

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
of land at
**QUEEN'S HILL AND PENTONVILLE,
NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.**
for
Askon Estates UK Ltd.



Report No. 1933/2008

By Nick Corcos



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
of land at
**QUEEN'S HILL AND PENTONVILLE,
NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 308 884

Client: Askon Estates UK Ltd.

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NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

March, 2008.

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SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Askon Estates UK Ltd to carry out a desk-based assessment of properties and land on the corner of Queen's Hill and Pentonville, Newport, Monmouthshire. The study was carried out as part of a proposal for the retention and redevelopment as a hotel of the former county council offices of Shire Hall and Queen's Chambers, with demolition of other, former local authority premises on the site. The study found that Shire Hall and Queen's Chambers, originally constructed around 1902 and greatly extended just before WW1, are important surviving examples of Edwardian civic architecture, and as such are Grade II listed. Their significance is greatly enhanced by the quality and very high degree of survival of original fittings and decoration both internally and externally. In addition, in the north-eastern part of the study site, a fine late Victorian or early Edwardian building belonging to the Newport Board of Guardians was demolished after 1976. Its site is now occupied by a car park, but its footings may survive beneath it.

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1. INTRODUCTION & CURRENT USE

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Askon Estates UK Ltd to carry out a desk-based assessment of properties and land on the corner of Queen's Hill and Pentonville, Newport, Gwent (**Fig. 1**). The study was carried out as part of a proposal for the development of an hotel on part of the site, with retention of some of the existing building stock (notably the old Shire Hall building, and its eastern annexe the Queen's Chambers), and demolition of the remainder, specifically those in the south-eastern corner of the site (**Fig. 2**). The site is a truncated L-shape and lies at NGR ST 308 884. It is currently occupied by a variety of buildings relating to local government, most notably, on the western end of the Pentonville frontage, the former Shire Hall. The north-eastern part of the site, fronting Queen's Hill, was similarly occupied by county council offices for the Gwent local authority, in a building formerly belonging to, and indeed built for, the Newport Board of Guardians, but this structure has been demolished since 1976, and this part of the site is now used as an open car park (**Fig. 3**). The former Shire Hall building itself, once the base of the county council, is Grade II listed (CADW ref. no. 20528; SMR PRN 07870g), and at present is unoccupied. The rest of the buildings on the site (known collectively as County Chambers) are occupied by offices, and there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or in the vicinity of the site. Mr Phil Watkins-Smith of Askon Estates Ltd, Manchester, advises (*pers comm*), that he is not aware of any cellaring associated with the Shire Hall complex, except a single small cellar on the eastern (Queen's Hill frontage) side.
- 1.2 The site lies on the western side of the River Usk, and slopes from west to east (from just under 31m just over 24m aOD), and from north to south (about 28m to just over 24m aOD). It lies just inside the boundary of the old Borough of Newport, which is marked on many of the early maps (*eg Fig. 6*). The study site itself, and indeed the main part of the medieval town, sits astride a ridge of Devonian age Old Red Sandstone running north-east/south-west, and which represents the southern limb of a breached anticline, separated from its northern limb by a band of outcropping Silurian red sandstones which lies at the core of the local anticline in this area. To the south, just south of Newport, the southern limb of the anticline is overlain by rocks of the Triassic Period, and these form the coast of the northern bank of the Severn Estuary in this area. They are in their turn overlain in many places by an extensive series of estuarine alluvial deposits (BGS 1994). The major deposit in this respect, in the Newport area as elsewhere along the Severn littoral, is the Wentlooge Series, now renamed the 'Newchurch 2' series. Generally they consist of brownish-grey, moderately friable silty clays, becoming more grey in colour and heavier in texture and depth.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The study was undertaken in accordance with criteria set out the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001).
- 2.2 Selected material from the holdings of the Gwent Record Office at Cwmbran was consulted, as was the COFLEIN online database maintained by RCAHM Wales (www.coflein.gov.uk). Information on listed buildings in the vicinity of the study site was obtained from CADW. All information considered appropriate to the study was collated, summarised and presented in the following report. All photocopies, mss copies and notes, including photographs, are preserved in the Project Archive to be retained at BaRAS's premises at St Nicholas Church, Bristol, and a copy of the report is to be deposited with the Gwent and Glamorgan Archaeological Trust.
- 2.3 A visit to the study area was made by Nick Corcos of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on February 12th, 2008. Photographs were taken during the visit.
- 2.4 A trawl of the local authority's SMR database was undertaken on behalf of BaRAS by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There is some scattered evidence in the Newport area for activity in the prehistoric period, and of course the major Roman legionary fortress at Caerleon (Isca), was established there in the late 1st century AD. However, as Bob Trett notes, “the first settlement which led to the foundation of modern Newport appears to have been on the top of Stow Hill, where by tradition St Gwynllyw (St Woolos) established a church in the sixth century. The sub-kingdom (‘cantref’ in Welsh) of *Gwynlwg*, named after Gwynllyw, was established on the west bank of the Usk. Its boundaries appear to have stretched from the mouth of the River Usk in the east, to Rumney in the west, and from the sea to the border of the later Breconshire” (Trett, 2007). Historically therefore the study area, as indeed the whole of the town of Newport itself, is situated in the ancient parish of St Woolos, represented by the church of that name sited on the eminence of Stow Hill, to the south of the town.
- 3.2 In the late 11th century, in the course of the Norman takeover of lowland south Wales, a motte was constructed on Stow Hill, but has since been lost to railway construction. Again, Trett describes how “the town of Newport appears to have been carved out of lands forming part of the manor of Stowe, centred on Stow Hill.....the new town lay between Stow Hill and Newport Bridge, and there may have been a wooden castle built either on or near the site of the late medieval stone castle. A charter of 1132 by Robert the Consul, the illegitimate son of Henry I and also earl of Gloucester, gifting land in Malpas to Montacute Priory, refers to *Novo Burgo* (New Borough). An important reason for establishing the new borough would be to control the river crossing. The town also became a centre for trade and as the chief market town for the area would be useful to the lord in the collection of tolls.....The main importance of the town was control of the mouth of the Usk, the bridge controlling the land routes, and the presence of the castle, which was the lord's administrative centre for an independent marcher lordship” (Trett 2007). The stone castle at Newport was initially constructed in the 14th century but was subjected to intermittent repairs and modifications throughout the 14th and into the 15th century. There is considerable uncertainty about whether or not the medieval town ever possessed a full circuit of stone-built defensive walls: the evidence, archaeological, topographical and documentary, is sparse and sometimes conflicting. Trett remarks that “It is likely that the early defences of the town would have consisted of a timber palisade and a ditch, protected by a timber castle and there is still no definitive proof that a stone town wall did exist or when it was built. Without proper archaeological work in Newport we may never know” (Trett 2007). A group of Augustinian canons was established in the town in 1377, the first formal town charter was granted in 1385, and the town acquired its first Guildhall in 1585.
- 3.3 The River Usk was and is not fordable at any point below Caerleon, and a key element in both the town's strategic importance and its economic well-being was its bridge, established initially in the late 11th or early 12th century. The first bridge was timber and throughout the medieval period there are intermittent references to various repairs and rebuildings, but these also involved a wooden structure. In fact the bridge was not rebuilt in stone until as late as 1800, and that structure then survived in use for some 125 years. In the 18th and 19th century, Newport's expansion was underpinned by a favourable position in relation to the South Wales coalfield, and the fact that it already had a core of port and quay facilities. A canal, completed in 1798, brought coal down to the Usk at Newport from Pontnewynydd, Brecon, and Crumlin. The railway arrived in Newport in 1850, engineered by no less a figure than I. K. Brunel himself, and carried into the town on a massive new timber bridge over the Usk, a short distance north of the old road bridge. A new dock (the so-called Town Dock) opened in 1842, was extended between 1856 and 1858, and when these facilities proved insufficient to cope with the increasing volume of shipping using Newport, a further new dock, the Alexandra Dock, was opened in 1875 having been seven years in construction. The Town Dock has since been backfilled. The 19th century saw Newport's population continue to grow apace: in 1881 it stood at 35,000, and had almost doubled, to 67,000, by 1901. But such rapid expansion brought with it its own problems. Parts of the town in this period became a byword for

poverty, deprivation and unsanitary conditions. Outbreaks of cholera and typhus were a regular occurrence, and although a new sewerage system was completed in 1859, continued reliance in the poorer areas on wells as water sources, caused health problems well into the second half of the century.

