



Figure 118 D Block R 11 View SW from corridor doorway into entry room.



Figure 119 D Block R 11 Entry room, view SE from main room doorway.



Figure 120 D Block R 11 View W across main room from doorway in E corner.



Figure 121 D block R11 SE elevation.



Figure 122 D block R11 view to E from W corner.



Figure 123 R 11 SW elevation window detail.



Figure 124 R 11 SW elevation window detail



Figure 125 R 11 SW elevation wall top windows (covered) and ceiling with light fitting detail.



Figure 126 D block Room 12 NE elevation.

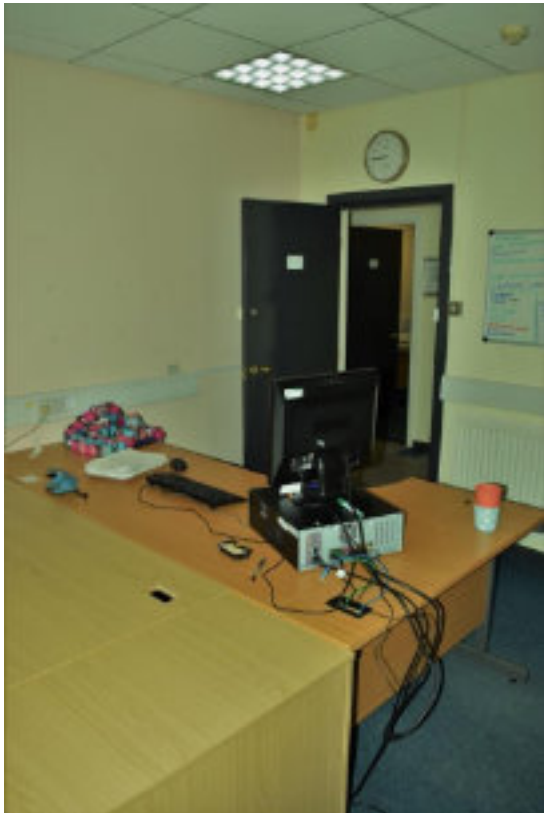


Figure 127 R 12 View to S from N corner.



Figure 128 D Block R 12 Typical D block door.



Figure 129 R 12 NW elevation Door to R 14.

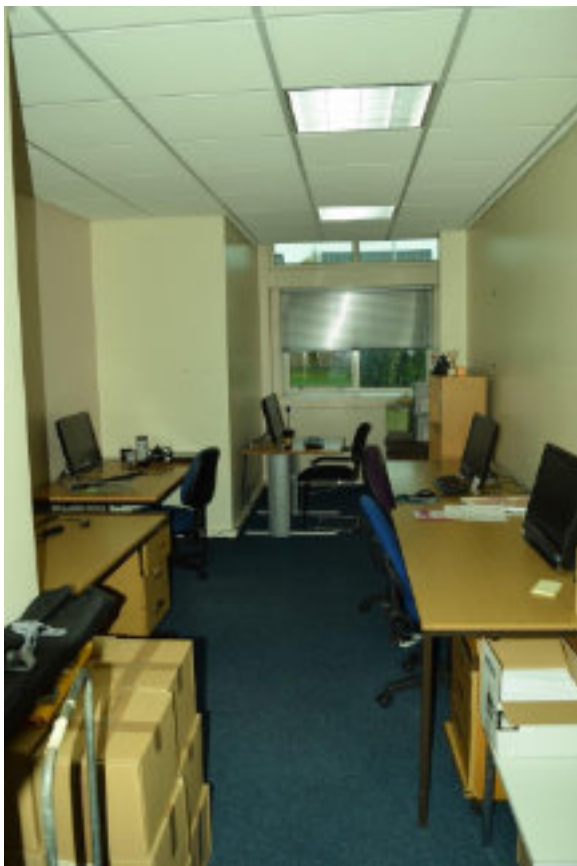


Figure 130 R 13 View SW from doorway.



Figure 131 R 13 SW elevation window. Strip window panes at top is a regular design feature.

