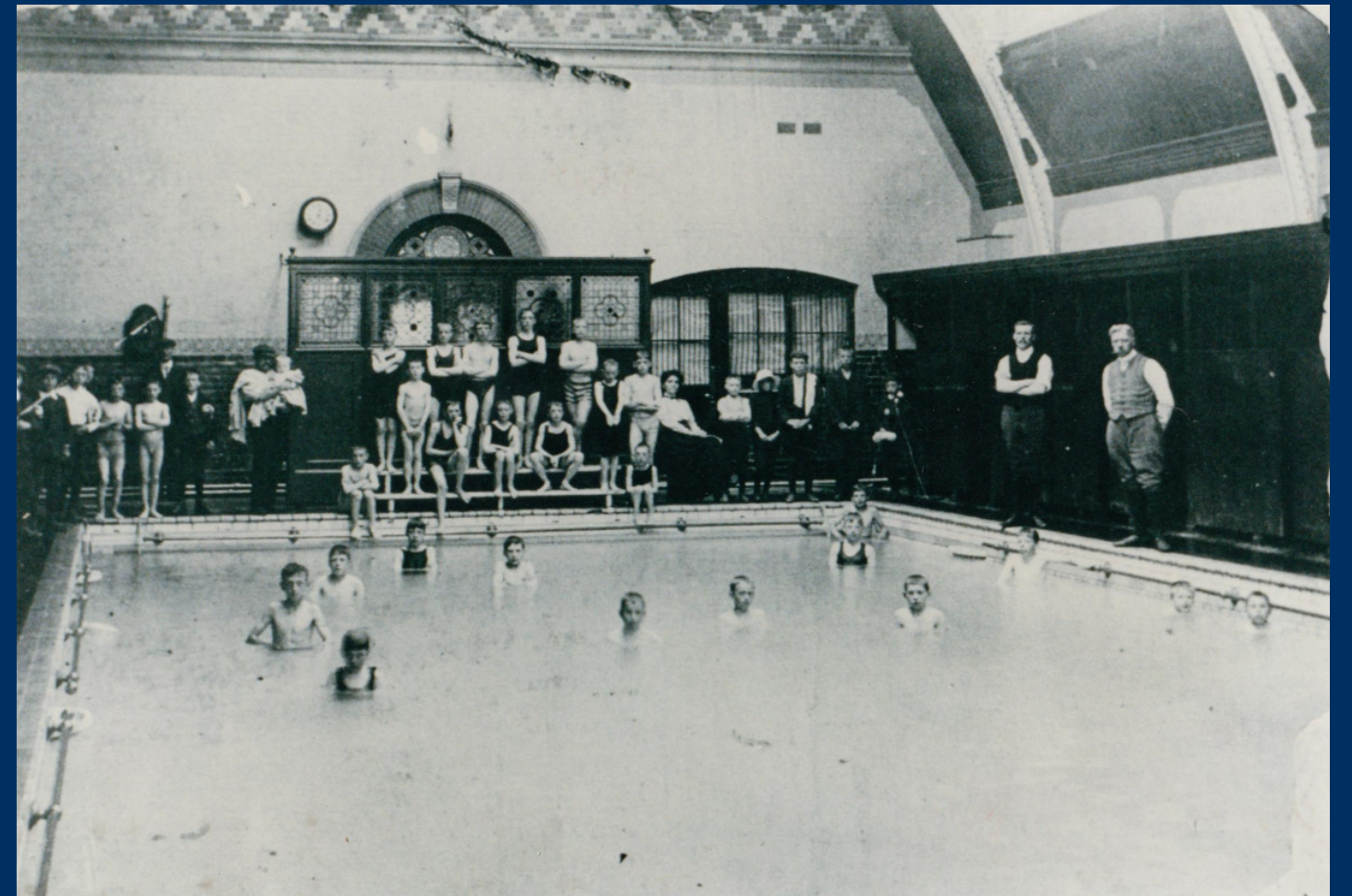


Donald Insall Associates
Chartered Architects and Historic Building Consultants

Swindon Health Hydro

Conservation Management Plan

March 2018



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0.0 SUMMARY



Fig. 1 Large pool today

Swindon Health Hydro is a Grade II listed structure, initially built in 1892 by and for the Great Western Railway (GWR) railway workers in Swindon through their pioneering, voluntary, self-financed, health insurance scheme, the GWR Health Fund Society. A unique complex of its time, a World first, it included sports, leisure and health facilities all on one site, and eventually served the whole of Swindon.

Located near the heart of the Railway Village the building grew to fill its urban block as the GWR company's Swindon Works reached its peak as one of the largest industrial complexes in Europe.

Since then, with the nationalisation of health provision, the closing of the Railway Works, the expansion of the town with other leisure and bathing facilities and the increasingly heavy road use patterns, the future is at risk. However, it is still in use today, and largely for its original purpose as a health, fitness and wellbeing centre; some areas (e.g. the World's oldest Victorian-style Turkish Baths) are still in original use, some partial and others moving with the times.

A substantial amount of original fabric remains and the narrative of its changes and development are clearly legible, backed up by a substantial and detailed record within the GWR archive in Chippenham Museum.

This report is intended to investigate and record the building, considering its significance as a heritage asset, and to develop a plan through a series of conservation policies to manage those values into the future. Its findings are not intended to be exhaustive nor final, but encourage further investigation, research and recording.

0.1 Summary of significance.

0.1.1 Swindon Health Hydro is a uniquely valuable heritage asset.

0.1.2 A unique place in the social and cultural history of the country, the GWR Medical Fund Society (MFS) was the first industrial workers' voluntary, self-financed, health insurance scheme, supported by the company but financed and governed independently, but also, significantly, eligible to non-employees. It was a development from the equally independent GWR Mechanics Institute. The MFS created the first workers' health facility, neither funded by the local authority nor a benign benefactor nor an enlightened company owner, but which, in addition, provided facilities to the wider community and was a unique precursor and exemplar for the National Health Service.

0.1.3 This unique health provision is compounded by its combination within the same building with swimming pools, public washing baths and Turkish Baths; a combined health and welfare provision as yet unmatched anywhere before the Peckham Experiment in 1926.

0.1.4 The large swimming pool alone is the 27th oldest working pool in the country, and, with the small pool, the 9th oldest that are listed. But they are unique in the combination with the world's oldest working Victorian Turkish Bath and a still surviving public washing bath facility. Originally set up by the GWR workers, these provisions served the whole Swindon community for many years, being their sole facility. These same uses (in modified form) are now still available to the public, apart from much (but not all) of the medical care that has now been extracted by the NHS after their initial tenure of approaching forty years.

0.1.5 Of the building itself, a considerable amount of original fabric remains, of generally robust construction and in serviceably good repair. In some instances the original form is blurred by later adaptations (however the two pools remain significantly intact), and the whole clearly charts the development of the facility and the history of changing use, fashions in health and lifestyle, and increasing competition from alternative, more recent venues. All is under-pinned by an extensive archive of original documents, plans and photographs retained off site. The facility is still well supported and attended by the swimming community, and remembered with fondness and affection by a wide selection of Swindonians.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

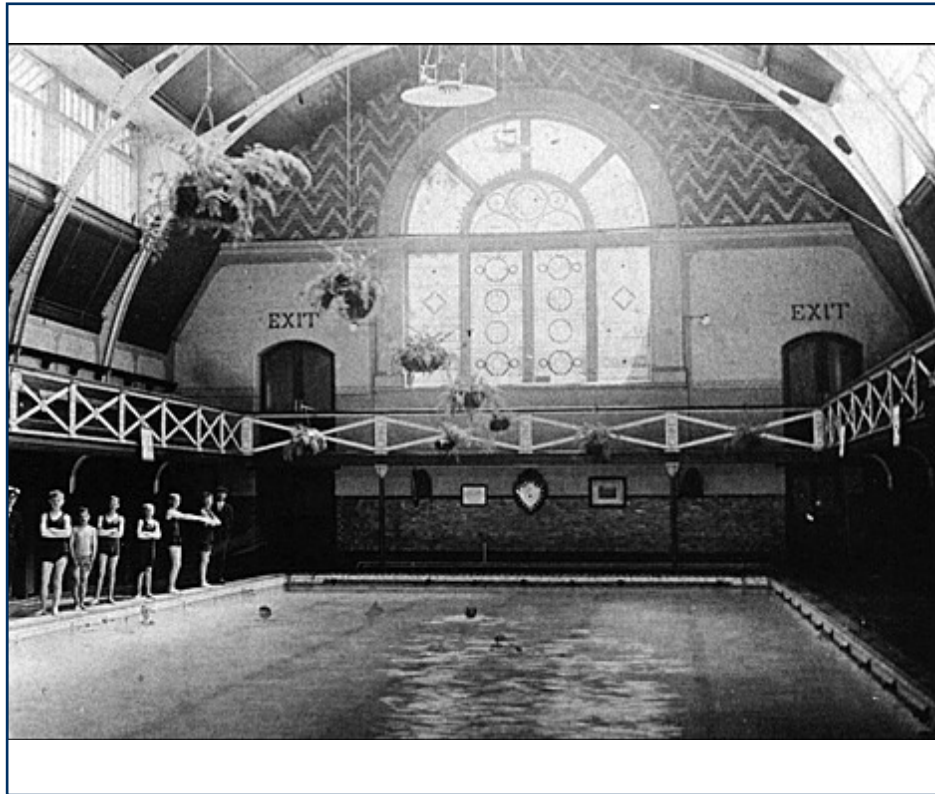


Fig. 2 The Large Pool a century ago?

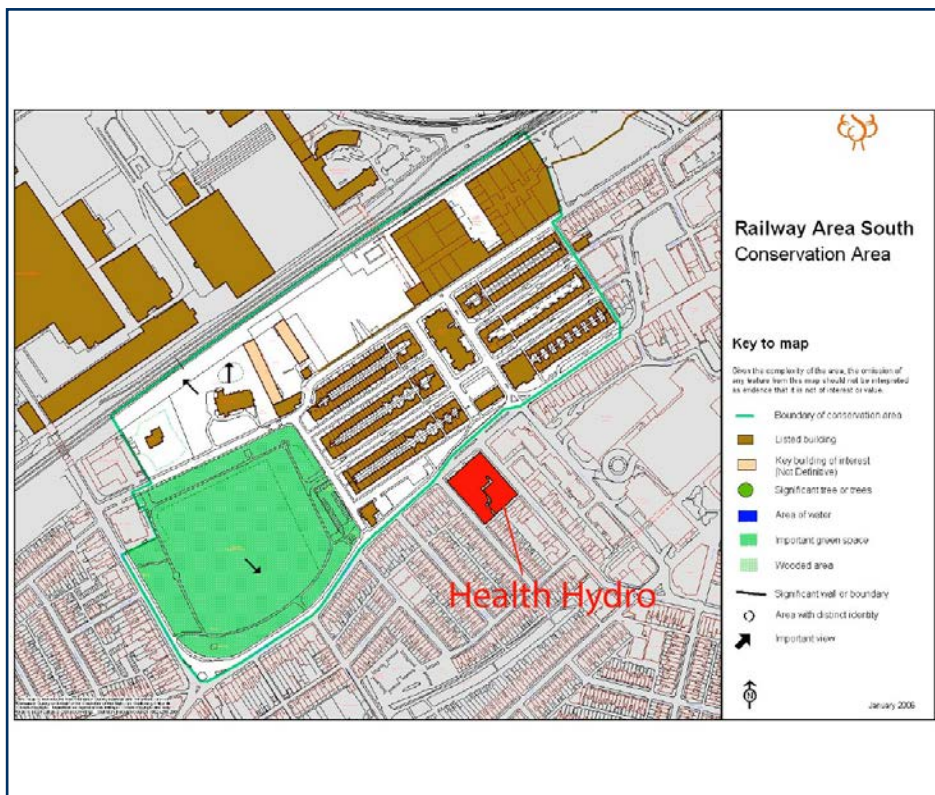


Fig. 3 The Health Hydro's relation to the Railway Village Conservation Area. OS Licence 100022432

1.1 General

1.1.1 This Conservation Management Plan has been compiled by Donald Insall Associates, conservation architects and historic building consultants, in association with documentary historian Andrew Foyle. It has been commissioned by Swindon Borough Council to identify the heritage significance of the building. Anthony Brookes Surveys were commissioned to carry out a digital measured survey concurrently.

1.1.2 In addition, GLL the leisure operator and current tenant of the building, commissioned Trident Consulting to undertake a condition survey. The intention is for the Council, in partnership with the tenant, to subsequently undertake an options appraisal for the future of the property to achieve 'a vibrant, viable leisure centre' and in respect to its Listed status.

1.1.3 The documentary research and site surveys revealed a considerable wealth of information from primary sources and records held in the Wilts and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham and by careful observation of the original fabric, revealing an outstanding example of a special building type, thoroughly well-documented and through this survey and the digital drawn plans now well recorded.

1.2 Conservation Principles

1.2.1 The six principles of conservation are defined by English Heritage (Historic England) thus:

1. The historic environment is a shared resource
2. Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
3. Understanding the significance of places is vital
4. Significant places should be managed to sustain their values
5. Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent
6. Documenting and learning from decisions is essential

1.3 Legislative Background

1.3.1 Status of the site and buildings

The primary legislation for the building is the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This authorises the compilation of lists of buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' and the control of their change and development.

The Swindon Health Hydro, also known as the Milton Road Baths and previously the GWR Medical Fund Baths, is listed Grade II

It stands just outside the boundary of the Railway Village Conservation Area originally designated in 1977 as of 'outstanding interest', re-viewed in 1987 and subsequently from May 2006. The case for the inclusion of the Health Hydro within the CA has been made, agreed but not yet adopted.

The Health Hydro has a seminal role both in and of the development of Swindon and the railway, so its exclusion from the Conservation Area seems initially misplaced. The focus of the designated area is clearly the original railway town from its very earliest inception, nevertheless the Medical Fund Society was founded during this early phase, even if it did not manage to create the Health Hydro until what might be termed 'red brick' days.

The Conservation Area is described as bounded by various roads that have developed and taken on roles for the modern town well beyond their original scale or intention. Faringdon Road in particular is a modern motor vehicle artery, a virtual urban freeway,

and Milton Road to the East of the Hydro, a well-trafficked one-way major route, both effectively isolating the site from the historic railway village core, so justifying its exclusion from the Conservation Area. Nevertheless, its listing should offer sufficient development control, and in any event the Council's Conservation Area description points out that 'Development proposals within these areas [ie beyond the immediate Conservation Area boundaries] will, however, need to pay regard to their effect on the adjacent conservation area, thereby preserving its character and appearance.'

1.3.2 National Planning Policy Framework

The over-arching legislation for planning matters is now the NPPF that came into effect in March 2012. The focus of the NPPF is the concept of sustainable development, within three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

For assets held by the Local Planning Authority itself, the responsibilities should be no less onerous and the adjudication of items under conservation legislation ultimately with the Secretary of State through English Heritage.

Within it the core principles are:

- Promote vitality in urban areas,
- Support transition to a low carbon future,
- Encourage the re-use of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings,
- Seek high quality design; and
- Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

Item 126 urges recognition that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and particularly for the Swindon Health Hydro:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing them by viable and appropriate use.
- Their positive contribution of conservation for social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits.

Item 132 Significance and importance determines the weight to be given to considering the effect of works on each asset. Heritage assets are irreplaceable, so any harm to, or loss of any element requires clear and convincing justification.

Item 133 Where substantial harm or total loss is expected, the planning authorities must see demonstration of substantial public benefit to outweigh the harm, or all the following apply:

- The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium-term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- Conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

Item 134 Where the harm is less than substantial, it should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

Item 141 The significance of any heritage assets to be lost wholly or in part should be recorded and made publicly accessible.

2.0 HISTORY and TIMELINE

2a HISTORY

2.1 The Origins of the Railway Town

2.1.1 The history of the Health Hydro building is thoroughly well-documented through the GWR archives that are housed as part of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (WSHC) archive in Chippenham.

2.1.2 The origins of health facilities go back at least to the Greeks and the Hippocratic Oath and of swimming as a pastime, if not sport, is almost certainly as old as mankind. However, for our purposes it is the Industrial Revolution and the world-changing effects that found the UK at the forefront and often the leader that is the beginning of this story.

2.1.3 With the invention/discovery of relatively reliable, mechanically powered travel, Stephenson's Rocket et al, the birth of railways became inevitable. The ability of transportation of large loads (be they goods or numbers of people), large distances at speed, well beyond the limitations imposed by animal power, proved a game-changing revolution to society, trade, economics and all manner of beneficial off-shoots.

2.1.4 The heart of this revolution was in the North of England with the South, with its closer links to continental trade and being relatively more agrarian in disposition and climate, taking a little time to catch up. Indeed pre-revolution London and Bristol were the country's first and second cities. So while Manchester and Liverpool and the like were marching ahead with the development of industrial manufacture and trade, and pioneering the new means of communication, the proposal of the train line from London to Bristol was definitely second-wave.

2.1.5 The only recent development of the extensive nationwide canal network had brought about the first revolution in cargo transport, but laid the seeds for the railways that followed.

2.1.6 Indeed when IK Brunel won the contract to provide the railway line from London to Bristol there were already two water way links, the more direct but steeper Kennet and Avon route through Devizes, and the longer but gentler Wilts and Berks canal taking a more northern route to the navigable Thames, branching at Semington and travelling through to Abingdon.

2.1.7 This passed a sleepy rural country town called Swindon on the top of an adjacent hill, but it was this route that Brunel and his chief engineer Gooch decided to follow in order to make use of the canal for provisioning and coal etc. and have a branching opportunity to head North-West following the canal towards the Severn, Gloucester and Wales.

2.1.8 The choice of Swindon for the initial repair works was primarily attributed to Daniel Gooch, but made sense as opposed to locating in an area with ready population (eg at the ends of London or Bristol). First the early locomotives were not sufficiently robust or powerful to make the journey in one, and a change roughly mid-way, at the top of the climb, made sense. Secondly, this is where the two canal systems branched. And thirdly, the locomotive change forced a journey interruption that gave the opportunity to lay on refreshments to a captive audience of passengers which was expected to be (and should have been) a most lucrative generator of revenue for the company.

2.1.9 The lack of a suitable local workforce, the locals being in the main agricultural labourers rather than skilled engineers, designers or industrial navvies, meant the Company had to recruit, but was not tied to any local labour market but could and did attract workers from far and wide.

2.1.10 Also, a consequence of this 'green-field' approach was that they needed a housing provision that could be started from scratch. The advantage was that it could be relatively self-sufficient and planned to give instant access to the works. The disadvantages were the lack of established infrastructure, water, sanitation, shops, schools, churches, pubs, all that needed to be provided by an embryonic commercial

enterprise looking ultimately to make a profit or at least stay in business.

2.1.11 The route was surveyed in 1834 and the link to Bristol finally completed in 1841.

2.2 The Mechanics Institute and Medical Fund Society

2.2.1 As the enterprise grew, so the new town started to expand and soon it had a sizeable population to rival the Old Town on the top of the hill. However, early days were dogged with poor sanitation as well as the isolation from the cultural and social activities of an established town. The Swindon Mechanics Institute was founded to address this very problem.

2.2.2 The history of such institutes can be traced back to the Birmingham Brotherly Society of 1796. This was an independent voluntary association of like-minded working men committed to self-improvement as against self-indulgence in the pub or betting shop. The first of the so-called Mechanics Institutes was in Edinburgh in 1821, closely followed by Glasgow and Liverpool. These set the format for Swindon to follow in 1845 as the numbers of intelligent, skilled and motivated workers looked to see how they could provide for themselves. The Company, whilst they had the commercial interests of the enterprise as their main objective, were happy to support their workers in a self-funded initiative. By 1855 the Mechanics had built themselves a purpose-made building paid for entirely by the workers themselves, housing among other things a library that became the UK's first lending library seven years before Manchester.

2.2.3 But in the mid- to late-1840s, with the combined scourges of disease (eg Smallpox, Typhoid and Cholera) and poor sanitation taking their toll, life expectancy dropped from 36 to 28!¹ Much of the problem related to the fact that the water supply came from the canal and contamination came from cesspits.

2.2.4 In 1847, from the promptings of Daniel Gooch that gained the approval of the GWR board, a group, initially termed the 'Sick Club,' later the Medical Fund Society, was set up. It was funded by direct deductions from the workers' wages; 4d from men and 1½d from boys. Originally this was to pay for the services of a doctor who could be consulted for free by members and their direct dependents. These facilities were first housed within the Institute when it was built.

2.2.5 By 1871 the Medical Fund Society had obtained and converted the Armory into a cottage hospital, proving to be one of the first Accident and Emergency provisions in the country.

2.2.6 By 1878 the case of a worker who had his leg crushed in the works and was fitted with prosthetics became widely reported and encouraged many more to take the risks more seriously.

2.3 Public Health from Washing Baths to the NHS

2.3.1 The Industrial Revolution had brought with it new challenges relating to increasing populations coming together to live and work cheek by jowl. When sanitation was poor (as it was in the early days of the Railway Village) disease was rife and epidemics would flare up.

2.3.2 Sanitation was one part of the equation, the other being personal hygiene. As early as 1820s there was a government sponsored 'Study of the effects of Health on the Poor' leading to the Public Health Act of 1848, revised 1858 and again 1875² These legislated to allow local authorities to provide washing facilities, originally baths and more latterly showers, for public use³. It would appear that the Mechanics Institute took the lead from the public domain to encourage the Company and the Medical Fund

¹ DVD

² The Social History of Medicine

³ Profit is a Dirty Word: The Development of Public Baths and Wash-houses in Britain 1847-1915

SALLY SHEARD Social History of Medicine, Volume 13, Issue 1, 1 April 2000, Pages 63-86,

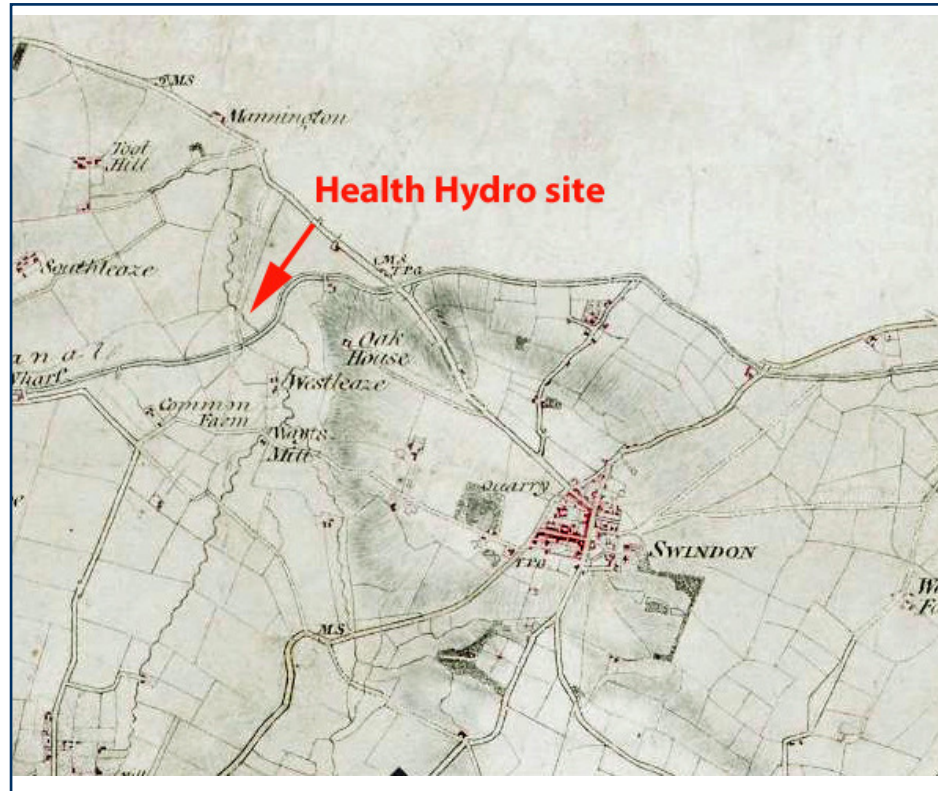


Fig. 4 First came the canal, in the plain below the Swine-Dun (Pigs' hill)

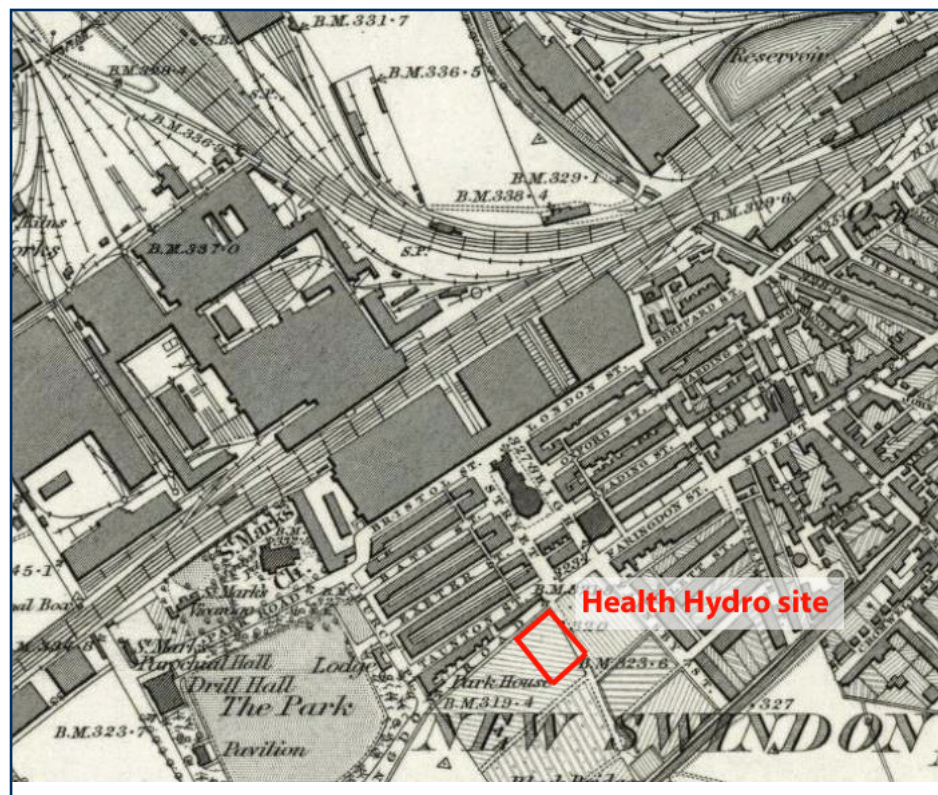


Fig. 5 Yet to be built immediately to the south of the Taunton Street Washing Baths and early Turkish Bath, adjacent to the direct route to Emlyn Square, The Mechanics' Institute and the Railway Works beyond.

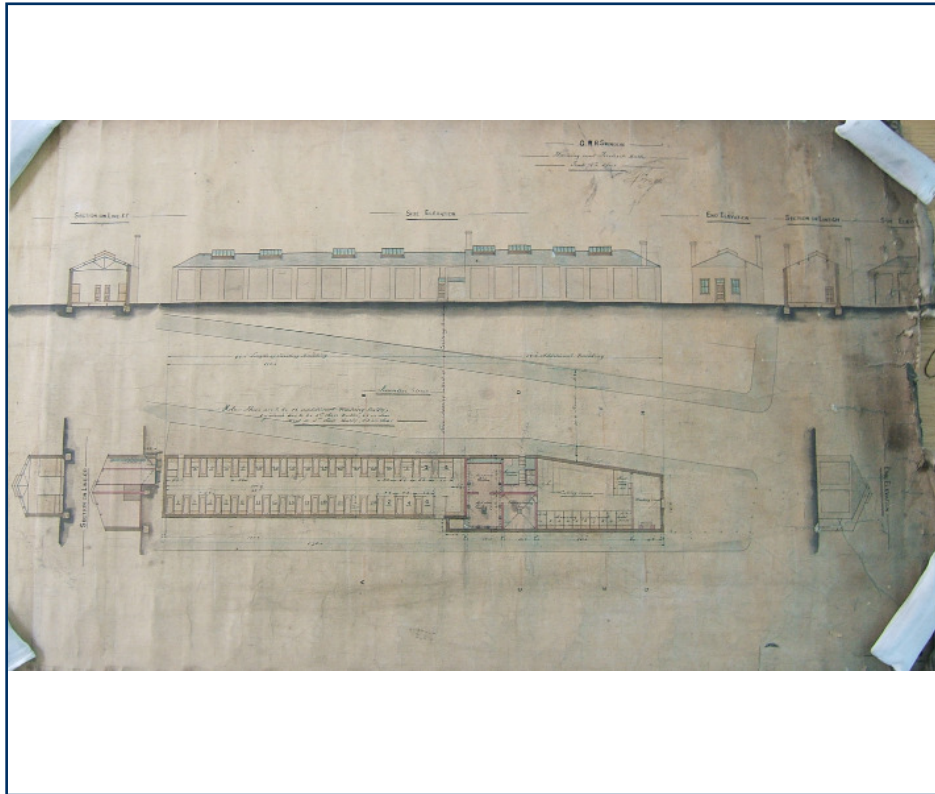


Fig. 6 First washing and Turkish Baths at Taunton Street from 1876

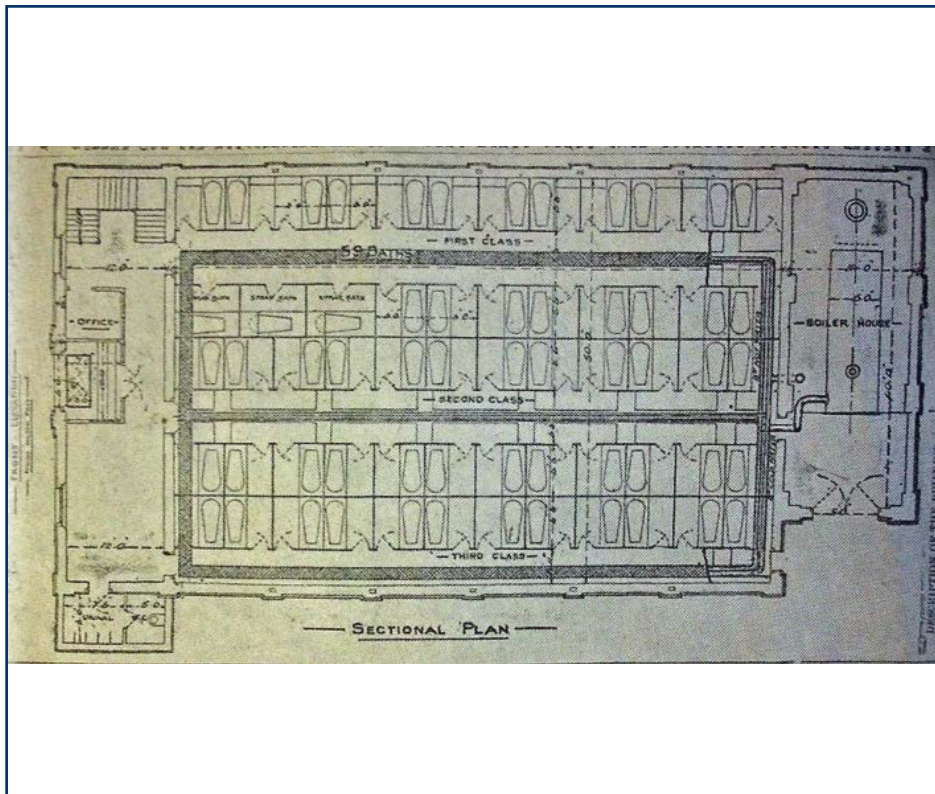


Fig. 7 Original layout of washing baths in 1989. (Note stairs in top corner)

to follow the public best practice provision, given that at that the old (rural agricultural market) town and new (railway) town did not merge until 1900 but the population of the latter probably equal if not outstripping the former from about 1850 onwards.

2.4 Previous pools and wash-houses

2.4.1 The earliest wash-house recorded was in 1679, an establishment called the Duke of York's Bagnio appeared in London. In 1730 there was a 200 bathers' 'washing house' created for the workers on the banks of the Clyde in Glasgow and run commercially.

2.4.2 In 1828, a public wash-house was built at St George's Parkhead and 1846 Manchester Corporation had provided a public swimming pool with wash house in Miller Street.

2.4.3 In 1868 the Medical Health Fund provided a 36 cubicle round-ended swimming pool, overall pool size 100' by 25'. This was located north of the line, and an early newspaper photograph has captured it.

2.4.4 In 1869 the Fund provided a washing bath block with 16 baths off Taunton Street on the north side of Faringdon Road. By 1876 it was enlarged to 33 wash baths and a Turkish Bath.

2.5 Turkish and Russian Baths

2.5.1 Turkish Baths are defined by Malcolm Shifrin "as one or more rooms heated with hot air, the dry heat thereby encouraging sweat and perspiration". This differentiates it from a Russian Bath which in this context employs steam. (The Finnish Bath or Sauna being one where either dry or wet heat can be applied).

2.5.2 After the Roman period, the sophistication of bathing was lost and the caldarium or 'hot room' did not reappear in England until 1856 in Manchester pioneered by a Scotsman, Daniel Urquhart.

2.5.3 Of this type of Turkish Bath (further defined by Malcolm Shifrin as Victorian Turkish Bath) only twelve remain in operation in the UK today out of over 2,000. 3 are in Scotland and of the 9 in England only 2 were built in Victoria's reign. What marks the Swindon Hydro Turkish Bath out is that it has been in continuous use since its inauguration, and remains substantially un-altered with the exception of the Russian baths and re-arranged dressing rooms.

2.6 Swimming Pools

2.6.1 According to Gordon and Inglis⁴ the Swindon Health Hydro qualifies as a public pool, and the first of its type was the combined twin swimming pools with washing baths built in Liverpool in 1828.

2.6.2 Of the early pools that survive and are still in some sort of operation today, there are only 20 pre-1890, 11 in the public sector, 3 in the commercial/private sector and 6 in the education sector. Being completed early in the subsequent decade, the Swindon pools probably rank 27th oldest in the UK. Out of well over 3,000 this is truly significant.

2.6.3 Whilst bathing in Britain has a history of formal involvement (ie not including wild swimming) that goes back at least to Roman times, few if any pools survive of any type before 1800, the C17th Fellows' Pool in Emmanuel College Cambridge being a solitary exception. Of open air pools, the oldest survivor is the Cleveland Pools in Bath from 1815. Of covered pools, Cheltenham has a structure that has survived, the Montpellier Baths of 1806, but it was converted to a theatre in 1945.

2.6.4 Pool technology has also developed significantly since those early days. In 1883, mechanical filtration was patented and first introduced to a public bath in 1892. Chlorination was first trialled in 1920, and further primary research into the history of the plant and mechanical systems used in the hydro, given its pre-eminence as an industrial power-house, would be valuable.

2.6.5 The provision of facilities for women at the Hydro is also instructive, given the preponderance of men as members of the Mechanics Institute and the Medical Fund. Publicly-funded instances at this time had a good balance of segregated provision, equal to what is found here, proving the enlightened attitude taken by the Institution. The first record of mixed bathing provision was for the Withington Baths in Manchester in 1911. From thence mixed bathing was still scarce until the late 1930s when introduced in the Victoria Baths but only on Sundays. More records of Swindon's approach should be investigated.

2.7 Swindon Swimming Clubs

2.7.1 The Amateur Swimming Association was founded in 1869. The Swindon Amateur Swimming Club was founded in 1878 so may well have swum in the first GWR pool. They certainly have records of having swum in the Coate Water Lake in Swindon, and have used the Health Hydro pools since they were opened. Currently numbering around 200 members they are regular users of the pool.

2.7.2 The Swindon Dolphins Amateur Swimming Club (numbering around 400 today) and the Thamesdown Amateur Swimming Club founded in 1975 that became the Tigersharks Amateur Swimming Club in 1990 have around 200 members and are both also regular and active users of the pool.

4 Gordon, I. and Inglis, S. (2009). *Great lengths*. Swindon: English Heritage

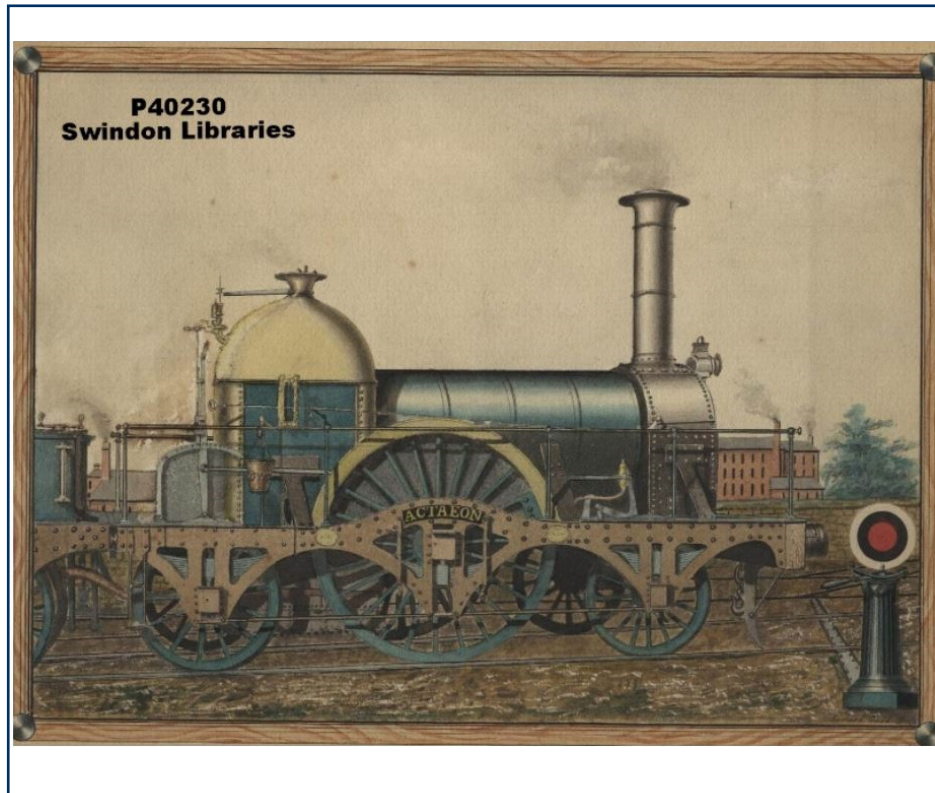
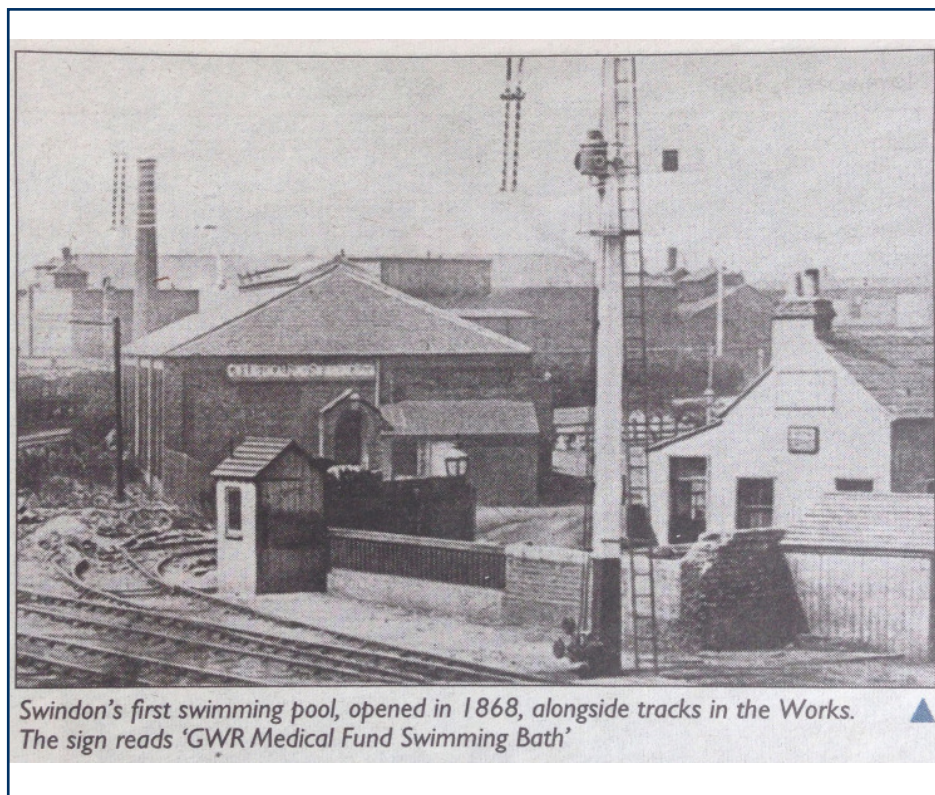


Fig. 8 The steam and railway age changed the world.



Swindon's first swimming pool, opened in 1868, alongside tracks in the Works. The sign reads 'GWR Medical Fund Swimming Bath'

Fig. 8 The first Medical Fund's swimming bath.

2b TIMELINE

The early 1800s were the golden age of the canal when heavy goods including stone iron coal and slate could be transported great distances.

1810 The Kennet and Avon Canal linking Bristol and Bath to London was opened. The Wilts and Berks Canal ran at the foot of the small hill on which sat the original rural market town of Swindon, now called Old Town.

1833, following the example of the emerging railways in the industrialising North, a company GWR was set up to provide a railway link from London to Bristol and the South West and select IK Brunel (IKB) as Chief Engineer.

1835 Act of Parliament allowed GWR to proceed.

1837 IKB chose Daniel Gooch (DG) (later Sir Dandiel Gooch 1st Baronet) to be Superintendent of Locomotive Engines, coming from an engineering family and having apprenticed to Stephenson. They set about planning the route and infrastructure, veering North from Reading to provide potential links to Oxford, Cheltenham, Gloucester etc. DG suggested the site for a railway works, initially for repair of engines obtained from the North but then for development of all aspects from engines, rolling stock to lines themselves. The site was chosen at the mid-point plateau of the route where the primitive engines would be changed from ascending to descending type, and convenient for a northerly branch split to Gloucestershire. In a 'green-field' site with plenty of room for expansion and near enough to a local town for general provisioning.

1841 Box Tunnel completed. Route runs from London to Bridgwater.

1841-2 Swindon railway village starts, IKB designed the initial model village aiming for 300 homes for the predominantly incoming workers from around Britain, skilled and semi-skilled rather than local rural type Wiltshire workers. It was to be a private commercial development self-reliant on infrastructure, including a church, school and cricket pitch, the 'old town' now has around 1,800-1,850 inhabitants.

1842 Machinery starts working.

1843 Factory up and running. 400 on the payroll

1844 Swindon Mechanics Institution formed from among the workforce (based on the examples started in Scotland in the 1830s) since GWR, being a shareholder-financed, profit-making company, prime concern was business, and the well-being of workers was not such a consideration in those days. The railway working community included intellectual workers, engineers, designers, mechanics etc., all better educated than the average agricultural and rural Wiltshire worker in old Swindon. Thus the Mechanics' Institute created a focus for a more self-improving social life than available in the old town, creating the first library, small public wash baths, community activities, education (for the children), and health provision. It was, significantly, also open to non-GWR employees.

1847 Peaking through the initial boom years to a payroll of 1,800, a sharp recession, following the repeal of the Corn Laws, forced a drastic cut in workforce to 618.

1847 Medical Fund Society created, possibly the first of its type in the world. Conditions as well as recession began to take a major toll helped by the poor sanitary/ drainage (cess pits) and poor water supply (from the canal). Smallpox, Typhoid and Cholera combined with working accidents to lower the life expectancy from 36 to 28! Due to this, DG wrote to the Directors to propose the setting up of a fund, contributed to out of the workers' wages, to provide a doctor and other health benefits. He pointed out in his letter the advantage to GWR of having a healthy workforce with fewer lay-offs, and to encourage the skilled workers to stay rather than move on, as many were, to seemingly better jobs eg in the docks. Again, significantly, membership was not restricted to GWR workers.

1850 New Town population (workers plus families) had grown back to 2,300.

1851 The Works builds their first engine, until then imported from the north (the Works being originally for repair and maintenance) and the enterprise begins to expand again.

1853 Outbreak of Typhus

1854 The Mechanics' Institute lay foundation stone for their own building.

1855 IKB designs a 'barracks' or hostel for more incoming workers but remains empty until 1861 when housing a large contingent of Welsh.

1860 New town population 4,167

1868 Swindon's first swimming pool, (in either new or old town), is opened alongside the tracks. 100'x25'.

1869 Washing baths opened on Taunton Street, containing 16 slipper baths.

1869 The Carriage Works opens creating 1,000 new jobs (all requiring more housing)

1871 Smallpox epidemic. The Medical Fund creates the cottage Hospital from the Armory and provides the first A&E unit in the country, 'four beds neatly arranged.'

1876 Washing Baths extended with new Turkish Bath and new total 33 wash baths.

1878 A worker is run over by a train and loses both legs, but is provided with two new wooden prosthetics through the Medical Fund.

1878 Swindon Amateur Swimming Club formed originally using Coate Water, and possibly the original Medical Fund pool of 1868. Utilising the Hydro from its inception.



Fig. 9 Early view of the Faringdon Road elevation pre-first floor dental suite extension along Milton Road. Two pools and a medical dispensary..

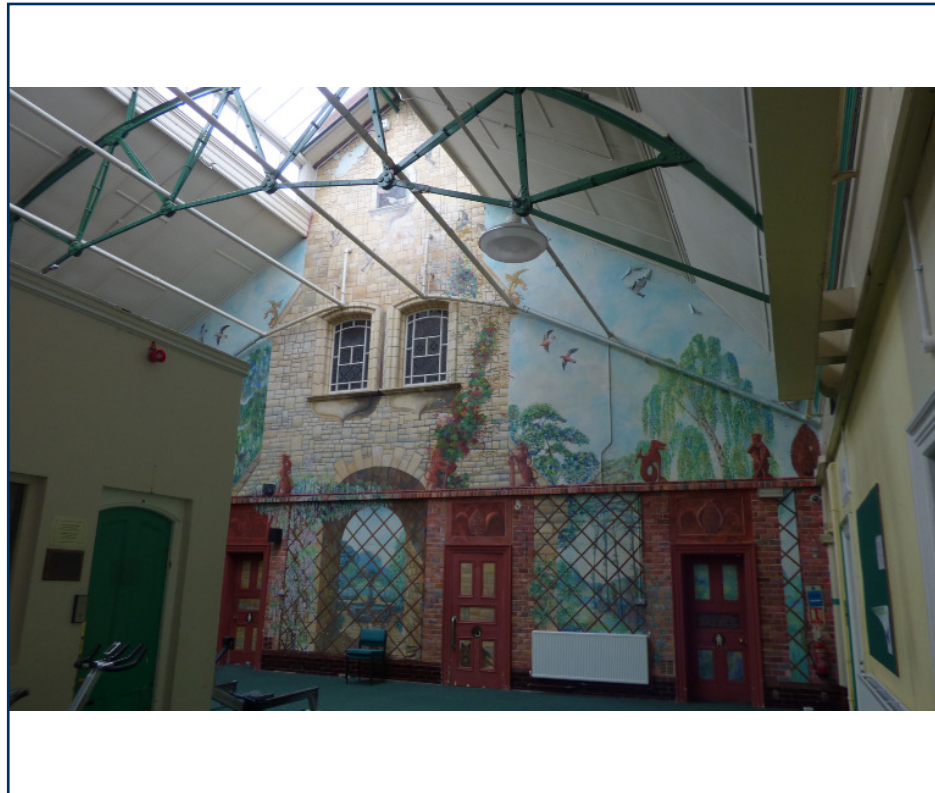


Fig. 10 Dramatic modern interpretation of the Dispensary North wall.

1887 Dental clinic established in the Mechanics building.

1891-2 The new premises for the Medical Fund is opened with main entrance off Faringdon Road to designs by JJSmith of Swindon in a modest Queen Anne style, and houses a complete health service including two swimming baths, doctors, a dispensary, plus, eventually, ophthalmology, physical medicine (physiotherapy), chiropody, paediatrics, a psychology department and a skin clinic. A 5'3" internal diameter underground tunnel led from the basement under the main entrance direct to the Carriage Works (perhaps with rails for carrying stretchers in emergency cases, or coal deliveries for the boilers). The water came from GWR supply at Kemble.

1898-9 Washing baths added at South-East corner of site. Entrance off Milton Road.

1900 The Old and New towns are united with the railway works' Chief Engineer, George Churchwood (GC), possibly the most important chief engineer in the world at that time, becoming Mayor. Combined population 45,000. GWR workforce (excluding families etc) 11,500.

1903 Large Dressing Rooms for men and women added in South-West corner of site.

1904-5 Turkish Baths added, infilling the space between the dispensary and the washing baths.

1905 GWR Works' force 14,000 plus directly related employees (drivers, firemen etc) 17,000 total.

1911 Second floor added to Milton Road frontage North-East, expanding the consultancy provision and dentistry suite.

1914-8 During the First World War, the Government take over the GWR works and convert to making armaments etc. Health Hydro converted to military hospital and the pools floored over for beds.

1925 Swindon works workforce numbers peak at 14,369.

1927 The cottage (surgical) hospital extended to 42 beds and X-ray dept.

1930 Workforce now at 11,500.

1936-7 Remodelling and re-fitting the 1903 main pool changing rooms and adjacent lavatories. Pool-side cubicles removed and gallery support partitions retained.

1936 The cottage hospital eventually extended with a separate building housing the operating theatre.

1937 GWR Swindon Railway Works possibly the best in the world.

1938-9 Workforce 10,500 on a site area 326 acres of which 79 acres under roof.

1939-42 Swindon Railway Works again sequestered for the war effort, so become a bombing target.

1947 The railways are Nationalised, with headquarters in Derby.

1947 Bernard Darwin reports on and publishes the 'A Century of Medical Services 1847-1947' about the Medical Fund Society. He records railway town's population of 40,000. 11 doctors with own consulting rooms, physiotherapy, dispensary waiting room plus washing Turkish, Russian and swimming baths, with dental surgeries and workshops, ophthalmic and chiropody departments, a laundry and committee room on first floor.

1948 NHS set up under Aneurin (Nye) Bevan following fact-finding visits from government health department and Nuffield Trust reps since 1940.

1959-63 Major refitting of entire building with modernised internal surfaces, floor tiling and fittings etc. Faringdon Road entrance closed off with main entrance through re-arranged Washing Bath off Milton Road. Up-and-over access to changing rooms created. Poolside cubicles removed from small pool, and other details such as the screen in the Turkish Bath cooling room removed.

1960 The last steam engine built in Swindon.

1962 Workforce 8,000

1965 Workforce 5,000

1973 Workforce 2,200

1980 Workforce 3,800

1985 Link (sports and leisure) Centre opens, including pool and ice rink.

1986 Swindon railway works close, workforce 1,000 laid off; Mechanics Institution building closes.

1988-9 Major refit/rebranding to boost attendance. Major roof repairs. Well Woman Centre opened in Dispensary. Murals painted in Mall and Small Pool.

TIMELINE

2011 Population of Swindon 182,441.

2014 Swindon Borough Council (SBC) transferred asset to GLL (Greenwich Leisure Ltd) but retaining ownership. GLL responsible for 6 other sites across Swindon including the OasisLeisure Centre and the Link Centre.

2016 Teaching Pool closes. GLL initiate some preliminary discussions suggesting to develop some part residential use. Population of town 217,160.

2017 Joint working/steering group set up to work towards securing the best future for the the building.

Early 1800s
Golden age of the canal

1833
GWR was set up

1841-2
Swindon railway village starts.

1844
Swindon Mechanics Institution is formed.

1868
Swindon's first swimming pool is opened.

1891-2
The new premises for the Medical Fund is opened with main entrance off Faringdon Road.

1898-9
Washing baths added at south east corner of site.

1904
Turkish Baths added

1905
GWR works force 17,000 including direct employees.

1911
Second Floor added to Milton Road

1914-8
Health Hydro converted to military hospital during First World War.

1959-63
Major refitting of building.

1960
Last steam engine built in Swindon.

1986
Swindon railway works close.

1988-9
Major refitting and rebranding.

2017
Joint steering group working towards best future of building

3.0 DESCRIPTION



Fig. 11 External brickwork elevation to Faringdon Road in modest Queen Anne style mostly of 1892.

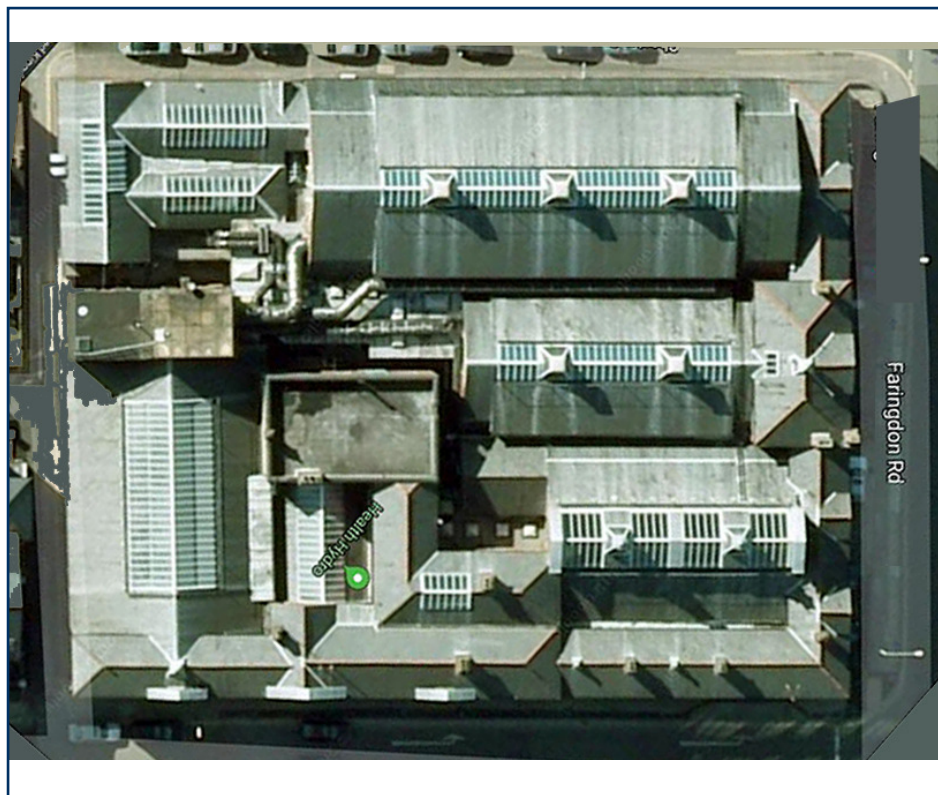


Fig. 12 A well-maintained but complex roofscape.

3.1 Location

3.1.1 The building fills a full urban block immediately to the South West of Emlyn Square, the heart of the original Railway Village. It is separated from it by Faringdon Road, now a heavily-trafficked major route to and from the West. To the East is Milton Road, a continuation of Commercial Road, but now an inner ring-road one-way street. Milton Road was once a primary route for many hundreds, even thousands of railway workers on their daily commute from the Southern housing developments to the works and back via one of the canal bridges. Chester Street to the West and the un-marked back lane complete the block to the South.

3.2 Exterior

3.2.1 The external elevations are of plain red brick in a modest (for their age) Queen Anne style with moulded and pedimented entrances and gables. (see Appdx 1: List description).

3.2.2 Of particular interest are the clues to the phased development of the site as discernible by changes in the brickwork and jointing. The Milton Road elevation can be analysed where vertical joints indicate the construction of the subsequent Washing Baths, the later Turkish Baths and the first floor dental range to the North. The latter is confused by the brickwork all appearing older (dirtier) than the earlier work beneath. The removal of the original North entrance and replacement with a standard window has been very carefully achieved.

3.2.3 The modesty of the design can be attributed to the collective nature of its commissioning. Rather than having to advertise itself as a piece of civic pomp (as, for example, the Manchester Victoria Baths or even Bristol's Jacobs Wells Baths), investment in the architecture was done appropriately and functionally, with sufficient pride in its achievement but for a large and captive audience.

3.3 Access

3.3.1 The primary public access to the building is currently at the South end of the Milton Road elevation, through the original 1898 Washing Baths entrance. The overdoor inscription includes reference to the later Turkish Baths, but in a 'grotesque' script stylistically at odds with both its surroundings and the care and detail of that later building, (viz the brick bas relief panels etc), the supposition being that the original tympanum may have been (would have had to have been if previously inscribed) totally replaced to provide the clean sheet for the inscription.

3.3.2 This access is largely compromised. Firstly the whole site is hard to access due to the primacy of the vehicular traffic, both because there is no obvious associated car parking adjacent, and Faringdon and Milton Roads inhibit foot access from the North and East. In addition, the external signage, both overt, as provided by GLL and the Council, and integral, (ie the principal main North entrance now being dead, the current entrance being at the far end from it down one side) cannot make up for this issue. In addition, a large road sign and street lamp are positioned to completely obscure the entrance from view from the North. At least they do less harm to the view from the South, ie the vehicular approach.

3.3.3 There are four other original entrances that are no longer in general use beyond being fire escapes. Central to Milton Road is a pedimented entrance from 1892 that would have been the ladies entrance to the medical facilities. The Northern entrance, now disappeared (described above), was an equivalent entrance for men.

3.3.4 The principal main entrance to the complex and particularly to the two swimming baths was through the central ornately-decorated entrance facing Faringdon Road, flanked asymmetrically with two entrances. The adjacent Eastern entrance,

similar in style to the central one on Milton Road, was one of the two original men's entrances to the medical facility. It also gave access to the first floor offices and meeting room for staff and board members. The Western doorway, in the end bay beneath a metal fire escape, is an early alteration, treated stylistically as a subservient companion to the main entrance, providing direct access to the Large Pool only, and relating to developing changing arrangements around the pool.

3.3.5 Chester Street originally had a public entrance to the South end of the Large Bath, roughly where the gabled dormer is today. This wall bears many of the clues to the changes in entrance arrangements as the changing facilities have altered over time. Beyond the original double height entrance building was a perimeter wall to the compound. When the Washing Baths were built a new block was inserted in the corner. Subsequently, a second entrance was created for direct access to the first floor gallery to the Large Pool when changing cubicles were created in this South-Western corner of the site and moved out from the pool side. Finally, all accesses were removed when the primary access was moved to Milton Road and the pools accessed via the first floor link in the 1960s.

3.3.6 The back lane is predominantly a service access route to the central open spine corridor. For much of its life it has also provided a primary escape route from the first floor gallery around the Large Pool.

