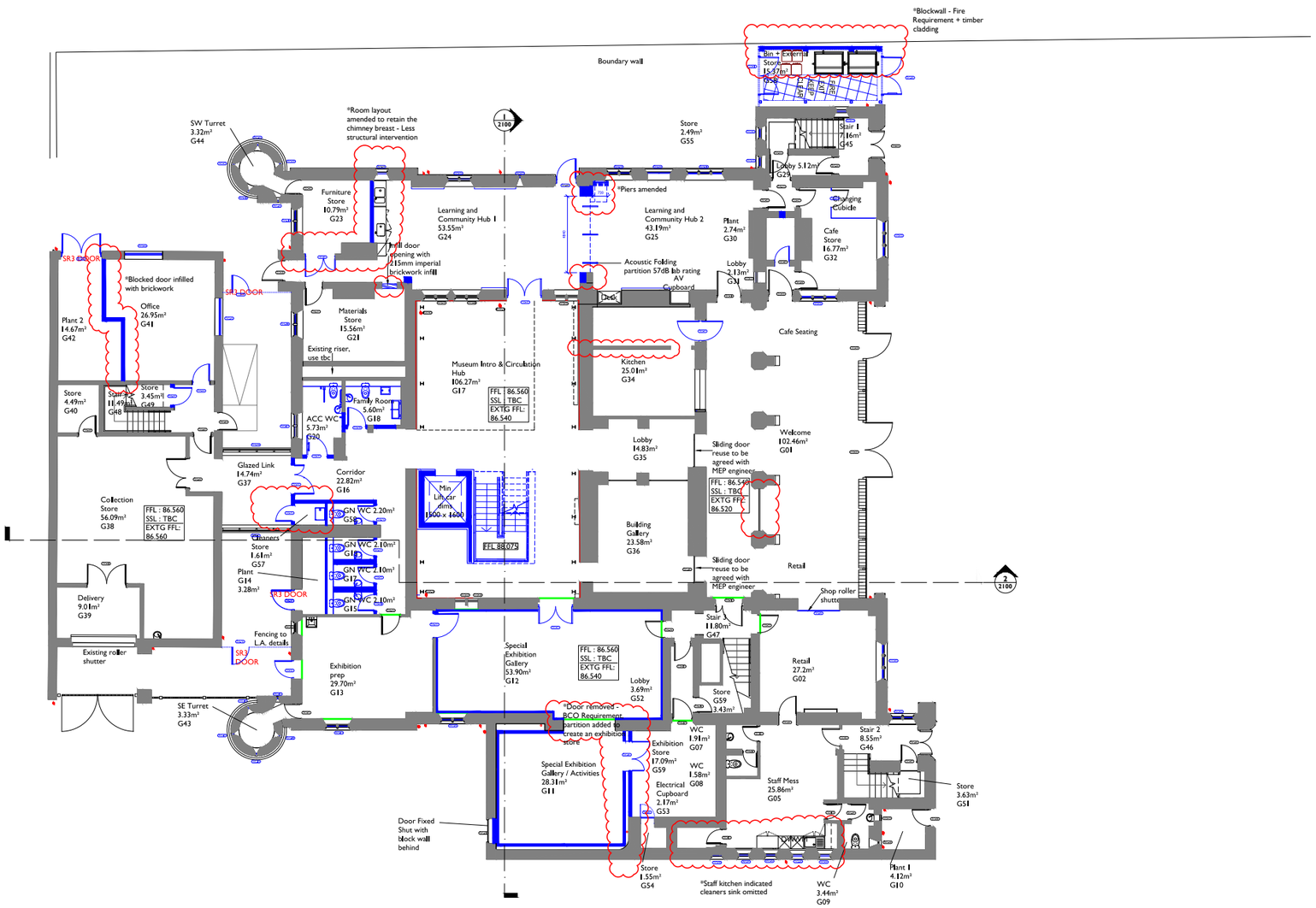
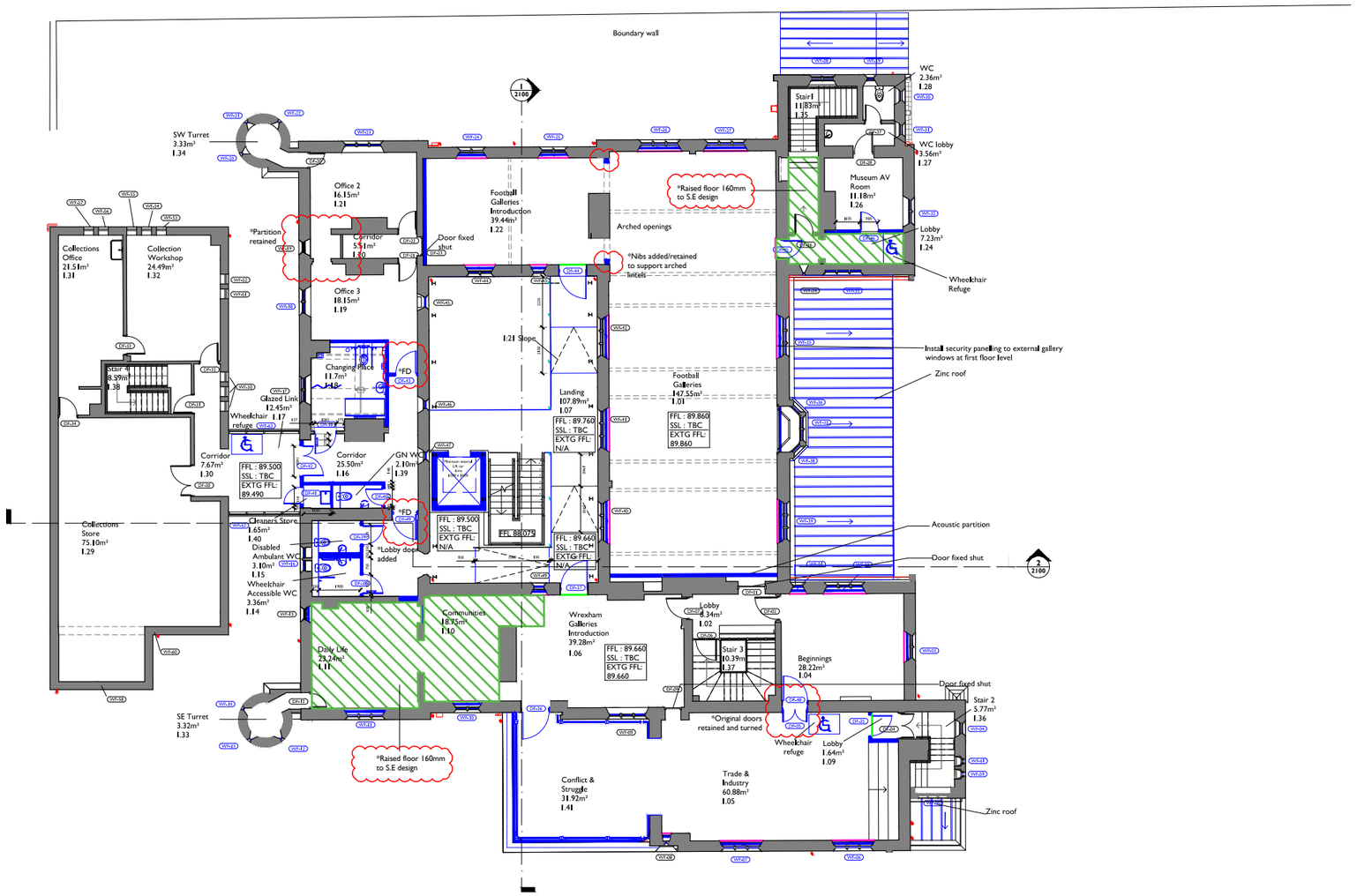