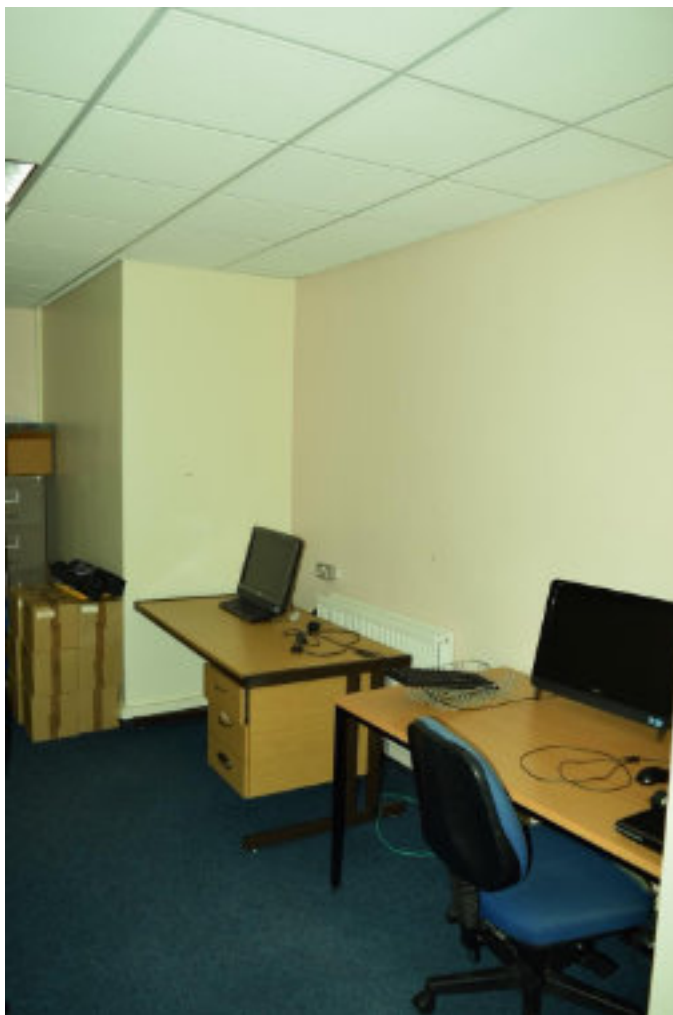


Figure 132 R 13 Oblique view down SE elevation.



Figure 133 R 13 NE elevation.



Figure 134 D Block R 14 view from doorway from R 12 in SE elevation. Door to R 16a in centre of NW elevation.



Figure 135 R 14 from NW, Door to R 12 in centre of SE elevation.



Figure 136 R 14 View from N corner, door to main corridor on R.



Figure 137 R 14 view along NE elevation from NW.



Figure 138 R 14 NE elevation window detail.



Figure 139 R 14 Viewed from E corner.



Figure 140 R 14 SW elevation, door to corridor.