3.4 Roofs and roofscape.

3.4.1 The roofscape is a compound of a number of slated pitched roofs with decorative clay ridges and finials or glass lantern lights with tall ventilation cowls. Both pools have continuous strip dormers and the gables have round-headed or circular windows. The overall roofscape has hardly changed since the original phased construction, except for the 1960s' first floor interconnecting corridor and a plethora of ducts and services.

3.4.2 The overall condition is very good considering the age of the primary construction, and is due to a thorough overhaul at the end of last century. The two original flat roofs (the service tower to the West of the Washing Baths hall and the laundry above the Turkish Baths) are asphalt and represent more of a maintenance risk than the pitched roofs.

3.5 Interiors - generally

3.5.1 The initial construction of the various early phases was all carried out in appropriately robust and sound materials, given the nature of the facilities, swimming pools, hot baths and steaming Turkish and Russian baths, as well as the requirements for medical hygiene. The majority of the internal walls are constructed in glazed brickwork. Elsewhere and more recently where ceramic tiling has been added, sufficient in many instances but lacking the structural integrity and longevity that the glazed brick provides.

3.5.2 The four large halls (both pools, the dispensary and Washing Baths hall) all have iron (steel) frames supporting timber purlins to boarded ceilings and roof lights. The four smaller halls (the Turkish Bath rest room and the three changing spaces) have substantial timber trusses with similar ceiling constructions. The generous ceiling heights and good ventilation (air handling) provision have allowed these spaces to survive in good condition.

3.5.3 The overall impression is not one of lavish indulgence as has been the case in pools and public baths elsewhere (e.g. Manchester) and the contrast with such schemes, even in the Turkish Baths, demonstrates the part of the unique quality of the building in its simple functionality appropriate to its users.

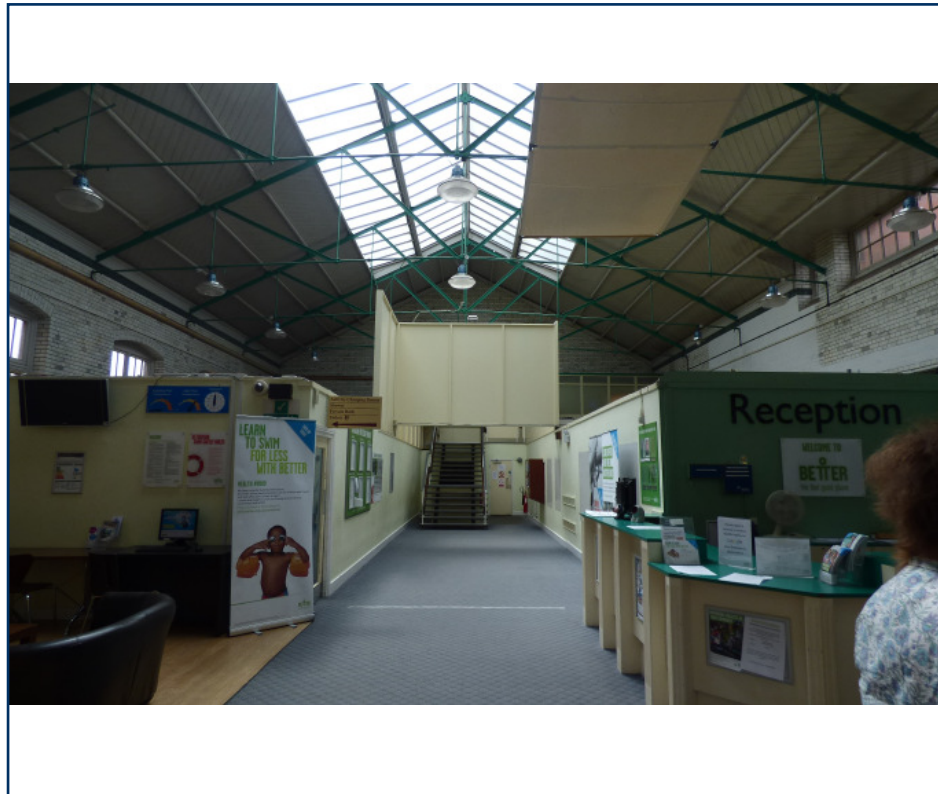


Fig. 13 What was full of washing cubicles now retains some original partitions and other finishes elsewhere.

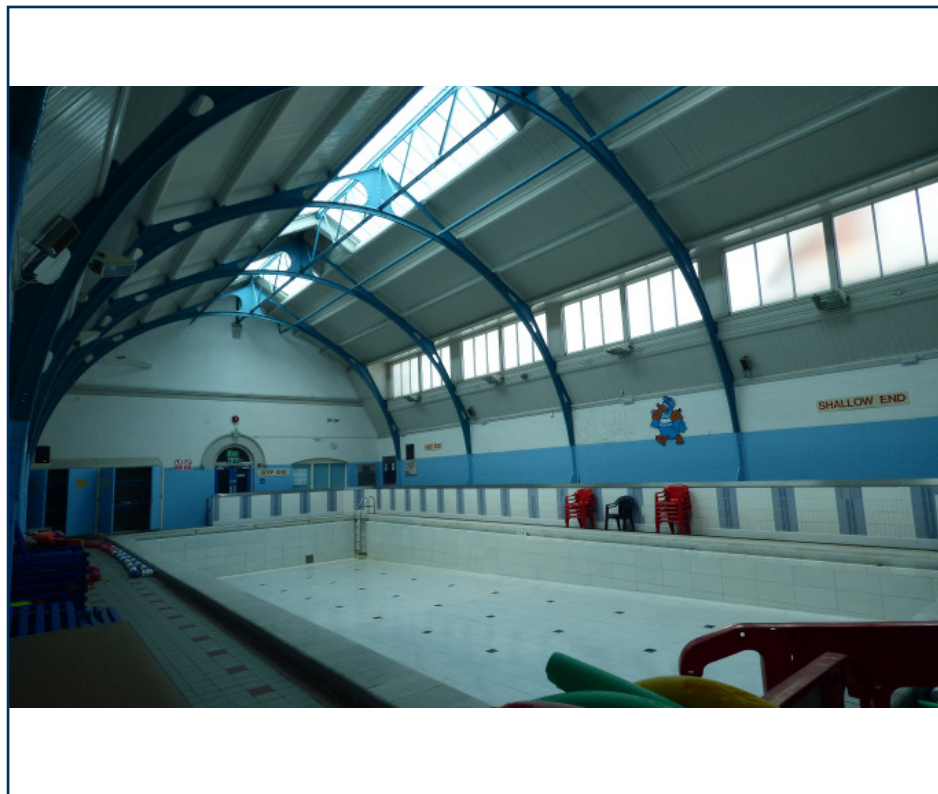


Fig. 14 The Small Pool today.

3.6 Interiors – The Tour – Washing Baths Hall

3.6.1 Entering from Milton Road, the lobby presents a late C20th approach. The ceiling has been lowered and the entrance in front represents a new opening in the second wall that would have been encountered originally. The original layout of the Washing Baths entrance is retained in the ceiling pattern above the inserted ceiling.

3.6.2 The Washing Baths hall, now the reception area, but including, significantly, the last of the public baths and washing facilities, is an awkward space. The current arrangement dates from 1962 when the increasing unsuitability of the Faringdon Road entrance was acknowledged, and an alternative put in place. Since the requirement for public baths was all but gone and part of the space already infiltrated by plant, a bold scheme to bridge over the external spine corridor to give access to the pool changing rooms was instigated.

3.6.3 The single height enclosures either side of the modern staircase represent the remains of original bath enclosures, but upper level extension screens (presumably to prevent overlooking) are a strange, confusing and rather ill-conceived addition, and at variance with the '60s drawings. Originally the space was packed with individual bath cubicles and there were merely corridors running the length of the hall, so there would have been little or no appreciation of the hall itself. The hall, as now exposed, however, begs for a more generous and relevant interpretation.

3.6.4 The lightweight metal truss and timber boarded ceiling and roof light remain of the original 1898 structure; a very functional solution to a more functional roof than needed for the pools or dispensary where the ceilings were clearly on show to the public. In addition, sections of original mosaic style tiling still remain exposed around the perimeter of the tank area where not replaced with concrete. But it begs the question whether more remains under the carpet and tiles in the other spaces and if the pattern of bath cubicles might thus still be legible.

3.6.5 In the South-East corner is the modern created manager's office and store. Again with the dropped ceiling obscuring the original partition layout it conceals a conundrum created by an odd angular division on the original ceiling and the evidence of an earlier staircase surprisingly wide for access to the few rooms on the floor above at that time.

3.7 To the Large Pool

3.7.1 Climbing the open tread 1960s stair to the upper corridor the route continues to be awkward and unappealing, cleverly but un-convincingly shoe-horned into otherwise left-over spaces with no views out or sense of location. The lack of complementary aesthetic to this area is immediately apparent as is the general lower level of finish and maintenance.

3.7.2 The quarter landing that divides the route towards male and female changing rooms gives little evidence of which is which. The stair treads visibility strip nosings are contracting away from the terrazzo steps. But the yin-yang tile decorations give a welcome break to the spartan functional finishes so far.

3.7.3 The top lit double height changing rooms with their timber king post trusses give a welcome return to a Victorian aesthetic and space standard. The '60s charcoal granolithic cubicle partitions with white timber frames have a contemporary quality that is not out of place although a seemingly random appearance of cubicle doors, some light-wood veneer lockers, studied floor tiles and intrusive ductwork and lighting dash any hopes of a well-considered and integrated interior.

3.7.4 Continuing back through low ceilinged link spaces, the Large Pool is finally reached. This is the highlight of the building, a magnificent 110' long pool in its original pool hall. Very little has changed in the overall appearance, and having been built by railway workers for railway workers, it is not surprising the immediate correlation to station architecture. The great arching trusses with their ovoid piercings are quite

possibly and understandably unique, but a comparison with say Paddington station or indeed other swimming baths of the time, will show how relatively mute and restrained the decoration was. Ostentatious show was not the intention; true and elegant design simplicity was to be the backdrop for the glorious communal activity space.

3.7.5 Up to the underside of the gallery, most of the surfaces are from the 1960s onwards. Originally the changing cubicles were arranged down each side and may well have been of dark timber as appear in the photographs of the small pool. Gin wheels in the ceiling indicate where possibly temporary boom panels were stored to reduce the length of the pool and create smaller pools for learners. The pool was used out of season, by draining and covering over, for alternative functions, including dances, concerts, political gatherings, even roller skating. And this facility was used in the war effort as temporary hospital bed accommodation.

3.7.6 The cubicles were removed in 1936 where the spine walls supporting the gallery were retained in full and benches, shown on the drawings, set between. The spine walls were later cut back and finished with terrazzo as with the cubicles in the '60s.

3.7.7 The gallery with its spectator seating is however most authentic. Apart from an emergency escape being created in the North-West corner, and a staircase from below being removed from the South-East corner, it is virtually unchanged since 1892.

3.7.8 The glory of this hall is the South end round arched window, a spectacular stained glass design by the Company's own designer, as was all of the stained glass throughout.

3.8 The Small Pool

3.8.1 This is now reached from a suite of first floor changing rooms mostly dedicated to girls and boys and created as part of the 1960s' reorganisation. However there is also a recently created short-cut from part way down the East side of the Large Pool.

3.8.2 The Small Pool is currently empty and not in use due to a leak, made more intractable by the presence of asbestos. Similar to the Large Pool in many ways, it represents the second most significant and representative space, whilst, again, the alterations and interventions have been minimal, their effect is greater than in the Large Pool. A similar re-lining of everything up to head height, where disguised by the gallery in the Large Pool, is fully exposed in the smaller. The effect of removing the pool side changing cubicles and entrance screen is plain to see, although a dwarf wall barrier for spectators is a further unsympathetic intrusion on the East.

3.8.3 The greatest difference though is in the blocking up of the arch headed window in the South gable due to the two-storey changing block behind. The appearance of a full stained glass window, relatively bigger in the space, can only be imagined now. Meanwhile, the now blank end has been painted with a giant whimsical mural in the 1980's revival, redolent of its time.

3.8.4 Other original features of this space are of note, particularly the decorative brackets supporting the roof trusses and the suggestion that behind the overpainting to the gable wall at high level lies the diaper-patterned glazed brick wall seen in the early photographs.

3.8.5 In both baths signage is a particular issue, particularly the small bath where the pool depth can be read in embossed glazed tiles at the scum channel ends. Being in feet, this clearly indicates the pool lining preceeds 1965. However, the plethora of contemporary signs, with no co-ordination of type face or layout, size or material, is an aspect of contemporary environment that is unwittingly taken for granted, and yet can gravely affect the experience of a place of heritage value.

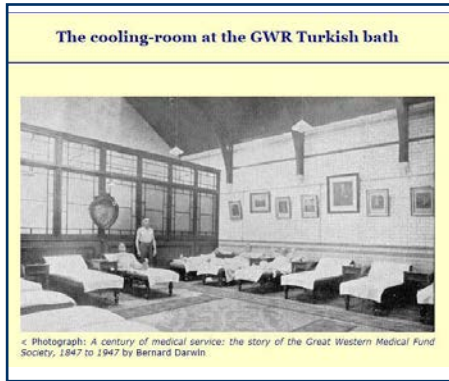


Fig. 15 Early view of the cooling room 1908.



Fig. 16 The same room today. Spot the difference!

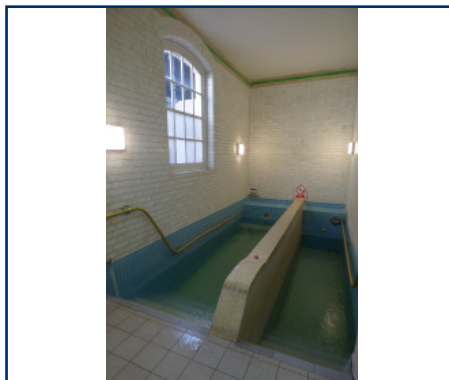


Fig. 17 Original plunge pool now divided between hot and cold.

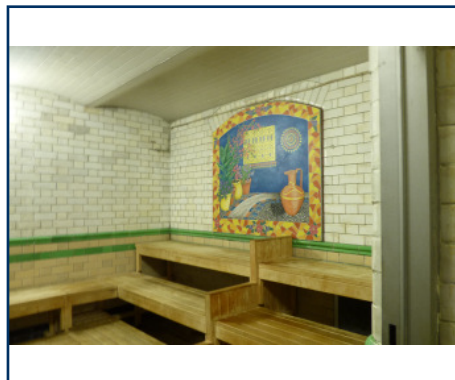


Fig. 18 Unique and original decorative panels.



Fig. 19 Ladies' waiting room showing newly formed arch

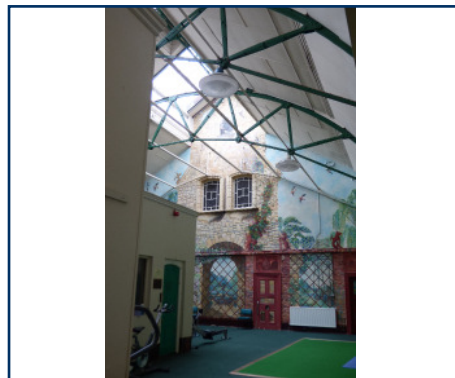


Fig. 20 Relative view today, division totally removed.

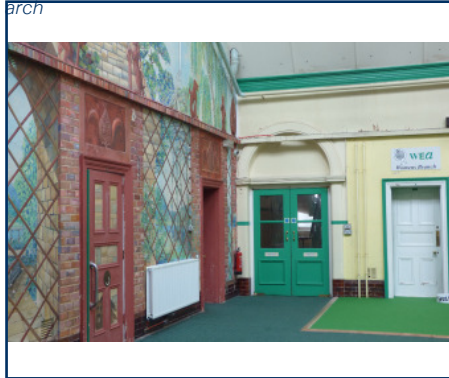


Fig. 21 The Mall, as it is called today, still in need of a clear identity.



Fig. 22 Behind the scenes. Parts of the fitted joinery remain as do the serving hatches in the wall (though

3.9 Turkish Baths

3.9.1 From the North-East corner of the reception/Washing Baths hall a nondescript modern door gives access to the Turkish Baths complex. Added to fill the gap between the original 1892 Dispensary and the 1898 Washing Baths blocks, the Swindon Hydro Turkish Baths are the oldest surviving Victorian Turkish Baths facility still in use today.

3.9.2 The original entry to the resting room was further to the North, off the curved corridor that leads to the Dispensary. The current entrance is into a small lobby that was originally planned as an ante-room for a 'caretaker' attendant outside the large double height space with heavy timber king-post trusses (more Baronial than Barbary) and central ridge glazing. A bank of modern light-wood lockers stands approximately where an entry screen was originally positioned, and the decorative pattern to the terrazzo floor is clearly visible giving the clue to the original layout. This volume and the sequence of hot rooms beyond are close to their original condition, and are surprisingly restrained as described above. Two decorative panels, of modest artistic merit yet of high significance, being original elements created by the GWR workshops, are applied to the walls of subsequent inner chambers. The step up to the final hottest room is indicated by an equivalent step in the glazed brick dado detail on the approach side. The floors in these inner rooms also have a quality terrazzo finish with a border and corner bell-flower details.

3.9.3 The two steam rooms (Russian Baths) are later insertions into the first two rooms, and destroy the simple rectangular forms there. The first of the rooms (labelled 'shampooing room' on the original drawings) has retained a bird-cage type multi-head shower, but also has an inserted toilet cubicle in the location of the original single Russian Bath now removed, so reducing the authenticity.

3.9.4 The plunge bath, accessed under a rare but barely ostentatious arch, has also been divided into a hot and cold option and tiled out in modern tiles with attendant maintenance issues.

3.9.5 The adjacent changing cubicle area has been re-ordered with the partitions being removed but leaving a clear imprint on the floor by evidence of the terrazzo borders. Originally as the principal corridor leading to the baths, the linking door is now blocked giving access merely from the resting room or through to the gym.

3.9.6 The hot rooms sit directly over the second of the basement spaces. This was created directly for the Turkish Baths with the hot flue rising directly in the South-East corner of the men's hottest chamber above.

3.9.7 One aspect of significance in Swindon is that there was a separate ladies' baths on the first floor directly above. This facility is, unfortunately, no longer in operation, and the rooms are now largely used as storage. However, the brick vaulted larger first floor room adjacent, originally designated Laundry, has evidence of a full height access door with hinged bracketed pulley wheel outside into the external spine corridor, and is today in more regular use for quieter health, well-being or social gatherings.

3.10 The Gym

3.10.1 Immediately to the North of the men's Turkish Baths is a suite of rooms now kitted out as a contemporary gym with exercise machines of diverse types. These four rooms, all internal, were created out of infill rooms between the Turkish Baths and the Dispensary in 1904, infill at the end of the external central corridor and a single chamber from the ladies' section of the Dispensary waiting room in 1962. Internal walls have been knocked through to the extent that the original space is unrecognisable and disorienting and various other windows that were originally on outside walls now are blocked off but look into the space. The East wall of the original 1904 rooms has also been replaced by a timber boarded partition with high level borrowed light windows. Intriguingly, the room marked 'Secretary' has a spiral staircase pencilled in on one of the

historic plans.

3.11 The Dispensary (Mall)

3.11.1 One of the three principal spaces, this is the most intriguing as being the unique addition to an otherwise standard twin swimming bath complex. The lofty double height space is similar in proportion (span to height) to the two pools but shorter in length by at least a bay. The truss in this instance is quite different being a compound Warren type, the lower member of which would have restricted the space if used in the two pools. Being of compound construction, the individual struts and chords are lighter and there is a significant degree of additional skill being shown in the design.

3.11.2 At each end are gable walls. The Southern end has an original circular stained glass lunette at high level. The Northern has a pair of internal windows at first floor now cleverly woven into a major trompe l'oeil painted mural from 1989. The mural, very much of its time, is arresting in its detail and imagination, but significantly out of character with the straight forwardness of the original building. Nevertheless, it represents a successful outcome for a previously critical point in the building's history when the Health Hydro needed to re-invent itself and offer more contemporary attractions.

3.11.3 The outer L-shaped space surrounds an open-topped partitioned-off area. The latter was the original dispensary, and the L-shaped outer zone was originally two rectangles at right angles, the Northern being the men's waiting area and the Southern/Eastern being for ladies. The original drawings and early photographs reveal the format and indicate a small chamber at the East end of the now missing dividing wall that was labelled 'Porter'.

3.11.4 The original waiting rooms were totally segregated but an arched opening appears between the two around the turn of the century. This may also have introduced the matching round headed arch openings to the men's and ladies' entrances from the Milton Road lobbies in 1905, or in 1911 with the advent of the second storey dental suite.

3.11.5 To the outside of these waiting spaces are the interconnecting consulting rooms for the doctors, 3 for ladies and 5 for men. These spaces retain some original features although none have fire places. The windows are largely fitted with frosted glass lower panes (for privacy); much appears to be in the original pattern (frosted not 'worm cast'). The Northern three are converted to toilet accommodation off the Mall, with only the door to the disabled being re-hung to open out. The conversion of the original hairdresser's suite as part of the Turkish Bath infill, subdividing the glazed screened areas into further consulting rooms, has resulted in one extra consulting room overall.

3.11.6 The perimeter wall of the dispensary still retains evidence of the hatch openings in front of which wooden screens were located for privacy and prevent looking into the dispensary itself. At least one screen still remains located in the first-floor store over the adjacent suite.

3.11.7 Inside the dispensary wall the counter with drawers and sliding cupboard doors still substantially remains on the East and South walls, and indications of the wall shelves can be made out on the plaster between hatches. One of the balusters is retained in the location of one of the dividing fixed shelf units visible in the early photographs.

3.11.8 This inner space has been further subdivided creating two further inner rooms where there was only one.

3.11.9 Leaving by the original North door, the original 'drug store' has been subdivided into three smaller offices and a corridor, and the further 'stew room', originally external, is now internal to the East, and the toilet has been converted from outside to inside access.

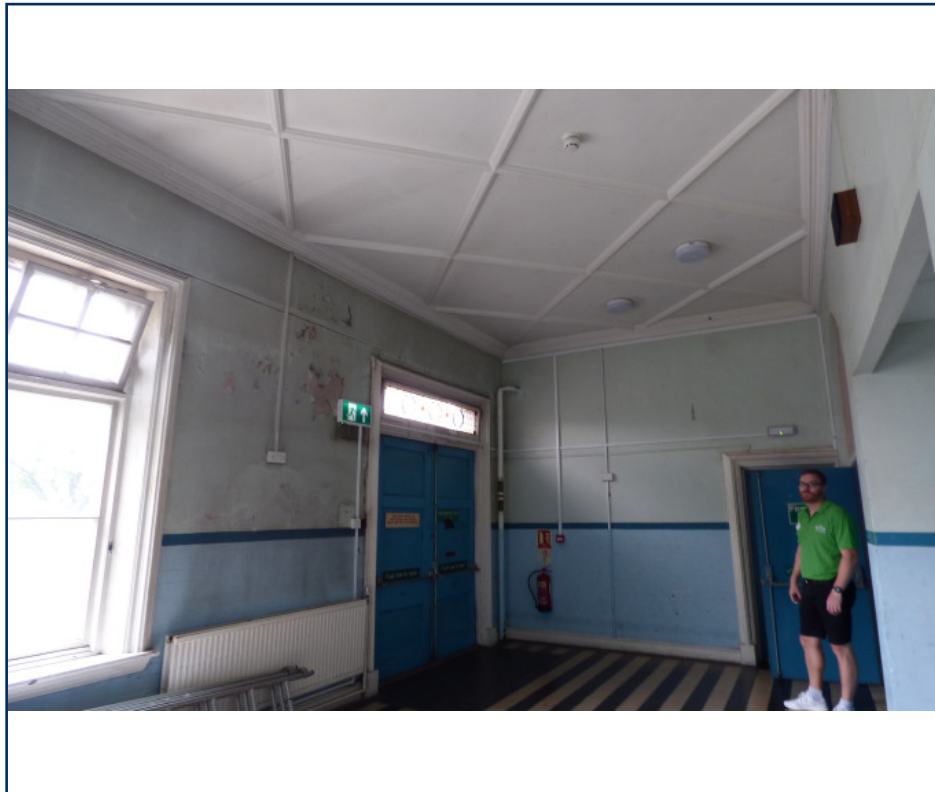


Fig. 23 The original main entrance, now redundant and looking in need of care and attention, preferably with use.

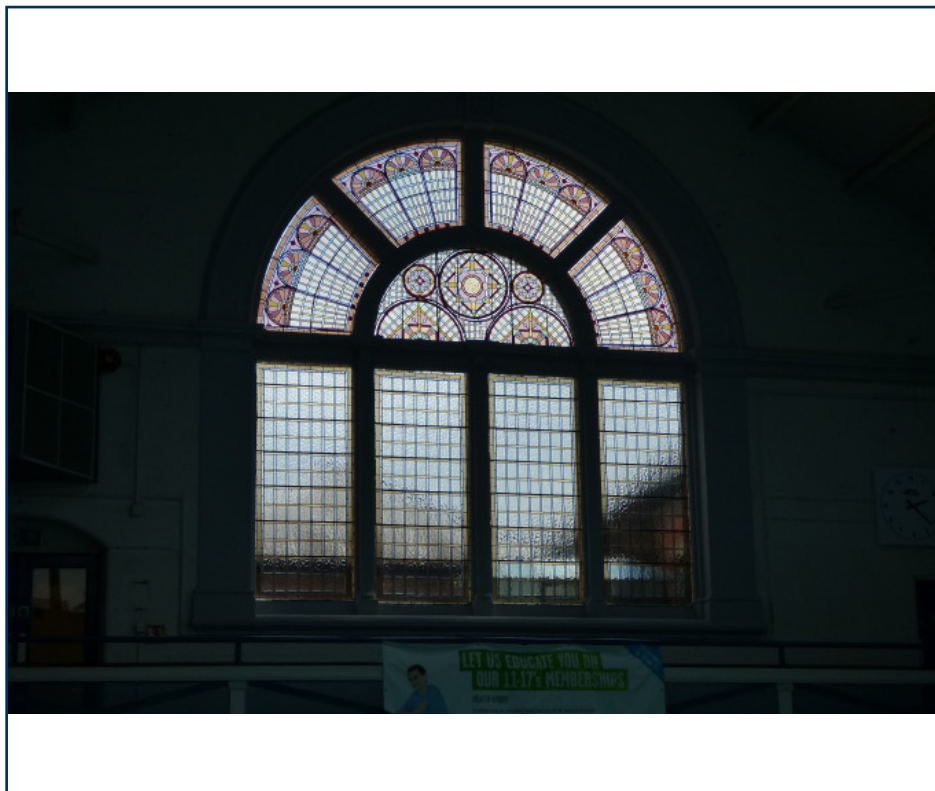


Fig. 24 The great South window to the Large Pool.

3.12 Main (Faringdon Road) entrance

3.12.1 Leaving the dispensary from the North-West involves a level change to a further consulting room and large lobby. These were originally merely rooms off the main entrance. Later the lobby was connected to the Small Pool having a viewing window to the South, and the consulting room originally designated for the secretary. For this arrangement the original partition between the two was re-planned with an awkward off-set to correct the access arrangement.

3.12.2 The main entrance lobby is of modest size for the numbers that might have attended the baths. An original diagonal patterned ceiling with applied plaster ribs is the one touch of original ornament, whilst the floor has been over-tiled in a bold black and white stripe of considerable impact

3.12.3 The original ticket booth is no longer evident and its empty recess is compromised by a blocking out for the head of the stairs to the basement. Double doors lead off to the West and East of the South wall for the Large and Small Pools respectively. Two modern doors have been inserted into the West wall leading to 1960s' toilets and a club store.

3.12.4 The two further original 'dressing rooms' beyond are the club room and main ground floor exit with service and other stores carved out of them. The ceiling to the West exit looks to be in original decorative condition and the window to the central club room is also un-painted and apparently in original condition.

3.13 First Floor

3.13.1 The primary route to the first floor is off the North-East corner of the reception hall. The stair hall here is intriguing in having a continuity of cornice running through the South wall and a discontinuity of skirting on the West wall indicating the location of the original way through to the washing bath hall. The mosaic tile floor with its Greek key border is still in evidence both here and in the under-stairs cupboard.

3.13.2 The staircase itself is of good condition, with minimum decoration but generous circular caps to the newels being a particularly 'railway' touch. There is a suggestion that this is not the original stair of 1898 as one early plan clearly indicates a stair in the South East corner of the building, but the ceiling there, with its cornicing, viewed above the store G4, appears continuous despite a strange diagonal discontinuity. Indeed before the Turkish Baths were built with a required access for ladies to their own baths upstairs, there would have been no particular benefit of the current location for the main stair. Unfortunately original plans of the Washing Baths have not been discovered yet and only those with the Turkish Baths in place, confirm the current layout.

3.13.3 The landing turning South gives access to two offices, one reached at the end of a corridor. To the North, one of the treasures of the building, the original 1904 but relocated, coloured glass entry door emblazoned Ladies' Turkish Bath, gives access to the upper glazed brick corridor, that now links the rest of the first floor office spaces up to and along Faringdon Road side.

3.13.4 First on the right is the (now) ladies' toilet within which the original bank of three stall urinals has been modestly boxed off. Mostly intact as on the floor below, these urinals are missing their insignia cover pieces presumably taken for trophies.

3.13.5 Straight ahead is the main committee room that took over the function from the original one on Faringdon Road soon after its construction as part of the Turkish Baths scheme. It is a spacious room with good fireplace but no ceiling ornament, the walls are painted directly over the glazed tiles.

3.13.6 A little-altered small office with good original fireplace and un-painted windows is next on the left after a classic finger pointer sign directly applied on the glazed brick now starting to disappear though from unwanted attention.

3.13.7 The next arch opening on the left is the original doorway to the Ladies' Turkish Bath where the door would have originally been.

3.13.8 Next along is a new door to the original Ladies' cooling off room, with top lit roof lantern, that was originally accessed from within the suite rather than the public corridor. The fine glazed partition still remains between this and the entry corridor to the original dressing rooms, now merely a store.

3.13.9 The hot rooms remain, now also as storage, with the hottest room retaining its vaulted ceiling. Beyond these the original laundry space, also vaulted, up one step, is utilised for functions, having given over its full height warehouse doors to a replica window in the mid-C20.

3.13.10 The first floor offices, originally three dental rooms and a waiting room along the North from 1892, were increased to four dental rooms plus an opticians suite in 1911 when extended back along Milton Road and subsequently connected through to the Turkish Bath corridor. The care taken with trimming the subsequent opening clearly shows a lack of its earlier intention in the handling of the glazed brick and cut tile lintel. A significant feature of these first floor corridors is the stained glass windows that remain along in the pre-1911 routes. Some level changes have had to be overcome with ramps in more recent times.

3.13.11 The inserted staircase in the North end of Milton Road block shows a high level of skill and care in resolving the details to try not to show the changes. Once the changes are known, however, careful reading of the signs confirms the story.

3.13.12 The original 1892 stair off the Faringdon Road entry has a much finer balustrade and displays a decorative ceiling rose. Moving through to the original committee room, the suite has suffered more than most with alterations, losing its fireplace and having a number of lightweight partition reorderings in the ancillary spaces.

3.13.13 From here a narrow (back) stair with plain iron balustrade connects to the large pool gallery landing in its main access stair well and completes the journey.

3.14 Summary

3.14.1 General

So much of the original fabric of the original building and its various phases of extension and adaptation has survived, in good and totally serviceable condition. This is due to:

1. Being built at a time when quality of construction was high.
2. Being a pool and functional building built for heavy use incorporating wet and humid conditions, required robust and lasting materials.
3. The general maintenance has been mostly good, at least adequate, and the most recent roof campaign (with minor exceptions) has been very valuable.
4. The major re-ordering in the 1960s was largely additive (an up-and-over stair route, suspended ceilings, tiled finishes etc) and not requiring extensive damage that higher levels of usage of the site might have done.
5. The current activities are either directly compatible (swimming, public bath, complementary therapies, Turkish Bath) or at least not incompatible (gym and offices) and not also bringing pressure for expansion.

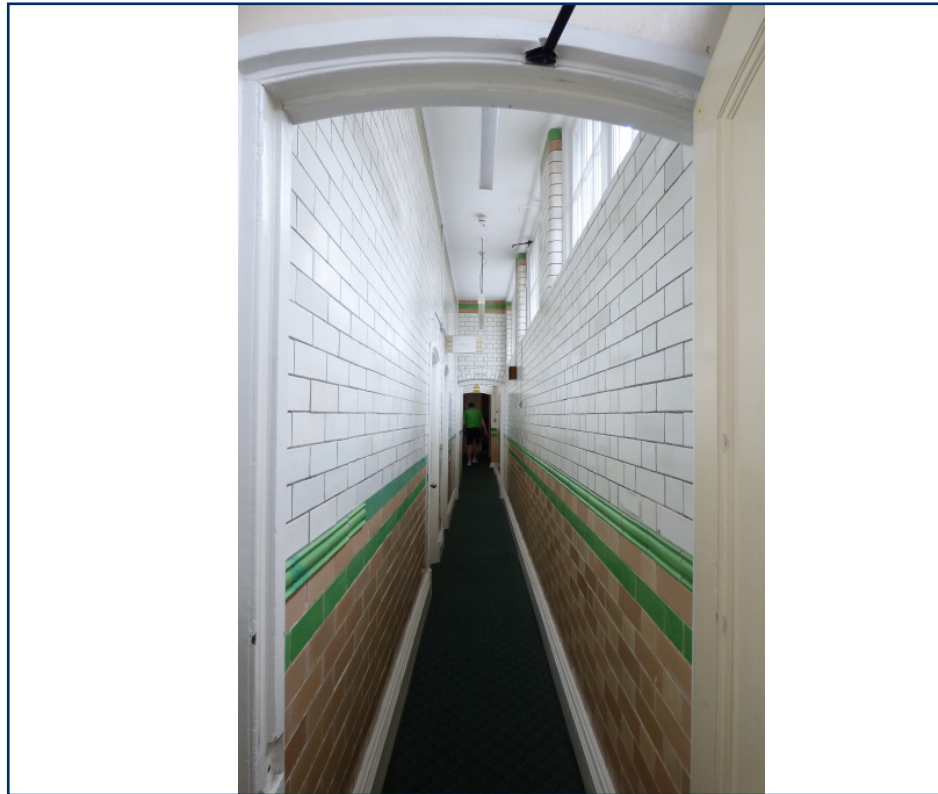


Fig. 25 Comparison of brick bonding tells the story of this 1911 extension. See also the discontinuity of dado brick.



Fig. 26 A fine example of Edwardian construction, including original curved frosted glass. Where would you get that from these days?

3.14.2 Elements of significance and authenticity

3.14.2.1 Much of the heritage value of the building lies in the extent and completeness of the detail, and the subtle variations that illustrate its story. Eg:

3.14.2.2 Brickwork: Spanning over half a century of brick manufacturing, dimensions and laying techniques and patterns have changed. Old imperial bricks tend to be larger and rougher, but immaculately well laid with perps perfectly aligned. The Oxford Street South end, where there were multiple revisions to the entry arrangements, demonstrates this well where the Milton Road elevation demonstrates how much care was taken to disguise the changes where a presentable elevation was required.

3.14.2.3 Internally the use of glazed bricks from 1891 to 1911 gives some significant insights eg the use of Flemish bond (alternating header and stretcher bricks to each course) (the most aesthetically satisfying but slightly more complicated bond particularly at openings) and English bond (alternating courses of all headers and all stretchers, and sometimes modified to three stretcher course to one header) (simpler, less expensive to lay but not so visually satisfactory). The Bath house is English Bond where the majority of other public spaces at least are Flemish.

3.14.2.4 In some areas the original polychrome brick patterns, dado skirting and cornice remain; elsewhere they have been simply painted over, with the potential for a maintenance-free option to strip back the paint. The high brown dado (eg in South-East entrance to the Dispensary and under the Washing Bath stairs) are good examples, and the potential survival of the diaper pattern to the high level gables in the Small Pool, as indicated in the archive photographs, is intriguing.

3.14.2.5 The moulded brown skirting brick has four reeds prior to the 1904 Turkish Bath where it has three, the central being a single fat one.

3.14.2.6 Terrazzo and mosaic tiled floor patterns.

3.14.2.7 Window frames and architraves mostly conform to a standard multi-moulded profile with moulded sub-cill, and where the frames are still unpainted the appearance is fully authentic.

3.14.2.8 The translucent glass panes occur in a variety of patterns. A fine swirling frosted pattern remains in many instances, but replacement with 'worm-cast' and other non-matching glass is regrettable but tells its own story. The curved frosted glass to the Turkish Bath corridor is particularly valuable.

3.14.2.9 Window furniture is also a valuable indicator, sash locks and lifts (for example the GWR-stamped pair in the first floor office) being particularly telling.

3.14.2.10 The set of decorative panels (glazed tiles in the Turkish Bath, bas-relief brick to the elevations) and the stained (coloured) glass windows and fixed lights are particularly of value, although the great South window or the Small Pool appears to have gone (might it still be found behind the blocking up?). The timber screen to the men's Turkish Bath and other screens and panels, now only visible around the pools in archive photographs, appear to have had decorative glass with them.

3.14.2.11 Several elements of quality joinery remain including some of the fitted units in the dispensary, now unfortunately painted over but probably of quality dark wood construction. It includes a full height, un-painted, moulded end panel, and one of the privacy sight screens now in the roof space above.

3.14.2.12 Doors and ironmongery are always most valuable indicators of authenticity. At the Health Hydro the principal external doors are all of high quality, although now only one set is fully used, the others being shackled as fire escape routes with panic bars and alarms and notices obscuring much of their original quality. Knobs, hinges and kick plates are largely authentic though. The five panel interior doors and some half-glazed and arch headed panel doors are, in many cases, still in original locations. Door ironmongery is often a give-away, and the beehive door knob and escutcheons here are no exception. However, it is significant to note that the selection of beehive knobs has continued for replacement and new doors too. This can confuse the authentication

process but the modern beehive style is distinctive by being crisper and more uniform. Modern beehive escutcheons are never used. Screw head-aligned hinges is another give away of un-relocated doors.

3.14.2.13 Signage throughout the Hydro is a conservation issue as modern functions require specific wordings, and the type, format, colour, style and size of signage is often laid down by officialdom. Hand-painted lettering is now a rarity and yet there are some good examples of appropriate modern signage that needs to be respected.

4.0 SIGNIFICANCES

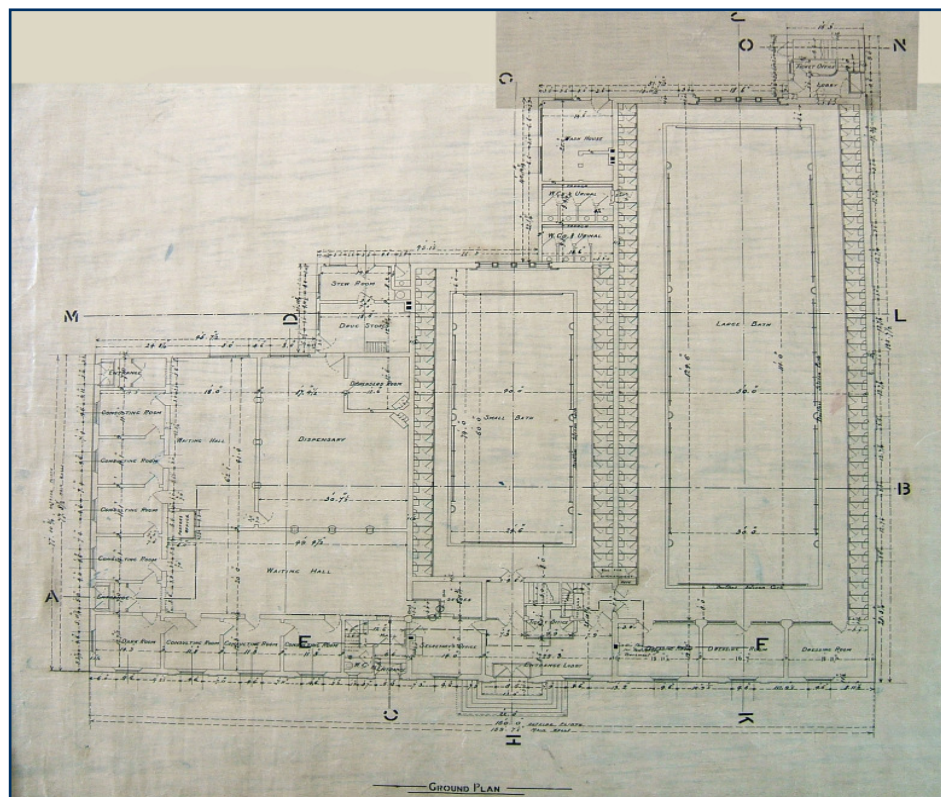


Fig. 27 The extensive detailed record of the building in original documents is matched on site.

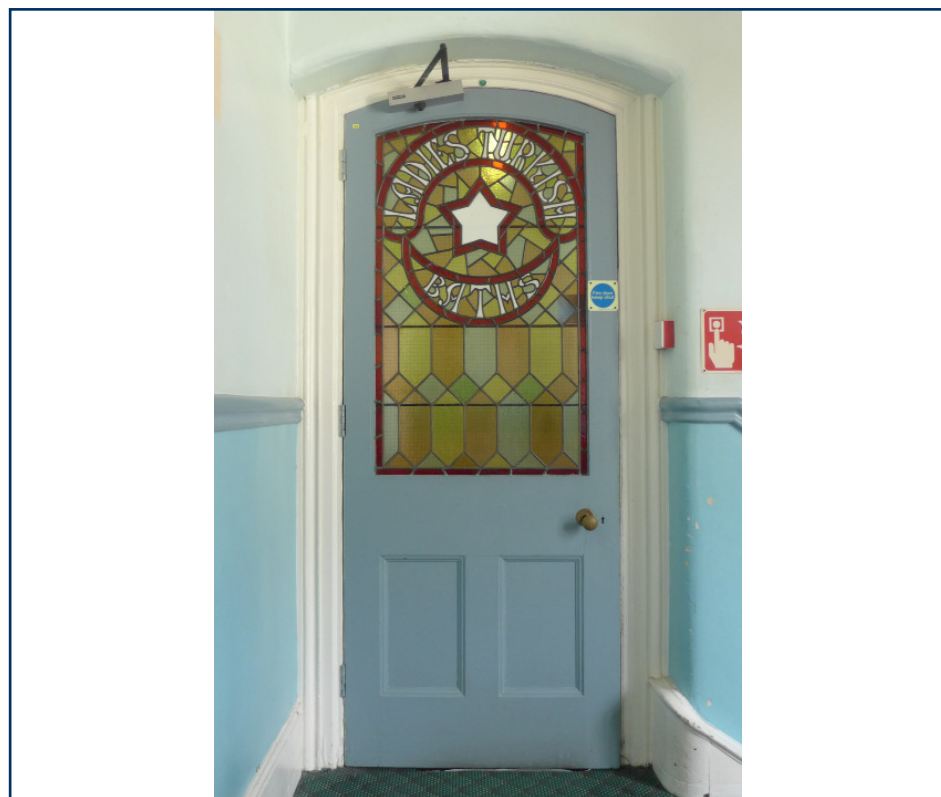


Fig. 28 The Ladies' suite of the World's oldest Victorian Turkish Bath no longer survives for that purpose but the door remains, although re-located.

4.1 The idea of 'significance' lies at the core of the analytical approach to constructive conservation set out in the Conservation Principles published by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 2008. Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a heritage asset. Heritage values, as defined by English Heritage, can be cultural (ie man made) or natural (ie natural), and fall into four primary and two sub categories: These are rarely exclusive and more often overlap.

1. Evidential value – original fabric
2. Historical value – a. Illustrative and b. Associative
3. Aesthetic value
4. Communal value

These are then rated by relative significance, (ie International, National, Local, Neutral and Negative) to offer a level of prioritisation to assist future planning. The criteria that are looked for include rarity, authenticity, completeness and representativeness.

Appendix 1-the List Description, last updated in 2000, outlines the significance of the building with respect to its current Grade II listing. By considering the 2008 EH Conservation Principles, the significance can be assessed thus:

The Swindon Health Hydro is significant on many counts.

4.1.1 EVIDENTIAL VALUE – Defined as 'the potential of a place to yield evidence of past human activity', and is related to the authenticity of the physical remains. At the Hydro the key issue is the completeness of its record. Whilst life 125 years ago is not unrecognisably distant, its very proximity can disguise the significance of the difference of the World and the conditions at that time.

Various areas, particularly the two swimming pools and the Turkish Bath due to the exposure of their original iron spanning roof trusses and the minimal change to their original use, convey direct and authentic evidence of past human activity and its equivalence to our own experience.

Two elements, however, are significantly different today from the earlier days: the cleanliness of the water supply and the sanitary condition of the waste disposal. The provision of public baths for bathing relates to an age when a private bath in one's own home was a rarity. The link between health sanitation and washing had been made some time before, but certainly in the early days of the new railway town of Swindon, conditions were quite primitive, and the lack of proper sanitation or clean water lead to considerable health problems and outbreaks of disease. Coupled with the general dirt and grime of the industrial processes being undertaken, the provision of public hot water bathing was highly desirable.

One element of considerable significance is that there remains on site the oldest surviving, continuously active Victorian-style Turkish Baths in Europe. Created by infilling the remainder of the city block site in 1905, the Turkish and Russian Baths have had a considerable history within the site. Initially there was a separate Ladies version on the first floor, being fed by the same basement boiler and next door to the first floor laundry.

The other major change in human activity that is clearly evident has been the gradual de-segregation of the sexes. The two separate swimming pools and the first floor ladies' Turkish Baths is evidence of this, as is the subdivision of the waiting room visible in an early historic photograph, and where the partitioning wall has clearly been removed.

4.1.2 HISTORICAL VALUE - ILLUSTRATIVE – The Hydro is highly significant for this

aspect connecting the late Victorian railway workers with today's populations by virtue of a common need for health and well-being. The continuous use of the site for much of its original intended purpose, illustrates clearly the changes in fashion, as well as social norms.

4.1.3 HISTORICAL VALUE - ASSOCIATIVE – This is where the Hydro is most significant in the association with the Medical Fund Society, a pioneering, enlightened mutual organisation providing health benefits to members (and others) before the days of statutory social health care, and providing a blueprint for it, that also sowed the seeds of its own demise.

The association with the GWR works as they became one of the foremost industrial sites in Europe if not the world is of essential significance to the building.

4.1.4 AESTHETIC VALUE – Many aspects of the Health Hydro are high on an aesthetic measure, whilst not of exceptional architectural interest with lavish decoration (as the Victoria Baths in Manchester) or ostentations exterior (as the near contemporary Jacob's Wells Baths in Bristol). Nevertheless, its very modesty is significant to its purpose as a sound and functional investment for the working community by the working community and created in the adjacent factory workshops.

There is no denying the aesthetic of the appearance of the family of unique trussed roofs clear-spanning the original halls and even the more functional iron trusses to the later bath house have a certain unadorned merit. These all contrast in an odd way with the heavy Victorian Tudor timber roofs to the Turkish Baths and changing rooms.

The other aesthetic of primary significance are the walls of glazed brickwork, perfectly functional, yet with a rigorous aesthetic of their own enlivened by cornice, dado and skirting elements, most surviving in near perfect condition.

The decorative stained glass is another case in point. Truly delightful (as a foil in an otherwise functional aesthetic), competent and confident, created by one of the railway draughtsmen, it does not have the true stamp of originality and verve, but again is in many ways better, more appropriate and valuable for it. Whether the window to the small pool survives behind its blocking-up is not proven, but doubtful.

4.1.5 COMMUNAL VALUE – Of primary significance too is the role the building and its functions have played in the past and continues, in revised circumstances, today. The current arrangements offer health and well-being opportunities to a non-exclusive general and largely local public, an important continuity in service to its community since the building was first opened. But equally there are many Swindonians for whom the facilities are a living memory and regular visits for the pools, Turkish Baths, washing baths and the NHS surgery, indeed within living memory it was the principal provider of all of these facilities in the town.

Of particular resonance are the memories of those who as small children would have learnt to swim, and charted their progression from the small to the large pool. Such a life-changing skill is always a memorable moment in a person's life and the opportunity to record some of these to help cement the communal value of the site should not be missed.

However, the overriding significance of the building is as a rare and pioneering community asset, created by the local community to serve the local community (and indeed others). Current research has not discovered an earlier equivalent anywhere, the next closest in their country being the Peckham Experiment of the late 1920s.



Fig. 29 The large pool drained and floored over and used as a WWI recovery hospital facility.



Fig. 30 Valuable souvenirs of by-gone therapy and the increasing presence of technology in health matters.

4.2 INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.2.1 The relationship between GWR and Swindon, and by association Isenbard Kingdom Brunel (IKB) is of international significance. The pioneering New Town founded by the GWR under the direction of IKB and Daniel Gooch, the industrial settlement grew to be at the forefront of the world explosion of the railways. Arising directly from this, and as a far-sighted innovative response to their situation, the Medical Fund Society was created and its great built legacy is the pioneering, multi-functional, city block filling building dedicated to the widest range of medical and health provisions for the community it served. No similar buildings are known of anywhere.

4.2.2 The Turkish Baths, known to be the oldest surviving, continuously working Victorian style example in Europe (if not the World).

4.3 NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.3.1 As a precursor to the National Health Service, the Swindon Health Hydro, under the Medical Fund in the mid-C20th was the perfect exemplar of a multi-function health provision, and the way to provide a degree of non-exclusive access by allowing non-GWR members and retirees, widows and children to join and benefit.

4.3.2 The continuous operation and use of the building largely for the purposes it was first built. The indoor swimming provision, the Turkish and Russian Baths, a public washing bath, and access to certain medical and therapeutic consultants eg physiotherapy. .

4.3.3 The building is full city block and the sequence of its construction is still evident.

4.3.4 Built in red brick (by that time the building boom had been so intense the local building stone and Box tunnel stone sources had dried up), the moderately restrained Queen Anne style elevations create a major contribution to the urban context (particularly as part of the earlier New Town and conservation area).

4.3.5 The family of iron trusses, along with many other smaller details, present a unique and significant example of craftsmanship, local to the site, but being GWR, of a very high and competent level, without being ostentatiously architectural.

4.3.6 There is a considerable amount of internal original fabric remaining, providing various areas with a solid experience of authenticity, including glazed brick walls, windows, doors, architraves, skirtings, ironmongery and glimpses of original tiled floors that may remain considerably more intact but are currently covered by carpet.

4.3.7 Of particular interest is the wealth and variety of signage, some authentic. However, the contrast with the full range of contemporary plastic and mass-produced signage is particularly marked in otherwise well-preserved interiors.

4.3.8 The fact that the SWHH is still visited, and is relatively popular throughout the day, is testament to the efforts of the operator to maintain the heritage asset in a working condition, and offer worthwhile attractions.

4.3.9 SWHH is one of the few remaining locations that still offer a public bath.

4.4 NEUTRAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.4.1 It is suggested that the recent graphic murals (in the dispensary and the small pool) are of neutral significance. Whilst very clearly products of their time, boldly conceived, meaning well (to enliven otherwise dull interiors) and competently executed, their effects are somewhat awkward and unsympathetic, contradictory and confusing to

the overall building. Applied to one wall out of four means that one or the other is out of place.

4.5 NEGATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

4.5.1 The gradual erosion of economic viability by the pull of more modern competition in the town, and the restrictions of working within an existing and historically valuable purpose-built structure.

4.5.2 The loss of the primary entrance off Faringdon Road and the lack of consistent maintenance has left the first impression and external impact of this uniquely important building poorly represented. Nevertheless, the busy nature of the current car usage of Farringdon Road is not conducive to individual pedestrian access.

4.5.3 The current entrance off Milton Road is relatively remote, and horribly compromised by traffic sign and street lampstand despite the pedimented entrance helping to celebrate it, and the transition from out to in is disappointing.

4.5.4 The entrance (bath) hall is compromised by blank partition intrusions either side and an awkwardly unresolved C20th staircase route at the far end.

4.5.5 Despite best efforts, there are some areas suffering from general deterioration and lack of maintenance, and, as so often, it is the more recent work that is starting to show up worst.

4.5.6 The closure and drainage of the small pool is a shame. It appears to have been particularly popular as a teaching pool, and having fond memories with many throughout the town.

4.5.7 The accretion of uncontrolled services, mini trunking etc is highly disfiguring to the visual appearance throughout, particularly in the Mall and wash-house, where such lack of consideration and respect leads to further lowering of the quality of the original interiors.

4.5.8 Uncontrolled signage and notices are particularly disfiguring.

4.5.9 External, unsympathetic, poor quality alterations.

5.0 RISKS and OPPORTUNITIES



Fig. 31 Contemporary servicing requirements.



Fig. 32 Over-layers of service trunking.



Fig. 33 More service intrusions.



Fig. 34 Original doorway virtually obliterated by services.



Fig. 35 Main entrance disguised by traffic etc signs.



Fig. 36 When lettering is good.

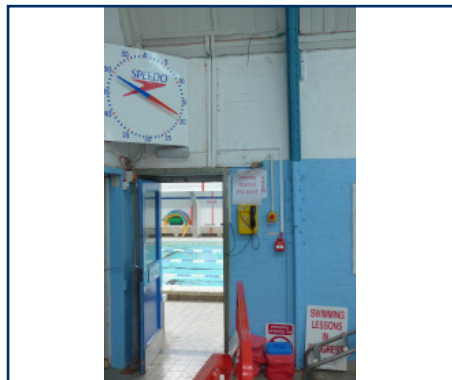


Fig. 37 A cacophony of signs and symbols.

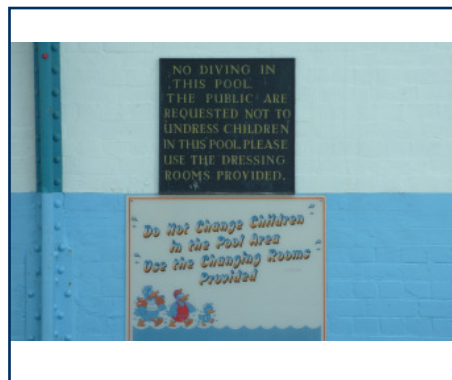


Fig. 38 Comparison of media and messages.

5.1 Generally

5.1.1 The purpose of this report is primarily to identify the values of the building as a heritage asset and not to look to the wider implications, market appraisal etc. The focus here is on the building itself and what might be best to preserve or enhance its significant conservation values. The elements of greatest significance, and so greatest risk, are the uniqueness of the combination of functions on the site, the sociological nature of the team that created it and the completeness of what remains, the story it can show and the records that support the story.

5.1.2 Economics are not considered, beyond observing that pools generally are hard to make economically viable on their own due to their high servicing demand.

5.1.3 Risks to the significance are in three types: declining use, declining physical condition and major or incremental unsympathetic alteration. They are often interrelated.

5.2 Declining use

5.2.1 The Health Hydro today is an adaptation of a purpose-designed set of structures started over 125 years ago. The living conditions, the life and expectations of the original creators are remote and very different from ours today, and yet the basic functions of the building are as relevant as ever: health, fitness, recreation.

5.2.2 Firstly, the captive audience of the railway workers on their daily commute to the works has gone, and the closure of the works has shifted the centre of the town, and car use has negatively impacted the accessibility and setting of the building.

5.2.3 Then the National Health Service has removed the principal use of one section of the building with only a few complementary consultancies remaining. There are no longer doctors, dentists, opticians or pharmacists at the premises. The dispensary area has had to re-invent itself to adapt and change to survive and the loss of primary health from the building is unlikely to be reversed.

5.2.4 The resulting adaptations in the Mall have necessarily resulted in awkward spaces and a loss of interpretation.

5.2.5 In addition, the increasing rise in general living standards has reduced the requirement of public washing facilities to a barely supportable minimum.

5.2.6 Finally, Swimming and Turkish Bath popularity, however, have not diminished, although any expected additional requirement due to the significant increase in the town's population numbers is more than offset by competition from an increasing number of more up-to-date facilities with better access on offer throughout the catchment.

5.3 Physical condition

5.3.1 Whilst the basic structure of the building, as often for this building type and age, is sound, the high usage, high servicing demand with both plant and chemicals, and far from optimum design (being an adaptation of an older structure) are elements that require significant maintenance measures on a constant basis. (Refer also to the Planned Preventative Maintenance Report 2017 for GLL by Trident Building Consultancy.)

5.3.2 In addition, if and when areas become redundant or unused, deterioration of the fabric is exacerbated. For example the Faringdon Road entrance is, understandably, redundant, as an entrance at least, and it leads to a un-occupied appearance to the detriment of the complex as a whole.

5.4 Alterations

5.4.1 As noted elsewhere, the primary structure is, on the whole, robust and of low maintenance fabric (eg glazed brickwork). However, due to the particularity of the original design, clearly appropriate for an earlier, and so different, modus operandi, alterations and modifications have accumulated over time. The 1960s' re-organisation was essential at the time acknowledging both the changing patterns of use and expectations of users. Modern materials and workmanship have a tendency to be of a different class to those represented by the builders of the original complex, particularly so in the 1960s with the post-war boom and modernist aesthetic (anathema to the past).

5.4.2 Viable investment in an over-provided market, economically maintaining a high quality fabric but not one ideal for the functional requirements of today, is hard to match the primary investment by a booming and growing world-class enterprise that founded the building originally.

6.0 Opportunities

6.1 Generally

6.1.1 Behind every risk is often an opportunity and the Health hydro is no exception. The quality of the primary structures, glazed brick walls, iron frame roof trusses etc allow significant opportunities for continuing the longevity of the building and incorporating more interpretation of the story behind it.

6.1.2 But part of the significant story is in the changes and developments that have happened in the past due to changing circumstances, pressures, fashions etc. Therefore there is a significant opportunity for change to continue, but change that must be managed with respect to the history and significance of the building and its creators.

6.1.3 The exterior of the building is an attractive design, particularly to the two main street elevations. However, today it appears dead, with the main entrance hard to determine. Attention to the presentation of these elements would give a clear message to passers-by that the complex is very much alive and open for business.

6.1.4 Internally the opportunity exists to improve the experience of the user, from resolving the awkwardness of the 1960s' interventions in the entrance hall, to improving the interpretation of the history of the buildings, to considering the long term maintenance, materials and colour scheme for the various spaces and integrating the signage to further enhance the story of the building.

6.1.5 There is a major opportunity to restore the Small Pool to at least a teaching pool for the local schools' use.

6.1.6 An opportunity not to be missed is for a group to be set up, and responsible to capture and keep record of, the memories and anecdotes etc of those who have used the pools and other facilities in the past, particularly the older generations whose memories will be of very different times. This can be done with physical means, collecting items such as a scrap book, or audio and video interviews or tapes to be collected and curated. The initiative needs a champion, some body to keep it going, and to which this Conservation Plan can act as a starter. As Swindon has re-invented itself since the closure of the railway works, so its heritage is becoming a valuable asset for the future.

