted.

- 3.4.3 The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived. This report will identify areas of defined archaeology. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans.
- 3.4.4 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and will be deposited with National Museums Liverpool. A further copy of the archive can be made available for deposition in the National Archaeological Record.
- 3.4.5 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.5 Other Matters

- 3.5.1 **Monitoring:** Merseyside Archaeological Service, who will be afforded access to the site at all times, will monitor the works on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. CgMs will monitor the implementation of the works on behalf of Shepherd Construction.. OA North will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of CgMs, the Client and the County Archaeologist as soon as is practically possible.
- 3.5.2 **Health and Safety:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The OA North Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects. The Unit Safety Policy Statement will be provided to the Client, if required.
- 3.5.3 The insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with OA North and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £5m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 3.5.4 **Staffing Resources:** the day to day management of the project will be undertaken by **Jamie Quartermaine BA Hons** (OA North Senior Project Manager), to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Jamie has considerable experience of building surveys, having recorded many of the castles and abbeys in the region. The survey and documentary work will be undertaken by **Garry Miller**.

4 TIMETABLE

- 4.1 OA North can execute a project at very short notice, upon receipt of formal instruction. It is envisaged that the specified archaeological field work will require a two-week period to complete, although it is accepted that this may not necessarily be a continuous programme. The project brief divides the work programme into six main tasks, and the time required for each element may be broken down as follows:

- *Annotation of architect's drawings:* three days on site
- *Written description:* two days on site, undertaken simultaneously with drawing annotation

- *Photographic record*: two days on site, undertaken simultaneously with drawing annotation and written description
 - *Report production*: five days in office to produce draft document
- 4.2 The on-site work, comprising the annotation of architect's drawings, written description, and photographic record, could be completed within a five-day period.
- 4.3 Once the fieldwork element has been completed, a final report can be compiled. A ten-day period should be allowed to compile the illustrations, including the annotated drawings, historic map regression, and relevant photographs.

5 References

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice*, London

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- Figure 5: Clayton Stack: Second Floor
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- Figure 7: William Brown Library: First Floor
- Figure 8: William Brown Library: Second Floor
- Figure 9: William Brown Library: Third Floor
- Figure 10: William Brown Library: Fourth Floor (Records Office)
- Figure 11: William Brown Library: Fifth Floor
- Figure 12: William Brown Library: Basement
- Figure 13: William Brown Extension: Ground Floor
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Plate 28: Interior view of the roof of the William Brown Extension

Plate 29: Exterior east-facing view of the roof of the William Brown Extension

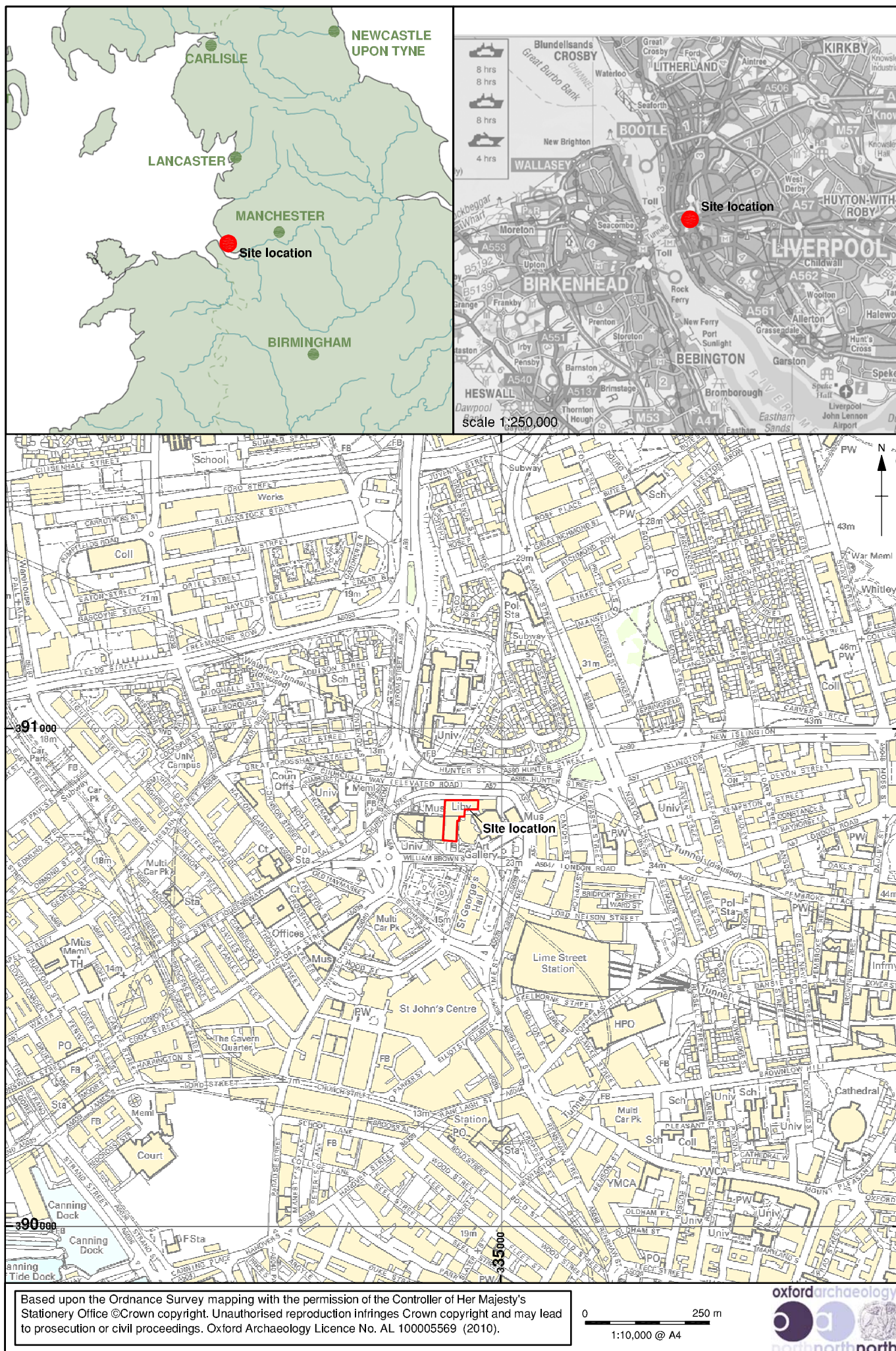


Figure 1: Site location

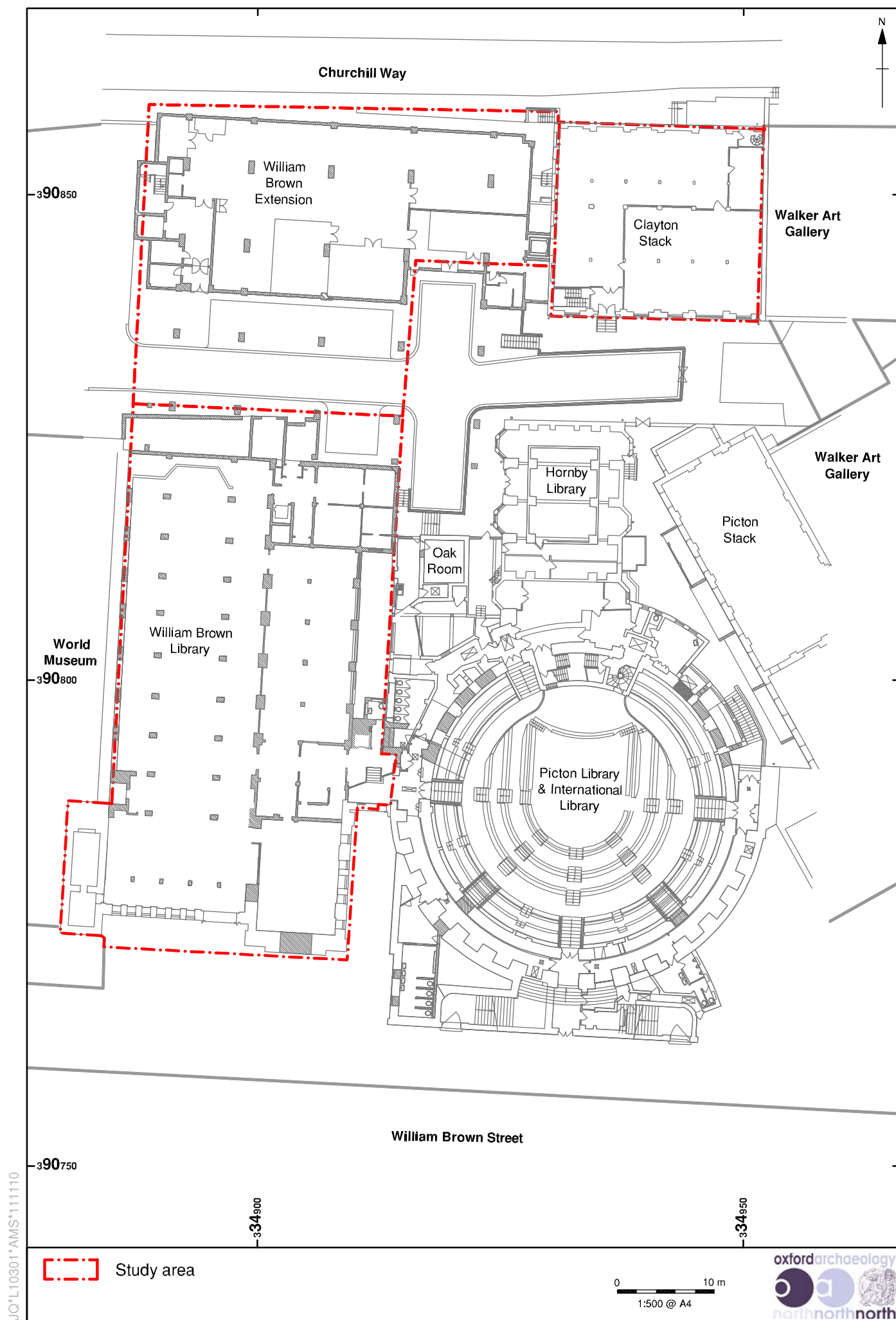


Figure 2: The location of the William Brown Library, The Picton Library, the William Brown Extension, and the Clayton Stack