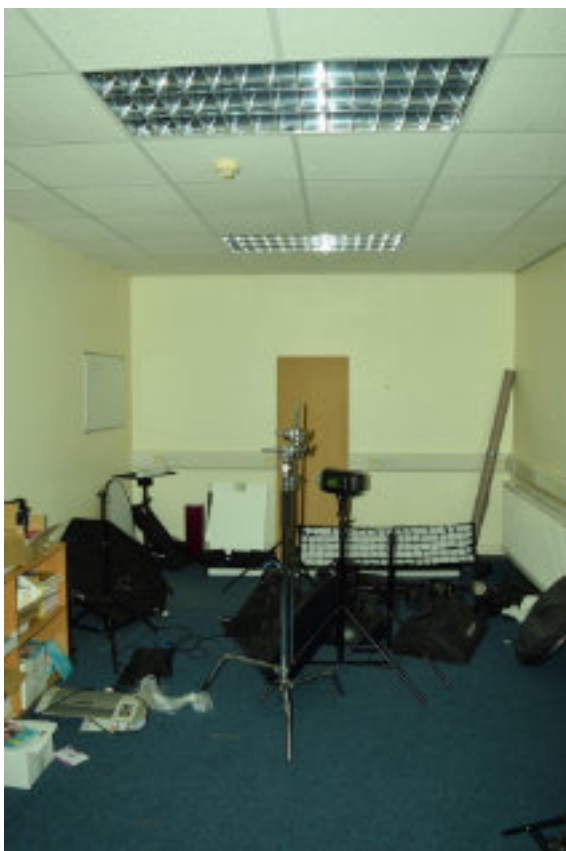


Figure 141 R 16a View from NE.



Figure 142 R 16a View to NE.



Figure 143 R 16 sign.

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Figure 144 R 16NE elevation with door to R 16b.



Figure 145 R 16b NE elevation.



Figure 146 R 16c Ladies WCs NE elevation.



Figure 147 D block R 16C View to SW.



Figure 148 R 18 view NE from door.



Figure 149 R 18 View NW.



Figure 150 D Block, R 18 Translucent tiles for rooflight in WCs.



Figure 151 D block Exit at mid point of NE elevation (see Fig. 17 above).



Figure 152 Corridor NE elevation outside R 26, recess in wall.



Figure 153 Small sample of equipment and materials found in stores and corners of offices.

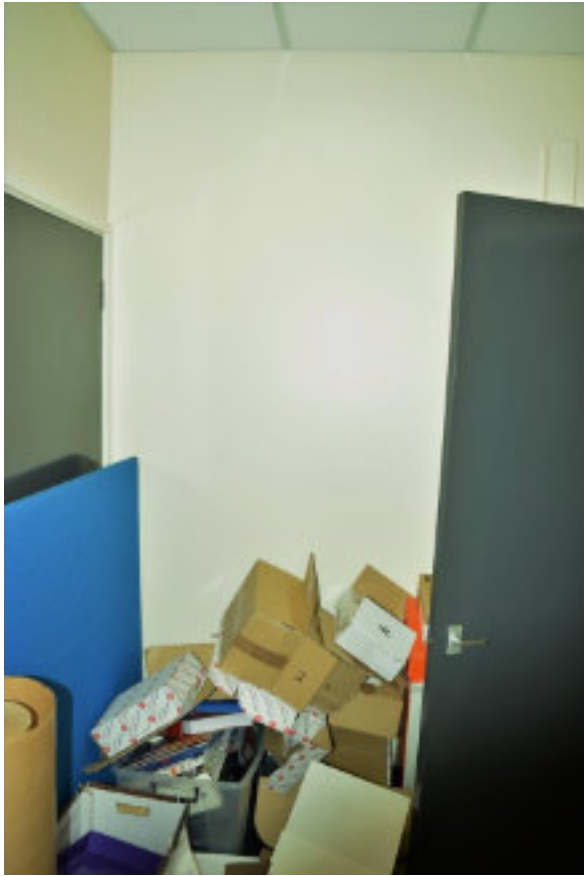


Figure 154 Typical cupboard debris.



Figure 155 R 30 SW elevation.

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Figure 156 D block View SE down main corridor.



Figure 157 D block NW end of main corridor, R 32 on R, R29 on L.



Figure 158 R 29 Door and glass panels in wall looking into corridor, from NE.



Figure 159 R 29 Door and glass panels in wall looking into corridor, from E.

