NAA

STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

Northern Archaeological Associates

Marwood House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 8BN

t: 01833 690800

f: 01833 690801

e: pgj@naa.gb.com

w: www.naa.gb.com

SAIGHTON CAMP

CHESTER

Project No.: 708
Text: Catherine Ambrey & Paul G Johnson
Illustrations: Dawn Knowles & Damien Ronan
Edited by: Gail Hama & Richard Fraser

Approved by: Mary Fraser
Signature:

prepared for

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SAIGHTON CAMP, CHESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

Summary

Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd were commissioned by Commercial Estates Group to undertake a survey of the remaining standing buildings at Saighton Camp, a former military camp situated to the south-east of Chester, Cheshire. The building survey has comprised a detailed photographic recording, measurements of buildings and a written descriptive record. Where visible, evidence of phasing, modification and refurbishment was also recorded.

Saighton Camp was originally built as a militia camp in 1939 to provide for the basic training of volunteer and conscripted soldiers during the Second World War. Subsequently, the camp was also used to train anti-aircraft crews. After the War, the camp had a variety of roles and was used by a number of units, the last of which being the Army Medical Corps. Many of the original camp buildings were demolished between 1970 and the closure of the camp, as a result of buildings reaching the end of their useful life and the declining need for a high density training installation in the north-west of England.

A range of military buildings were recorded within the camp, comprising H-plan huts used as officer accommodation, 'spider' block barrack buildings, kitchen/ refectory buildings, a headquarters building, an infirmary complex, stores buildings, and numerous rectangular huts/buildings. The majority of the accommodation buildings were of modular timber construction and were partially pre-fabricated off-site. The other medium-sized and large buildings had been constructed using steel frames and roof trusses clad with a mixture of brickwork, timber and asbestos sheeting. Evidence for the original layout of the camp was traced both from evidence on the ground and from aerial photographs.

The original buildings were built to a standard which was intended to last for only some 30 years. Due to its prolonged military life and the temporary nature of its buildings, the majority of the surviving buildings showed evidence of several episodes of repair, refurbishment and upgrading to both prolong their life and to adapt them to more modern standards and changing roles. Evidence was recorded for both internal and external modification and many original features such as windows and building covering materials have been replaced. Despite the evidence for repair and refurbishment, many of the buildings are in poor condition.

On the basis of professional judgement, it is therefore considered that the camp and the surviving buildings are only of local importance as they are unlikely to meet the criteria for statutory protection either through scheduling or listing.

It is considered that the present survey has produced a sufficient record of the surviving standing buildings. The majority of the interiors of buildings have been extensively refurbished and remodelled and, due to the presence of asbestos, no further recording is recommended. It is recommended that the written and photographic archive which has been produced as part of this survey, together with a copy of this report, is deposited with The Grosvenor Museum, Chester and the Chester Historic Environment Record.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) were commissioned by Commercial Estates Group to undertake a survey of the remaining standing buildings at Saighton Camp, a former military camp situated to the south-east of Chester, Cheshire. The site, centred upon SJ 4290 6420, lies at the southern extremity of the village of Huntington and is now separated from the village by the A55T Chester bypass (Figure 1). Elements of the site are currently proposed for redevelopment.

1.2 Saighton Camp is a former militia camp which was constructed c.1939 and remained in military use until c.2000. The Ministry of Defence had cleared approximately two thirds of the former buildings since the 1970's and the remaining buildings are boarded-up and in a semi-derelict condition. A survey of these remaining buildings has been undertaken in order to produce a record of the site to inform the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment of a proposed redevelopment scheme. The survey has sought to establish evidence for the forms of construction, the function(s) of the buildings, the degree of alteration which had taken place, and the condition of the structures. Asbestos contamination within many of the buildings has limited the survey to recording mainly of the exteriors of buildings; however, where access was possible, limited recording of interiors was also undertaken.

1.3 The building survey has comprised a detailed photographic record of the exteriors of individual buildings and of groups of buildings within the site. Detailed measurements of buildings have also been recorded supplemented by a written descriptive record. Where visible, evidence of phasing, modification and refurbishment was also recorded.

2.0 LOCATION

2.1 Saighton Camp is situated on relatively level or gently sloping ground to the east of the River Dee, approximately 3.5km south-east of the present-day centre of Chester. This area lies on the fringes of the village of Huntington. The camp lies to the south of the A55 and to the east of the intersection of the B5130 with a minor road, Sandy Lane, leading to the village of Saighton situated a further 2.5km to the south - east.

3.0 METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATION SOURCES

3.1 The principal aims of the buildings appraisal were:

- to identify any original buildings and/or original elements of the buildings surviving at the camp
- to assess the degree of alteration and modification to those buildings

- to attempt to identify the original functions of the surviving buildings
- to attempt to identify the later functions of these structures
- to assess the current conditions of the surviving buildings where feasible
- to record the surviving structure descriptively and photographically in order to preserve them by record

3.2 In formation regarding Saighton Camp was obtained from the following organisations:

- Cheshire County Council Historic and Environment Section
- Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies Service
- Chester City Council
- Chester Library
- Defence Estates Ltd
- English Heritage
- National Army Museum

3.3 The following data sources were utilised for the assessment:

- Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Chester City Historic Environment Record (HER)
- aerial photographs
- published and unpublished historical and archaeological studies
- cartographic sources (including historic Ordnance Survey maps)
- National Monuments Record (NMR)

3.4 The buildings appraisal and recording was undertaken at various times from April 2005 and April 2008 using a plan of the former camp supplied by Commercial Estates Group (Figure 2). Every surviving building was examined externally, and where possible, internally and recorded descriptively on NAA's pro forma buildings recording and room recording sheets. The buildings were recorded photographically at a minimum format of 35mm, this being supplemented by digital photography where appropriate. Where possible, the external elevations of each building was recorded face-on, and where this was not possible because of space restrictions, oblique photographs were taken.

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saighton Military Training Camp

4.1 The area to the south of Chester remained largely unchanged by the Industrial Revolution aside from the excavation of an extraordinary number of small clay or marl extraction pits.

4.2 Cartographic and photographic sources suggest that Saighton Camp was built in the late 1930s, probably between 1938 and 1939, as a militia training camp in response to the threat of war resulting from the worsening political situation in Europe at that time. The 1st, 2nd or 3rd edition 6" and 25" Ordnance survey maps of 1872, 1899 and 1913, record only field boundaries, a track and marl pits within the boundary of the camp. The village of Huntington did not exist during these periods either, the area which it now occupies again being composed of fields and marl pits. A Public House, the Rake and Pickel, situated at the intersection of the B1530 and Sandy Lane, is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps and still survives.

4.3 The camp was clearly an expedient measure, constructed rapidly, with building materials and components being delivered by rail to Waverton Station, and transported by lorry through the fields to the site of the camp (David Hanley, *pers comm*).

4.4 The camp was originally used as a basic training facility for the army, and by 1940 light anti-aircraft battery crews were undergoing training at the camp, Saighton Camp being the Primary Training Centre for the 233 Light Anti-Aircraft Training Regiment of the Royal Artillery. In 1949 it briefly became Training Centre No 12 of the Royal Pioneer Corps with about 1800 recruits undertaking training in this period. In July 1950 the Training Centre at Saighton Camp closed and was integrated with the Pioneer Corps Depot at Wrexham. In the 1950s, and early 1960s, the camp appears to have been used by the Royal Signals Corps, although the 21 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery of the Royal Artillery were also present at the site in 1954. The Green Howards are recorded as occupying the site in the early 1970s followed by the Gordon Highlanders who were present from about 1975 until at least 1983. Thereafter, the site appears to have been converted into a medical training centre for the Royal Medical Corps and was latterly the Army Medical Service's Territorial Army training camp, used to train Territorial Army and Reservists medical personnel, though Regular Army medical personnel also used the camp. Saighton Camp achieved some level of notoriety for being the primary centre where Biological Warfare vaccinations were administered to army personnel, serving in the first Gulf War, in 1990-91. The camp was essentially a vaccination processing line, where different immunisations were given in different locations of the hospital complex, by the 205 (Scottish) General Hospital (Volunteer) Unit, then normally based in Glasgow. These vaccinations were later said to be associated with Gulf War Syndrome.