6.0 CONSERVATION POLICIES

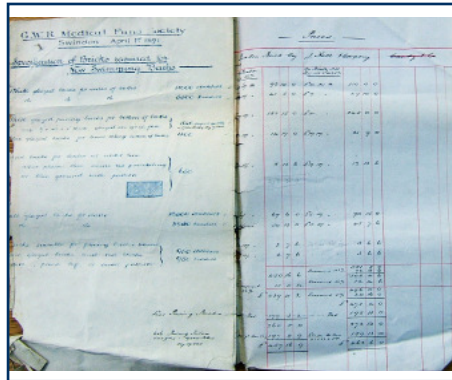


Fig. 39 The original order for bricks 1891.

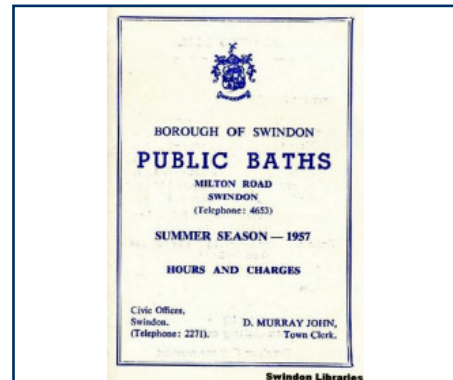


Fig. 40 A continuity of records already exists.

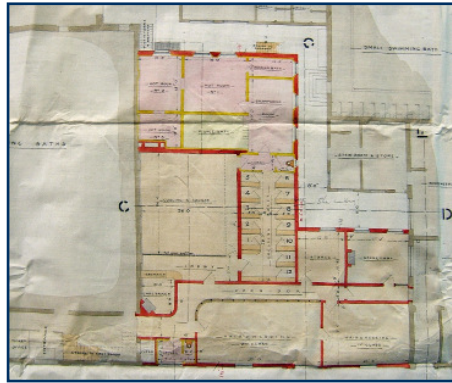


Fig. 41 Original drawings give a unique insight.

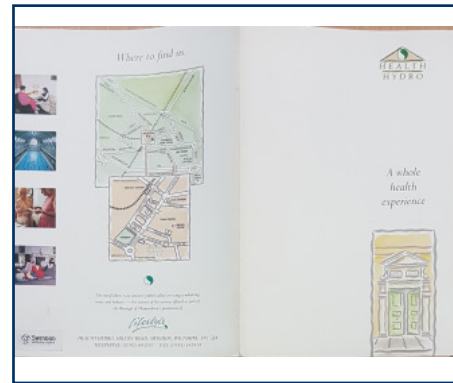


Fig. 42 The journey continues.



Fig. 43 A unique facility and opportunity to revive not to be missed.

6.1 General

6.1.1 Conservation policies need to reflect the issues of how best to preserve or enhance the heritage significances of the site as controlled by legislation under the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings etc.) Act and advised by the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework. Whilst the policies devised here may appear to be in an heirarchical order, it is not exclusive or exhaustive, merely indicative of the relative value attached to any issue at risk.

6.1.2 Indeed the ranking of significances is relative and not an exact measure, for example does the significance of GWR Railway Works as an element in the Great Britain and Brunel world heritage story, and the part played by the Health Hydro in that, precede the value of the national significance of the Hydro as an exemplar for the National Health Service?

6.1.3 The principal of the Conservation Plan is to manage change, initially to preserve or enhance those aspects of value where possible.

6.1.4 The major heritage values of the Swindon Health Hydro reside in its initial conception as a multi-function health and leisure centre, offering the wide range of health functions with swimming pools, washing baths and a Turkish bath, all on one site, and the enlightened sociological organisation by which this could come about, namely the early contributory health insurance-type arrangement promoted by the Mechanics Institute on behalf of the workers and available to non-workers as well.

6.1.5 Architecturally the building is not outstanding but is a handsome and well-considered element within its urban block. The value of the building lies in the completeness of what survives and how it can reveal the story of its own evolution over a century and a quarter, especially coupled with a rich archive of documents and living memories.

6.1.6 Of significance is the continuity of use for functions that are still valued today, ie swimming, Turkish and Russian baths, public washing facilities and complementary medical consultancies. The pools are possibly the 27th oldest surviving in the UK, the Turkish Baths are reputedly the oldest continuously working of their type in the World and the washing facilities amongst the rarest of their kind in the country. As a multi-function site, it is a unique survivor.

6.2 Suggested conservation policies

1. Retain the Health Hydro as a working and going concern

1.1. The first policy should be to maintain the continuity of appropriate uses on the site. With use comes care and maintenance which is the best insurance policy against neglect and decay. Also, it works to retain those feelings of familiarity and ownership that can bind and enliven a community and encourage intergenerational memories.

2. Develop and promote sustainable uses for the site, existing where possible, new where appropriate, to conserve and maintain the special heritage qualities.

2.1. Currently the economic viability of much of the site is a concern affecting the longer term survival of the site as a whole. Its value as an historic multi-function venue should be preserved and enhanced by seeking to develop opportunities for public use and interaction, and promote all aspects that the site offers as widely as possible to improve and maintain attendance and public interest.

2.2 Promoting the existing historic functions should be the initial task, but where these are unreasonable, finding appropriate new uses that might

sustain and harmonise with the traditional ones should be considered. There are four large covered spaces, any one of which might be usable for a range of alternative functions given an imaginative and creative brief. (After all, the large pool was used as a hospital ward during the war and the pool drained and floored over for meetings, concerts and political rallies.) Such activities should not be permanent fixtures but designed to retain and aim to increase the audience and those who interact with the building.

3. Restore the original Small Pool and support facilities in line with 2 above

3.1. Closure of the Small Pool due to technical problems is a significant blow to the viability offering of the site. As a teaching pool it would appear to have no rival in the Swindon catchment. Young users today are those with fond and supportive memories for the future, as well as providing a service to the community that the pool has previously long provided.

4. Develop further awareness of the history, social and physical, of the Hydro and its unique contribution to the world class legacy of Swindon by further research and archival investigation

4.1. A Conservation Plan is not intended to be an ultimate research document, but should identify where further research would be useful. The amount and quality of the archive at the Chippenham museum is part of the major value of the historic record provided by the building. The history and legacy of the Medical Fund Society along with that of the Mechanics Institute from which it developed is of more than mere local significance. The impact and potential use of the health provision as a blueprint for the NHS is a key moment in this history. And, in the same way, we are today living through the dawn of a new global industrial information age so there are equivalents to consider from the story of Swindon and its rise to pre-eminence, as a sort of silicon valley of the railway age.

5. Promote awareness of the history, development and underlying forms of the site and structures by interpretation

5.1. All the above issues, taken together, lead to a unique story embedded in the building itself and its attendant archives and the memories of many local Swindonians. This is a rare and valuable resource that could be tapped to inform future schemes for the revitalising of the site.

7.0 SIGNIFICANCE to CONSERVATION POLICIES TABLE

	Significances	Risks	Opportunities
International			
1	Part of Swindon's World Class legacy	Lack of sustainable interest leads to further neglect and closure	To promote its history, and use if restored
2	Oldest surviving continuously used Victorian style Turkish baths	Further inappropriate modernisations	Retain, maintain and widely promote their special qualities
National			
3	Pioneering multi-functional health facility	Loss of range of provision (eg particularly consultants and private bath/shower)	To restore a functioning facility within the existing framework
4	Created by the workforce for themselves (and others)	Marginalisation of the role of the Medical Fund and Mechanics Institute	To promote the history and encourage local involvement and pride
5	A blueprint for the NHS	Further privatisation leading to an exclusive membership	Consider any potential for mutual benefit to be offered
6	A building complex still much in its original use	Further changes to traditional original uses	Consider retaining and restoring more of the multi-functional use but widen scope to include potential for alternative uses (such as flooring over the pools for roller skating, discos concerts rallies etc)
7	Some original signage remaining	Loss of original features	Consider a building-wide approach to signage
8	The building complex created and defines a full urban block	Partial redevelopment of the site	Retain as is
9	A brick building of restrained but appropriately visibly ornate Queen Anne style	Further deterioration due to lack of maintenance	Repair and enhance the façades (eg by well-considered lighting)
10	Self-built' iron trusses from the GWR workshops	Obscuring (eg for building regulations, fire or thermal requirements) or suspended ceilings or otherwise demolition	Refurbish and re-colour
11	Substantial original fabric remaining in the interiors	Upset the prime quality of the site and setting by ill-conceived development	General interior refurbishment/redecoration (eg consider stripping paint from glazed bricks to reduce maintenance and restore original impact)
12	Functional polychrome glazed brick internal surfaces (with integral cornice dado and skirting)	Further unsympathetic alteration or needless removal	Ditto
13	The continuing clientel	Loss of regular and consistent clientel through paucity of offering	Continue to provide for the stalwart clientel but encourage a new audience too
14	The local memories	Missing the opportunity to capture and record	Continue to collect memories while still available, and promote awareness by interpretation
15	Public bath and shower facilities still offered	Loss of facility	Retain and promote the resource
Neutral			
16	The two large scale graphic murals are of significant local interest but are out of character with the building itself	Ill-considered treatment or replacing with nothing or something worse	Consider integrated interior schemes
Negative			
17	Erosion of economic viability	The lazy do-nothing non-creative option	Concentrate and develop the resources there are, create new interest and make more attractive
18	Loss of primary entrance off Faringdon Road	Further deterioration due to prevailing conditions	Restore entrance or consider other creative way for it to provide self promotion (eg lighting)
19	Poor condition and presentation of Farringdon Rd (north) elevation and pavement Building looks dead	Self-perpetuating decline	Repair and maintain the façade and enliven the appearance Consider improving traffic signage
20	Milton Road entrance a poor experience, remote partially hidden, uninviting and disappointing	Self-perpetuating decline	Repair and maintain the façade and enliven the appearance Consider improving traffic signage Redesign the lobby and entrance doors
21	Traffic cut off to the two principal entrance facades	Traffic intensification on these routes	Consider improving the pedestrian, wheelchair and cyclist approach
22	Entrance hall is very awkward, strange and unattractive with blank partition walls and flying screens	Poor quality first impression leading to lack of get up and go	Re-design this space to be more attractive and welcoming
23	General maintenance poor in parts	Self-perpetuating decline	Undertake regular responsive maintenance
24	The closure and draining of the Small Pool due to leak and asbestos contamination	Loss of favourite pool leading to general reduction in other facilities and inevitable closure	Restore the pool to use and consider secondary complementary uses for the space
25	Accretion of haphazard and disfiguring surface mounted services, trunking etc	Self-perpetuating decline	Undertake a significant overhaul of all surface fixtures
26	Uncontrolled low quality modern signage	Further deterioration due to lack of respect	Consider a building-wide approach to new signage
27	External unsympathetic, poor quality alterations	Further deterioration due to prevailing conditions	Remove, reduce, re-integrate

	Conservation Policies <small>(see pp 17)</small>
1	Retain the Health Hydro as a working and going concern.
2	Develop and promote sustainable uses for the site, existing where possible, new where appropriate, to conserve and maintain the special heritage qualities.
3	Restore the original Small Pool and support facilities in line with 2 above
4	Develop further awareness of the history, social and physical, of the Hydro and its unique contribution to the world class legacy of Swindon by further research and archival investigation.
5	Promote awareness of the history, development and underlying forms of the site and structures by interpretation

1.0 Current room name / number

G1 Entrance

1.1 Description/history

Low ceilinged ramped access through original panelled entrance doors. Modern finishes, un-considered and uninviting.

Separate main entrance off Milton Road to washing bath house of 1898. Originally supplementary to the main complex entrance off Faringdon Street, since the 1963 alterations and refurbishments it has become the primary entrance to the site. The original arrangement as indicated on the historical plans, can be seen from the cornice fragments remaining on the original ceiling above the 1960s suspended one.

1.2 Significance

High as original Bath House entrance and now primary entrance.

Negative in presentation and loss of coherence.

1.3 Risks and Opportunities

Its low impact as the primary entrance risks continuing overlooking for maintenance.

The opportunity exists to reconsider its design and appearance to become both significantly welcoming, and with a better reference to the earlier form. Why side window blocked?

1.4 Walls

Plaster painted.

1.5 Ceiling

Plasterboard painted. A down-stand beam runs across on the line of the original screen perhaps.

1.6 Floor

Ramped gridded entrance matting.

1.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Original external pair of doors, 3no bolection moulded r+f panels per leaf. Blanked off fan light over.

Pair full panel glazed inner doors, floor springs and electric hold open. Original doorway was not central but off-set to the S providing some privacy to the bath cubicles beyond.

Blocked adjacent viewing window. 4 panel quirk quadrant, side door.

Torus skirting and architraves pre-1963.

1.8 Fittings

Modern handrails, notices and signage; 'Health Hydro' in oversized sans serif plastic lettering; fire panel and plans, minii trunking etc.; brass plaque commemorating refurb of 1963

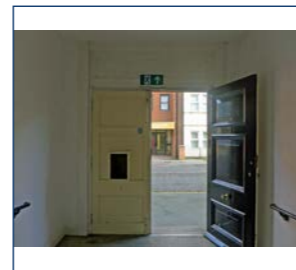
1.9 Misc.

Current room name / number

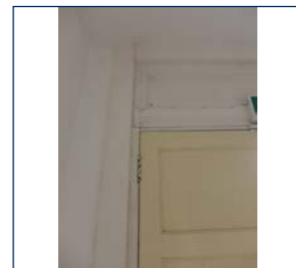
2.0 Current room name / number

G2 Entrance Hall

2.1 Description/history



G1(1)



G1(13)



G1(3)



G1(9)



G1(5)



G1(12)

Large double height space with plain Howe trusses and central glazed roof lights. Plain original glazed brick walls. Single height partitioning to N and S, west end, with odd double height panels surrounding end stairs. Partitioning possibly original cubicle walls. More investigation required. Modern reception desk to N and seating area to S with modern wood effect and carpeted floor.

Originally the washing bath house, the first major addition to the bathing pools and dispensary 7 years after its opening. Contained 59 cubicles (4 rows of 12, 1 of 11, an asymmetrical 5row layout.)

2.2 Significance

High for its original construction and open appearance, (particularly if some of the internal partitions are original) also preserving a (minimum) public bathing and shower facility. Some vestiges of the original bath layouts remain, and more might be discovered under the floor coverings.

Negative for the poorly conceived modern interventions that do not help orientation or interpretation.

2.3 Risks and Opportunities

As the primary entrance space there is uncontrolled clutter and a general lack of pride in the surroundings, risking further disconnection.

A significant opportunity to provide a much more imaginative, insformative and welcoming experience making the most of the considerable original fabric that remains.

2.4 Walls

Glazed brick in English bond and vousoired segmental arch windows S. Compound ceiling cornice N and S Painted single storey partitions on line of various original cubicle walls.

2.5 Ceiling

Original simple iron Howe roof truss, angles in compression rods in tension. Diagonal boarded sloping ceilings and multiple pane, dual pitch, central glazed roof light.

2.6 Floor

Wood effect bay, flotex carpet.

2.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Original segmental headed 4 light 3 pane windows S and high level small pane clerestory windows N, E end.

Doors – modern flush or full frame glazed.

Architraves and skirtings,- plain modern.

2.8 Fittings

Appropriate, modern circular pendent downlights.

2.9 Misc.

Swindon Dolphin ASC trophy cabinet by stairs. Dark wood, glass doors.

3.0 Current room name / number

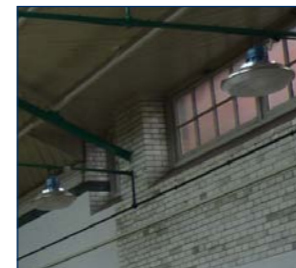
G3 Office, G4 Store

3.1 Description/history

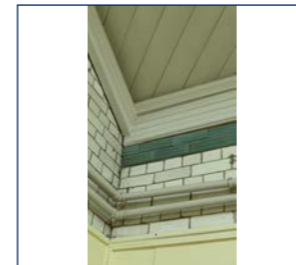
Part of the entrance route to the 1898 washing baths hall, now subdivided. Original window compromised by partition and suspended ceiling.



G2(1)



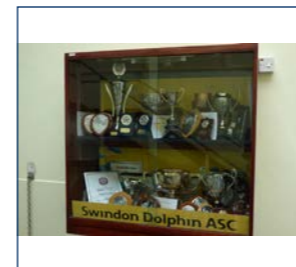
G2(5)



G2(3)



G2(4)



G2(2)



G3(3)

3.2 Significance

Little in its current configuration. The original axial opening to the S baths corridor is indicated by the W wall doorway reveal.

3.3 Risks and Opportunities

A very busy space and functional use with little appreciation of its original form.

Suspended ceiling adjacent gives access to view the original corniced plaster ceilings indicating original partition layouts (although evidence is surprising and not clear, indicating intermediate arrangements even an angled partition). A more authentic layout with full room height might be achieved.

3.4 Walls

Painted plaster with stud wall to North.

3.5 Ceiling

Suspended ceiling below original lath and plaster multiple moulding corniced ceiling.

3.6 Floor

Carpet.

3.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Original six light casement upper pair quartered part obscured by ceiling and E wall. Varied obscure and clear glass with unique 'celtic' pattern top S pair. Architrave – WC1 plus cill moulding

W door - flush with vision panel. Door is centred in much wider opening reveal; architrave - plain chamfer (later than N door)

N door – flush with vision panel covered; architrave - quadrant.

Skirting plain. Runs into wide W reveal and returns.

3.8 Fittings

Surface mini-trunking. Wooden perimeter shelving in store.

4.0 Current room name/number

G5 First Aid

4.1 Description/history

Single partitioned cell, modern construction, no ceiling.

4.2 Significance

N wall approximates to position of original bath cubicle, but shorter than 2 cubicles long.

4.3 Risks and Opportunities

Isolated unit has little relevance.

Opportunity to integrate into a better interpretative scheme.

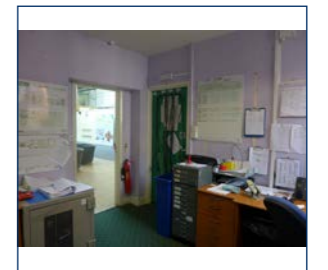
4.4 Walls

Modern plastered partitions and lining to glazed outside walls.

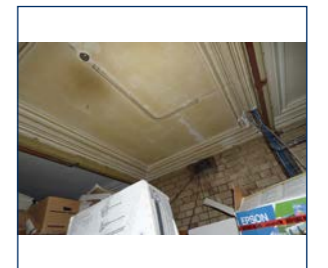
4.5 Ceiling

Open with timber joist lattice.

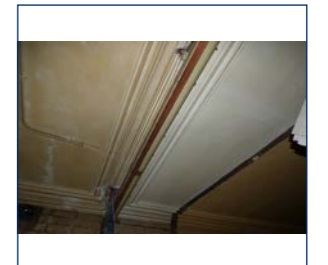
4.6 Floor



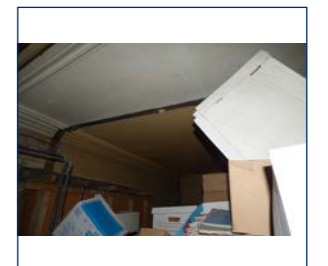
G3(4)



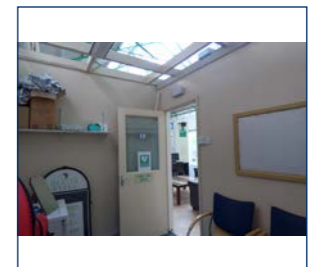
G4(1)



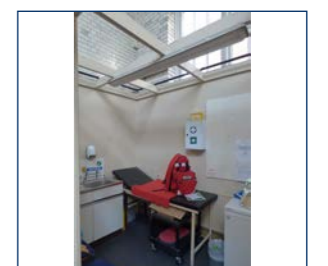
G4(2)



G4(3)



G5(2)



G5(3)

Carpet on solid.

4.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Door – plain flush modern, with gwpp vision panel
Architraves and skirting – plain modern .

4.8 Fittings

Modern sink unit

4.9 Misc.



G5(6)

**5.0 Current room name/number
G6-14 Public /Bath and Showers**

5.1 Description/history

Single storey partitions with individual toilet, shower, bath, laundry and other facilities off central corridor. Modern tiling, doors, finishes and open grille (Formalux) ceiling.

5.2 Significance

Main E-W corridor is on line of original washing baths corridor and many of the doorways may be in original locations. E.g G10,11,15,16 and 18 represent original cubicles and 12,13,17 and 19 could be two cubicles knocked into one. G14 joins end two cubicles across the corridor, with non original double doors to outside. More investigation needed.

5.3 Risks and Opportunities

The poor condition of much of the new tiling and finishes, and lack of interpretation could lead to further erosion of significance.

The opportunity exists to reconsider the range and incorporate more interpretive information.

5.4 Walls

Mostly modern tiling with coloured dado and dado bands (referencing original glazed brick patterns elsewhere, but in institutional blues and grey). G17 and 19 painted plaster finish.

5.5 Ceiling

Modern Formalux open grid, part incomplete, and except plasterboard in G10,11 and 14

5.6 Floor

Modern quarry tile except sheet flooring in G16-19.

5.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Small non-original metal framed vent windows to G10 and 11.

Doors – modern pressed 6 panel effect doors

Ledged and braced pair of doors to outside from G14.

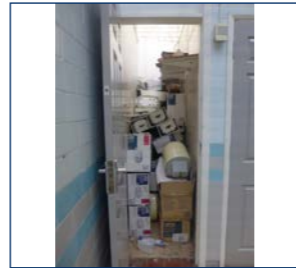
5.8 Fittings

Sanitary fittings, showers and a bath in G10-15. G14 with washing machine equipment.

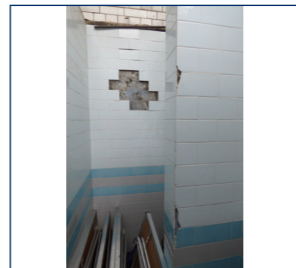
5.9 Misc.



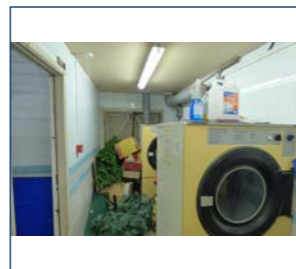
G6(1)



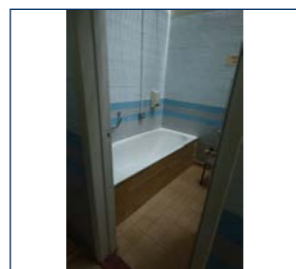
G7(2)



G8(1)



G14(1)



G15(1)

**6.0 Current room name / number
G 20 Store – no access**

6.1 Description/history

6.2 Significance

..

6.3 Risks and Opportunities

..

6.4 Walls

..

6.5 Ceiling

..

6.6 Floor

..

6.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

..

6.8 6.8. Fittings

.

6.9 6.9. Misc.

**7.0 Current room name/number
G21-23 Boiler room, workshop and refuse space.**

7.1 Description/history

Functional service rooms, painted brick outer walls, block internal partitions, bunded concrete floor, steel joisted ceiling to inserted floor over.

Ground floor of the original washing baths tower.

7.2 Significance

High as part of the 1898 washing baths addition.

7.3 Risks and Opportunities

Overrun with contemporary plant

Opportunity as the most appropriate space for modern plant.

7.4 Walls

Painted English bond brickwork outer walls, painted concrete blockwork internal partitions.

7.5 Ceiling

Steel joisted

7.6 Floor

Painted concrete

7.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Later inserted louvred openings and windows to G135.

Doors – plain flush connecting doors. Louvred door to outside. Roller shutter to street.

7.8 Fittings

Boiler and plant equipment in G21. Further control panels and metal ladder to first floor in G22. Ducts pipes wires cables etc.

7.9 Misc.

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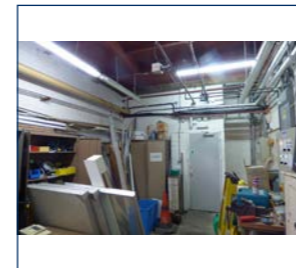
8.0 Current room name/number



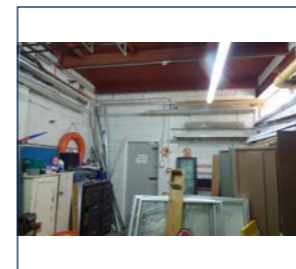
G19(1)



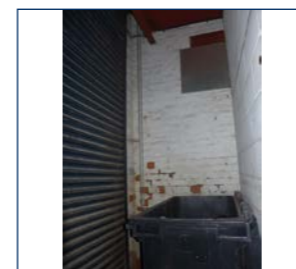
G21(2)



G22(1)



G22(2)



G23(1)

G24 Pump room

8.1 Description/history

Service plant room for major pump installation.
Part of the original washing baths space (G2)

8.2 Significance

A significant part of the 1960 revising and upgrading, major structural intervention. Some original floor tiling still remains on S wall.

8.3 Risks and Opportunities

As a primary service space little remains of its original use or function.

Little opportunity except for some superficial interpretation and signage.

8.4 Walls

Original glazed brick in poor condition with painted plastered walls S and E.

8.5 Ceiling

Structural beams and painted plastered soffit

8.6 Floor

Mostly painted or raw concrete with iron/steel access covers, but a strip of original perimeter tiling remains on S wall.

8.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Doors – modern flush.

8.8 Fittings

Pumps etc and control panels, fluorescent lighting.

8.9 Misc.

**9.0 Current room name/number
G25 Tank room**

9.1 Description/history

Single storey, open ceilinged, screened plant area.
Part of the original washing baths hall.

9.2 Significance

Sitting on the footprint of about 10 original cubicles and the side aisle, this area has a fair representation of original floor tiling still evident to the perimeter where not replaced by concrete.

9.3 Risks and Opportunities

A compromised insertion into the washing baths hall, its continuation in the space risks not being able to reorder it.

The opportunity to make functional use of this area has great potential.

9.4 Walls

Glazed brick to S, others painted single storey portioning, blockwork with buttress pilasters to N.

9.5 Ceiling

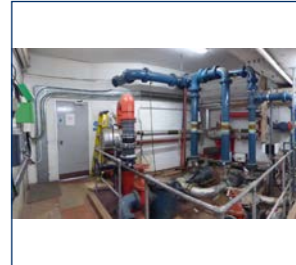
None!

9.6 Floor

Part red tile, part concrete (under tanks) with a variable



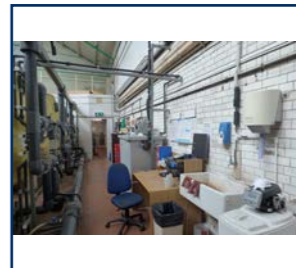
G24(1)



G24(2)



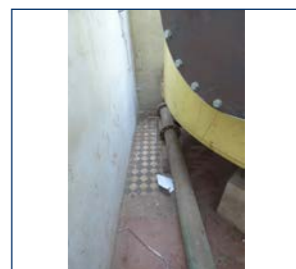
G24(3)



G25(1)



G25(2)



G25(4)

perimeter of original tiles.

9.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Door – modern flush

Architrave and skirting – modern plain

9.8 Fittings

Two characterful (redundant) early bakelite wall mounted dials and gauges. Otherwise modern dosing controls, pipes ducts and wiring.



G25(7)

9.9 Misc.

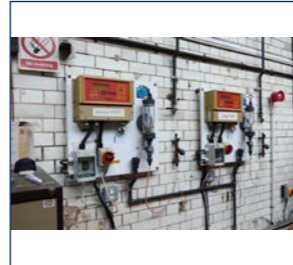
10.0 Current room name / number

G26-27 Reception office and cupboard

10.1 Description/history

Modern partitioning to ancillary rooms

Part of the late C20th alterations and facelift.



G25(11)

10.2 Significance

Negative if only because the area was originally the corridor and not a cubicle, and contributes to the asymmetry of the current hall.

10.3 Risks and Opportunities

The opportunity exists to re-view the whole hall layout and presentation to make it more informative and attractive.

10.4 Walls

Painted plaster partitioning..

10.5 Ceiling

Painted plasterboard

10.6 Floor

Carpet

10.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Door - plain modern flush.

10.8 Fittings

None.

10.9 Misc.

11.0 Current room name / number

G28, 29 Turkish Baths rest room and ante room

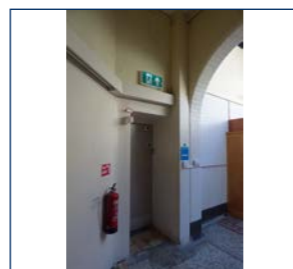
11.1 Description/history

Painted walls below dark painted decorated heavy timber trussed roof-lit ceiling to main room.

The Turkish Baths complex was created in 1905 as an infill between the Dispensary (1891) and Washing Baths (1898). G28 was originally a snug bay off the main hall with its own fireplace (now concealed). The entrance to the Turkish Bath suite was directly of corridor G54 at the time G2 was fully fitted with washing bath cubicles. Direct access from G2 from C20th allows controlled entrance from reception, although in no way visually celebrated.



G28(1)



G28(3)

11.2 Significance

Highest significance, as part of the world's oldest surviving working Victorian Turkish Baths of its type with considerable original fabric in evidence.

11.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of the space and function being under-appreciated and being overlain with ill-matching contemporary features.

The opportunity for the area to be lightly adapted to incorporate information and more interpretation.



G28(4)

11.4 Walls

Paint to plaster in G28, and paint over (probably) glazed brick in Flemish bond with moulded dado, in the hall G29.

11.5 Ceiling

Black painted boards to sloping soffits with heavy wooden, decorated Victorian-mediaeval wall braced trusses with continuous, glazed double pitched roof light.

11.6 Floor

High quality original terrazzo with patterned borders and centrepiece.



G29(3)

11.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window – internal segmental arched 16 light fixed casement. Door – Inappropriate modern unprepossessing door in modern cut opening into lobby. Full arch into G29, segmental arch into G30 and modern square cut way through to G40.

Skirting – Moulded and coved dark glazed brick skirting.



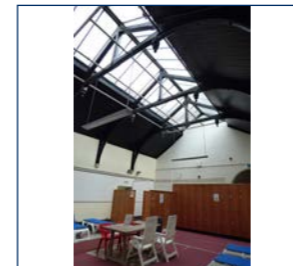
G29(6)

11.8 Fittings

Overpainted glazed brick chimney breast with moulded head in G29, fireplace missing.

Marble bench/slab on three vitrified clay supports raised on concrete plinths in G28.

Modern veneered timber entrance partition screen with lockers, close to original screen location but compromising the floor pattern.



G29(7)

11.9 Misc.

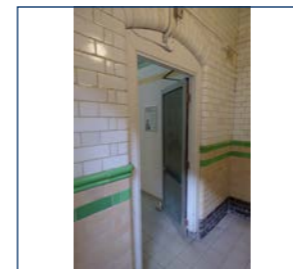
12.0 Current room name/number

G30 Lobby and WC

12.1 Description/history

Fully glazed brick passage and cubicle with buff dado and moulded and plain green rail, dark skirting and two tone cornice.

Original part of 1905 corridor between baths and rest area.



G30(1)

12.2 Significance

Highly significant as very little altered..

12.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of continuing maintenance. New floor over tiling has raised level and required reducing of door, and cutting back of skirting coving. Door frames cut back above damp risk level, and outer door frame (possibly not original) marked by cut dado rail.

Opportunity to restore missing door and provide rot-proof door frame plintis.



G30(2)

12.4 Walls

Glazed brick throughout. Voussoired segmental arched doorways.

12.5 Ceiling

Flat plaster painted..

12.6 Floor

Modern buff quarry tiles over laid on terrazzo.



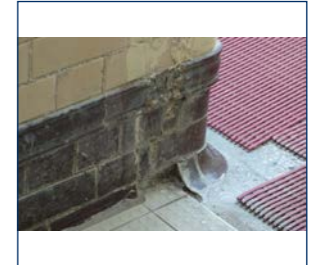
G30(3)

12.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Door - authentic 4 panel to WC (cut cill for overtiling floor).

Modern metal glazed two panel door to G31 in timber frame.

Painted blanked off panel to original door from D41



G30(4)

12.8 Fittings

Recent WC suite..

12.9 Misc.

13.0 Current room name / number

G31 and 38 Ante room to Turkish Baths and WC

13.1 Description/history

Fully glazed brick perimeter with two-tone cornice. Modern plain tiled insertions including raised shower area with early cage type needle shower, otherwise modern sanitary ware. Significant intrusion of reflective foiled pipework.

Space little altered from original. Russian Bath in NE corner simplified and re-aligned. WC added.



G31(1)

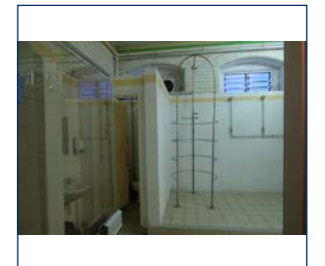
13.2 Significance

Highly significant as considerably un-altered.

13.3 Risks and Opportunities

Modern functional intrusions are losing the clarity and authenticity of the original.

Opportunity to control the intrusions and



G31(2)

13.4 Walls

Glazed brick with modern tile lining up to over-door height and feature band.

13.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster

13.6 Floor

Buff quarry tile over lay.



G31(3)

13.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

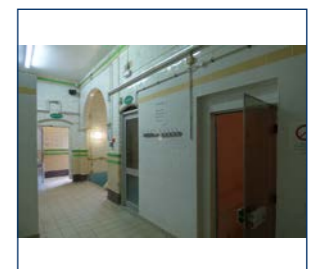
Windows – 2 high level, segmental headed louvred windows into G132.

Doors – Modern metal two panel door on to hot rooms, Frameless glass doors to Russian and Steam rooms, Authentic 4 panel timber door to WC and modern flush door to outside.

WC moulded door architrave and frame suffering from rising damp.

13.8 Fittings

Mostly modern with older cage type needle shower.



G31(4)

Hand-painted gilded and shadowed lettered signs in green oval.

13.9 Misc.

14.0 Current room name/number G32, 33 Plunge pools

14.1 Description/history

Plunge and soaking pools side by side in glazed brick space with internal window to rest hall, and modern mosaic tile lining.

Original to the 1905 design

14.2 Significance

Highly significant as part of the original conception.

14.3 Risks and Opportunities

Modern mosaic lining in blue reduce the authenticity of the experience. The brass hand-rail is particularly welcome in stead of the ubiquitous modern stainless steel.

Opportunity to investigate original pool lining .

14.4 Walls

Glazed brick in Flemish bond with two-tone cornice, with modern mosaic lining to pools.

14.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

14.6 Floor

Modern mosaic tile lining to pools.

14.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window – see above. Glazed brick voussoired segmental arch.

Doorway – full glazed brick, voussoired arch to pools.

14.8 Fittings

Brass hand rails to outer wall each pool.

14.9 Misc.

15.0 Current room name / number G35,36 and 37 Turkish Baths hot rooms

15.1 Description/history

Sequence of three glazed brick hot rooms, increasing in intimacy and heat, G35 and 36 with glazed decorative feature panels in segmental headed window reveals.

15.2 Significance

Highly significant as the complement to the rest of the provision for the railway workers as provided by the Medical Fund, and still in operation today.

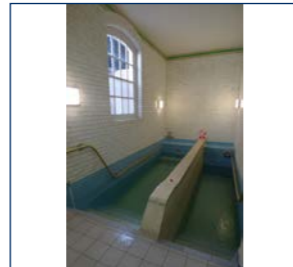
15.3 Risks and Opportunities

The risk of closure is fundamental. Whilst it may not be envisaged in any reasonable future scenario it must be accounted for in disaster planning.

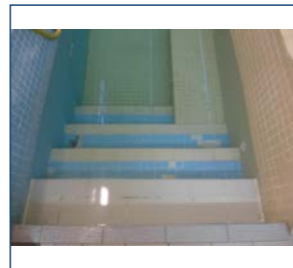
The opportunity is there to promote the facility further and ensure its continued longevity



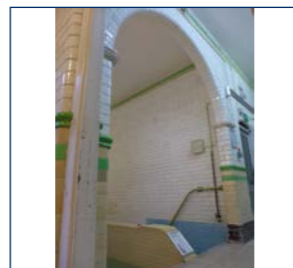
G31(5)



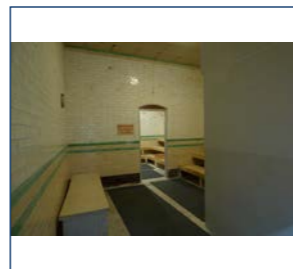
G32-33 (1)



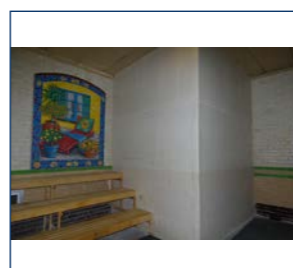
G32-33 (4)



G32-33 (5)



G35 (2)



G35 (3)

15.4 Walls

Glazed brick in Flemish bond with buff dado and twin feature rail, apart from internal return to inserted G34, plan plastered partition. Dark glazed coved skirting..

15.5 Ceiling

Glazed brick segmental vaults to steel beams in G36 and 37, grided flat panel suspended ceiling in G35.

15.6 Floor

Terrazzo floor with patterned border and corner details. G37 is a step higher.

15.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

None

15.8 Fittings

Tiered timber benching.

15.9 Misc.

16.0 Current room name / number G34 and 39 'Russian' bath steam rooms

16.1 Description/history

G 34 is a C20th insertion into G35, presumably due to its popularity. Conglomerate stone tiles walls with fixed perimeter benches.

16.2 Significance

G39 appears in a reduced form on the historic plans so is integral to the original concept and highly significant. G34 is of negative significance as an intrusion into G35 but significant in indicating changing and developing fashion in Turkish Bath experience

16.3 Risks and Opportunities

The risk of changing fashions is always an issue with an historic purpose build facility and the issue acknowledged.

There is an opportunity to revert G35 to a regular full-size space as originally intended.

16.4 Walls

Conglomerate stone tiles

16.5 Ceiling

Plan plaster painted

16.6 Floor

Red quarry tiles

16.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Frameless glass doors in metal surrounds.

16.8 Fittings

Integral perimeter benches.

16.9 Misc.

17.0 Current room name/number G40-47 Staff office and changing rooms

17.1 Description/history



G35 (4)



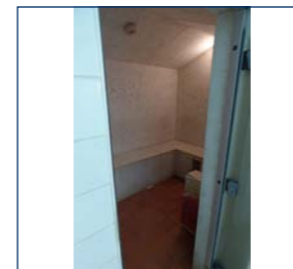
G36 (2)



G36 (3)



G34 (1)



G39 (2)



G40 (1)

Modern painted single height partitions dividing single, original, overpainted glazed brick, changing cubicle space.

17.2 Significance

High, Terrazzo floor pattern remains that indicates the layout confirmed by the historic plans but negatively impacted by inserted partitions that bear no relationship to these, and new access through to G48 aligned with segmental headed half glazed door sign written Men's Turkish Bath (presumably moved from G54 corridor at some intermediate stage and fitted to a new opening with non-standard brick voussiors.

17.3 Risks and Opportunities

The odd awkward overlay pattern of use of the space puts strain and risk on the original floor terrazzo patterning.

The opportunity to re-consider these spaces in a more sympathetic layout.

17.4 Walls

Perimeter walls over-painted glazed brick in Flemish bond with dado rail and coved skirting. Internal partitions painted plasterboard.

17.5 Ceiling

Painted flat plaster

17.6 Floor

Terrazzo in pattern layout to indicate original changing cubicles.

17.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Windows - 2no high level 6 pane segmental arched casements. E part obscured.

Door - segmental headed half glazed door sign written Men's Turkish Bath.

17.8 Fittings

17.9 Misc.

18.0 Current room name / number G48-51 (and reference G65) Gym (reference adjacent corridor)

18.1 Description/history

A series of structurally different spaces now combined as the Gym.

G51 originally part of the Dispensary (1891) with an external window facing out (into now G50). G48 and 50 part of the 1905 Turkish Bath infill, when G49 was external, prior to being enclosed in 1960. G50 with G65 was originally one as the secretaries' office prior to alterations in 1936. A spiral stair is intriguingly shown on the historical plans 1905, connecting now G65 with F32! The opening between G48 and 50 was then to the E and now to W of chimney breast.

18.2 Significance

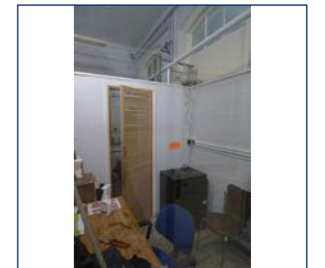
Negative significance in terms of spatial quality and functional appropriateness, but of certain significance to chart various stages in the evolution of the site with residual clues of original fabric. Possibly for that reason the most interesting and complicated part of the site.



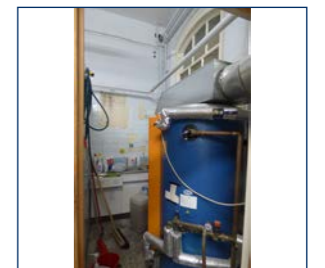
G40 (2)



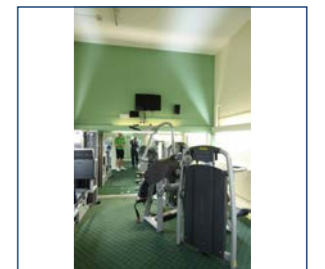
G41 (2)



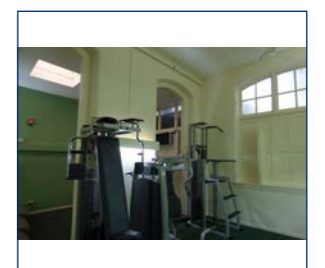
G42 (1)



G43 (2)



G48 (3)



G48 (6)

18.3 Risks and Opportunities

It is hard to imagine any further disruption possible, but a lack of understanding of the relevance of some of the strange features might put them at risk of the tidiers-up.

The opportunity exists to re-consider how to relate the diverse elements to their original context and re-present them in a coherent way.

18.4 Walls

Solid walls - painted plaster,

18.5 Ceiling

Flat plaster painted. 4no rooflights to G49

18.6 Floor

Carpet, glazed brick step up from G51 to G50.

18.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Windows – none external. Internal windows and window openings (now enlarged to floor) segmental arch headed. 5 no 4 light casement clerestory windows to Corridor G65, 3 no 4 light casements to clerestory to N wall G50 with 8 no blank panels below (all flushed over from G51 side) and 2no overpanels to flush door to E. 6 light casement N wall G49.

Doors – Louvred door W wall of G49 to exterior (G132).

Skirting – minimum plain except beaded glazed brick overpainted to W wall G51 (Ladies dispensary wall)

18.8 Fittings

A cacophony of flues ducts lighting pelmets and ceiling rails ceiling fans etc .

18.9 Misc.

19.0 Current room name/number G52 Stairhall

19.1 Description/history

Fine primary staircase from current primary (Milton Road) entrance up to first floor offices and accommodation.

Painted institutional blue on plaster (over glazed brick) with moulded dado, cornice truncated at S wall, considerable original floor tilework with border covered by carpet. W wall glazed skirting cut at S end at original opening into bath hall, confirmed by historic plans. Window in understairs cupboard with original brown paint, brown glazed brick, English bond, and tiled floor with running key mosaic border continuing. Brick overlay plinth (possibly for radiator?)

Original to the 1898 Washing Baths block the stair hall appears to have been open to W at ground level as cornice and floor pattern run through (confirmed on 1905 plan). However what was the need for such a grand stair for the two first floor rooms of the time, until the Turkish baths infill and first floor committee rooms and Ladies Baths were built?

19.2 Significance

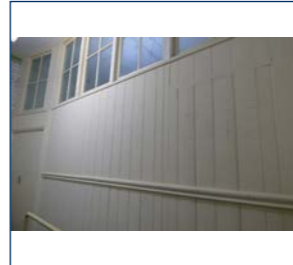
High significance as still in regular use and with quality original fabric remaining, and providing evidence of the changing use and fashions.

19.3 Risks and Opportunities

A fine space risks having further services intrusions and



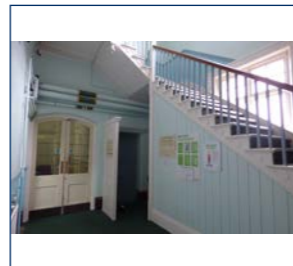
G50 (1)



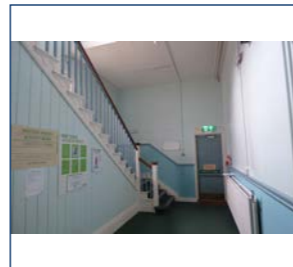
G65 (2)



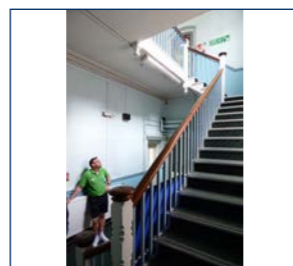
G51 (5)



G52 (1)



G52 (4)



G52 (6)

the fine tiled flooring needs continuing careful protection.

Opportunity to re-imagine the space to better tell the story.

19.4 Walls

Painted plaster (almost certainly on glazed brick, probably brown up to dado as in understairs).

19.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster,

19.6 Floor

Carpet over original 1898 floor tiles with border..

19.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window- 6 light casement top 2 quartered.

Doors – pair segmental arched half glazed doors N to G54, plain glass with saddle bars (suggests previously stained glass panels?)

Painted 4 panel door to G53, moulded stone lintol cap over.

Painted half glazed, frosted, 4 panel door understairs in poor (dangerous loose glass) condition.

Painted flush door with applied panels to S G1.

Painted half glazed door to W G2. Original opening, (radiused returning skirting) but built out frame. Moulded stone lintol cap.

19.8 Fittings

Fine original staircase runs fully across window Timber cut and decorated string to stop chamfered newel posts with generous circular polished bun caps. Plain painted banisters and polished handrail.

Panelled screen with moulded cap to N wall.

19.9 Misc.

20.0 Current room name/number G53 Secure room – no access.

20.1 Description/history

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20.2 Significance

..

20.3 Risks and Opportunities

..

20.4 Walls

..

20.5 Ceiling

..

20.6 Floor

..

20.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

..

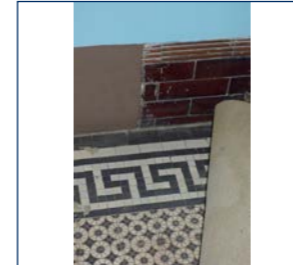
20.8 Fittings

.

20.9 Misc.



G52 (7)



G52 (8)



G52 (10)



G52 (14)



G54 (1)



G54 (3)

21.0 Current room name/number G54, 58 and 65 Corridor to the 'Lawn'

21.1 Description/history

Part glazed corridor link with glazed brick, buff dado, green twin rail dark glazed coved skirting and two-tone cornice. All Flemish bond.

One of the 'architectural' highlights of the building, particularly the curved, part-frosted glass screen, all part of the 1905 Turkish Bath infill and still in excellent condition. This was originally the primary entrance to the Turkish Baths on the W and the Hairdressers to the E. Turkish Baths entrance was behind the now full height curving information panel on the W wall G54

21.2 Significance

Of highest significance. High quality craftsmanship (curved glazed bricks meeting curved timber windows and double curving quadrant fillets and curved (presumed original because so wide spread) frosted glass, nearly complete, but with (almost certainly original, so instructive) unresolved break at high level over door.

21.3 Risks and Opportunities

The greatest risk is for a curved pane of the frosted glass to be broken as it would be almost impossible to replace, or fire or other regulations to condemn the timber and glazed screens generally.

The best opportunity would be to remove some of the surface wiring mini trunking and services to de-clutter. An indication as to the original opening to the Turkish Baths would help with the interpretation.

21.4 Walls

Glazed bricks, buff and twin green band dado, dark coved skirting and to-tone cornice. Timber bead and butt panelling partition W of G65 and infill door G54-58, v math boarding infill to E screen frames. Partition to W G65 includes indications of previous doorway N.

21.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster

21.6 Floor

Carpet

21.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Windows - timber multipane screens part frosted glass to E.

Doors – in timber screens, 4 flat panel. In glazed brick openings, segmental arch 4 panel half glazed doors, 2 panel half glazed and 2 panel half multi pane and perimeter glazed.

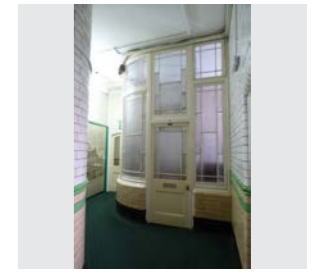
21.8 Fittings

Large curved photo screen W or G54.

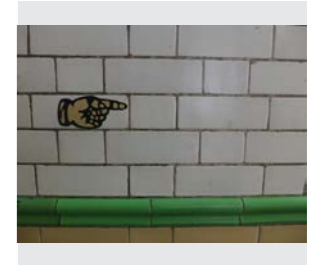
21.9 Misc.

Doors inserted into the glazed brick plinth have timber cover sections applied.

Applied direction pointing finger sign.



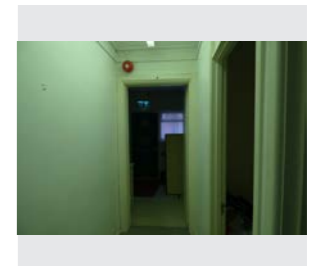
G54 (1)



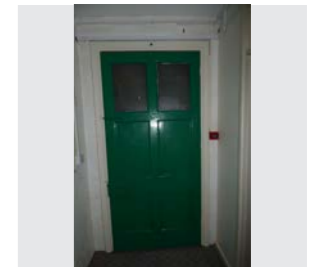
G54 (3)



G54 (4)



G68 (2)



G68 (4)



G65 (3)

22.0 Current room name/number

G55 Gents WC.

22.1 Description/history

Overpainted glazed brick room with similar partition. Original bank of 3 full length gvc urinals with printed provenance (Twyfords/Henley – the 'Adamant' patent). Basin and WC are relatively new, but terrazzo floor pattern, panelled door and brassware, door frame linking to glazed brick partition cap, lead soil stack with fixing ears, GWR stamped inspection cover and window are all original and authentic. Laminated privacy screen (and basin and wc) is the only out of character.

22.2 Significance

Highly significant as a virtually complete and continuously working original facility from 1905.

22.3 Risks and Opportunities

The risk of malfunction, lack of maintenance or sanitary regulation condemning the installation (principally the urinals).

The opportunity to strip the paint to reveal the original colour scheme and reduce the maintenance/re-decoration issues.

22.4 Walls

Overpainted glazed brick with dado and coved skirting.

22.5 Ceiling

Plain painted.

22.6 Floor

Terrazzo with fully indicative border.

22.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window – 9 light casement, upper 3 segmental arched and quartered, frosted glass. Full architrave and cill moulding.

Doors – 4 panel half glazed arch headed intry door.

4 flat panel cubicle door with original brassware.

22.8 Fittings

Original set of 3 full height urinals; more recent basin and wc; lead soil stacks; GWR embossed inspection cover.

22.9 Misc.

23.0 Current room name/number

G56-64 Various consulting rooms, (titled Practitioners Rooms) lift and store

23.1 Description/history

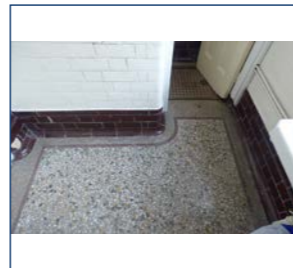
Suite of rooms created out of the original Hairdressers rooms 1st and 2nd class, infilling the Milton Road frontage in 1905 as part of the Turkish Baths block. Larger 2nd class hairdressers (G56,7,9 and 60) now divided into 3) with S one further subdivided for a lobby. G56-7 marked Room 1; G59 marked Room 2 Remedial Massage, G59 marked Room 3 Chiropractic. Original 1st class Hairdressers (G61-64), now divided into 2, one being a lobby and including the lift and store (G61-63) and marked Practitioners Room 4 and Lift. Recent plan indicates G64 subdivided. A sequence to the subdivisions is discernible,



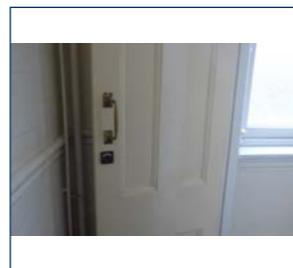
G55 (2)



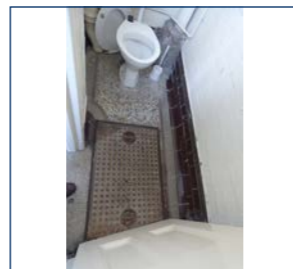
G55 (4)



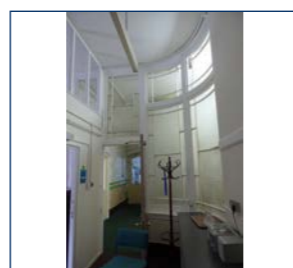
G55 (5)



G55 (6)



G55 (7)



G56 (2)

and their problems of resolving the mis-alignment with the glazing framework evident.

23.2 Significance

High, due to the clear sequence of changing needs and the history involved. The original 2nd class space must have been quite dramatic, being of substantial size but with its glazed screen to the corridor. The 1st class was more private being behind a solid wall off the corridor.

23.3 Risks and Opportunities

The risks to continued beneficial use are maintenance issues and potential overloading with services.

There is an opportunity to return one or both spaces back to their original format depending on potential agile working and hot desking or other functions that need accommodating. Intrusive modern services should be rationalised.

23.4 Walls

Original perimeter walls to hairdressing rooms painted plaster with patches of painted glazed tile indicating plaster a mere skim coat. Glazed brick skirting remaining in part. No moulded cornice not dado rail, significantly. Partition between G59 and 60 is solid core with high level glazed lights, secondary glazed, from G60 blocked over from G59. Partition G56/7 to G59 is solid but later with misalignment kink to align with corridor glazed frame. Partition G56-57 is tertiary lightweight with high level borrowed light.

23.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted. The ceilings to G 61-4 (below Kitchen F28) disfigured with signs of earlier damp.

23.6 Floor

Carpet except G64 where removed (some gripper still in evidence) to expose original terrazzo with integral border.

23.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

All windows to Milton Road, original multi-pane casements with variety of obscure and clear glass and internal clear secondary glazing (probably for noise as well as heat). G64 has only part under cill moulding, why?

Internal windows to corridor multi-pane with perimeter pane, obscured glass up to transom height. Part boarded with boarded overdoors.

Later inserted 4 panel solid panel doors to glazed screens to Corridor G58, with cuts through brick plinths carefully masked with flat timber architrave.

Door to G61 2 panel, half glazed single pane with perimeter panes, arch headed

Ditto door to G64, blocked up from inside Door not shown on original layout plans so associated with subdivision, but most carefully done.

Door to G57, modern flush door with 2 side vision panel.

Door to G61 modern flush door with single reeded vision panel

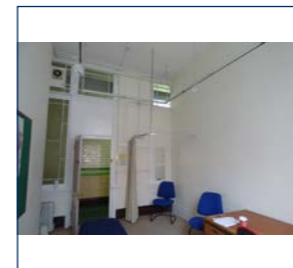
Blocked doorway G60-61. Blocked and concealed doorway mid partition between G59 and 60.

23.8 Fittings

G60 has good original fireplace. Simple fluted uprights, green late art nouveau tiled reveals and hearth and metal hooded insert, and an original 2 door wall cabinet.



G57 (1)



G59 (2)



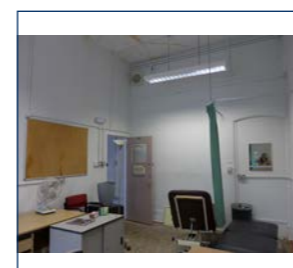
G60 (2)



G61 (1)



G61 (4)



G64 (4)

Relatively old (mid C20th) hand basins in G57, 59 and 60 with mid -century capstan and wing (G59 and 60) taps.

23.9 Misc.

Considerable disfiguring modern service wiring, trunking, vents and other fittings.

24.0 Current room name/number

G66 The Mall

24.1 Description/history

Originally the dispensary waiting hall area divided in two between men and women, with an interconnecting kiosk (titled Porters Office) for a supervisor as evidenced on the original plans and in the early photographs. The division was removed by 1930, after first having an archway inserted. There were 3 hatch openings to each waiting hall screened from direct view with timber screens (one remaining in F51) Originally two principal entrance lobbies (now G87 and 92) off Milton Road would have afforded Independent segregated access. Gradually as the dispensary function was removed off-site by the NHS, the space has re-invented itself as a community hub, with a dramatic and imaginative trompe l'oeil mural decoration named 'The Folly Mural' painted over the whole of the N wall (and intrusions) in 1989.

24.2 Significance

Highest, as part of the first building group and retaining all of its original roof structure and much of its original volume. Many of the changes can be read in the remaining fabric.

24.3 Risks and Opportunities

Currently the primary space is awkward in being L shaped with a further intrusion to the S. and is neither fully rest area nor part of the gym with its encroaching fitness machines. The original function is lost, and a better viable function hard to consider.

De-cluttering the space, possibly removing G51 and restricting the gym intrusions, could provide for a more usable multi-function soft exercise and or mixed community facility.

24.4 Walls

Painted skim plaster over glazed brick to the original perimeter walls and partitions, with exposed glazed brick skirtings and compound cornice E and W Interesting pilastered and arched openings to the original 2 E entrances.

24.5 Ceiling

Sloping ceilings E and W with batten jointed flat (insulating) boards presumed to underlay, or possibly replace, the original timber boarding to central glazed full length lantern. 3no original and distinctive arched Warren type iron trusses on moulded scroll corbel brackets.

24.6 Floor

Carpet

24.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

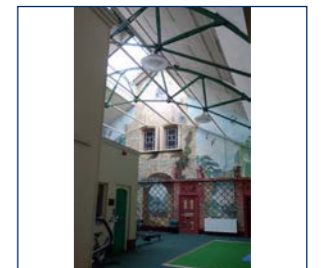
Circular geometrically patterned stained glass with fin floral central roundal.