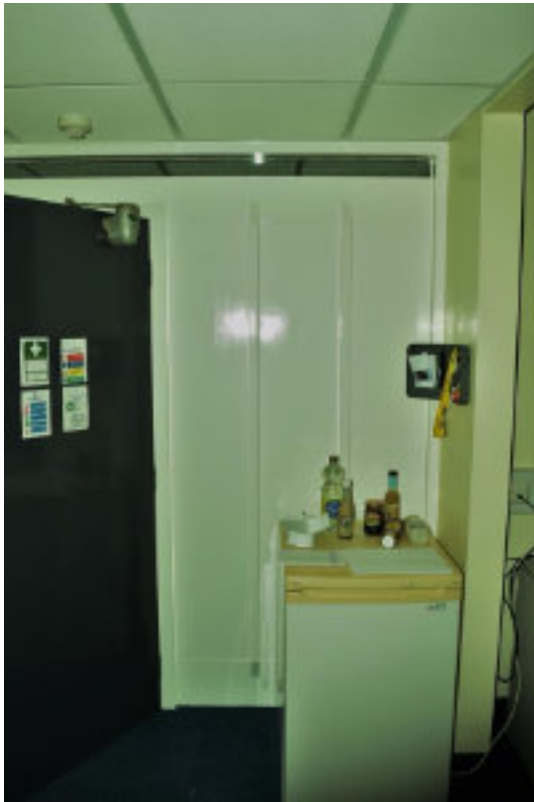


Figure 160 R 29 NE elevation Painted over glass panels.



Figure 161 R 31 NW elevation.



Figure 162 R33 View NW.



Figure 163 R33 View SE.



Figure 164 R33 SW elevation window.



Figure 165 R 33 Translucent ceiling tiles for natural light from roof light.



Figure 166 R 27 View S from N corner.



Figure 167 R 27 SW elevation.



Figure 168 R 27 View from E towards W corner.



Figure 169 R 27 Door from corridor, sign showing changing circulation patterns.



Figure 170 R 23 'No Unauthorised Access' sign.



Figure 171 R 21 NW elevation with projector and screen.



Figure 172 R 21 View from S corner looking N.



Figure 173 R 21 NE elevation.



Figure 174 R21 SE elevation.



Figure 175 R21 SW elevation.



Figure 176 R17 SW elevation.



Figure 177 R 17 SW elevation.



Figure 178 R 15a View to SW.



Figure 179 R 15a View to SW.



Figure 180 R 15a SW elevation window detail, oblique view, note covered horizontal strip window above main window.



Figure 181 R 15a SW elevation window detail, note covered horizontal strip window above main window.



Figure 182 Vertical recess SW side of corridor, S end of exterior of R 15



Figure 183 D block photo viewpoints.



Figure 186 U R1 Security rest room NW elevation (originally w.cs.).



Figure 187 SU R1 Skylight.



Figure 188 SU R1 Over-painted tiles on wall.



Figure 189 SU R2 Security office SE elevation.



Figure 190 SU R2 SE elevation.



Figure 191 SU R2 SW elevation window (over-painted tiled wall surround).

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Figure 192 SU Main corridor View SE from NW end.



Figure 193 SU Reception and shop (originally deputy head's office) from door (view SW).

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Figure 194 SU Reception and shop SW elevation window.

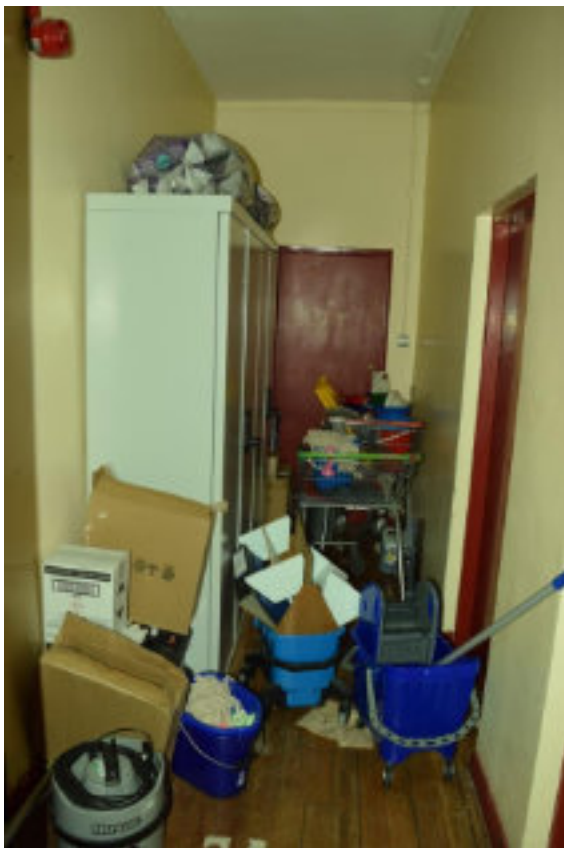


Figure 195 Passage outside Rooms 4, 5 & 6, view to SE.



