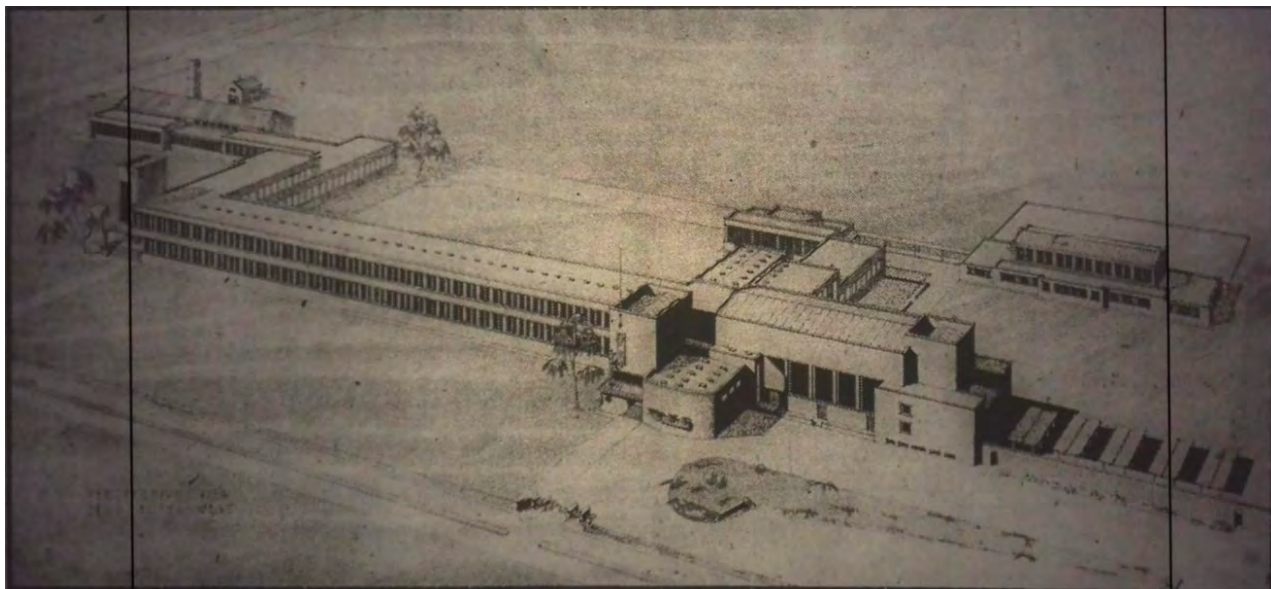


Historic Building Recording

Wrexham University

For Wrexham University



Author: Blair Poole & Rachael Matthews

Report Number: 24-1021

Historic Building Recording

Wrexham University

Client:	Wrexham University
Author(s):	Blair Poole & Rachael Matthews
Listed Building No:	1851
Planning Application:	P/2023/0901
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Dee Archaeological Services Ltd

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Crynodeb

Cofnodi adeiladau hanesyddol lefel 2 a wnaed ar goridor C ac ystafelloedd dosbarth i gael eu heffeithio gan waith adnewyddu ym Mhrifysgol Wrecsam gan Wasanaethau Archeolegol Dyfrdwy (DAS) ar ran Prifysgol Wrecsam. Gofynnodd CBSW am yr arolwg fel amod o Ganiatâd Adeilad Rhestredig. Mae'r safle wedi'i leoli i'r gogledd o Ffordd yr Wyddgrug, Wrecsam LL11 2AW, yn NGR 332612,351236.

Mae coridor C, sy'n rhan o'r bloc gwyddoniaeth a pheirianneg, o fewn yr adeilad rhestredig Gradd II (1851) a ddynodwyd ym 1994. Adeiladwyd yr adeilad fel Coleg Technegol Sir Ddinbych rhwng 1950-53. Cyn adeiladu'r adeilad, roedd yr ardal wedi bod yn cael ei defnyddio fel cae rasio a phorfa ers o leiaf diwedd yr 16^{eg} ganrif. Yr adeilad sy'n sefyll yw'r strwythur cyntaf i feddiannu'r safle.

Mae'r adeilad yn cynrychioli dyluniad trawiadol ac ystyriol o ran estheteg, gosodiad, golau ac acwsteg, ac ym 1956 dyfarnwyd medal efydd pensaernïol RIBA i'r penseiri yn ardal Cymdeithas Bensaernïol Lerpwl ar gyfer yr adeilad hwn. Mae'r dyluniad trawiadol yn ymestyn i'r addurniadau mewnol a'r gosodiadau, gyda nenfydau teils crog i wella acwsteg a gwasanaethau cudd. Mae teils a gomisiynwyd yn arbennig gan Peggy Angus i'w gweld o hyd gyda dreigiau arddullaid, cennin a golygfeydd haniaethol o gefn gwlad Cymru.

Roedd yr ystafelloedd dosbarth yn gynllun agored yn wreiddiol, gyda waliau brics yn Bond Saesneg, gydag addurniadau cynnil fel linteli concrit siamffrog ac ymylon brics trwynbwl ar y drysau allanol, goleuadau llusern ar hyd y coridor a ffenestri llawr cyntaf ar ddwy wal allanol yr ystafelloedd gogledd-ddwyreiniol, a ffenestri uchder llawn ar ddrychiad allanol y dosbarthiadau de-orllewinol.

Bu'r adeilad yn cael ei ddatblygu sawl cam, ac fe'i addasiadau ym 1992 i godi uchder y rhes unllawr cefn a diweddarau'r addurniadau mewnol.

Mae'r adeiladwaith gwreiddiol o'r 1950au i'w weld yn y cynllun presennol, gyda newidiadau diweddarach yn yr 20fed ganrif i'w gweld wrth godi waliau pared, ciwbiclau a gosod drysau i alluogi mynediad i ardaloedd sydd newydd eu hymestyn neu wedi'u rhannu. Nodwyd bod drws caeedig rhwng C36a a rhan ogledd-ddwyreiniol C36.