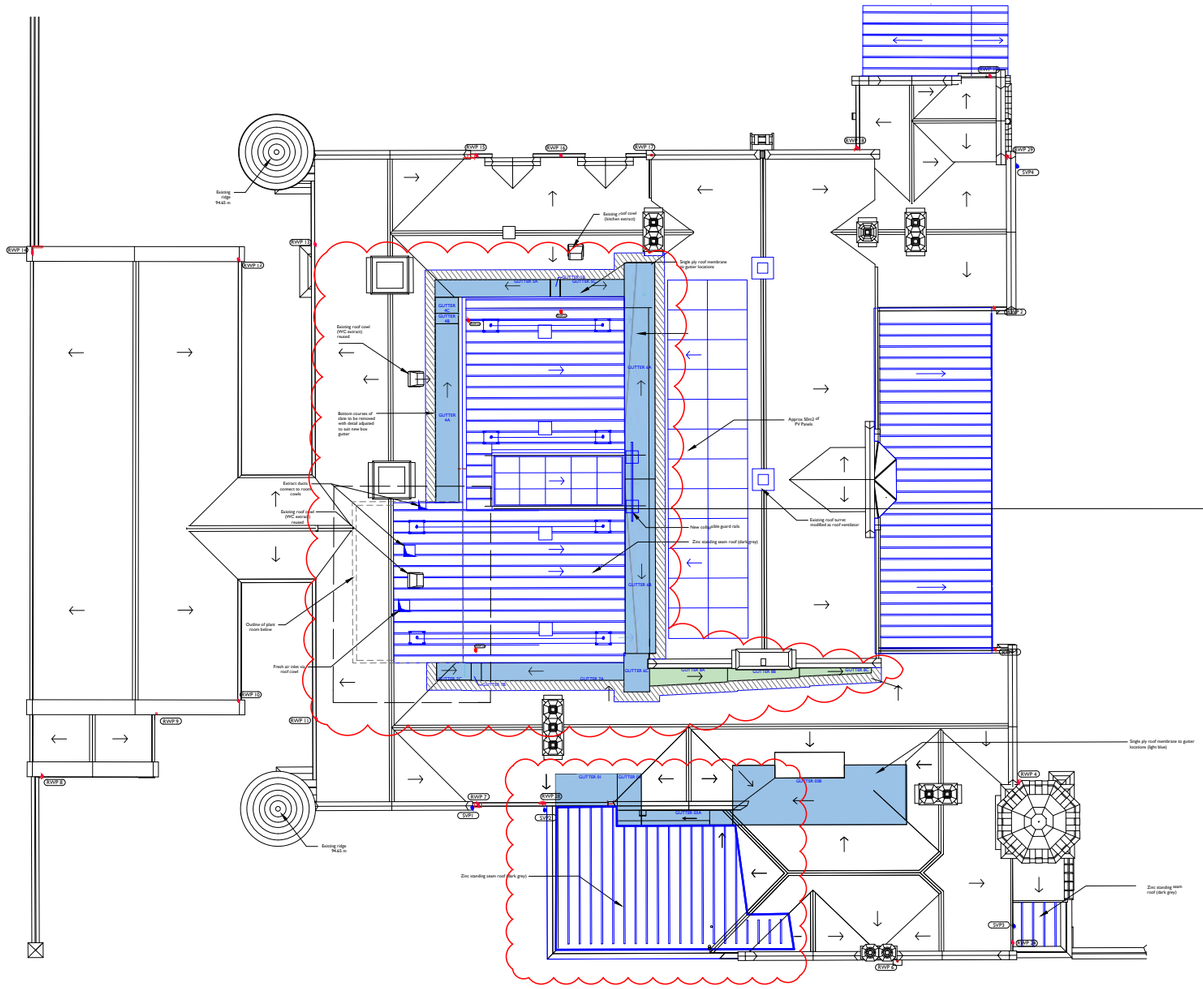
Ground Floor Plan

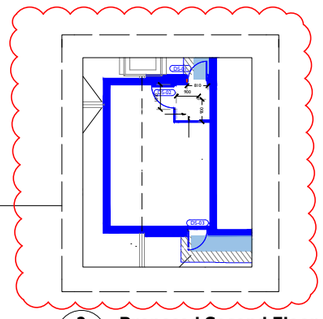
Proposed



First Floor Plan

Proposed





2 **Proposed Second Floor Plan**
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Roof Plan
Proposed

5.3 INCLUSIVE ACCESS

The main entrance to the museum remains directly facing Regent Street. The museum itself enjoys a prominent location next to St Mary's Cathedral.

Public access to the site is good as previously identified. Nevertheless the goal of ensuring inclusive access for both visitors and those working at the museum has been central to the scheme.

- The central circulation hub addresses the various levels on the first floor by providing a new lift and gantry walk ways. Those using the lift will arrive at the same location as those choosing to use the stairs and from the wide top lit landing, will be able navigate around the exhibition spaces in the same way as those who do not have particular access requirements. Therefore there is no separation of individuals who may require the use of the lift.
- Provision for refuge points on fire escape stairs
- Adequate welfare facilities with more inclusive and gender neutral WC's and dedicated family rooms.
- The provision of a Changing Places facility.
- The removal of narrow corridors and doorways facilitating wheelchair and buggy access.
- A more clearly defined wayfinding strategy

5.4 LANDSCAPING

Forecourt

The front forecourt will be maintained mainly as an open space to reflect is former use as a parade ground to the militia depot and enable it to maintain its use as an event space. The space also needs to herald the use of the building and guide visitors to the entrance. The area to the east is on an important node in the townscape at the junction of Regent Street and St Mark's Road and it is proposed to create a more formal feel with seating and planting for visitors and a pause space for those passing by.

The four existing trees will be retained and protected during the development and the associated seating will be refurbished.

The stone boundary walls are to be retained and the stone piers at the entrance increased in height along with the adjacent walls to create a sense of arrival, with a broad defined path that will lead to the museum entrance.

The area to the east will be defined by planting, include seating, and paving and the sculpture of Brymbo Man will be located at the central point. A stone monolith will be included at the external corner and include an illuminated sign for the museum. Paving can be formed from recycled materials and planting can provide shade and bee friendly species will increase biodiversity.

The forecourt surface will be replaced with a non-slip permeable material in two colours to allow the entrance route to be defined. The surface water drainage channels will be replaced with slot drains as a more inclusive way of managing surface water. External lighting will be replaced and 3 pop-up units for power supply will be installed. The cycle rack will be retained and re-located.

External lighting will also be installed at all final exit doors to meet current regulations.

Wellbeing Garden

The area to the west of the museum and adjacent to the cathedral is directly accessible from the Learning and Community Hub and it is proposed to create a wellbeing garden in this area. The construction of the gated store will mean this area can be segregated to create a safeguarded area for children and vulnerable groups when required but provide public access at other times. The area has been developed to provide a peaceful and calm space with permanent planting and opportunities for learning and play, as well as improving the biodiversity and ground permeability of the site. This area will accommodate

- Partly buried Anderson Shelter (approx 1959L x 1359W x 11800Hmm) and turfed over with ramp access
- 2400 x 1800mm greenhouse
- 1800 x 1200mm timber garden shed/tool store
- Allotment garden
- Informal play area (eg music wall)
- Timber seating and raised planters for inclusive access; planters used for learning programme
- Beds for permanent planting (climbers, espaliered fruit trees, bee friendly species for borders)
- Planters made of recycled materials
- Permeable paving materials and mosaic using recycled local building materials (brick, stone, slate, quarry tiles, bottles)
- The Acton Dog sculpture will be relocated to guard the doorway into the Learning and Community Hub
- Inclusive way finding
- Outside store for café furniture













The layout identified is indicative as it is proposed to develop the detail with the groups who will be using the space. The material space is loose to enable available recycled materials to be used at the time of undertaking.