Figure 196 Cleaner's stores Rs 4.



Figure 197 Roof light in passage.

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Figure 198 SU R7 SU Officers' room NE elevation.



Figure 199 SU R7 SU Officers' room view to S from N corner.



Figure 200 SU R7 SU Officers' room SE elevation.



Figure 201 SU R7 SU Officers' room SW elevation.



Figure 202 SU R7 SU Officers' room NW elevation, door leads to passage outside Rs 4-6.



Figure 203 Passage between R7 and R3 from R7 (view to NW).



Figure 204 SU R7 Rooflight.



Figure 205 SU Access passageway to R8 - R11 (door to R11 at far end) View SE.

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Figure 206 SU R11 View to W from E corner.



Figure 207 SU R11 NE elevation.



Figure 208 SU R11 SW elevation.



Figure 209 SU R10 SW elevation.

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Figure 210 SU R9 NE elevation.



Figure 211 SU Rooms typical door furniture detail with closer, copper alloy door knob, mortice lock keyhole and modern lock.



Figure 212 SU R9 SW Elevation.



Figure 213 Passage, original door to R7.



Figure 214 SU South east end of main corridor.

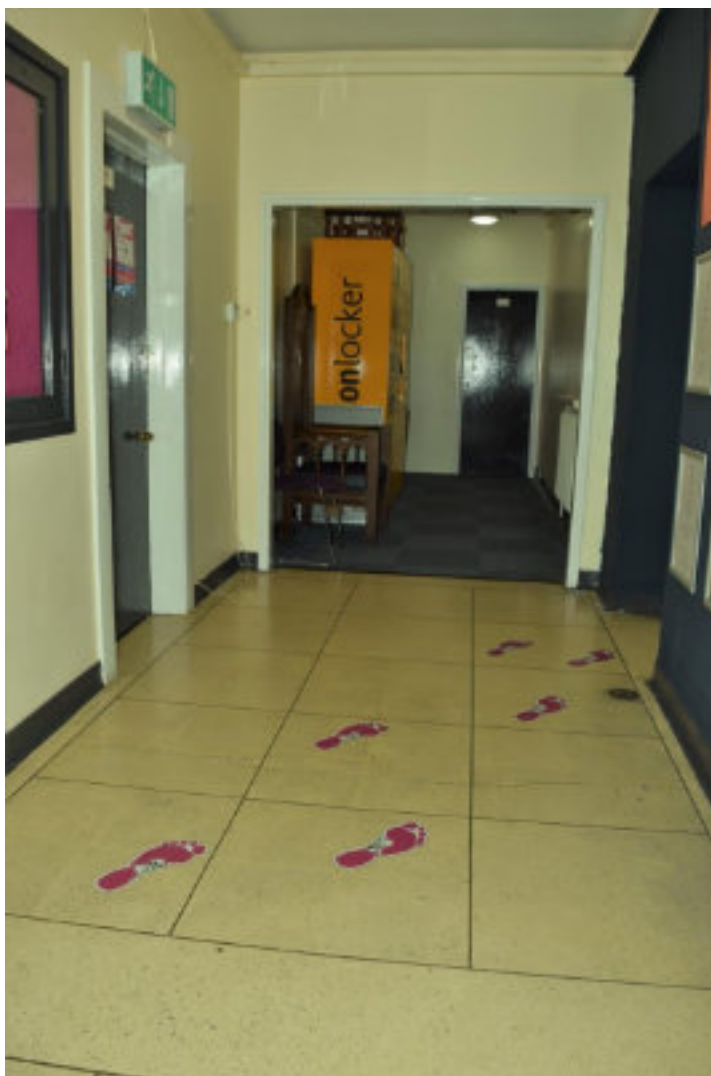


Figure 215 R14 View NE from main corridor.