Abstract

A level 2 historic building recording undertaken at corridor C and classrooms to be impacted by renovation at Wrexham University by Dee Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of Wrexham University. The survey was requested by WCBC as a condition of Listed Building Consent. The site is located to the north of Mold Rd, Wrexham LL11 2AW, at NGR 332612,351236.

Corridor C, forming part of the science and engineering block, is within the Grade II listed building (1851) designated in 1994. The building was constructed as the Denbighshire Technical College between 1950-53. Prior to the construction of the building, the area had been in use as a racecourse and pasture since at least the end of the 16th century. The standing building forms the first structure to occupy the site.

The building represents an impressive, and well considered, design in terms of aesthetics, layout, light and acoustics, and in 1956 the architects were awarded the RIBA architectural bronze medal in the Liverpool Architectural Society's area for this building. The impressive design extends to the internal decoration and fixtures, with suspended tile ceilings to improve acoustics and hide services. Specially commissioned tiles from Peggy Angus can still be seen with stylised dragons, leeks and abstract views of the Welsh countryside.

The classrooms had originally been open plan, with brick walls in English Bond, with subtle decorations such as chamfered concrete lintels and bullnose brick edging on external doorways, lantern lights along the corridor and first floor windows on both external walls of the northeastern rooms, and full height windows on the southwestern classrooms external elevation.

The building underwent several phases of development, and underwent modifications in 1992 to raise the height of the rear single storey range and update the internal decorations.

The original 1950s construction can be seen in the current layout, with later 20th century modification seen in the erection of partition walls, cubicles and the insertion of doorways to enable access to newly extended or partitioned areas. A blocked doorway was noted between C36a and the northeastern section of C36.



1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of a level 2 historic building recording undertaken at the Science and Engineering Block of Wrexham University, by Dee Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of Cassidy + Ashton and Wrexham University.
- 1.2 The survey has been requested by Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) as a condition of Listed Building Consent (P/2023/0901) in order to adequately make a photographic record of the building before alteration, renovation and preserve this information by record. The standing building dates from between 1950 and 1953 and forms part of coherent and well planned campus, marking the first technical college in Wrexham, and a prime example of mid 20th century technical college design.
- 1.3 This document seeks to satisfy a planning condition attached to planning approval for the site as part of listed building consent. The survey was carried out by Blair Poole and Rachael Matthews of DAS on the 5th March 2024.
- 1.4 The site is located at Mold Rd, Wrexham LL11 2AW, at NGR 332612,351236 (Figure 1 & Figure 2). The site code allocated by DAS was 24-1021 and has been used to mark all site archive documents. The standing building is grade II listed (1851).
- 1.5 The work was carried out in line with the Code of Conduct as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2022) and the CIfA's standard and guidance for the recording of standing buildings or structures (CIfA, 2020). All works were carried out in accordance with Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice (Historic England, 2016).



2 Planning Background

2.1 Planning Framework

2.1.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act (Welsh Government, 2016) is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment in Wales and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

2.1.2 When considering a planning application, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) is bound by Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government, 2024) Section 6.1, and Technical advice note (TAN) 24: the historic environment (Welsh Government, 2017).

2.1.3 Planning application P/2023/0901 has been submitted for internal alterations of the science block. With respect to this application WCBC required the following condition:

“Condition 4:

No works shall commence until an appropriate photographic survey (equivalent to an Historic England Level 2 Photographic Survey - Understanding Historic Buildings, 2016, section 5 p.26) of the existing building/s has been carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The resulting digital photographs shall be forwarded on appropriate digital media to the Local Planning Authority and the National Monuments Record of Wales in Aberystwyth.”

2.1.4 The structure is a grade II listed building (1851) built in the between 1950 and 53 and designated in 1994. A recent Heritage Assessment (Henderson, 2023) identified that:

“Wrexham University, founded in 2008, has its Plas Coch campus located in the former Denbighshire Technical College, built after World War II between 1950 and 1953. The building is a well-designed modernist, purpose built technical college. It has a prominent frontage to Mold Road, acting as a local landmark to the town centre. Its innovation lies in the well-articulated building design with a strong and repetitive architectural pattern and its distinct and functional plan, engineering, heating, lighting, and acoustics design. It was the first technical college in Wrexham, coinciding with the demise of Wrexham’s traditional coal and steel industries. The building was listed Grade II in 1994 as part of a wider comprehensive listing resurvey of buildings in Wrexham.



It has evidential, historic, aesthetic, and communal significance as a well-designed technical collage of the mid 20th century."

- 2.1.5 The site does not lie within a conservation area, there are no scheduled monuments on the site, nor are there any registered battlefields or parks and gardens on or around the site.

2.2 Previous Work

- 2.2.1 Two design and access statements have been submitted relating to the site, one in 2018 (Day Architectural Ltd, 2018) and one specially relating to this application in 2023 (Cassidy + Ashton, 2023). A detailed Heritage Assessment was carried out by Henderson Heritage in December 2023 as part of this application, which highlighted the significance of the building (Henderson, 2023).

2.3 Topography

- 2.3.1 The site is located at one of the main gateways into Wrexham via the A483 at an area known as Plas Coch (Figure 1 & Figure 2). The building forms a local landmark to the north of Mold Road.
- 2.3.2 To the northwest of the site is the Plas Coch retail park, and to the north of the site lies a new housing estate and leisure centre. Wrexham Association Football Club's ground, historically called Cae Ras (the Racecourse) but currently called The STÖK Cae Ras ground, lies to the east of the site.
- 2.3.3 To the south of the site is Mold Road, a main thoroughfare into Wrexham, with residential properties lining the southern side of the road.
- 2.3.4 The study structure is the science and engineering block, Corridor C, located at the northern extent of the campus, close to the B5101 and Plas Coch (Figure 2). Proposals for the modifications to the block can be seen in Figure 3.