- 3.4 The Newport Transporter Bridge, one of the most important industrial monuments in the country, was designed to overcome problems of access to the increasingly developed east bank of the River Usk, especially steelworks, downstream of the traditional river crossing. Begun in 1902 and completed in 1906, it is regarded as the finest surviving example of its type, the twin towers standing 197m apart and rising 74m above road level. It is a Grade I listed structure.

4. CARTOGRAPHIC AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIVE AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

- 4.1 Newport is fortunate in that, probably because it enjoyed the status of a borough from the medieval period, and because of its strategic importance, it has appeared on maps from a relatively early date, and some of this material is at a sufficiently large scale to show the study site quite clearly. Although probably of variable quality and accuracy, what these sources have in common is that they depict the study site as lying *outside* the envelope of general expansion and development of the 18th and 19th century town, and throughout most of that time appears to have remained as open pastoral grazing land.
- 4.2 A map of the Town and Borough of Newport, purportedly a copy of a map of 1750, shows the location of the study site, with Queen's Hill already in existence on its eastern side, and the borough boundary running north-east/south-west to its west, but the site itself is blank (**Fig. 4**) (the location of the original document is unknown but is probably the National Library of Wales in Cardiff; a modern copy is in the Gwent Record Office as part of Misc. Mss 1702, but that shown here is reproduced from <http://www.newportpast.com/gallery/maps/m1750.htm>).
- 4.3 The situation had apparently not altered by 1801, when William Coxe, as part of his *Historical Tour in Monmouthshire*, reproduced a survey of the town made in the previous year by Thomas Morrice (Coxe, 1801) (**Fig. 5**). Plans dated 1835 and 1837 appear to show at least one small building in the south-eastern corner of the site but are too small scale to be really helpful (<http://www.newportpast.com/gallery/maps/index.htm>), and it is not until the time of the tithe map of the parish of St Woolos, of 1841, that we get any impression of very limited development close to the site, and that in the form of two small cottage plots, *with* their gardens, each occupied by two dwellings (ie four cottages altogether), south-west of the study site and separated from it by the short 'stub' of road (**Fig. 6**, plots 123b and 124b). According to the accompanying tithe award, these took up only 32 and 22 perches respectively, and the size of these plots can be gauged from the fact that a standard perch was reckoned at 160th of an acre – an area of 25.3m². This gives plot sizes of around 810 and 557m². Buildings are shown but unfortunately not identified at the southern end of Queen's Hill, on both sides of the road, and the one on the western side is probably that which survived onto the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (below). However, it remains the case that as the tithe map makes clear, the entire study site in 1841 (part of Plot 123) was under pasture. Again, like its precursors, the tithe survey indicates the position of the old borough boundary, this time with a dot-dash line.
- 4.4 Just over forty years later, the First Edition of the OS at 1:2500 scale (1883, Monmouth Sheet 28.16) shows the study site as what appear to be orchards and/or possibly market gardens, with two unidentified buildings (the larger, square-ish one almost certainly surviving from the 1841 tithe map), at the extreme south-east corner (**Fig. 7**). A long, straight field boundary and trackway, has been inserted across the eastern quarter of the old tithe plot 123, running north-west/south-east, although otherwise the outline of the earlier plot remains intact, apart from the removal of a smaller enclosure (tithe plot 123a) formerly occupying its north-eastern corner. The old borough boundary is indicated with a dotted line, providing a useful, stable point of reference. An unidentified building is shown fronting onto the western side of Queen's Hill, set back from the road, but from its position is well outside the study site.
- 4.5 The Second Edition 1:2500 OS map of 1902 (same sheet number as the First Edition), records major changes in the intervening twenty or so years (**Fig. 8**). A large, sub-square enclosure, with dead straight sides on the north and west, has been carved out of the south-eastern quarter of the old tithe plot 123, and new streets and terraces of houses have been laid out fronting onto, and extending eastwards from, the eastern side of Queen's Hill. The western side of the new large enclosure is now occupied by the magnificent buildings of the Intermediate schools, apparently opened in or around 1896 (<http://www.schoolheritage.co.uk/wal/mon/newport-intermediate-school/index.html>) (**Fig. 9**). This superb late Victorian educational establishment

has been lost since 1976 (below, Para. 4.6), and according to Mr Richard Matthews of the Designation Section at CADW, it does not appear ever to have been a listed building (*pers comm*). The school, however, is well outside the immediate study site, and virtually all the relevant substantive changes recorded on the OS since 1883 have occurred at its south-east corner. A small complex, identified as ‘County Council Offices’ has appeared occupying the western corner of Queen’s Hill and Pentonville, and the previous buildings in this position, from the 1883 map, have been swept away. The buildings which first appear on the 1902 OS survive, and are known currently as the ‘County Chambers’, but would be subject to removal under the present planning proposal (**Fig. 3**). Some light is cast on a further possible use of these first council buildings, indirectly, by records relating to the property immediately to the north. These are the surviving building plans and elevations submitted with a proposal to construct large and prestigious new offices and boardrooms for the Newport Board of Guardians. Although, frustratingly, the drawings are completely undated, it is unlikely that they are very far removed in time from the 1902 OS. The main elevation (ie the frontage onto the western side of Queen’s Hill) shows a splendidly elaborate and architecturally sophisticated structure, and *if* constructed as drawn (now the building has gone and in the absence of photographs of the finished building, there is no way of knowing this) its loss since 1976 has left the built landscape of this part of the town the poorer (Gwent Record Office Misc. Maps 0006) (**Fig. 10**). Again, Mr Matthews (CADW Designation Section) advises that this beautiful building does not appear ever to have been subject to statutory listing as being of historic and architectural interest. However, also included is an outline site location plan of the new Guardians’ offices, and it is clear that incorporated into the buildings identified by the OS under the general heading of ‘County Council Offices’, immediately to its south, was the county police station (**Fig. 11**). The three houses which first appear on the 1902 OS, abutting the Guardians’ offices immediately to the north, still survive. Because the footprint of the former Guardians’ building is included within the area of the proposed development (the line of its northern wall marks the northern boundary of the study site), there may well be archaeological implications for any intrusive groundworks that take place in this part of the development: it is perfectly possible that truncated walls or footings from the earlier building may survive below present ground level.

- 4.6 The final edition of the OS 1:2500 map held by the GRO, and which was therefore available for this study, is that of 1937, a full 35 years on from the 1902 edition (**Fig. 12**; same sheet number). To the west of the study site, blocks of large, new semi-detached houses have appeared, partly ranged around the new thoroughfare of St Mark’s Crescent, and the splendid late Victorian Intermediate School remains intact at this date. Interestingly, the offices newly constructed for the Newport Board of Guardians at some point around the turn of the 20th century are still identified as such in 1937, despite the fact that the Local Government Act of 1929 abolished Boards of Guardians, their powers passing instead to county councils or other local authorities. It is, though, likely that the building was indeed being used as local authority premises by this time, and that the OS identification may not be strictly accurate. Most notable for present purposes however, is the appearance of the new Shire Hall itself, tacked on, as it were, to the western side of the existing county council offices and, with its eastern annexe, the Queen’s Chambers, forming the core of the proposed development. Shire Hall (*including* the Queen’s Chambers) was Grade II listed in 1998, and according to the listing description supplied by CADW was constructed in 1902, but obviously just too late to be included on the OS 1:2500 sheet published in that year, and which would have been surveyed for revisions rather earlier (above, Para. 4.5). The detailed listing description is reproduced here as **Appendix 2**, and from this it is clear that the building was extensively modified to provide more space, just before the start of WW1. There is little that need be added here to CADW’s formal description, except to draw attention to the clumsily executed and rather ugly flat roof and dormers which now top the large, original block which forms the rear part of the Queen’s Chambers, and which is clearly a modern change. It is inconceivable that something so ill-fitting to the rest of this otherwise well-integrated and coherent architectural ensemble, is an original feature.