4.5 The earliest air photographs of the area, dating to 1947 (Plate 1a), record the camp at its near maximum extents, the only major elements absent at this time being the married quarters and officers houses which were once situated at the northern extremity of the camp. These buildings were demolished as part of the Crown Fields development. The village of

Huntington, to the north of the camp, was constructed in the mid-late 20th century and comprised a ribbon development fronting the B1530. Apart from the village, the camp was otherwise surrounded by fields containing the upstanding remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. The open spaces within the camp do not appear to contain any remains of this nature suggesting that the original ground surfaces within the camp had been levelled either by ground reduction works or by infilling during its construction.

4.6 The camp originally contained four distinct complexes of buildings arranged around two large open areas identified as parade and training grounds in later cartographic sources (Aspinwall and Company, 1997). The arrangement and alignment of the individual building groups is not consistent and they appear to have been laid out in patterns which reflect the positions of former field boundaries rather than as a single planned entity. It is therefore possible the arrangement of the building groups is indicative of the chronology of the construction of the camp which may have been built on a field-by-field basis as the camp expanded through time. There are also gaps in the layout of the camp which reflect the positions of some of the former marl pits present within the boundaries of the camp (Figure 3). Some indications as to the functions of the various buildings is evident in an undated Ministry of Defence (MoD) plan of the site which was made prior to the construction of the married quarters and officers houses to the north. The buildings are not named in this plan, but all are numbered in a scheme that seems to reflect the function of the buildings i.e. all buildings with the same function bear the same number (transcribed in Figure 4).

4.7 There are three main building types present within the complex: rectangular and sub-rectangular buildings in a variety of sizes; buildings constructed as two parallel rectangular blocks of differing lengths joined by a short block arranged perpendicularly to these resulting in an asymmetrical H shape; and buildings comprising seven rectangular blocks joined by corridors resulting in a building plan resembling a stylised insect. Twelve of the H plan buildings, which bear the same number on the MoD plan, appear to have originally been officers' quarters. The multi-block buildings, of which there were a total of 19, probably all represent barrack blocks. Three kitchen and/or refectory buildings are evident, apparently catering for three distinct groups of barracks. The rectangular buildings were clearly used for a variety of purposes, but several building types are replicated in different parts of the camp.

4.8 The 19 barrack blocks, which with the exception of the three situated in the westernmost element of the camp, were arranged in groups of four, and multiples thereof. If it is assumed that around 30 men could be accommodated in each 'section' of the barrack block, the blocks themselves could potentially house 180 men, a figure that equates with

one quarter of a battalion. Four blocks could therefore accommodate a full battalion.

4.9 Cartographic evidence from 1954 (Figure 3) suggests that the camp had undergone little change by this date. The level of detail depicted in the Ordnance Survey map of that year is poor but it would seem that one of the two small buildings in the northernmost area of the site had fallen out of use by this time. Several other small structures in the south centre of the complex had also been abandoned and no new structures are apparent.

4.10 The officers' and married quarters were built at the northern margins of the camp some time between 1954 and 1962. The officers' houses comprised substantial detached properties built as a single crescent whereas the married quarters were built as two streets of opposing semi-detached houses some distance to the west. These houses were separated from the officers' quarters by an area of open grassland and a single ditch running along the line of a field boundary depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1881. The second of the small buildings that previously existed in this area had been demolished to facilitate the construction of the officers' quarters. A small sewage treatment works, situated at the extreme northern limits of the camp, had also been constructed by 1962.

4.11 The camp had attained its maximum extents by 1962 and subsequent cartographic and aerial photographic sources catalogue the decline of the camp thereafter. By 1968, one of the barrack blocks located in the south-eastern extremity of the camp had been demolished, as had one of the H blocks near the centre of the camp. In addition, several rectangular blocks in the northern part of the camp had also been demolished. The parade ground situated in the south-west corner of the camp has undergone a change of use and is identified as being tennis courts at this time

4.12 Air photography from 1970 (Plate 2a) indicates that a further H block had been demolished together with more of the rectangular buildings in the northern and eastern sectors of the camp, in particular an entire group of six on the southern margins of the training ground. A single medium-sized building, situated near the southern extremity of the site and aligned at an angle to every other building, had also been demolished by this time. However three groups of bunkers are visible in these photographs. The first of these comprising eight or nine individual bunkers are located to the east of the western parade ground and are arranged in a seemingly random pattern. A further group of nine bunkers, arranged in neat groups of two and three, are situated adjacent to a cluster of barrack blocks in the centre of the camp and a group of ten bunkers are apparent at the south-eastern extremities of the camp situated immediately to the north of the moated site beyond the perimeter of the camp.

4.13 A similar situation is depicted in air photographs of 1971 (Plate 2b), the only changes in the size of the camp resulting from the demolition of a number of small rectangular buildings in various parts of the camp.

4.14 Cartographic evidence dated to 1982 suggests that a considerable reduction in the number of buildings present at the camp had taken place. A further five of the barrack blocks in the south-eastern margins of the camp had been demolished along with three more north of the western parade ground. Several more of the rectangular structures situated in the north-eastern area of the site had also been removed as had several in the centre and south-centre of the site. It seems that it had been the intention of the army to decommission and dismantle the camp in the early 1980s, and a large number of buildings were demolished and burned in this period. However, the onset of the Falklands War in March 1982, halted the demolition of the camp, and the remaining buildings were retained (David Hanley, *pers comm*.)

4.15 By 1985, the number of buildings within the camp had been further reduced by the demolition of more rectangular buildings in various locations within the camp. The number of barrack and H blocks remained unchanged. Aerial photographs taken in 1993 document the continued reduction in the military importance of the camp. In June of that year the vast majority of the easternmost third of the camp had been dismantled, but the former training ground and road infrastructure are still clearly visible. However, by October of the same year this area appears to be substantially overgrown (Plate 1b). All but five of the barrack blocks and six of the H blocks had been demolished and substantial reductions in the number of rectangular buildings had been made.

4.16 By 1999 only three structures survived within the easternmost third of the camp. These comprise two substantial rectangular buildings fronting the training ground and a smaller building with an associated chimney-stack situated to the north of these. This latter structure is identified as being a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Warfare chamber on a survey plan of the camp dated to 1997. The camp closed c.2000 and the site was subsequently used for a variety of purposes including police training. The officers' housing and the married quarters were demolished in 2007 prior to the construction of the Crown Fields development.

5.0 BUILDINGS APPRAISAL

5.1 A total of 32 buildings survive at the site. The officers' and married quarters that once existed to the north of the camp were demolished as part of the first phase of redevelopment of the site and were recorded prior to their demolition, as were a former gymnasium, a store and a

secure store which lay on the north-western extremity of the camp (NAA 2006 Appendix C).

5.2 The remaining building types have been examined in detail and selected examples of each recorded both photographically and descriptively using pro forma NAA building recording sheets. In general, only the exteriors of the buildings were recorded, as most were sealed because of asbestos contamination. However, access to some of buildings was possible and where this was the case internal descriptive and photographic records were made. In other cases some limited recording of internal features was possible from views through windows, where these were not boarded up, and remote distance measurement using a hand-held Leica Disto was possible in a few cases.