Figure 3: Clayton Stack: Ground Floor



Figure 4: Clayton Stack: First Floor



Figure 5: Clayton Stack: Second Floor

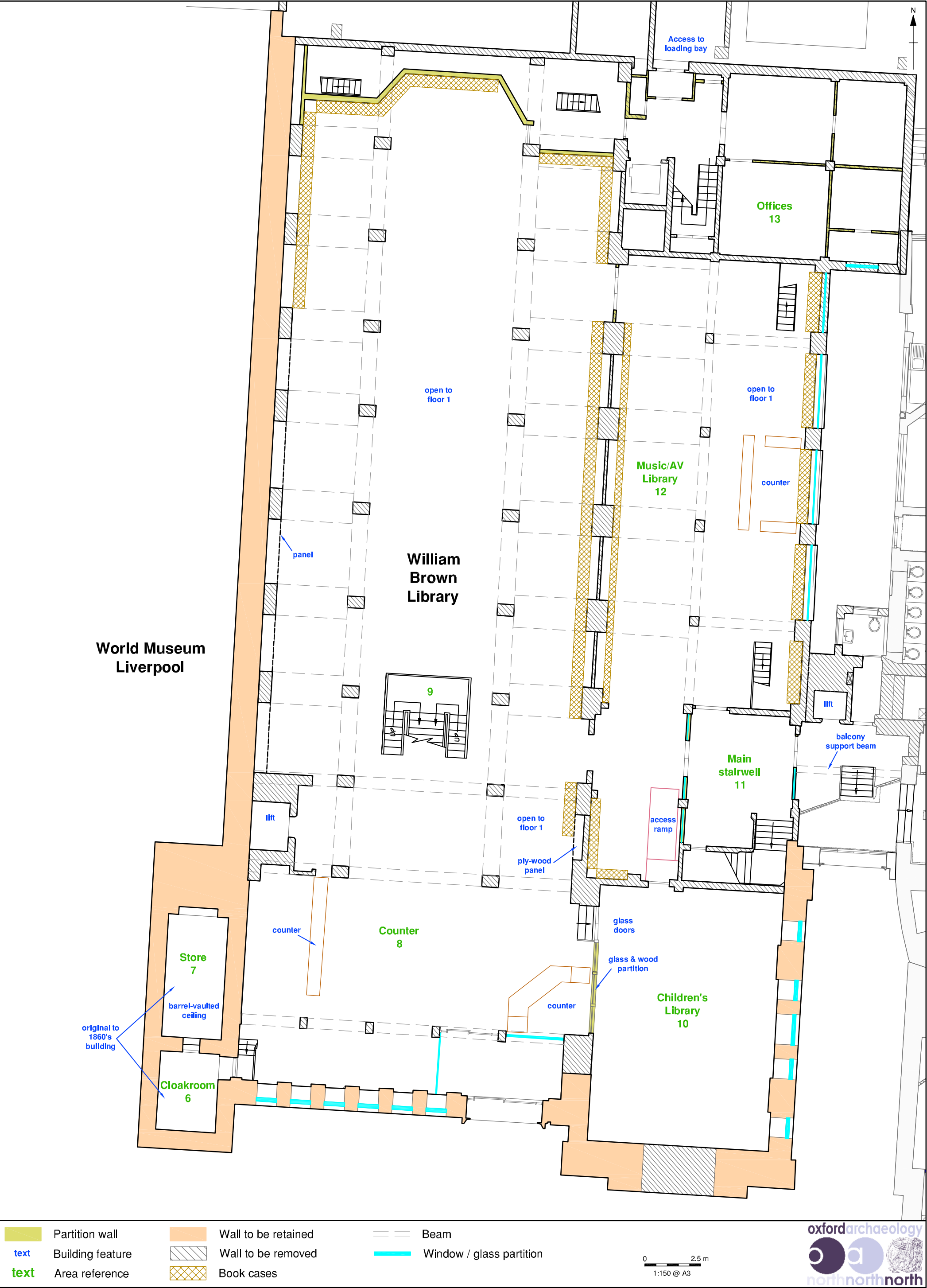


Figure 6: William Brown Library: Ground Floor

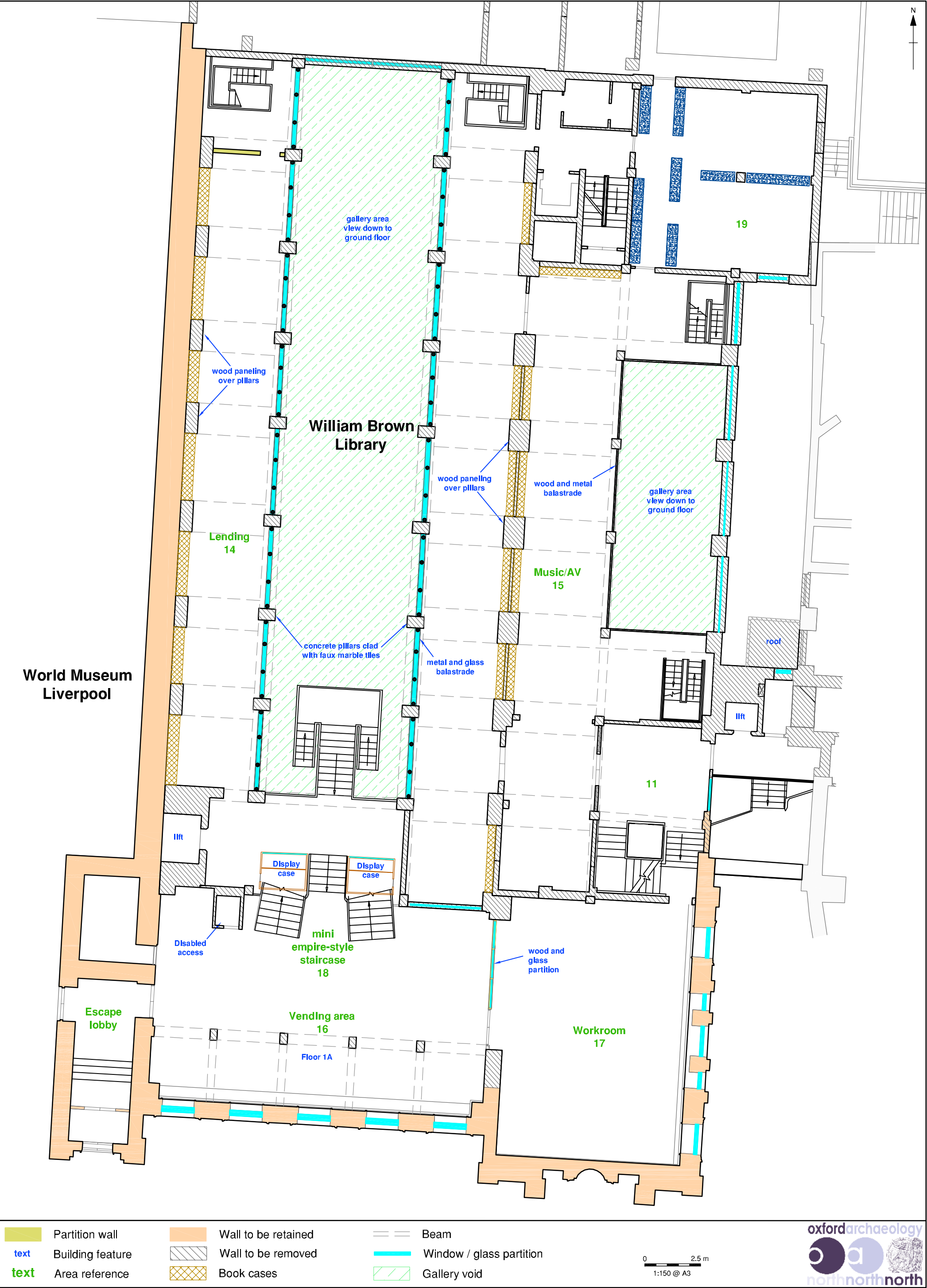