5. GWENT SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

- 5.1 Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, which administers the SMR on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council, carried out a trawl of the authority's SMR database, and supplied the results for the purposes of this report. In addition, the COFLEIN database, maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales was consulted, but there were no items either on or anywhere near the study site that might have archaeological implications for the present proposal (<http://www.coflein.gov.uk>).
- 5.2 There has been no previous archaeological investigation, at any level, of the present study site, and there are no features recorded on the SMR which are close enough to have any direct implications for the proposed development. GGAT were unable to supply a map showing the positions of items which were recovered from their record in the course of a trawl within a radius of 200m from the study site. Notwithstanding this, the results of the search are given here as **Appendix 3**, with straightforward NGR grid references serving to locate the items in the absence of a map.

6. SITE VISIT

- 6.1 Access to the site was very kindly facilitated by Mr Phil Watkins-Smith of Askon Estates Ltd, Manchester.
- 6.2 Externally the building appears to be in extremely good condition. The lack of architectural symmetry in the front elevation is explained by the later additions, as set out in the listed building description (**Cover**) (**Appendix 2**). At the north-eastern side of the site, on the Queen's Hill frontage, there is no indication whatsoever of the former Board of Guardians Offices (**Plate 1**), although it is possible that a stub wall now marking the northern boundary of the current car park may represent the surviving footing of *its* northern wall (**Plate 2**). A wide strip of what is almost certainly original stone sett cobbling at the car park entrance (indicated on **Fig. 2**) is an unusual and unexpected survival (**Plate 3**).
- 6.3 The original council offices downslope (ie east of) Shire Hall itself (County Chambers), would be removed under the present proposals (**Plate 4**). The octagonal courthouse at the rear of the main Shire Hall itself is an imposing structure in its own right, austere but dignified, the lantern which tops out the conical roof an especially attractive feature (**Plate 5**). The elevations which face out into the rear yard are faced with brick and stone, but where it faces inwards, towards the rear wall of the Shire Hall, the facing is a far more functional, and somewhat clinical white glossy tile.
- 6.4 A surprise in the rear yard behind the Shire Hall are three cast-iron gas lampstandards which have been converted to electricity. Their location is indicated on **Fig. 2**. The lower part of the castings indicate that they all came from foundries actually in Newport, and as such their survival is both doubly welcome and important, although it is difficult to tell whether they are *in situ*, or have been moved to their present position from somewhere else (**Plate 6**). As examples of their type they are fine indeed, and if retained and fully restored, would greatly enhance the immediate environment. It is unclear from the listed building description whether these items are included within the curtilage of the Shire Hall listing itself, and this would certainly need to be investigated at a later stage of the proposal.
- 6.5 The bald outline given in the listed buildings description of the Shire Hall's internal spaces, does scant justice to the degree, and quality, of survival of original furnishings, decoration and fittings with which one is confronted on entering the building. At almost every turn, the building presents what is by any standard a spectacular array of high-quality, period features, from mosaic tiled floors (**Plate 7**), to a full set of brass and glass-globe electric lighting pendants (**Plate 8**), the latter culminating in at least one stunning brass chandelier lighting one of the stair wells (**Plate 9**). Many of the stair balustrades are made from intricately designed and very beautiful ironwork, which looks wrought but may be cast, and which is, anyway, almost certainly the product of local foundries. All of these elements come superbly together in the main entrance lobby, where the reception desk is flanked by two classical columns made from marble or a polished stone imitation thereof, topped by Ionic capitals, and supporting a large, load-bearing beam, possibly disguising an RSJ buried within it. This beam is externally plastered and again, finished with classical detailing (**Plate 10**). It is certainly possible to agree with the listing description that Shire Hall is "an impressively designed Edwardian civic building, which has retained its original character, including fine interior detail"; the contrast with what has been done subsequently to the roof of the block at the rear of the Queen's Chambers could not be more stark (**Plate 1**).

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 There has previously been no archaeological, buildings survey or recording work on the study site itself. The Shire Hall, completed initially in 1902, but with extensive modifications just before WW1, would form a major, indeed the central architectural element in the present proposals. Although 'only' listed at Grade II, it is a notable survival from the early 20th century, and forms a key component of the inherited architectural landscape of Newport as a whole. This importance is enhanced by the fact that it is not merely a single building but a coherent, integrated ensemble of contemporary design, the overall architectural rhythm of which has been only slightly affected by the modern flat roof and associated dormers on the rear block of the Queen's Chambers.
- 7.2 There are archaeological implications for the north-eastern section of the study site, because it is perfectly possible that truncated walls and/or footings from the former Guardians' offices, fronting Queen's Hill, survive below the tarmac surface of the current car park. In addition, buildings indicated on both the tithe map and the First Edition 1:2500 OS map (1883) at the south-east corner of the site, may also have left remains that survive below current ground level.
- 7.3 In view of its inherent *and* statutory position as a building of significant architectural and historic interest, there may be a requirement from the local planning authority, in the course of any redevelopment, for further archaeological work on this site, both with respect to the surviving buildings and the potential below-ground archaeology.

8. REFERENCES & WORKS CONSULTED

Published and unpublished sources

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- Coxe, William 1995 *An Historical Tour in Monmouthshire*, orig. published 1801, reprinted in 2 vols. with a new Introduction by Jeremy Knight, Cardiff.
- Jackson R; Leech R 2002 *Archaeological Desktop Study of Land at Lower Dock Street, Pillgwenlly, Newport, Gwent*, BaRAS Report No. 1072/2002.
- Matthews, James 1910 *Historic Newport*, Newport.
- RCAHMW <http://www.coflein.gov.uk>
- Trett, Bob 2007 Various contributions to <http://www.newportpast.com>.

The Newport Past website, <http://www.newportpast.com/>, was also used to source various of the maps and illustrations used in this report.

Maps and Plans

- c.1750 Map of Newport, reproduced in <http://www.newportpast.com>
- 1800 Map of Newport by Thomas Morrice, from William Coxe's *Historical Tour in Monmouthshire*, 1801.
- 1835, 1837 Maps of Newport (not reproduced here), <http://www.newportpast.com>
- 1841 Newport Tithe Map (parish of St Woolos), GRO D917.11 Apportionment, GRO A110.C65.
- OS First Edition 1:2500, Monmouth Sheet 28.16
- OS Second Edition 1:2500, Monmouth Sheet 28.16
- OS 1:2500, Monmouth Sheet 28.16.
- 2005 OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 152, Newport and Pontypool.
- Undated Building elevations and plans of Board of Guardians Offices, GRO Misc. Maps 0006.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services wish to thank the following for their help and advice: staff of the Designation Section of CADW in Cardiff, who supplied the listed buildings description for Shire Hall; staff at the Gwent Record Office in Cwmbran; Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust supplied a trawl of their SMR data. Kevin Potter, of BaRAS, produced hard copy ground plans of the site from CAD files supplied by the client. This report was compiled by Dr Nick Corcos, but owes much to material previously researched by Reg Jackson and Dr Roger Leech. The report was produced by Ann Linge, and the project was managed by Bruce Williams (MIFA).