Figure 216 SU R15 NE elevation.



Figure 217 R13 Office accommodation SW elevation.



Figure 218 SU R13 Office accommodation from doorway at NE corner.



Figure 219 SU R15 View SW. Door to bar R28 on L.



Figure 220 View NW to R17 doorway from R15.



Figure 221 SU R16 View to S from N corner. Doorway to R 15 to L of view.



Figure 222 SU R16 View W from doorway to R15 in NE corner.



Figure 223 SU R16 Windows in NE elevation.



Figure 224 SU R16 Rooflight.



Figure 225 SU R17 View NW through doorway.

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Figure 226 SU R17 View to SW from NE end.



Figure 227 SU R17 View to NE from SW end.

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Figure 228 SU R17 Central partition with doorways at both ends.



Figure 229 SU R17 former shower area NW of partition, from NE.



Figure 230 R17 skylight.



Figure 231 SU R18 Beer store from SW.



Figure 232 SU R18 Beer store from NE.



Figure 233 SE corridor to offices (R20 - R26). View NE from main corridor.



Figure 234 SU R24 NE elevation from SE.



Figure 235 SU R24 View NW from SE end of room.



Figure 236 SU R24 Rooflight.



Figure 237 SU R26 from NW.



Figure 238 SU R23 partitioned from SE corner of R22.



Figure 239 SU R22 Rooflight.



Figure 240 SU R21 View to SE elevation.



Figure 241 SU R21 view to NW.



Figure 242 Window ledge detail, composite material.



Figure 243 SU R 28 Former gymnasium, now SU bar, from NW.



Figure 244 SU R28 NE elevation from S.



Figure 245 R28 NE elevation windows.



Figure 246 SU R28 NE elevation, southern end High level window above emergency exit.



Figure 247 SU R28 NE elevation, southern end Emergency exit, opens into R27 with exit to exterior.



Figure 248 SU R28 View across room from E corner.



Figure 249 SU R 28 View into back of Bar at NW end of room.

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Figure 250 Figure 250 Students Union photo viewpoints (plan courtesy Glyndwr University).



Figure 251 Engineering Building NE of D block (Fig. 6 Building 1) from SW.



Figure 252 Engineering Building Wall and roof girder details.



Figure 253 Building 3 on Fig.6 Medical Centre NW elevation.



Figure 254 Medical Centre SE elevation.



Figure 255 Building 10 in quadrangle, Refectory behind, D block on L.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

4.1. DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1. As well as capturing architectural details of the buildings, photos were taken to illustrate the buildings as “working buildings” with the furnishings, fittings and typical “detritus” that accumulates in most office environments as well as discarded material no longer required left by the former occupants of offices who have moved in advance of demolition and redevelopment (see for example Figs. 153 and 154).
- 4.1.2. The external views of the buildings show their design with features such as the concrete panelling below the windows on D block providing some texture and decorative touches (albeit in a rather Brutalist manner) and the buildings are essentially functional. Some additions have been made to comply with modern requirements, such as the wheelchair ramp access which wraps around the northern corner of D block, probably replacing the original stairs on that side of the entrance (Figures 24 and 25), and the ventilator boxes attached to the external walls of the kitchen which are essential although slightly jarring against the simple lines of the building.
- 4.1.3. The Refectory building is still in very active use and as a working space for preparing and serving food is kept clean and free from litter and random items “stored” in odd corners.
- 4.1.4. The main dining space is separated into two areas by short bays intruding into the interior, one on each side forming “stub” walls. These also act as lightwells to the southeastern part of the restaurant as the southeastern wall of each “stub” has a window.
- 4.1.5. The ceiling of the northwestern part of the dining area makes use of the profiled concrete beams supporting the roof as a “decorative” feature, albeit perhaps a somewhat Brutalist one, which contrasts to the larger southeastern part which has a suspended tiled ceiling. Unlike the suspended ceilings seen throughout the other buildings, these have decorative elements in the form of patterns of parallel grooves with a braid in the centre of each tile to give a more interesting finish (Figures 84 and 85). The light fittings are also decorative as well as functional, each light being enclosed in a semi-cylindrical, frosted glass cover with the light lying along the axis of a curved background (Figs. 86 – 89). The fixtures and fittings of the remainder of the refectory are otherwise very much of modern type and will have been upgraded (probably on several occasions) since the buildings were first erected. Only a few clues of original usage survive such as the labelling on one storeroom door for “Crockery” in applied raised lettering (Figure 109).
- 4.1.6. D Block has rooms performing a range of functions including management (e.g. R 10), administration (e.g. R 4 and R 27), academic staff accommodation (e.g. Rs 17 and 15a, storage (R 9 and R 23) and teaching (R21).
- 4.1.7. Some rooms were used for secure storage of documents and were not accessible but the sample of rooms photographed in Bloc D suggest that they would have been similar internally, with divisions and subdivisions possibly of the original spaces for different uses of the accommodation (such as the division to create Rooms 11a and 13).
- 4.1.8. The niche in the corridor (Fig. 153) is of unknown purpose but could originally have been for fire buckets in the days when pails of sand and water were kept for firefighting.