24.8 Fittings

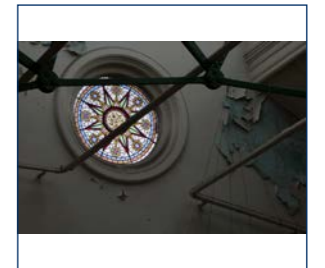
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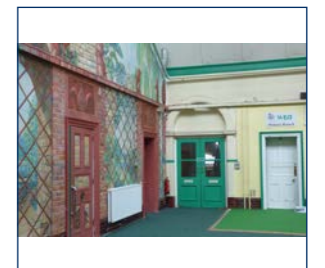
G64 (9)



G66 (1)



G66 (5)



G66 (9)



G66 (10)



G66 (13)

24.9 Misc.

Again a plethora of intrusive services, disfiguring the space and partially obscuring detail



G66 (12)

Original drawer and sliding cupboard door unit to most of S and E walls with later return to N, all painted, internal shelving and all otherwise usable. Location of bay returns visible. Modern applied worktop. High quality [olished raised and fielded full height panel to w end S run.

Fine classical fire surround remaining in G75 (missing from G74)

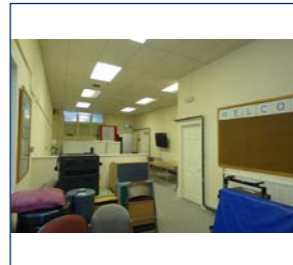
25.9 Misc.

25.0 Current room name/number

G67, 74, 75 and 76 Well woman area including offices and store (earlier creche).

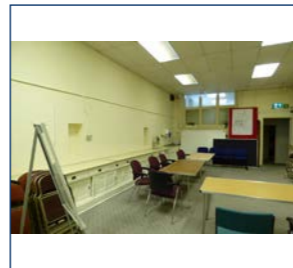
25.1 Description/history

This suite of rooms was created as the Well Woman Centre in 1988 out of the original dispensary (G67, 75 and 76) and its inner room (G74). The dispensary had 3no small hatch openings to both N and E (Men's and Women's) walls. 2 on the E wall are clearly evident, the others have been blocked in but can be determined, along with the wall shelving in outline. Originally lit from the rooflight above and having no ceiling of their own, the spaces have been 'up-dated' with modern gridded suspended ceiling.



G67 (2)

A considerable amount of original joinery shelving remains in G67, and the splayed chimney breasts with blanked off fireplaces in G74 and 75.



G67 (3)

25.2 Significance

Highest, as part of the significant original multi-functionality of the site, still with considerable original fabric and clues as to function remaining.

25.3 Risks and Opportunities

The increasingly remote original function militates against a practical re-use of the original fittings etc and its current function should not encourage further neglect.

There is considerable original joinery in good condition and a viable use could be sought for it. Removing the later insertad partitions (eg to G75 and 76 would create a significantly mor usable and spacious (original) space for larger gatherings.



G67 (4)

25.4 Walls

Painted plastered walls, stud partition to G76.

25.5 Ceiling

Modern acoustic lay in gridded suspended ceiling, some integral some suspended some borrowed ceiling lights.

25.6 Floor

Carpet on solid..

25.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Now internal, originally external window, 3 over 3 light lower 3 blocked from far side (Gym G49) upper panes obscured.

E door from G66 original segmental arched 4 panel door

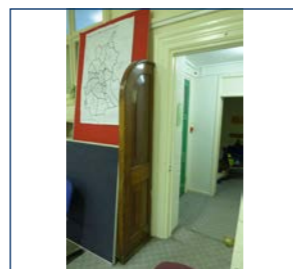
Door to G76 modern pressed 6 panel

Door to G68 original heavy original 4 panel extra wide opening.

Door to G74 original 5 panel

Door to G75 half obscured glazed 4 panel

N door from G66 modern timber 6 panel.



G67 (5)



G74 (4)

26.0 Current room name/number

G68-73 Kitchenette, toilet, examination and counselling rooms.

26.1 Description/history

Originally the Drug Store (G68,69,72 and 73) with direct access from outside to the E (now closed off from G49), Stew Room (G70) with direct access from outside from the S as today, and (now no longer externally accessed) toilet these rooms have formed part of the Well Woman suite since 1988.

26.2 Significance

High as part of the original medical dispensary function still discernible, with a number of original features today although compromised with contemporary uses in original Drug Store.

26.3 Risks and Opportunities

The risk of some of the original functions being overlooked and the unique fittings (eg the loading beam in G70) being lost.

Opportunity to re-integrate the spaces with more sustainable uses particularly G69,72 and 73 being totally internal and (external) windowless.

26.4 Walls

Perimeter walls and original dividing partitions, painted probably plain (rather than glazed) brick. Intermediate partition modern stud painted.

26.5 Ceiling

Plain painted..

26.6 Floor

Carpet with vinyl/lino in G70 and 71.

26.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

3no original 4 light multi paned casements to E and SE all blocke up from outside. 1no modern 2 pane casementfrom G70 and 3pane inward hopper to G71.

Door to G49 originally outside, heavy 6 panel door top 2 obscured glass, good original rim lock/latch blocked off from G49.

Doors to G69,72 and 73, modern pressed 6 panel 'georgian' style.

Door to G70 multiple ledged and braced, bead and butt door, rim lock and knobs

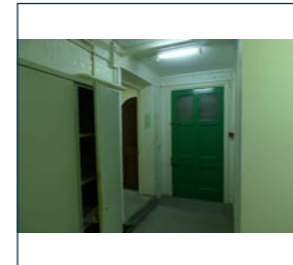
Door to G71, ledged and braced, bead and butt, scalloped top (for ventilation) and Suffolk type cast latch.

26.8 Fittings

Loading beam in G70 with cast notice 'FM 4269 Load 5



G75 (3)



G68 (1)



G69 (1)



G70 (1)



G70 (2)



G70 (3)

cwt'.

26.9 Misc.

Access to first floor store from G73, Original steep ladder shown on early drawings, now replaced by modern.

27.0 Current room name/number

G77,78 Practitioners Room 40 and way through to.

27.1 Description/history

Originally titled 'Secretaries Office' and 'Stores' with small lobby off Dispensary Waiting Hall, they were subsequently converted to a Small Pool viewing room (G77) and ladies toilet (G78). The viewing window has now been blocked off and with both the Small Pool and the North Entrance being abandoned, so the rooms now relate back to the Garden suite/Dispensary side as Practitioners Room and lobby.

27.2 Significance

Moderate with their significance being their history of adaptations and cahanges.

27.3 Risks and Opportunities

Being on inbetween the frequented and abandoned areas, there is a risk of these spaces being absorbed into the wrong side.

An opportunity to re-establish a more viable use particularly if the North Entrance and Small Pool can be resurrected.

27.4 Walls

Perrimeter walls painted plaster to G78, solid torus skirting, painted brickwork (not thought to be glazed) to G77, timber torus skirting, intermediate partition modern lightweight with large paned glazed borrowed light to E return, matching timber skirting,

27.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster.

27.6 Floor

Carpet, with ramps down from G121 at return landing.

27.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window to G78 original 6 light multi pane window with obscure glass. Full architrave with make-up piece to E and plain subcill.

3no 6 light borrowed lights to E partition return.

Window to G77 early inserted (not on original drawings, but no signs of later adjustment) large segmental headed viewing window blanked off.

Door from G66 original 4 panel with semi circular arched, obscured glass fan light over.

Door to G78 original 5 panel

Door from G121 original 5 panel

Full bolection architraves with plinths in G77.

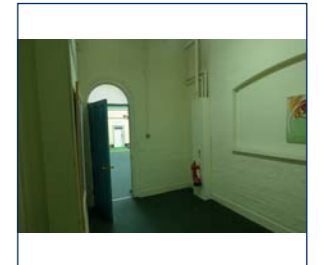
27.8 Fittings

Chimney breast with fireplace removed and blocked up.

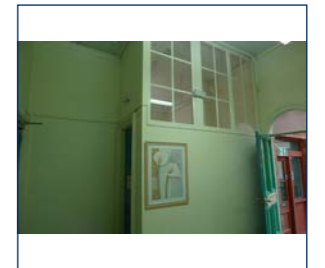
27.9 Misc.



G70 (4)



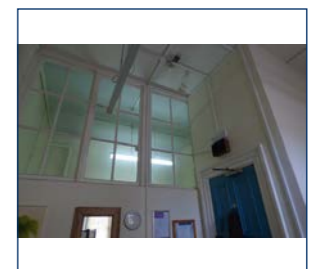
G77 (1)



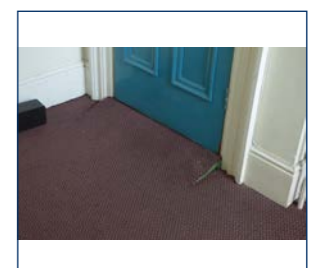
G77 (3)



G77 (5)



G78 (1)



G78 (2)

28.0 Current room name/number
G79,80 and 81 – Stairs, fire escape and WC

28.1 Description/history

This entrance is very little changed apart from painting over the glazed tiles in G80 and skim plaster and painting in G79 and 81. The functionality remains although significantly under-used, WC etc. removed and not as a supplementary or staff entrance. A fully panelled and enclosed draught lobby with elegant, winder timber stair with sinuous polished handrail and painted turned balusters. WC facility neatly tucked in under stairs.

28.2 Significance

High as retaining significant original features and functionality.

28.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of lack of use will lead to general deterioration. Stained glass window particularly to WC is at low level and could be easily vandalised
 Opportunity to encourage use as staircase is still well used and Farringdon Road elevation needs re-enlivening.

28.4 Walls

Painted on plaster skim and glazed brick to perimeter. Painted timber panelling to entry lobby etc.

28.5 Ceiling

Painted timber panelling to G80 and plain plaster to G81.

28.6 Floor

Original red quarry tiles to G80 and 81 with stone steps and mat well in G80. Carpet elsewhere.

28.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window to G81 circular with geometric stained glass.
 Twin geometrical stained glass fanlight to external door.
 Doors to G66 pair modern 3 panel top 2 glazed
 Doors to G80 pair original 3 panel top 2 glazed alternate panes obscured, original brass ware. Full architrave.
 Doors to outside pair original 3 panel external. Full architrave.
 Door to G81 original 4 panel door spun brass knobs.
 Door to understairs cupboard 4 panel shaped to string – no access.

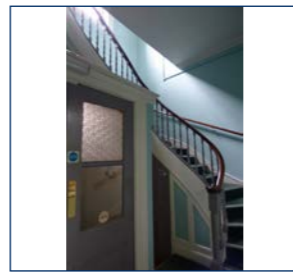
28.8 Fittings

-

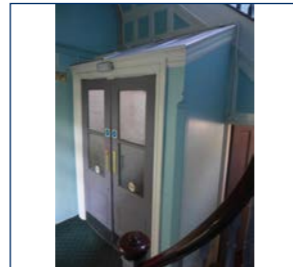
28.9 Misc.

29.0 Current room name/number
G83,84,85 and 86 Ladies, Disabled and Gents toilets and corner consulting room.

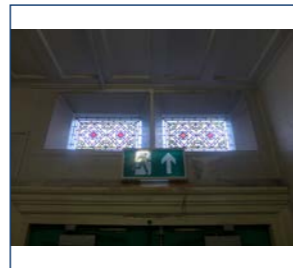
29.1 Description/history



G79 (3)



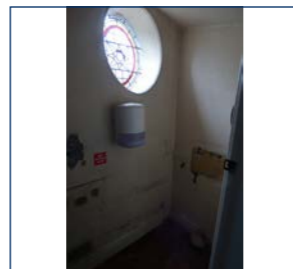
G79 (1)



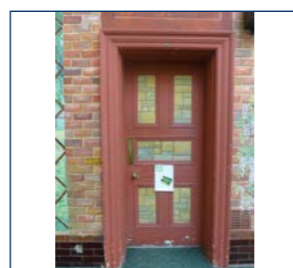
G80 (2)



G80 (6)



G81 (3)



G83 (1)

Created from the original 4 north consulting rooms the spaces are retained although all interconnecting doors lost, the function of 3, and the door swings of 2 have been altered.

29.2 Significance

High taken with the equivalent E range these comprise the original suite of consulting rooms around the dispensary. These 4 would have been for men with one of the 4 east rooms as well. The other three for ladies.

29.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk may come from the toilet function and fit-out somewhat obscuring any feeling for the original consultation room use.

Opportunity to reintroduce some appropriate interpretation.

29.4 Walls

Perimeter walls paint on plaster. Timber skirtings generally in consulting rooms leads to the suggestion that these were always plastered, and not a skim over original glazed bricks. Intermediate partitions, modern laminate to cubicles and modern full height stud to disabled

29.5 Ceiling

Plan painted plaster.

29.6 Floor

Modern sheet vinyl/Altro with coved skirt to WCs. Carpet in G86.

29.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Original 6 light multi-pane windows, obscured glazing to lower panes varied patterns indicating replacements. Full architraves and under-cill mouldings.

Doors original 5 panel doors, G84 reversed G85 handed.

Doors to cubicles – modern laminate and modern full flush doors to disabled.

29.8 Fittings

Modern contemporary sanitary fittings.
 Modern sink unit in NE corner G86

29.9 Misc.

30.0 Current room name/number
G87 North East stairs

30.1 Description/history

Originally designed as a secondary entrance (or primary entrance off Milton Road) for men to the dispensary, this way in existed before there was a first floor suite this end along Milton Road. The alterations in 1937 included for this upper level expansion and this entrance was converted to an internal staircase, with quality cast iron newel and balusters, the entrance doors were replaced by a window which the stairs cut awkwardly across. There is a large purpose made cupboard housing important electrical gear, with t+g, panelling, moulded capping and brackets fixed to the N wall and a white picket fence type gate to restrict access. These seemingly random intrusions are unhelpful.

30.2 Significance

High in being part of a major alteration in the 1930s



G83 (3)



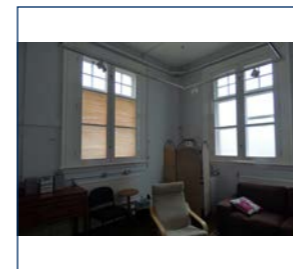
G83 (4)



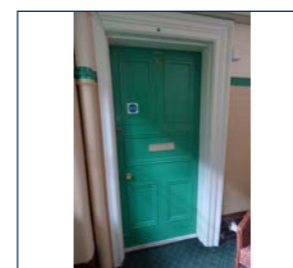
G84 (1)



G85 (2)



G86 (1)



G87 (1)

indicating the detail and care taken to integrate the changes despite the awkward window/stair overlap and the presence of the major electrical cupboard and the picket fence gate solution to restricting access.

30.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk is that its current un-aesthetic appearance will merely encourage more of the same and introduce more random elements.

Opportunity is to panel off the understairs (as elsewhere) and re-claim the space for the

30.4 Walls

Original glazed brick walls painted up to dado, exposed glazed brick skirting..

30.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted no cornice..

30.6 Floor

Carpet with rubber mat in front of cupboard.

30.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Standard 6 light multi-pane window with obscured glass, clearly a very good copy of the originals. Full architrave and under-cill

Doors to G86 and 88, original 5 panel, doorway to G88 blanked off inside. Full architraves.

Doors to G66, pair of modern half glazed doors, clear glazed in 2 panes each all under semi-circular arched blank panel with plain beaded architrave and lintol (poorly adapted from equivalent in front of G92.

30.8 Fittings

Fine timber winder closed string staircase with decorative cast-iron newel and baluster pairs and polished wreathed and scarfed handrail with exaggerated scroll termination.

Purpose made timber cupboard unit concealing electrical gear.

30.9 Misc.

Considerable intrusive service trunking and wiring.

31.0 Current room name/number
G88-91 East consultation rooms.

31.1 Description/history

These 4 consulting rooms remain very close to their original form and purpose. Indeed the added space between the doors to G88 and 89 was originally to accommodate the porters office between the segregated waiting areas. All the interconnecting doors remain although only operable between G88 and 90

31.2 Significance

Highest as the most authentic set of remaining original consulting rooms.

31.3 Risks and Opportunities

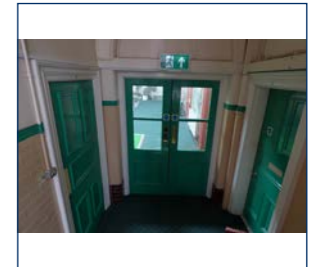
Risk is for the original function to be discontinued.

Opportunity for continued use of the good quality consulting spaces

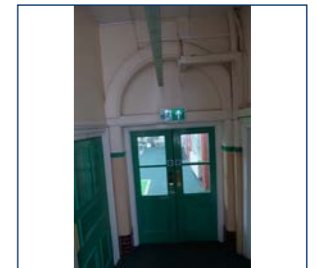
31.4 Walls



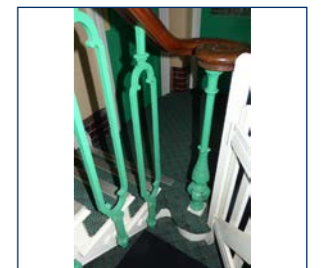
G87 (2)



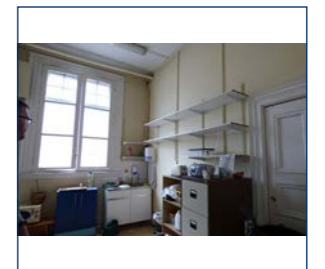
G87 (3)



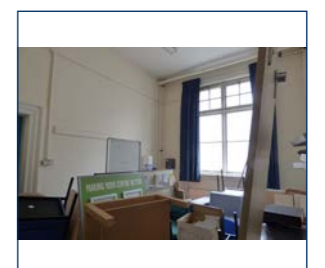
G87 (4)



G87 (5)



G88 (2)



G89 (1)

Paint on plaster with timber skirting representing original plaster not skim over glazed brick.

31.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster.

31.6 Floor

Carpet but laminate floor in G88.

31.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Windows original 6 light multi-pane with obscured glass to lower 4. Mixed glass patterns records various times of replacement. The frosted pattern considered to be the authentic original (certainly for 1898. G88 and 91 have hinged secondary glazing. All with full architrave and under-cill.

Doors all original 5 panel. Interconnecting door 89-90 has one glazed panel but blocked from back.

31.8 Fittings

All rooms have at least a sink or sink unit relatively modern. G91 has original wall mounted wooden towel rail, and 2 door panelled will unit.

31.9 Misc.

32.0 Current room name/number

G92 Central Milton Road entrance

32.1 Description/history

This entrance would have been the ladies' way to the dispensary etc. Very much of its original form with possibly the inner doors and screen relocated from their appearance on the original plans in order to be reversed to open out. But there's no real evidence for this and it adds to the impact of the coloured glass to have a longer view as the light comes from the dispensary direction. The tall, brown glazed brick dado with 3 stretcher course English bond equates to what's seen in the early photographs.

32.2 Significance

Highest as some of the most authentic experience. Although the magnificent screen and doors are horribly compromised by crass siting of air curtain blowers on the inside and other emergency escape paraphernalia.

32.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of such insensitive additions to the doors that lead to further deterioration and abusive treatment

Opportunities to review the area and create a quality meaningful experience that can fully respect the original experience.

32.4 Walls

Tall brown glazed brick with reeded dado and skirting, painted glazed brick above.

32.5 Ceiling

Plaster painted with panel moulding.

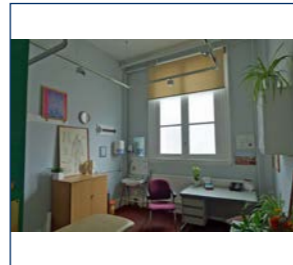
32.6 Floor

Quarry tile ? with mat well.

32.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.



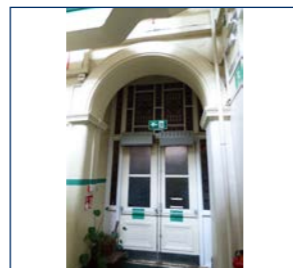
G90 (2)



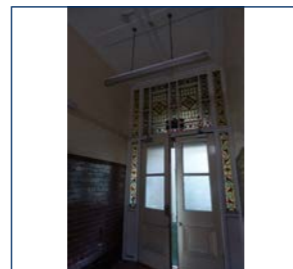
G91 (1)



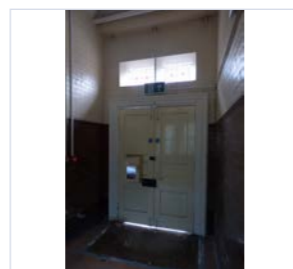
G91 (3)



G66 (12)



G92 (1)



G92 (2)

Twin geometrical patterned stained glass fan light to outside.

Magnificent multi-paned geometric patterned stained glass to screen to inner pair of doors.

Doors to outside pair original 3 panelled with good ironmongery and small attached post box.

Doors to G66 pair original half glazed, raised and fielded below, obscure glass panes.

32.8 Fittings

32.9 Misc

33.0 Current room name/number

G100 Stairs to changing rooms

33.1 Description/history

Modern (1960s) tiled double stair and landing to large pool changing rooms dividing Male and female. Initially part of the open ground behind the Large Pool, the W-E stairs occupy the earlier access corridor from the 1903 Ladies and Gentlemen's Dressing Rooms. This is linked to the front reception hall via a first floor route that bridges over the open, external access, central spine corridor.

33.2 Significance

Low as part of the awkward rearrangements of the 1960s creating the current visitor flow with the old wash baths hall as the new primary reception hall for the complex, accessed off Milton Road and no longer Chester Street.

33.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risks of currently poor maintenance being exacerbated

Opportunities for imaginative re-integration and interpretation.

33.4 Walls

Modern glazed tiles with feature skirting and borders. Decorative yin/yang panel at each end.

33.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted some cracking..

33.6 Floor

Modern studded quarry tiles and granolithic stairs with inset check nosing strips (shrinking marked ly from granolithic, nearing trip hazzard).

33.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Windows – roof lantern

Doors – flush with vision panel

Plani modern chamfer architraves.

33.8 Fittings

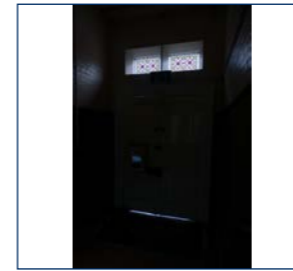
Large (poly-)glass fronted notice board with the names of 127 Dolphin Club members exonerating the forthcoming championships.

33.9 Misc.

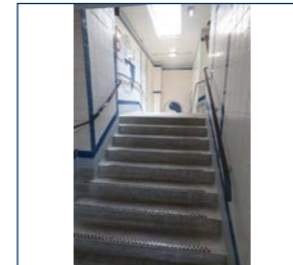
34.0 Current room name/number

G101-110 Changing rooms etc.

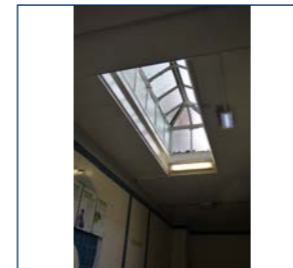
34.1 Description/history



G92 (3)



G100 (1)



G100 (2)



G100 (4)



G100 (7)



G100 (8)

Initially part of the open ground behind the Large Pool. 'Ladies and Gentlemen's Dressing Rooms' were created in this area in 1903, presumably in addition to the 75 individual pool-side changing cubicles in the Large Pool. An E-W block on the SW boundry appears slightly earlier, although fully integrated into the 'Dressing Rooms' complex by then. Entrance to the gallery was then S of the entrance to the dressing rooms. It lead to a stairs up and over the pool's entrance way. Exit from the gallery was via external stairs into the rear spine corridor area all of which have gone. The current warren-like spaces are mostly double height and graced in part with a substantial king post trussed roof with central dual pitched skylights. 21 female and 28 male granolithic cubicles of stylish design (probably 1930s).

34.2 Significance

Neutral of interest due th the history, the high spaces, trussed roof and skylights and quality cubicles..

34.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk if the area suffering further from continuing poor maintenance (at the time of visit, one section closed off due to falling ceiling).

Opportunity to cheer up from the ocean of institutional chilly blue.

34.4 Walls

Plani plaster painted with modern tiles to head heightgable ends v boarded.

34.5 Ceiling

Timber king post trusses with boarded sloping soffits and dual pitch central continuous rooflights.

34.6 Floor

Studded quarry tiles (buff) with red quarrys every 16no..

34.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

All doors modern flush with or without vision panel.

34.8 Fittings

34.9 Misc.

Significant intrusion of services particularly high level duct work (presumably for space heating).

35.0 Current room name/number

G111-113 Pool entry and toilets

35.1 Description/history

Later C20th insertion into central external spine courtyard/ corridor, extending original wash house block to the south. Modern tiled washing and toilet facilities

35.2 Significance

Minimum all modern finishes and metal framed windows all late C20th .

35.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk is the poor maintenance from elsewhere will spill over to this better maintained area

Opportunities to de-institutionalise the finishes.

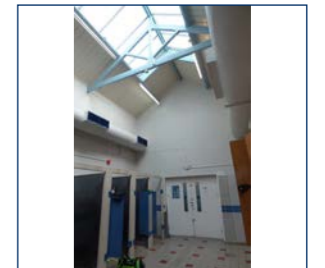
35.4 Walls



G101 (1)



G102 (1)



G108 (1)



G110 (2)



G111 (1)



G113 (1)

All modern tiles, light blue with darker blue dado .

35.5 Ceiling
Flat plaster painted.

35.6 Floor
Studded buff quarry tiles.

35.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
Metal winsows with obscure glass
Doors laminate cubicle doors with lever handles.

35.8 Fittings
Modern Sanitary fittings.

35.9 Misc.

36.0 Current room name/number
G114 LARGE BATH – Large Swimming Pool. (See also F7)

36.1 Description/history

Climax and dramatic highlight of the building complex, the original 111' long 30' wide is still popular and regularly used with only minor modifications inside the 7no grand (unique) web holed arch frames supporting boarded sloping ceilings and continuous ridge light and dormer strip glazing. The gable at S end has a large round arch headed window with magnificent geometrical stained glass. The N gallery is framed by a triple arch screen, glazed above and with a pair of windows and an escape door at the back. (See also F7)

Originally there were 75 individual changing cubicles with doors, down each side under the projecting galleries. Originally accessed from the main N entrance and ticket office off Farringdon Street as well as from the duplicated ticket office the S end off Chester Street. 3no 'Dressing Rooms' ran under the gallery return at the N end (now G115-118). From early times the pool was able to be drained and boarded over to create both dance floor and auditorium space, and during the wars additional bed space for the wounded and recovering.

36.2 Significance

Highest significance as an original large facility in continuous use. One of the 3 primary facilities provided on the site in 1892 it remains a valuable community facility. It represents the spirit of endeavour of the Victorian age, in its scale, representing the success of the railway industry and Swindon in particular, as well as the commitment to health and recreation supported by the Medical Fund Society. As the home of the Swindon Dolphins club with a number of successful Olympic swimmers.

36.3 Risks and Opportunities

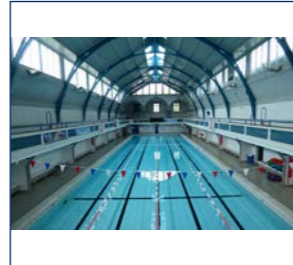
Risk that a large facility of this age with updated infrastructure is un-economical to maintain so requiring a disproportionate investment to maintain remains a constant threat.

Opportunity resides in the significance of the space, its historic resonance, its capacity and the basic quality of existing the primary fabric. Multi-functional use (temporary flooring or other adaptation, gives added potential for economic sustainability.

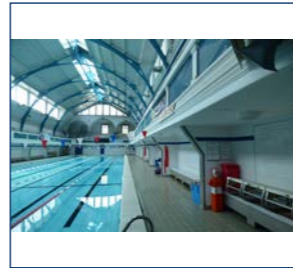
36.4 Walls



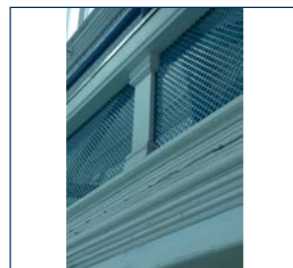
G113 (3)



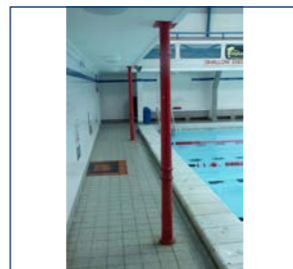
G114 (4)



G114 (5)



G114 (6)



G114 (7)



G114 (12)

Modern rectangular tiling in stretcher bond with blue feature band at eye level, divided into structural bays by stub return with splayed heads supporting the side galleries with granolithic facings. (2no cast iron columns at S end.)

36.5 Ceiling
Plain plaster painted to gallery soffit. (See also F7)

36.6 Floor
Modern studded buff quarry tiles integral drainage channel to surround. Pool itself has been re-lined to bring surround up flush and (presumably) over-laying the original tiling finish which may survive beneath. White glazed tiles with black lane marking tiles.

36.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
Windows (see F7)

Doors modern flush doors with vision panels. Some metal fixings (eg NW escape doors) badly rusting in pool atmosphere.

36.8 Fittings
Integral granolithic fronted benches down each side..

36.9 Misc.
A wide range of banners, signs, notices

37.0 Current room name/number
G115-118 Large Bath ancillary spaces North

37.1 Description/history
Originally comprising 3no separate 'Dressings Rooms' underneath the N end gallery these spaces have been adapted for additional functional use. The original window to G115 has been replaced by a double exit door and the escape corridor created by partitioning off either side for storage off G116 to E and electrical substation to W. Remaining area has authentic decoration to sloping ceiling. G116 retains its original form but with new doors created in the E and W walls and its window retains its original dark stained decoration. G117 and 118 created by subdivision of E dressing room and insertion of toilet facilities and store. Toilet facilities now abandoned.

37.2 Significance
Neutral where part of the original form and decorative interior remain but has been largely compromised by the later intrusions and unsympathetic use.

37.3 Risks and Opportunities
Risk of obliterating original finishes in drive to improve the decorative condition.
Opportunity to re-consider use and accessibility to provide sustainable function.

37.4 Walls
Perimeter solid walls paint on plaster (probably skim) or brick work (probably glazed brick). Intermediate inserted partitions with borrowed lights to G117. Unpainted fire-proof boards to sub-station in G115.

37.5 Ceiling
Painted boarded soffit to sloping gallery above, including casing to support beams. As original scheme retained in



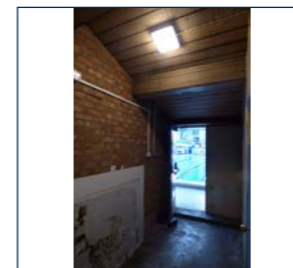
G114 (13)



G114 (16)



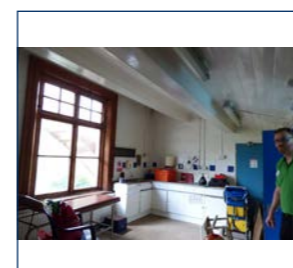
G114 (9)



G115 (2)



G116 (1)



G116 (2)

G115.

37.6 Floor
Modern two-colour quarry tile in black and white stripes and pattern/border to indicate E wc in G118 a subsequent addition.

37.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
Windows (to G116 and 118) original 6 light multi-pane with full architrave and moulded sub-cill. G116 still in original decoration.
Doors all modern flush.

37.8 Fittings
All modern sanitary ware (where remaining) in G118, modern sink and laminate kitchen units in G116.

37.9 Misc.

38.0 Current room name/number
G119 NE Lobby to Large Pool

38.1 Description/history
As original, way-through from main entrance (N off Farringdon Rd) to main pool.

38.2 Significance
Neutral as original appearance much affected by modern finishes and replacement doors etc.

38.3 Risks and Opportunities
Risk of further loss of authenticity by lack of maintenance etc.
Opportunity to reconsider as part of re-opening the Farringdon Rd entrance.

38.4 Walls
Paint on glazed brick to S and W.

38.5 Ceiling
Plain plaster painted.

38.6 Floor
Modern two-colour quarry tile in black and white stripes and border.

38.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
Doors all modern flush.

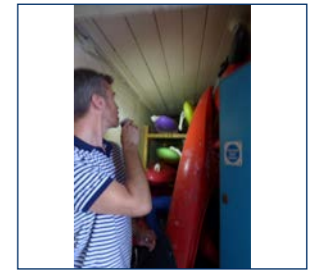
38.8 Fittings
Electrical distribution in E cupboard.

38.9 Misc.

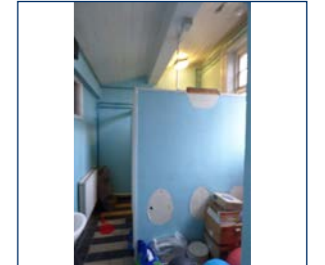
39.0 Current room name/number
G120 Basement stair - See Basement B2

40.0 Current room name/number
G121 Entrance Lobby (Main N entrance off Farringdon Rd)

40.1 Description/history



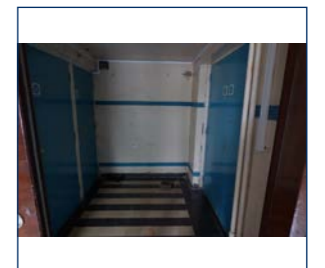
G117 (1)



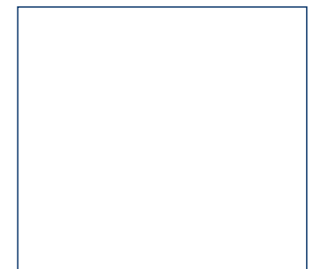
G118 (1)



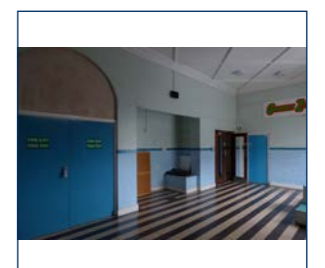
G118 (2)



G119 (1)



G119 (2)



G121 (1)

The original primary entrance to the complex and to both pools, shared with the Chester Street entrance for the large pool but the only entrance for the small pool. It afforded a side access to the Dispensary past the Secretary's Office and a primary staircase access to the large pool gallery and first floor Committee Room.

Now largely redundant, no longer an entrance, used purely for internal circulation or fire escape. The space retains its original form although the floor has been raised by the overlay of modern tiles. Some good original features remain including a corniced and plaster gridded ceiling, the principal window, some principal original doors, a stained glass fanlight and moulded architraves and sections of glazed brick wall under modern paint.

40.2 Significance

High as the erstwhile original entrance although compromised by redundancy and some poor quality alterations.

40.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of further deterioration due to continuing redundancy.

Opportunity to re-engage with the Farringdon Street and restore the access at least for partial use.

40.4 Walls

Paint on glazed bricks and skim plaster with dado course picked out.

40.5 Ceiling

Distinctive diagonal patterned mouldings and moulded cornice.

40.6 Floor

Modern two-colour quarry tile in black and white stripes and pattern/border indicating location of earlier (original) ticket kiosk.

40.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Window original 6 light multi-pane, full architrave and under-cill moulding.

Front doors original pair of 3 panel moulded front entrance doors with geometrical patterned stained glass fanlight.

Door to G77 original 5 panel door full architrave with plinths

Pair of doors to G122 modern flush with blanked elliptical overlight/overpanel.

Pair of doors towards large pool (G119) modern fully glazed dark timber stained

Doors in W wall modern flush.

40.8 Fittings

Boxing out of W side of ticket recess (due to stairs up from below).

40.9 Misc.

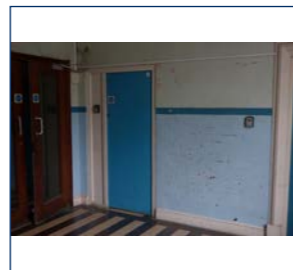
An amount of disfiguring cable containment

41.0 Current room name/number

G122 Small Pool Entrance Lobby and stairs to Large Pool Gallery and Committee room beyond (see also F10 for landing upwards)



G121 (2)



G121 (3)



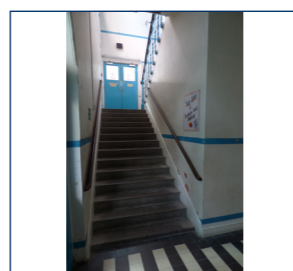
G121 (4)



G121 (5)



G121 (6)



G122 (1)

41.1 Description/history

Original primary entrance to Small pool and stairway to gallery the spaces are still in their original form albeit in new colour scheme and with overlaid floor. Now largely abandoned.

41.2 Significance

High as an originally highly used space little altered.

41.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of further deterioration due to continuing redundancy.

Opportunity to re-engage with the Farringdon Street and restore some functionality to the Small Pool.

41.4 Walls

Paint on skim plaster with dado reeded detail picked out.

41.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

41.6 Floor

Modern two-colour quarry tile in black and white stripes and border. Wide flight of 14no stone steps to gallery, with reduced bottom riser indicating floor level increase.

41.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

See G121 and 125.

41.8 Fittings

Original polished hardwood pig's ear handrails each side to first landing. See also F10 to above.

41.9 Misc.

42.0 Current room name/number

125 SMALL POOL (including G123-124 fitted cupboards)

42.1 Description/history

One of the 3 original primary spaces in the building complex, the originally 60' long 24'6' wide pool is currently abandoned and drained due to apparently uneconomic maintenance issues. Originally with 46 cubicles on E and W walls. In its hey-day it was the principal teaching pool for the town, so many Swindonians have particularly strong memories of it. The interior space is considerably in original condition with 5 again unique web holed arch frames supporting boarded sloping ceiling and continuous ridge light and dormer strip glazing. The gable at S end has a large round arch headed window equivalent to the large pool but here filled in and painted out with a heavily stylised romantic scene.

42.2 Significance

Highest significance as one of the original large facilities despite not being currently in use. One of the 3 primary facilities provided on the site in 1892 it remains a potential valuable community facility.

42.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of continuing abandonment leading to deterioration.

Opportunity to reinstate ideally as a swimming learners pool as no similar facility is present within the towns leisure facilities.

42.4 Walls



G122 (2)



G125 (1)



G125 (2)



G125 (4)



G125 (6)



G125 (9)

Paint over glazed brickwork, blue to head height and white above with details (door arch, ridge corbel brackets, string course and arched window frame) picked out in grey.

42.5 Ceiling

Painted boarded soffit on purlins.

42.6 Floor

Modern studded tiles buff with 1in16 red. Integral drainage channel. Upstand to pool drainage trough with pool lined with white tiles and 6" black quarries every 9by9 marking lanes.

42.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.

Doors pair of half glazed modern timber stained door to main N entrance, equivalent single leaf at S entrance

42.8 Fittings

Modern tiled half height screen to S and W denoting viewing gallery, with tubular stainless steel gate at N end. Diagonal brace steel plates rivetted to each metal truss frame foot.

2no full height cupboards (G123 and 124) along W of S wall.

A pool cover is rolled up under the big window on the S wall.

42.9 Misc.

Pool tiling has integral depth markers in imperial dimensions (pre 1965). As well as a range of other fittings, rings, cover plates etc of that period. There is one interesting hand written notice and a plethora of signs and notices on the walls.

Large ventilation and air duct plenums are more intrusive in this smaller pool than the larger.

43.0 Current room name/number

G126-129 Male and Female toilet, landing and stairs.(see also F5)

43.1 Description/history

Part of the original 1892 facilities, the wcs and urinals for each of the two pools, these facilities were completely re-configured in the 1960s when the new first floor access was created. The segregated toilets are now accesses only directly from the small pool but now has an inserted doorway link from the large pool.

All modern tiled walls, stretcher bond with twin dado feature courses, granolithic partitions and modern sanitary ware. All in shabby condition.

43.2 Significance

Negative significance as no identifiable reference (apart from part use) of the original structure remains.

43.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk is evident in poor maintenance that could lead to further deterioration.

Opportunity to reverse the decline and improve the maintenance

43.4 Walls

All modern tiled walls, stretcher bond with twin dado feature courses, granolithic partitions. Some of the tiling



G125 (10)



G125 (18)



G125 (24)



G126 (2)



G126 (3)



G127 (1)

has been subsequently repaired and replaced in non-matching tiles.

43.5 Ceiling
Plain painted finish in poor condition at stair landing.

43.6 Floor
Modern studded grey or buff quarry tiles.

43.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
Windows metal framed windows with obscured glass.
Doors all modern flush, some with vision panels and vents.

43.8 Fittings
All modern sanitary ware.
Staircase has polished timber capping to the inside wall and white tubular metal handrails to first floor. (see also F5)

43.9 Misc.



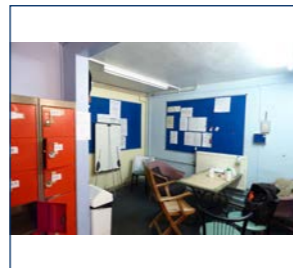
G128 (2)



G128 (5)



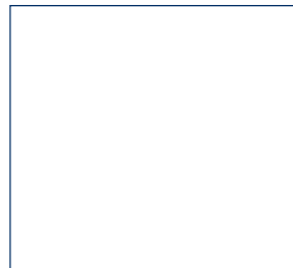
G130 (2)



G130 (4)



G131 (1)



44.0 Current room name/number

G130, 131 Staff Room and External Corridor to Large Pool

44.1 Description/history
Created from within the footprint of the original 1892 wash house accessed independently from the S, none of the original structure or function survives. All part of the 1960s make-over.

44.2 Significance
Negative in bearing no relation to its historic format, merely 1960s functional solution.

44.3 Risks and Opportunities
Risk that this uninspiring back-of-house room suffers from continuing lack of maintenance.

44.4 Walls
Paint on plain plaster.

44.5 Ceiling
Plain painted plaster.

44.6 Floor
Sheet vinyl to G130 quarry tiles to G131.

44.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
Windows metal framed windows with obscured glass.
Door modern flush.

44.8 Fittings
Modern sink unit.

45.0 Current room name/number
G132-135 External area, see Elevations.

46.0 Current room name/number
G136 Chemical Store

47.0 Current room name/number

48.0 Current room name/number

B1 Central Basement

48.1 Description/history
Created in 1905 to serve the Turkish Baths above this basement has an external access stair from the central spine corridor.

48.2 Significance
Low as a functional facility created for the significant Turkish Baths complex.

48.3 Risks and Opportunities
Risks of contamination and asbestos, and of plant outlasting its economically sustainable life.
Opportunity to consider all plant requirements and plan for an integrated service provision

48.4 Walls
Painted brickwork and some blockwork.

48.5 Ceiling
Painted brick vaults..

48.6 Floor
Concrete.

48.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
-

48.8 Fittings
Pipework ducts valves pumps etc. Mechanical services generally



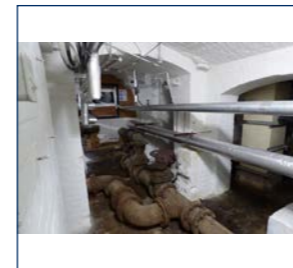
B1(1)



B2(2)



B2(6)



B2(8)

49.0 Current room name/number

B2 North Basement

49.1 Description/history
Created as part of the original structure to service the original pools etc in 1892. Significant pipework remains that appears to be original and access is visible to pipework distribution to the S underneath the W pool side of the small pool. There is a tunnel shown on the original plans that leads directly underground to the Engine Shed. The cross section of the tunnel indicates a central access way of maximum 5' height with side supports for possibly a wheeled flat bed that might have acted as an ambulance to rush a accident case to the doctor. This is supposition.

49.2 Significance
High in relation to the history of servicing of the original pools and being the end of the underground tunnel.

49.3 Risks and Opportunities
Risks of materials, plant and installation outlasting its economically sustainable life.
Opportunity to consider all plant requirements and plan for an integrated service provision.
Opportunity to investigate the underground tunnel further.

49.4 Walls

Painted brickwork and some blockwork.

49.5 Ceiling
Painted brick vaults..

49.6 Floor
Concrete.

49.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc.
-

49.8 Fittings
Pipework ducts valves pumps etc. Mechanical services generally

49.9 Misc.



B2(14)

50.0 Current room name / number

F1 Stair landing

50.1 Description/history

Internal fit-out in 1960s for clever functional up-and-over link between entrance and pools.

50.2 Significance

Modern features with no great significance but contained in an important and authentic major double high space.

50.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunities for interpretation and orientational clues.

50.4 Walls

Half-timber & ply board lining to original glazed brickwork on N & W. Lightweight partition boards with gwc on E and light partition boards to S.

50.5 Ceiling

Original open ceiling of bath house.

50.6 Floor

Carpet.

50.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Pair flushed fire escape door to N.

Original moulded timber and coloured glazed cornices.

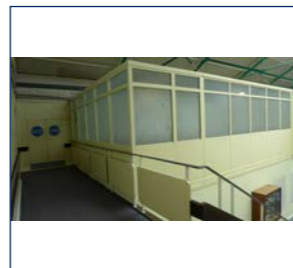
50.8 Fittings

Timber handrail/dado on N, S & W and modern balustrade of cast iron panels on E.

50.9 Misc.



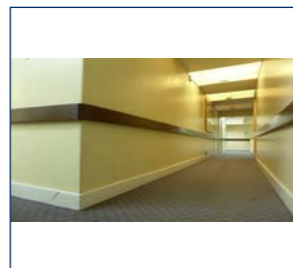
F1 (1)



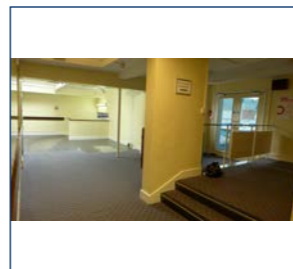
F1(9)



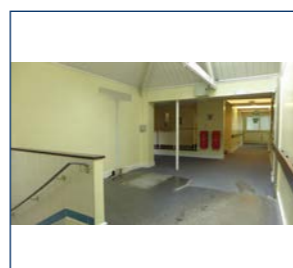
F1(3)



F2(3)



F2(7)



F2(13)

modern ironmongery and architrave. Two flushed doors with gwc panel and modern ironmongery and architrave to E.

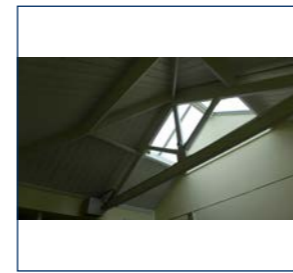
51.8 Fittings

Modern handrail dado, balustrades and plain screens on hall to changing rooms.

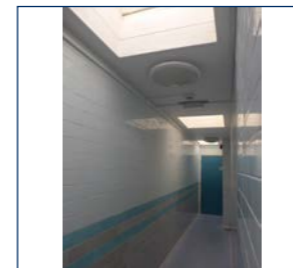
Modern signage, notices and fire safety elements.

51.9 Misc.

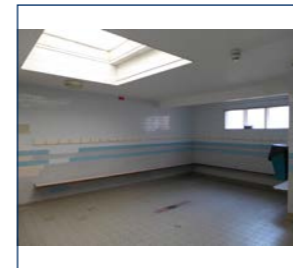
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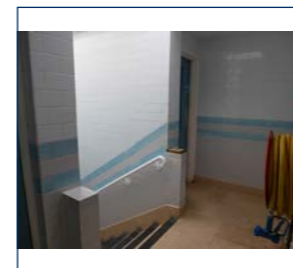
F2(17)



F3(2)



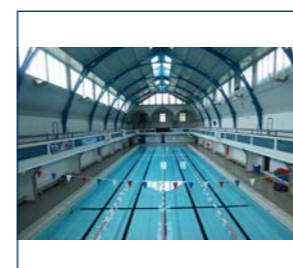
F4(2)



F5(5)



F6(1)



F7(41)

52.0 Current room name / number

F3-6 Corridor, Girls and Boys changing rooms, stairs & landing

52.1 Description/history

Extension of 60s access scheme refurbished in 1983

52.2 Significance

Low to negative. Functional but caused the loss of the Small Pool stained glass window.

52.3 Risks and Opportunities

Modern finishes less robust than earlier.

52.4 Walls

All modern tiled walls, stretcher bond with twin dado feature courses. Some of the tiling has been subsequently repaired and replaced in non-matching tiles.

52.5 Ceiling

Plain painted finish.

52.6 Floor

Modern light blue vinyl on corridor and grey tiles on changing rooms and landing.

52.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Windows metal framed windows with gwc glass.

Doors all modern flush, some with vision panels and fanlights.

Plain modern architraves.

Simple timber skirting on corridor and grey tiles skirting on changing rooms and landing.

52.8 Fittings

Modern fittings. Modern signage and fire safety elements on landing.

52.9 Misc.

53.0 Current room name / number

F7 Large Pool galleries

53.1 Description/history

Original stepped timber gallery with seating. Seats overlaid with vinyl in 60s. Access from south-east removed, emergency escape to north-west added.

53.2 Significance

Highest significance and authentic interest.

53.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity to retain the authentic arrangement here.

53.4 Walls

Modern painted brick in English bond divided into structural bays by the supporting structure.

53.5 Ceiling

7no grand web holed arch frames supporting boarded sloping ceilings and continuous ridge light with 3no turret vents. Dormer strip glazing both sides and fully glazed dutch gable N.

53.6 Floor

Timber boarded floor with natural finish.

53.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

2no 6 light windows to N with four gwc panels fixed and two 4 pane clear glass openings at top with one with partial original glass. Fixed panels with metal protection bars. WC1 and G1.

Significant 9 light, arched window to S with original stained glass.

Double outward timber door on N with DC1 and no architrave.

Modern timber skirting added on central part of S wall. No skirting found on other three sides.

53.8 Fittings

Authentic terraced wood seats on N, E & W. E & W first two row of seats with vertical back.

Wood and metal balustrade to gallery front. On N side, three arches with cast iron columns with decorated capital, plain shaft and no base.

53.9 Misc.

A wide range of banners, signs, notices

54.0 Current room name / number

F8-9 Male WC

54.1 Description/history

Modern facility in much altered original access location.

54.2 Significance

High original access route and dormer; low modern fit-out.

54.3 Risks and Opportunities

Floor, skirting, ceiling and fittings in need of repairs and maintenance.

54.4 Walls

All modern tiled walls, stretcher bond with twin dado feature courses.

54.5 Ceiling

Plain painted finish.

54.6 Floor

Moder grey vinyl.

54.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

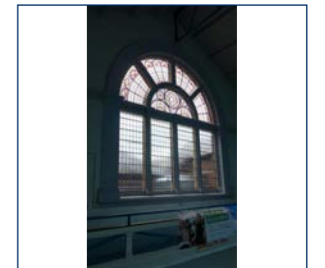
Part of early dormer window to W with moulded cill & architrave, WC2, cill type 1 and gwc panels. Lower fixed



F7(17)



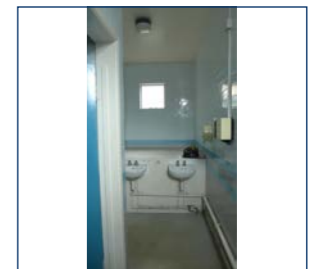
F7(28)



F7(24)



F7(31)



F8(7)



F8(9)

panel but rest of the window behind it.
 Modern metal square gwc window to E.
 Inward self-closing flush door, no architrave, DC2 to F8.
 Flush door to F9, modern ironmongery and DC3.
 Plain timber skirting type S2.

54.8 Fittings
 Modern sanitary fittings.

54.9 Misc.

55.0 Current room name / number
F10 Stairs landing

55.1 Description/history
 Original main access to large pool gallery and rear access to original committee room, now emergency escape only.

55.2 Significance
 High as original and unique elements.

55.3 Risks and Opportunities
 Risk of deterioration through continued redundancy.

55.4 Walls
 Solid and plaster painted with painted double horizontal dado.

55.5 Ceiling
 Plain plaster painted with various cracking and original ceiling rose.

55.6 Floor
 Concrete.

55.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc
 Window with original architrave blocked to E. To S side, fixed four light window with original clear glass, window casement WC1, cill2 and timber boarded below.
 5 no moulded panelled door to E with original architrave. Updated to fire door.
 On W side, double self-closing inwards doors with glazed gwpp, flushed inside and six moulded panels to F7.
 Modern ironmongery and architrave type A1.

Timber painted skirting type S3.
 Timber painted cornices type C2.

55.8 Fittings
 Concrete stairs with decorative cast iron balusters and moulded timber handrail.

55.9 Misc.
 Various pipes running on N and W walls.

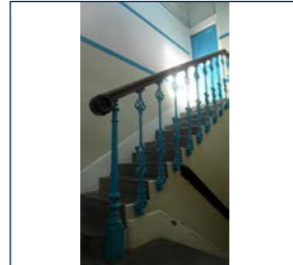
56.0 Current room name / number
F11 Training Room

56.1 Description/history
 The original committee room from 1892.

56.2 Significance



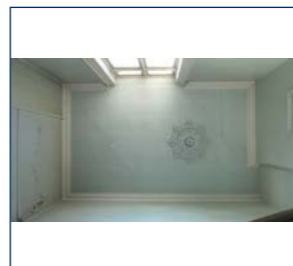
F9(5)



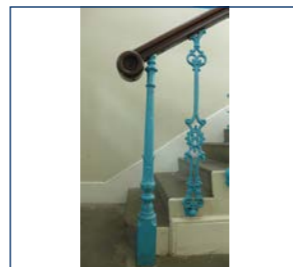
F10(5)



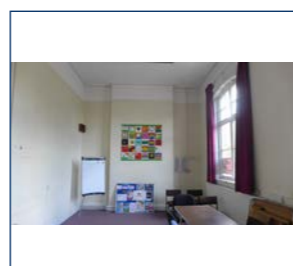
F10(16)



F10(6)



F10(4)



F11(2)

High retaining many original features but lost its fireplace and dado, all plastered over presumed glazed tiles.

56.3 Risks and Opportunities
 Risk of low use for important room. Opportunity to revive.

56.4 Walls
 Solid and painted plaster with picture rail type PR1.

56.5 Ceiling
 Plain plaster painted with some cracking and 3 no original ceiling roses, outer two are under-cut (as vents?). Plaster cornice C3.

56.6 Floor
 Carpet

56.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc
 1 no four light 1 no 6 light arched windows with mouldings, WC1, cill2 and G2. Both windows with various original clear glass panels.

Four panelled door on E with two upper panels in gwpp and architrave type A2. On S, original architrave type A2 with inner slip door frame, no door. Alcove space no original doors. W, five panel door with mouldings updated to fire door and architrave A2 on upper zone. See F14 for E.

Timber painted skirting type S3.

56.8 Fittings

-

56.9 Misc.

-

57.0 Current room name / number
F12-13 Kitchenette and Store.

57.1 Description/history
 Originally a full corridor in F12 from stairs to committee room. F13 earlier used as Training Office but now storage.

57.2 Significance
 Medium as evidence of original organization. Original brickwork finish visible below paint.

57.3 Risks and Opportunities
 Risk that lack of viable function exacerbates deterioration.
 Opportunity of reasonable sized spaces to revive with suitable use.

57.4 Walls
 Mostly painted brick in English bond and a lightweight stud partition between offices. F12 has a lightweight partition to create an internal corridor.
 Blocked fireplace, no surround, to E in F12.

Blocked fireplace, no surround, to E in F12.

57.5 Ceiling
 Painted plaster with ceiling rose in F12.

57.6 Floor
 Carpet.

57.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc
 4 light window with various original clear glass to N wall.



F11(8)



F11(7)



F11(17)



F11(6)



F12(3)



F12(9)

Type as room F11.
 3 no early windows to S. The biggest (central) moulded original architrave, timber boarded lower part (to obscure roof profile outside) and cill 2. E lower level, side hung (for access to gutter). W high level for WC removed.

Modern window and door to stud partition.

Self-closing door with mouldings on both faces to E. Original architrave A2.

Timber painted skirting type S3.

No cornices.

57.8 Fittings
 Modern fitting on F12. Modern shelves and cabinets on F13.

57.9 Misc.
 Considerable array of pipes running on N and E walls.

58.0 Current room name / number
F14 Storage & cupboard

58.1 Description/history
 Originally toilet accommodation for committee room, early extended over stairs for separate store.

58.2 Significance
 High for link to original function, but low in current use.

58.3 Risks and Opportunities
 Risk of losing historic significance due to remote and loss of use.

58.4 Walls
 Painted plaster.

58.5 Ceiling
 2 no opening lights, 1 no with gwc and 1 no clear. Rest of ceiling painted plaster.

58.6 Floor
 Carpet with original tiles inside cupboard.

58.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc
 4 no panelled door to E with mouldings and modern architrave. 4 no panelled door to W with mouldings, upper panel updated to timber, with architrave type A2.

Timber painted skirting type S4.

58.8 Fittings
 Modern extractor hood indicating once the kitchenette.

58.9 Misc.
 2 no timber beams supporting suspended timber boarded box containing header tank.

59.0 Current room name / number
F15 Stair landing

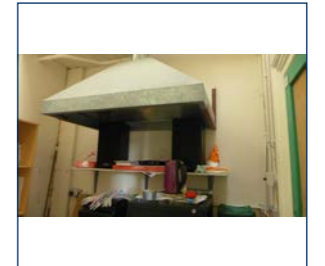
59.1 Description/history
 Original stairway to Committee Room and dental suite.



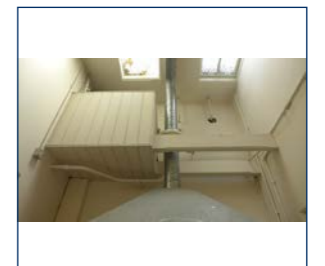
F13(1)



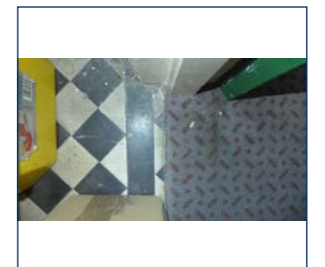
F13(2)



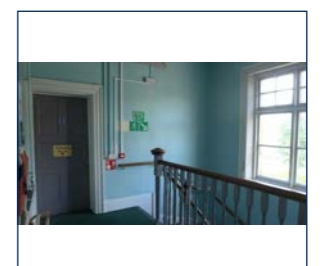
F14(4)



F14(7)



F14(21)



F15(8)

Original plans differ as 2no doors shown to E and short flight to W. Landing therefore raised, upper stair and balustrade replaced at that time.

59.2 Significance

High as original primary access, and interesting changes.

59.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity to reveal more history. Is there still evidence for the second (northern) E door?

59.4 Walls

Solid and plaster painted.

59.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted with original ceiling rose (matching F11) and access hatch.

59.6 Floor

Carpet.

59.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Four light window to N with casement type WC1, cill2, G2 and various original clear glasses.

Five panelled door to E, with architrave type A2 on both sides, self closing with modern beehive knob.

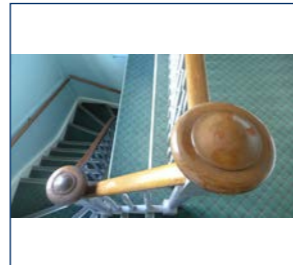
59.8 Fittings

Stairs with turned timber balusters and circular newel tops

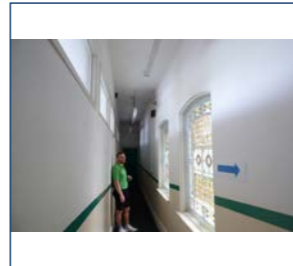
59.9 Misc.