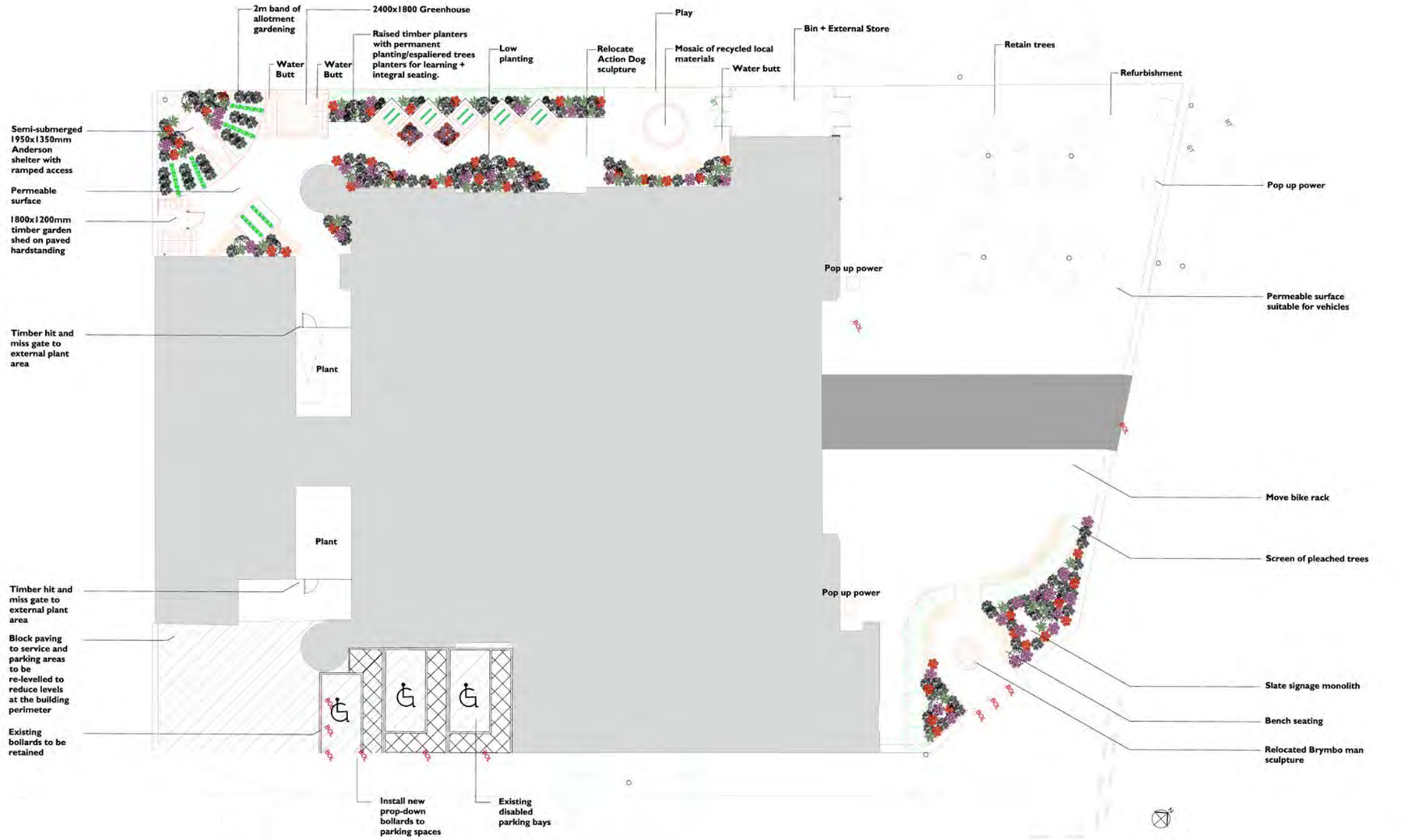
Area Between the Satellite and Museum Buildings

This area is narrow and receives little sunlight and has therefore been allocated for external plant. The Air Source Heat Pumps proposed for the development will be located in this area. The two areas will be screened by 2100 mm high horizontal timber 'hit and miss' fencing and gates. Depending on the details of the surface water drainage it may be necessary to resurface this area using tamped in situ concrete to falls. The need for acoustic screening needs to be assessed but will be located in these screened areas if required.

Service Yard and Accessible Parking Provision.

This area is at the southeast corner of the site and is directly accessible from St Mark's Road. The area currently accommodates delivery vehicles needing to access the delivery bay in the Satellite building, parking for contractors' vehicles and three accessible parking bays. The area will remain as existing except

- The metal railings will be decorated
- The layout of the accessible parking bays will be identified using thermoplastic paint
- The non- functioning removeable bollards will be replaced.
- The levels of the existing block paving at the building perimeter are high and are causing internal damp issues. The area will be re-planed to remove this issue and also to incorporate additional surface water drainage from the roof of the Exercise Yard extension, using the same concrete block paving.



Landscape Plan
Proposed

5.5 REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

Extensions

The impact of the two extensions has been minimised. The courtyard extension will not be visible to those visiting the site and although the Exercise yard extension will be visible from the street, it will be discreet and will blend in with the roof colour tonally.

Entrance Building

It is proposed to replace the glass roof and structure with zinc standing seam roofing to reduce solar gain. The addition of an acoustic ceiling construction to the underside will improve the acoustics to this area and allow new services to be distributed in the void. The glass facade to the entrance will be renewed.

External Elevations

Minor repairs will be undertaken to the stonework of external elevations using best conservation practice.

Alterations have been minimised to maintain its current appearance and the only intervention is to create a new door into the Learning and Community Hub in the location of a former door which retains its stone surround. A traditional timber door and frame will be installed.

The Satellite building will be amended and a current set of double doors will be replaced by a coloured finished double-glazed door screen and a new window is formed on the west elevation. The existing detailing will be replicated.

Roofs

The roofs are in good condition so only repairs will be undertaken to the slate roof covering.

The two missing ventilators from the front ridge will be replicated and additional passive vents will be installed on internal courtyard roof slopes where required.

Alterations to the roof structure will be required to the southern range to create the plant loft space, but this is also on the internal slopes and will not be visible. The roof structure will also need amending to create the door openings into the gallery and back of house areas.

Where new valley gutters are to be created to manage rainwater these will be finished in a single ply roofing material to allow low pitches and avoid the necessity of steps. This will be dark grey in colour to replicate lead. These will not be visible other than from the roof.

It is also proposed to introduce man safe systems to low pitch roof perimeters to enable safe access for maintenance. The external pitched roofs need to accessed by cherry picker or scaffold tower.

Rainwater Goods

The existing cast iron rainwater goods will be amended as necessary to increase capacity to meet the demands of climate change. At present it is likely that a small number of gutter runs and downpipes will need to be increased in size. These will be replaced in cast iron to match the patten of the existing.

Internal Alterations

The repair of the ground floor courtyard elevations is proposed following the removal of the current exhibition displays is undertaken. The extent of survival of the external elevations and the extent of repair required is currently unknown. The first floor area of the elevations will be repaired. This will enhance the significance of this area enabling it to be read as an external courtyard space.

There are a number of internal alterations to the existing walls. There are three openings created at first floor level which are required to create the access through the external walls from the circulation hub into the gallery spaces and the back of house areas. These are made in the masonry walls and will be treated as external openings with stone jambs and soffits. New colour finished steel fire doors will be installed to protect the galleries and traditional plaster will be used on the 'internal' areas of the adjacent walls. Wherever possible these openings have been located at window openings to enable existing stone work surrounds to be re-used. This also occurs at ground floor level where the existing window opening to the retail space is converted to a door opening to create a direct access from the entrance. This will be detailed in the same way.

There are also alterations which are required to create circular routes around both the Football Museum and Wrexham Museum galleries. These have been minimised and are necessary to allow an unimpeded visitor flow. In the Wrexham galleries a cross wall is removed to facilitate the exhibition design and an opening is created between the original Courtroom 1 space into the Exercise Yard extension. The height of the opening is XX mm and the proposed overall width of this opening is 3500 mm. This allows for Introductory displays into the Theme within the Exercise Yard extension to each side of the opening (a combined depth of approximately 815mm (display structure) to 1160mm (taking into account display monitor). Exhibits are arranged at angles so visitors do not dwell at the narrowest point within the opening and allows for circulation from Courtroom 1 to the new extension. Guidance on circulation is taken from Approved Document M, Vol 2.
A later inserted corridor wall also requires removal to maximise the room area for exhibitions

The greatest extent of demolition is on the ground floor of the western range, where it is necessary to remove the cross walls to create a space large enough to meet the required space standards for learning spaces in museums if 30 school age children are to be accommodated. This has been reviewed with staff at other museums and it is considered to be acceptable. The cross walls over along with chimney breasts will need to be supported and the cross wall locations will be denoted by downstand beams.

Modern accommodation such as WCs and the kitchens have modern partitioning. Where these need to be reconfigured by removing existing non structural partitions and building new, the impact is minimal on significance. Generally wherever possible these functions have been retained in the same locations to take advantage of established services and drainage routes. Other new partition alterations have been required to create fire lobbies and improve wheelchair and buggy movement around the building. Wherever possible these will be detailed to be reversible to minimise the impact on significance.

Security

The proposed development will need to meet the security requirements of the Arts Council England security advisor, particularly the Special Exhibition Gallery loans needing to be covered by the Government Indemnity Scheme.

To this end the Galleries will have security cladding installed at the external windows and shutters to the gallery entrances. The opening into the retail area will also have a shutter.

All the galleries have windows which will need to have an SR3 security rating and 60 minute fire compartmentation. The original intention was to achieve this by installing a single lining into the window recess, but this is not achievable and two separate stud linings are required and the total thickness exceeds the recess depth and would require two sets of fixings into the masonry surround. It is therefore proposed to install a 140mm blockwork lining on a dpc with a wall starter bar with adjustable wall ties which will enable it to be fixed at the masonry joints.

The blockwork will have a security mesh fixed over it and a plaster finish. This will meet the required security and fire ratings and have the desired visual appearance. The window will be made to 'blend' by applying obscure film prior to the constriction of the lining. The whole construction will be reversible.