5.3 All of the timber buildings at the site, as originally constructed, were probably modular, partially prefabricated and of a type in common use in this period. A recent archaeological evaluation undertaken at Saighton Camp (NAA 2008) suggests that the sites of such buildings would have been cleared of all top and subsoils by mechanical means until the underlying clay surface was exposed. This surface appears to have been roughly levelled and foundation trenches, reflecting the plan form of the buildings, cut into the natural clay. Concrete was poured into the trenches and allowed to set. Subsequently concrete pillars were erected over the concrete foundations, these too having been imported into the site. The use of pillars fulfilled two purposes; firstly by using pillars of slightly different lengths it would be possible to accurately level the sill beams placed across them and therefore provide a horizontal floor surface within the huts. Secondly, the pillars would have kept the timber of the huts above the ground surface in order to reduce decay and would have permitted the free circulation of air beneath the buildings. Prefabricated frames and roof trusses would have been erected in the position occupied by each hut of the building, the structure ridged, and wall panels, nominally 12'00", in length fixed to the frames. This would have allowed for buildings of different lengths to have been constructed relatively easily, simply by adding more bays. The gable walls of the buildings also appear to have been prefabricated in two halves, either nominally 9'00" wide or 12'00" wide, these again allowing for flexibility in the dimensions of the huts. The buildings would probably have been originally roofed in corrugated iron sheet and provided with timber floors.

5.4 The majority of the larger buildings were constructed around iron or steel frames. These usually took the form of prefabricated iron roof trusses sitting atop a framework constructed of 'I' beams, essentially girders, which may have been cut to size on-site. The vertical 'I' beams appear to have been set directly into the concrete floors that were typical of this form of building. The framework was sometimes braced at ground level by horizontal 'I' beams, and with similar beams placed at wall-head

height, acting as a wall plate in order to support the roof trusses. The framework was frequently provided with interconnected diagonal cross-bracing to increase the rigidity of the building. The level of site preparation for buildings of this type was greater than that required for the timber buildings. All top- and subsoils were removed during construction works, and the underlying clay cut down in order to permit the construction of low brick platform walls around the perimeter of the buildings. These walls retained a substantial quantity of crushed stone sub-base upon which the concrete of the floors were laid. The sub-base was required for two main reasons; firstly to compensate for the expansion or contraction of the clay, resulting from the seasonal variations in its water content, which would otherwise result in the cracking of a slab concrete floor, and secondly to facilitate drainage and help keep the floor dry. Buildings of this category were clad and roofed in some form of sheeting, probably corrugated iron (now replaced by corrugated asbestos cement) or the framework incorporated into a brick structure. Some of the medium-sized iron framed buildings were clad in timber.

5.5 At some stage in the late 1960s, or more likely the early 1970s, the function of the camp appears to have changed, and as a result many, if not all, of the buildings on the camp were refurbished. Although the structures that survive today probably look essentially similar to those built in the late 1930s there are clear indications that both the interiors and exteriors of these buildings were extensively modified, and that such modifications would have been difficult to achieve without substantially dismantling the building in question. During this programme of refurbishment the timber buildings appear to have been raised off their pillars, probably to counter dampness and rot, the sill beams upon which the huts were constructed replaced, and some form of damp course provided at the same time. The exterior fabric of the buildings seems to have been extensively renewed at the same time. Many of the buildings were re-roofed with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting (see Figures 2a and 2b for comparison, note building 28 and two buildings at the southern extremity of the western parade ground still retain earlier roof cladding in Plate 2b) and it is likely that the vast majority of the windows and doors were replaced. Some of the original fabric of the buildings, particularly the roof frames and trusses (if they were serviceable), and perhaps the rainwater goods, were almost certainly reused.

Building 4 (Figure 2, Plates 3 & 4)

5.6 Building 4 was an 'L' plan structure situated in the western sector of the camp, between Buildings 5 and 17, but was once part of a much larger cluster of buildings situated to the west of the western parade ground. A building of this plan form was present in this area in 1947 although its function at this time is unclear. The building comprised two conjoined ridged and gabled timber huts, the easternmost being three bays long, the

westernmost being five bays long, each bay being 12'00" in length, and each hut was 24'00" wide. The two huts were arranged side-by-side, the internal space being contiguous, with the joint having been effected at a valley gutter between the two roof structures. The gables of the two huts were flush at the northern end of the building and the westernmost hut extended for a further 24'00" beyond the southern gable of the eastern hut.

5.7 The exterior walls of Building 4 comprised ship-lap timber planking suspended from an iron frame (Plate 3). The vertical components of the frame consisted of iron 'I' section beams set directly into concrete pillars placed at the intersection of each bay. Further concrete pillars were placed equidistantly between these in order to lend further support to the sill beams, upon which the walls and floors were constructed, at half-bay intervals. The spaces between the pillars had been filled with panels constructed from half-lap stretcher bond brickwork. The interior walls, where visible comprised a mixture of vertical tongue-and groove planking, and some form of wall boarding, possible a type of fibre board.

5.8 A large free-standing brick-built chimney (Plate 4), 2'4" square and supported by a concrete plinth, had been constructed in a central position immediately to the south of the south wall of the western hut. The brickwork comprised half-lap stretcher bond.

5.9 Access to the building was not possible at the time of the survey, but it was possible that the floor of the building comprised either a suspended timber floor, or more likely given the size of the building, concrete.

5.10 The roofs were ridged and gabled, and joined along the longitudinal axis in a valley gutter. The roof covering comprised corrugated asbestos sheeting, and although the roof trusses were hidden above suspended ceilings, these are likely to have been of iron, and of the braced queen-post type seen in the other larger camp buildings. The ceilings had collapsed in places suggesting that the roof of the building was no longer watertight.

5.11 The north-facing elevation contained two double doorways, each being placed within the western halves of the two huts making up the building. The westernmost doorway was fronted by a flight of three concrete steps, the other by a threshold-height concrete platform accessed by a concrete ramp which descended eastwards. The south-facing elevation of the easternmost hut contained a single doorway situated immediately to the east of the junction with the western hut. This was fronted by a concrete threshold-height platform accessed by a flight of three concrete steps. The east-facing elevation of the western hut contained a single doorway in the northern half of the southernmost bay. This was fronted by a flight of three concrete steps. A blocked single doorway was visible adjacent to the doorway present in the south-facing elevation of the eastern hut. This

once utilised the same concrete platform and steps fronting the latter as a means of access.

5.12 The building contained windows in every elevation, these being of a slightly unusual form in that they were composed of multiples of a 10-pane, aluminium framed, unit, constructed to metric standards rather than imperial, each measuring 1.5m high by 0.6m wide. There was no evidence to suggest that the window apertures had been enlarged or reduced to accept these window panels, and they must, as a consequence, have been inserted during a complete refurbishment of the exterior fabric of the building at some stage in the relatively recent past. The north-facing elevation of the building contained two 40-pane windows, comprising four of the 10-pane units, to the east of each double doorway. The east-facing elevation of the easternmost hut contained a further 40-pane window in the northernmost bay, and evidence for the former position of a 10-pane unit in the central bay. The east facing elevation of the western hut contained a 20-pane window to the north of the extant doorway. The south-facing elevation of the eastern hut contained two high-level fixed lights glazed with single frosted panes, that of the western hut contained two 20-pane units arranged symmetrically either side of the chimney, with a further 10-pane window at the extreme eastern end of the wall. The northernmost three bays of the west-facing elevation of the building contained a single 40-pane window in the centre of each bay, the southernmost two bays each contained a single 20-pane window arranged either side of the frame member separating the bays. All of the windows, with the exception of the frosted glass lights in the eastern hut, contained a number of internally placed horizontal security bars and the panes had been painted white on the inside.

5.13 The building had been provided with cast iron rainwater goods and there were a number of external lights fitted to the majority of the walls. The exterior timberwork was finished in wood preservative, and the window- and door-frames were painted white, the doors themselves painted turquoise.