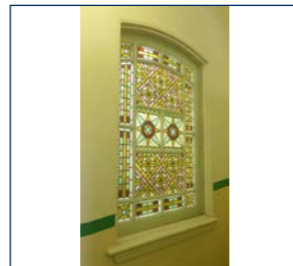
F15(21)



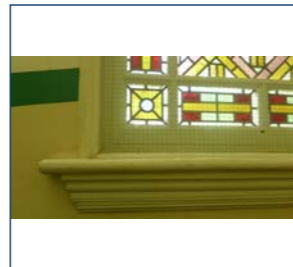
F15(13)



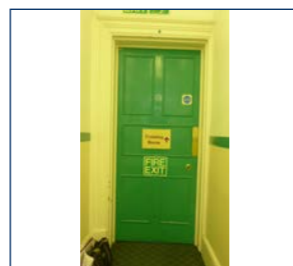
F16(27)



F16(18)



F16(19)



F16(2)

**60.0 Current room name / number
F16 Corridor**

60.1 Description/history

Original corridor to 1892 dental suite, N wall removed after 1911 and only re-introduced in 1982.

60.2 Significance

High, for original use and twin stained glass internal windows as borrowed lights without overlooking from original Dispensary.

60.3 Risks and Opportunities

60.4 Walls

Solid and plaster painted with painted dado, picture rail type PR1 to walls and timber painted skirting type S3.

60.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

60.6 Floor

Carpet.

60.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

2 no fixed arched stained glass windows with gwpp protection on inside with G2, cill2 and WC3.

To N side, 2 no doors and 5 no fixed gwc borrowed lights.

To E side, four panelled door with simple mouldings and architrave, self closing with beehive knob.

60.8 Fittings

60.9 Misc.

**61.0 Current room name / number
F17-18 Ladies and Gens WCs**

61.1 Description/history

Created from the waiting room and first two of three dental consulting rooms, but amalgamated with corridor for opticians in 1911.

61.2 Significance

Low in current form but original division walls remain stub

61.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity to reconsider extent of provision and reconsider layout in light of historic changes.

61.4 Walls

Solid painted plaster with tiled area on wash basins and urinals, timber painted skirting type S3 and picture rail type PR1. Intermediate partitions to room entrance and modern laminate to cubicles, bar 2 original solid stubs.

61.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted. No cornice.

61.6 Floor

Vinyl.

61.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

3 no four light windows (2 no on F17 and 1 no on F18) with window casement type WC1 and WC4, cill 2 and G2 with most original clear glasses on upper openings. Lower half of the windows have been blocked out to keep the privacy of the room.

5 no rectangular fixed timber casements with gwc to S.

Five panelled door to each room, with architrave type A2 on both sides, mouldings and beehive knobs on both sides. Some of the ironmongery could be original including beehive escutcheon on F18.

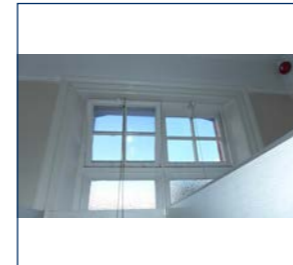
61.8 Fittings

Modern sanitary ware and safety signage.

61.9 Misc.



F17(2)



F17(17)



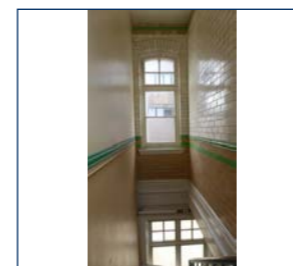
F18(3)



F18(11)



F19(1)



F19(23)

**62.0 Current room name / number
F19, 23 Corridor**

62.1 Description/history

Part of the 1911 first floor extension. F19 stair landing to G87. S end originally a room, not through to Turkish Baths

62.2 Significance

High as exemplifying a major extension carefully integrated to appear seamless. Use of matching glazed brick and coloured dado, but with give-away bond differs.

62.3 Risks and Opportunities

62.4 Walls

Original glazed bricks in Flemish bond on W and Stretcher on E, with glazed moulded coloured dado, and 3 no courses of coloured glazed bricks as cornice. Timber painted skirting type S5. There are missing areas of dado with no replacement.

Lightweight stud partition on E on area next to F29 with

different timber dado and skirting.

62.5 Ceiling

Plan painted plaster.

62.6 Floor

Green carpet.

62.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

8 no original windows to W with various original clear glazing and timber painted casement.

1 no three light window to E facade with original clear glazing, cill 2.

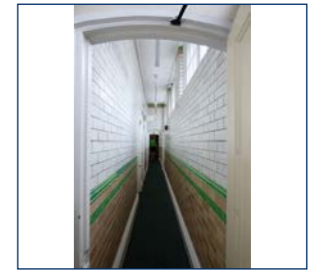
Various four arched panelled doors to offices on E with different types of beehive knobs and escutchions. Moulded panels and architrave type A4.

62.8 Fittings

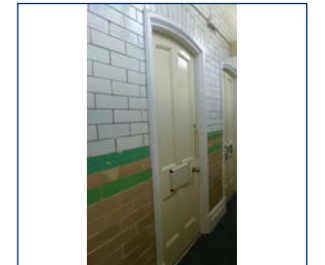
Modern safety signage.

Carpet stairs with decorative cast iron balustrades and timber handrail.

62.9 Misc.



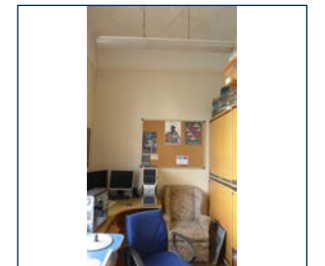
F23(28)



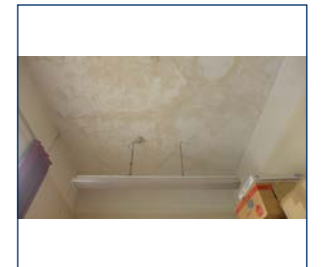
F23(12)



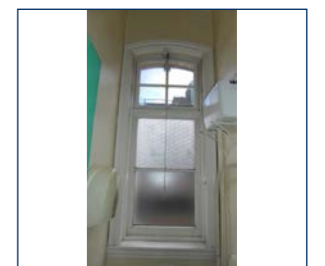
F20(2)



F20(5)



F20(6)



F21(7)

**63.0 Current room name / number
F20 Store/office**

63.1 Description/history

Originally the full end bay of the dental suite, now reduced to S with corridor corner and wc.

63.2 Significance

Moderate as exemplifying reasonable functional changes carefully integrated.

63.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk from corner position and low maintenance.

63.4 Walls

Solid and plaster painted with picture rail and timber skirting type S3.

63.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted with humidity stains all over. Bad condition.

63.6 Floor

Carpet.

63.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

1 no 4 light window to N with interior secondary casements. Readed glass on lower panes outside.

63.8 Fittings

Pipes on N wall.

63.9 Misc.

**64.0 Current room name / number
F21 WC**

64.1 Description/history

Created from 1892 corner room by 1911 first floor extension including new inserted matching window.

64.2 Significance

Low as a clever functional nicety of the period (1911).

64.3 Risks and Opportunities

64.4 Walls

Solid and plaster painted with timber skirting type S3.

64.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

64.6 Floor

Vinyl.

64.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Two light arched window to E with original architrave, glass, window casement type WC5, cill 3 upper glazing clear, middle frosted, lower sanded.

1 no self closing door with four moulded panels, architrave type A3 and original knob and beehive escutchions.

64.8 Fittings

Recent sanitary fittings but lead high level flush pipe.

64.9 Miscl.

65.0 Current room name / number F22,24,25 Offices

65.1 Description/history

Suite of consulting rooms from 1911.

65.2 Significance

High retaining relative completeness, fireplaces etc..

65.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity to retain functional rooms intact.

65.4 Walls

Solid and plaster painted with timber skirting type S5. Rounded reveal to openings, no architraves.

65.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

65.6 Floor

Brown carpet. Some patterned lino.

65.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Arched 4 light timber painted casement window in each room All clear class, some lower sashes side hung.

Original 1911 arched four panelled interconnecting doors.

65.8 Fittings

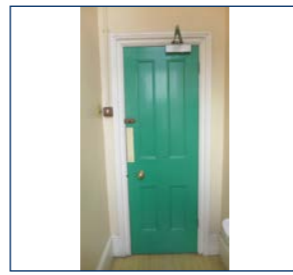
Two sided original fire place to F22 and F24. Cast iron fireplace in painted timber surrounding, tiled slips & glazed tiled hearth.

Small sink to F25.

65.9 Miscl.

Original clothing rail on F24. Various storage and archives on F25.

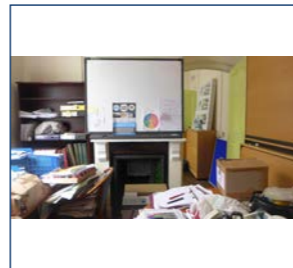
66.0 Current room name / number



F21(1)



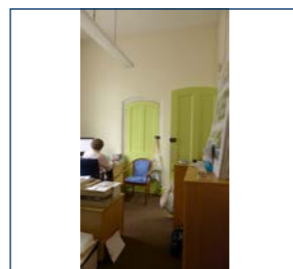
F21(4)



F22(5)



F22(8)



F24(6)



F24(3)

F26 Library

66.1 Description/history

Together with F27 and the end of the corridor, the end room of the 1911 first floor suite, marked for optician. .

66.2 Significance

High for specific original use.

66.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk modern use restricted by corridor.

66.4 Walls

Solid and plaster painted to N and E. Lightweight stud partition to S and W, with simple plain timber dado and skirting.

66.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

66.6 Floor

Brown carpet.

66.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Arched timber painted casement window to E with six clear panels and cill 1. Most original glazing.

1 no door to F25 blocked by furniture.

1 no arched door to W corridor with four panels, mouldings and beehive knob and escutchion.

66.8 Fittings

Two sided fire place to F25, blocked by furniture.

66.9 Miscl.

Modern curtains added to window.

67.0 Current room name / number F27 Storage

67.1 Description/history

Used to be the X-Ray Room, evidenced by black-out shutter, still with good original ironmongery.

67.2 Significance

High for retained evidence of original use.

67.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk that evidence is lost, opportunity to retain.

67.4 Walls

To N and E, solid walls in painted glazed bricks with stretcher bond, painted glazed dado and timber skirting type S5 with missing part on almost all S. To S, solid and plaster painted wall with dado as on N and tiled area to sink.

67.5 Ceiling

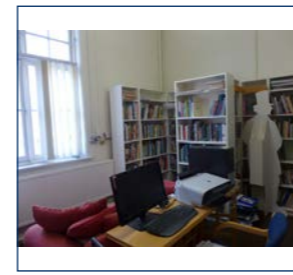
Plain concrete and painted lining paper with damaged and missing areas.

67.6 Floor

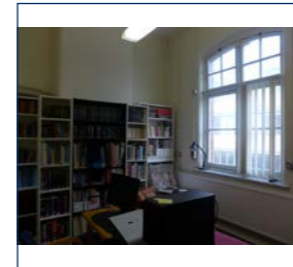
Vinyl.

67.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Original 2 light casement window with fixed arched top



F26(1)



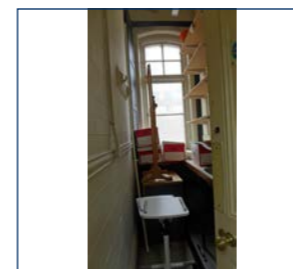
F26(2)



F26(6)



F26(8)



F27(1)



F27(12)

panel. Clear glazing in middle and upper panel and granular translucent in lower panel. Black-out internal timber shutter with moulded panels painted black.

Four panelled door with moulded beads on outside and half found to inside. Beehive knob and escutchion.

67.8 Fittings

Modern sink and shelves to S. Original towel rail to N but missing rail. Shutter has good original ironmongery

67.9 Miscl.

68.0 Current room name / number F28 Kitchen

68.1 Description/history

Originally one with F29 and 30 as dead-end to first floor beyond 1904 committee room, by 1939 separated and connected to 1911 dental range as dental anaesthetics. Corridor to 1911 range inserted after 1960

68.2 Significance

High showing multiple adaptation and change of use.

68.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity to incorporate historic interpretation.

68.4 Walls

Painted glazed brick in flemish bond to N and E with partial tiled area to sinks. Painted timber boarded partition to S. Lightweight stud partition to W.

68.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

68.6 Floor

Grey vinyl.

68.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Six light window with arched upper 4 pane opening lights and various types of glazing. Most of the clear glazing are original, and lower panels in frosted and arctic glass. Cill 4 and G2.

2 no fixed borrowed lights with gwpp and modern timber frame to W.

Five panelled self closing door with architrave type A2 and modern ironmongery. Detailed mouldings to outside and simple to inside.

68.8 Fittings

Various modern kitchen fittings in N and E. Modern signage.

Pipes on N and E. Some fire safety elements.

68.9 Miscl.

Various appliances and furniture

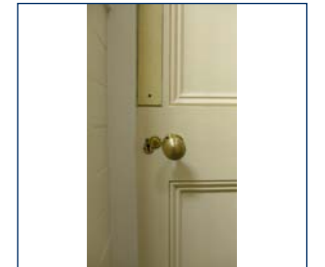
69.0 Current room name / number F29 Corridor

69.1 Description/history

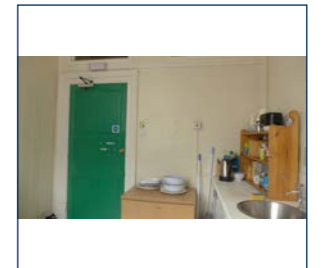
Part of F28-30 (see F28)



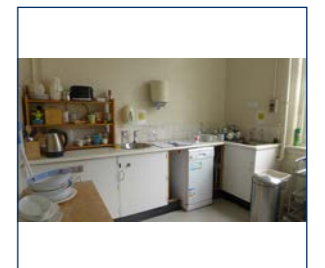
F27(4)



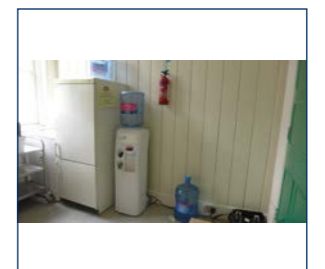
F27(15)



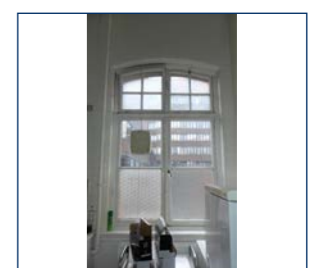
F28(12)



F28(18)



F28(8)



F28(7)

69.2 Significance

Moderate as indicating the story of connecting top floor.

69.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity for non-original space to carry interpretation.

69.4 Walls

Original glazed bricks in Flemish bond on N, S and W, with glazed moulded coloured dado, and 3 no courses of coloured glazed bricks as cornice. Timber painted skirting type S6. There are missing areas of dado on W that has been replaced by a timber one.

Painted lightweight stud partition on E with timber skirting type S6 and no cornice.

69.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted.

69.6 Floor

Green carpet.

69.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

4 no fixed windows with gwpp and modern timber frame to E.

Door frame with no panel to separate from F23.

69.8 Fittings

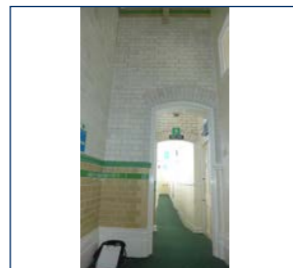
Modern signage.

69.9 Misc.

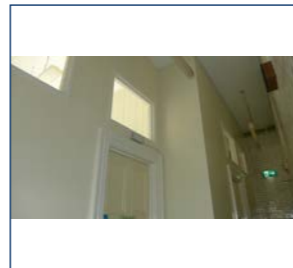
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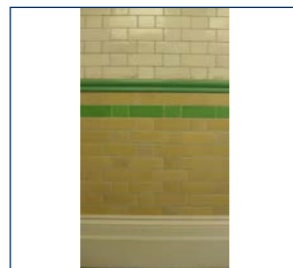
F29(9)



F29(15)



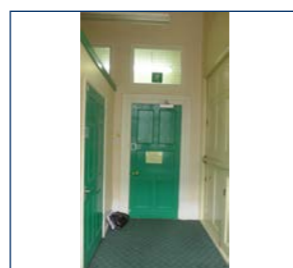
F29(12)



F29(13)



F30(6)



F30(2)

lights Most of the clear glazing are original, middle panes stipplite, lower panes frosted glass. Cill 4 and G2 with original ironmongery.

2 no fixed windows with gwpp and modern timber frame to W.

Five panelled self closing door with architrave type A2 and moder ironmongery. Detailed mouldings to outside and simple to inside.

Six panelled door with simple architrave and lift door with simple architrave to S.

70.8 Fittings

Built-in cupboard, sliding doors, fixed selves (have seen soem adjustments), with mouldings full height of wall to N. Between 1911 and 1939. In good order. Modern lift from ground floor.

70.9 Misc.

-

71.0 Current room name / number F31,43 Corridors

71.1 Description/history

Original to the 1904 Turkish Bath infill block, these corridors led to the Ladies' Bath. Only change is the insertion of the door to F33 post 1962 and lighting.

71.2 Significance

High in original and good condition

71.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity that minimum maintenance will keep in good condition.

71.4 Walls

Original glazed bricks in Flemish bond, with glazed moulded coloured dado, and 3 no courses of coloured glazed bricks as cornice. Timber painted skirting type S6. Original tiled signage indication "Way Out" along corridors.

71.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted with some cracking and damaged areas.

71.6 Floor

Green carpet.

71.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Sash window with arched top on F31. All upper glazing original and cill 4.

Entrance door to F31, four panelled door with mouldings, upper panels in gwc and arched top.

71.8 Fittings

Modern safety signage and pipes in F43.

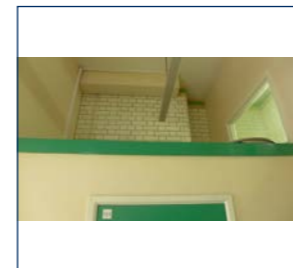
71.9 Misc.

-

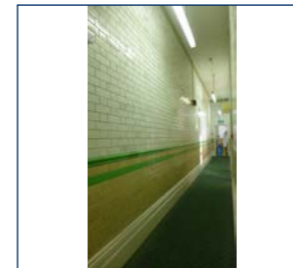
72.0 Current room name / number F32,33 Offices



F30(19)



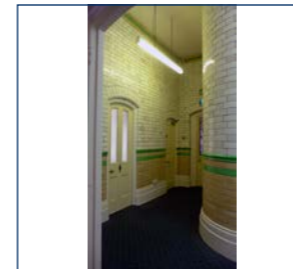
F30(12)



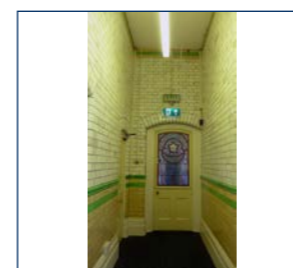
F31(5)



F31(1)



F43(3)



F43(5)

72.1 Description/history

Part of the original 1904 Turkish Baths infill F32 has had time as a store but with a good fireplace is currently used as meeting room, office and library. F33 was originally the 'cooling and lounge' for the Ladies' Bath but accessible only from the W. It is currently used as the "Mechanics Institution Trust Office".

72.2 Significance

High as original spaces with significant fittings in place.

72.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity for the rooms to remain in good use,

72.4 Walls

Original glazed bricks in Flemish bond, with glazed moulded coloured dado, and 3 no courses of coloured glazed bricks as cornice. Timber painted skirting type S6.

72.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted. On F33 lantern on timber supporting frame and gwc glazing panels.

72.6 Floor

Dark green carpet.

72.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Original fixed glazed screen in unpainted timber and frosted glass panels on S side of F33.

4 no original sash windows with arched top, cill 4 and G2. Various glass types some original clear panes.

To F32, four panelled door with mouldings, upper panels in translucent frosted glass and arched top. Beehive knobs and escutchions. Modern ironmongery added as additional security.

On F33, four panelled door with mouldings, upper panels in gwc, beehive knob and push plate.

72.8 Fittings

Two sided original fire place, being the F33 side blocked, but keeping surround. On F32, cast iron fireplace in painted timber surround, cheek tiles & glazed tiled hearth.

72.9 Misc.

Modern curtains to windows.

73.0 Current room name / number F34 Corridor to Lifestyle Room

73.1 Description/history

Original corridor to Ladies' Turkish Bath, it retains its original scree unpainted.

73.2 Significance

High as authentic original space. Stained glass door now on stair landing, would have been off the corridor F31.

73.3 Risks and Opportunities

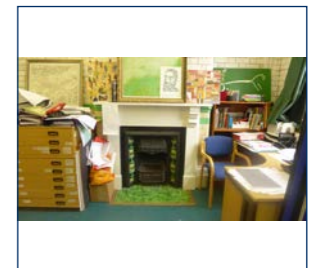
Risk of loss of authentic finishes and screen.

73.4 Walls

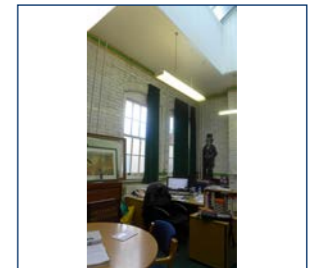
Original glazed bricks in Flemish bond, with glazed moulded coloured dado, and 3 no courses of coloured glazed bricks as cornice. Natural unfinished timber skirting type S6.



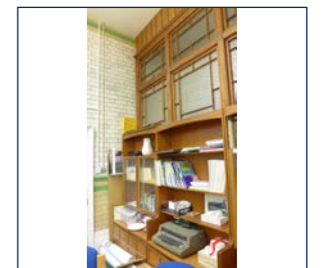
F32(15)



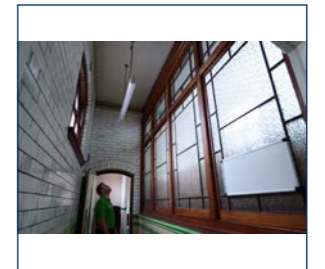
F32(22)



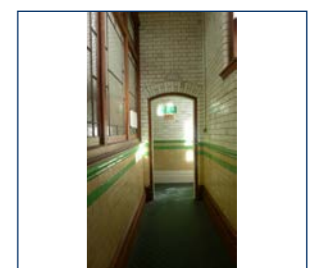
F33(5)



F33(13)



F34(15)



F34(7)

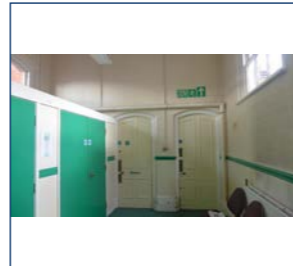
- 73.5 Ceiling**
Plain plaster painted.
- 73.6 Floor**
Green carpet.
- 73.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc**
Fixed glazed screen in unpainted timber and original frosted glazed panels to F33.
On S, sash window in unpainted timber, arched top and cill 4.
Door frame in natural unfinished timber, with no panel to E. Four panelled self closing door with arched top in natural unfinished timber, original beehive knob, escutchion and double finger plates to W.
- 73.8 Fittings**
Modern signage and light fittings.
- 73.9 Misc.**
-
- 74.0 Current room name / number**
F35-38 Storage, kitchenette and waiting room.
- 74.1 Description/history**
Part of the original Ladies Turkish Bath, F35 and 36 titled 'dressing boxes', F37 a wc, and F38 'shampooing'. Bath no longer features in 1939 area bing taken over by laundry facilities (ironing in F35/6).
- 74.2 Significance**
Moderate as still readable for original Turkish Bath use.
- 74.3 Risks and Opportunities**
Risk of deteriorating condition in F37. Opportunity to incorporate interpretation.
- 74.4 Walls**
Painted glazed Flemish brick with painted glazed dado. On F35 and F36, lower lightweight stud partition.
On E side of F35, painted timber skirting type S6.
On F37, modern tiles added to glazed brick layer under dado.
On F38, skirting created by using lower painted glazed dado.
- 74.5 Ceiling**
Plain plaster painted with blocked hatch on F35.
- 74.6 Floor**
Grey vinyl in Kitchenet and green carpet on others.
- 74.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc**
4 no sash windows with arched top, architraves and cill 1 on F35 and F36.
On F35, 2 no identical doors, four panelled with arched top and simple mouldings. Ironmongery in slight different position, original beehive knobs, escutchions and two reeded push plates. 2 no door frames with no panels on hall towards waiting room.
On F36, 2 no pair flush cupboard fire doors to S.



F34(13)



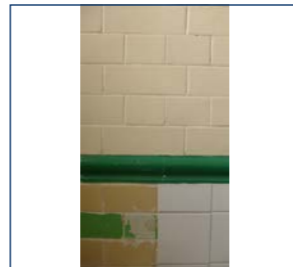
F35-36(1)



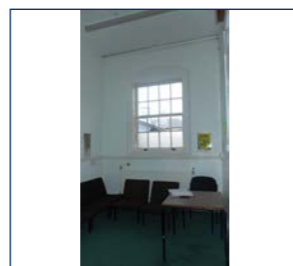
F35-36(3)



F37(2)



F37(7)



F38(2)

On F37, original window to N with original frosted glass.
On F38, original sash window on N with original frosted & clear glass. Cill to dado. Door to F39 original, four panelled with upper panels in translucent textured glass. With modern finger plate & beehive knob. Door to F41 in different style to others: simple panelled with modern ironmongery door in moulded architrave.

- 74.8 Fittings**
On F37, modern fitting in bad condition and hazardous as notice.
Modern signage on all rooms
- 74.9 Misc.**

75.0 Current room name / number
F39-40 Children's toys and storage

- 75.1 Description/history**
Originally the hot rooms of the Ladies' Turkish Bath
- 75.2 Significance**
High, original spaces adapted for modern use
- 75.3 Risks and Opportunities**
Risk of losing significance of original use. Opportunity to incorporate interpretation.
- 75.4 Walls**
Painted glazed Flemish brick with glazed dado and skirting with glazed lower dado.
Lightweight partition on N side of F39
- 75.5 Ceiling**
Painted plasterboard to F39. Vaulted brick ceiling to F40.
- 75.6 Floor**
Green carpet.
- 75.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc**
In F39, original window with various original clear glass panes. In F40, timber casement window with modern internal security protection bars.

- 75.8 Fittings**
Various modern shelves and shelving recess in duct wall
- 75.9 Misc.**

76.0 Current room name / number
F41 Lifestyle room

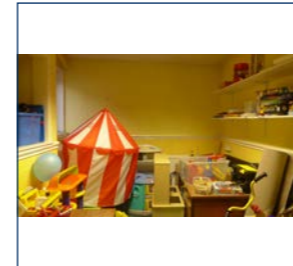
- 76.1 Description/history**
Original laundry room accessible from outside only. Vaulted ceiling not aligned to geometry of openings.
- 76.2 Significance**
High as original functional space little altered and in modern use.
- 76.3 Risks and Opportunities**
Risk remote location hard to use effectively. Opportunity to incorporate interpretation and not lose authenticity.



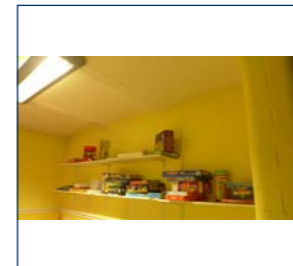
F38(6)



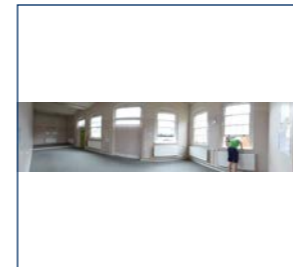
F39(12)



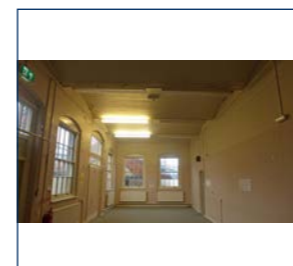
F40(3)



F40(12)



F41(30)

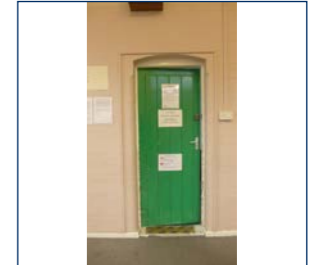


F41(14)

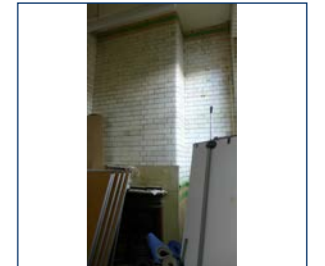
- 76.4 Walls**
Painted glazed Flemish brick with simple timber skirting. Evidence of alterations to original openings.
- 76.5 Ceiling**
Vaulted ceiling.
- 76.6 Floor**
Green carpet.
- 76.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc**
Original sash windows on N & W with various p. original clear & frosted glass. Blocked window on W and altered window updated into emergency exit to W.
Adapted flushed doors for emergency exit to exterior passage. Timber panelled door to F38 with modern ironmongery.
- 76.8 Fittings**
Modern safety equipment, radiators and safety signage.
- 76.9 Misc.**
-



F41(9)



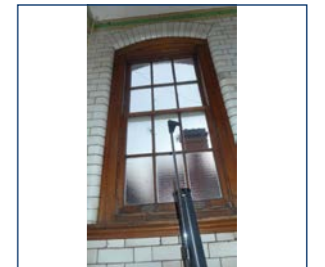
F41(27)



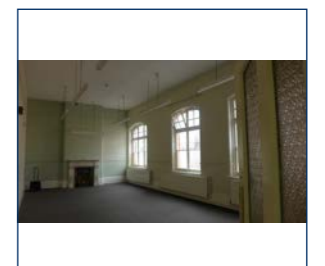
F42(7)



F42(9)



F42(18)



F44(1)

77.0 Current room name / number
F42 Store

- 77.1 Description/history**
Original designation for 'caretaker' for Ladies' Turkish Bath
- 77.2 Significance**
High, all of room of authentic interest.
- 77.3 Risks and Opportunities**
Risk as use as dumping ground may affect fabric. opportunity to tidy up and re-present.
- 77.4 Walls**
Original glazed Flemish bricks with glazed coloured dado and natural timber skirting type S6. Singular curved wall on NE side.
- 77.5 Ceiling**
Plain plaster painted
- 77.6 Floor**
Blue vinyl.
- 77.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc**
Original sash window in unpainted timber frame.
Four panelled door with two upper gwc panels to N with moulded frame and original beehive knob & escutcheon.
- 77.8 Fittings**
Original cast iron fireplace in natural unfinished timber surrounding components, cheek tiles and glazed tiled hearth.
- 77.9 Misc.**
-

78.0 Current room name / number
F44 Activity Room

78.1 Description/history

Of special interest as it used to be the Committee Room from 1904.

78.2 Significance

High as space virtually unchanged except for over-painting of gaazed brick walls.

78.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of change affecting significance. Opportunity to return to original appearance by stripping paint.

78.4 Walls

Flemish glazed bricks with moulded dado & skirting type S6 and picture rail on four walls. All elements have been painted losing its original colour features. original clothes rail on S.

78.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster. Cornice expected to be glazed brick

78.6 Floor

Brown carpet.

78.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

3 no original windows on E with most of their original clear glass, mixture of obscure glass to lower panes, cill type cl4 and arched top.

Original four panelled door on S with two upper panels in frosted glass.

78.8 Fittings

Original cast iron fireplace in marble and stone surrounding components, cheek tiles & glazed tiled hearth with patterned border tiles.

Modern signage and safety equipment.

78.9 Misc.

79.0 Current room name / number

F45 Ladies WC

79.1 Description/history

Original plan shows no toilet here although existing installation identical to Gents original directly below. Bank of 3 urinals boxed in on S

79.2 Significance

High, room of authentic interest but modern WC and wash basin. Enclosed urinals have lost their maker's panels.

79.3 Risks and Opportunities

Opportunity to retain high authenticity, and include interpretation.

79.4 Walls

Glazed Flemish brick with glazed coloured dado & glazed skirting (different type from others) S7.

Original solid partition to WC.

Lightweight partition to S with opening hatch to inspect urinals enclosed.

79.5 Ceiling

Plain painted plaster, some cracking and access hatch.



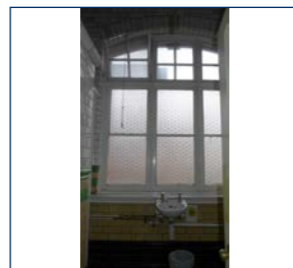
F44(26)



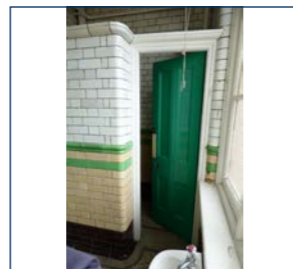
F44(5)



F44(16)



F45(11)



F45(27)



F45(18)

79.6 Floor

Different floor from other rooms in same floor. Terrazzo with coloured border.

79.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Original window to E with frosted glass design.

Door to F45 original, four panelled with upper panels in frosted glass. Original ironmongery with beehive knobs & escutcheons. Door to WC original with original ironmongery, escutcheons, push plate & vacant-engaged lock.

79.8 Fittings

Lead soil and down pipes with modern plumbing. Modern washbasin low level WC and other appliances.

79.9 Misc.

80.0 Current room name / number

F46 Cleaners store

80.1 Description/history

Earlier plans indicate small toilet block on floor below in 1898. Original Turkish Bath plans have no cupboard here.

80.2 Significance

Low although presumed to be authentic from soon after opening.

80.3 Risks and Opportunities

80.4 Walls

Painted brick on flemish bond without skirting or dado but interesting moulded cornices (not seen before on this floor) to S.

80.5 Ceiling

Painted plasterboard with damaged areas and cracking.

80.6 Floor

Unfinished cement.

80.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Two panelled self closing door with mouldings and arched top. Beehive knob and escutcheon.

80.8 Fittings

Various services pipes and equipment on N.

80.9 Misc.

Rustic shelves for cleaning products and appliances.

81.0 Current room name / number

F47 Stairs landing

81.1 Description/history

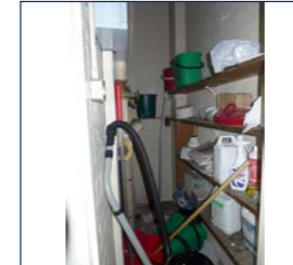
Originally shown the stairs are at the SE corner so this area would have been a dead-end first floor space. The current stair is shown in 1904 and a more central location for access to Ladies' Turkish Baths makes sense.

81.2 Significance

High as part of initial alterations for Ladies Turkish Baths, although door is not in original location.



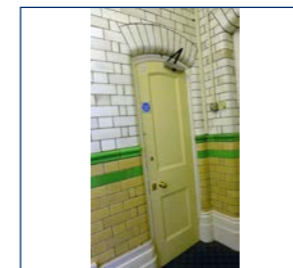
F45(19)



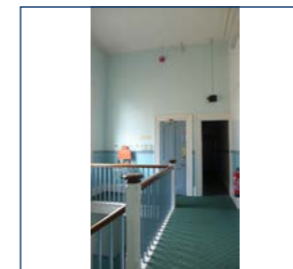
F46(1)



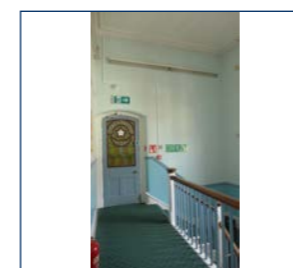
F46(2)



F46(4)



F47(1)



F47(8)

81.3 Risks and Opportunities-

81.4 Walls

Plain painted plaster with painted timber dado and skirting type S3.

81.5 Ceiling

Plain plaster painted with some cracking, detailed cornices and original ceiling rose.

81.6 Floor

Green carpet

81.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

Six light window with arched top to E facade. Various original clear glass panels and lower panels frosted and arctic glass. Moulded painted timber window casement, cill 2 and G2.

Original door on N with stained glass top panel states 'Ladies Turkish Baths' two lower panels. Original beehive knob.

On S, four panelled self closing door to F48 with mouldings, beehive knob, escutcheon, finger plate and added modern security ironmongery. Adjacent to empty doorway with architrave to corridor. to F49.

81.8 Fittings

Carpet stairs with simple square profile balustrades and unpainted timber handrail, generous circular newel cap buns..

81.9 Misc.

Various modern safety equipment and signage.

82.0 Current room name / number

F48-49 Offices

82.1 Description/history

F48 originally the first floor office with F 49 the stairwell.

82.2 Significance

Moderate part of the 1989 Washing Baths complex. Central office original but SE office reworked from the stair hall

82.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risks of good office spaces on a limb.

82.4 Walls

Plain painted plaster with painted timber skirting type S3.

82.5 Ceiling

F48 with modern suspended ceiling board. F49 ppainted plasterboard with access hatch.

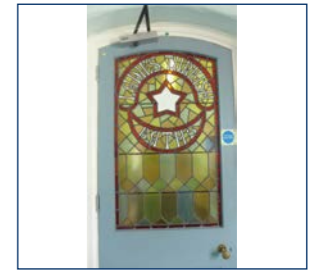
82.6 Floor

Carpet.

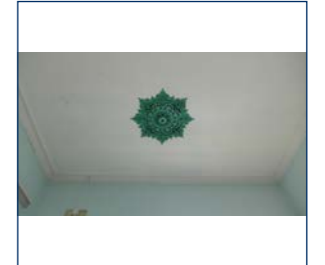
82.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

On F48, six light casement window to E facade with moulded window casement and cill 2. Some original clear glazing panes

On F49, four light casement window to E facade with moulded window casement and cill 2. Some original clear glazing panels.



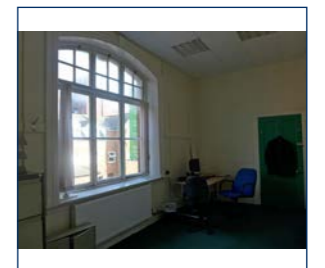
F47(3)



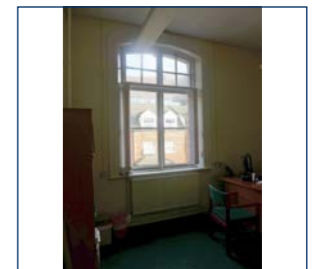
F47(14)



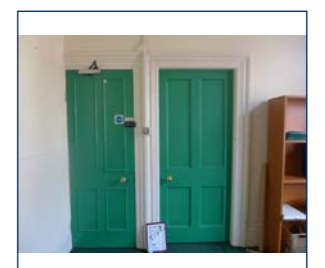
F48(1)



F48(3)



F49(6)



F49(4)

2 no four panelled doors with simple mouldings, architrave type A1, beehive knob and escutchions. The door to F49 has been updated to self closing and extra security ironmongery.

82.8 Fittings

F48 has original clothes rails on N and E. Some pipes run vertically along walls. Modern radiators.

82.9 Misc.



F50(19)

**83.0 Current room name / number
F50 S1 Tower Rooms**

83.1 Description/history

Service tower built as part of washing baths block 1898. Now filled with plant and ductwork.

83.2 Significance

High as prominent part of original Victorian structure.

83.3 Risks and Opportunities

Risk of mechanical plan requirements affecting structure and openings further. Opportunity to consider openings and presentation to aid interpretation

83.4 Walls

Painted brick on stretcher bond.

83.5 Ceiling

Metal beams and metal sheet with no ceiling. Hatch to upper room.

83.6 Floor

Checker plate.

83.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

4 no earlier openings to S and W have been blocked with brick in stretcher bond.

1 no window to N remains in use. Modern metal frame with translucent glazing and arched top.

83.8 Fittings

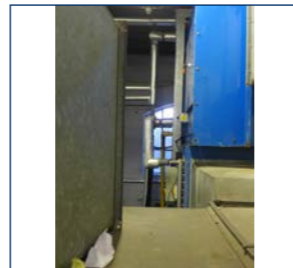
All pipes and different services equipment and fittings all over walls, floor and ceiling.

Metal ladder to upper room.

83.9 Misc.



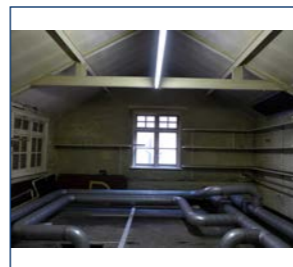
F50(15)



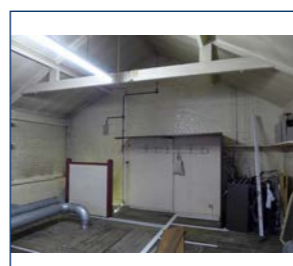
F50(20)



F50(6)



F51(1)



F51(3)

Opportunity to bring into more regular use with restored fixed stair

84.4 Walls

Painted brick in Flemish bond

84.5 Ceiling

Painted timber panelled on timber beams double pitch roof.

84.6 Floor

Unfinished timber boarding with central mill-style hatch for deliveries.

84.7 Windows Doors Architraves etc

2 no brick-blocked windows to E. Some broken glass panels on them. 1 no four light window to S.

84.8 Fittings

Shelving on four walls with coat hooks on N.

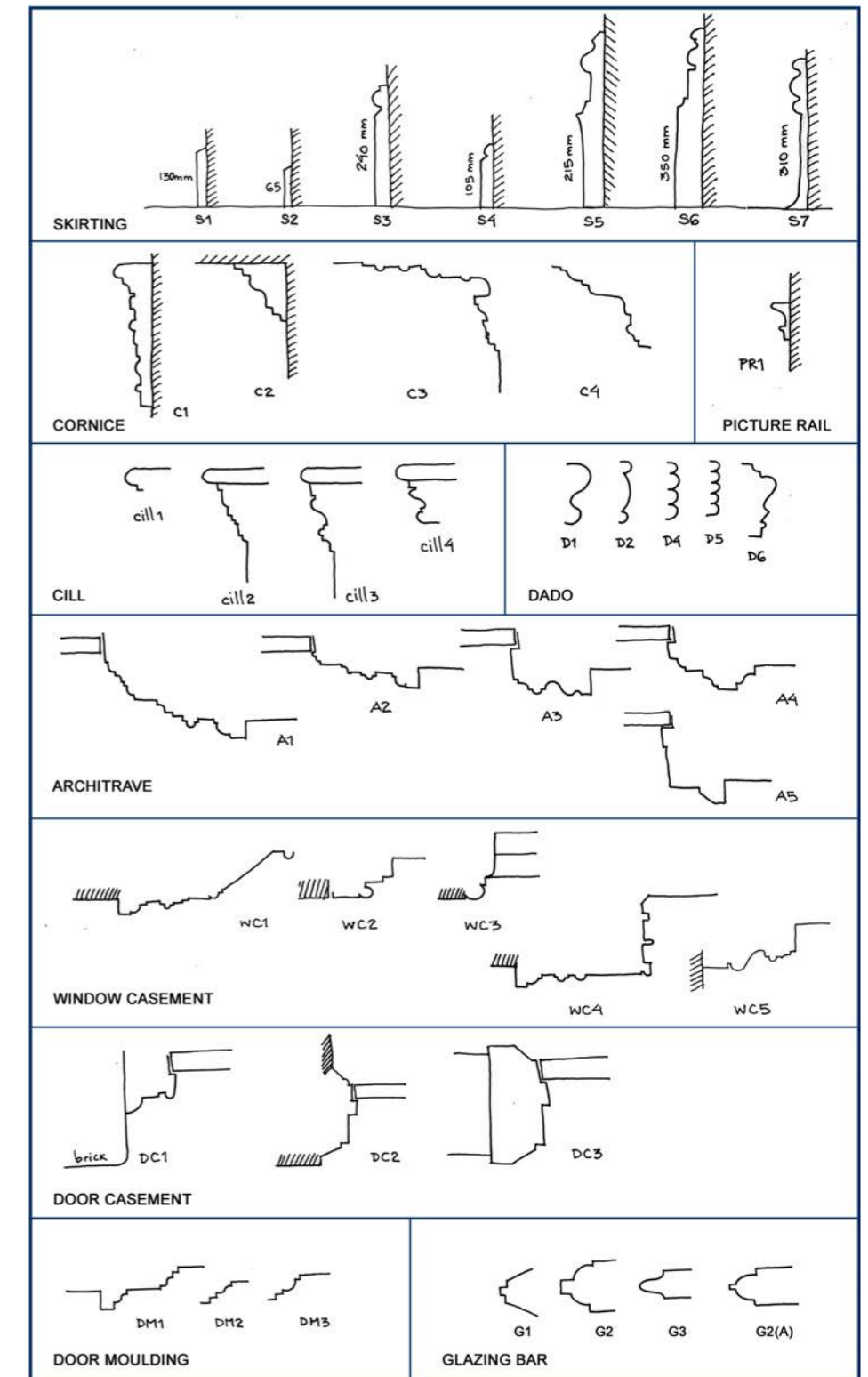
Metal ladder to room.

84.9 Misc.



F51(6)

COMPARATIVE MOULDINGS



HEALTH HYDRO

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: HEALTH HYDRO

List entry Number: 1382135

Location

HEALTH HYDRO, MILTON ROAD

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:

District: Swindon

District Type: Unitary Authority

Parish:

Grade: II

Date first listed: 22-Aug-2000

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 482501

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

SU1484NE MILTON ROAD 1097/6/10016 Swindon 22-AUG-00 Health Hydro

GV II

Dispensary and swimming baths, now health hydro. 1891 for the Great Western Railway Medical Fund and designed by J J Smith of Swindon. Built of red brick made by the GWR brickworks with wrought iron framing to the swimming bath roofs, made by the GWR Works, Welsh slate and glazed roofing. The building is a complete block with two storied

facades to Faringdon Road and Milton Road and single storey ones to the swimming baths in Chester Street and the back lane. It is built in a restrained Queen Anne style.

The main entrance was on Faringdon Road. It is eleven bays wide, 5 : 3 : 3, the centre three bays being set forward with the entrance which has panelled double doors with a rectangular light over and a Bath stone Tuscan surround with a broken pediment on brackets. The entrance originally had a cast iron and glass canopy inscribed SWIMMING BATHS with flanking iron railings. This was probably removed in WWII. This is flanked by cross-framed casement windows and has above it a 3-light one. All the other bays have cross-framed casements and all the windows have elliptical heads with keystones. The walling is s panelled and plastered with a continuous string at first floor level and there are four small pediments at eaves level over bays 2, 4, 7 and 10; that over the entrance bay (7) carries the date 1891. Tall chimney stacks arranged randomly.

The Milton Road facade is in similar style and is of sixteen bays, 9 : 7. Bays 2, 4, and 7 are framed and pedimented and have 3-light windows; the rest are 2-light as before. Doorway as before in bay 2, this carries the inscription WASHING & TURKISH BATHS. The right hand seven bays have no pediments. All windows are 2-light ones and there is a doorway in bay 1 as before.

The back lane has panelled walling with 2-light windows as before. The Chester Road front has plain walling with buttresses. Continuous clerestorey lighting to the large swimming bath, top lighting to the changing rooms and two tall ventilators to the bath.

Interior: The main entrance was the Faringdon Road one with the Dispensary to the left and the Swimming Baths to the right. This entrance is no longer used and the one formerly for the Washing and Turkish Baths in Milton Road is now the only entrance. This leads to a hall lined with yellow and red brick with a light wrought iron roof in five bays with glazing along the ridge. This was the Washing Baths. To the right are the Turkish Baths of 1904 which has a restroom with open king post roof and a surviving marble massage table. The facilities, although in the original spaces, are otherwise modern.

Beyond the Washing Baths are the entrances to the Swimming Baths. The large bath has an arched roof with seven wrought iron trusses, the main members very similar to railway lines, which were designed by the GWR Drawing Office and manufactured by the Works. These were largely reconstructed in the 1980's, top and clerestorey lighting. Large arched window at the southern end with four lights and a semi-

circular head in five sections. Coloured glass by T Rice of the Works. The northern end has three arches under the gallery and a large plain window above. The galleries and swimming baths are little changed, only the changing cubicles which lined the bath are gone. This was the men's bath (41.5m x 15.2m).

The smaller women's bath (18.3m x 15.2m) is also largely intact with five similar ribs to the roof and another 4-light window etc.

The rest of the building contains different offices and meeting rooms, which are largely changed and subdivided. Original surviving features include doors, staircases with iron balustrades, tiled corridors and more coloured glass by Rice in the windows looking into the lightwells.

History: Erected in 1891 for the Great Western Railway as the GWR Medical Fund Dispensary and Swimming Baths. It was designed by a local architect J J Smith and was constructed from materials largely manufactured by the GWR Works. It was considered one of the most up-to-date facilities of its kind when it was opened and pre-dated Health Centres by some 50 years. On Nationalisation it passed to British Railways (Western Region) and then finally to Swindon Borough Council. It has been very little changed internally and the two Victorian swimming baths survive in almost original condition. Reference: J Cattell and K Falconer, Swindon : The Legacy of a Railway Town, HMSO, London, 1995, pps125-6, 166-9.