The build up of the zinc standing seam roof and wall cladding will also include a security build up.

Exhibition Design

The exhibition displays have been designed to cover the majority of the walls in the gallery spaces. In the courtrooms this includes covering dado panelling and tiles. The proposed fixing details for the backing studs is to fix at the soleplate and head and fix above the dado line into the wall. The inclusion of a cavity will allow services for the exhibition to be surface mounted, ensuring the displays are fully reversible.

A new raft will be suspended from the roof trusses in Court room 1 (the main football gallery space). This will carry the majority of the building services such as lighting including emergency lighting, small power, fire detection and heating services. This will reduce the impact on the most significant internal space.

Fire

The amended building layouts will have to meet the requirements of the Building Regulations. This is to ensure preservation of life. In addition to this WCBC have requested that the gallery spaces achieve 60 minute fire compartmentation to protect the collections displayed. This will be achieved by installing automatic 60R colour finished glazed steel door at the entrances and ensuring internal windows onto the circulation hub are panelled to meet the same standard.

BREEAM

The project aims to achieve BREEAM 'Very Good'.

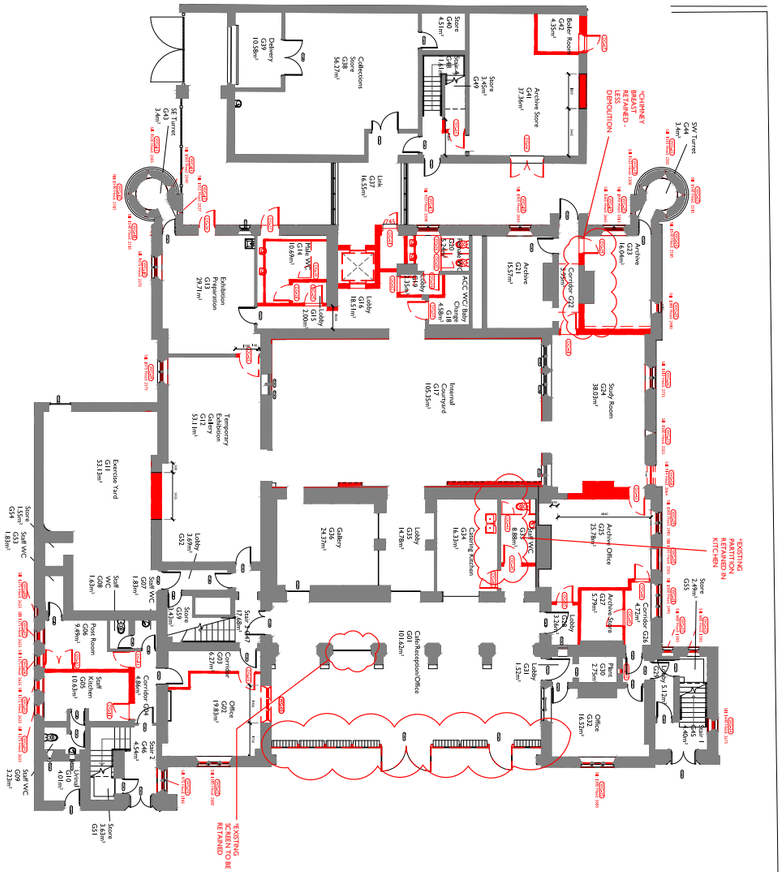
It is proposed to improve the thermal performance of the building fabric by changing the windows to double glazed using a contemporary 'Crittall' style colour finished window. These will have an 'etched' film applied internally where fire and/or security panels will be included.

It is also proposed to improve thermal performance by replacing insulation in the loft spaces. Because of their construction it is unlikely that the insulation can be provided above the roofs of the two courtrooms.

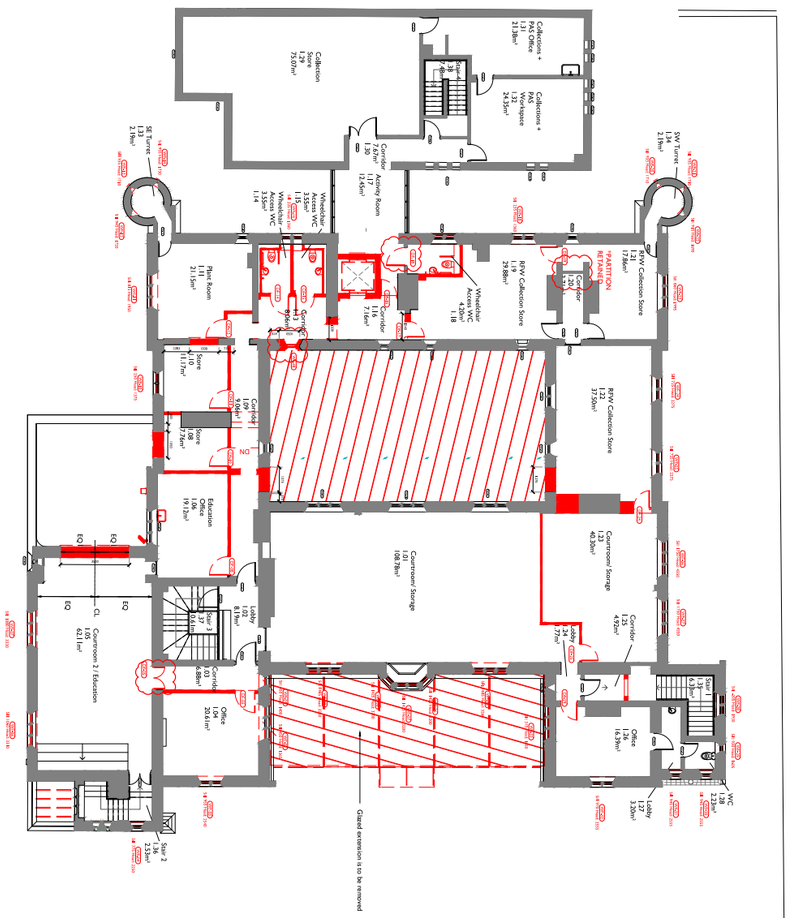
Most of the building services will be replaced, which is a good opportunity to reduce energy consumption. The incoming gas supply will be removed and heating, hot water and catering equipment will all be electric. Low energy fittings will be installed to reduce energy consumption.

It is proposed to generate electricity by adding the photovoltaic cells to the southern slope of the northern range. These will not be visible as they will be installed on the internal courtyard roof slopes.

Externally, the hard surfaces will be replaced with permeable finishes to reduce the load on the public surface water drainage system. Soft landscaping will improve biodiversity and provide shade. Watering will be facilitated by water butts with rainwater collected from the greenhouse roof and the store roof.



Ground Floor
Demolition Plan



First Floor
Demolition Plan

5.6 BUILDING STRUCTURE

Basic Assumptions and Principles

Proposed structural interventions have been considered in the context of both minimum intervention and reversibility, respecting the heritage status of the building and the assessed significance.

At this stage the new floor interventions are minimal in their extent and it is assumed that the existing ground bearing strata will be such as to able to accommodate any additional loads that are spread through the ground to first floor existing masonry wall. Where loads are less straightforward new columns will be inserted to accommodate any lateral or bending loads that the masonry would be unable to resist.

Infilling of the Exercise Yard

New structural steelwork bearers and beams fixed to the existing masonry walls to support a new timber joist first floor and boarding.

Structural steelwork columns supported by the first-floor beams clad in timber SIP panel wall units finished in zinc cladding.

Columns to support structural steel mono-pitched roof beams with SIP panel decking and zinc decking.

The compound existing supporting beams beneath the existing first floor wall to be retained, wire brushed to remove surface corrosion and primed.

Changes to Ground Floor Gallery (Enclosed Courtyard)

The existing infill roof structure at approximately first floor level will be removed entirely. Any redundant voids within the existing masonry (originally external) to be infilled with matching stone laid to course.

The new walkways at first floor level to be formed from structural steel beams, cranked to accommodate ramps. Primary beams will also provide support for balustrades. Secondary steel beams in the form of back to back channels will support the walkway profiled decking fixed to new full height steel columns and their free end from hanger tubes suspended from the roof beams.

Walkways to be cast in situ in concrete on the profiled metal deck with a polished upper surface.

The roof beams to be full span mono-pitch, supporting z-purlins and a profiled metal deck. The roof and walls to be finished with SIP timber panels clad in zinc.

The lift shaft structure will be self-supporting, with a lift pit consisting of a mass concrete base, consisting of 225mm thick dense concrete block walls. The adjacent existing masonry walls to be underpinned in concrete to the same formation level. Top of the lift to be capped and ventilated. The steel lifting beam, supported by the walls, to be positioned above the lift overrun height.