3 Archaeological & Historic Background

- 3.1 This section should be seen as a summary of the history of the site to address the construction and development of the structure. An extensive analysis was carried out by Kirsty Henderson as part of the Heritage Assessment (Henderson, 2023).
- 3.2 The site area lies within the boundary of the historic racecourse area of Wrexham. Races had been held on the site since at least the early 17th century, with a formal course laid out around 1739.
- 3.3 The land the University now occupies lies to the west of the main centre of Wrexham and was recorded as being used as pasture on the 1896 Tithe map of the township of Broughton. The land is owned by Sir W Watkin Williams at that time, and occupied by John Harrison, who also occupied the surrounding four fields. By the time of the 1898 Ordnance Survey (OS) 25" Denbighshire sheet XXVIII-NE the site area is formally recorded as 'Race Course' (Figure 4). The football ground to the southeast can be seen with stands off Mold Road.
- 3.4 This layout continues into the 20th century until the 1938 OS map (Figure 5) and the 1949 OS map (Figure 6) showing the development of the football ground into a much more formal setting. The 1957 OS map (Figure 7) is the first map to show the college in place.
- 3.5 The development of the building is tied in with the development of education, with Wrexham University and its predecessors being at the forefront of education. Calls for educational reform can be seen by 1867, leading to the Reform Bill and the Education Act of 1870. This gave a ten year program to ensure compulsory elementary level education was available by 1880. Vocational training was covered by the Technical Instruction Act of 1889. The Welsh Intermediate Education Act, followed shortly after, in 1889.
- 3.6 From 1887 the Wrexham School of Science and Art were offering technical qualifications from their central Wrexham campus. From by 1924 they offered degrees validated by the University of London. Technical qualifications had been a staple of education since the industrial revolution and were well established by the mid 19th century. Technical colleges included classrooms to train up young people of secondary school age to specific trades. Combined with these were gymnasium facilities to help with fitness (Henderson, 2023). The Denbighshire Technical Institute operated out of the Regent Street campus from 1927.
- 3.7 The post war period saw a rise in the demand for a tertiary educational system, and it was thought that technical colleges could provide trade training and commercial education. The 1944 Education Act saw the provision of better buildings, county colleges, and some major colleges of further education. In North Wales, Denbighshire



Technical College was one of a few sites identified for improvement and development, becoming the first purpose built technical college in Wrexham.



Plate 1: Construction of the campus in 1950 (Peoples Collection Wales)

- 3.8 The Plas Coch campus commenced construction in 1950 (Plate 1) as a coherent modernist design around a large rear quadrangle, with three primary blocks, all overlooking the quadrangle to allow good light ingress, with Corridor C being constructed for teaching physics, chemistry, and biological sciences. The original design by Sir Patrick Abercromby, saw laboratories sited on the ground floor and classrooms above. Internal decorative elements were commissioned and the original tiles in the main foyer, designed by Peggy Angus as a representation of the flow of learning, are still on display.
- 3.9 The Workshop Block to corridor C forms the area of interest for this survey, where modifications have been proposed. This block sits at right angles to the main corridor C area and can be seen on the 1950 aerial image of construction above.
- 3.10 The 1957 OS map (Figure 7) shows the workshop block in detail. This layout is slightly narrower than the current structure, highlighting the extension to the block to the northeast and north west.



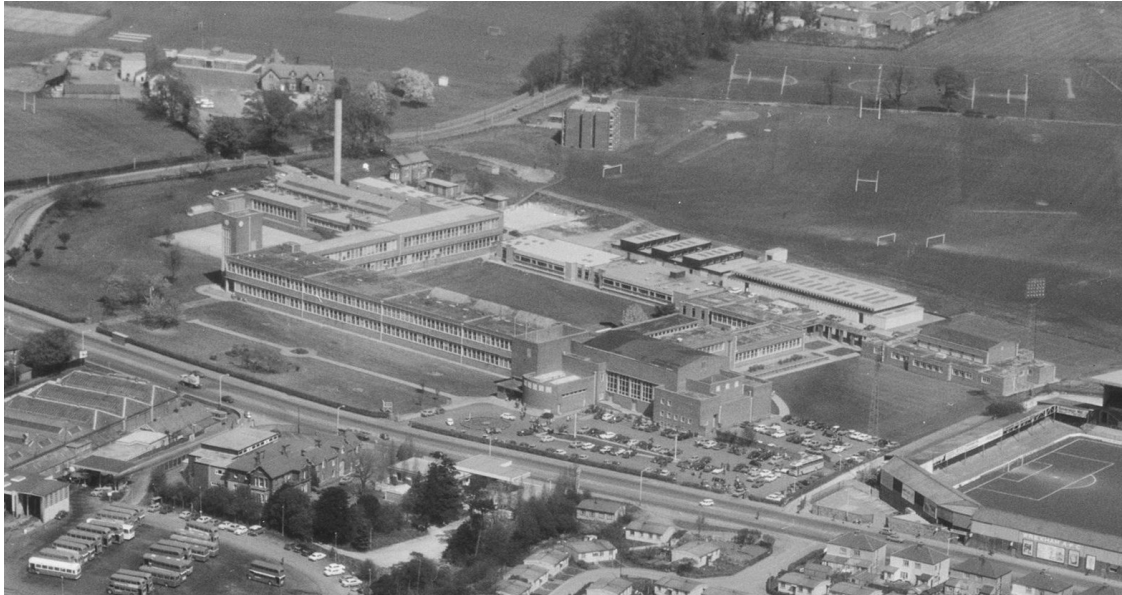


Plate 2: The campus in 1977 (Peoples Collection Wales)

- 3.11 These can be seen on the 1979 OS map (Figure 9) showing how quickly the site developed. By this time, following a number of name changes, the college was known as the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI), which had been created in 1975 with the merger of a series of technical colleges (Plate 2).
- 3.12 In 2008 NEWI was awarded university status and rebranded as Glyndwr University, after Owain Glyndwr. Since 2023 the university has been known as Wrexham University.



4 Aims & Objectives

4.1 Aims

4.1.1 The principal aims of the project were:

- To make a visual record of the area of interest of the standing building.
- To aid in the understanding of the form, function and any phasing of the standing building.
- To provide an illustrated, written and drawn record of the historic elements of the building, prior to any further works taking place.