Figure 7: William Brown Library: First Floor

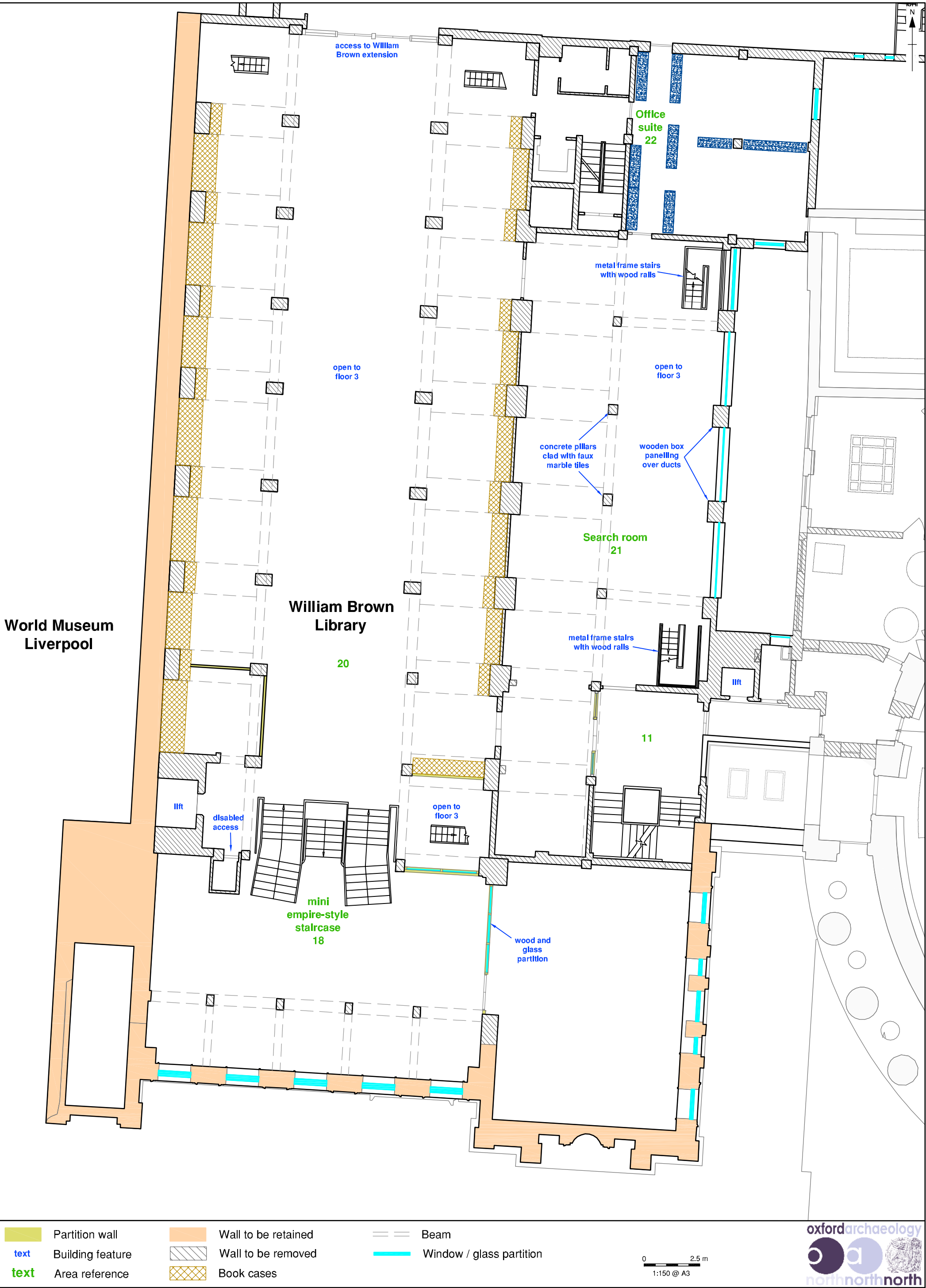


Figure 8: William Brown Library: Second Floor

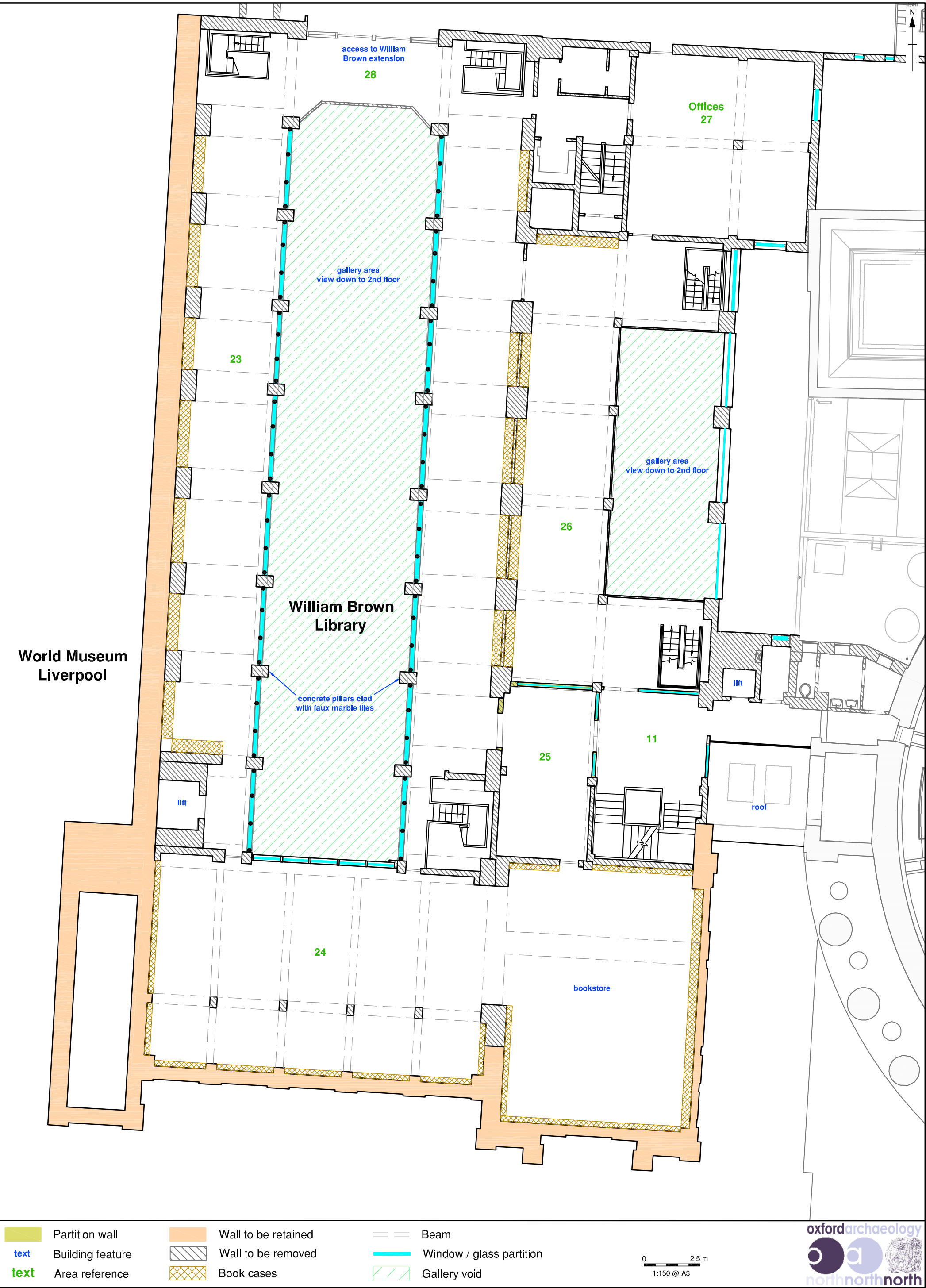


Figure 9: William Brown Library: Third Floor



Figure 10: William Brown Library: Fourth Floor (Records Office)