At the southern side of the new extension a new plantroom is to be inserted into the existing roof space. To enable this the existing timber trusses will be retained and two rows of timber purlins removed. A new roof will be formed from the ridge line to the new extension in timber joists. A new structural floor will be constructed at celling level with steel beams and a beam and block floor with a screed.

Changes to the Glass Entrance

The existing Planar Structural Glass entrance structure will be removed. Retaining the two 'goal post' structural frames that currently form the entrance and escape doorways. New structural mono-pitch roof beams will be inserted using the alignment of the Planar glass beams, with new steel square hollow section columns and a new hollow section eaves beam connected to the retained goal posts and the new columns. The new roof beams will utilise the existing fixing plates back to the colonnade masonry. The new roof is to be clad in SIP panels and finished in zinc.

Isolated Areas of Intervention

The forming of new openings within existing walls will utilise multiple concrete lintols or steel lintols, side by side, dependent upon the thickness of the existing masonry wall and the clear opening width.

Some of the internal walls that are planned to be removed are loadbearing and replacement steel beams will be inserted to support the retained structure above.

Almost all the existing chimneybreasts are continuous to roof level, projecting in an ornate stack above the roof slope. There is evidence that some of these have undergone previous remedial works in the form of metal tension strapping to restrict expansion. Where lower levels of chimneybreast are planned to be removed then a new structural steelwork support system of primary beams and needle beams will be inserted to support both the floors and the retained masonry above.

Following careful removal of the existing redundant lift shaft enclosure and associated temporary support work, new supports will need to be inserted at ground, first and roof level.

Within the existing lift pit it is proposed to construct two new dense concrete 140mm thick block walls to support a precast concrete beam and block floor to level through the ground floor. At first floor level a series of primary and secondary steel beams will be inserted below the existing floor, with their primary supports at the corridor junction with the main building and the more recent annexe. As at ground floor level, the void will then be filled with precast concrete beam and block flooring. Modifications within the roof void of the corridor will also be required to insert new steel supports for the roof structure to replace the removed lift shaft walls.

Heavy exhibits, such as the cap stone from Brymbo Man's burial cist (1155Kg), cannot be accommodated by the existing first floor structure and additional structural steel beams will be inserted beneath the first floor to transfer the loads back to the existing masonry. The weight of the exhibit is such that it cannot be transported over the existing floors to its proposed new first floor location and it will need to be lifted into its location from outside, via the adjacent window opening.

The new raised timber floor within two of the Wrexham Museum galleries can be built off the existing floor using timber joists and timber beams supported from timber stub-posts.

Below Ground Drainage

The building and site have both foul and surface water existing drainage provision that combines within the front courtyard area prior to discharging into the local authority adopted combined sewer in Regent Street.

The existing amenities within the building are being retained with only minor reconfigurations. Connections to below ground drainage will be retained with reorganisation of above ground drainage runs to accommodate the reconfigurations.

5.7 BUILDING SERVICES

5.7.1 Mechanical

Heating

The 2 No. gas-fired boiler plants within the original building and the 1 No. boiler plant in the Satellite Building will be stripped out. Air source heat pumps will be utilised as the source of heating for both background heating and the heater batteries within individual ventilation plants. As the building will be significantly altered, then it is anticipated that the only heating system to be retained will be the trench heating currently serving the entrance / café area.

Mechanical Ventilation

Football Museum Galleries

The main football gallery on the first floor will be ventilated via natural / assisted ventilation roof terminals, utilising the original 2 No. roof turrets heating will be via radiators or radiant panels.

The double height space adjacent to the Football Gallery will be ventilated by 4 No. natural / assisted ventilation roof turrets. Heating will be via underfloor heating.

Special Exhibitions Gallery (ground floor) & Wrexham Museum galleries (first floor)

Will be mechanically ventilated by supply / extract air handling units with heat recovery located within a new roof plantroom. Background heating to these areas will be provided via radiators or radiant panels.

Kitchen / Café Area

Supply ventilation will be provided to the café. With air transferred through to the kitchen, where an extract ventilation system will be provided to suit the catering provision installed.

A wall mounted room AC unit with associated outdoor unit shall provide comfort cooling because the kitchen area currently suffers from overheating.

Offices & Learning Suite

It is currently envisaged that these rooms will be natural ventilated utilising opening windows with heating provided via low surface temperature radiators or radiant panels.

Satellite Building

New ventilation plant with heat recovery and heater batteries served by associated heat pumps will replace the original ventilation plant.

However it is envisaged that the majority of the ventilation ductwork and grilles will be retained. It is assumed that the new Ground Floor office will be naturally ventilated.

Domestic Services

The existing cold water distribution system will be modified, with new break tank and booster set which will then provide cold water to the sanitary fittings within the toilets, the kitchen and electric water heaters which will provide hot water to sinks and wash hand basins.

5.7.2 Electrical

The existing incoming electrical supply to the main building will be upgraded to suit the increase load for the new heat pumps, which replace the original gas fired boilers.

A new mains distribution system will be installed throughout the main building, with local distribution boards serving the Galleries, admin / exhibition prep-areas, retail and kitchen / café area.

The existing main distribution panels within the Satellite Building will be retained with new distribution boards installed to suit the building modifications including the new office to the Ground Floor.

Lighting

All of the original fluorescent lighting will be replaced by LED lighting with a lighting control system., which within the Galleries will be dovetailed to suit the exhibition lighting provided as part of the museum fitout. Feature lighting within the café and Galleries will generate the form of linear strip LED lights, which within the Galleries will supplement the exhibition lighting.

Satellite Building

All of existing fluorescent lighting will be replaced by new LED lighting, with a simple lighting control system.

Emergency Lighting

Emergency lighting will be provided throughout to suit both public and back-of-house areas, with clearly defined escape routes and exit signage.

Fire Alarm System

It is currently envisaged that the existing fire alarm panel within the Satellite Building will be retained, with new fire alarm detection installed throughout the main building, split into a number of zones to suit the designated areas.

DDA Assistance Alarms

All DDA toilets will be provided with assistance alarms with both local indication and remote alarm indication at the main reception desk.

5.8.3 Lift

A new lift is provided within the centre of the building, which will be utilised for both passengers and movement of exhibits and materials. This will fully comply with the latest DDA requirements. It will be of the machine room-less type.

5.8 MOOD BOARD

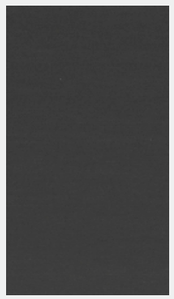






EXISTING

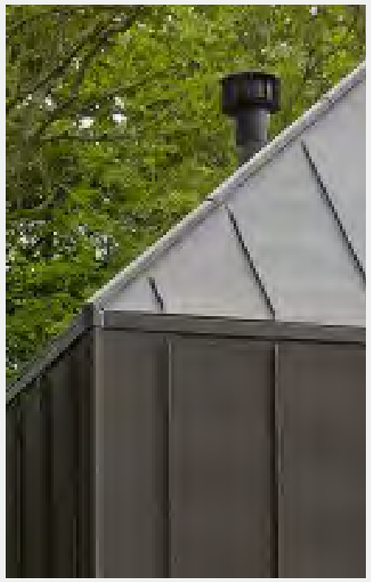














NEW BUILD

Much of the interior works to the Museum are relatively low impact and relate to the removal of modern walls and partitions of no significance. On the ground floor the opening of the former archive into an open plan space for the Learning Suite will result in the loss of two original walls including chimney breasts. This will result in moderate loss of original fabric of high significance and the loss of the planform in this part of the building.

The loss of the former police exercise yard as an external yard and its infill with a modern construction will confuse the legibility of this external space and its function. This area is a later addition of medium significance and will result in medium adverse harm. The materiality as a modern addition will help with the legibility of the former external space and harm can be reduced by appropriate conditions and detailing.

The proposed extension in the central courtyard is replacing an existing 1970s extension (modified in 2010-11) resulting resulting in no significance change to significance.

Minor changes are proposed to rainwater systems which although they may result in a slight change to the original design, they will help the building cope with higher capacity rainfall and help mitigate known maintenance issues. This change is not considered harmful to significance and along with roof and gutter repairs is beneficial.

The original diamond patterned windows are to be retained, however, the majority of windows are later metal framed casements. The exact date of these is unclear; the Conservation Plan (2005) suggests they likely date to c.1917. They are not original but are an historic feature that demonstrates the continued development and use of the building and their loss and replacement will result in a moderate degree of harm to significance.