Originality

5.14 An 'L'-shaped building was present on the site of Building 4 in 1947 and this appears to have been the only structure of this plan form at that time. Given that the original function of the building is not known, there is some degree of uncertainty regarding the level of originality of the present building. The building latterly functioned as a bar or club, but is recorded on a plan of 1997 as being a classroom, though neither of these is likely to been the original function of the building. The interior of the building, so far as was visible from the outside, comprised a large open space with some internal subdivision being present at the southern end, some of this representing internal toilet facilities. The exterior of the building has been entirely re-clad, and the fact that all of the surviving

window-frames were built in metric units indicates that this was undertaken in the relatively recent past. In addition, there was no evidence to suggest that the window apertures in the fabric of the walls had been altered to accept windows of a non-standard size.

Building 5 - Former offices and guardhouse

5.15 Building 5 was a single rectangular hut with an additional veranda (Plate 5) situated to the west of the camp and adjacent to the camp access road. An aerial photograph from 1947 attests to the presence of a building in this location in the current plan form and it was probably constructed in the initial phase of the camp's formation in the 1930s. The building was oriented from north to south and measured 96'00" in length, nominally divided into eight bays of 12'00" in length. The hut measured 24'00" in width and was furnished with a veranda running the length of the eastern elevation, adding a further 6'00" to the width of the building.

5.16 It was possible to see the concrete pillars along the east and west edges of the building which would have formed the original base for the walls. It is probable, through comparison with other buildings on site, that there were originally sleeper beams overlying the pillars but these have since been removed. It appeared that the floor level of the building had been raised, attested to by the height of the exterior steps on the eastern elevation, and that the current support frame is a later replacement. The frame was constructed of timber and the down-posts were visible in parts of the interior of the building. As access to the interior was restricted, it can only be assumed that the roof frame was of a braced queen-post form through comparison with other building on site of the same dimensions.

5.17 The exterior walls were clad with ship-lap timber panelling, below which stretcher bond brick walls were evident to a height of three courses. The external woodwork associated with the veranda was in a better condition than that elsewhere suggesting that it had been replaced at a later date. Where visible, the inner faces of external walls were lined with tongued-and-grooved timber panelling and the internal partition walls were constructed of fibreboard.

5.18 The building was furnished with a suspended timber floor throughout, including the veranda. Inside the building the floor was covered with linoleum.

5.19 The roof of the building was ridged and gabled It had been clad with corrugated asbestos sheets and finished at the north and south gables with timber bargeboards. The veranda area was equipped with roof lights of reinforced glass. The interior of the building has had a suspended acoustic tile ceiling inserted throughout, with strip lights present in all the rooms.

5.20 Three of the doors, accessing the eastern elevation from the veranda, were timber double doors measuring 4'10" in width by 6'4" in height. Each doorway was equipped with four small fixed lights over the doors. The three single doors leading onto the veranda and a single door in the southern elevation were also wooden and measured 2'9" in width and 6'6" in height.

5.21 The fourteen windows were consistently casement style throughout with wooden frames and eight panes of glass each. Eight of the windows were located in the western elevation and there were two in each of the other elevations. The four windows associated with the northernmost room of the building were equipped with wrought iron bars on the outside (Plate 6) which suggests that this may have been the army guardhouse. There were also a number of PVC windows on the eastern elevation of the veranda, which were probably installed when it was refurbished.

5.22 Five single steps were located along the outside of the eastern elevation of the veranda, indicating that more of this frontage was open when it was originally built. There was also a single step to the door in the southern elevation.

5.23 Building 5 was equipped with cast iron guttering along the east and western eaves with three down-pipes on each side. The only external lighting was a modern security light on the south-facing gable. The external wooden panelling was treated with a wood preservative and the doors and window frames were painted.

Originality

5.24 The concrete support pillars are the only feature of Building 5 which remain of the original phase of construction. The wooden frame of the building has been raised higher than its original level and has evidently been replaced since the 1930s as it would be in a worse state of repair if it were of the original build. It is possible that Building 5 was rebuilt in the 1960s or 1970s when much of the camp appears to have been refurbished. The timber panelling cladding the veranda is in a better condition than that evident in the rest of the building, which would suggest that it was replaced during a later phase of refurbishment.

Condition

5.25 Building 5 is in a relatively good state of repair as it has been maintained for current use by the camp security guard and as a meeting room for police training courses. However, there is some superficial damage to the building, which is evident from the outside and through limited inspection of the interior. The external timber panelling is bowing and rotting on all faces of the building except the veranda, which appears to have been installed later. The suspended wooden floors are also rotting and are unsafe to walk on in places. The cast iron guttering is corroded and leaking although the inside of the building appears to be watertight.

The wooden window frames are in a particularly bad condition and three of the windows have been boarded up.

Building 7 - Former store (Figure 2 Plates 7 & 8)

5.26 Building 7 was a rectangular structure located in the western sector of the camp. It could be located on the aerial photograph of 1970, but wasn't apparent in earlier aerial photographs. It was probably constructed during the refurbishment of the camp in the 1960s and 1970s.

5.27 Building 7 measured 21'9" in length from east to west and 10'00" in width from north to south. It was constructed of a single width of brickwork executed in stretcher bond, and had an internal partition wall running from north to south. There had originally been an opening in the northern elevation measuring 8'9" in width, but this had been blocked with alternating courses of bricks and breeze blocks which had been rendered on the outside. There was no evidence of fenestration on any of the elevations.

5.28 The roof was slightly pitched and comprised corrugated asbestos cladding, which was supported by three timber joists measuring 10" by 2".

5.29 Building 7 was accessed via an open doorway in the eastern sector of the southern elevation, which measured 2'6" in width (Plate 7). A further double doorway, measuring 5'00" in width, had been created in the northern elevation, within the section which had previously been blocked. A timber lintel formed the top of the doorway and a panel of stretcher bond brickwork had been inserted above this.

5.30 This building was equipped with a footpath around the southern and western elevations and a tarmac forecourt was located directly to the north. This was surrounded by a modern post and rail fence with a double gate to the east and a single gate to the north (Plate 8).

Originality

5.31 The fabrics used to construct Building 7 would suggest that it was erected during the refurbishment of the camp in the 1960s and 1970s as an additional storage facility.

Condition

5.32 Building 7 is generally in a good state of repair and it appears that it has been re-roofed recently.

Buildings 11, 12 and 13 - Temporary Headquarters Buildings (Figure 2, Plates 9-12)

5.33 Buildings 11, 12, 13 and a building demolished between 1985 and 1993 once comprised two pairs of essentially similar buildings arranged on the eastern side of the parade ground in the western sector of the camp. Buildings 11 and 12 were designed as mirror images of one another, Building 13 being virtually the same as Building 11, and presumably a mirror image of the fourth building. The two pairs of buildings were formerly separated by a fifth building of a different form, which was also demolished prior to 1993. Buildings existed on the footprint of Buildings 11, 12 and 13 in 1947, and they were latterly used as the temporary headquarters buildings of military units passing through the camp. The original function of these buildings is not immediately obvious, but they are identified on a plan of the camp, noted in 4.6 above, as having an identical function to six other buildings, now demolished, which were formerly located in an area adjacent to the eastern parade ground. One of these latter buildings was examined in a recent programme of archaeological evaluation undertaken at the camp, where it proven to be an ablutions block for the barracks situated to the south. It is likely, therefore, that Buildings 11, 12 and 13 originally performed the same function for Buildings 20, 21, 22 and 23, situated immediately to the east.