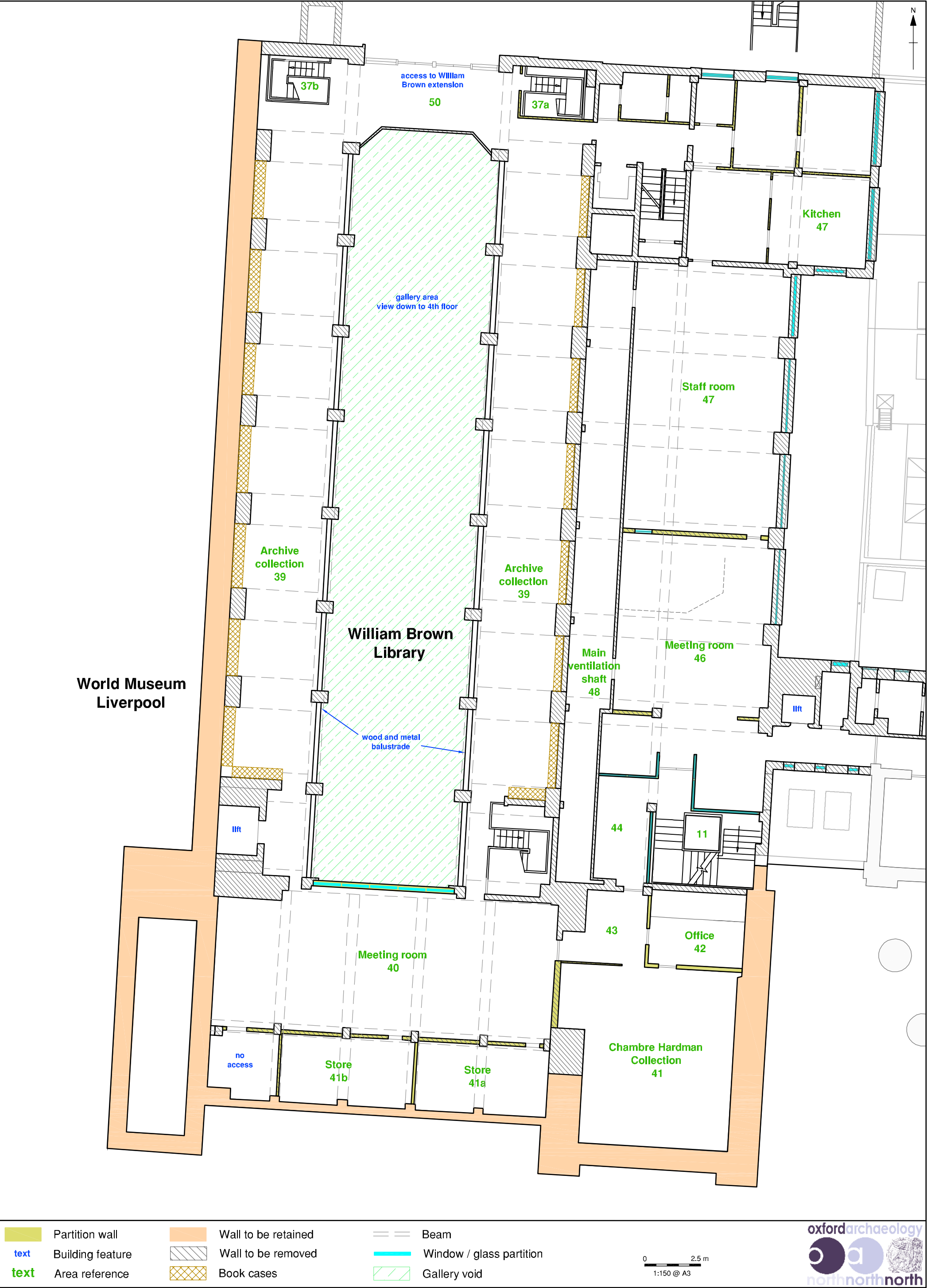
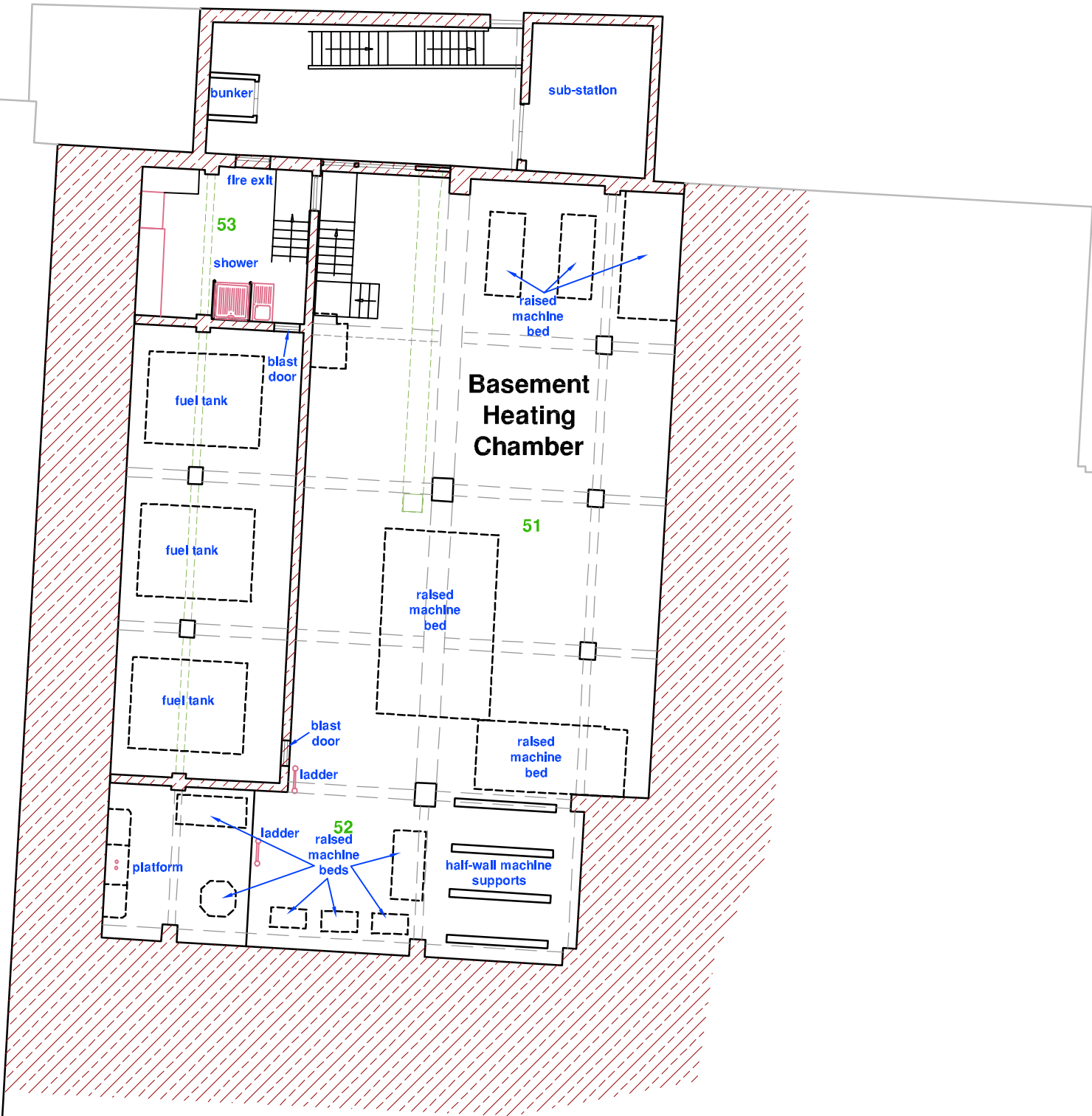


Figure 11: William Brown Library: Fifth Floor



World Museum
Liverpool



- | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|------|
| | Brick wall | | Beam |
| | Building feature | | |
| | Area reference | | |