Summary of Impacts

There are several elements that collectively will contribute to a moderate adverse impact upon the significance of the Grade II Listed asset. The primary elements of harm are: the loss of heritage fabric and planform in the archive area; the loss of early 20th century windows; and the infilling of the police exercise yard. The proposals are not considered to result in any significant levels of harm to the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area.

This harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the scheme, both in the building's heritage role as a museum and in providing a continued use for this historic landmark building. Any harm should also be considered alongside the supporting justification within this Design and Access Statement.

This Design and Access Statement supports applications for Planning and Listed Building Consent for the Wrexham Museum Redevelopment. The document has been written by Purcell, Architects, Heritage Consultants and Masterplanners. It was commissioned by hsd on behalf of the Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). The proposals seek to transform the current museum building into a new 'museum of two halves' incorporating a Football Museum for Wales (Amgueddfa Bêl-droed Cymru) and a new museum for Wrexham based on the area's local heritage and the Welsh Football Collection, where inclusivity, learning, well-being and enjoyment are key priorities.

The Museum is located in the County Buildings, located at the junction of Regent Street with St Mark's Road to the west of Wrexham town centre. It is a Grade II listed building and sits within the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area just inside its southern boundary.

The project has been developed to RIBA Stage 3 with funding from Welsh Government and Wrexham County Borough Council. Further funding is being sought from Welsh Government, the National Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources to progress the project through RIBA Stage 4 to RIBA Stage 7.

This document explains the historical development of the museum building (constructed originally as a militia barracks) and identifies its significance, its current use and the current issues it suffers, the development of the proposals to the submitted design along with the stakeholder engagement undertaken to support the development of the design and the gallery spaces it will house. Finally we will review the impact the proposals will have on the significance.

7.1 BUILDING AND SIGNIFICANCE

History

The main museum building (officially known as County Buildings) was built as a depot for Denbighshire Militia in 1857 to the designs of the younger Thomas Penson, architect and surveyor. In 1879 the militia moved to a new barracks at Hightown, Wrexham and the building was converted to a county court and a police station. A second court and new entrances were added in 1896.

The police moved to a new Divisional Headquarters at Bodhyfryd in 1976 and the Magistrates court was moved to new premises at Bodhyfryd in 1977. The County Buildings were then used by Wrexham Citizens Advice Bureau and subsequently taken over by Aston College Art Department. Circa 1978 the central courtyard was roofed over to create a single storey extension to provide additional gallery space and a canteen.

In 1995 Wrexham Maelor Borough Council took over the building and in 1996 the Wrexham County Borough Museum was opened. Subsequently the building has undergone a programme of repair and in 1997 the two storey satellite building and glazed link was added to the Museum partially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In 2010-11 the museum benefited from a partial makeover; the museum gallery spaces were modernized and a glazed extension was constructed providing a new face for the building. The scheme involved the provision of new washroom facilities including additional wheelchair accessible conveniences at ground and first floor level. In 2017 new seating, and information and interpretation stands were Installed on the museum forecourt.

Statement of Significance

The Wrexham County Borough Museum is a fine example of an increasingly rare building type being an 1850's militia barracks following the act of 1853. The equivalent militia depot for the Royal Flintshire Millitia in Flint was demolished in the 1960s. Although significantly altered in later periods, the basic plan of the 1850s barracks remains legible making the building of national importance as an example of its type. The period of construction also links the building to wider British military history and to the design of military architecture, upon which the influence of early barracks buildings such as these must not be underestimated. The Denbighshire Militia are an important part of local history having been used to quell riots and demonstrations in the Wrexham area during the 19th century.

The building's second use as Magistrates' Courts altered the layout and exterior design of the building as a fortified keep. This period saw the removal of the two front turrets and the construction of extensions to both the west and east wings, that slightly unbalances the architectural design, although these early alterations are themselves of high significance. Although a 19th century magistrates court is worthy of retention and is of national interest in its own right, giving the building further strong historical connections as the centre of the judicial system for the wider area. The retention, largely intact of the alterations and many of the fittings, albeit in storage, mean this is an interesting and relatively complete example of a provincial court.

Regent Street is one of the primary arterial routes into the town and the Museum, in conjunction with the adjacent cathedral and neo-classical infirmary, defines the approach to the town centre. Architecturally the building forms a strong addition to the streetscape of Wrexham in a prominent location in the town and an important group value comprising: the neighbouring Church of St Mary (grade II); the church boundary walls (grade II); the presbytery (grade II); Nos. 1,3 and 5, 56, 58 and 60 Regent Street, King Street (grade II); and No. 2 Grosvenor Road (grade II) all contributing to the combined setting. The main façade reads as an example of 19th century gothic with its turrets and castellations all surrounded by the stone boundary wall and it is an important contributor to the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area. It is one of the three surviving buildings of the mid-19th century 'west end' of Wrexham when the town expanded westwards.

The building is a fascinating blend of picturesque intent, pragmatic spatial planning, military functionality, and the contrast of this functionality with the later court alterations. Influences vary from the Tudor houses of the 16th century to the early pioneers of the picturesque such as Miller through to more contemporary influences from Salvin and the other 'barrack builders' of the period.

The building is well known locally, often referred to as the old police station. It has played a significant role in the local community both in this role and subsequently as an annexe for the Aston College/NEWI Art Department. The use of the building as the Wrexham County Borough Museum can both draw upon and enhance this familiarity with the people and communities of Wrexham. In a town where many historic buildings have been demolished including the adjacent Church House, St Mark's Church and the Imperial Hotel (diagonally opposite the museum building), the surviving buildings have taken on an even more important role.

Good records survive for the building including floor plans by the architect, Thomas Penson. Penson was a prominent architect with several notable projects in Wales, he was the county surveyor of Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire and was an innovative architect and designer of several masonry arch bridges over the River Severn and elsewhere. Thomas Penson designed the following buildings in Wrexham: Butchers' Market hall on High Street (1847, extant); and the British School, Brook Street (1844, demolished recently). Penson's involvement adds further historical interest to the building.

The Museum has demonstrable importance nationally (in a British as opposed to purely Welsh context) as a key example of the development of a system of barracks for militiamen. The significance of the building in a Welsh context is further enhanced by its second incarnation as courts and a police station, a task it undertook for almost 100 years.

The building is of high significance.

7.2 ENGAGEMENT

The applicant and the design team have completed consultations with

- The WCBC Stakeholders
- WCBC Local Planning Authority
- Stakeholder Consultation Panels
- and undertaken Public Consultations

The feedback received has been incorporated into the proposals wherever feasible and achievable.

7.3 PROPOSAL

To enhance the current museum facilities at County Buildings to create a joint Wrexham Museum and Football Museum for Wales across both floors to this Grade II building.

The external masonry walls and slate roof will be repaired along with the cast iron rainwater goods. The vents to the roof pitch of principal facade will be restored to provide passive ventilation to the football gallery. Some work will be required to the hidden valley gutter to remove the maintenance issue and access for maintenance will be improved. Minor modifications will be required to improve rainwater discharge and a number of the cast iron downpipes will need to be increased in size.

The original diamond pattern metal framed windows will be retained but the later plain glazed metal windows will be replaced with double-glazed 'Crittall' style colour finished metal windows to match the existing.

The glass roof to the entrance extension will be replaced with a low pitch zinc standing seam roof and a new structure to reduce solar gain and make the internal environment more controllable

The walls and roofs of the 2 new extensions are to be finished in standing seam zinc cladding. The proposals seek to distinguish these interventions from the existing historic building. They aim to be visible as honest interventions to the building that do not seek to replicate or pretend to be that which they are not. The circulation hub will be top lit by a simple rooflight.

The external store will have a timber structure and a zinc clad roof also. A dark grey finish is proposed to ensure it is sympathetic tonally to the slate roofs.

In the first instance, the proposals have sought to maximise the available footprint of the existing building itself. The first floor has been previously used for storage owing to the lack of inclusive access to this floor and the creation of a circulation hub in the centre of the building with inclusive access opens the potential to use the first floor as the main gallery spaces.

Through the design process, the proposals have sought to balance both, maximising the potential use of the existing floor space, whilst also minimising the need for major alterations to the historic building fabric. The opportunity to extend the building into the exercise yard and extend the extension in the central courtyard would all limit the need to make more substantial changes to the existing grade 2 listed building.

Two new extensions are proposed

- A two-storey circulation Hub in the location of the original central courtyard. It is hoped that sufficient of the original elevations will remain to enable these to be repaired and expressed as external elevations. (105 m^2 on 2 floors)

- A two-storey extension in the Exercise Yard to create 53 m^2 of gallery space to increase expand the Special Exhibition Gallery, and 36 m^2 of gallery space at first floor level as part of the Wrexham Gallery.