5.34 The surviving buildings were nominally 84'00" long and 18'00" wide and comprised seven bays each nominally 12'00" long. The exterior walls of the building were constructed of shiplap timber weatherboard supported on timber sleeper beams, which were in turn supported on a series of concrete pillars (Plate 9). The gaps between the pillars were filled with brickwork panels executed in stretcher bond at some stage in the relatively recent past. The timberwork was finished in wood preservative, the pillars painted white and the brickwork was not rendered or painted.

5.35 The floors of the buildings are likely to have comprised suspended timber floors throughout. Building 12, however, contained a concrete floor in its southernmost three bays, the remainder being composed of extremely rotten suspended timber flooring. Access to Buildings 11 and 13 was not possible, therefore no information on the type of flooring used in these buildings could be obtained.

5.36 The roofs of the buildings were ridged and gabled, the pitch being about 30 degrees. The roof covering comprised corrugated asbestos sheets fixed to timber purlins, trimmed with bargeboards at the gables (Plate 10). A timber coping was fixed above the bargeboards on Building 12, this being absent in Buildings 11 and 13. The ridges were finished in asbestos cement ridge tiles. The underside of the roof in Building 12 was covered with tongued-and-grooved timber planking. The roof frames

were made of timber but their forms could not be discerned because they were concealed behind suspended ceilings of recent date.

5.37 The west-facing elevation of Building 12 contained a double doorway in the central bay. This was closed by two timber doors constructed from vertical planks. A short concrete ramp, the full width of the doorway, facilitated access. Buildings 11 and 13 differed in this respect in that both contained additional double doorways in the southernmost bays of their west-facing elevations. These were again closed by pairs of timber built doors, and were also accessed via concrete ramps.

5.38 The north-facing elevation of Building 12, a gable wall, contained a double doorway in the western half of the gable accessed from a concrete plinth, 5'9" deep, which extended across the whole width of the building. The concrete slab was covered by a sloping lean-to roof supported on four, 3" by 3", timber posts set into the northern edge of the concrete of the plinth at 6'00" intervals (Plate 11). The plinth was provided with a concrete ramp 4'6" long by 12'00" wide, at its western end. The mirror image (ie south-facing) elevations of Buildings 11 and 13 were blind.

5.39 The fenestration of all three buildings was identical. Each building was equipped with 6-pane and 12-pane casement windows, all contained within timber frames, on their west-facing elevations. The 6-pane windows were placed asymmetrically in the endmost bays of the building. The 12-pane windows were arranged centrally in the two bays either side of the double doorway in the central bay. The fenestration of the east-facing elevations was the mirror images of the west-facing with the addition of a 6-pane window in the central bay opposite the double doorway in the west. The north-facing elevations of buildings 11 and 13, and the south facing elevation of building 12 each contained a 3-pane casement window placed centrally in the western half of the gable, and a further 3-pane window placed closer to the centre line of the building in the eastern half, and a small 2-pane window further to the east (Plate 12).

5.40 The buildings were all heated with wall-mounted gas heaters, the flues from these being visible in various parts of both of the major elevations, with propane regulators being placed at one or other end of the east facing elevations of all three structures. All three were provided with cast-iron rainwater goods and waste pipes from internal sanitary fittings.

5.41 A small concrete pillar, approximately 3'00" square and 1'6" high, was situated at the southern end of the east-facing elevation of Building 12. The pillar sat on a concrete plinth and there were a group of four threaded iron rods, arranged equidistantly in a square, cast into the upper surface of the pillar. The purpose of the pillar was not immediately obvious but it may have once acted as the mounting for an antenna, or a flag pole.

Originality

5.42 Buildings were present on the footprints of Buildings 11, 12 and 13 in 1947 and the original buildings were probably erected in the initial stages of the construction of the camp, as they line the eastern side of the western parade ground. The accommodation blocks to the east of the buildings are arranged on a different alignment and were built in a different field (as identified in historic mapping of the area).

5.43 The exterior fabric of all of theses huts has been refurbished, and the buildings appear to have been raised off their pillars. The concrete floor identified in part of Building 12 is a secondary feature, though why it should have been inserted is unclear. A safe was noted in this part of the building, and it may have been of such a weight that a solid floor would have been required to support it. Alternatively, it may relate to issues of security.

5.44 The original functions of Buildings 11, 12 and 13 as ablutions blocks is inferred from cartographic evidence, but they were latterly used as Unit Headquarters blocks, divided internally into series' of rooms, corridors and offices.

Condition

5.45 The exterior timber cladding of this group of buildings is in reasonable condition, having been regularly maintained until relatively recently. Internally the building is in poor condition, having suffered from general dilapidation. The roofs of the structures appear largely watertight but the suspended timber floor in Building 12 is rotten, and similar conditions can be expected in Buildings 11 and 13.

Building 15 - Former kitchen and canteen (Figure 2, Plates 13 & 14)

5.46 Building 15 comprised four sheds on an east to west orientation. It appears that latterly the northernmost two sheds were used as a canteen and the southernmost two sheds were the associated kitchens. A building was present on this site in 1947 in the same plan form and it was probably erected during the original phase of camp construction in the 1930s. The two northernmost sheds were of identical proportions measuring 120'00" in length, divided into 10 bays each measuring 12'00", and 30'00" in width. The southernmost shed was of the same length but measured 24'00" in width and the third shed from the north was much smaller measuring only 84'00" in length by 24'00" in width (Plate 13).

5.47 The walls were constructed in English Garden Wall bond brickwork to a height of approximately 5'00". Above this, the walls were clad with narrow-ridged corrugated asbestos panels to the height of the eaves. The interior walls of the two southernmost sheds are tiled to a height of 6'00", as these were formerly kitchens, whereas the interior walls in the two

northernmost sheds are clad with fibreboard panels to a height of 3'6" with tongued-and-grooved timber panelling above. The western two bays of each shed were partitioned off with fibreboard panels to create offices and storage rooms. The northernmost shed contained four internal porches, two of which were constructed of fibreboard and timber panelling in line with rest of the interior of this shed, the other two having been constructed of Stretcher bond brickwork. An additional brick structure was built onto the western elevation of the smallest shed to accommodate refuse bins, this again being executed in Stretcher bond.

5.48 The frame of the building comprised iron columns set into concrete pillars. These were still visible at ground level on the exterior of the two northernmost sheds. They supported an iron roof frame that appeared to be of queen post form in the two wider buildings and king post form in the narrower sheds. Throughout most of the building the roof trusses were encased in fibreboard and were only visible where this was in a poor state of repair, but these frame styles were consistent with those identified on other buildings with the same dimensions on the camp.

5.49 The exterior of the roof was clad with wide-ridged corrugated asbestos sheeting and the interior was panelled with fibreboard. All the roof slopes had reinforced glass roof lights running for the majority of their lengths except for the southernmost shed which only had glass panelling on the north-facing slope.

5.50 It is likely that the floors were always made of concrete as they had a heavy load to bear in the kitchen sheds. The floors in the canteen sheds were covered with linoleum tiles and those in the kitchen sheds were finished with quarry tiles.

5.51 Casement windows were present in all elevations of Building 15, each comprised of four panes of glass and some were arranged as double windows (Plate 14). All the windows were aluminium framed and measured 3'6" in width by 4'6" in height. In all cases it was possible to see the remains of earlier timber window frames as they were larger than their aluminium replacements and had been left *in situ*.

5.52 The majority of the external doors were timber double doors measuring 5'00" in width and 6'6" in height. Those situated in the northern elevation of the building had five small window lights above each door. The single doors were also wooden and measured 2'6" in width by 6'6" in height. The doors towards the eastern sector of the building were furnished with external steps, whereas those towards the western end were not, due to the building having been constructed on a slope.

5.53 The canteen sheds were heated by 10 electric wall heaters located at frequent intervals around the room. There were no heaters in the kitchen sheds but there were large extractor fans with ventilation ducts leading

out through the roof. A number of kitchen fittings were present in these sheds such as heated counters and cookers. Light was provided in the northernmost two sheds by electric light panels flush with the ceiling and in the southernmost sheds by strip-lights attached to the crossbeams of the roof frame.