4.1.9. The original plan of the current Students Union building shows some alterations and extensions

4.1.10. The original use of the Students Union building as a gymnasium and music department has left design features from the original usage, such as horizontal rectangular windows set towards the tops of the walls to light areas that were used as changing and shower rooms and the large windows to the former gymnasium which dominate the centre part of the NE elevation (Fig.49). The original plans also indicate that some additions to the original plan have been made, Rooms 25 and 26 having been added to the southeastern elevation with the originally planned female showers and changing rooms converted to the offices in Rooms 21 – 24. The northwestern elevation with the main entrance varies from the original plan in that there are alterations to the circulation patterns with the modern main entrance and corridor running through the building in a straight line from the entrance on the NW elevation to the emergency exit at the SE. The original plan shows a short entry passage with a straight run to the SW entrance to the gymnasium and an entrance to the main corridor immediately W of the gymnasium doors. The main corridor then has a further doorway at the eastern end which gives access to the SE doorway to the building view a short corridor where R 21 is now located.

4.1.11. Original circulation seems to have had a main corridor between the gymnasium and the music department with a secondary passageway that ran along the NE side of the music suite of rooms with small rooms opening off to the SW, with the department head's office at one end of the passage and only accessible from it (R3, now with a door from the main corridor although the original doorway is still present). It is probable that the changes to the entry and exit points were made when the building was converted from academic use as the gymnasium and Music Departments to social use as the Students Union as entry, and particularly exit, of large numbers of people has been simplified.

4.1.12. The Engineering Building to the NE of D Block is of interest as a comparison with the north western section of the dining area of the refectory with the inverted-U section beams of the restaurant ceiling recurring on the external façade of the Engineering block as a decorative feature of the façade (Fig. 253) while the other element of the façade reflect the use of textured concrete panelling and horizontal bands of detailing to give a more interesting finish to the building than is necessary for purely functional purposes. The minor buildings, two temporary huts and the Medical Centre block are of no real architectural interest but do show the requirements of the university as it expanded and required further space and different facilities for students than might be required in a Further Education college.

4.2. CONCLUSION

4.2.1. This photographic record adds to the existing archive of materials relating to the construction and development of the Glyndwr University Plas Coch campus from a “greenfield” site in the early 1950s to the present layout and functions of the buildings most closely relate to the original construction and which, in the case of the SU building and refectory, are listed as part of the designation of the original buildings of the former college, with D block having a physical attachment to the refectory block as well as forming a significant architectural element of the main buildings with their central garden quadrangle.

4.2.2. The photos are intended to not only demonstrate and record the visible architectural features of the buildings but to try and give an impression of the working environments created within them in the final phase of their working lives.

5. Bibliography

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