0 2.5 m
1:150 @ A3



Figure12: William Brown Library: Basement

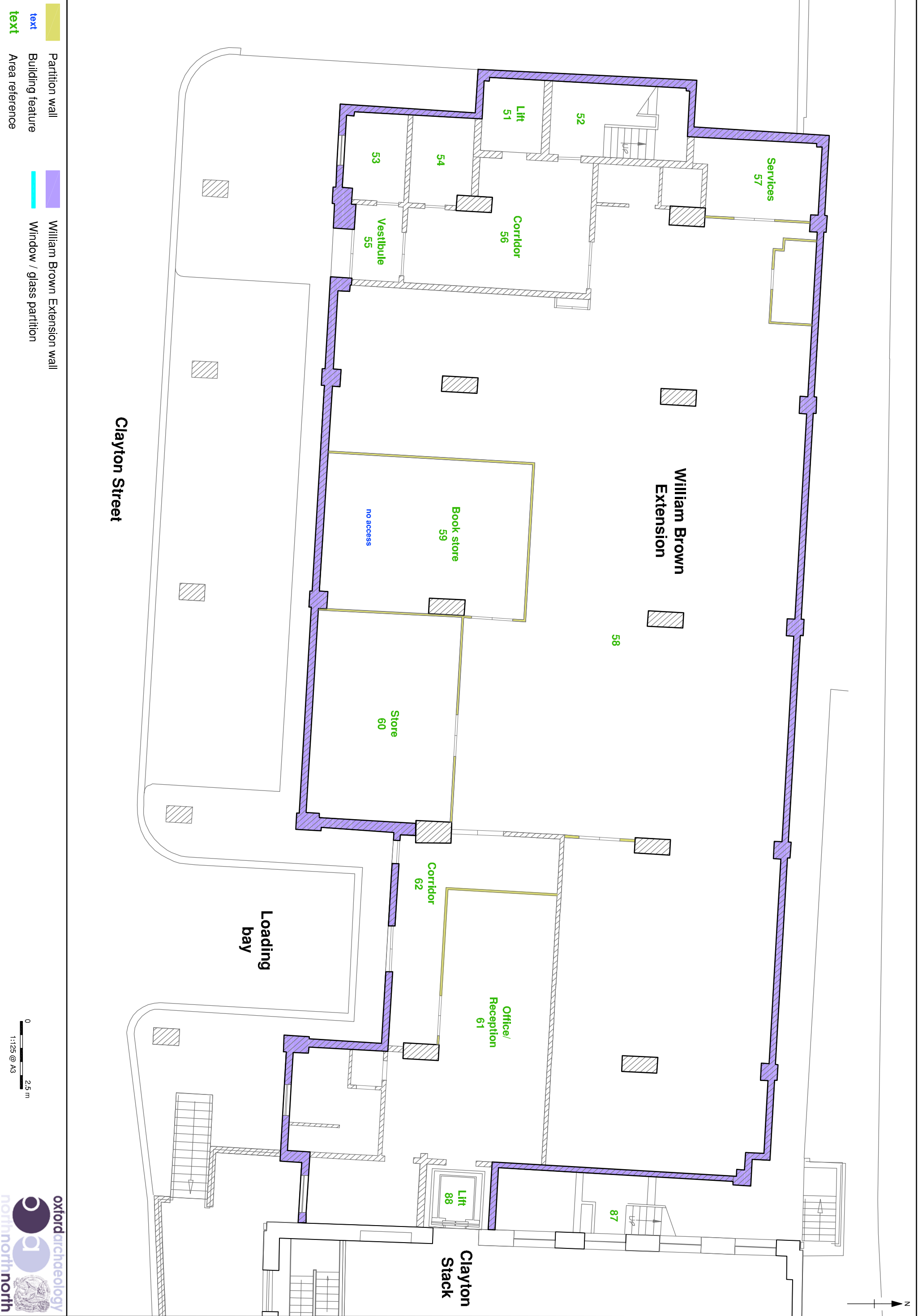


Figure13: William Brown Extension: Ground Floor

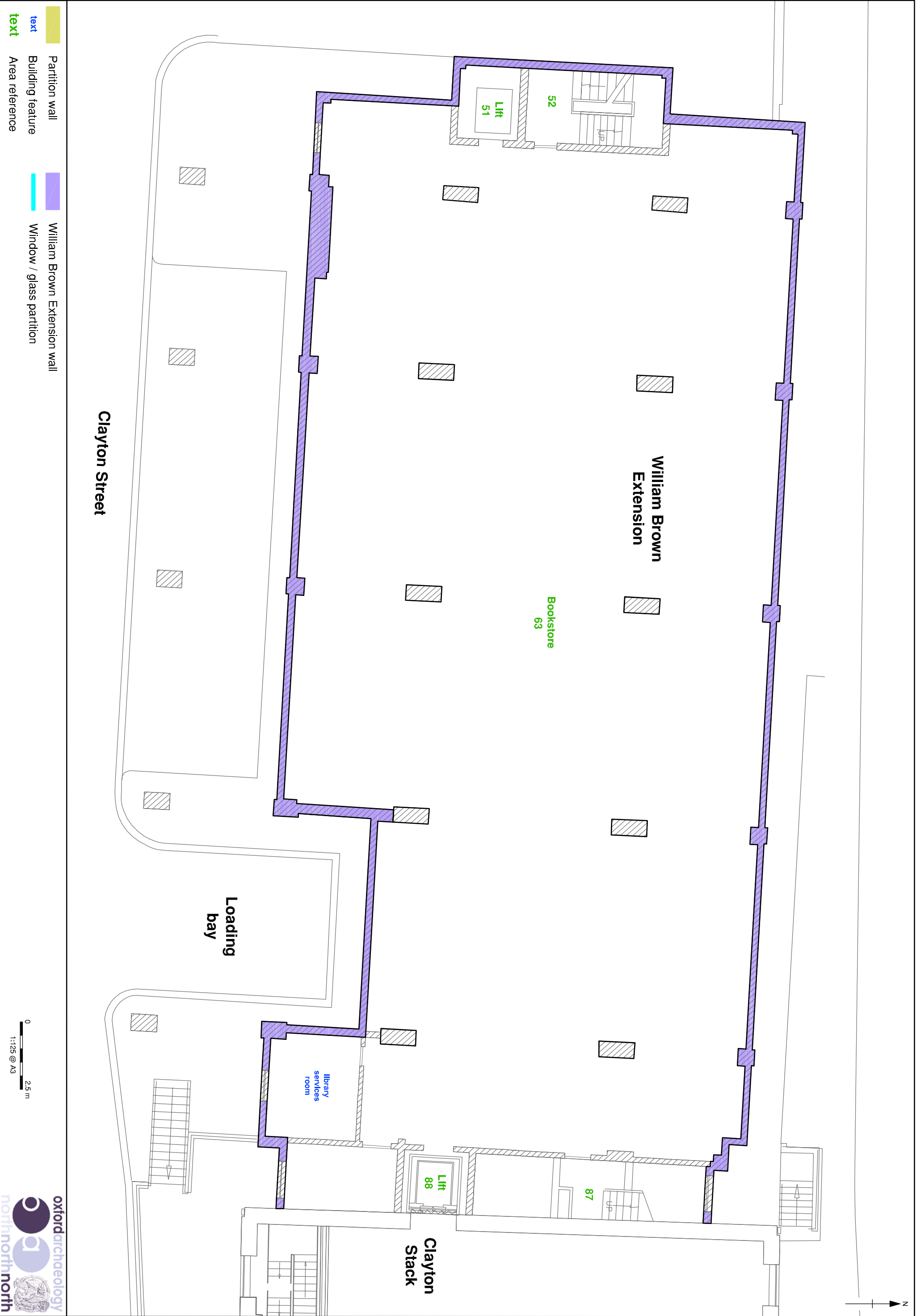


Figure14: William Brown Extension: First Floor

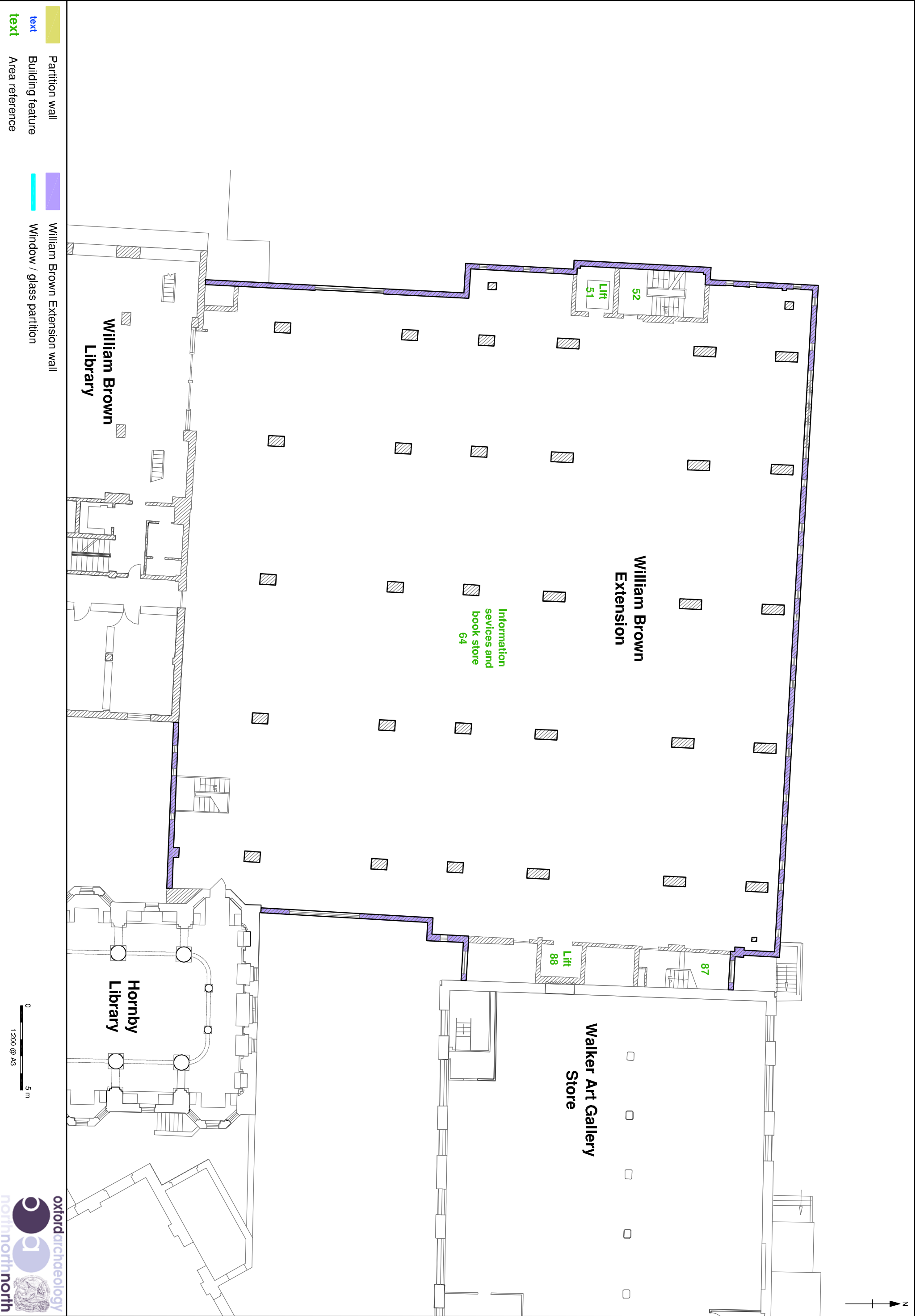


Figure15: William Brown Extension: Second Floor

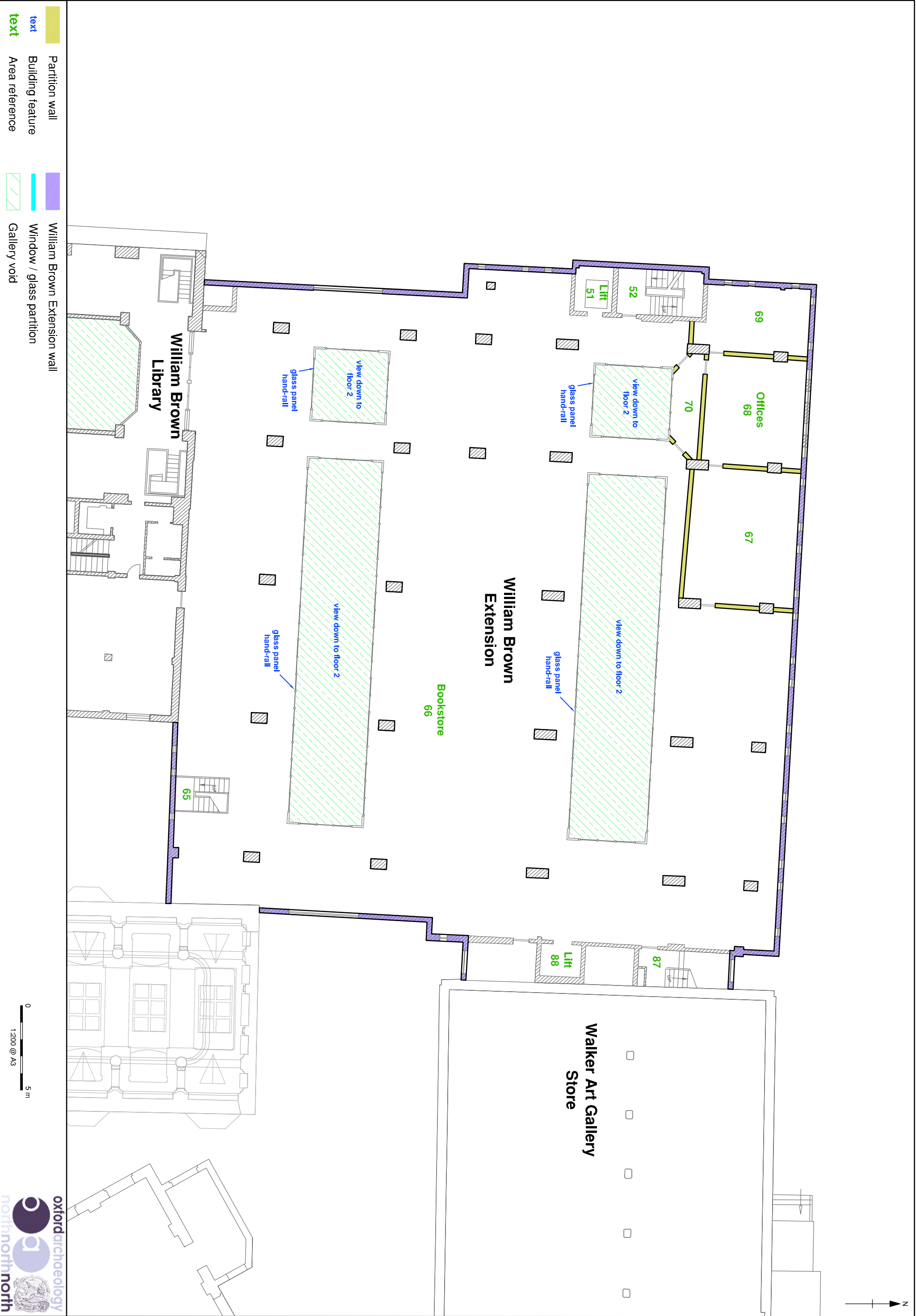