5.54 The exterior brick walls of the building were mainly painted green/white but the asbestos remained unpainted. Cast iron guttering ran along the north and south faces of the building with four down-pipes on each side. There was also cast iron valley guttering between each shed with down-pipes at either end.

Originality

5.55 Although there was a building present on this site in 1947, its original function was as a kitchen block servicing the barrack blocks in its immediate vicinity. There were two other buildings of this type situated in the eastern section of the camp to provide for the 12 accommodation blocks in that area (Figure 4), both having been demolished prior to 1982. The canteen element of the surviving structure is not an original function, food would have been taken to the barrack blocks from the kitchens and consumed there, and it is evident that the kitchen fittings do not date from the 1930's. It appears that the original framework of the building survives, including the concrete foundation pillars, the iron frame columns and roof frames, and the brick walls where they have been constructed in English Garden Wall Bond. Where brickwork comprised Stretcher bond, such as the extension to accommodate refuse bins and two of the interior porches, it would appear to be a later addition. The tongued-and-grooved timber panelling in the canteen sheds may be original, or reused, but has been partially replaced by fibreboard at the base of the walls. The asbestos cladding and aluminium windows are also later replacements and may be indicative of a period of refurbishment in the 1960s or 1970s. Inspection of the exterior joins between the four sheds leads to the suggestion that the third shed from the north was constructed slightly later than the other three sheds to connect the kitchen block to the canteen. It was present in its current plan form in the aerial photograph dating to 1947 but appears to have been inserted just after the construction of the other sheds.

Condition

5.56 Building 15 is in a poor state of repair. The iron framework is severely corroded where it meets the concrete, which potentially undermines the structure of the building and the cast iron guttering is similarly rotten. The asbestos cladding and fibreboard panels are coming away from both the roof and the walls and are prone to leaking. The floor surface is uneven and the tiles are disturbed throughout. The timber doors and wooden window frames are also rotten in places.

Building 17 - Former armoury (Figure 2, Plate 16)

5.57 Building 17 was a rectangular structure, with two covered vestibules attached to either extremity of its south-facing elevation (Plate 15). The building was located on the western perimeter of the camp immediately adjacent to the camp boundary. A building was present on this site in 1947.

5.58 The building was 55'00" long and 25'00" wide, each vestibule protruding to the south of the building for a further 9'6". The main walls of the building were built of machine made brick laid in half-lap stretcher bond with the exception of the vestibules, which were laid in English Garden Wall Bond, with headers located at every fifth course. These latter features were probably later additions. The brickwork is largely finished in a creamy coloured paint, but some patches of raw brickwork were evident.

5.59 The roof of the building was composed of shuttered concrete, probably pre-cast slabs, which was supported directly on the wall-heads. No access was possible to this building but, given its width, it is likely that some form of internal framing or dividing walls further supported the roof. The two vestibules were roofed over in a similar manner. The roof was covered in modern roofing felt and was finished at the edges with timber soffits. The rainwater goods comprised gutters and down-pipes made from plastic.

5.60 The floor of the building was not visible but is assumed to have been constructed of concrete slabs.

5.61 The south facing elevation was once perforated by two doorways, located in the vestibules, the south-eastern doorway having been bricked-up with bricks laid in one-third-lap stretcher bond. A concrete ramp extending beyond the vestibule lay to the south of this doorway. The south-western doorway contained a steel blast-door 3'6" wide within a steel frame. A similar door and doorway were located on the north-western side of the north-facing elevation of the building, though this doorway was contained within a vestibule (Plate 16).

Originality

5.62 Although there was a building present in this area in 1947, it appeared to be an un-roofed structure in the aerial photograph of the camp dating to this period. In addition the brickwork of Building 17 would appear to be of a later date. Where 1930s brickwork is evident within the camp, such as in the blast-walls of former bunkers, the bricks and mortar are noticeably more weathered, and of a slightly different colour. Modifications to the building were evident in the change in bond used to construct the vestibules, and the blockage of the former doorway in the

southern wall. It is likely that Building 17 is a product of a programme of refurbishment undertaken in the 1960s or 70s.

Condition

5.63 The building appeared to be generally sound on the basis of an external inspection only. There was a horizontal crack in the brickwork in the east wall of the easternmost vestibule, and the roofs to both vestibules were leaking. There was also a vertical crack in the brickwork of the west-facing elevation about halfway along its length. However, any internal iron framing, if original, is likely to have corroded where it has been encapsulated in the concrete floor.

Building 18- Former magazine (Figure 2, Plates 17 & 18)

5.64 Building 18 was an 'L'-shaped structure, with a concrete plinth extending beyond the footprint of the building to the north. The building was located on the western perimeter of the camp immediately adjacent to the boundary with Sandy Lane. A building was present on this site in 1947.

5.65 The building measured 48'00" long by 25'00" wide, and a small extension measuring 10'00" by 9'00" was attached to the southwest corner The concrete plinth extended for a further 16'00" north of the north wall of the building, and 12'00" of this was roofed (Plate 17).

5.66 Where visible the main walls of the building were built of machine made brick laid in half-lap Stretcher bond with the exception of a small cubicle constructed on the plinth to the north of the building, which was built in English Garden Wall Bond with headers and closers situated at every fifth course. This latter structure was almost certainly a later addition. The brickwork is largely finished in a creamy coloured paint, but the easternmost two-thirds of the south-facing elevation were rendered in cement (Plate 18).

5.67 The east- and west-facing elevations were featureless, as was the north facing return wall of the 'L' wing. The south facing elevation contained two pillars. The eastern pillar was 2'5" wide, that to the west 1'3" wide, and although both were rendered, patches of brickwork laid in stretcher bond were visible in the pillar to the east. The western end of the elevation, equating to the extension, was rendered. There were two door apertures in this elevation, both being situated between the pillars. The easternmost doorway was sealed by a steel blast-door, 3'00" wide, and provided with a concrete ramp 4'10" wide. The western doorway, which was 2'7" wide, had been blocked with brickwork laid in English Garden Wall Bond with headers at every fifth course.

5.68 The north facing elevation contained a doorway at its eastern end, this being sealed by a steel blast door similar to that in the south wall. To the

north of this elevation was a concrete plinth set above ground level. This extended the full width of the building with a concrete access ramp on its eastern side, close to the doorway on the north wall. On the western edge of the plinth immediately adjacent to the north-western corner of the building, a small cubicle, had been built. This structure abutted the northern wall and was open on its eastern side. There were two small apertures in the western and northern sides of the structure.

5.69 The roof of building 18 was composed of shuttered concrete, probably pre-cast slabs, which was supported directly on the wall-heads, and probably by some form of internal framing. The roof extended beyond the north wall of the building for a further 12'00" providing a partial covering to the plinth. The roof extension was supported in this area by a framework of horizontal iron 'I' beams. These in turn were supported by four vertical 'I' beams set directly into the concrete of the plinth at the northern edge of the roof extension. The fabric of the roof was sealed with a mineralised bitumen compound. The rainwater goods were cast iron throughout, and there was a small iron grill set at high level in the western wall of the cubicle on the plinth.