APPENDIX 1: Extract from Planning Policy Wales, revised March 2002

Section 6.5: Development control and the historic environment

Archaeological remains

- 6.5.1 The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled. Where nationally important **archaeological remains**, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ. In cases involving lesser archaeological remains, local planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of archaeology against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.
- 6.5.2 The needs of archaeology and development can be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, if developers discuss their proposals for development with the local planning authority at an early stage. Archaeological assessments commissioned by developers (sometimes as part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment) can help to provide information on the archaeological sensitivity of a site before submitting a planning application. If important remains are thought to exist at a development site, the planning authority should request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken. The results of any assessment and/or field evaluation should be provided as part of a planning application. If this information is not provided, authorities should consider whether it is appropriate to direct the applicant to supply further information, or whether to refuse permission for inadequately documented proposals.
- 6.5.3 Where local planning authorities decide that physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case, and that development resulting in the destruction of the archaeological remains should proceed, before granting planning permission the authority needs to be satisfied that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the archaeological investigation and subsequent recording of the remains and the publication of the results. Archaeological investigations should be carried out before development commences, working to a project brief prepared by the planning authority.
- 6.5.4 Local planning authorities may impose conditions to protect a monument and require that an archaeological watching brief is carried out. In order to secure the provision of an appropriate archaeological investigation and subsequent recording of remains, a negative condition may be imposed prohibiting the carrying out of development until such time as works or other action (for example, an excavation) have been carried out by a third party.
- 6.5.5 Archaeological remains may only become apparent when development has commenced. Where such remains are deemed by the Assembly to be of national importance, the remains may be scheduled. In these circumstances, developers would need to seek separate Scheduled Monument Consent before continuing work. The local planning authority or the Assembly may revoke planning consent if deemed necessary.

APPENDIX 2: Detail of Shire Hall Listing

Authority	Newport	Record No	20528
		Date Listed	09/10/1998
Community	Allt yr yn	Date Amended	14/09/1999
Locality	Pentonville	Grid Ref	330820 188420
		Grade	II
Name	Shire Hall (including Queen's Chambers)		
Street No, Name	Pentonville		
Street Side	N		

Location

Prominently situated on the N side of Pentonville opposite the Magistrates' Court.

History

Former county council offices built in 1902 to the designs of William Tanner, architect and county surveyor. Enlarged 1913-14, probably also by Tanner. Monmouthshire County Council was set up in 1889 following the Local Government Act of 1888, the first chairman being Edwin Grove, auditor and cashier of the Ebbw Vale Iron and Steel Company. From old photographs, it is clear that the enlargements of 1913-14 were major, adding the top storey to both Shire Hall and Queen's Chambers. In addition, three bays were added to the left of the Shire Hall, and one to its right, the latter involving a remodelling of Queen's Chambers. The remodelling caused the entrance to become off-centre. All of the carved stonework was reused. The last council meeting in the building took place in July 1973, prior to Local Government reorganisation. Following a long period of disrepair, the building has been restored and converted into office suites.

Exterior

Eclectic Dutch/Baroque style. Shire Hall of three storeys plus basement/attic, and nine bays. Queen's Chambers is lower, with facade of three very narrow bays, and three storeys plus attic. Construction of squared and coursed limestone grey rubble with extensive Grinshill ashlar detail. Roofs with artificial slates. Unusual pylonic ashlar ridge chimneys. Alternate bays to the Shire Hall project slightly, with entrance in fourth bay from the right. Entrance bay with shaped gable containing inscribed roundel: 'Monmouthshire County Council 1889' within carved surround. Flanking projecting bays have pedimental gables with side scrolls: extreme left bay has similar gable (dated 1913) to entrance bay, both of which have thermal attic windows. Second floor has three-light mullion and transom windows containing small-paned glazing: triple keystones to windows in projecting bays. Similar, taller windows to first floor, those in the advanced bays with segmental pediments broken by triple keystones. Pediments and recessed bays linked by a stringcourse. Wide three-light ground floor windows with round-arched heads, as if elongated thermal windows. Similar style glazing to above. Round-arched entry under open segmental pediment: moulded surround with blocks: pediment supported on paired blocked columns with pseudo-Ionic capitals. Panelled doors with small-paned overlight. Queen's Chambers is lower, with large dormer with segmental pediment having large keystone, and side scrolls: thermal window. Narrow window to first and second floors with small panes: those in wider centre bay grouped in triplets. First floor triplet has pediment with keystone; flanking windows also pedimented, as are narrow lights each side of central entrance, which has open pediment bracketted over round-arched door; panelled doors with small-paned overlight.

Small railed forecourt to Queens' Chambers, also in front of left three bays of the Shire Hall: square panelled ashlar piers, with C20 railings and gates made to match originals, used for the war effort.

Large rear wings including square block built of yellow brick with two-storey bay windows facing E and W; dormers above. To the right, another wing of yellow brick, with the octagonal courtroom attached to the W, which is of sandstone with brick detail: large square upper windows with small-pane glazing, pyramidal roof with octagonal lantern. To the W again, another wing of similar construction containing a staircase, with tall round-arched window facing E: slightly staggered lower block attached.

Interior

Entrance hall to Shire Hall has a fine well stair with stone treads and scroll-pattern wrought iron balustrade; square veined marble newels. Staircase is set behind four-bay screen of coloured marble Ionic columns. First floor balustrade has larger freely scrolled pattern. Stair is top-lit by rectangular lantern. Plaster cornice with dentils. Mosaic floor with marginal key fret pattern. Mosaic floors to ground floor corridors; oak panelled doors. Well staircase at W end of Shire Hall rises three storeys, lighted by large round-arched window: simple wrought iron balustrade. Octagonal courtroom to rear has fittings removed. Courtroom rises to two storeys; flat plaster ceiling with radiating timber ribs set on deep boarded cove. Public gallery at first floor level with panelled front. Queen's Chambers has large well stair with stone treads and decorative wrought iron balustrading similar to main stair: painted square newels.

Listed

Listed as an impressively designed Edwardian civic building, which has retained its original character, including fine interior detail.

Reference

Information from Mr C. Wright;

The Builder, 21/06/02;

Plans in Gwent County Records Office (C Misc Plans 27);

'Monmouthshire County Council 1888-1974', 1974, (shows view of building before extension).

The range of buildings to the E (former police station and magistrate's court) fronting Pentonville is not included in the listing.

APPENDIX 3: Results of SMR trawl

PRN	NAME	NGR	X	Y	PERIOD	SUMMARY	TYPE	UA	ORIGIN	STATUS
00205g	ST THOMAS'S CHAPEL AT NEWPORT	ST30818859	330810	188590	Medieval	In the Newport borough charter of 1385 as confirmed in 1427, the Chapel of St Thomas was mentioned as being sited on the boundary of the borough then constituted.	Chapel	Newport	GGAT	0
00208g	OLD MILL ST CHAPEL	ST30938846	330930	188460	Post-Medieval	Old Mill St.Chapel. The first resident minister was Rev John Powell who had to leave the incumbency of St Lytheon in 1660 & later preached at Newport. Died 1691.	Chapel	Newport	GGAT	0
03050g/ Cadw LB ref: 22334 & 3033	TREDEGAR ESTATES OFFICE (including entrance gates)	ST30778840	330770	188400	Unknown	0	Office	Newport	GGAT	LBII
05115g	MILL POND	ST310885	331000	188500	Post-Medieval	N.B.063:- The mill was fed from a large mill pond, this was filled in during the 1860's and railway sidings built on the site.;	Mill pond	Newport	GGAT	0
07870g/ Cadw LB ref: 20528	SHIRE HALL (AND QUEEN'S CHAMBERS) , NEWPORT	ST30808843	330800	188430	Modern	Shire Hall situated on the north side of Pentonville, bearing the date 1913, with the attached Queen's Chambers dated 1914.	Shire Hall	Newport	GGAT	LBII