Figure16: William Brown Extension: Third Floor

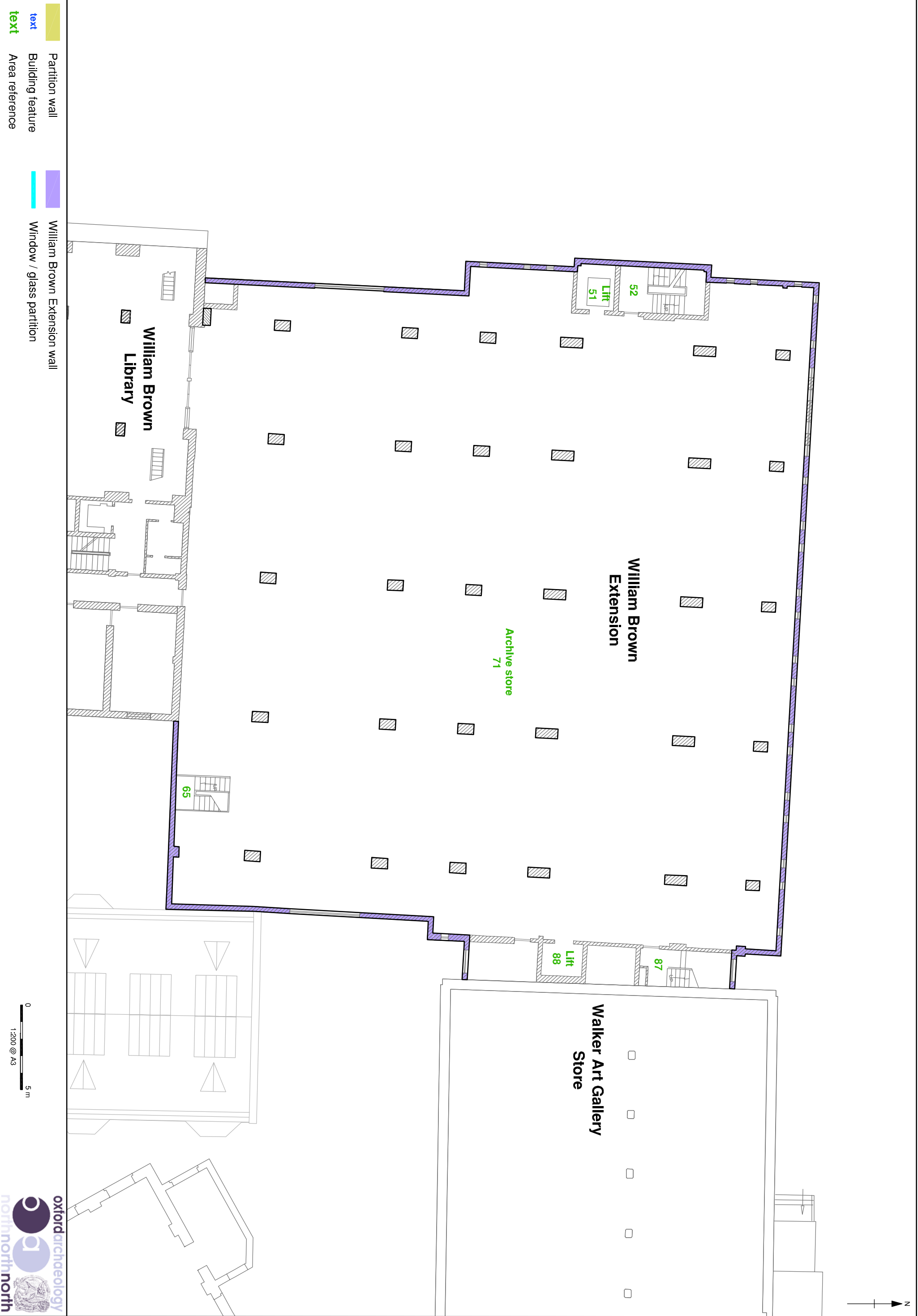


Figure 17: William Brown Extension: Fourth Floor

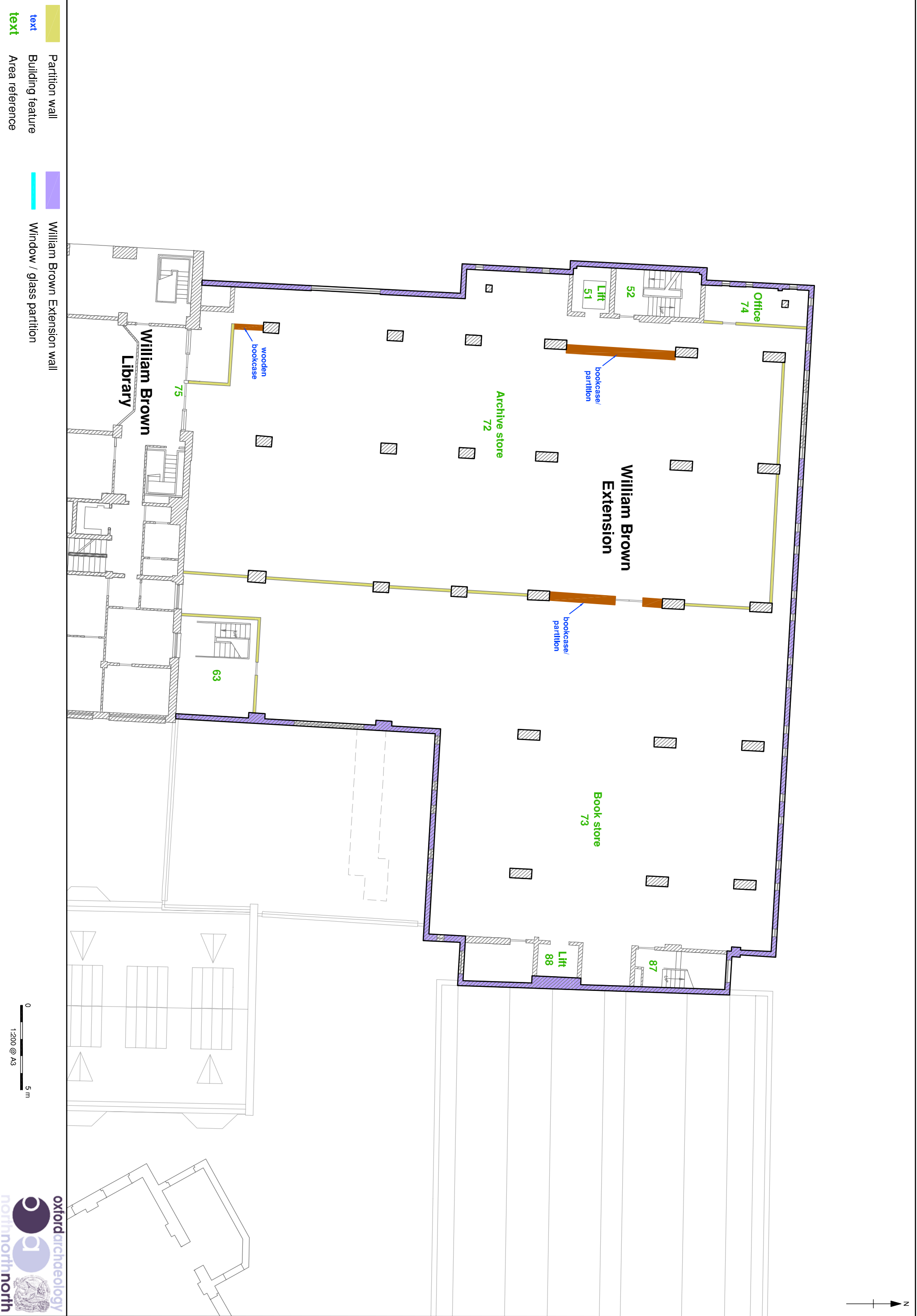


Figure18: William Brown Extension: Fifth Floor

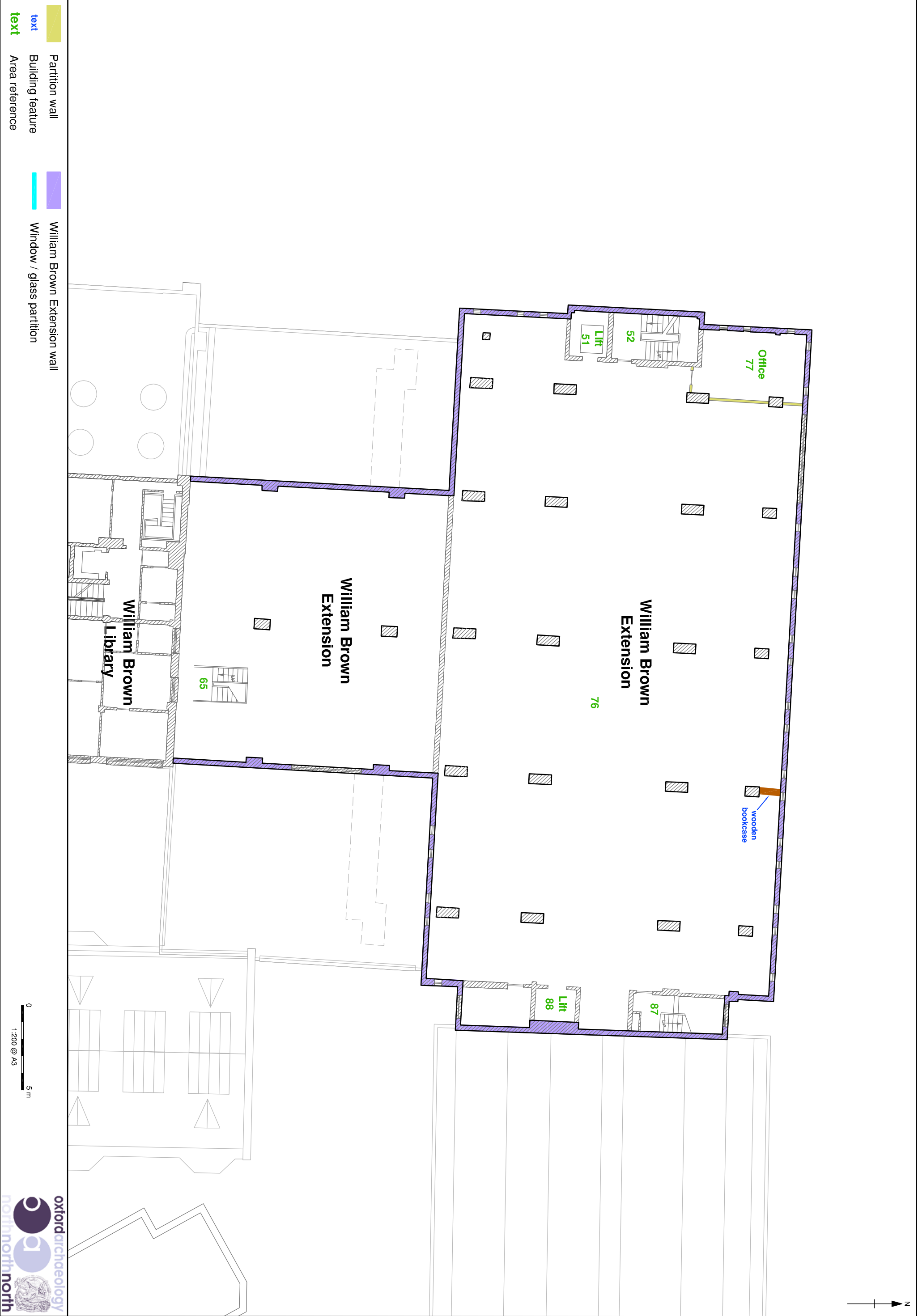


Figure 19: William Brown Extension: Sixth Floor



Figure 20: William Brown Extension: Seventh Floor