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 The general objectives were:

- To undertake historic research on the site at relevant repositories.
- To undertake a photographic survey of the area of interest.
- To make a detailed record to Level 2 standard of the elements noted above as per Historic England standard and guidance (2016).
- To produce a formal report on the results of the survey, which will be fully illustrated.



5 Methodology

5.1 The survey was carried out in line a Level 2 record based on Historic England Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (Historic England, 2016). A photographic record was produced on site which have been used to produce the conclusion to this final report.

5.2 To satisfy the requirements of the project, and in line with the guidance (2016), the following information was recorded:

- The information contained in the record for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the structure itself.
- The documentary sources used are those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources.
- The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a national grid reference.
- The note of any statutory designation (that is, listing, scheduling, Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, conservation area), where applicable. Non-statutory designations (local lists) may be added.
- The date when the record was made, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and the location of any archive material.
- A longer summary statement which summarises the structure's form, function, date, and sequence of development. The names of architects, builders, patrons, and owners were given where known. Its purpose is to describe the structure when no fuller record is necessary.

5.3 All photographs were taken using a digital SLR at a minimum of 12mp. An appropriate, graduated scale was used in all relevant photographs and where necessary artificial light sources were also used. A full photographic index and record is kept, and a plan showing the location photographs were taken from and the direction facing will be kept and included into the body of this report. All photographs will be given a unique number to be used for identification. This unique number will be used in the labelling of digital images. Photograph locations and directions of view will be marked on plans of the sturcture.

5.4 The photographs taken included the following:

- A general view or views of the structure.
- Views of the internal structures layout where changes are proposed (Figure 3 & Figure 10).



- The overall appearance of the principal areas of the lock gate and circulation areas.
- Any structural or decorative detail, which is relevant to the structures design, development, and use, with scale where appropriate.



6 Results

6.1 A site visit was undertaken on 5th March 2024 by Blair Poole and Rachael Matthews of DAS on behalf of Wrexham University. The area of study forms the workshop block of corridor C, including the central corridor, and rooms C34, C36, C36a, C41, C41b, C43 (Figure 10).

6.2 The Corridor

6.2.1 The corridor runs along a northwest-southeast alignment offering access to the classrooms on both sides, and accessed via the courtyard to the southeast and an exit towards Plas Coch at the northwest (Plate 3).

6.2.2 The decorative style of the corridor has a very late 20th century feel of geometric patterns and false columns. This may form part of the 1992 refit of the college.



Plate 3: The corridor, looking southeast

6.2.3 The corridor is well lit via a combination of strip lighting and lantern lights allowing natural light in. These lantern lights are all later 20th century replacements of metal frames and uPVC coating (Plate 4).





Plate 4: Lantern light over corridor

6.2.4 The northeast side of the corridor is lined by display cases, with wooden frames and metal vents situated below (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Display cases along corridor

6.2.5 The display cases appear to be original features that have been painted to match the livery of the late 20th century refit. At the southeastern entrance to the corridor is a small sink area that represents a 21st century modification, located in a partitioned entrance vestibule (Plate 6).





Plate 6: Sink in entrance vestibule

6.2.6 The northwestern end of the corridor is marked by an emergency exit (Plate 7), mirroring the entrance vestibule to the southeast.



Plate 7: Northwest emergency exit



6.3 Room C34

6.3.1 Room C34 was located to the northeast of the corridor at the southeastern end. The room was a classroom that had been subdivided into smaller office pods (Plate 8). These pods were of wooden frames and are clearly late 20th to early 21st century inserted elements, leaving the entrance area open (Plate 8 & Plate 9).



Plate 8: Room C34 looking southwest

6.3.2 The rooms were of painted brickwork, in English Bond of alternating header/stretcher courses (Plate 9).



Plate 9: Room C34 looking southeast



6.3.3 This bond was present to full height on the northeast, southeast and southwest walls, however, the northwest wall only showed brickwork up to a height of 1.2m, where a course of bullnose bricks forms a radial edge, suggesting the wall was inset from this point. Above the bullnose course, panelling has been installed to ceiling height (Plate 10). This feature has been seen in other institutional buildings, such as trade schools in Lancashire, where window walls are present to allow greater light and visibility between areas.



Plate 10: Room C34 pod form, with bullnose brick course



Plate 11: Room C34, looking northwest

6.3.4 The southwestern wall, bounding the corridor, is the only full height wall visible, as a floating ceiling has been installed, thought to be concealing the earlier



fixings and ephemera from the technical college such as pulleys and hoists. Aerial imagery from the time of construction shows the roof as a gables construction with roof lights allowing natural light into the structure (Plate 1). Where the ceiling slopes up, it revealed the first floor level, with large windows allowing natural light into the room from above the corridor (Plate 11).

- 6.3.5 The bullnose brick design can also be seen in the edging of the emergency exit on the northeast wall, which have been painted red, as has the concrete lintel (Plate 12). Modern safety doors have been installed to replace the original fixtures.



Plate 12: Room C34 northeastern exit

6.4 Room C36a

- 6.4.1 To the northwest of C34 was Room C36a, accessed via Room C36 discussed below. As with C34 the room had been sub-divided by low partitions, however, in this case they were angled partitions for audio functions (Plate 13). These were all modern insertions and not part of the original layout of the room. The open plan of the room and presence of an inserted late 20th century staircase, allowed for good views at the time of survey to help understand the original layout of the classrooms.





Plate 13: Room C36a, looking southeast

6.4.2 The walls were of painted blue and were of English bond brickwork, showing the same design features as room C34, with bullnosed bricks running along the wall between C34 and 36a, and panelling above.



Plate 14: Room C36a, looking southwest

6.4.3 The full ceiling was a suspended tiled ceiling obscuring the original features, meeting the northeast and southwest walls at the window lintel height (Plate 14). The windows, as with C34, were situated at first floor height, above the roof of the corridor, allowing natural light into the room. This is mirrored on the northeast wall (Plate 15), where the eastern window has been blocked to account for the erection of an extension outside this room.





Plate 15: Room C36a, looking northeast

6.4.4 The northeast wall had a series of cabinets attached to the wall and an inserted doorway at the eastern end. This doorway is not an original feature and has a simple wooden frame inserted into the original brickwork.