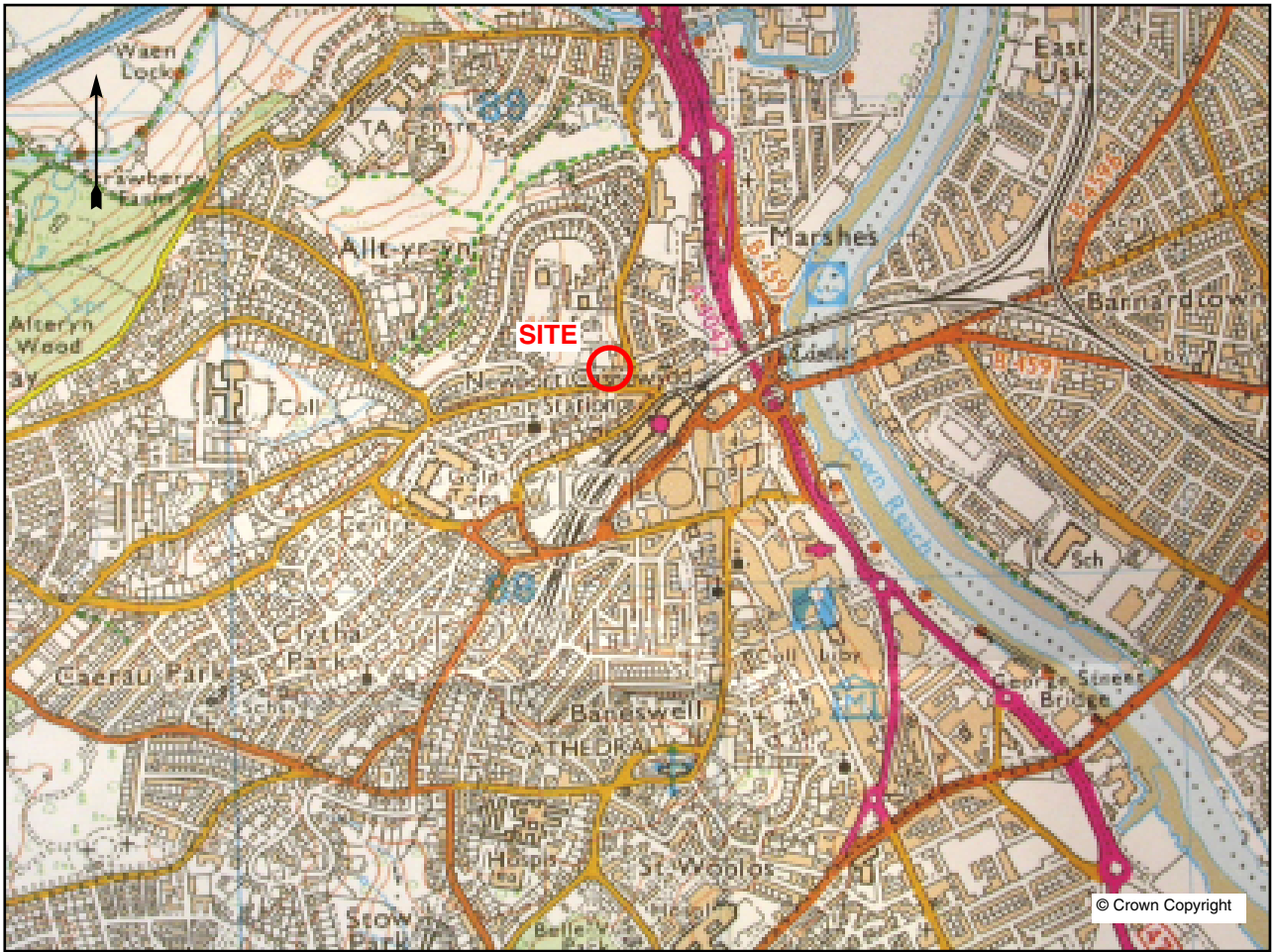
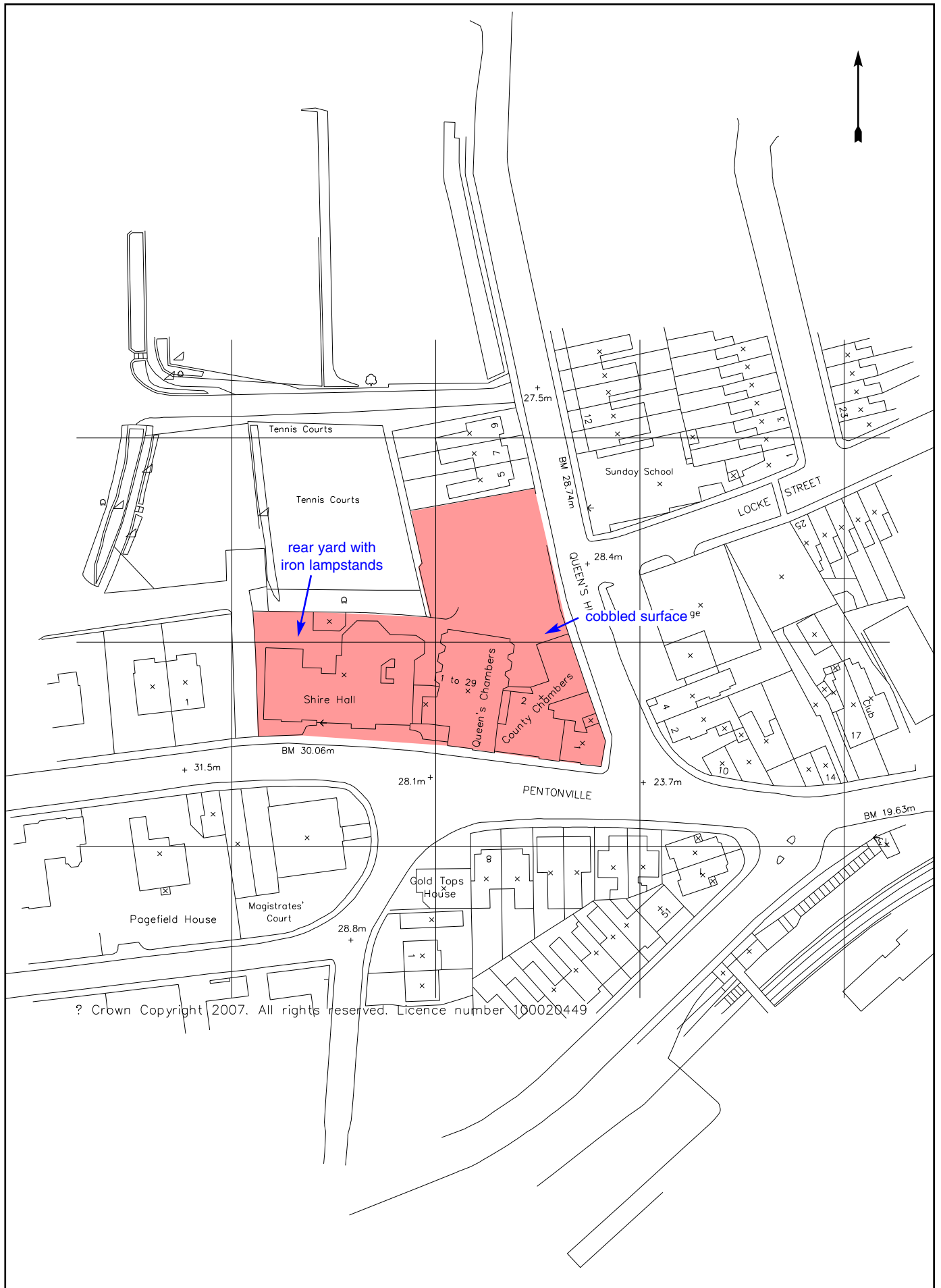


Fig.1 Location of site within Newport, based on OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 152, Newport and Pontypool



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Fig.2 Site location plan, based on modern OS landline data. Original scale 1:1250



Fig.3 Oblique aerial view of Shire Hall (left), Queen's Chambers (centre) and County Chambers (right), view to north.
Source: local.live.com