PLATES



Plate 1: The Union Newsroom, Duke Street



Plate 2: South-facing elevation of the William Brown Library Complex, including the Picton Reading Room

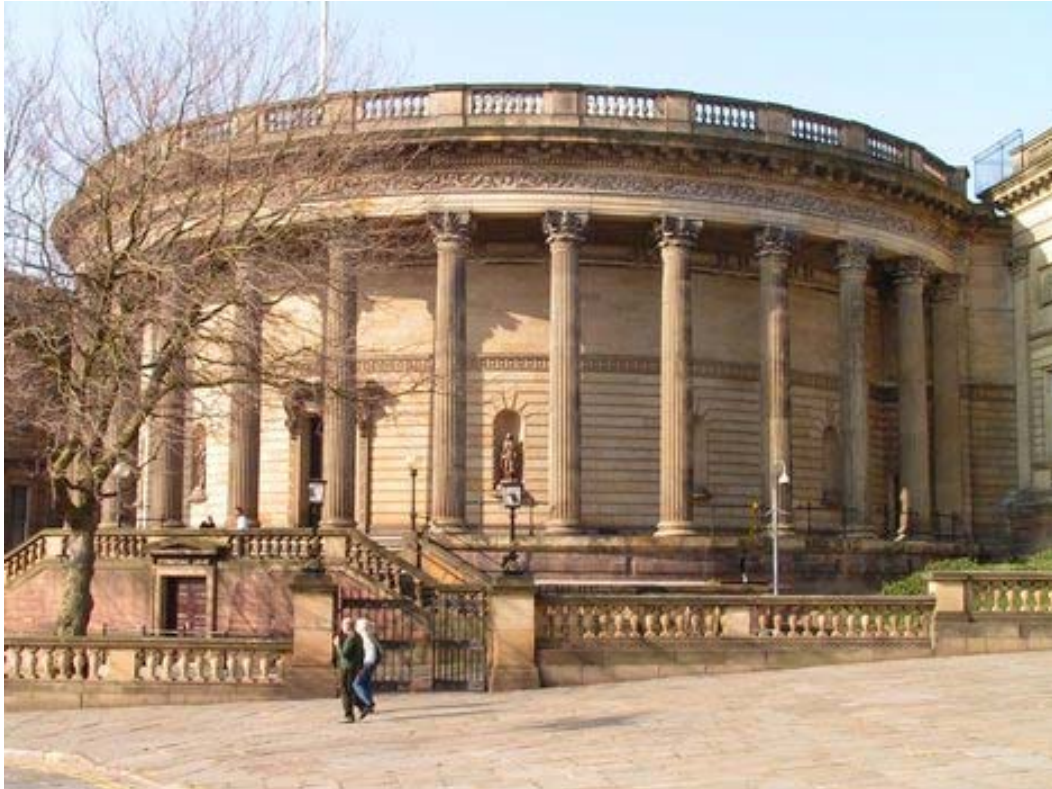


Plate 3: South-facing elevation of Picton Reading Room



Plate 4: West-facing elevation of the William Brown Library and William Brown Extension