6.4.5 Located central to the room, leading to the first floor level of the northwest wall, is a wooden staircase (Plate 16). This does not appear to be an original feature and likely dates to the later 20th century, when the area above C36 was converted to a classroom. The staircase is not tied into the construction of the wall, but instead has been attached to it.



Plate 16: Room C36a, staircase

6.4.6 Below the staircase is the access to room C36, which has a simple wooden frame, with a concrete lintel above (Plate 17).





Plate 17: Room C36a, doorway to C36

6.4.7 To the east of the doorway to C36 is a blocked doorway, marked by an *in-situ* concrete lintel and differing brickwork infill. This second, blocked, doorway leads to the eastern half of C36, currently only accessible via C38 (Figure 10).

6.5 Room C36 West

6.5.1 Room C36 allows access to C36a from the corridor via a simple wooden frame doorway with concrete lintel, and is a single storey barrow room of painted brick in English Bond (Plate 18).





Plate 18: Room C36, doorway to corridor

6.5.2 The ceiling for C36 is a ridged concrete construction (Plate 19), which currently has a classroom above, however may have originally been a mezzanine based on the early images of the construction of the campus.



Plate 19: Room C36, ceiling

6.5.3 The simple form of the room (Plate 20) suggests a possible cloakroom giving access to the workshops, where coveralls or work wear could be put on prior to practical work commencing.





Plate 20: Room C36, looking northeast

6.6 Room C6 East

6.6.1 The counterpart of C36 west is C36 east, accessed via C38, and retains much of the original fabric, suggesting C36 west may have looked similar at point of construction.

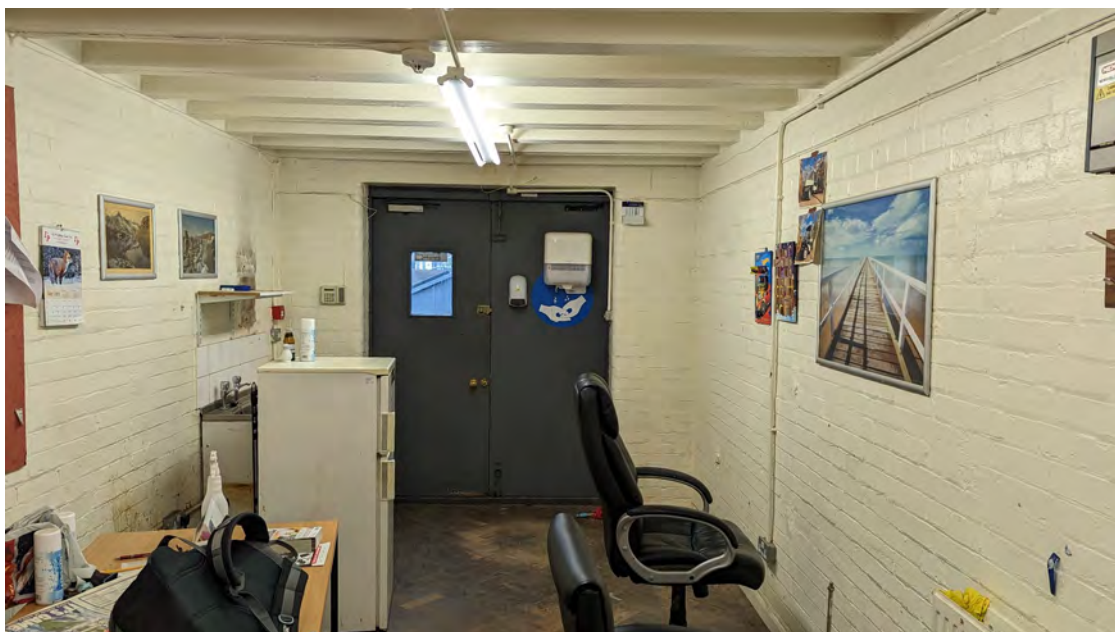


Plate 21: Room C36 east, looking northeast

6.6.2 The brickwork, in English Bond, has been painted with. The wooden parquet flooring is intact laid in a herringbone pattern, with linear edging (Plate 22).





Plate 22: Room C36 east, parquet flooring

6.6.3 At the western end of the room the blocked doorway is evident via differing brick fabric and the lintel above where the doorway would have been (Plate 23).



Plate 23: Room C36 east, looking southwest

6.7 Room C36 First Floor

6.7.1 Above C36 the area has been enclosed to form a modern classroom (Plate 24). The northwestern wall is of brick in English Bond, suggesting a hard division between C36a and C38. The southeastern wall was a partition and window wall and was not load bearing, being constructed of a stud framework.





Plate 24: Room C36 first floor, looking southwest

6.7.2 The window on the northeastern wall matches the first floor windows on the northeast wall of C36a, with sloped tiled cills and concrete lintel (Plate 25).



Plate 25: Room C36 first floor, looking northeast

6.8 Room C43

6.8.1 To the southwest of the corridor was C43, a subdivided room at the northwest of the block (Figure 10). The first area was access via the corridor was a practical room with a series of hooded chemical units along the northeast wall. The entrance was via a small partitioned area, divided from the main room by a stud



wall (Plate 26). This partitioning is a late 20th to early 21st century modification to the room.



Plate 26: Entrance to C43

6.8.2 The exposed areas of the southeast, northeast and northwest walls showed painted brick in English Bond, as seen in the previous rooms. On the southeast wall a doorway leading to C41b was identified as a later modification, with the doorway inserted into the wall in the later 20th or 21st century. The lack of lintel and abrupt changes to the brickwork support this statement. The doorway to the corridor retains the concrete lintel style seen elsewhere, suggesting that this was the original access point.

6.8.3 A suspended tile ceiling and modern floor covering obscure any historic fabric in those areas. The southwestern wall was a late 20th to 21st century stud partition wall dividing off what would have been the other half of this classroom (Plate 27).