Fig.4 Plan of Newport c.1750. Source: <http://www.newportpast.com>

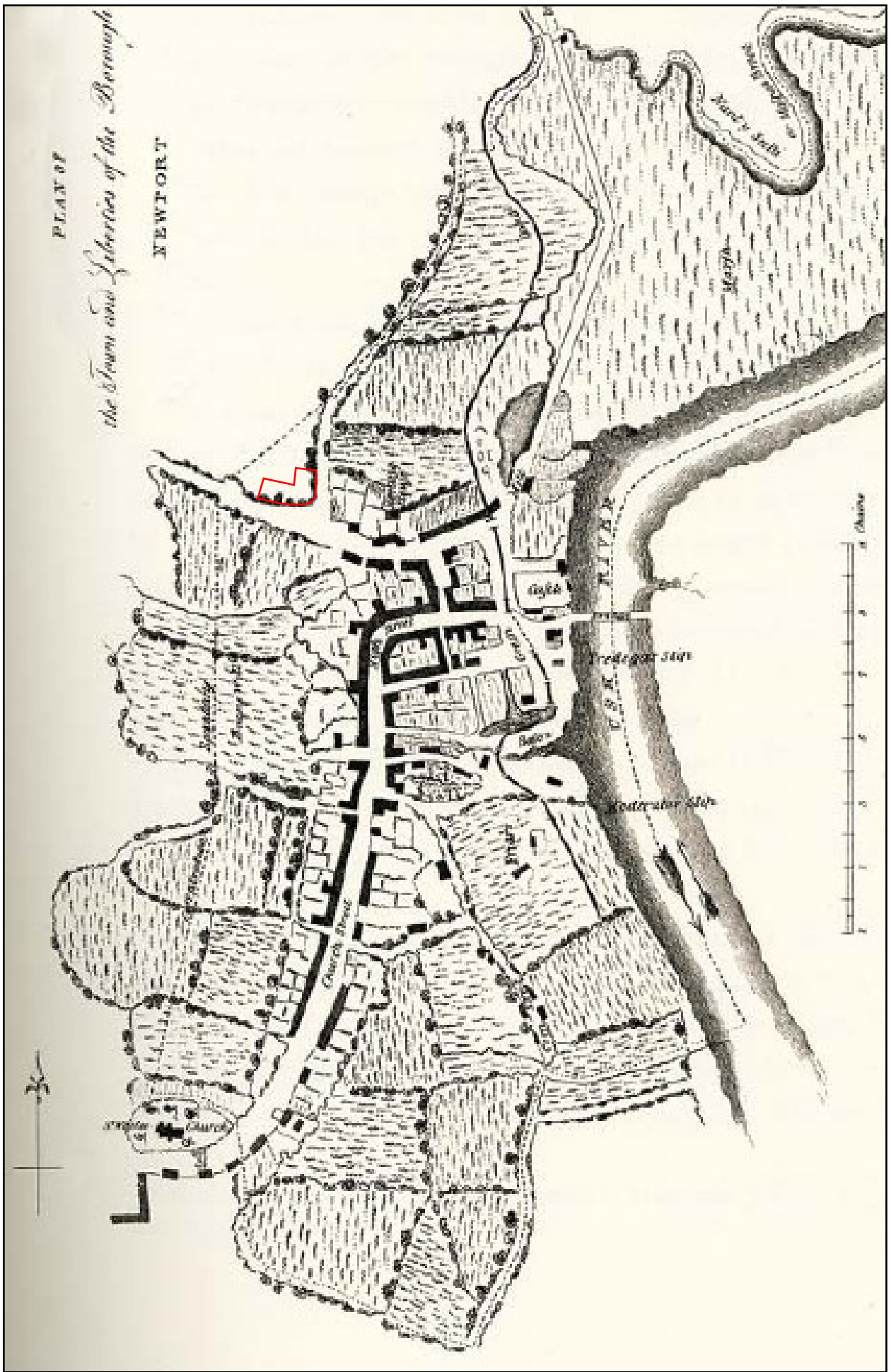


Fig.5 Plan of Newport, surveyed 1800, published 1801. Source: William Coxe, Historical Tour in Monmouthshire

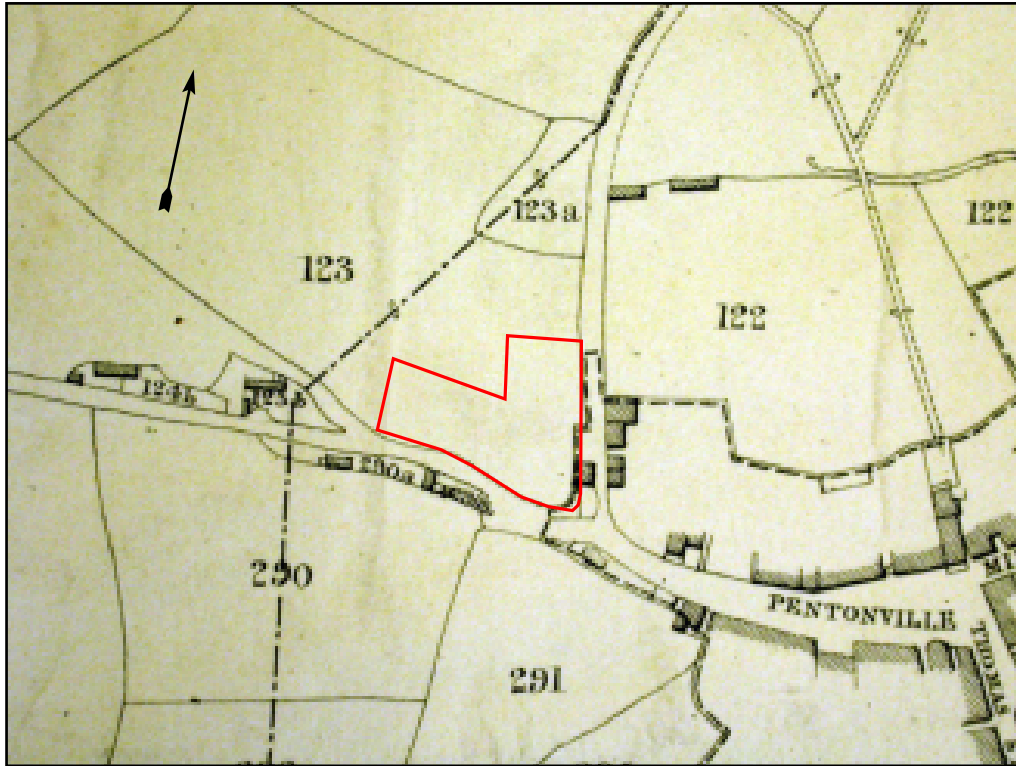


Fig.6 Extract from tithe map of St Woolos parish, Newport, 1841. Source: GRO D917.11