Originality

5.70 Although there was a building present in this area in 1947, it appeared to be an un-roofed structure in the aerial photograph of the camp dating to this period and the brickwork of the present building appeared to be of a later date. The building was probably once longer, perhaps extending a little further to the south. The western extension may have been a later addition to the structure, although the brickwork was executed in the same bond that was noted in the majority of the remainder of the building. The blocked doorway in the south facing elevation was narrower than that closed by the blast door to its east, perhaps indicating that the southern wall was once an internal wall. The cubicle situated on the northern plinth of the building is clearly a later addition. It is possible that the bulk of this building may have had its origins in the late 1930s, but it has been significantly altered, and may have been rebuilt in the 1960s or -70s

Condition

5.71 The building appeared to be in poor condition. The render finishes were spalling badly, the blast doors had been vandalised with a Stihl saw or similar device and the concrete roof was leaking significantly. Moreover, the bottoms of the vertical 'I' beams supporting the overhang of the roof to the north of the building were rotten where they were set into the concrete of the plinth and any internal framing is likely to have decayed in a similar manner.

Building 24 - Former toilet block (Figure 2, Plates 19 & 20)

5.72 Building 24 is a rectangular building located within the central sector of the camp, to the south of the hospital complex. This building was evident in its current form on the aerial photograph from 1947, so it is likely that it was erected in the initial phase of the camp's construction. It was oriented from north to south and measured 24'00" in length by 18'00" in width.

5.73 The building was constructed about an iron frame supported on concrete pillars. The base of the walls revealed Stretcher bond brick panels clad with ship-lap timber. The interior was divided longitudinally by a breeze block wall standing to ridge height. This wall divided the men's urinals from the women's toilets, which were still in situ. The roof comprised asbestos panels, finished at the gables with bargeboards, and had ten roof lights of reinforced glass on each slope. The floor was constructed of concrete. The north-facing elevation contained four vertical, wooden-framed casement windows each comprising three panes of glass (Plate 19). Access was provided by a single door in the east-facing elevation (Plate 20) and an opposing door in the west-facing elevation, both of which had latterly been boarded up. Each doorway was furnished with an electric light above. Plastic guttering ran along the east and west eaves with down-pipes at the southern gable. The ship-lap timber had been treated with a wood preservative but otherwise the building remained unpainted.

Originality

5.74 The concrete support pillars and the steel frame of Building 24 would appear to have been retained in their original form and probably date from the initial phase of the camp's construction in the 1930s. It is likely that the ship-lap timber cladding is a later replacement as it is in a relatively good condition and the asbestos roof and associated guttering probably date from the refurbishment of the camp in the 1960s or 1970s.

Condition

5.75 The roof of Building 24 was in reasonable condition having been replaced relatively recently and the timber cladding was generally in a good state of repair, apart from one timber panel, which had come away from the eastern elevation. The doors had been boarded-up so were presumably in a poor condition and the window frames were rotten in all cases. It was impossible to access the interior of the building, but it was evident that the pipes to the toilets and sinks had been leaking and no attempt had been made to repair them.

Building 25 - Former washroom/store (Figure 2, Plate 21)

5.76 Building 25 was a rectangular structure located in the central sector of the camp to the south of the hospital complex. Its former function is

unknown but it may have been a washroom associated with the adjacent toilet block. A building of the same plan form was evident on the aerial photograph dating to 1947 so it is likely that it was built during the initial phase of the camp's construction in the 1930s.

5.77 The building measured 10'6" in length by 9'6" in width and was oriented from north-west to south-east. Concrete foundation pillars were evident at each corner of the building, protruding slightly beyond the line of the walls, which were constructed of half-lap Stretcher bond brickwork (Plate 21). The walls were internally finished with cream paint but the brickwork was left unpainted on the exterior. The interior bore partition scars on the walls attesting to the former presence of internal divisions.

5.78 The floor was constructed of a concrete slab, which existed at a height of five brick courses above ground level. This had been painted red which was consistent with the other buildings in the hospital complex. There was evidence for a damp-proof membrane installed within the brickwork of the walls at this height.

5.79 The roof of the building was flat and comprised slabs of concrete, which have been latterly covered in roofing felt. There was a cast iron gutter with a single down-pipe on the south-facing elevation.

5.80 Access to Building 25 was provided by a single doorway in the north-facing elevation with concrete lintels above and below. There was evidence of a lightweight timber panelled door, which had been badly damaged. A series of two brick steps capped with concrete coping slabs led up to this doorway.

5.81 The south-facing elevation was equipped with two symmetrically positioned windows with concrete lintels, both of which had been bricked-up. A further window adjacent to the door in the north-facing elevation had also been bricked-up. It is likely, judging from the size of the windows, that they were of the three-pane form identified in adjacent Building 24.

5.82 Building 25 contained no evidence of heating but there were two airbricks to provide ventilation at the head of the blocked windows in the south-facing elevation.

5.83 There was evidence of a water supply to the interior of Building 25. It was also equipped with cast iron waste pipes and associated drains at the northern end of the west-facing elevation, the northern end of the east-facing elevation and the eastern end of the south-facing elevation.

Originality

5.84 It is likely that the concrete slab foundation of this structure has been retained from the original construction of the building in the 1930s.

However, it would seem that the brick walls above the lowest five courses have been replaced following the insertion of the damp-proof membrane as they are in a superior condition to the brickwork below it. The extensive provision of drainage from this building would suggest that it formerly housed a number of plumbed installations. These are not currently evident and may have been removed during the refurbishment of the building so that it could latterly be used as a storeroom.

Condition

5.85 The interior of Building 25 is in a poor condition as the roofing felt is leaking. The lowest five courses of brickwork located below the damp-proof coursing are rotting and the concrete lintel over the doorway has split. The timber door has also been badly damaged.

Building 26 - Former offices (Figure 2, Plates 22 & 23)

5.86 Building 26 was situated in the central sector of the camp to the south of the hospital complex. A building was evident in this location on the aerial photograph from 1947 so it is likely that it was erected during the initial phase of construction in the 1930s. This building was rectangular in form and was oriented from north to south. It measured 24'00" in width and 48'00" in length, nominally divided into four equal bays of 12'00" in length.

5.87 In contrast with the majority of the buildings in this area, building 26 bore no evidence of concrete support pillars as a foundation for the structure. It was constructed on a foundation comprising brick pillars to a height of five courses, with panels of Stretcher bond brickwork between them. The outer walls were clad with ship-lap timber panelling and were equipped with wooden flashing on the east and west elevations to direct water away from the base of the walls. The interior of the walls was finished with fibreboard panels.

5.88 The roof was of a single ridge and gable construction of corrugated asbestos panels, which was finished at the gables with bargeboards. A suspended acoustic tile ceiling masked the roof trusses on the interior but it could be assumed through comparison with other buildings of the same width that they were of braced king post form.

5.89 The west-facing elevation of the building was accessed by two sets of double doors (Plate 22). One of the double doors had been recently boarded up, but the other contained four panes of glass in the upper half of the door. A single doorway, formerly located in the southernmost bay of this elevation, had latterly been filled-in with wooden panelling. There were also two single doors in the east-facing elevation in the southernmost two bays. All the doorways were furnished with two brick-built steps on the exterior as the floor level was substantially higher than the ground level. Although the building couldn't be accessed for

inspection, the height of the floor would suggest that it was provided with a suspended timber floor.

5.90 Building 26 was lit by total of 17 windows, and these were present on all four elevations. The windows were all of casement style and seven comprised three panes of glass each whilst the remaining 10 had six panes of glass each. A number of these windows had been recently boarded-up (Plate 23).

5.91 The east and west elevations of building 26 were provided with cast iron guttering running the length of the eaves with a down-pipe at either end. The exterior timber panelling appeared to have been treated with a wood preservative but otherwise the building remained unpainted.

Originality

5.92 Although a building of the same plan form stood in this location from at least 1947, it is unlikely that the current structure of Building 26 displays its original form. The fact that concrete foundation pillars are not present, would suggest that they were removed and the building was largely replaced or that the building has been dramatically raised and the pillars are no longer visible. The original function of Building 26 is unknown but the presence of multiple windows on all elevations suggests that it may have formerly been used as an office associated with the adjacent hospital complex.