Plate 27: Room C43 first floor, looking northwest

6.8.4 The southwestern partition of C43 continues the suspended ceiling and coated flooring, however the southwestern wall contains the full height windows that are integral to the design of the college from the 1950s and offer a great deal of natural light into the space (Plate 28). The doorway leading into this area, via C41b, appears to be a later inserted frame, with none of the original design features, such as concrete lintel or bullnosed edging, present.



Plate 28: Room C43 first floor, looking southeast

6.8.5 To the northwest corner of the room the original exit doors can be found matching those seen in C34, with concrete lintel and bullnose brick edging to the sides (Plate 29).





Plate 29: Room C43 first floor, looking northwest



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7 Crynodeb a Graddoli

7.1 Crynodeb

- 7.1.1 Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn manylu ar ganlyniadau lefel 2 o gofnod adeiladau hanesyddol a gyflawnwyd ym Mloc Gwyddoniaeth a Pheirianeg Prifysgol Wrecsam gan Wasanaethau Archeolegol Dyfrdwy (DAS) ar ran Prifysgol Wrecsam. Gofynnodd CBSW am yr arolwg fel amod o Ganiatâd Adeilad Rhestredig (P/2023/0901). Mae'r ddogfen hon yn ceisio bodloni amod cynllunio sydd ynghlwm wrth ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y safle fel rhan o ganiatâd adeilad rhestredig.
- 7.1.2 Cynhaliwyd yr arolwg gan Blair Poole a Rachael Matthews o DAS ar 5 Mawrth 2024. Mae'r safle i'r gogledd o Ffordd yr Wyddgrug, Wrecsam LL11 2AW, yn NGR 332612,351236.
- 7.1.3 Mae coridor C, sy'n rhan o'r bloc gwyddoniaeth a pheirianeg, o fewn yr adeilad rhestredig Gradd II (1851) a ddynodwyd ym 1994. Mae'r disgrifiad rhestru ar gyfer y coleg yn cofnodi iddo gael ei "adeiladu fel Coleg Technegol Sir Ddinbych ym 1950-53. i ddyluniadau Saxon, Smith & Partners o Gaer gydag R R Jennings & Partners yn beirianwyr ymgynghorol, a Holland, Hanner & Cubitt fel y contractwyr". Cyn adeiladu'r adeilad, roedd yr ardal wedi bod yn cael ei defnyddio fel cae rasio a phorfa ers o leiaf diwedd yr 16^{eg} ganrif. Yr adeilad sy'n sefyll yw'r strwythur cyntaf i feddiannu'r safle.
- 7.1.4 Mae'r adeilad yn ddyluniad trawiadol ac ystyriol o ran estheteg, gosodiad, golau i mewn ac acwsteg. Mae ei adeiladu yn dod o fewn ysgogiad ehangach yn y cyfnod ar ôl y rhyfel ar gyfer adeiladu colegau technegol, yn y gobaith o ailadeiladu'r economi. Roedd y dyluniad mor drawiadol fel y dyfarnwyd medal efydd pensaernïol RIBA i'r penseiri yn ardal Cymdeithas Bensaernïol Lerpwl ar gyfer yr adeilad hwn ym 1956. Mae'r dyluniad trawiadol yn ymestyn i'r addurniadau mewnol a'r gosodiadau, gyda nenfydau teils crog i wella acwsteg a gwasanaethau cudd. Mae teils a gomisiynwyd yn arbennig gan Peggy Angus i'w gweld o hyd gyda dreigiau arddulliaidd, cennin a golygfeydd haniaethol o gefn gwlad Cymru.
- 7.1.5 Bu'r adeilad yn mynd trwy sawl cyfnod o ddatblygiad, a gwnaed addasiadau ym 1992 i godi uchder y rhes unllawr cefn a diweddarau'r addurniadau mewnol.
- 7.1.6 Adeiladwyd Coridor C, maes astudio'r arolwg hwn, i ddechrau fel rhes o frics talcen ar gyfer addysgu ymarferol, a dyna'r rheswm am gynllun cynllun agored yr ystafell ddosbarth, gan roi ystyriaeth ofalus i fewnlifiad golau naturiol. Mae delwedd o'r awyr o'r 1950au o'r adeilad yn dangos bod gan y to gwreiddiol ffenestri to dros yr ystafelloedd dosbarth, sydd bellach wedi'u tynnu. Roedd y coridor unllawr a oedd yn rhoi mynediad hefyd yn caniatáu ffenestri ar rannau uchaf y waliau allanol, ar y



ddau wyneb, i ganiatáu golau naturiol i mewn. Roedd goleuadau llusern uwchben y coridor hefyd yn bwydo i mewn i'r dyluniad hwn.