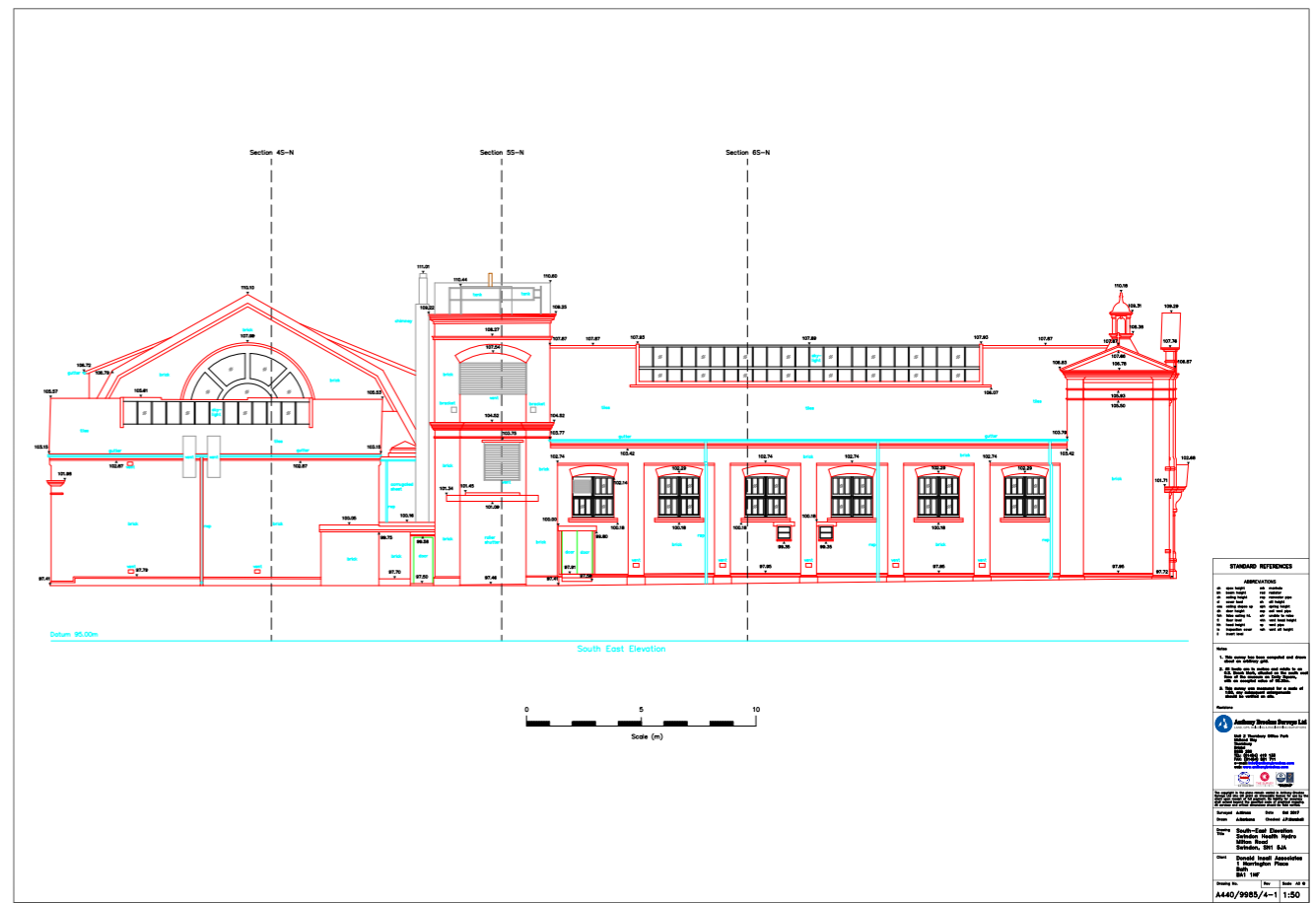
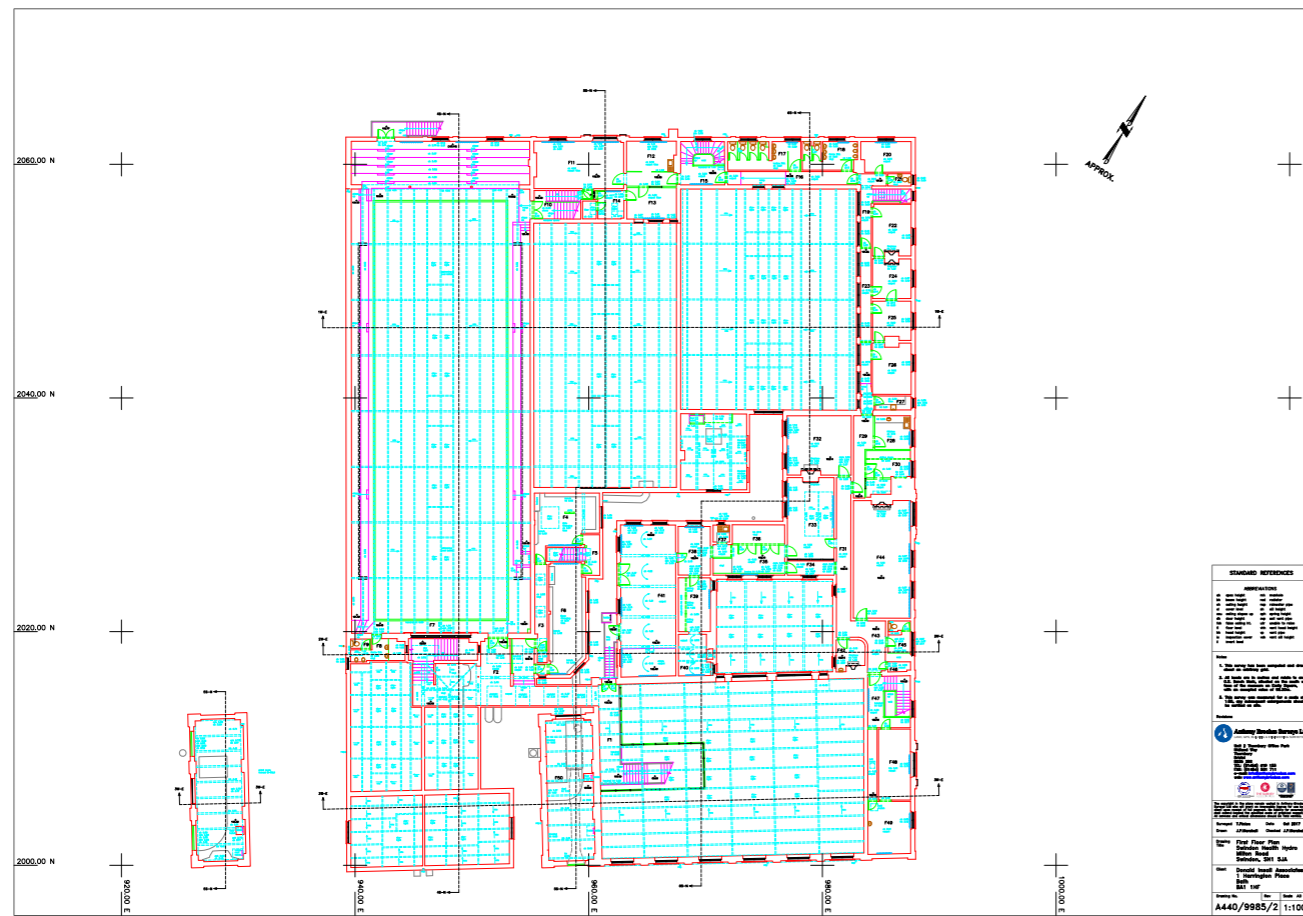
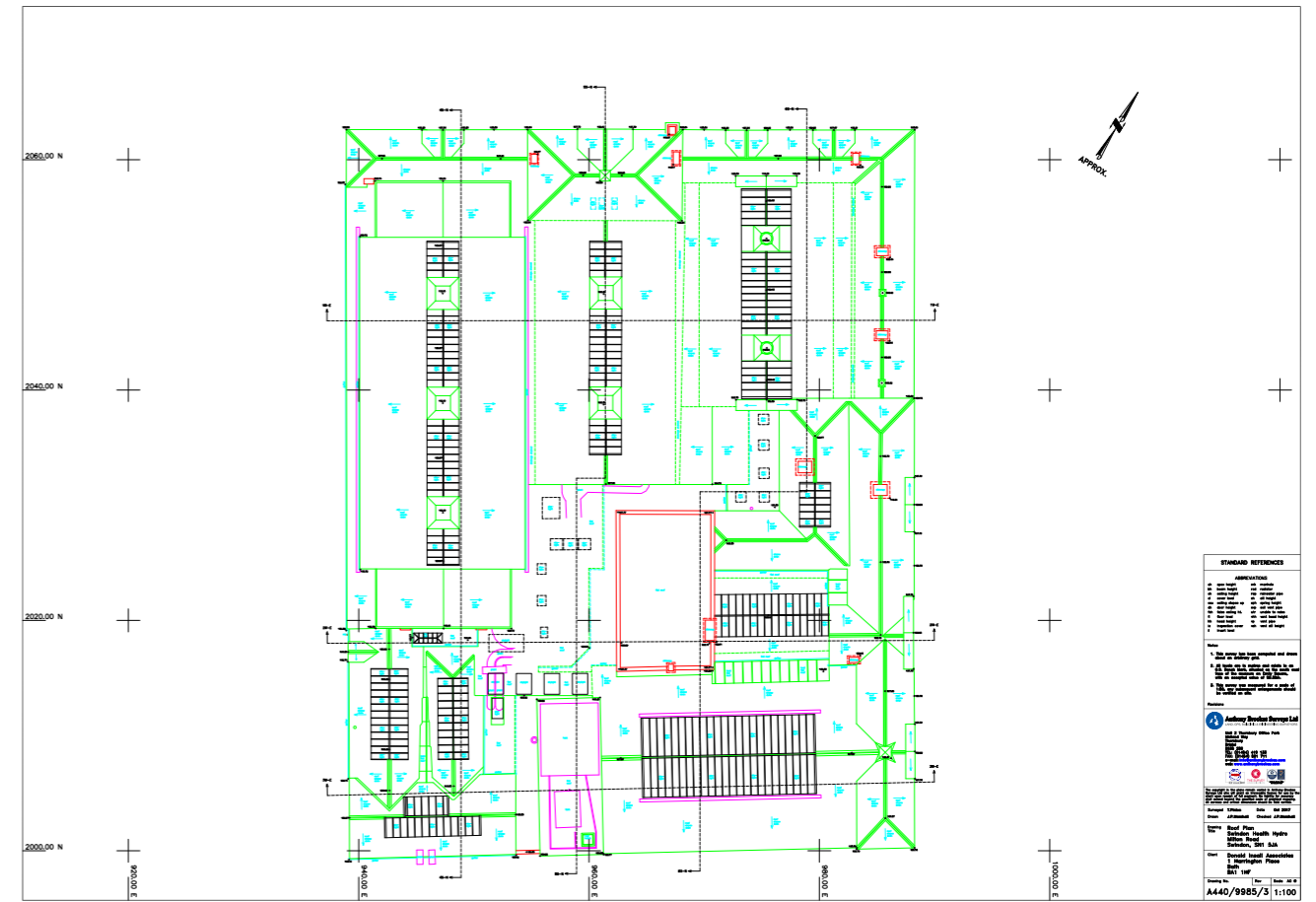
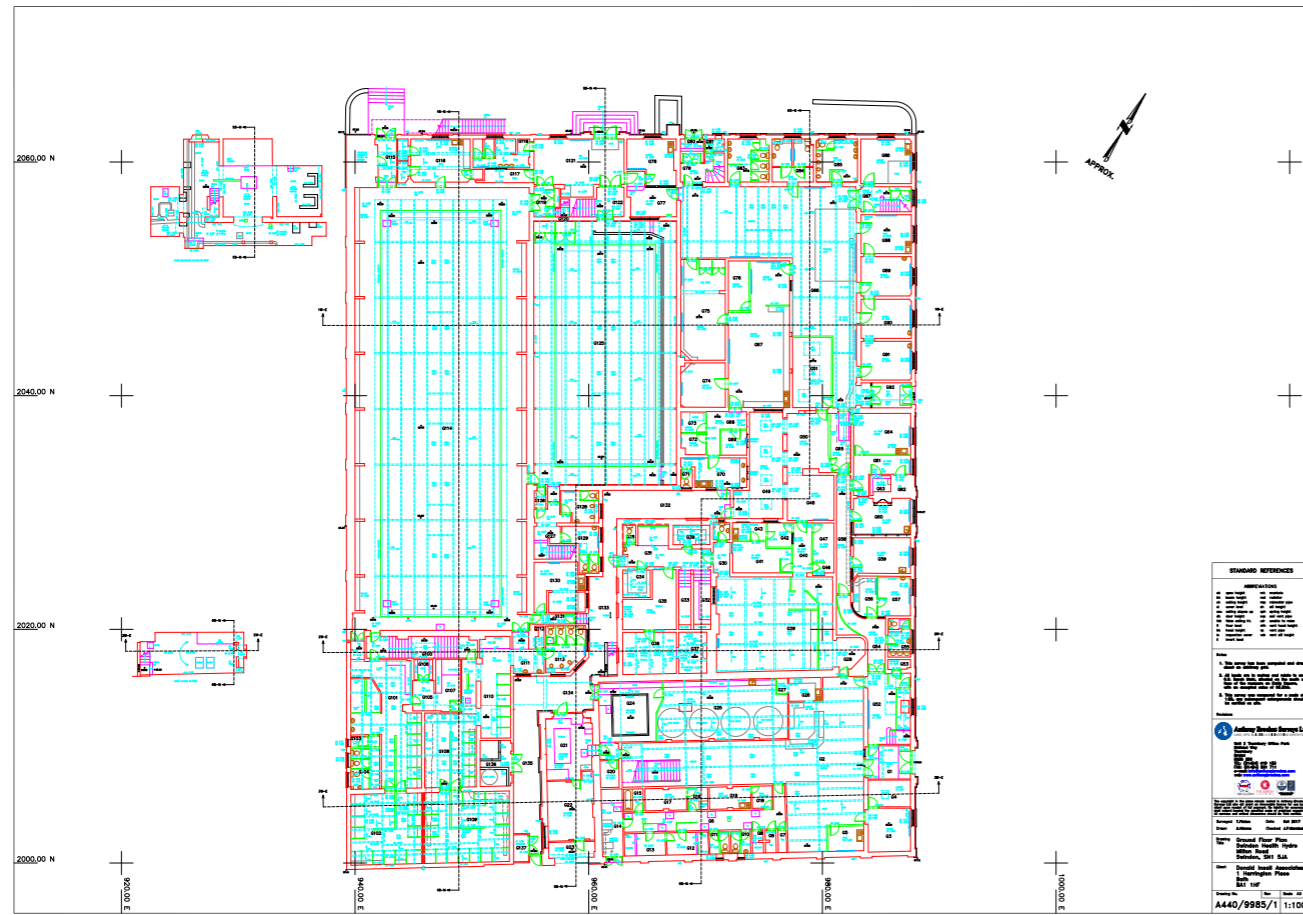
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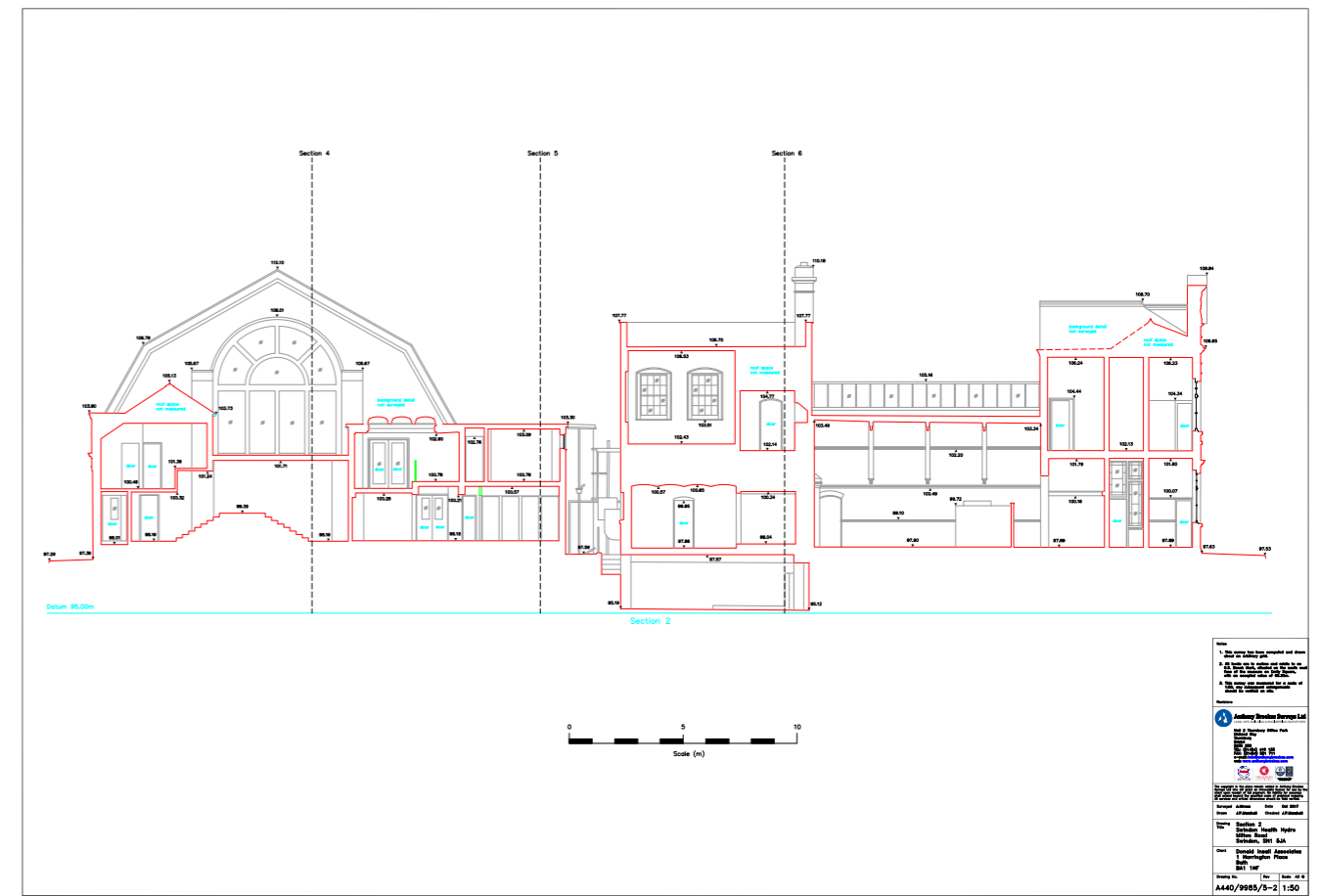
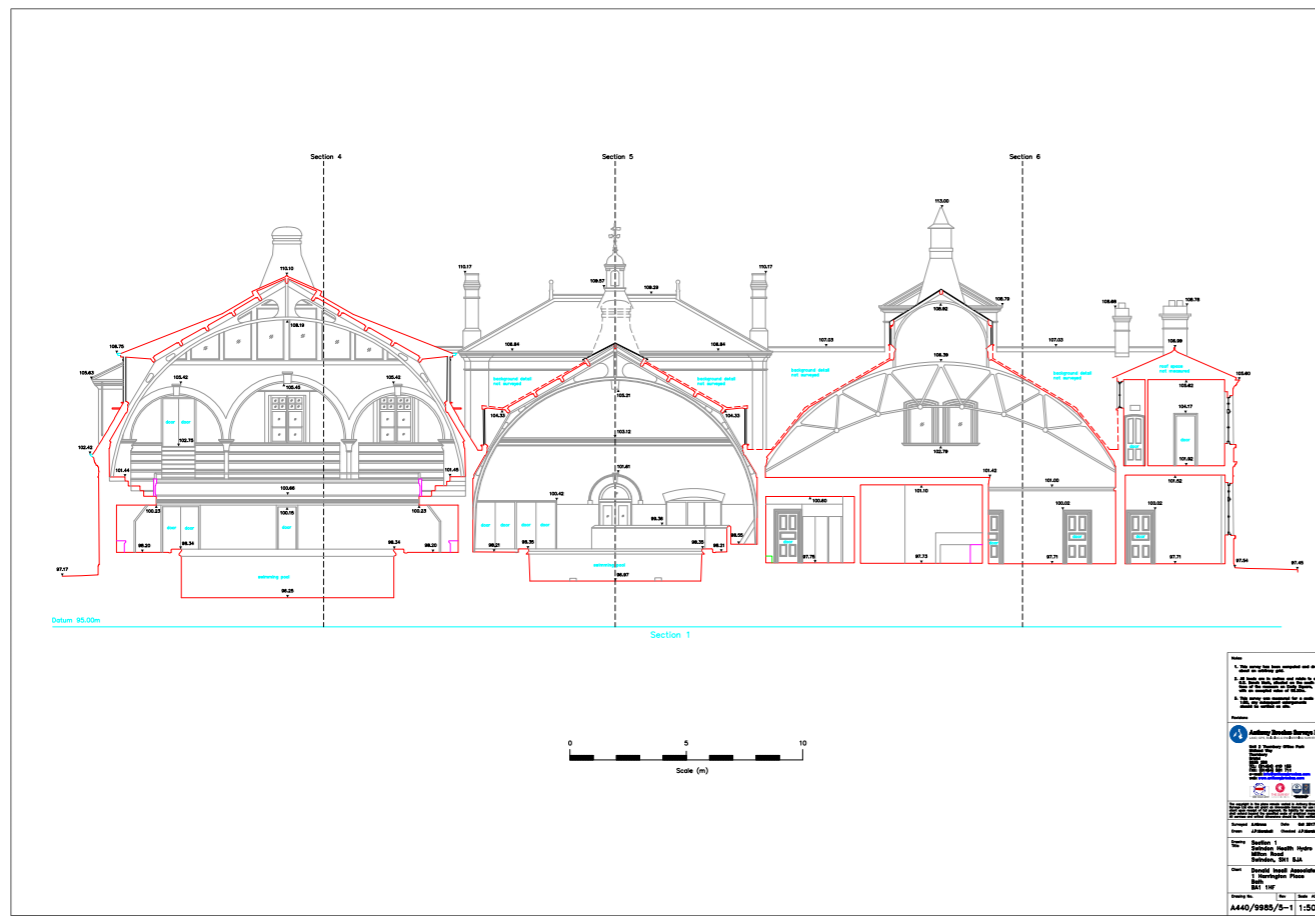
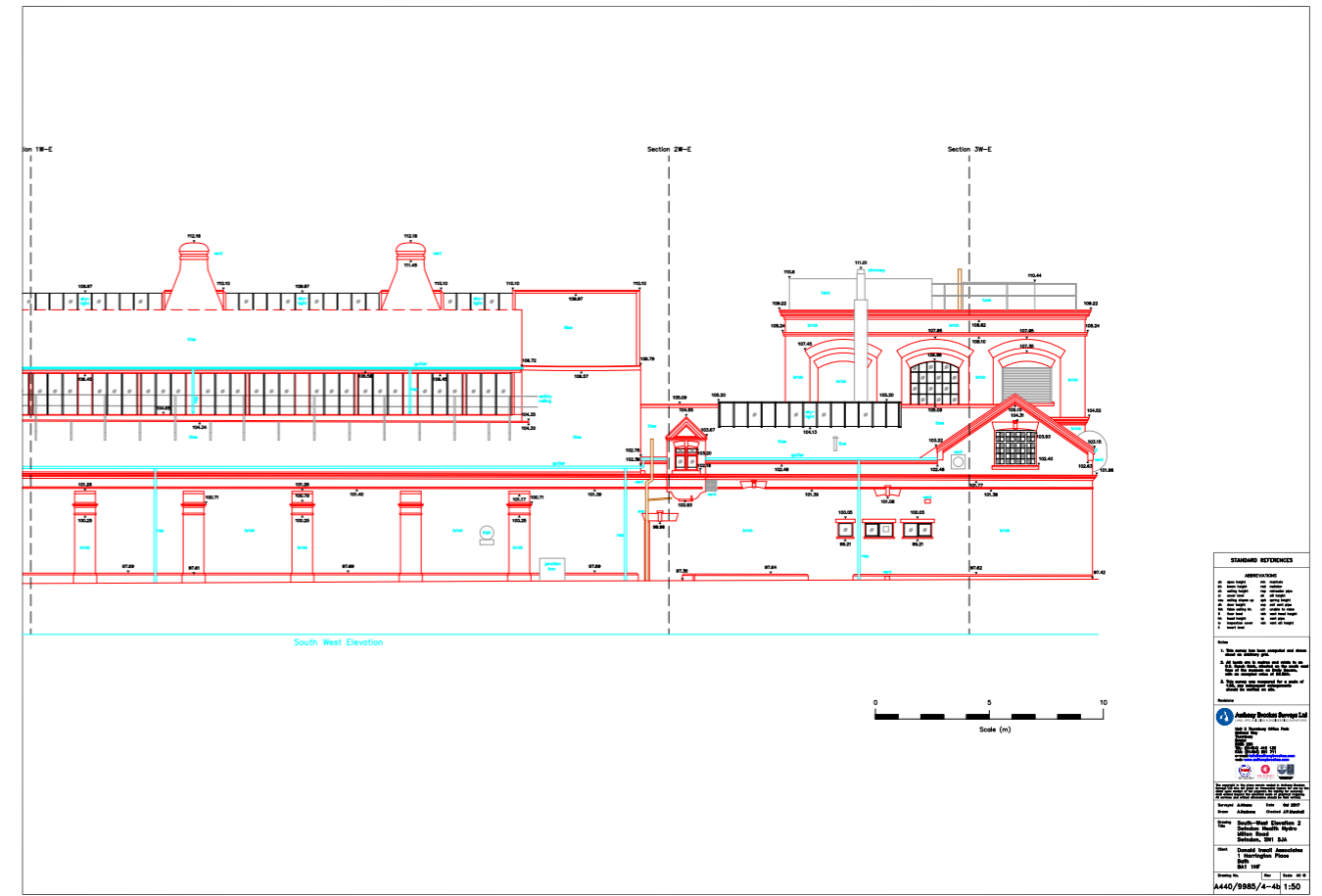
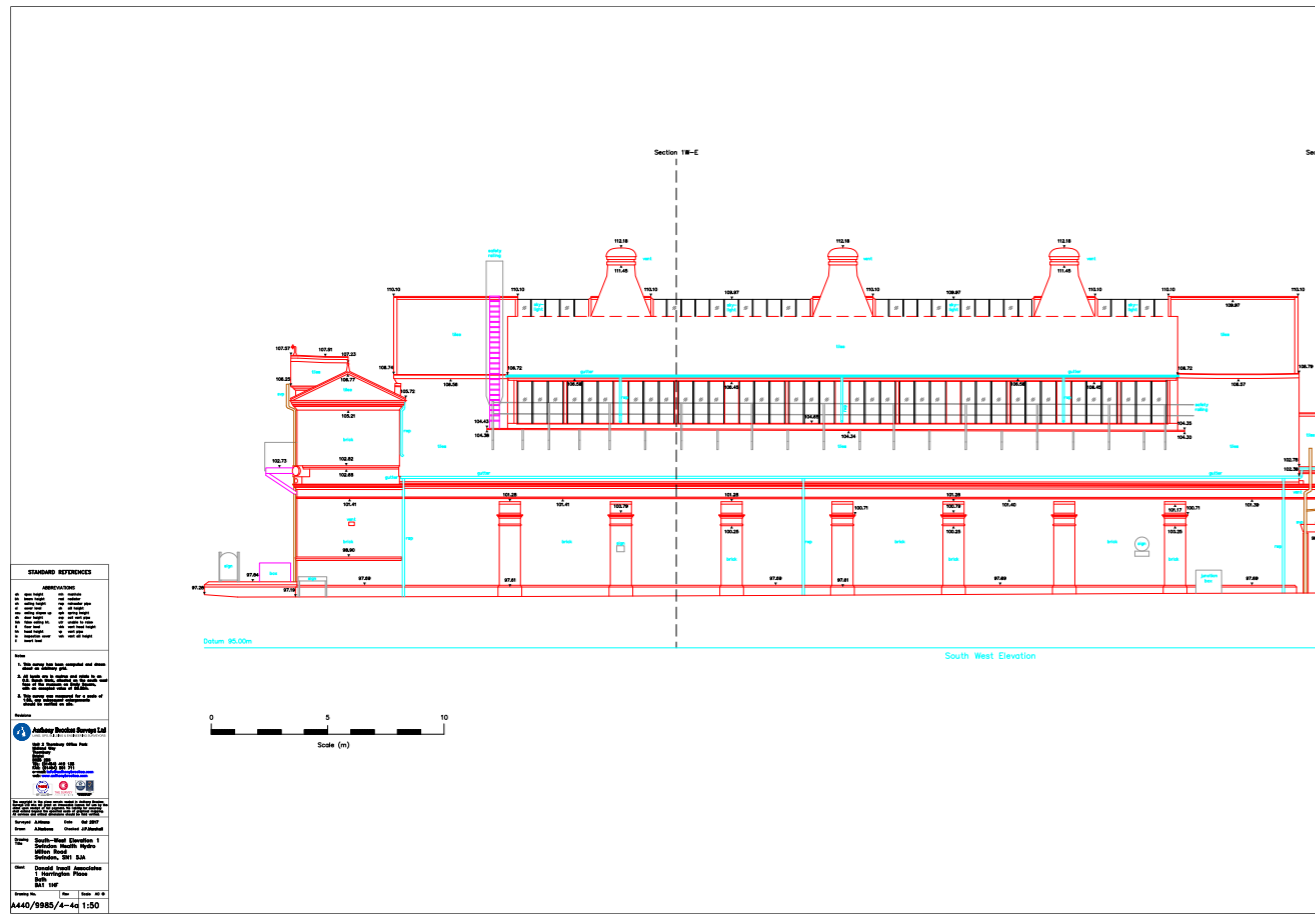
Selected Sources

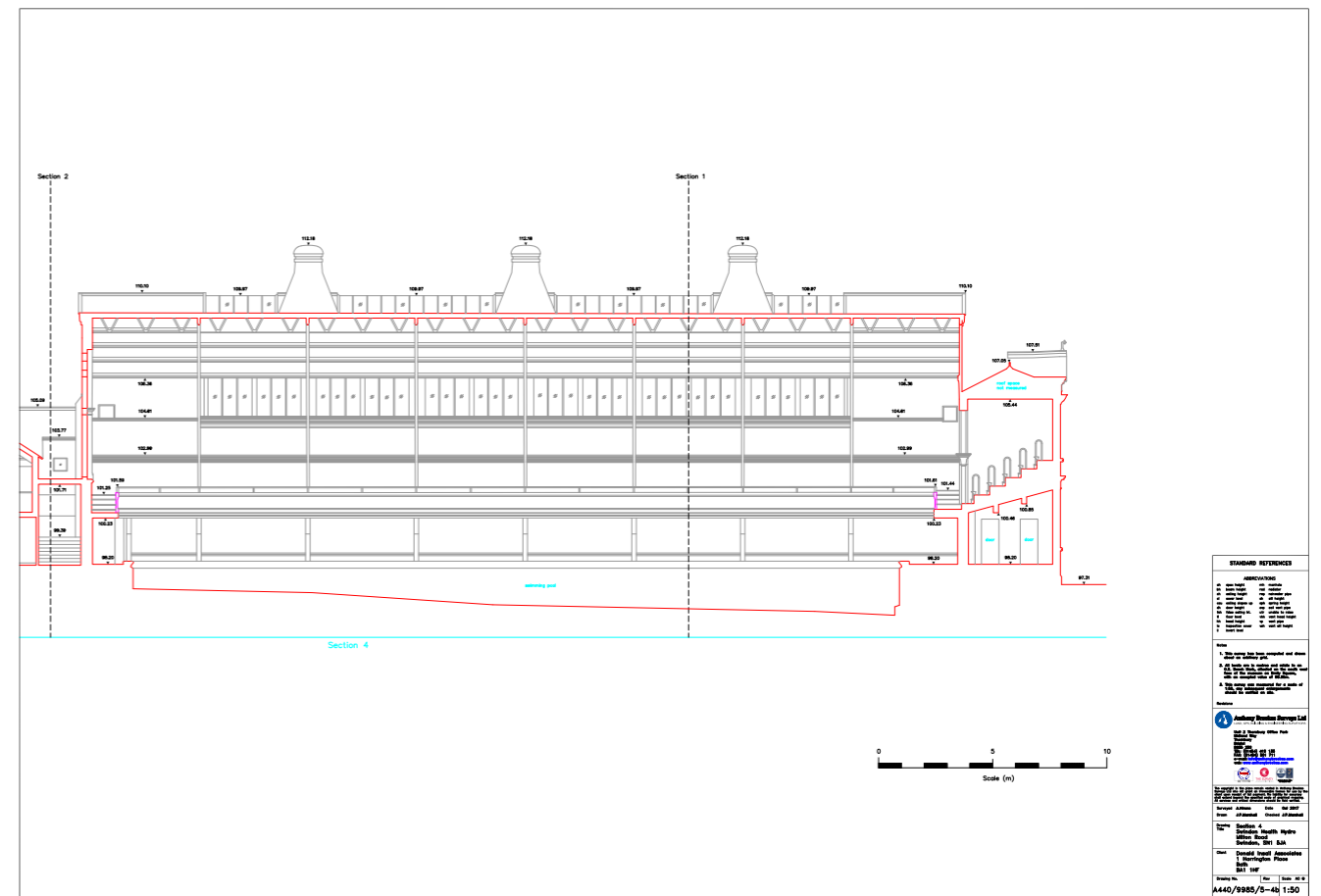
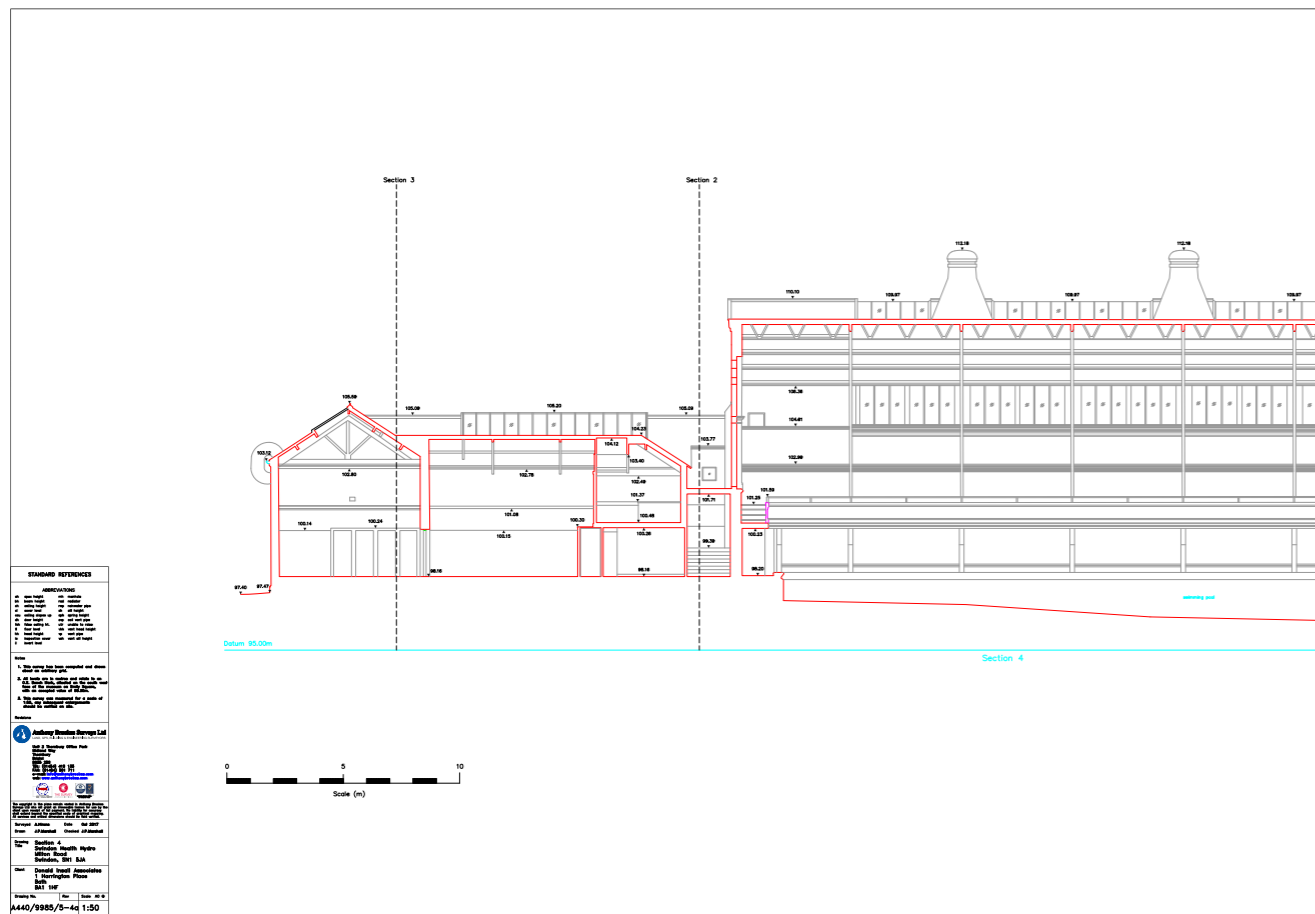
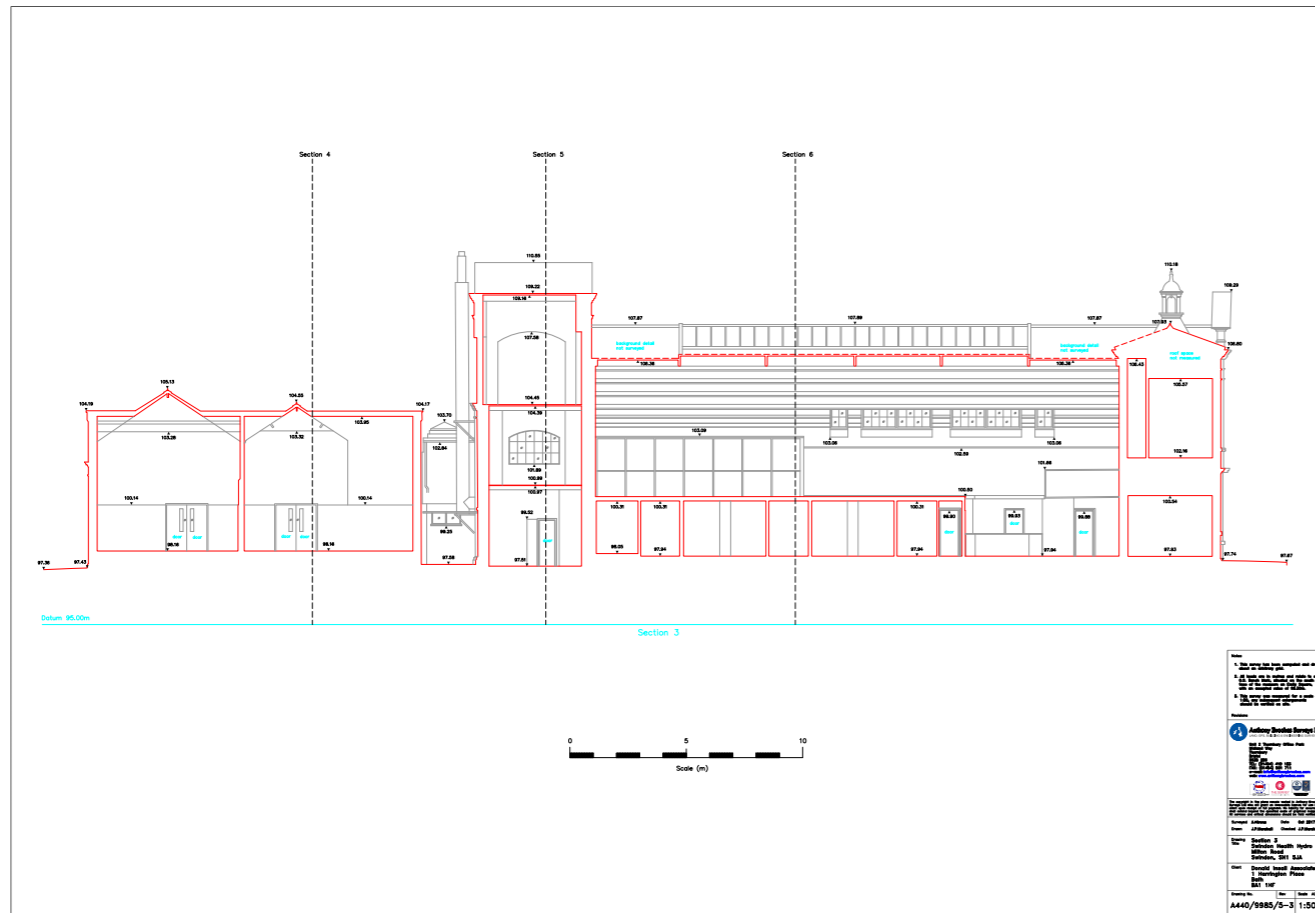
Books and journals

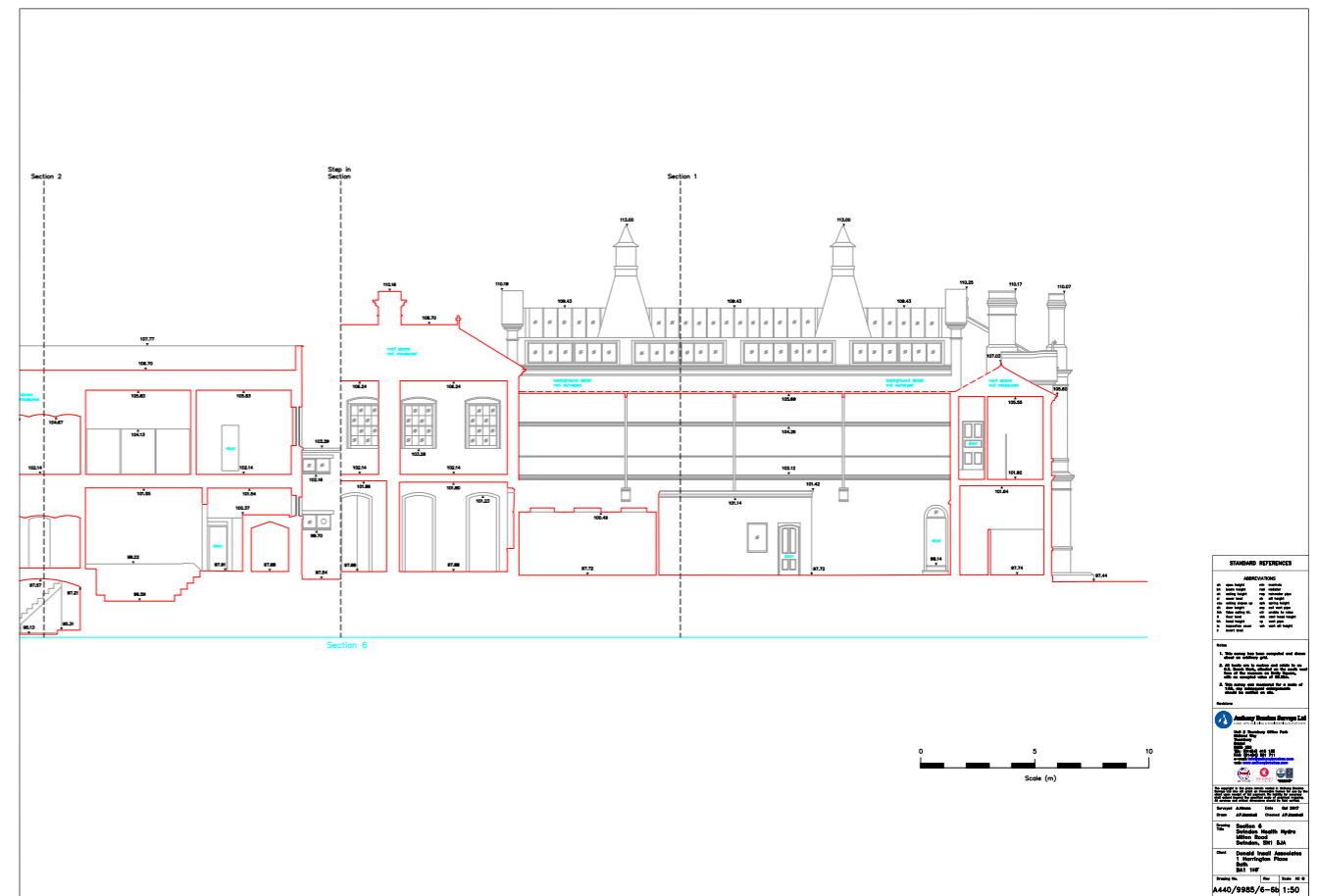
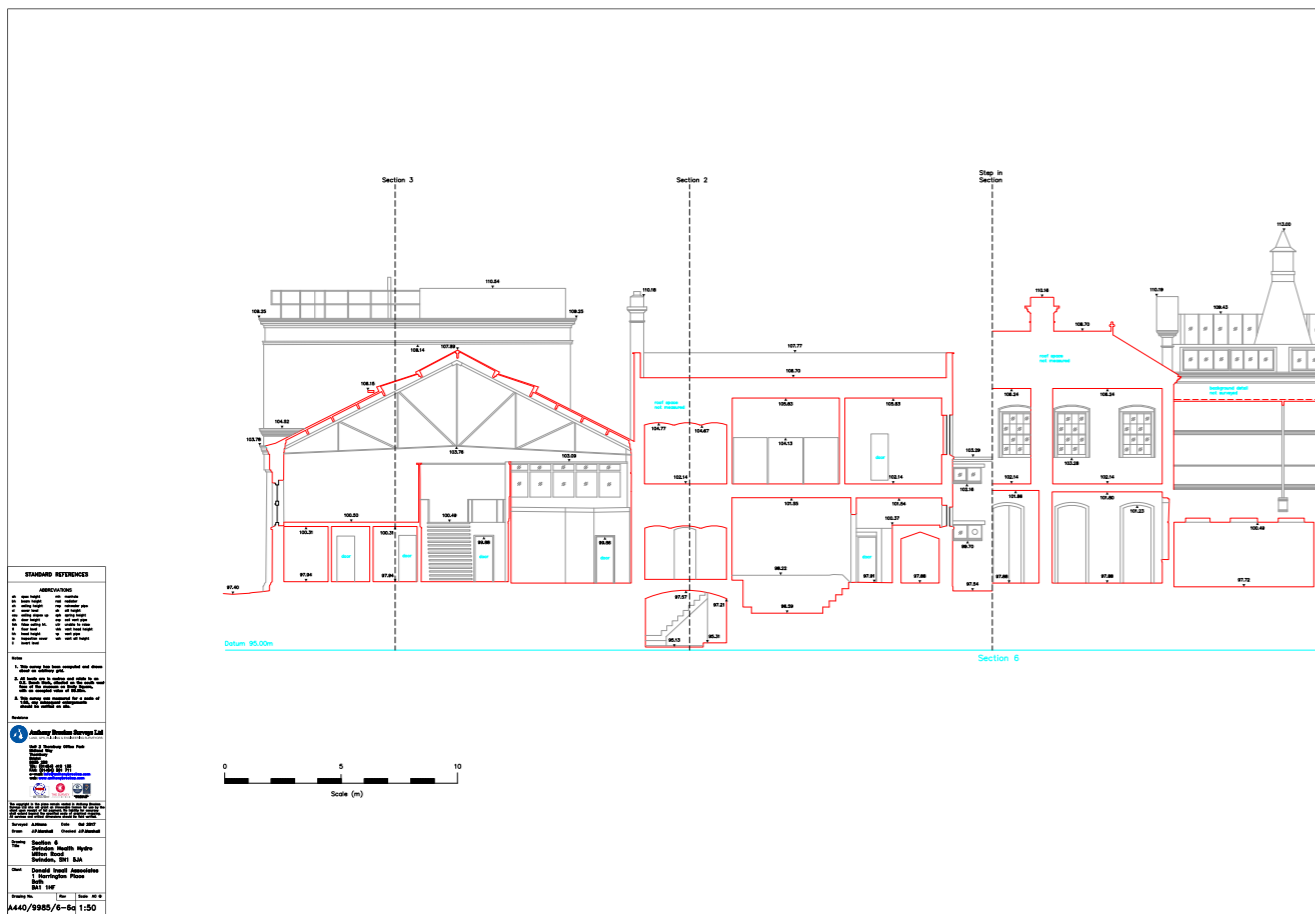
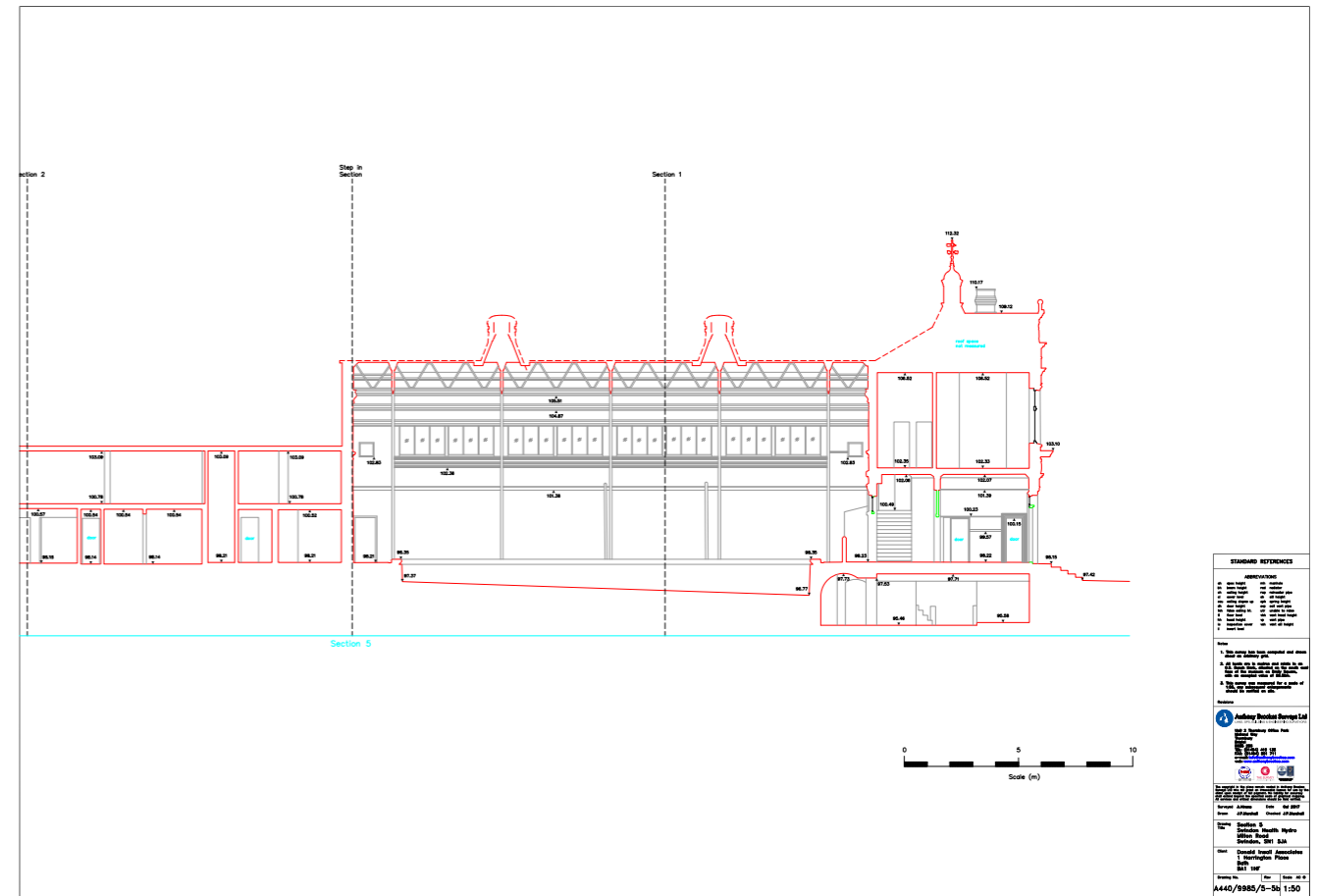
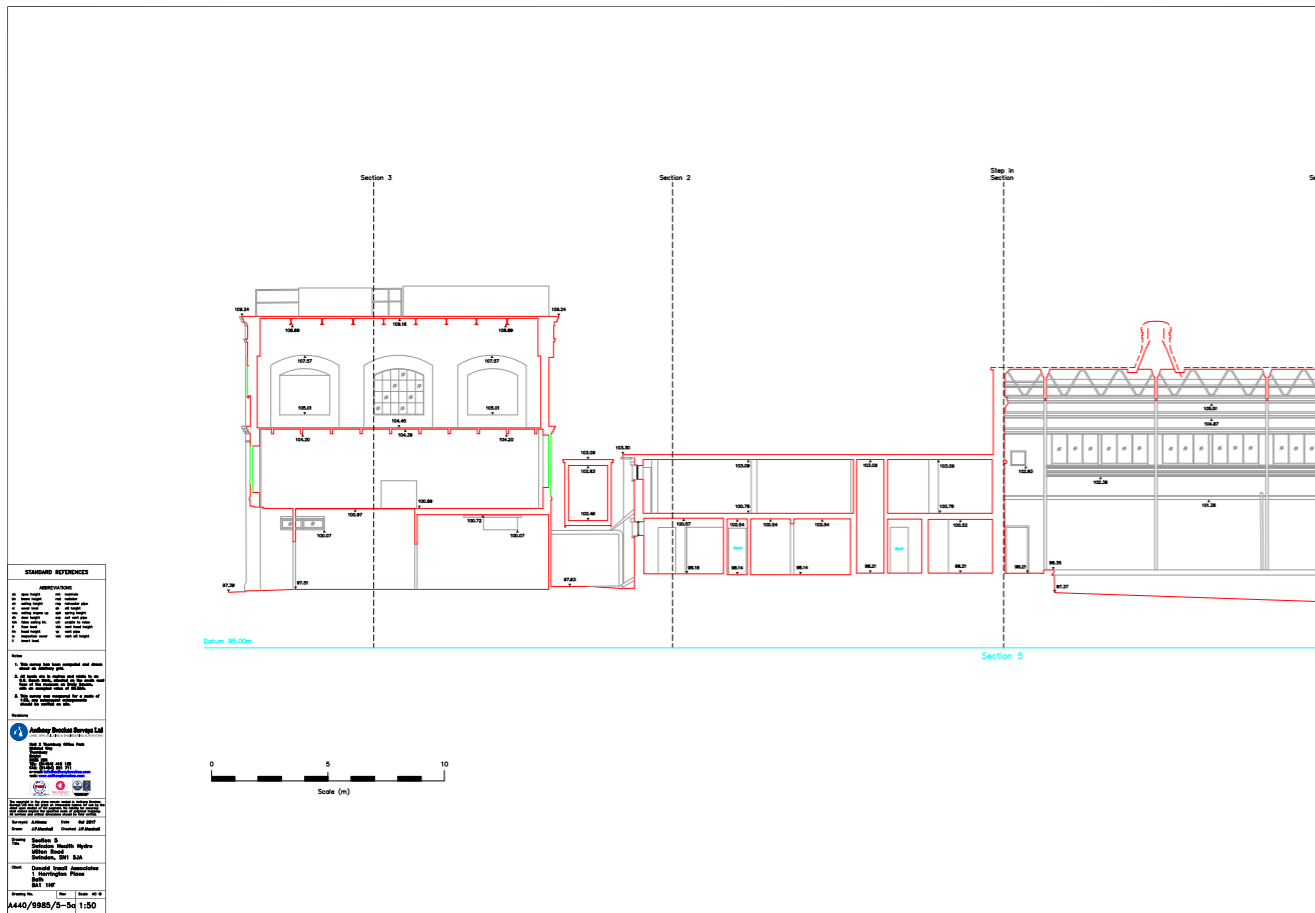
Cattel, J, Falconer, K, Swindon: The Legacy of a Railway Town (RCHME), (1995), 125-6 166-

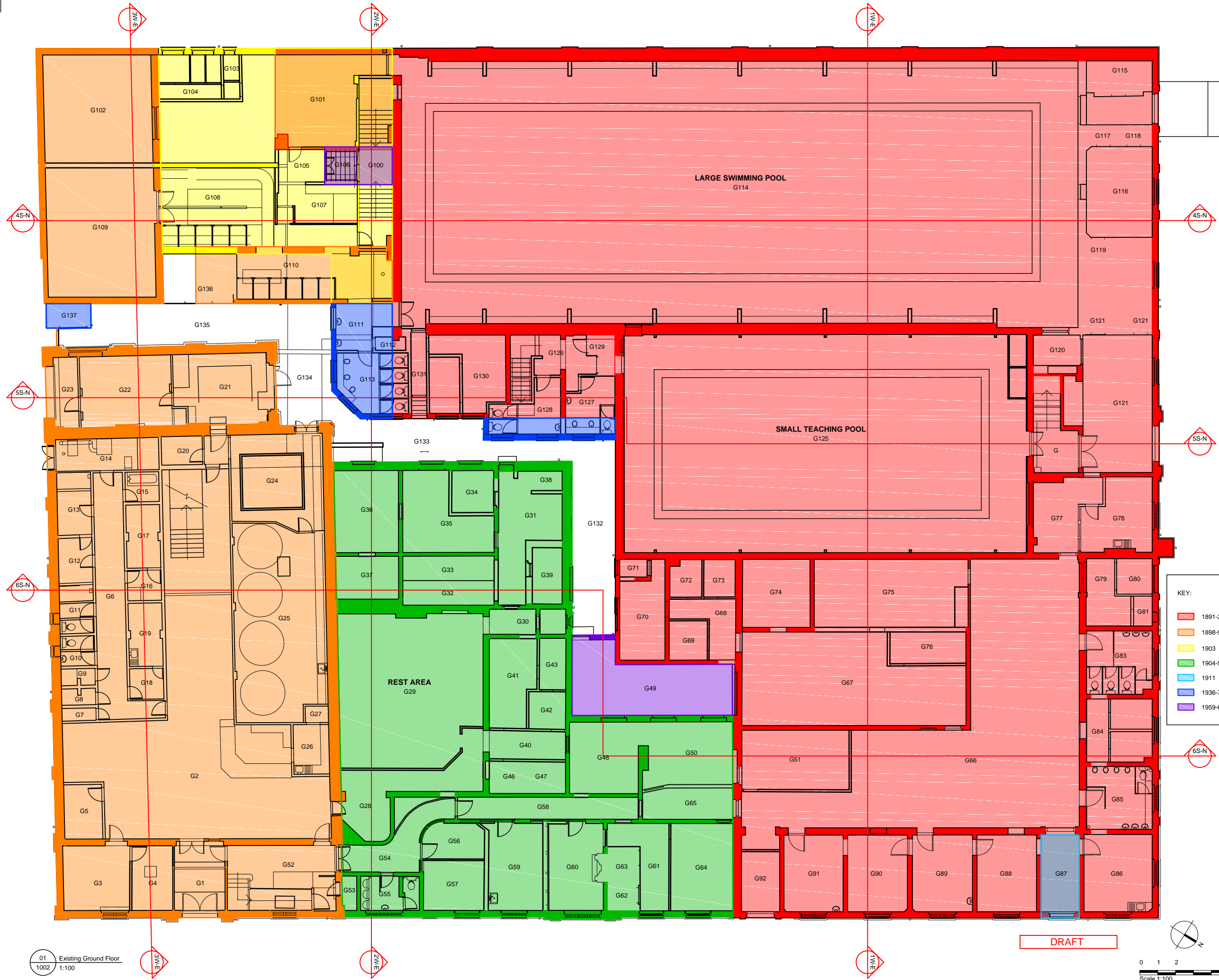
National Grid Reference: SU 14594 84655











- Notes
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Drawing Status			
F	Feasibility	B	Building Control
S	Sketch Design	D	Developed Design
P	Planning	M	Measurement
		T	Tender
		C	Construction
		R	Record

Rev	Date	Dwn	Auth	Revision
0	19-01-18	SXD	PMC	Draft

Swindon Health Hydro

Historic Phasing Plan
Ground Floor

Project	SWHH	No	1001
Scale (A3)	1:-	Status	X
		Revision	0

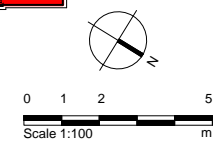
Donald Insall Associates
Chartered Architects and Historic Building Consultants

1 Harington Place, Bath BA1 1HF
(+44) 01225 469 898
bath@insall-architects.co.uk

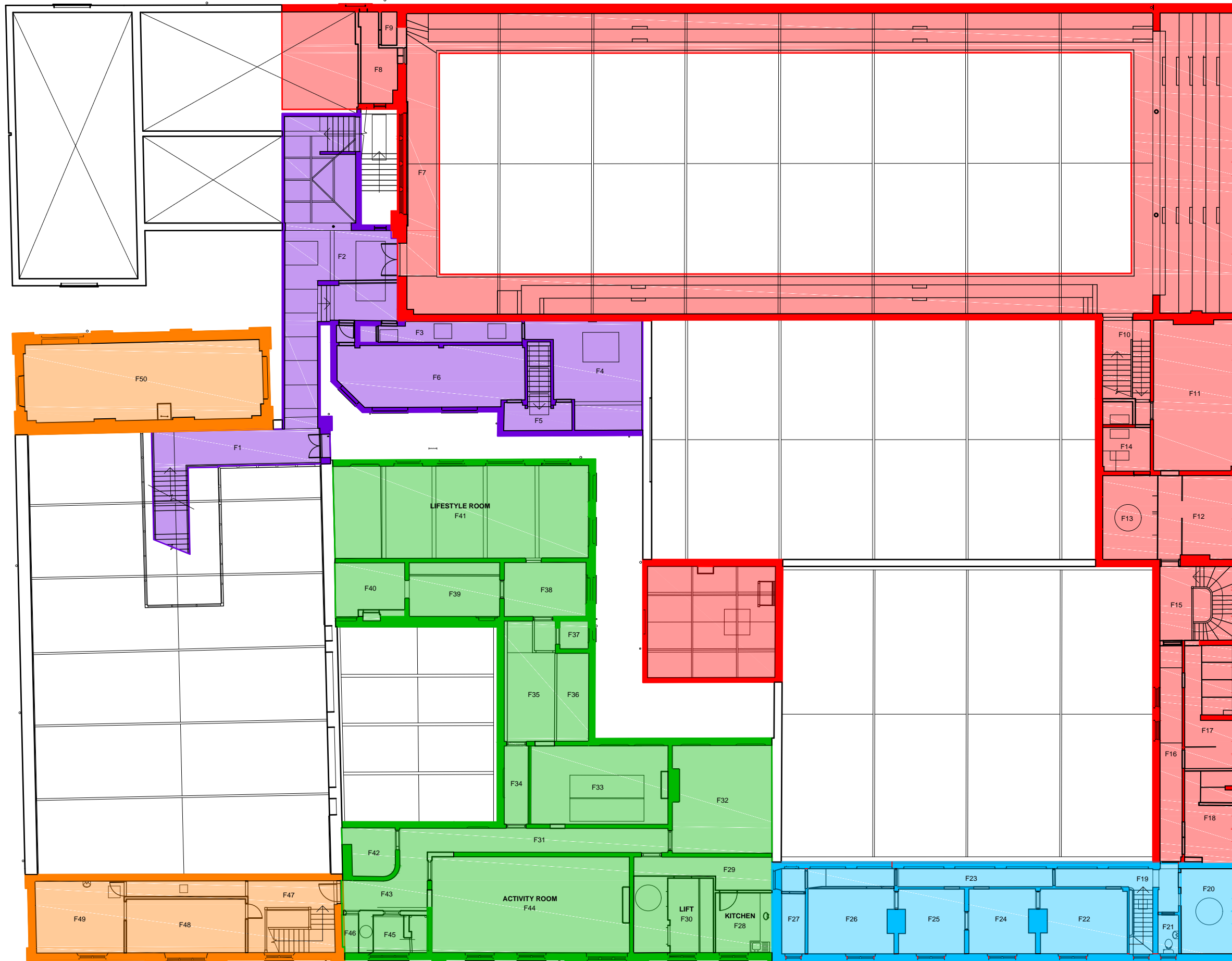
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1891-2	1898-9	1903	1904-5	1911	1936-7	1959-60
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01 Existing Ground Floor
1002 1:100



DRAFT



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Drawing Status					
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S	Sketch Design	D	Developed Design	C	Construction
P	Planning	M	Measurement	R	Record

Rev	Date	Dwn	Auth	Revision
0	19-01-18	SXD	PMC	Draft

Swindon Health Hydro

Historic Phasing Plan
First Floor

Project	SWHH	No	1002
Scale (A3)	1:-	Status	X
		Revision	0

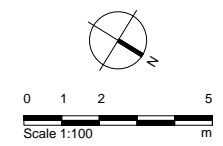
Donald Insall Associates
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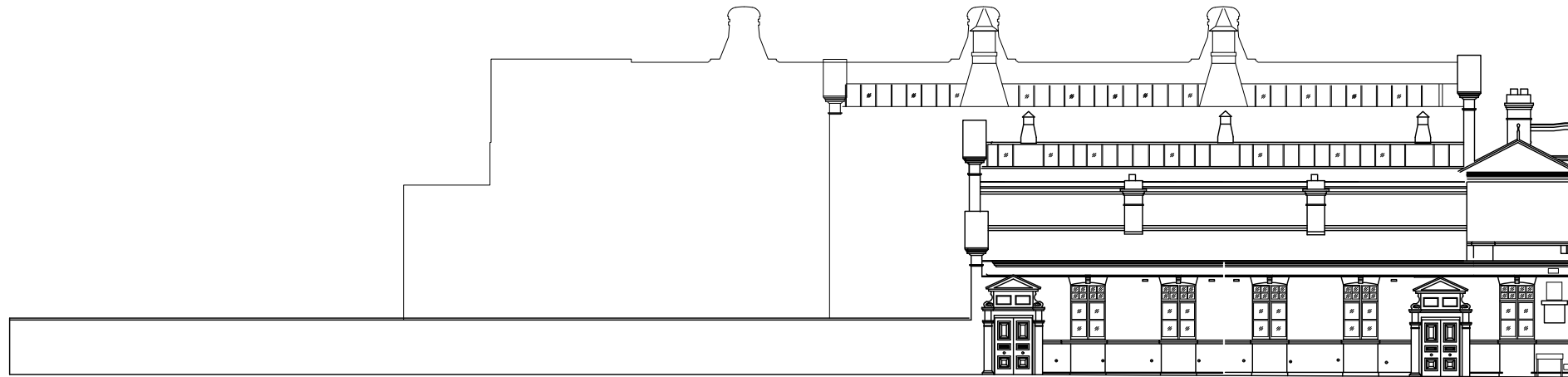
1 Harington Place, Bath BA1 1HF
(+44) 01225 469 898
bath@insall-architects.co.uk

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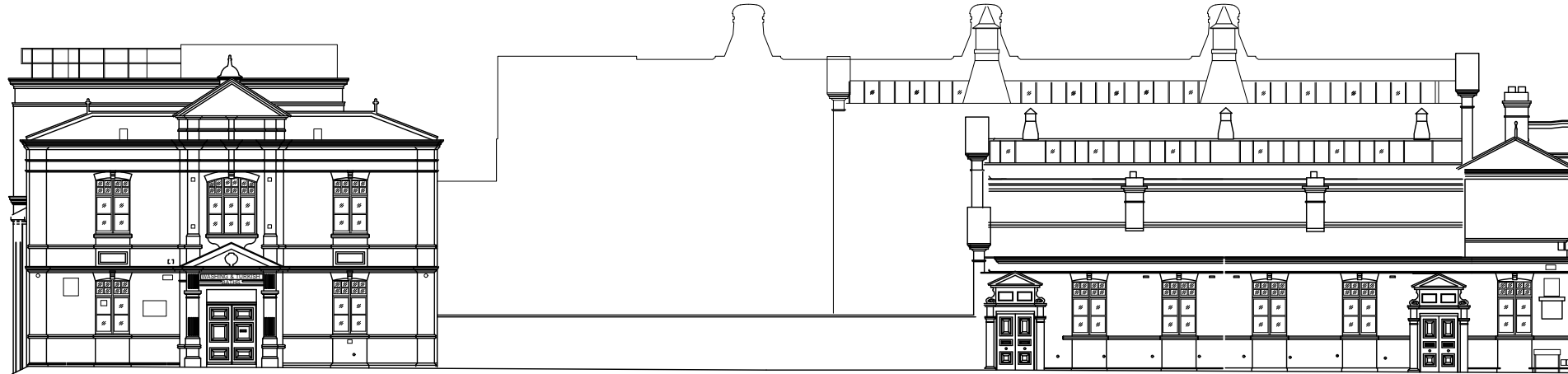
Red	1891-2
Orange	1898-9
Yellow	1903
Green	1904-5
Light Blue	1911
Dark Blue	1936-7
Purple	1959-60

DRAFT

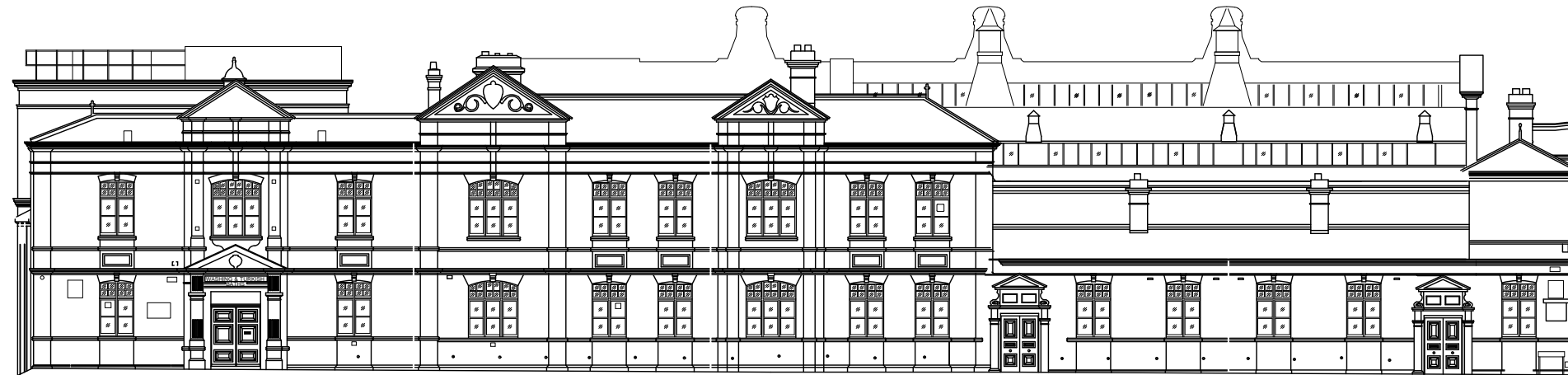




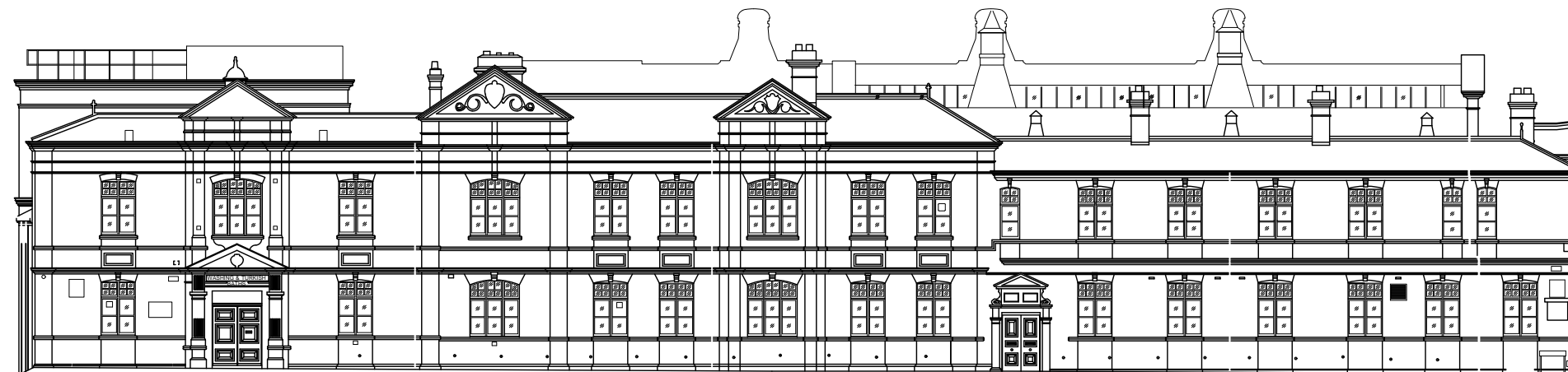
1892



1898



1904



1911

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Drawing Status		
F Feasibility	B Building Control	T Tender
S Sketch Design	D Design Development	C Construction
P Planning	M Measurement	R Record

Rev	Date	Dwn	Auth	Revision
1	01-02-18	SXD	PMC	Elements removed and refined.
0	19-01-18	XXX	PMC	Initial Issue

Swindon Health Hydro

Regression Analysis
Milton Road

Project	No	
SWHH	1003	
Scale (A3)	Status	Revision
1:-	X	1

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SWINDON HYDRO

ARCHIVAL EVIDENCE : Hydro/Baths plans at Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham

The huge GWR archive at Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (WSHC) is covered in a catalogue that runs to two complete books, each over 900 pages and containing around 20 items per page. The part of the catalogue that deals with plans relating to Swindon covers pages 609-839 of volume two. Plans relating to the Baths/Health Hydro are not numbered consecutively but spread fairly evenly through the list, requiring the whole 220 pages to be searched manually and plans listed here.