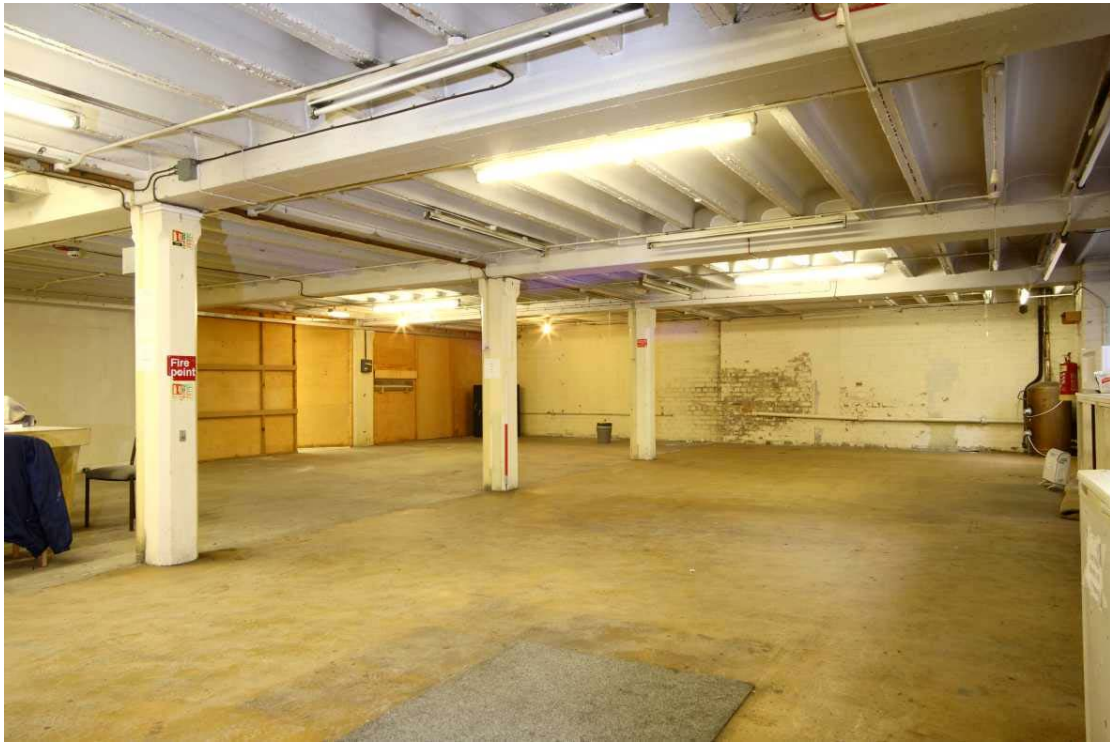


Plate 7: Ground floor interior of Clayton Stack



Plate 8: Interior view of first floor Clayton Stack showing *in-situ* shelving arrangement



Plate 10: Detail showing spiral staircase between first and second floors of the Clayton Stack

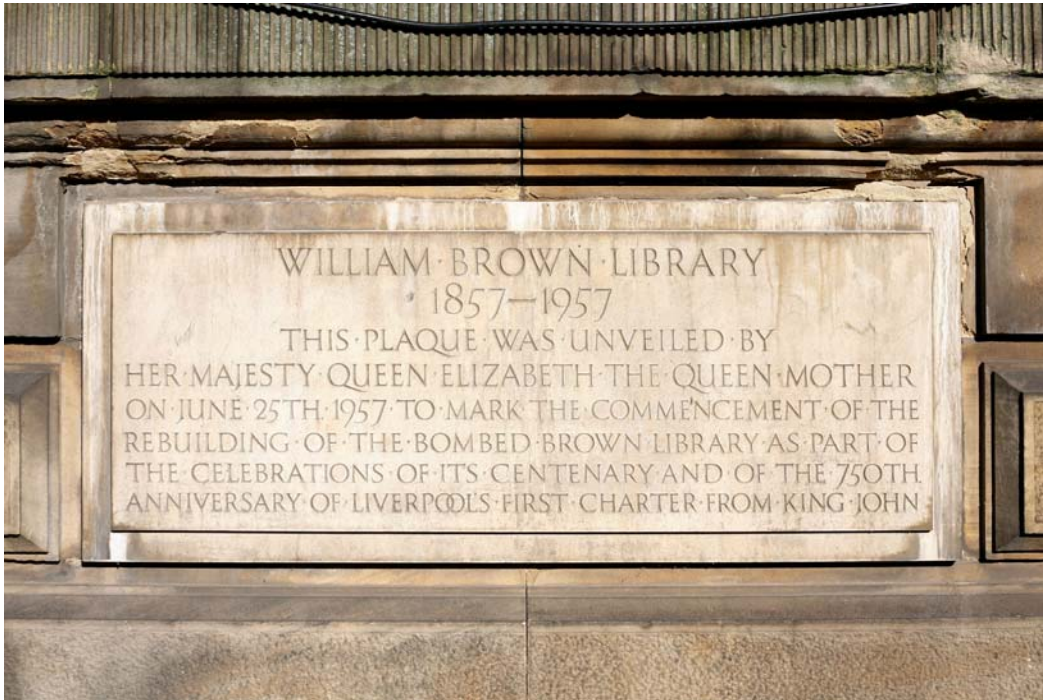


Plate 12: Detail of foundation stone on south-facing elevation of William Brown Library



Plate 13: Roof of the William Brown Library

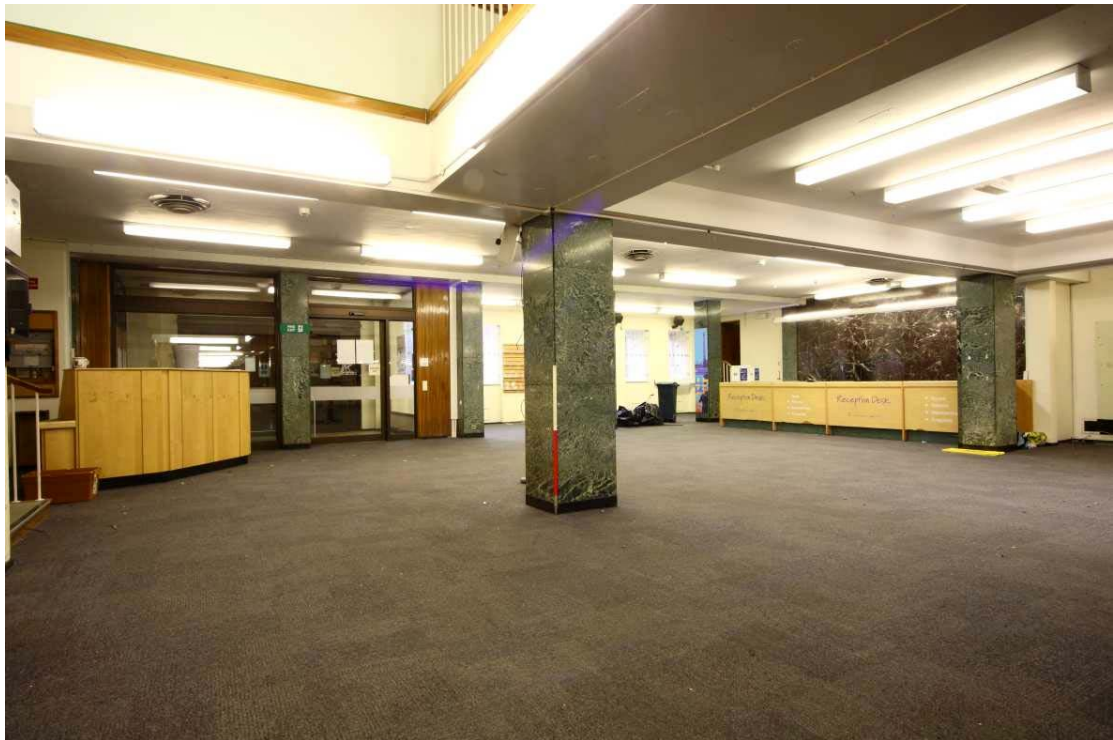


Plate 14: Ground floor south-facing entrance to William Brown Library



Plate 17: Detail of lift and stairs between first floor and floor 1A



Plate 18: Third floor ante-rooms adjacent to north staircase in William Brown Library



Plate 19: Third floor mezzanine partition with Liver Bird and Heraldic shield motif



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