- 7.1.7 Roedd bwriad dylunio'r coridor yn amlwg adeg yr arolwg, ac ychydig o newidiadau a welwyd. Roedd y wal ogledd-ddwyreiniol wedi'i leinio â chasys arddangos rhwng mynediad i'r ystafell ddosbarth, gyda wal y de-orllewin yn cael ei gadael heb ei haddurno. Mae goleuadau llusern yn rhedeg ar hyd y coridor gyda mynediad drws dwbl ar bob pen, gan fynd i mewn i fynedfeydd bach. Mae addurniad y coridor o arddull diwedd yr 20^{fed} ganrif, yn dyddio yn ôl pob tebyg i ailwampio 1992.
- 7.1.8 Mae'r ystafelloedd dosbarth yn ffurfio dau fath gwahanol, gyda'r rhai i'r gogledd-ddwyrain yn ddeulawr, o wneuthuriad brics, wedi'u rhannu gan wal frics addurniadol. Roedd y rhai i'r de-orllewin yn gynllun agored, wedi'u hadeiladu o frics, wedi'u rhannu â wal raniad syml yn unig.
- 7.1.9 Roedd yr ystafelloedd dosbarth gogledd-ddwyreiniol o ddyluniad iwtilitaraidd mewn bricwaith o English Bond, ffenestri ar lefel ail lawr ar ddrychiadau gogledd-ddwyrain a de-orllewinol, a drysau yn cynnwys linteli concrit. Mae briciau trwynbwl yn nodi ymylon yr allanfeydd drws dwbl i'r tu allan ar wynebau'r gogledd-ddwyrain. Roedd gan y wal rannu rhwng C34 a C36a frics trwynbwl 1.2m uwchben lefel y llawr sy'n awgrymu bod rhan uchaf y wal naill ai'n deneuach o ran proffil neu'n cynnwys ffenestri rhwng ystafelloedd. Hyd yn oed gyda chodiau modern a rhaniad o fewn C34 a C36a roedd y cynllun gwreiddiol yn amlwg, fel ystafelloedd dosbarth cynllun agored. Credir bod y grisiau sy'n arwain at yr ardal uwchben C36 yn ychwanegiad diweddarach, gyda'r cynllun gwreiddiol yn cynnwys y gofod uwchben C36 yn ardal mesanîn.
- 7.1.10 Credir mai ystafelloedd cotiau oedd Ystafell C36, sydd wedi'i rhannu'n ddwy ardal, a gellid cael mynediad iddi o'r coridor a thrwy C36a a C38. Byddai'r lloriau parquet a oedd yn bresennol yn rhan ogledd-ddwyreiniol C36 wedi lledaenu drwy'r ystafelloedd dosbarth gan ffurfio llawr priodol ar gyfer gweithdai. Ni chredir bod y nenfydau crog yn wreiddiol gan y byddent wedi negyddu'r golau sy'n dod i mewn o'r ffenestri to, ac maent yn ychwanegiad diweddarach, sy'n debygol o gynorthwyo acwsteg a chuddio gosodiadau ac effemera o gyfnod defnydd y gweithdy, cyn y trawsnewid i fod yn dawelach. ystafelloedd dosbarth.
- 7.1.11 Roedd Ystafell C43 yn wreiddiol yn ystafell cynllun agored gyda ffenestri uchder llawn ar hyd yr edrychiad de-orllewinol. Nid oes tystiolaeth o ffenestri ar lefel llawr cyntaf ar yr edrychiadau gogledd orllewinol, fodd bynnag byddai'r ffenestri to a welwyd ar ddelwedd awyr y 1950au wedi bod yn ddigonol. Dim ond drwy'r coridor y byddai'r cynllun gwreiddiol wedi bod, ond mae addasiadau diweddarach wedi rhannu'r ystafell yn ddau, gan osod drysau rhwng C43 a C41b.



Roedd y drws allanol ar gornel dde-orllewinol y rom yn cyd-fynd â'r rhai a welwyd ar y drychiad gogledd-ddwyreiniol, gydag ymyl brics trwynbwl a linteli concrit.

- 7.1.12 Er ei fod yn iwtilitaraidd o ran dylunio i ganiatáu ar gyfer dysgu ymarferol, aeth llawer iawn o feddwl i'r dyluniad o ran elfennau golau ac addurniadol.

7.2Graddoli

- 7.2.1 Mae'r adeiladwaith gwreiddiol o'r 1950au i'w weld yn y cynllun presennol, gyda newidiadau diweddarach o'r 20^{fed} ganrif i'w gweld wrth godi parwydydd, ciwbiclau a gosod drysau i alluogi mynediad i ardaloedd sydd newydd eu hymestyn neu wedi'u rhannu. Nodwyd bod drws caeedig rhwng C36a a rhan ogledd-ddwyreiniol C36.



8 Summary & Phasing

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 This report details the results of a level 2 historic building recording undertaken at the Science and Engineering Block of Wrexham University by Dee Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of Wrexham University. The survey was requested by WCBC as a condition of Listed Building Consent (P/2023/0901). This document seeks to satisfy a planning condition attached to planning approval for the site as part of listed building consent.
- 8.1.2 The survey was carried out by Blair Poole and Rachael Matthews of DAS on the 5th March 2024. The site is located to the north of Mold Rd, Wrexham LL11 2AW, at NGR 332612,351236.
- 8.1.3 Corridor C, forming part of the science and engineering block, is within the Grade II listed building (1851) designated in 1994. The listing description for the college records it as being *“built as the Denbighshire Technical College in 1950-53 to the designs of Saxon, Smith & Partners of Chester with R R Jennings & Partners as the consulting engineers, and Holland, Hanner & Cubitt as the contractors”*. Prior to the construction of the building, the area had been in use as a racecourse and pasture since at least the end of the 16th century. The standing building forms the first structure to occupy the site.
- 8.1.4 The building represents an impressive, and well considered, design in terms of aesthetics, layout, light ingress and acoustics. It's construction falls within a wider impetus in the post war period for construction of technical colleges, in the hopes of rebuilding the economy. The design was so impressive that in 1956 the architects were awarded the RIBA architectural bronze medal in the Liverpool Architectural Society's area for this building. The impressive design extends to the internal decoration and fixtures, with suspended tile ceilings to improve acoustics and hide services. Specially commissioned tiles from Peggy Angus can still be seen with stylised dragons, leeks and abstract views of the Welsh countryside.
- 8.1.5 The building underwent several phases of development, and underwent modifications in 1992 to raise the height of the rear single storey range and update the internal decorations.
- 8.1.6 Corridor C, the area of study for this survey, was initially constructed as a gable ended brick range for practical teaching, hence the open plan classroom layout, with careful thought given to natural light ingress. The 1950s aerial image of the building shows that the roof original had roof lights over the classrooms, now removed. The single story corridor giving access also allowed for windows on the



upper sections of the external walls, on both faces, to allow natural light in. Lantern lights above the corridor also fed into this design approach.