All plans described in the catalogue begin "GWR/ and /or Medical Fund". This has been omitted in transcription for speed.

Plans highlighted red have been inspected and photographed.

Catalogue no.	Date	Description
2515/406/0085	1868	Medical Fund - Plan and elevation of Swimming Bath
2515/406/0514	1876	Medical Fund – Washing and Turkish Baths
2515/406/0288	1880	Washing Baths, proposed additions
2515/406/1241	1888	Turkish Baths – air heating furnace
2515/404/1302	1891	Swimming Baths – general arrangement of roof principals
2515/404/1304	1891	Roof principals – dispensary
2515/404/1306	1891 c	Diving stage for large Baths
2515/404/1307	1891	Medical Fund – Building – Sections – Swimming Baths
2515/404/1308	1891	Swimming Baths – elevations
2515/404/1309	1891	Swimming Baths – columns and joists to gangways
2515/404/1310	1891	Transverse section – Swimming Baths
2515/404/1312	1891	Water services – Swimming Baths – no pipework shown
2515/404/1314	1891	Medical Fund – Building – detail of columns caps
2515/404/1316	1891	Swimming Baths – brackets and girders to gallery
2515/404/1317	1891	Swimming Baths - Basement and roof plans
2515/404/1318	1891	Swimming Baths – brass and copper fittings
2515/404/1319	1891	Swimming Baths – gratings and sumps
2515/404/1321	1891	Medical Fund – Building – Floor Plans
2515/404/1322	1891	Medical Fund – Building – Basement Plan
2515/404/1324	1891	Swimming Baths – inlet pipe
2515/404/1325	1891	Swimming Baths – large window casements
2515/404/1326	1891	Lining for Subway, Baths to Works
2515/404/1327	1891	Plan of subway to Baths
2515/406/0305	1891 c	Swimming Baths - Roof principals
2515/406/0313	1891	Medical Fund – Dispensary and Swimming Baths
2515/406/0449	1891	Dispensary and Swimming Baths
2515/406/2332	1891	Swimming Baths – brass and copper fittings
2515/406/2493	1891	Swimming Baths – roof principals
2515/406/2505	1891	Swimming Baths – gallery ironwork, two drawings
2515/406/2535	1891	Swimming Baths – roof principals
2515/409/1259	1891	Swimming Baths – Water supply and waste pipes
2515/403/0613	1892	Swimming Baths – Valve box and cylinder
2515/403/0614	1892	Swimming Baths – columns for 16 inch pumps
2515/403/0615	1892	Swimming Baths – 16 inch pumps – girder

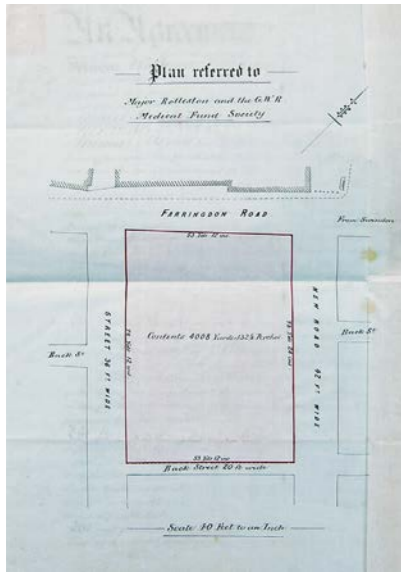
Catalogue no.	Date	Description
2515/404/1311	1892	Swimming Baths – palisading to front
2515/404/1315	1892	Swimming Baths – cast iron entrance piers
2515/404/1323	1892	Swimming Baths – Heating apparatus
2515/404/1417	1892	Medical Fund – Swimming Baths – plunger for 16 inch pump
2515/405/553	1892	Medical Fund – Lamp and standard, entrance
2515/406/2348	1892	Swimming Baths – palisading
2515/406/2941	1892	Swimming Baths – cast iron entrance piers
2515/406/3052	1892	Swimming Baths - 16in. pump connecting rod
2515/404/1422	1893	Medical Fund – Swimming Baths – valve for 16 inch pump
2515/404/1332	1898	Swimming Baths – raised seats and platform
2515/404/2008	1898	Medical Fund – Operating Theatre
2515/409/1266	1898	Medical Fund – new washing Baths and drainage plan
2515/406/2695	1900	Fire Hydrants
2515/403/0603	1903	Subway to Swimming Baths and dispensary
2515/404/1345	1903	Swimming Baths – porch over entrance
2515/404/1348	1903	Swimming Baths – porches over entrance
2515/404/1351	1903	Swimming Baths – water chute
2515/404/1352	1903	Steel joists under floor, back of Swimming Baths
2515/406/0315	1903	Swimming Baths – rear changing rooms
2515/404/1278	1904	Turkish Baths – block plan
2515/404/1284	1904	Turkish Baths – cooling room roof
2515/404/1338	1904 ?	Swimming Baths – proposed alteration to exit steps to front of Baths
2515/404/1342	1904 c	Swimming Baths – proposed stage
2515/404/2012	1904	Turkish Baths – first floor and roof
2515/404/2013	1904 c	Turkish Baths – general arrangement
2515/404/2014	1904	Turkish Baths – elevations and sections
2515/404/2018	1904	Front entrance – porch
2515/406/0198	1904	Turkish Baths – 1 st floor and roof
2515/406/0203	1904	Turkish Baths – elevations and section
2515/406/3126	1904	Swimming Baths – front porch
2515/409/1262	1904 c	Turkish Baths – general arrangement
2515/409/1263	1904	Turkish Baths – elevations and sections
2515//404/130	1905	Brass strainers to pipes
2515/404/1274	1905	Turkish Baths – dressing boxes, windows
2515/404/1275	1905	Turkish Baths – detail of front
2515/404/1276	1905	Turkish Baths – details of windows
2515/404/1277	1905	Turkish Baths – cooling room screen
2515/404/1279	1905	Turkish Baths – screen in cooling room
2515/404/1280	1905	Turkish Baths – laundry and Bath section
2515/404/1281	1905	Turkish Bath – stairs to laundry
2515/404/1282	1905	Turkish Baths – detail, staircase
2515/404/1283	1905	Turkish Baths – detail, box girder
2515/404/1285	1905	Turkish Baths – details, windows
2515/404/1286	1905 c	Turkish Baths – arrangement of water closets
2515/404/1287	1905	Turkish Baths - windows
2515/404/1288	1905	Turkish Baths – heating arrangements
2515/404/1290	1905	Turkish Baths – detail of front window
2515/404/1292	1905	Turkish Baths - Hollow floor over hot room
2515/404/1294	1905	Furnace Room – detail

Catalogue no.	Date	Description
2515/404/1329	1905	Portable stage for Swimming Baths
2515/404/1334	1905	Stage for Swimming Baths – details of woodwork
2515/404/2015	1905	Turkish Baths – sections and elevations
2515/404/2016	1905	Turkish Baths – Section, Laundry
2515/404/2016	1905	Turkish Baths - Section – Laundry - Tracing
2515/406/0200	1905	Turkish Baths – section and elevation
2515/406/0204	1905	Medical Fund – section through laundry
2515/406/0242	1905	Turkish baths – details of front
2515/406/2732	1905	Medical Fund – Screen to hairdressing saloon
2515/406/2766	1905	Turkish Baths – hot room details
2515/409/1274	1905	Turkish Baths – section and elevation
2515/404/1289	1906	Turkish Baths – cast iron grids for hot rooms
2515/404/1291	1906	Turkish Baths – Laundry staircase cantilever
2515/404/1293	1906	Stairs to flat roof
2515/404/1301	1906	Turkish Baths - Laundry & Hot Rooms Roof - Tracing
2515/409/1267	1906	Turkish Baths – gas and water services – no pipework
2515/404/1296	1907	Turkish Baths – arrangement of laundry machine
2515/404/1298	1907	Alterations and additions, lime house, Taunton Street (old T/Baths)
2515/406/2829	1907	Medical Fund Dispensary and small baths – alterations and additions
2515/409/1275	1907	Alterations and additions to Old Turkish Baths
2515/404/1337	1908	Emergency exit from Baths Hall
2515/406/0287	1908	Alterations to old Turkish Baths
2515/404/1299	1911	Turkish Bath – proposed alteration to hot room
2515/406/0240	1911	Proposed alterations and additions to Dispensary
2515/406/2524	1911	Medical Fund Dispensary - alterations and additions
2515/409/1268	1912	Plan – baths and dispensary
2515/404/1339	1921	Additional heating – Large Swimming Bath
2515/403/1942	1927	Copy of deed plan for Swimming Baths dated 1892
2515/406/0505	1927	Cornish boiler for Washing Baths
2515/404/1333	1929	Toilet accommodation, large bath gallery
2515/404/1341	1929	Proposed toilet, large bath gallery
2515/404/1343	1929	Small Baths – dressing rooms
2515/404/1347	1929	Proposed Dressing Room, small Bath
2515/404/1340	1932	Seating – large and small Baths (4 drawings)
2515/404/1336	1935	Siphon – cleaning bottom of Swimming Baths
2515/404/1346	1935	Swimming Baths – alterations to WCs
2515/404/1354	1935	Swimming Baths – ladies lavatories
2515/406/0304	1935	Outpatients Dept
2515/404/1328	1936	Exits from Swimming Baths
2515/404/1335	1936	Emergency exit – small Baths
2515/404/1344	1936	Swimming Baths – Alterations to doors
2515/404/1349	1936	Swimming Baths - Alteration to laundry stairs
2515/404/1350	1936	Exit stairs, Swimming Baths
2515/404/1355	1936	Swimming Baths – stairs to gallery
2515/404/2017	1936	Swimming Baths – arrangement and details of gallery supports
2515/404/2019	1936	Swimming Baths – extension to Dressing Rooms
2515/404/2020	1936	Dressing room, children – Swimming Baths
2515/406/0463	1936	Alterations and extension to dressing rooms
2515/406/1784	1936	Laundry stairs - alterations

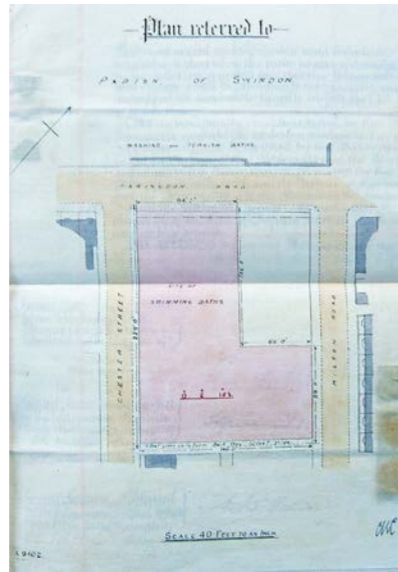
Catalogue no.	Date	Description
2515/406/2708	1936	Swimming Baths – surrounds and panels
2515/409/0741	1936	Cubicles
2515/409/0743	1936	Gallery supports
2515/404/1331	1937	Swimming Baths - stand for Acme wringer
2515/404/1353	1937	Swimming Baths – new lettering on canopy
2515/404/1356	1937	Swimming Baths – foot and shower bath grill
2515/406/1777	1937	Swimming Baths – alterations to diving board
2515/409/1306	1937	Swimming Baths- diving board and chute - alteration
2515/409/1742	1937	Foot and shower baths
2515/404/1320	1939	Plan of Baths and Dispensary
2515/404/1297	1940	Medical Fund – laundry, electric motor drive for machinery
2515/404/1340	1940	Swimming Baths – chimney for heating boiler
2515/403/1947	1948	Baths and Dispensary buildings
2515/403/2085	1951	Swimming Baths – Proposed sewer connection

WSHC: Archive Catalogue: Non-GWR plans (G24 = Swindon Borough Council Records)

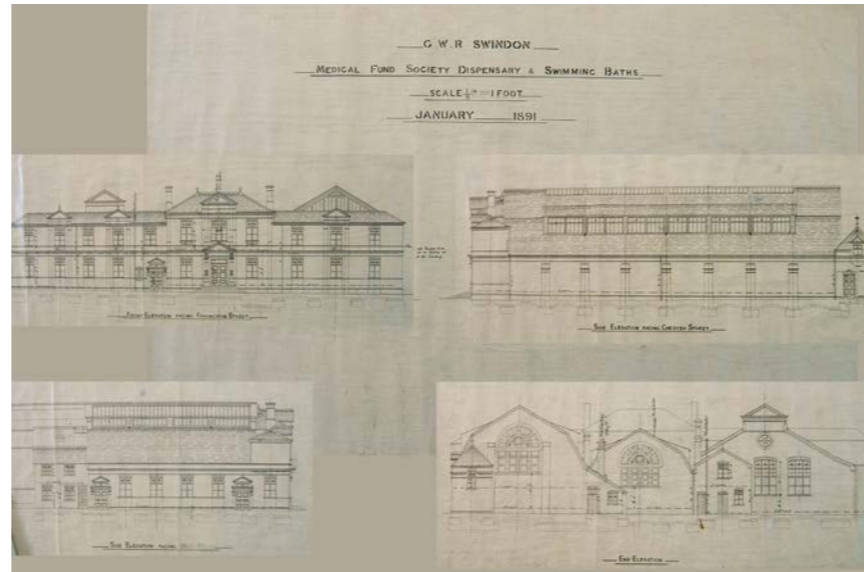
G24/132/715	1933-4	Provision of washing and swimming baths (checked but not photographed)
G24/715/2	c.1960-61	Milton Road Swimming Baths (20)
G24/150/73	1885-1942	Swimming Baths/ Milton Road/ Title Deeds 1885-1942
G24/703/11	1939-40	Swimming Baths/Milton Road/ Air raid precautions – cleansing stations
G24/132/1005	1948-67	Correspondence / Baths Hall, Milton Road (checked but not photographed. 100s of documents, mainly admin e.g. bookings, events, complaints.)
G24/760/2157	1904	C19/ C20 building plans – Turkish Baths, Milton road GWR Co.
G24/760/410	1876	C19/ C20 building plans – plans, Turkish Baths, Faringdon Street GWR Co.
J6/133/15	1889-97	Correspondence; Swimming Baths, buildings and repairs
J6/163/1	1890-98	Contract, tenders and specifications for building dispensary and swimming baths



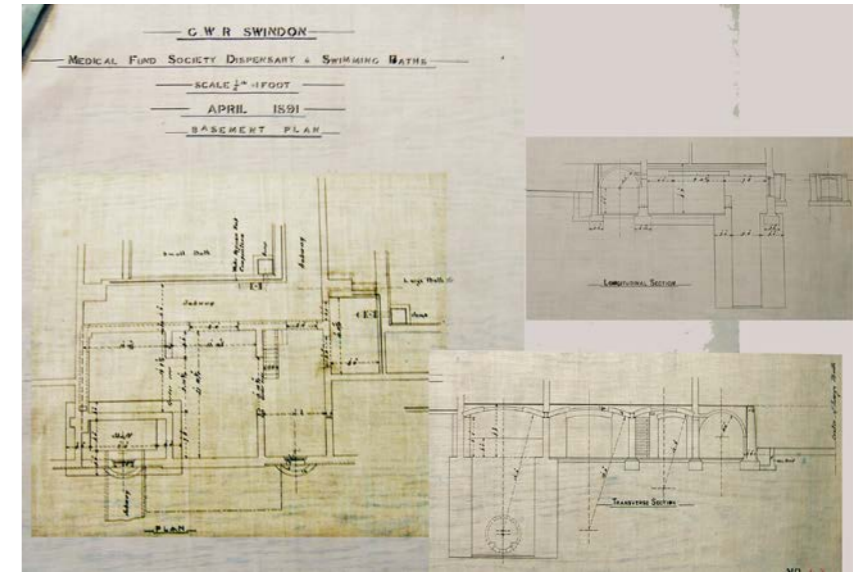
188- Earliest site plan G24-150-73 DSCF4128_edited



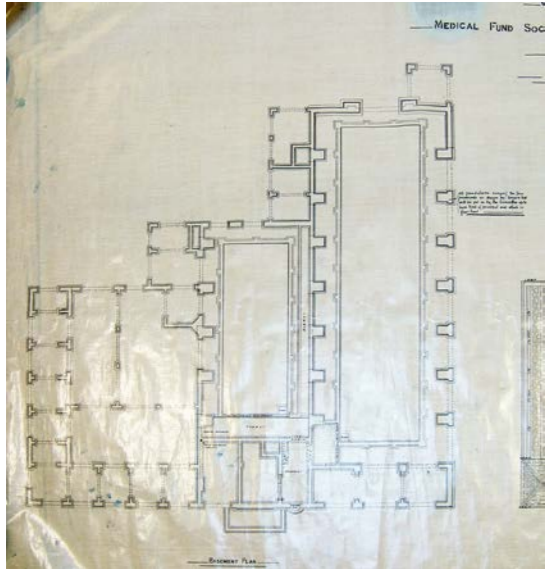
189- Site layout plan G24-150-73 DSCF4132_edited



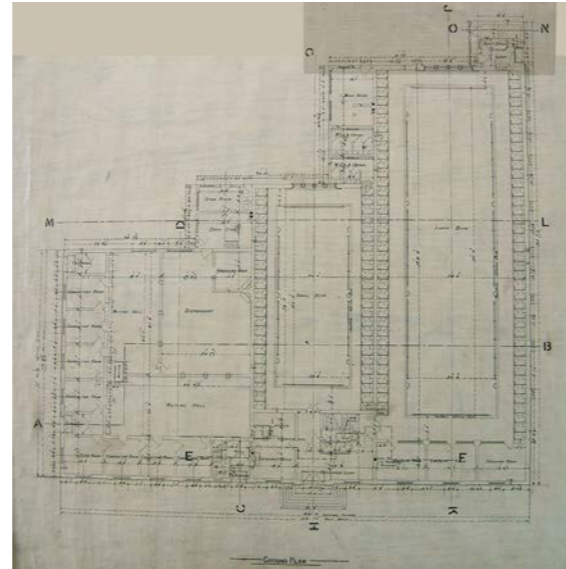
1891 Elevations 2515-404-1308 DSCF4015



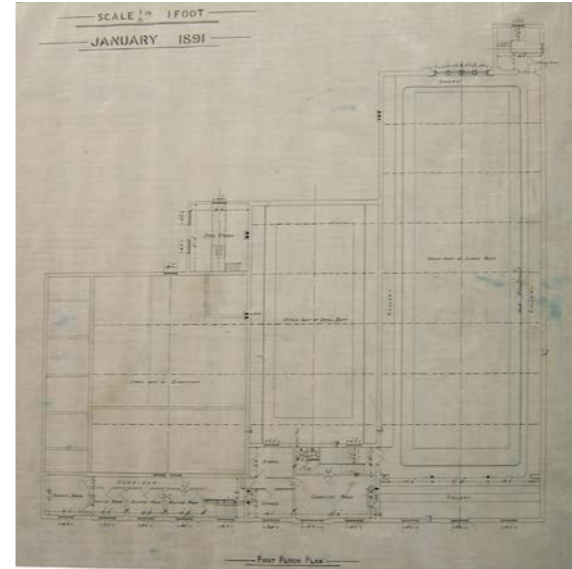
1891 Basement 2515-404-1322 DSCF3947



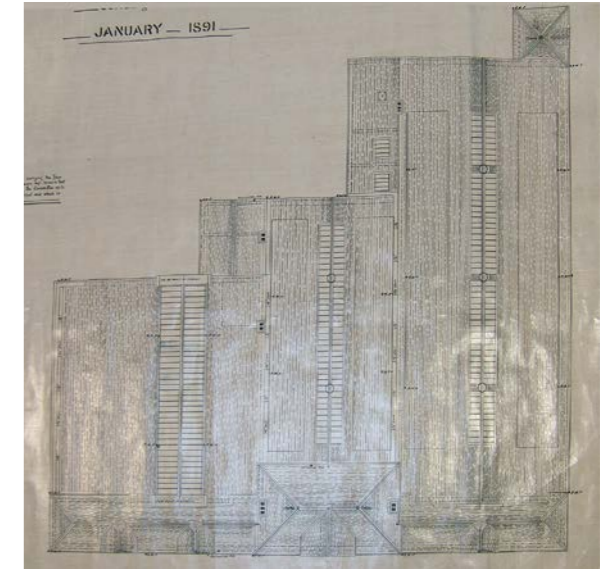
1891 Foundations 2515-404-1317 DSCF3924



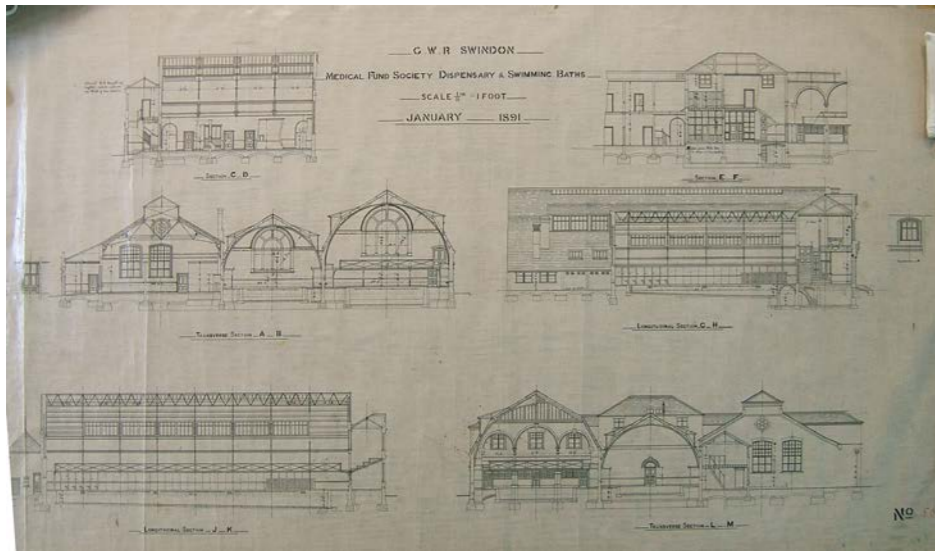
1891 Original Ground



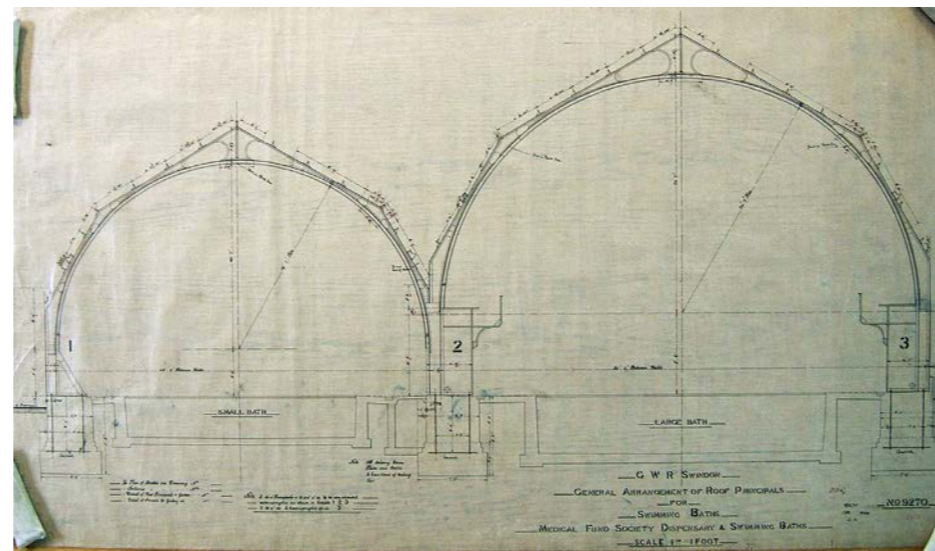
1891 Original first 2515-404-1321 DSCF3943



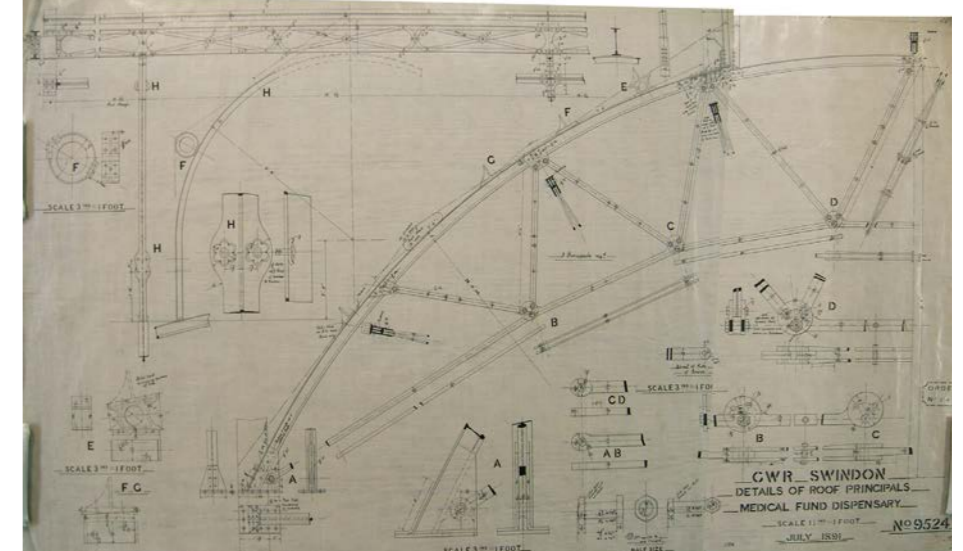
1891 Roof 2515-404-1317 DSCF3921



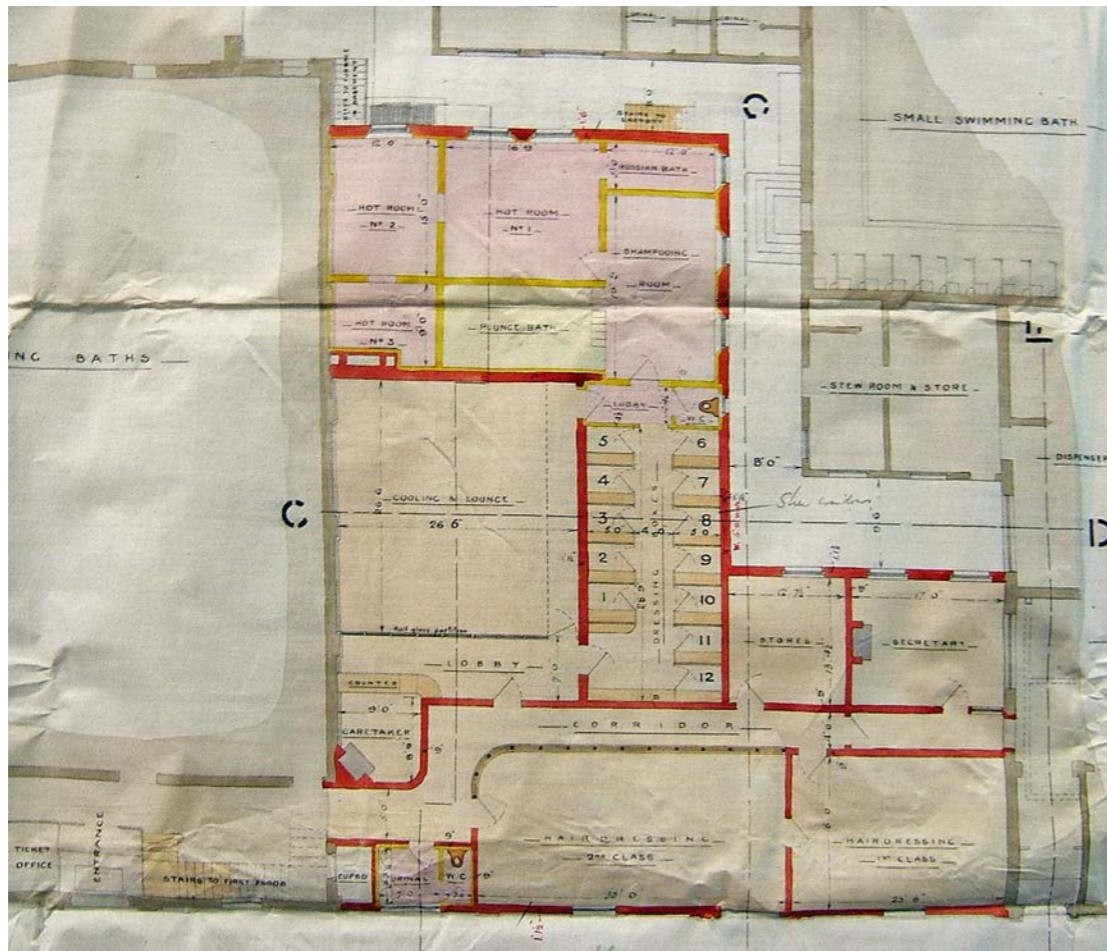
1891 All sections 2515-404-1307 DSCF4314_edited



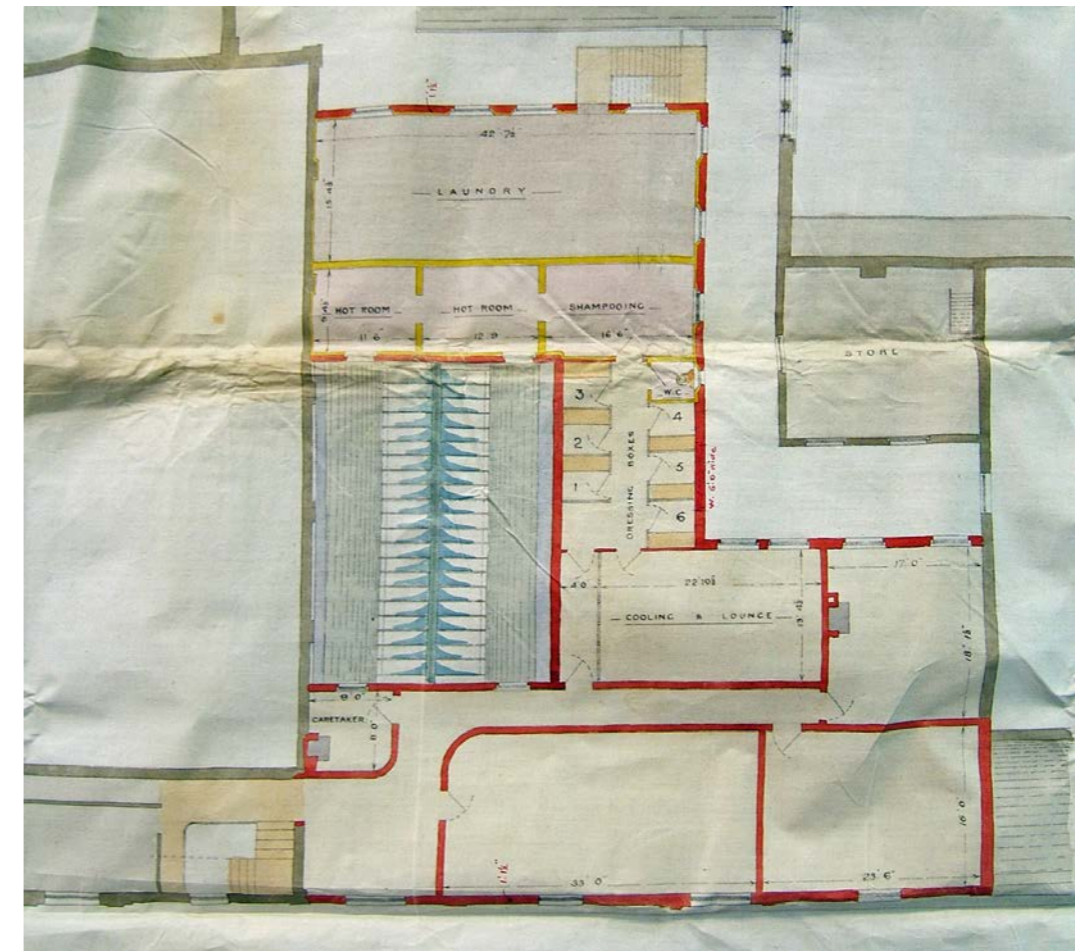
1891 pool sections 2515-404-1302 DSCF4061



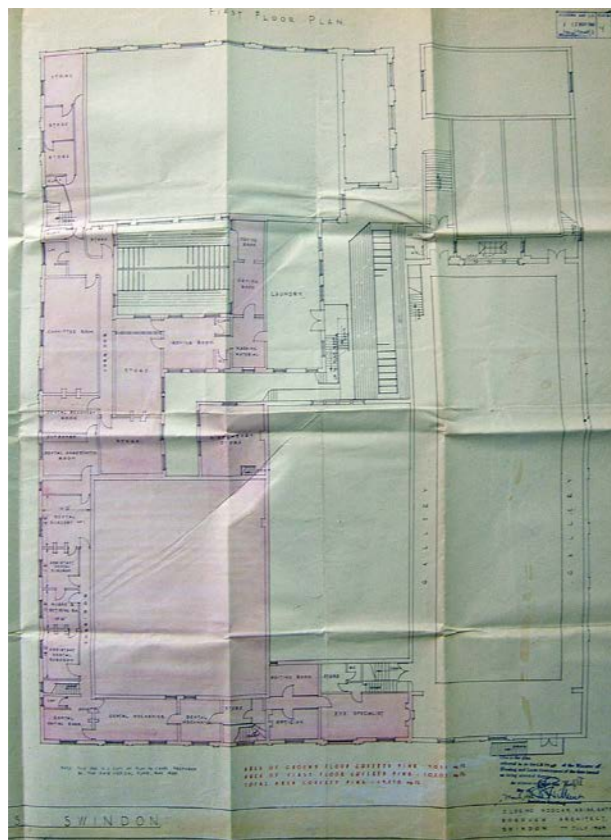
1891 Dispensary truss 2515-404-1304 DSCF4069



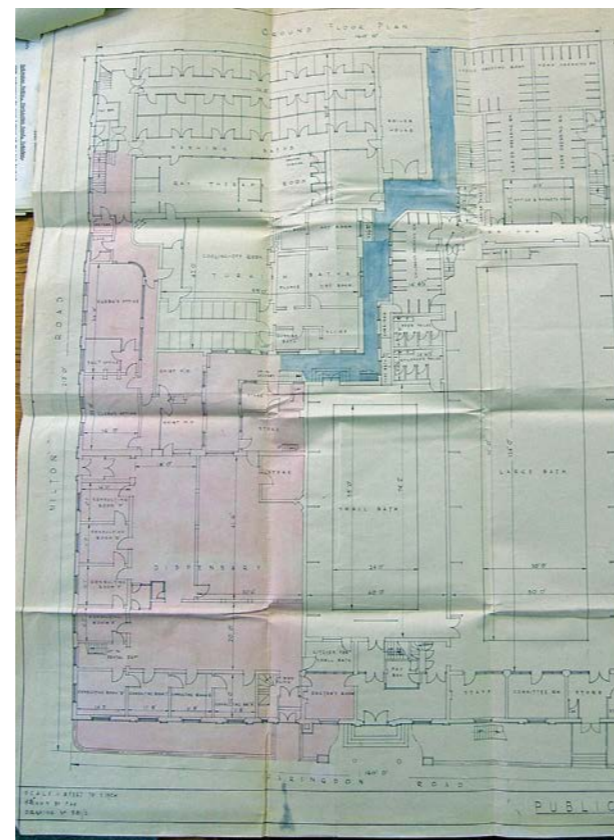
1904 G Turkish G24-760-2157 DSCF4095



1904 F Turkish G24-760-2157 DSCF4102



1959 F G24-132-1005 DSCF4209



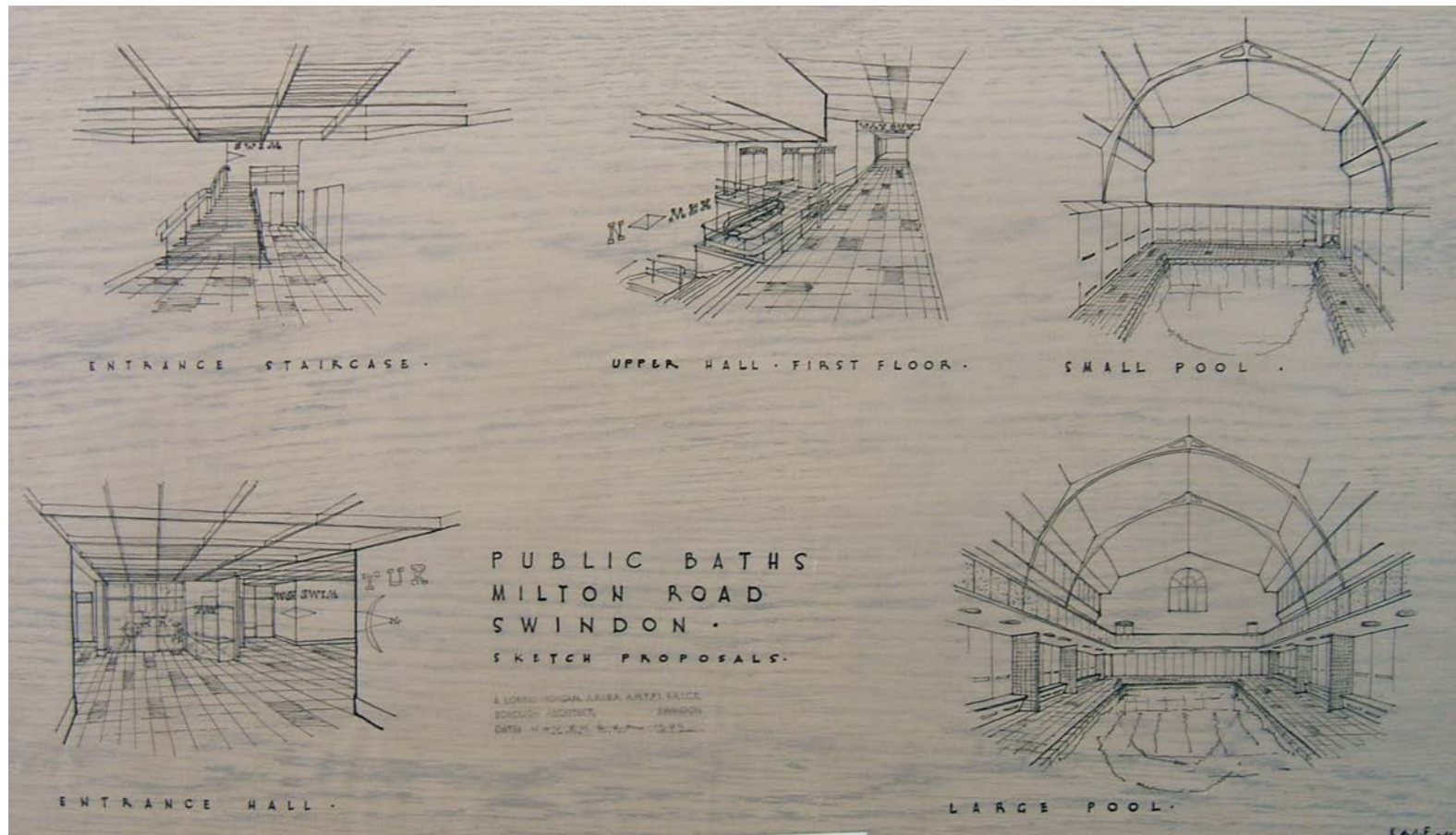
1959 G G24-132-1005 DSCF4204

G.W.R Medical Fund Society
Swindon April 1st 1891

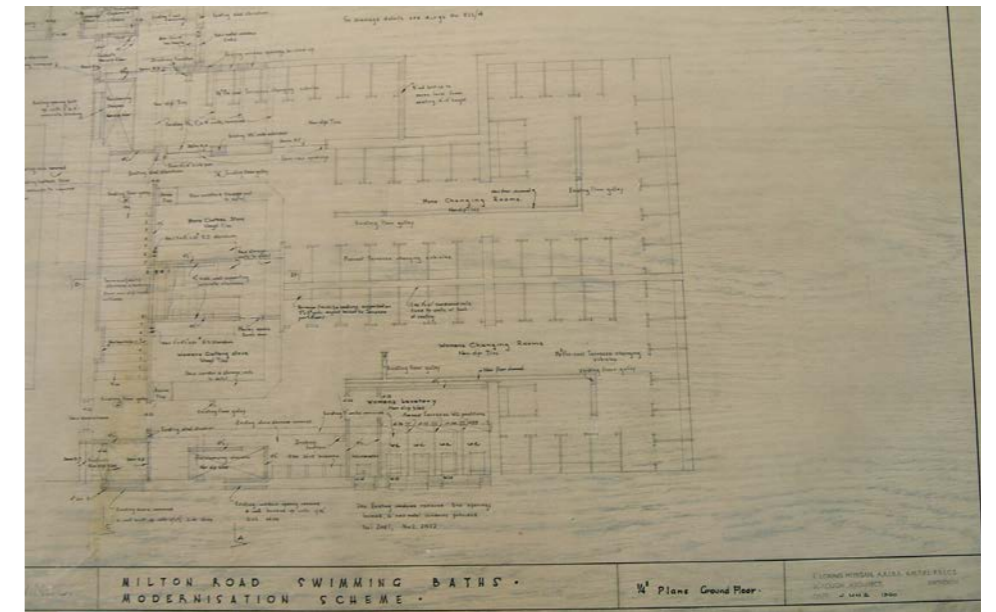
Specification of Bricks required for
New Swimming Baths

	Quantity	Price	Total
White glazed bricks for sides of baths	11000 hundred	93 10 0	1024 10 0
" " " " " "	5000 hundred	41 5 0	207 10 0
White glazed paving bricks for bottom of baths		183 15 0	183 15 0
" " " " " "		14 7 0	14 7 0
Red bricks for border at water level		8 15 6	8 15 6
Blue glazed bricks for inside	11000 hundred	67 6 0	743 6 0
" " " " " "	5000 hundred	34 15 0	170 15 0
Bricks suitable for forming border between	900 hundred	2 7 6	24 6 0
" " " " " "	900 hundred	2 7 6	24 6 0
Blue glazed bricks for inside		450 16 6	450 16 6
" " " " " "		11 5 11	11 5 11
Blue glazed bricks for inside		197 8 9	197 8 9
" " " " " "		197 8 9	197 8 9
Blue glazed bricks for inside		197 8 9	197 8 9
" " " " " "		197 8 9	197 8 9
Blue glazed bricks for inside		197 8 9	197 8 9
" " " " " "		197 8 9	197 8 9
Blue glazed bricks for inside		197 8 9	197 8 9
" " " " " "		197 8 9	197 8 9

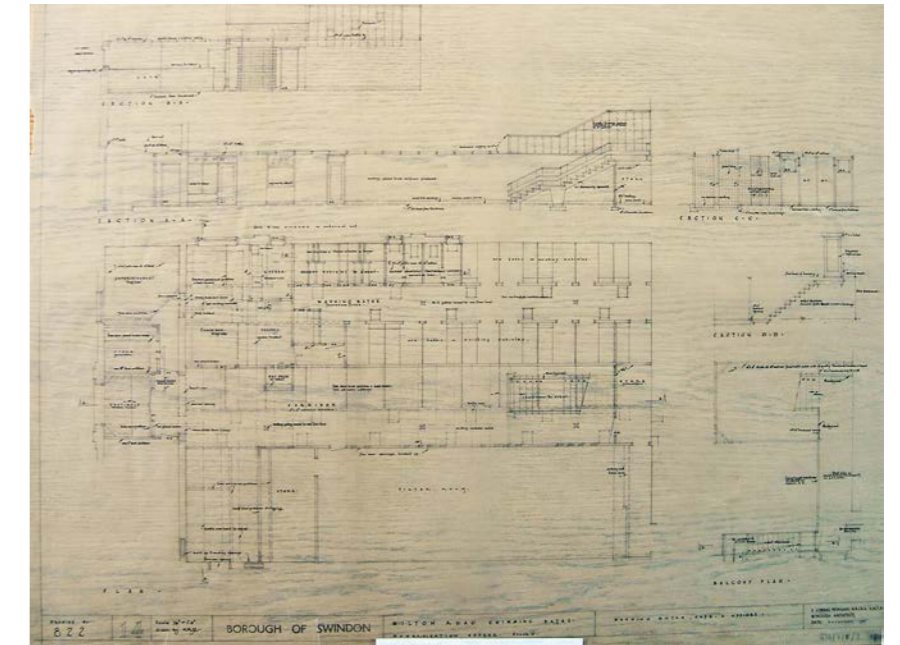
1891 Brick specification J6-133-15 DSCF4186



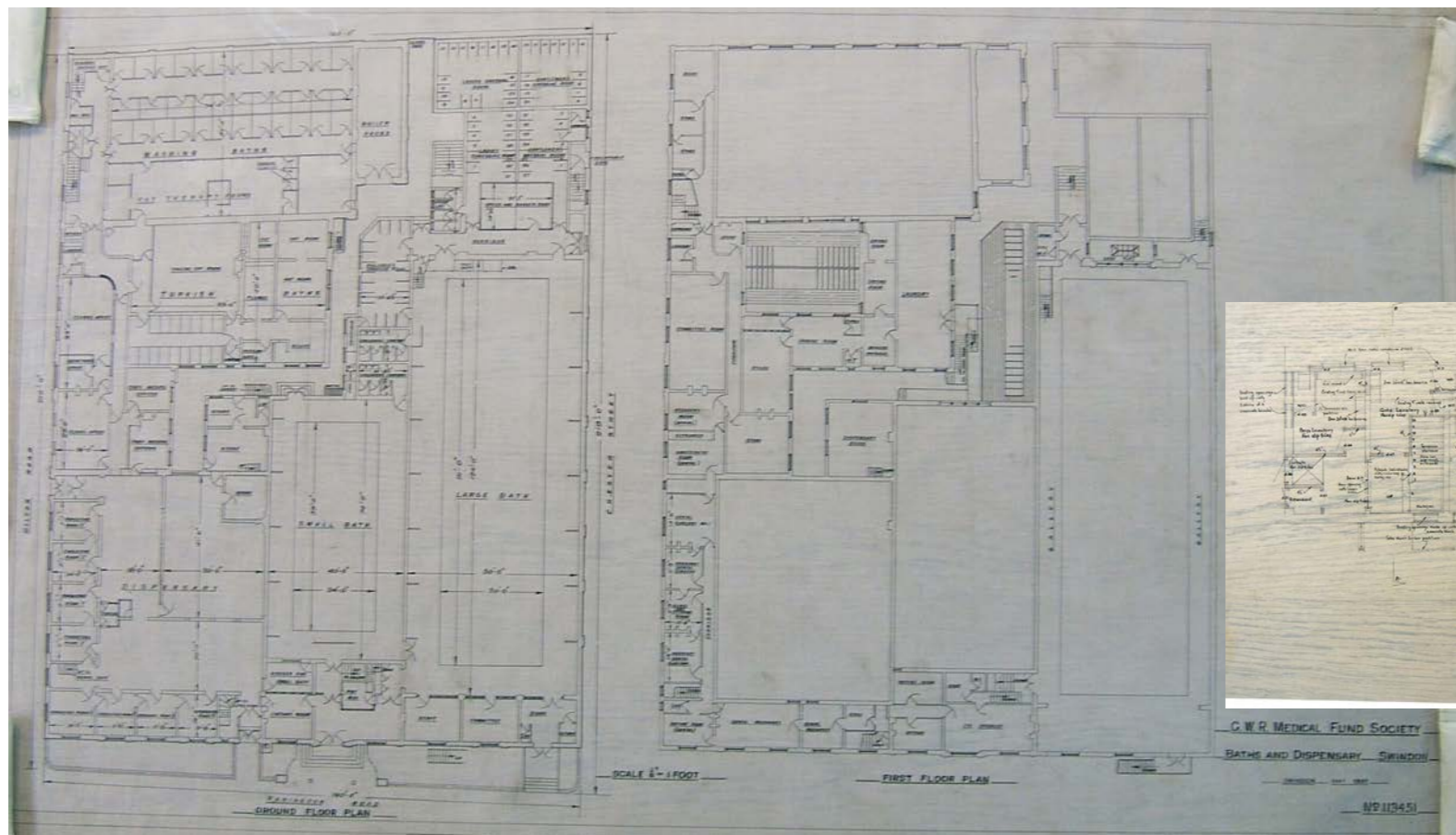
1960 JLM 5no views G24-715-2 DSCF4244



1960 JLMG24-715-2 DSCF4270

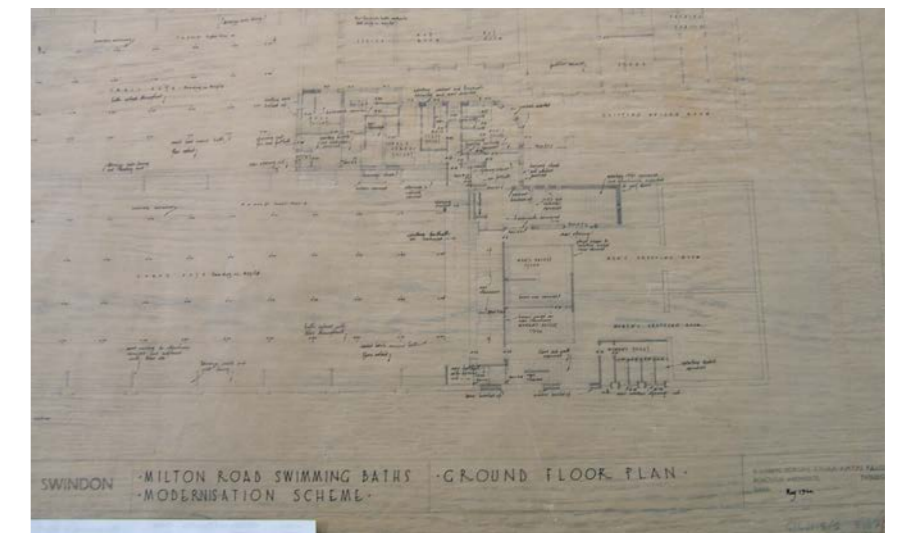


1960 JLM wash baths alts G24-715-2 DSCF4287



1960 JLM SE changing 2
G24-715-2 DSCF4276

1939 G F 2515-404-1320 DSCF4331



1960 JLM SE changing 1 G24-715-2 DSCF4231

2/10/64

PUBLIC BATHS MILTON ROAD
PROPOSED MODERNISATION

The Milton Road Public Baths have been used for many years in a dual purpose capacity. The wear and tear on the dressing accommodation and the bath hall has been accelerated due to the use of demountable cubicles and the temporary dance floor. The maintenance of present day standards of hygiene and attractiveness are not possible owing to the serious defects in the present layout and circulation in the buildings also the deteriorated condition of the finishes of the baths and floor and wall linings throughout. In addition the heating, lighting and ventilation of the baths halls and dressing accommodation is unsatisfactory.

By replanning the entry and circulating areas, an attractive full time baths can be provided, with satisfactory access to Slipper and Turkish baths, Swimming Baths and Cafe, all within the framework of a building that allows of no extension to the site.

Circulation

There are at present three ways of entering the Public Baths. Firstly from Paringdon Road, the grand entrance, completely useless to the baths by modern standards, because the dressing accommodation is at the other end of the building. In the proposed scheme this entry, giving access to the first floor balcony, is retained solely for the admittance of the public on Gala and similar displays. The second entry is in Chester Street, is out of the way and cuts right across the circulation which should be direct between baths and dressing accommodation and is therefore hygienically very undesirable and is the cause of serious draughts. This entrance makes impracticable the satisfactory replanning of the accommodation. The third entry is from Milton Road, via the area of the present slipper baths and access the long and tortuous service yard that must be kept clear for the entry and exit of stores and waste from the baths and also the adjoining Health Centre.

Proposals

It is now proposed that a staircase and bridge be provided over this service yard. The circulating problem of the Baths, can best be overcome by making this third entry the principal and also the most attractive way in for the public, to the three services offered: swimming, slipper and turkish baths.

The present entry in Milton Road, can be opened up internally and an attractive entrance hall formed, giving direct access to the Pay box, a Cafe, Waiting Hall, Turkish and Slipper Baths, and to the staircase leading to the Swimming Baths. The Superintendent's office would be retained adjacent to the entrance hall. To enable this to be done, one now of slipper baths would require to be removed together with certain other partitions. Appropriate floor and wall finishes would be provided to the newly opened up areas.

Slipper Baths

After passing the pay box these are situated on the left hand side of the proposed entrance corridor. Four shower baths, thirteen slipper baths, toilet and attendants accommodation are proposed. The toilet accommodation is very badly needed.

1959 spec1 G24-132-1005 DSCF4197

Turkish Baths

The alterations have consisted of the removal of the present dressing cubicles which are badly sited and using this room as an extension of the cooking room. The present cooking room which is unattractive and gives no privacy, together with the new extension, would be divided into 2 - bed cubicles which could also be used as dressing rooms.