In addition an external covered store of 18 m^2 is proposed at the west end of the north elevation. This store will re-use the existing decorative gates to secure the frontage and an additional set of metal gates will secure the rear of the area. This will be used for bins and storing loose external furniture.

Internally the museum is arranged as follows:

Ground Floor

- Entrance/ Reception
- Retail (Museum shop)
- Courtyard Café - café seating area, kitchen, store and changing area
- Central courtyard (circulation hub, stairwell and lift)
- Learning and Community hub including materials and furniture stores
- Visitor toilets and family room
- Special Exhibition Gallery
- Exhibition Prep (technician's workshop)
- Staff and volunteer room and WCs

First Floor

- Football Museum for Wales galleries
- Wrexham Museum galleries
- Circulation hub, gantries and lift
- Staff offices
- Visitor WCs and family room

The Satellite building and its accommodation remains unchanged with the exception of part of the Ground Floor Store which is converted into additional office space.

Externally the forecourt will be refreshed, and a wellbeing garden created to the west of the building. New signage will be provided.

The project will achieve BREEAM 'Very Good'.

7.4 IMPACT

Summary of Impacts

There are several elements that collectively will contribute to a moderate adverse impact upon the significance of the Grade II Listed asset. The primary elements of harm are:

- the loss of heritage fabric and plan form in the archive area;

- the loss of early 20th century windows; and the infilling of the police exercise yard. The proposals are not considered to result in any significant levels of harm to the conservation area.

This harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the scheme and also considered alongside the supporting justification within this Design and Access Statement.

This Design and Access Statement clearly demonstrates that the proposals will provide a new museum offer here in Wrexham focused on the history and people of Wrexham and district, alongside the history of football in Wales, in two new suites of permanent galleries with inclusive design, learning, well-being and enjoyment at their core. The proposals set out how to achieve this vision whilst minimising the impact on the significance of the listed building or the character of the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area.

APPENDICES

A List Description

B Conservation Area Plan

C Conservation Management Plan

D Conservation Management Plan Addendum

E Heritage Impact Assessment

F Access Audit

G Bat Survey Report

H HSD Collation of Feedback from Consultation

I Existing Schedule of Accommodation

J Proposed Schedule of Accommodation

K Details of Planning Correspondance

L Tree Report

Full Report for Listed Buildings

Cadw — Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Summary Description of a Listed Buildings

Reference Number	Building Number	Grade	Status	Date of Designation	Date of Amendment
1800		II	Designated	15/06/1990	31/01/1994

Name of Property	Address
Former County Buildings	

Location

Unitary Authority	Community	Town	Locality	Easting	Northing
Wrexham	Offa			333177	350434

Street Side	Location
S	Occupying a large site between Saint Mark's Road and Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral on W side of town centre. Set to rear of extensive forecourt.

Description

Broad Class	Period
Civil	

History

Built as militia barracks 1857-8 to the designs of the younger Thomas Penson, architect and surveyor. Converted C1879 to a divisional police station and magistrates court, and extended in the 1890's. Latterly used as council offices and Art college annexe.

Exterior

Roughly coursed and squared stone with freestone dressings and steep slate roofs, with coped gables and axial and end wall stacks with chamfered shafts. Tudor gothic style, a courtyard plan with 2 storey, 5-bay entrance front flanked by advanced gabled ranges to either side. Central gable over main entrance in loggia (now glazed) comprising 5 bays of chamfered depressed gothic arches sprung between dwarf buttresses. 4-light oriel window with leaded roof over entrance, flanked by 3-light windows each side, all with mullions and transoms. Lower gabled wings similarly detailed: the right hand gable is advanced from the main range and houses entrance to No 1 court in its own gabled rear wing. Left hand range clasps the outer angle of the main front, and has a further rear wing, parallel to the main range. Projecting stair tower to No. 2 court at angle of the 2 ranges: Chamfered buttressed tower, with deep moulded arched doorway, the staircase expressed under a sloping, embattled roofline with stepped windows, to the left; the tower terminates in octagonal turret with miniature crenellations around slate spirelet with openwork crown and weather vane. Wide gabled returns each side, then rear wings and lower gabled rear cross range. Circular turrets at rear angles with window loops and conical roofs.

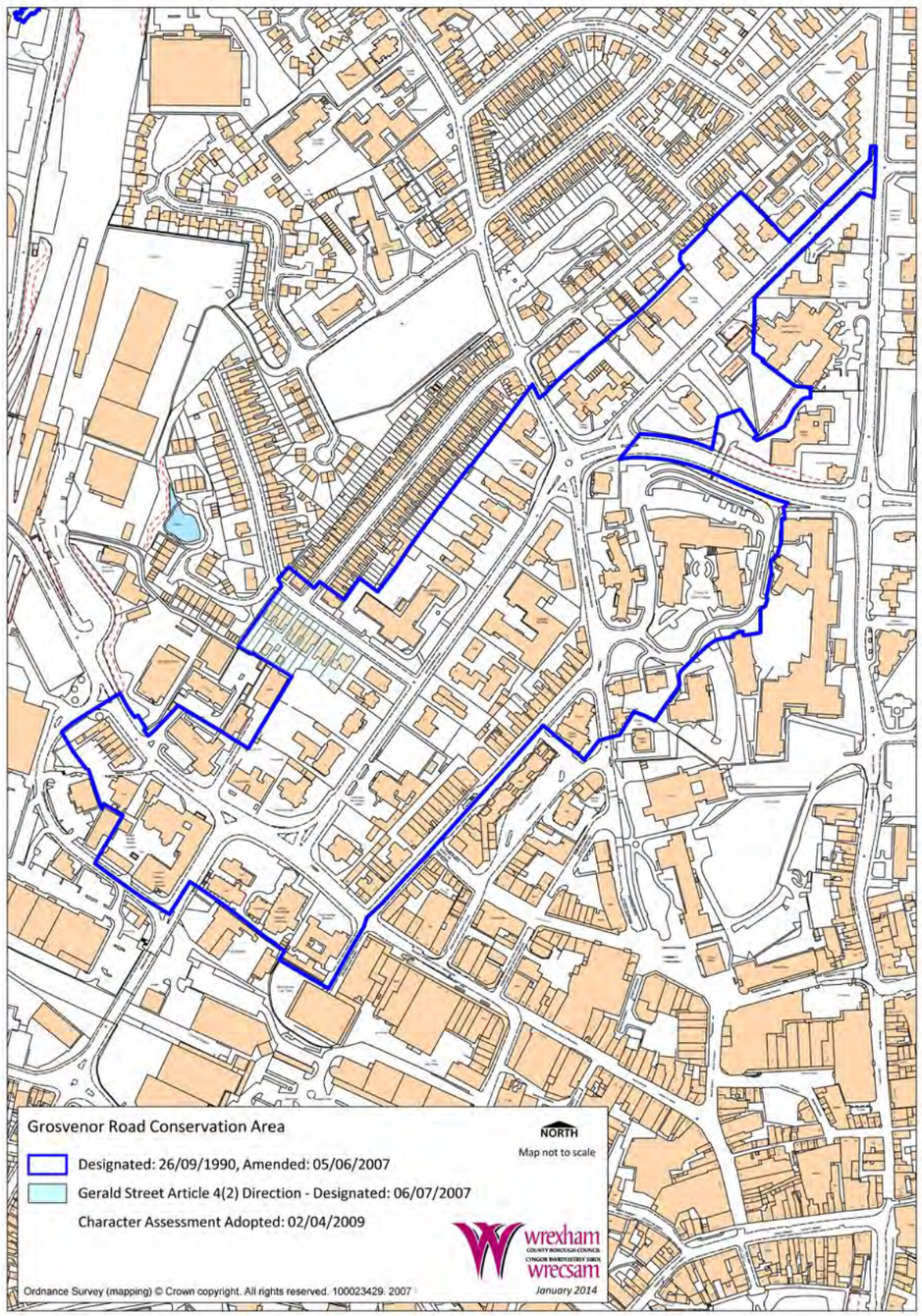
Interior

Original layout modified since 1980 by the enlargement of some rooms, the creation of circulation space, and the enclosing of the courtyard.

Reason for designation

Cadw : Full Report for Listed Buildings [Records 1 of 1]

APPENDIX B CONSERVATION AREA PLAN



Conservation Area map of Grosvenor Road shows a blue line outlining the extent of the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area boundary designated on the 26th September 1990, and was amended on the 5th June 2007, the blue shaded area within the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area indicates the area covered by the Gerald Street Article 4 (2) Direction designated on 6th July 2007..