- 8.1.7 The design intent of the corridor was evident at the time of survey, with little changes seen. The northeastern wall was lined with display cases between classroom access, with the southwest wall left unadorned. Lantern lights run the length of the corridor with double door access at each end, entering into small entranceways. The decoration of the corridor is of late 20th century styling, likely dating to the 1992 refit.
- 8.1.8 The classrooms form two distinct types, with those to the northeast being two storey, of brick construction, divided by a decorative brick wall. Those to the southwest were open plan, of brick construction, only divided by a simple partition wall.
- 8.1.9 The northeastern classrooms were of utilitarian design in brickwork of English Bond, windows at second storey level on both northeast and southwest elevations, and doorways containing concrete lintels. Bullnosed bricks mark the edges of the double door exits to the outside on the northeast faces. The dividing wall between C34 and C36a had bullnose bricks at 1.2m above floor level suggesting the upper section of the wall was either thinner in profile or contained windows between rooms. Even with modern pods and division within C34 and C36a the original layout was apparent, as open plan classrooms. The stairs leading to the area above C36 are thought to be a later addition, with the original design having the space above C36 a mezzanine area.
- 8.1.10 Room C36, divided into two areas are thought to have been cloakrooms and could be accessed from the corridor and via C36a and C38. Parquet flooring present in the northeast part of C36 would have spread throughout the classrooms forming an appropriate flooring for workshops. The suspended ceilings are not thought to be original as they would have negated the light ingress from the roof lights, and are a later addition, likely aiding in acoustics and obscuring fixtures and ephemera from the workshop period of use, prior to the conversion to quieter classrooms.
- 8.1.11 Room C43 was originally an open plan room with full height windows along the southwestern elevation. There is no evidence of windows at first floor level on the northwestern elevations, however the roof lights seen on the 1950s aerial image would have been sufficient. The original layout would have only been via the corridor, but later modifications have divided the room in two, inserting doorways between C43 and C41b. The external doorway at the southwestern corner of the room matched those seen on the northeastern elevation, with bullnose brick edging and concrete lintels.



8.1.12 Although utilitarian in design to allow for practical learning, a great deal of thought went into the design in terms of light and decorative elements.

8.2 Phasing

8.2.1 The original 1950s construction can be seen in the current layout, with later 20th century modification seen in the erection of partition walls, cubicles and the insertion of doorways to enable access to newly extended or partitioned areas. A blocked doorway was noted between C36a and the northeastern section of C36.



9 Archives

- 9.1 The site has a digital only archive: a full (selected) archive will be deposited with the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monument of Wales (RCAHMW). The full photographic record and report will also be supplied to Wrexham University for their records.



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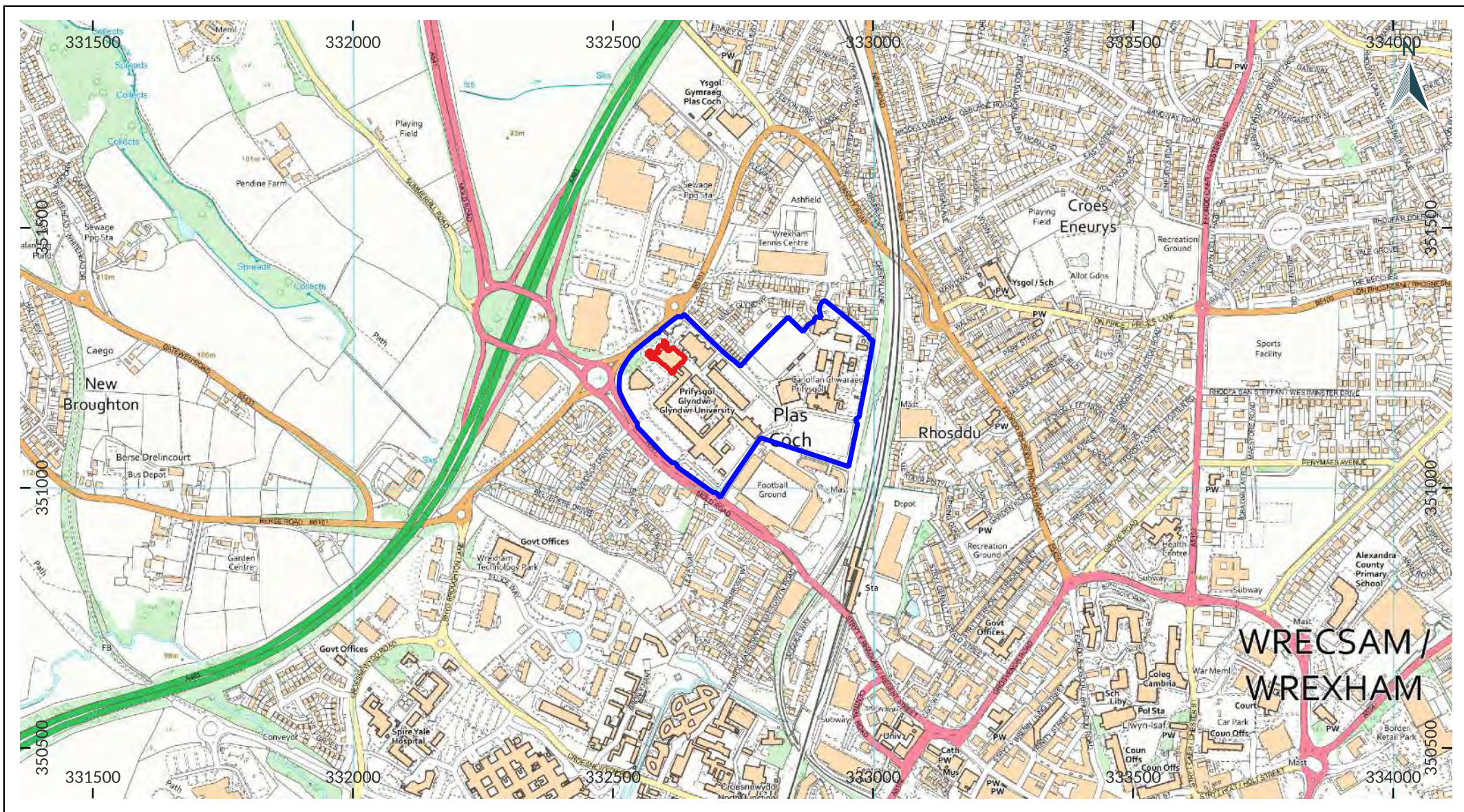
Figures



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0 200 400 m

Scale 1:10000 @A4

Legend

 Site Area Study Area

Figure 1: Site Location

Project: 24-1021 - Wrexham University

Report ref: 24-1021-HBR-v1