Entry to the Swimming Baths

From the new access hall leading off the Milton Road entrance a new staircase will rise up and over the present filter equipment area to the bridge leading to the Swimming halls. Suitable height balustrading in the area will ensure complete privacy in the Slipper Baths. From the bridge access will be provided to the Public balconies, to a staircase leading to the Swimmers' Changing, Toilet and Pre-cleansing area, and to a new floor built over an existing single storey building, providing new dressing accommodation for school parties and others using the small baths. A staircase gives direct access to toilet and pre-cleansing accommodation, leading direct to the small baths hall. Direct access to the major bath is provided from the adult dressing accommodation through the pre-cleansing area, which are to comprise showers and footbaths. The layout of dressing accommodation has been planned to allow improved supervision.

General

The scheme includes the following items:-

- Improvements to Heating, Lighting and Engineering services including re-wiring of the building.
- Re-lining the floors and walls of both swimming baths. These walls to be lined up to 6'6" in height in small bath and to underside of balcony in main bath hall.
- New surfacing to the floors and walls, also drainage of the baths surrounds.
- New permanent dressing cubicles and toilets, including re-surfacing of walls and floors.
- New cubicles for the turkish baths and the lining of the walls up to 6'6" high in the turkish baths.
- A Cafe and staff toilet accommodation.
- Toilet accommodation in the slipper baths.
- Improvements to the gallery flooring and public seating.
- New floor and wall finishes to the proposed Milton Road entrance hall and corridor, cafe, waiting hall and slipper baths.

- 2 -

1959 spec2 G24-132-1005 DSCF4199

25012

Great Western Railway 774
London Terminus, Paddington
15th May 1893

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find £1000
New Swimming Baths

Will you be good enough to let me know whether the Company have yet taken possession of the old Swimming Bath in respect of which Building £1000 was paid to

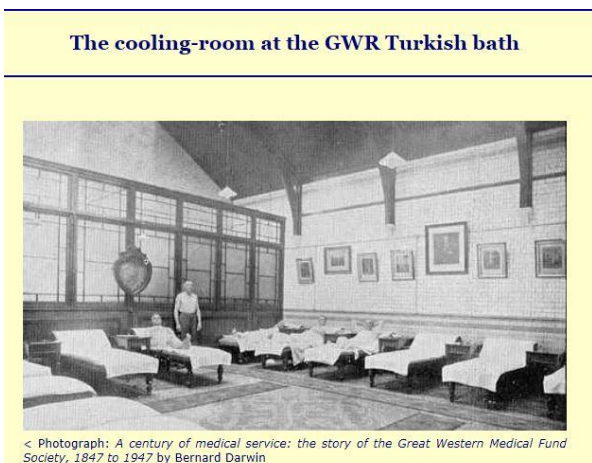
Yours faithfully,
A. J. B. B. B.

P.S. - I shall be glad to hear from you also as to the site of the new Swimming - you will remember that you promised to consider us to the site of agreement to be entered into for the purpose.

The Committee of the Great Western Medical and Surgical Society hereby acknowledge to have received from the Great Western Railway Company, by payment to the County of Gloucester Bank, Swindon for the credit of the Great Western Medical and Surgical Society on the 6th of November 1891, the sum of One thousand pounds (£1000) the amount agreed to be paid and accepted by the said Society in full discharge of all claims on their part to the Building containing a Swimming Bath situated adjoining the Station at Swindon which was referred to in the Agreement between the Great Western Railway Company and the Society dated the 6th of September 1877.

£1000 0 0

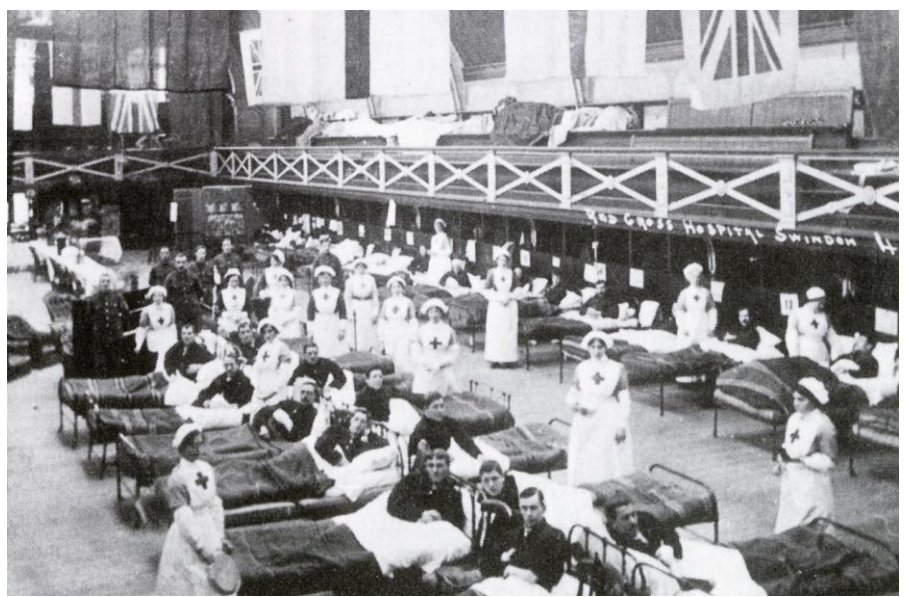
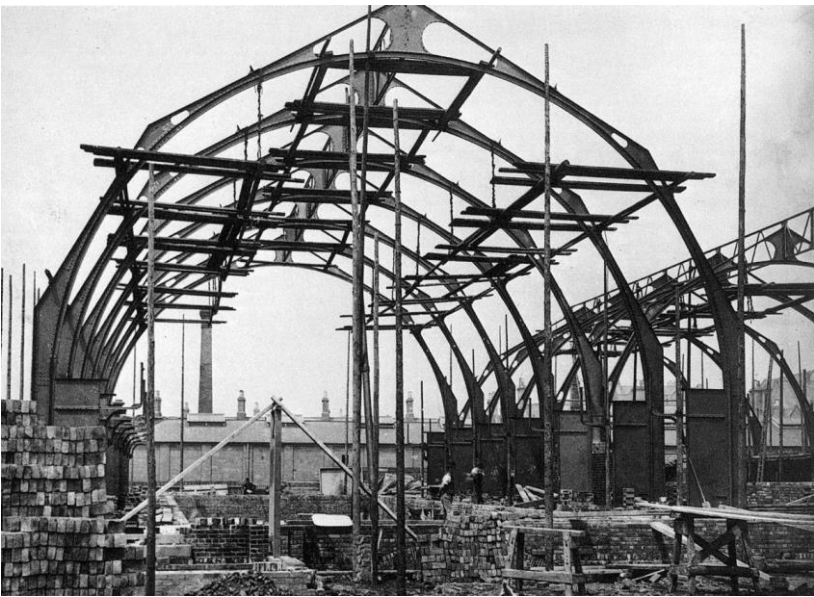
1893 Correspondence and brick order J6-133-15 DSCF4191



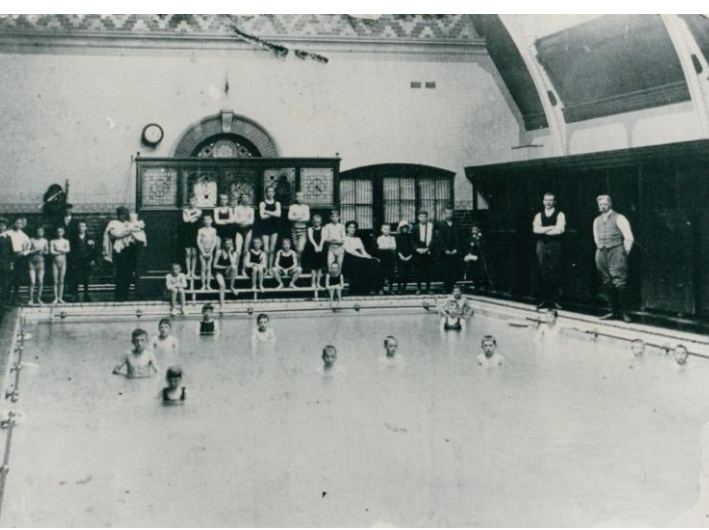
< Photograph: A century of medical service: the story of the Great Western Medical Fund Society, 1847 to 1947 by Bernard Darwin



HAIRDRESSING ROOMS



Large Swimming Bath



Appendix 6 - Survey Photos

Appendix 6.1 External

Appendix 6.2 Roof

Appendix 6.3 Central external spine corridor

Appendix 6.4 Basement

Appendix 6.5 Ground Floor

Appendix 6.6 First Floor

SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

External



SWHH Ext (1)



SWHH Ext (2)



SWHH Ext (3)



SWHH Ext (4)



SWHH Ext (5)



SWHH Ext (6)



SWHH Ext (6a)



SWHH Ext (6b)



SWHH Ext (6c)



SWHH Ext (6d)



SWHH Ext (7)



SWHH Ext (8)



SWHH Ext (9)



SWHH Ext (10)



SWHH Ext (11)



SWHH Ext (12)



SWHH Ext (13)



SWHH Ext (14)



SWHH Ext (15)



SWHH Ext (16)



SWHH Ext (16a)



SWHH Ext (16b)



SWHH Ext (16c)



SWHH Ext (25)



SWHH Ext (26)



SWHH Ext (27)



SWHH Ext (28)



SWHH Ext (29)



SWHH Ext (31)



SWHH Ext (32)



SWHH Ext (69)



SWHH Ext (70)



SWHH Ext (71)



SWHH Ext (72)



SWHH Ext (73)



SWHH Ext (74)



SWHH Ext (75)



SWHH Ext (76)



SWHH Ext (77)



SWHH Ext (123)



SWHH Ext (124)



SWHH Ext (217)

SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

Roof



SWHH Roof (1)



SWHH Roof (2)



SWHH Roof (3)



SWHH Roof (4)



SWHH Roof (5)



SWHH Roof (6)



SWHH Roof (7)



SWHH Roof (8)



SWHH Roof (9)



SWHH Roof (10)



SWHH Roof (11)



SWHH Roof (12)



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SWHH Roof (29)



SWHH Roof (30)



SWHH Roof (31)



SWHH Roof (32)



SWHH Roof (33)



SWHH Roof (34)



SWHH Roof (35)

SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

Central External Spine Corridor



SWHH Central external spine corridor (1)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (2)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (3)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (4)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (5)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (6)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (7)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (8)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (9)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (10)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (11)



SWHH Central external spine corridor (12)

SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

Basement



SWHH B1 (1)



SWHH B2 (1)



SWHH B2 (2)



SWHH B2 (3)



SWHH B2 (4)



SWHH B2 (5)



SWHH B2 (6)



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SWHH B2 (12)



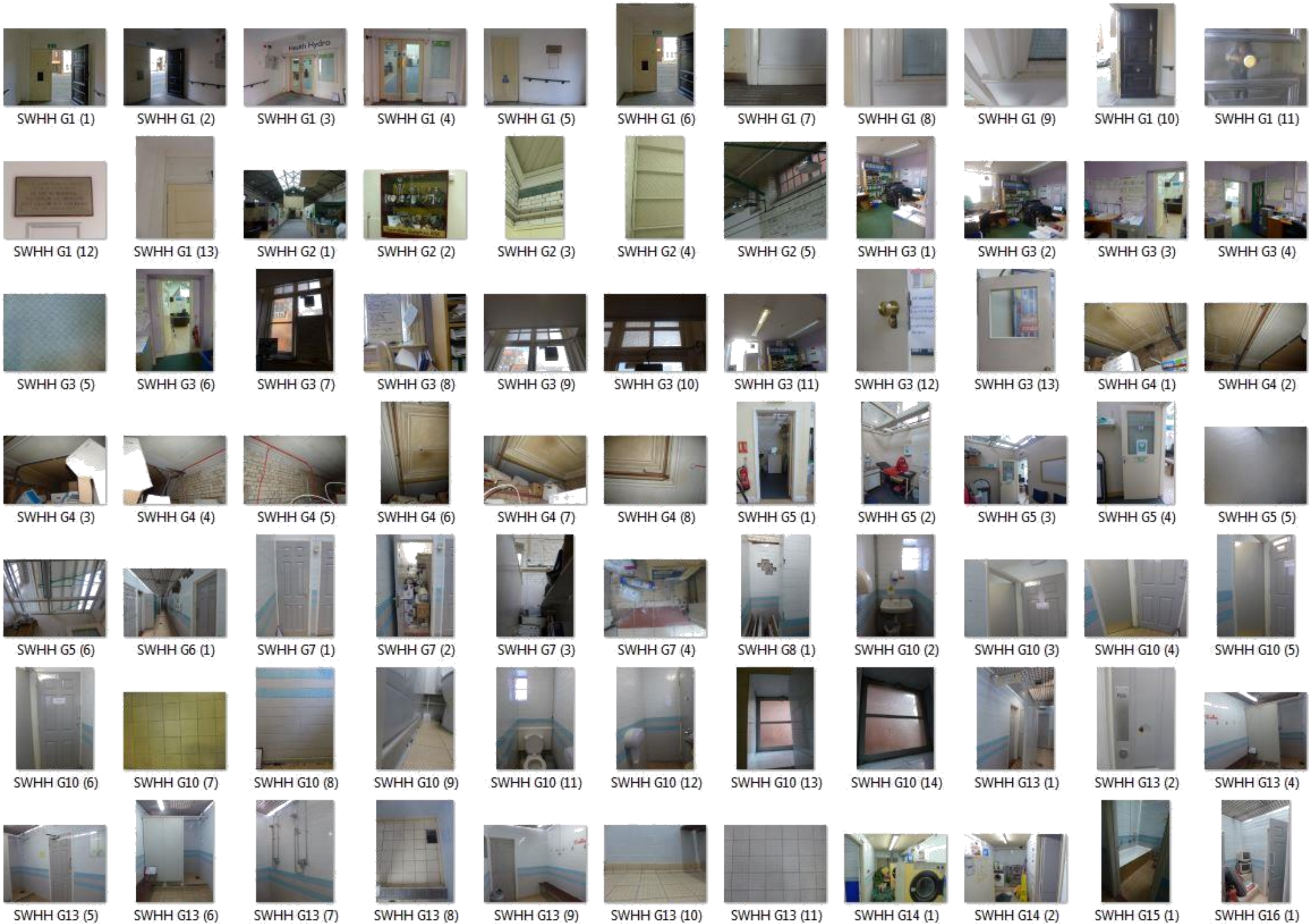
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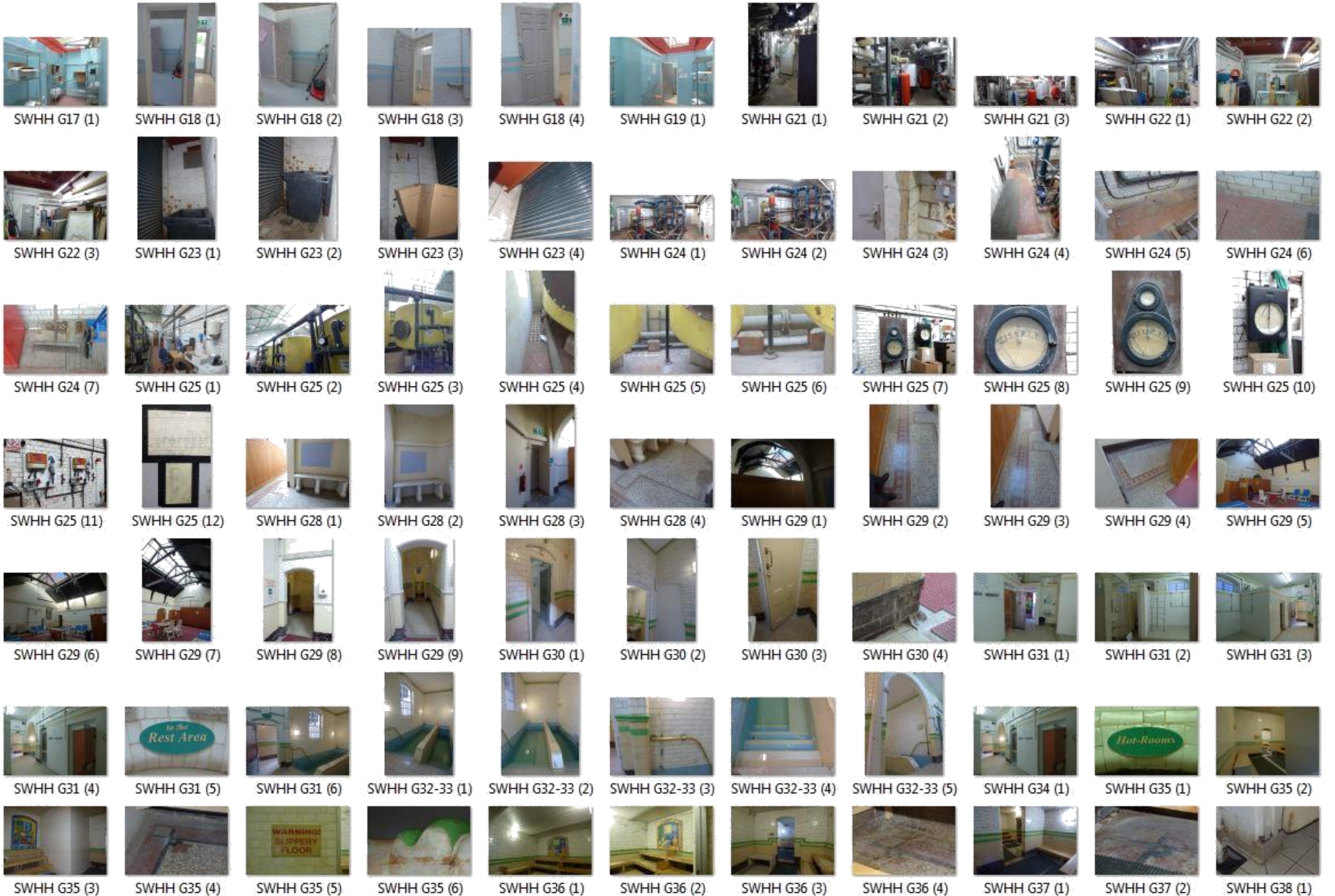


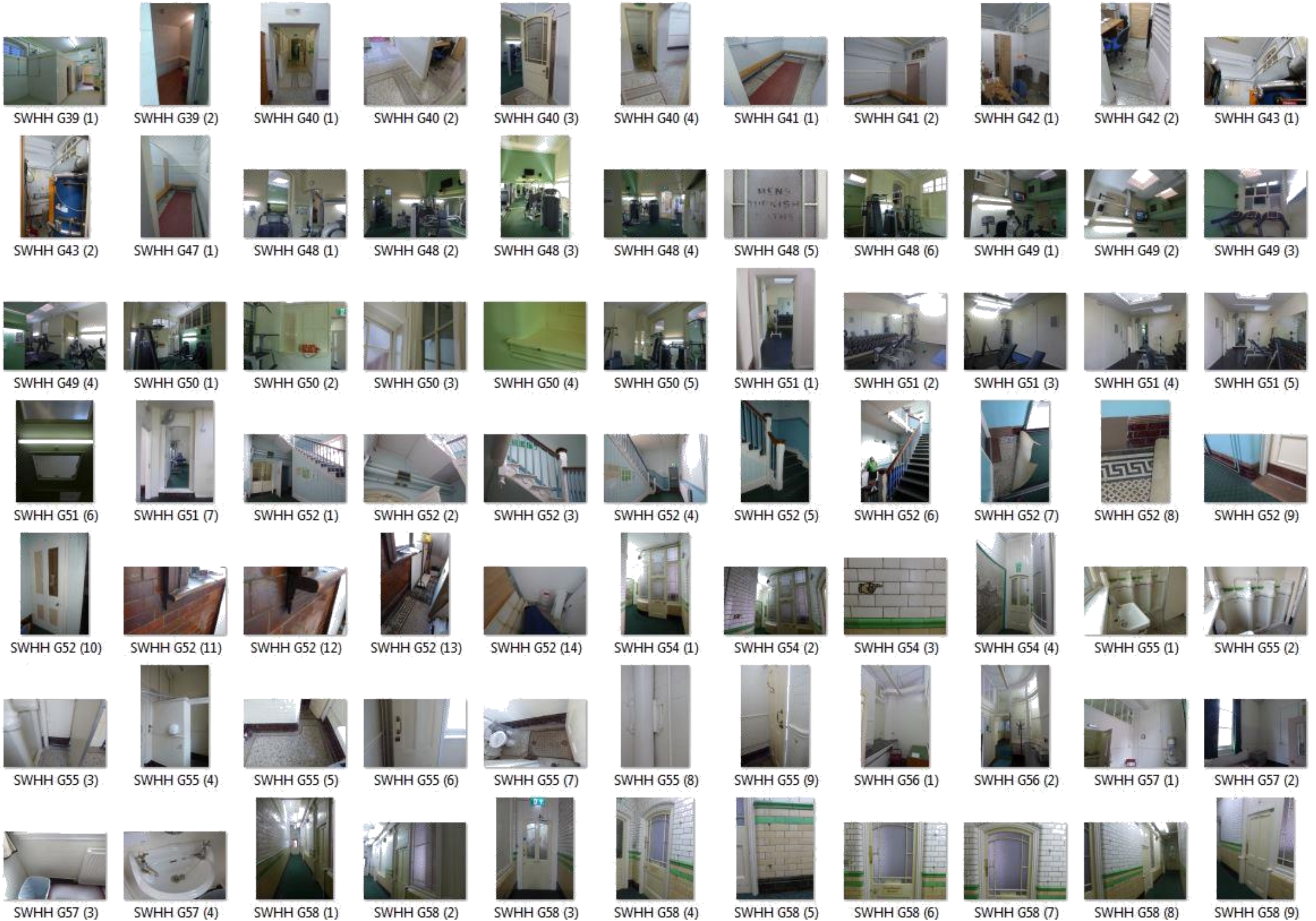
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SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

Ground Floor







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SWHH G39 (2)

SWHH G40 (1)

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SWHH G40 (3)

SWHH G40 (4)

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SWHH G41 (2)

SWHH G42 (1)

SWHH G42 (2)

SWHH G43 (1)

SWHH G43 (2)

SWHH G47 (1)

SWHH G48 (1)

SWHH G48 (2)

SWHH G48 (3)

SWHH G48 (4)

SWHH G48 (5)

SWHH G48 (6)

SWHH G49 (1)

SWHH G49 (2)

SWHH G49 (3)

SWHH G49 (4)

SWHH G50 (1)

SWHH G50 (2)

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SWHH G62 (1)



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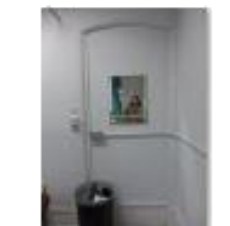
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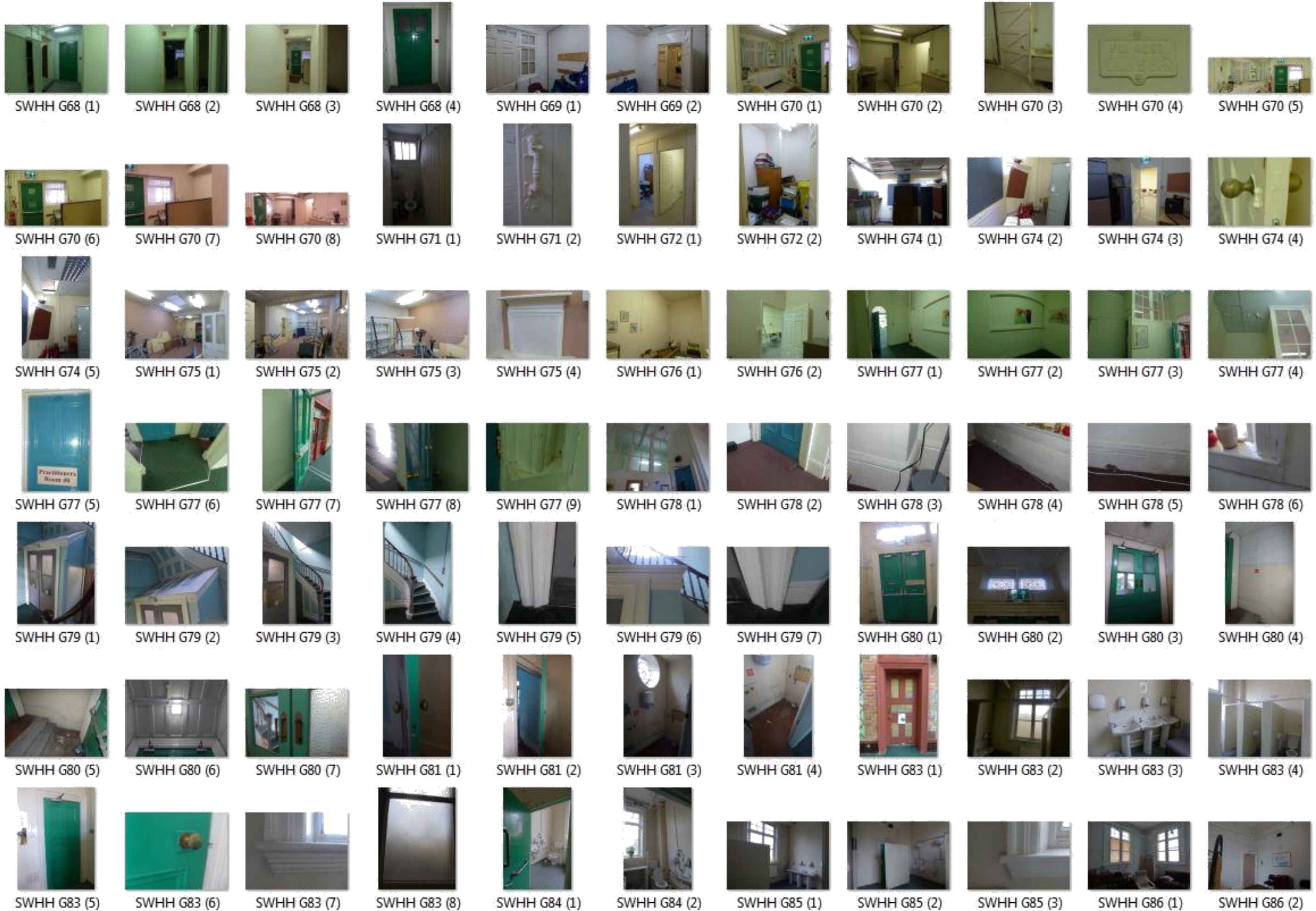
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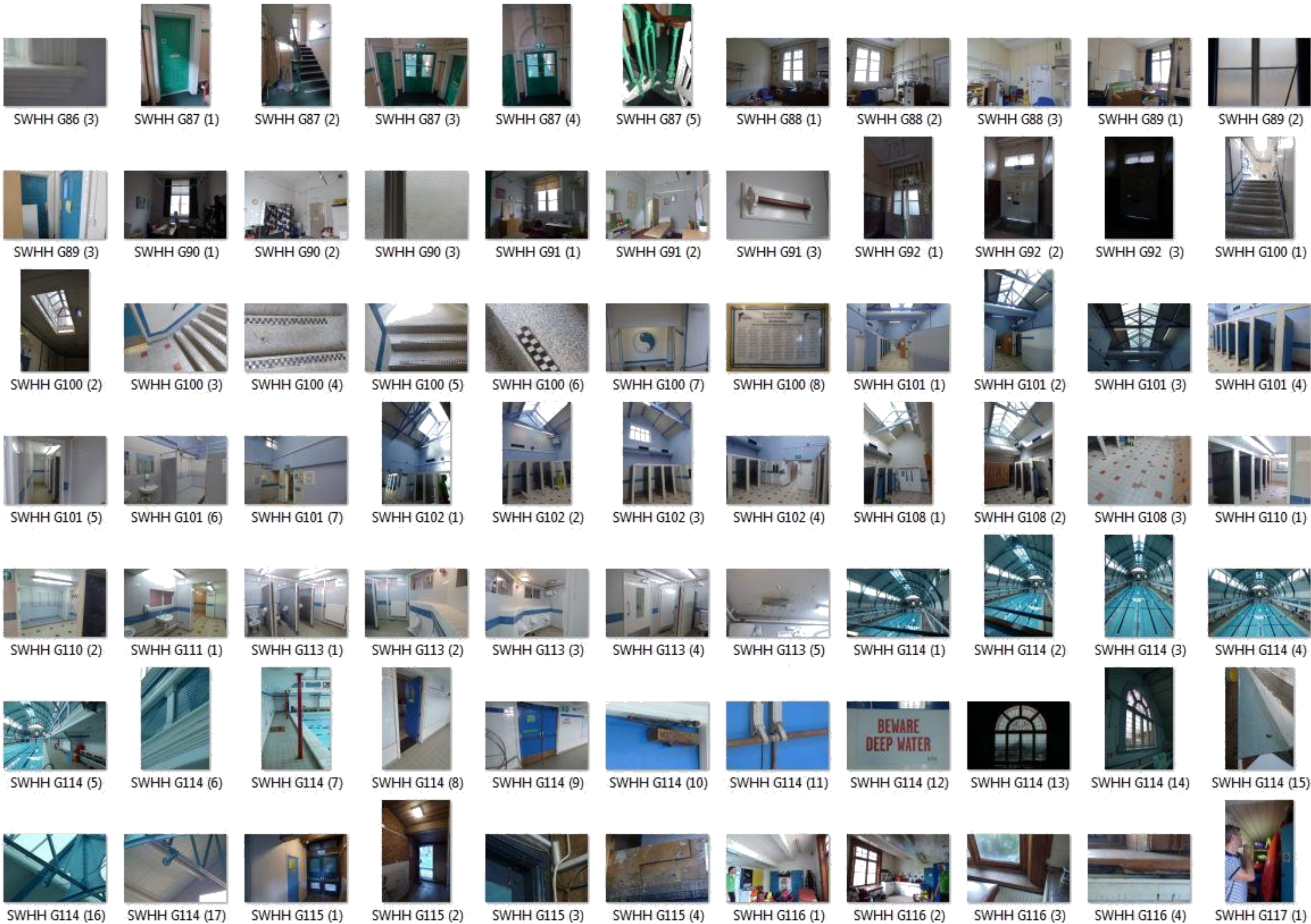


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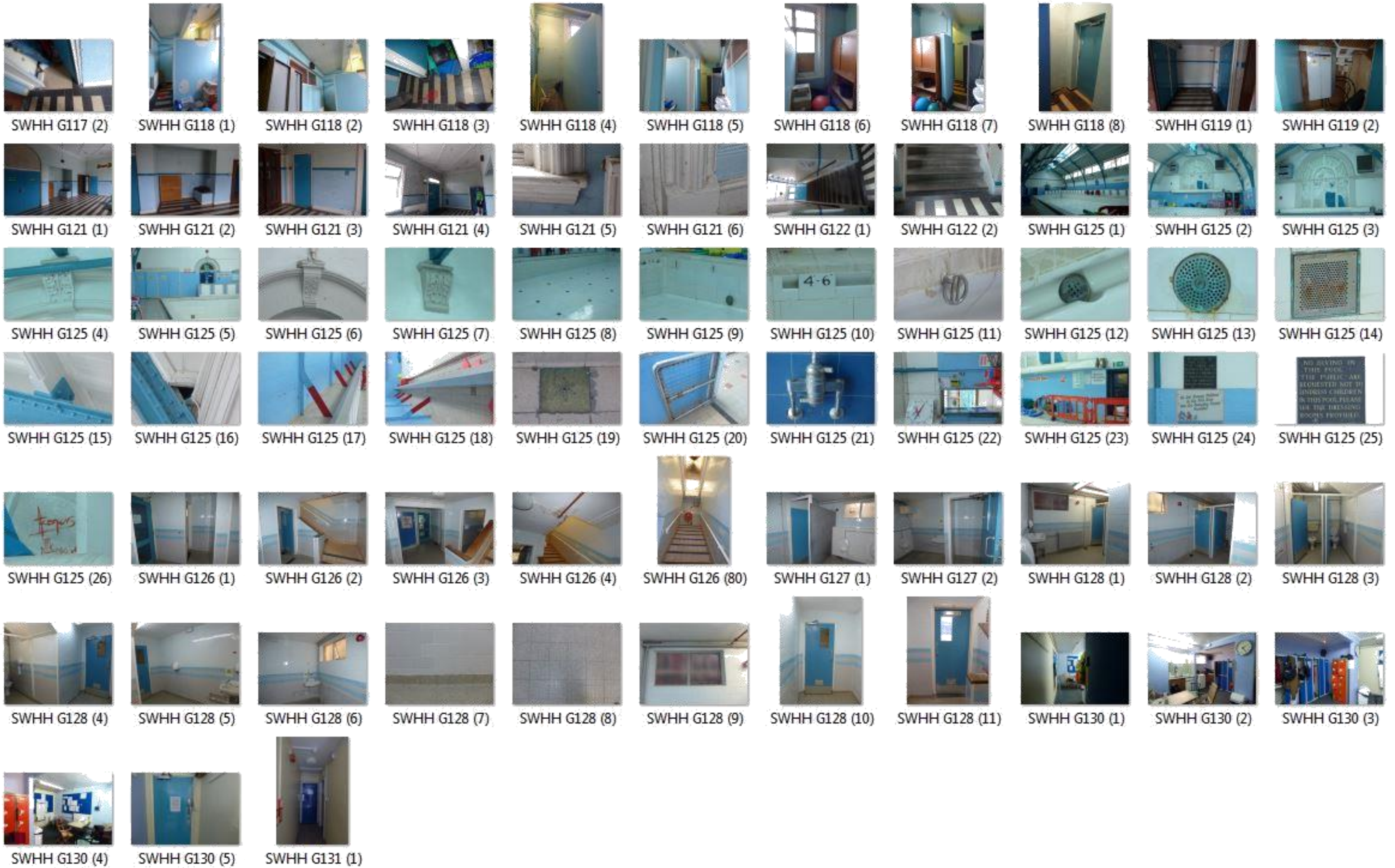
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SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

First Floor



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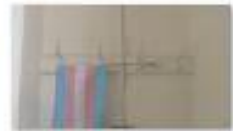
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SWHH F14 (3)



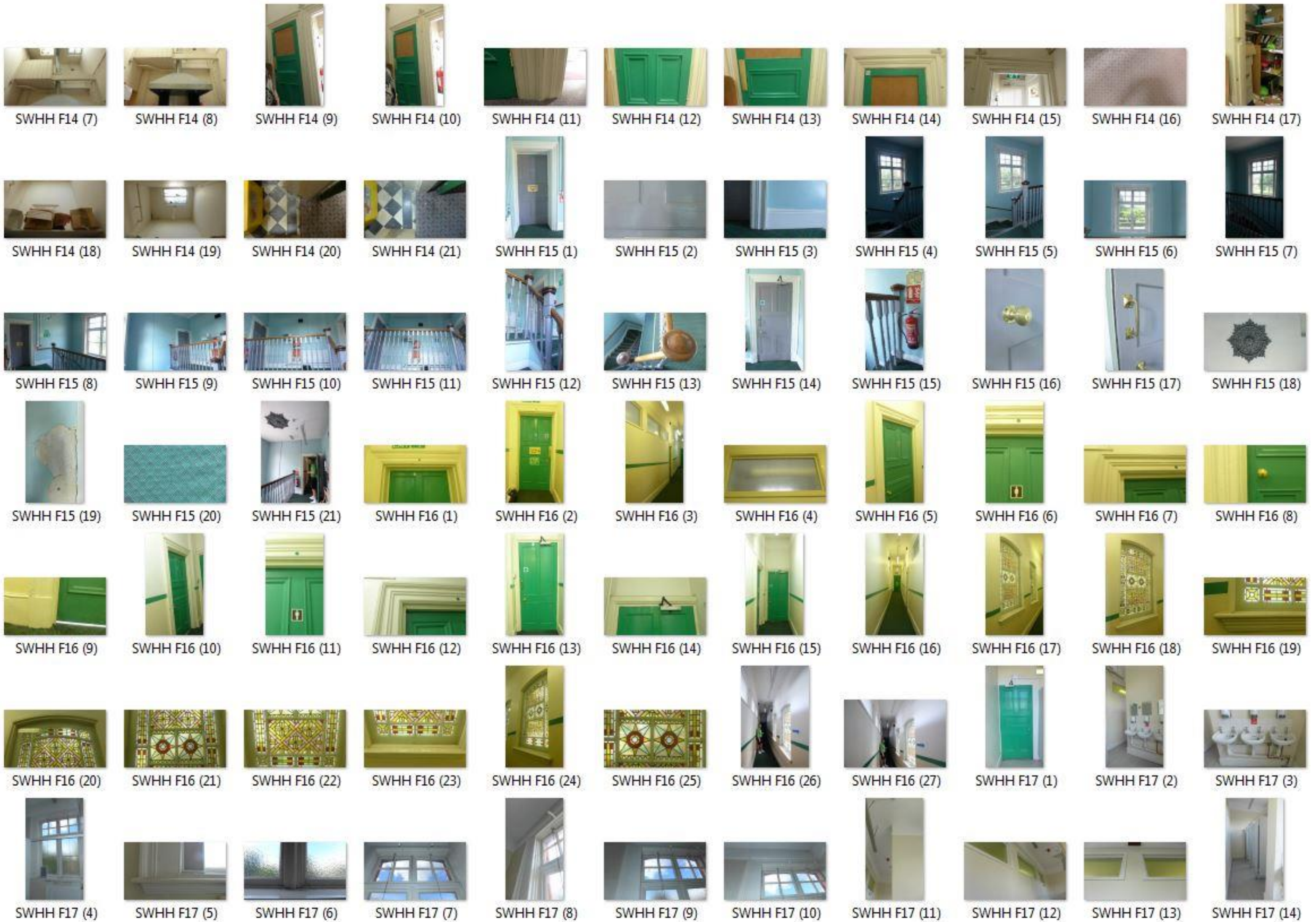
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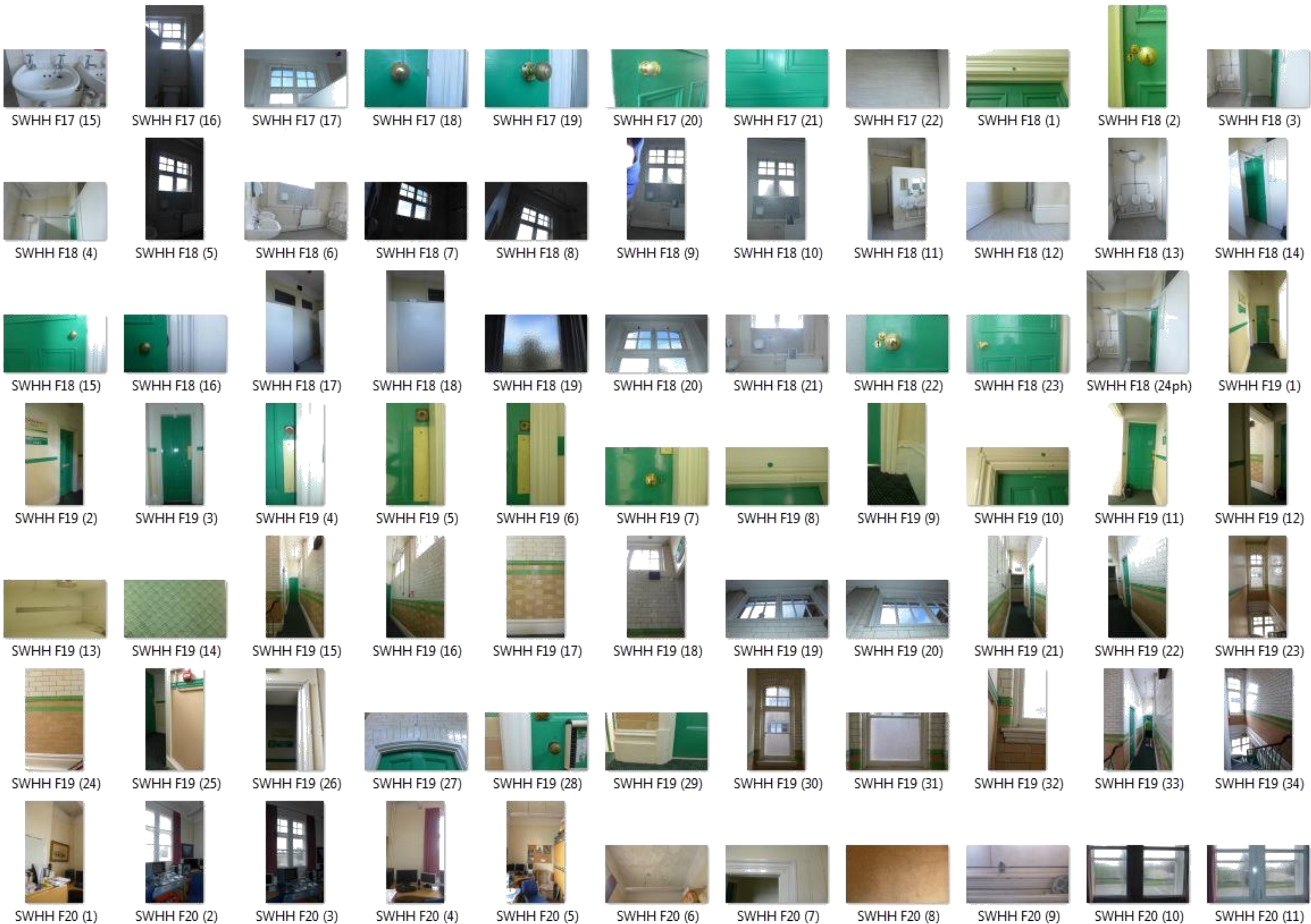


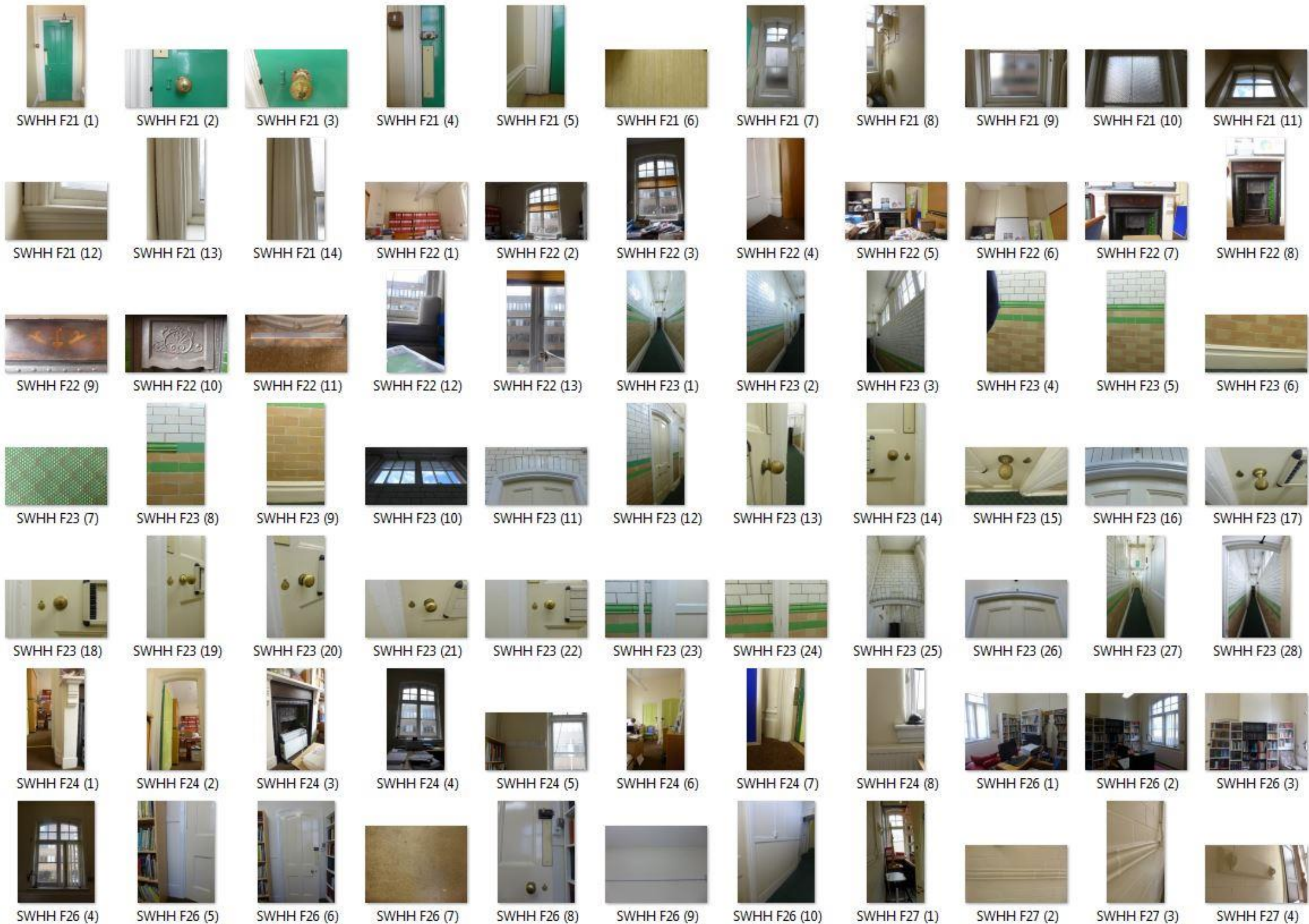
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SWHH F28 (18)



SWHH F28 (19)



SWHH F28 (20)



SWHH F28 (21)



SWHH F28 (22)



SWHH F28 (23)



SWHH F28 (24)



SWHH F29 (1)



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SWHH F29 (5)



SWHH F29 (6)



SWHH F29 (7)



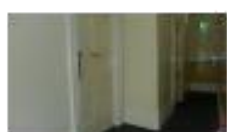
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SWHH F29 (11)



SWHH F29 (12)



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SWHH F29 (15)



SWHH F29 (16)



SWHH F29 (17)



SWHH F30 (1)



SWHH F30 (2)



SWHH F30 (3)



SWHH F30 (4)



SWHH F30 (5)



SWHH F30 (6)



SWHH F30 (7)



SWHH F30 (8)



SWHH F30 (9)



SWHH F30 (10)



SWHH F30 (11)



SWHH F30 (12)



SWHH F30 (13)



SWHH F30 (14)



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SWHH F30 (18)



SWHH F30 (19)



SWHH F31 (1)



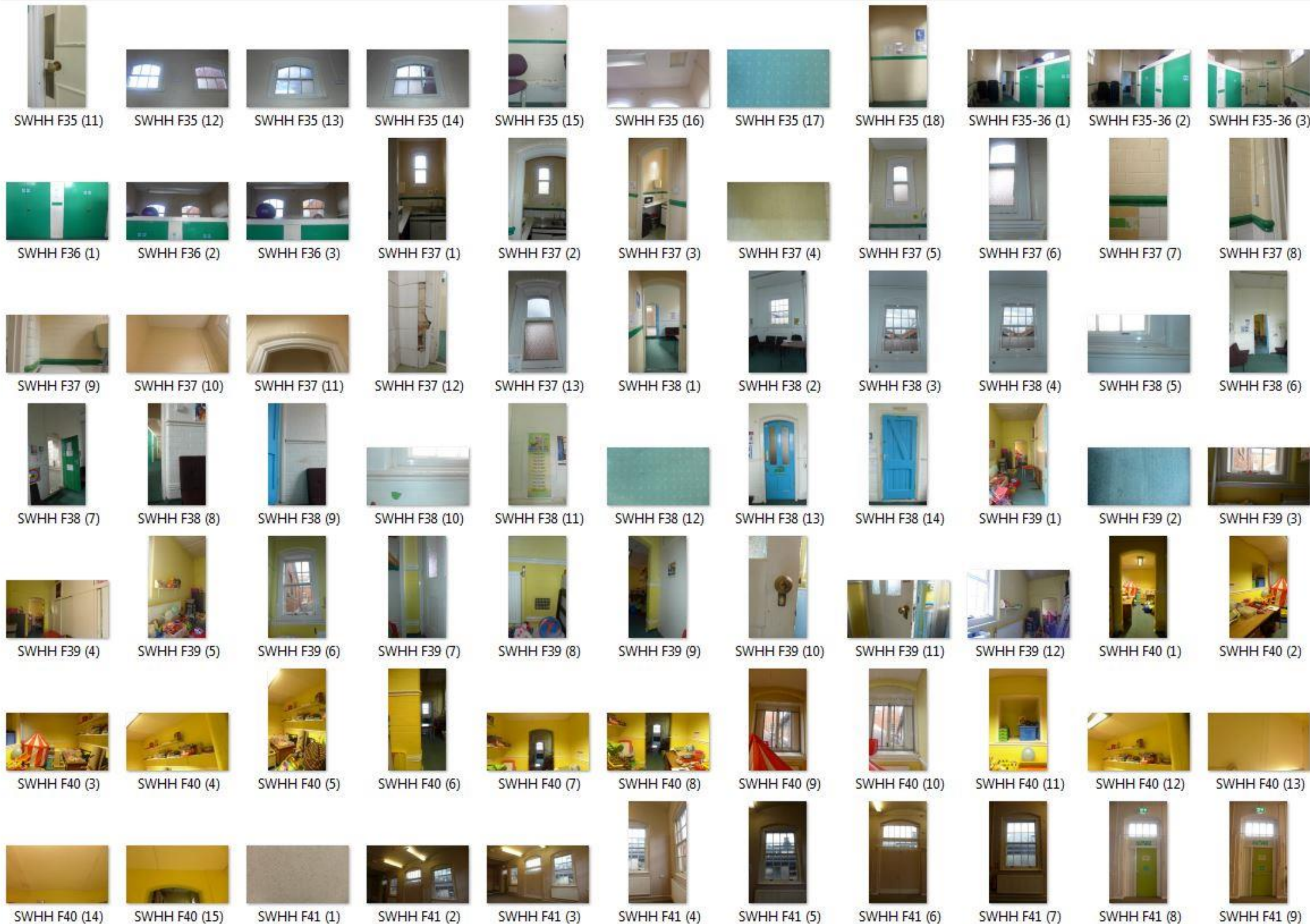
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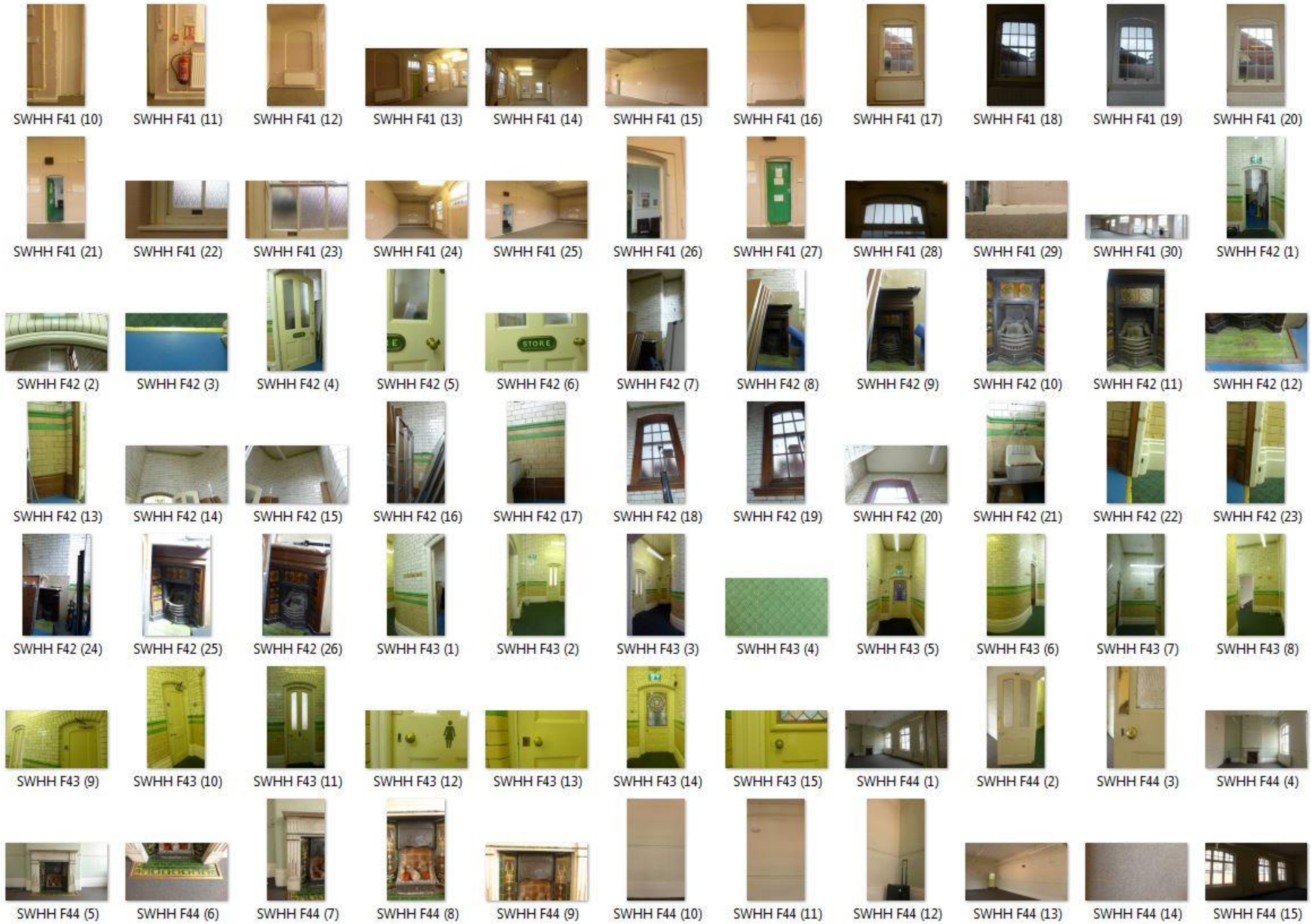


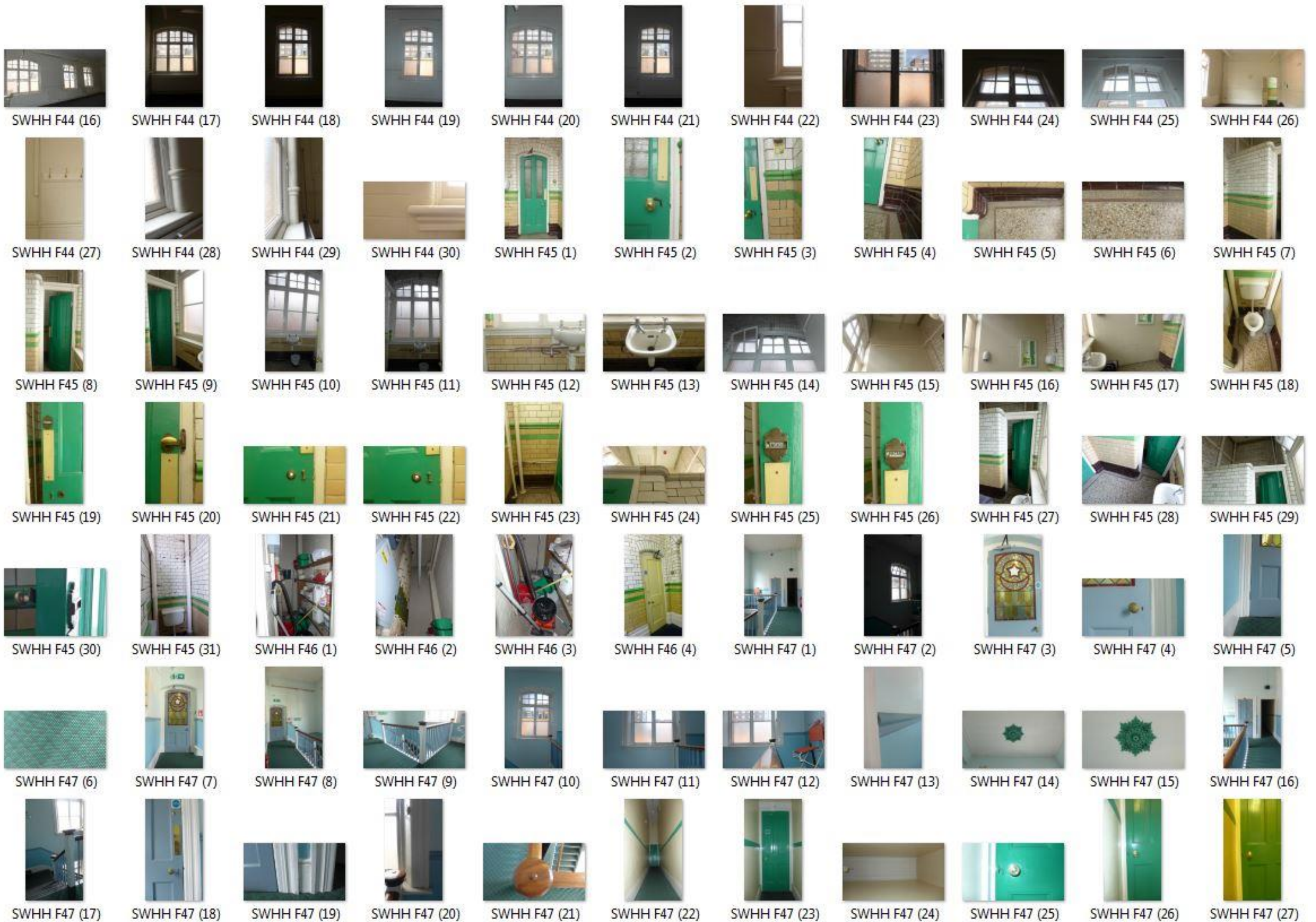
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SWHH F31 (4)









SWHH F47 (28)



SWHH F47 (29)



SWHH F47 (30)



SWHH F47 (31)



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SWHH F47 (33)



SWHH F47 (34)



SWHH F47 (35)



SWHH F47 (36)



SWHH F47 (37)



SWHH F47 (38)



SWHH F48 (1)



SWHH F48 (2)



SWHH F48 (3)



SWHH F48 (4)



SWHH F48 (5)



SWHH F48 (6)



SWHH F48 (7)



SWHH F48 (8)



SWHH F48 (9)



SWHH F48 (10)



SWHH F48 (11)



SWHH F48 (12)



SWHH F48 (13)



SWHH F48 (14)



SWHH F49 (1)



SWHH F49 (2)



SWHH F49 (3)



SWHH F49 (4)



SWHH F49 (5)



SWHH F49 (6)



SWHH F49 (7)



SWHH F49 (8)



SWHH F50 (1)



SWHH F50 (2)



SWHH F50 (3)



SWHH F50 (4)



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SWHH F50 (7)



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SWHH F50 (20)



SWHH F51 (1)



SWHH F51 (2)



SWHH F51 (3)



SWHH F51 (4)



SWHH F51 (5)



SWHH F51 (6)



SWHH F51 (7)



SWHH F51 (8)



SWHH F51 (9)

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Rhys Jones - GLL

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David Thackray – Swindon Heritage Board

Richard Voyce - Physiotherapist

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Dennis Yeoman – Swimming clubs

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