Fig.7 OS First Edition 1:2500, 1883, Monmouth Sheet 28.16

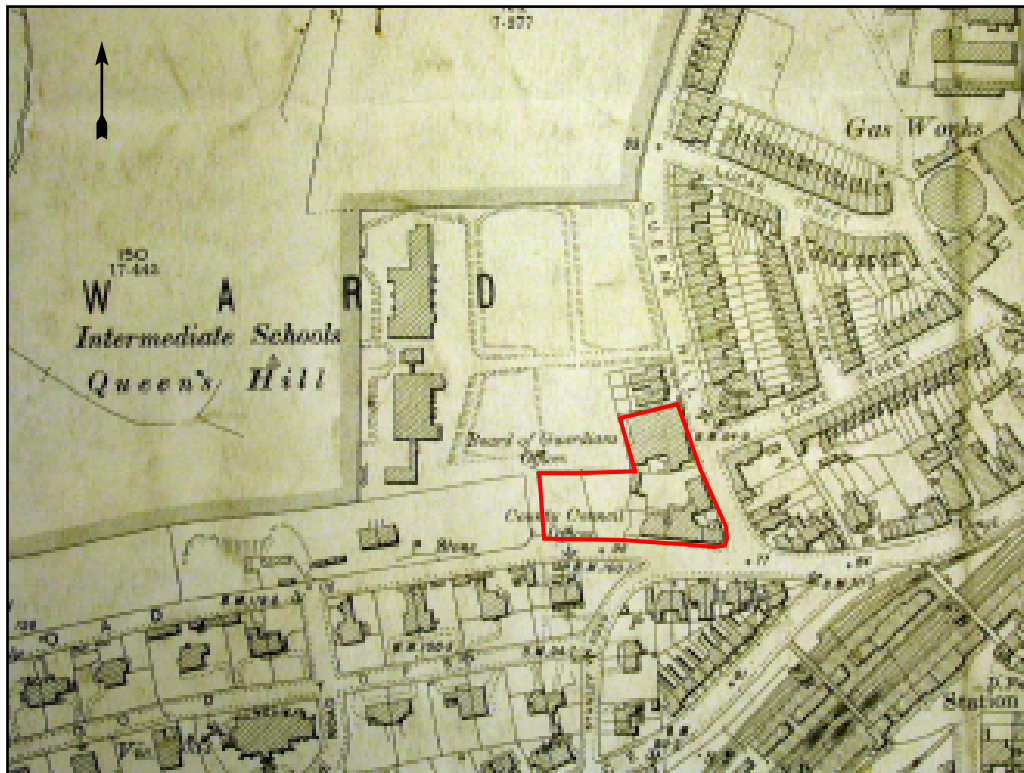


Fig.8 OS Second Edition 1:2500, 1902, Monmouth Sheet 28.16

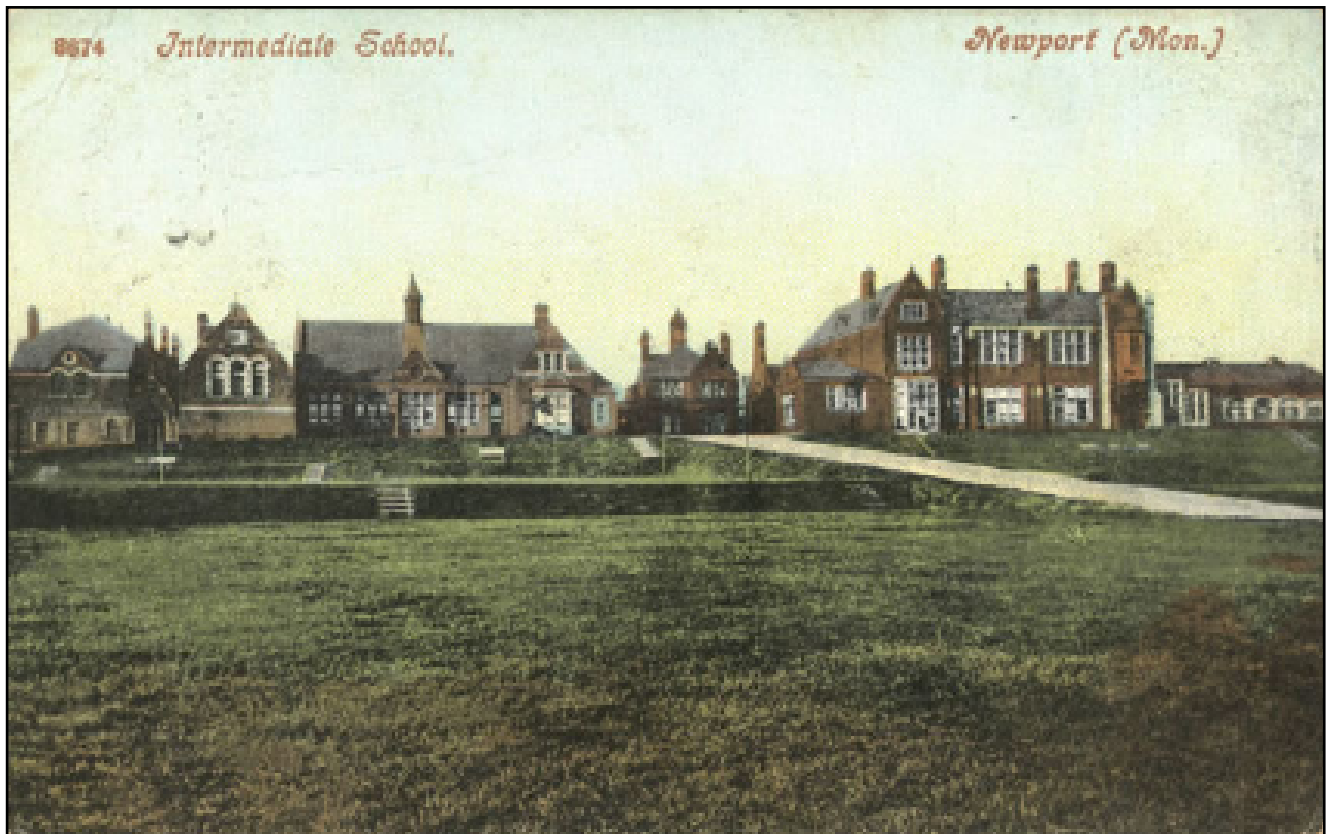


Fig.9 Contemporary postcard showing the Intermediate School, probably early 20th century, view to west.
Source: <http://www.newportpast.com>

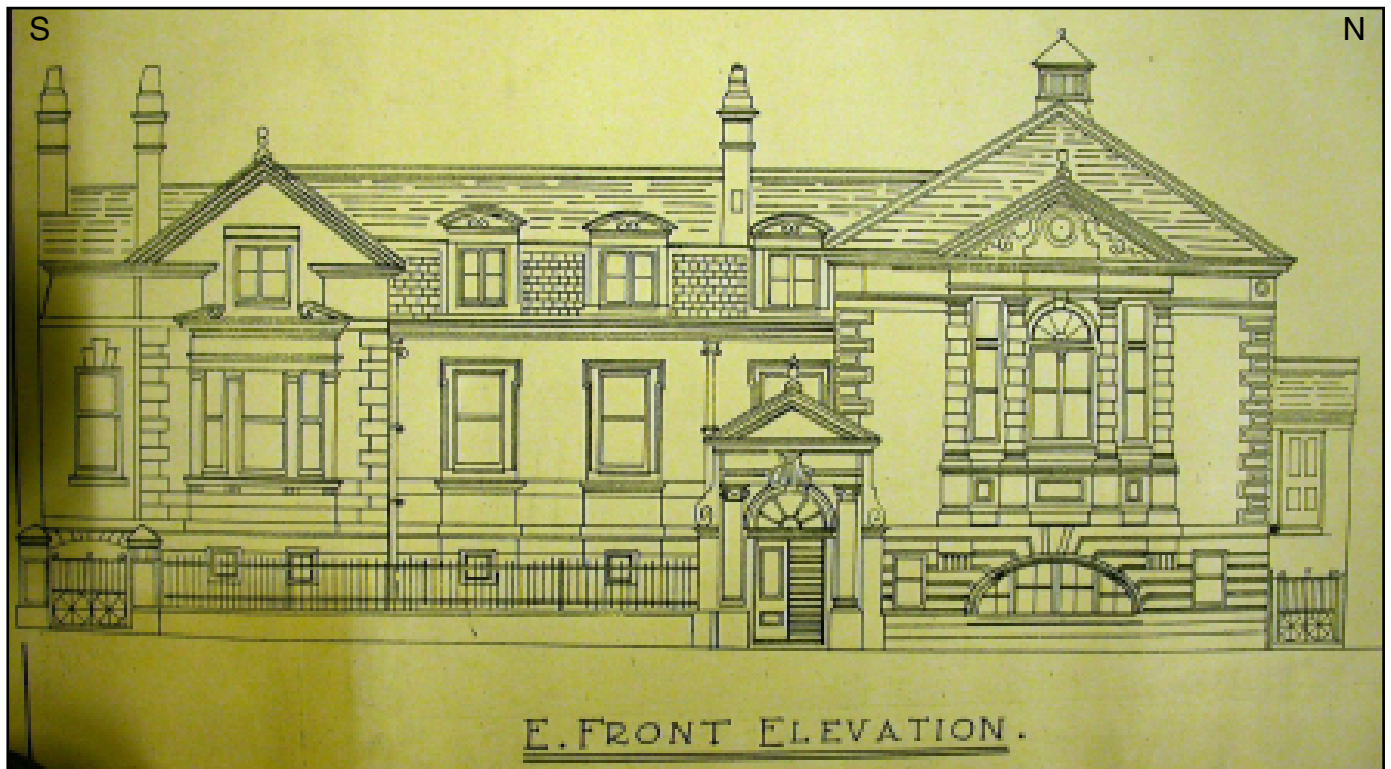


Fig.10 Eastern elevation of Board of Guardians Offices, Queen's Hill, probably late 19th century.
Source: GRO Misc. Maps 0006