There is a Grosvenor Road Conservation Area Character Assessment and Management Plan available which was adopted 2 April 2009.

The map is presented at a size other than to-scale and was published on January 2014.

A north arrow symbol indicates the direction of north on the map, thereby showing how the map is oriented.

Branding logo identifying Wrexham County Borough Council.

Ordnance Survey Licence mapping agreement reference number 100023429. 2007.

For further information and guidance on this image please contact a Conservation Officer at Wrexham County Borough Council 01978 298994.

PURCELL MILLER TRITTON

architects, designers and historic buildings consultants

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH MUSEUM
conservation PLAN



FINAL COPY, MAY 2005.

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Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

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Appendices

A Historic Map Progression
B Historical Development Plans.
C Photographic Schedule
D Reference lists and Bibliography
E Listing Description.
F Maintenance Plan.

1.0 SUMMARY

The following historical analysis and assessment of significance demonstrate that the architectural, cultural and social value of the site is high. Its relationship with the historic townscape, its place in the development in the development in Militia and Military architecture and the history of North Wales are all critically important to its significance. The later developments to create a single, then two court rooms in 1879 and 96 respectively are considered to be of historic value, albeit of less importance in a national context. The remaining fittings and spatial integrity contribute to this importance.

The additions of the inter-war and immediately post war periods are of varying importance as noted in the text, they reveal the changing requirements within the local constabulary and of the building in war-time. However the alterations to the building undertaken when it was in use as an Art College, particularly the poor quality roof over the courtyard and the wholly inappropriate secondary staircase, have been damaging to the architectural integrity of the fabric.

2.0. BACKGROUND

When the Wrexham County Borough Council took on the building in the mid-1990's they instigated a series of schemes which, to date, have involved re-roofing, external repairs, and the addition of the satellite building in 1997. Purcell Miller Tritton have been commissioned to produce this report as part of the on-going objective to bring the remainder of the building back into use, and as a precursor for the upcoming development project. The Conservation Plan has been commissioned to establish the value and significance of the heritage and Community asset, analyse the vulnerability issues which threaten it and recommend appropriate future development opportunities. As a result of this analysis a series of polices have been developed to guide the development and future use of the site.

3.9 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

3.1 *APPRAISAL OF THE BUILDINGS*

3.1.1 Historical Background

The majority of what are now known as the County Buildings were built as a depot for Denbighshire Militia in 1857. In 1879 the militia moved to a new barracks at Hightown, Wrexham and the building was converted to a county court and a police station. A second court and new entrances were added in 1896.

The police moved to a new Divisional Headquarters at Bodhyfryd in 1976 and the Magistrates court was moved to new premises at Bodhyfryd in 1977. The County Buildings were then used by Wrexham Citizens Advice Bureau and subsequently taken over by Aston College Art Department.

In 1995 Wrexham Maelor Borough Council took over the building and in 1996 the Wrexham County Borough Museum was opened. Subsequently the building has undergone a programme of repair and in 1997 the Satellite building was added to the Museum partially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

3.1.2 The Denbighshire Militia

Militia have protected interests in Britain since medieval times and earlier.[1] The earliest recorded reference to Militia in Denbighshire is the return of manpower known as the 'Great Muster' of 1539, when some 2022 men were available for service.[2]

During the mid eighteenth century efforts were made to revive and consolidate a British militia by William Pitt as a consequence of the 'seven year war' during which politics and power in Europe, India and America were turbulent.

Following the Militia Act of 1757 the lieutenant of Denbighshire was required to raise 280 men to serve in a regiment of infantry militia.[3] There were clearly difficulties in raising the amount of men required.

A further attempt was made to raise the Welsh Militia in 1758. However, little progress was made until June 5th 1759 when, with the continued threat from France, William Pitt wrote to lieutenants of the Counties. 'The King having by a most gracious message acquainted his Parliament with having received repeated intelligence of the actual preparations making in the French Ports to invade this kingdom, and of the imminent danger of such invasion being attempted, … to the end that his Majesty may cause the Militia to be drawn out and embodied and to march as occasion shall require.. you will forthwith transmit an account of what progress has been made in the County of ….'

On June 7th 1759 Lord Cholmondeley replied from Denbighshire that despite advertisements, letters etc. no one had come forward. Eventually the Flintshire Militia (sic. more likely to be Denbighshire Militia) was assembled at Wrexham and Lord Barington wrote to the Earl of Ancrum 'As some difficulty may probably be expected on their march to Camarthen, from their being unaccustomed to the Method of Marching, Quartering etc & His Majesty has ordered that you send a prudent, and intelligent Officer who may accompany them on their march'. They had a severe march and were detained by deep snow at Llandrindod but they reached Camarthen before the 1st of January 1760.[4]

[1] Bryn Owen notes the roots of Militia in Britain dating back as far as the Fryd of the Saxon period. *Owen, B. History of the Welsh Militia and Volunteer corps 1757-1908, Part I Denbighshire and Flintshire.*
[2] Ibid p. 11.
[3] The requirement was to raise these men 'by ballot or other means'. Ibid p.16
[4] Mainwaring 1899

The regiment went through a series of 'embodiments' and 'disembodiments' through the latter half of the 18th and into the 19th centuries as relations with France fluctuated.[5] During these periods of disembodiment a core staff were retained with the armoury and the regiment maintained by periodic enforcement of the ballot. The regiment were disembodied following the Treaty of Amiens (1802), but embodied again as Britain declared war on Napoleonic France in May 1803. This embodiment continued until 1814. During the latter part of this period the regiment were stationed in Chester. Following the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815 the militia went into a steady period of decline, until the election of Louis Napoleon to the throne in 1851 re-ignited old fears and led to the Militia act of 1852.[6]

The provisions of the Act included payment of wages and voluntary service rather than conscription. Subsequently the lieutenants and permanent staff country-wide began to search for some 400 recruits for each regiment. A subsequent act of the following year established the requirement for accommodation for the Militia and the search for adequate accommodation for the Denbighshire Militia began.

Another issue was encountered when the Militia were embodied for training in areas such as Wrexham where, at the time, no barrack accommodation was available and the militiamen were billeted at inns and boarding houses. This resulted in rowdy behaviour not being uncommon and subsequent damage to the image of the Militia.

The Militia as an entity ceased to exist in 1908 when the Territorial Army was established.

3.1.3 ***Militia accommodation in Wrexham***

The Denbighshire Militia were accommodated in the Wrexham Town Hall until the mid nineteenth century. The Town Hall dates from the eighteenth century and was of insufficient size to accommodate the expanding local government alongside the growing forces which were being developed to deal with growing social unrest. This, coupled with the 1853 Act, led to the plan to develop a dedicated Barracks for the Militia.

In 1854, the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions for the County of Denbigh reported, 'Militia Depot ordered in pursuance of the public notice given to the Clerk of the Peace'. The notice came from Robert Myddleton Biddulph Esquire, Lord Lieutenant of Denbighshire and Colonel Commandant of the Militia of said County and read 'do hereby represent that the place provided fit the purpose of keeping therein the arms &c belonging to said Regiment of Militia, namely the Town Hall, is insecure, insufficient and unfit for the safe custody of such arms. Given under my hand this Seventeenth day of September 1854'.

[5] Bryn Owen describes the disembodied regiment as 'in a state of suspended animation'.
[6] Ibid p.40

In October 1854 the Justices of the Peace ordered that 'secure and suitable Stores and an Orderly and guard room and magazine, and sufficient yard wherein the Militia may be mustered and also quarters for a Sergeant Major and six Sergeants be provided'.

3.1.4 ***Selection of site for the new barracks***

Land for the barracks was purchased adjacent to Regent Street from Thomas Bury[7]. The site seems to have been a prime area for development on the outskirts of Wrexham at the time. During the forty years between John Wood's survey of 1833 and the 1st edition ordnance survey of 1874, The Infirmary, St. Mary's RC Chapel and The Militia Barracks were built west of Regent Street while to the north east, ten villas in Grosvenor Road and twenty two smaller houses in King Street in addition to a Baptist Chapel were built. South east across the new road adjacent to the barracks lay gardens and directly south St. Mark's Church.

The designs for the barracks were drawn up by Thomas Penson (II) FRIBI, MICE (1790 – 1859) the County Surveyor of Denbighshire (QSD/SR/562). Penson worked in collaboration with Captain Dan McCoy the Adjutant of the Militia.

[7] A. N. Palmer in his 'History of Wrexham' Notes that 'recently the section of road between Priory Lane and Station Bridge has become known as 'Regent Street', but this whole was formerly known as 'Hope Street' (p.51)