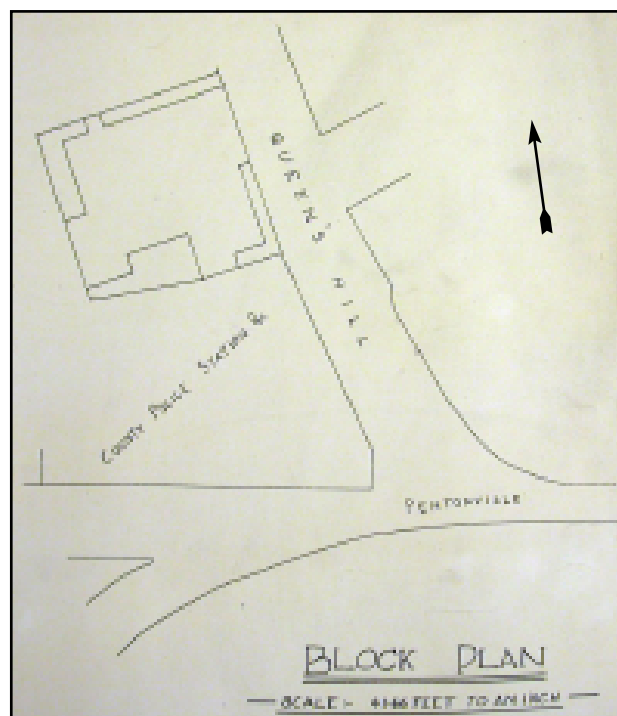


Fig.11 Outline plan of site of Board of Guardians Offices, with county police station indicated. Source as for Fig. 10

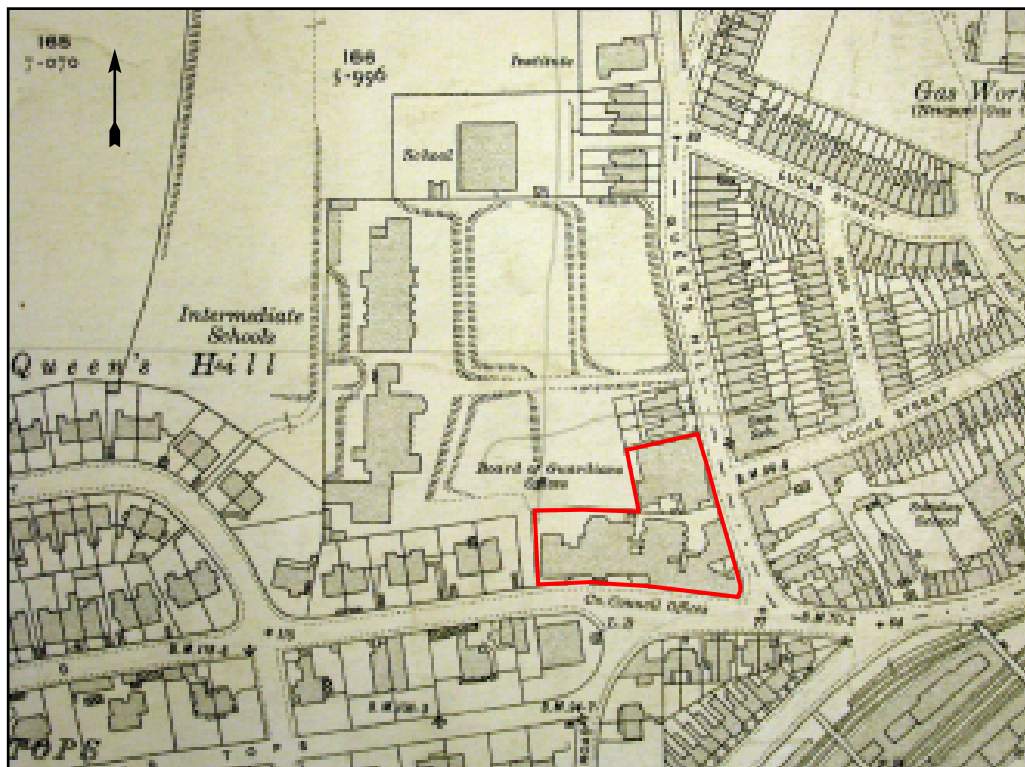


Fig.12 OS 1:2500, 1937 edition, Monmouth Sheet 28.16



Plate 1 Foreground, former site of Board of Guardians' Offices, Queen's Hill, now a car park; background, original block with modern flat roof and dormers, to rear of Queen's Chambers. View to south-west



Plate 2 Possible surviving footing of north wall of Guardians Offices. View to north-west



Plate 3 Original cobbled surface adjacent to south side of Guardians Offices site. View to south-west



Plate 4 County Chambers, view to north-east



Plate 5 Lantern atop conical roof of the octagonal courthouse to rear of Shire Hall. View to north



Plate 6 Two original gas lampstandards made of cast iron, in yard to rear of Shire Hall. A third one stands behind the photographer. View to west



Plate 7 One of many mosaic tiled floors within Shire Hall

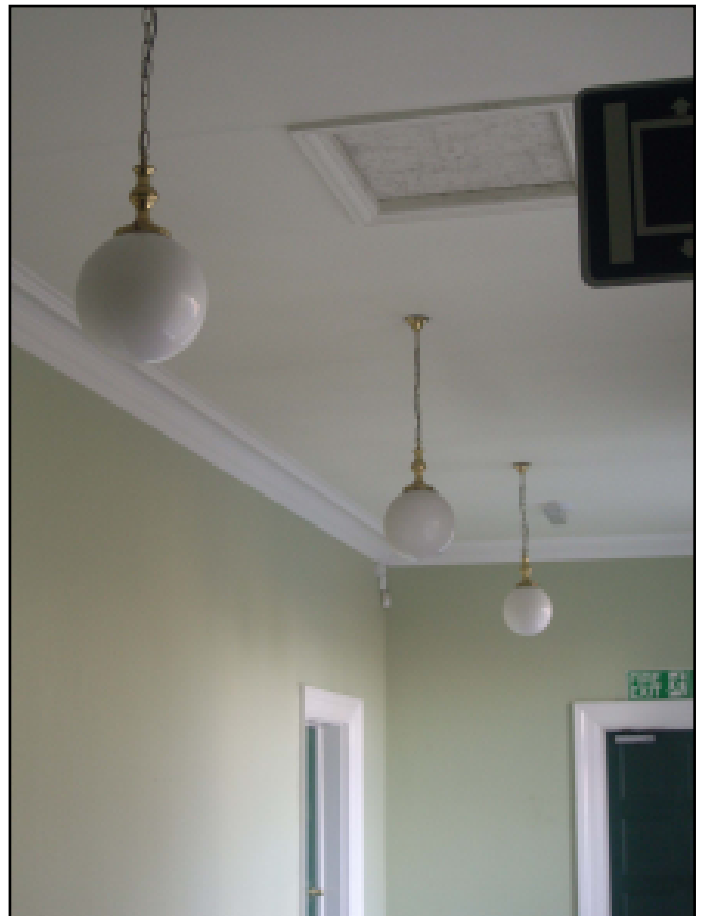


Plate 8 Three of many original brass and glass-globe electric light pendants, lighting a corridor in Shire Hall



Plate 9 Original brass and glass-globe electric chandelier lighting a stairwell in Shire Hall



Plate 10 Main reception area, Shire Hall