Condition

5.93 The overall condition of Building 26 is poor. A number of the asbestos roof panels have been displaced which would make it prone to leaking. Some of the bricks are missing from the foundation of the building which is probably due to dampness and the exterior wood panelling is rotting. The majority of the doors and windows have been covered with fibreboard and have probably been damaged as a result of police training exercises in this sector of the camp.

Building 27 - Former mortuary (Figure 2, Plates 24 & 25)

5.94 Building 27 was a small rectangular structure situated in the central sector of the camp within the hospital complex. It was located directly to the west of Building 28 which was formerly an operating theatre. It was evident from the furnishings within Building 27 that it was utilised as a mortuary associated with the adjacent operating theatre. A building was present in this location on the aerial photograph from 1970 but it is difficult to locate on the 1947 photograph. It is probable that this building was erected during the refurbishment of the camp in the 1960s and 1970s.

5.95 This building was oriented from north to south and measured 18'9" in length by 15'9" in width. It differed from the majority of the buildings on

the camp in that it hadn't been constructed with concrete pillars as a foundation. The walls were comprised entirely of brickwork in a half-lap Stretcher bond, with some headers and closers visible in the east-facing elevation. The bricks used in this building were of a noticeably higher quality than those used throughout the rest of the camp and the brickwork was equally superior. This would suggest that a certain amount of care had been afforded to the construction of this building as its purpose was to temporarily house the dead.

5.96 The roof of Building 27 was ridged and gabled, supported by a timber braced king post truss with two purlins per slope extending beyond the gables (Plate 24). It had been clad with corrugated asbestos panels, which also overhung the gables, and asbestos ridge tiles finished with circular finials over the gable ends. The floor of building 27 was constructed of concrete which had been painted red.

5.97 Building 27 was accessed via a set of timber-planked double doors, furnished with a slight external ramp, in the western half of the east-facing elevation. This entrance was directly opposite a pair of double doors leading from the operating theatre, presumably to facilitate discretion in moving bodies into the mortuary.

5.98 The windows in the mortuary building were well-made iron-framed, casement style throughout and each displayed eight panes of reinforced glass and was framed by concrete lintels above and below. All of the windows had been recently panelled over with fibreboard with the exception of one window in the east-facing elevation (Plate 25). The windows consistently measured 1.0m in width by 1.2m in height which would suggest that they were a relatively recent addition. All of the window frames were painted white and the woodwork was painted green.

5.99 Building 27 was equipped with two oil-filled electric heaters attached to the interior of the western wall and there were two ventilation grills situated at a high level in the south-facing wall. The room was furnished with a large Belfast type sink on the western wall, which was supported by brick pillars. There was a body slab running the length of the southern wall, which was also supported on brick pillars, this also being painted red.

Originality

5.100 It is evident that Building 27 wasn't erected during the initial phase of the camp's creation in the 1930s. Its form of construction is of a much higher quality than that observed throughout the rest of the camp and it appears that time and due care has been taken in building it. It is likely that Building 27 was erected during the refurbishment of the camp in the 1960s and 1970s and that it has been well maintained in the intervening period. The metric dimensions of the windows would suggest that they

have been replaced relatively recently. The diminutive size of the mortuary, which provides space for just two bodies, indicates that it was built after the camp had ceased to be inhabited to its full capacity.

Condition

5.101 Building 27 is in a relatively good state of repair and appears to have been well maintained. One of the windows has been broken which could possibly be attributed to recent police training exercises in this area. The paint on the woodwork is peeling slightly but otherwise it is in good condition.

Building 28 - Former operating theatre (Figure 2, Plates 26 & 27)

5.102 Building 28 was a rectangular structure aligned from north to south within the central sector of the camp. The earliest attested building in this location was in 1947 and it was constructed on the same footprint. The original function of the building is unknown but it was latterly used as an operating theatre.

5.103 The building was comprised of two sheds, one to the east and one to the west. Each shed was divided into 11 bays from north to south and three bays from east to west, each of which measured 12'00" resulting in a building which measured 132'00" by 72'00". The sheds roofs were ridged and gabled with a valley gutter running from north to south between them.

5.104 The walls were constructed with hollow breeze-blocks filled with polystyrene insulation (Plate 26). These were bonded with cement in half-lap stretcher bond and stood to a height of 19 courses. The southernmost bay of the building has been partitioned off by an internal wall, also comprised of hollow breeze-blocks. This bay has been further divided into three rooms of equal size, the westernmost of which was also partially divided by a wall standing to a height of nine courses and projecting 7'4" into the room.

5.105 Vertical I-beams made of iron delineated each bay and formed the frame of the building. They were set into concrete pillars and supported a queen post style roof frame, also constructed of iron, which has been bolted together with iron plates at the intersections. Iron support beams were sprung from each of the uprights except where the partition wall had been inserted. There were two internal drainpipes of cast-iron from the valley gutter which were attached to the I-beams. The bottom section of one of the pipes had been replaced with plastic piping in the recent past.

5.106 The roof was clad with corrugated iron panels, some of which were painted with red lead paint, and appeared to be original, whereas others remained unpainted and were probably later replacements. There were

fibreglass insulation tiles lining approximately 60% of the interior of the roof and within the southern bay of the building there was a suspended ceiling of acoustic tiles 10'0" above floor level.

5.107 Access to the building was achieved through six doors, all of which were constructed of timber. There was one double door in the northern elevation measuring 5'4" in width by 6'8" in height and a single door, which had been boarded-up, measuring 2'8½" by 7'6½". There were two double doors in the eastern elevation, the first of which was in the first bay (from the north) and measured 5'10" in width by 6'8" in height. The second door was in the tenth bay and measured 5'8" in width by 6'8" in height. There was one double door in the western elevation within the tenth bay. This measured 5'8" in width by 6'8" in height and was directly opposite to the door of the adjacent mortuary building. The double doors in the north and east elevations were equipped with external concrete ramps, probably to facilitate stretcher access. The single door in the northern elevation was furnished with a single concrete step and a flight of two steps was noted on the exterior of the southernmost bay of the west elevation attesting to a former doorway. The partition wall between the southernmost two bays had three internal sliding doors within bays one, three and five from the east. They were consistent in size and measured of 5'6" in width by 6'8" in height.

5.108 There were four windows in the northern elevation (Plate 27) and five in the southern elevation all of which were of horizontal casement style with six panes of laminated glass set in wooden frames. They each measured 2.00m in width by 0.90m in height which would suggest that they were later additions. The western wall contained nine high level, fixed pane windows of reinforced glass and the west-facing roof slopes of both sheds had roof lights incorporated into the roof panelling in the 10 northernmost bays of the building.

5.109 The floor of Building 28 was constructed of concrete and had been painted red throughout.

5.110 Light was provided by 10 large reflective electric lights suspended from the iron roof frames within the 10 northernmost bays of the building and by electric strip lights attached to the ceiling in the southern bay. The building was heated by three large gas heaters also suspended from the roof frame, the flues from which were visible from the outside perforating the roof. Ventilation was afforded by two ventilation bricks located 9″ from the floor in the eastern and western elevations and electricity points were provided at frequent intervals around the building.

5.111 The exterior of the northern and southern walls contained three expansion joints each to guard against cracking and the building was painted white on all exterior walls. A series of 12 electric lights were located around the building at eave height. Cast iron guttering also ran

the length of the eaves on the east and west elevations with four down-pipes on each side, one of which has been replaced by a plastic drainpipe. The valley gutter between the two sheds had a single down-pipe on the southern elevation and there was concrete flashing along the wall footings of east and west elevations to direct water away from the base of the walls.

Originality

5.112 It is evident from aerial photos that a building has been present in this location since at least 1947 and it is probable that it was erected in the initial stage of the construction of the camp. It is possible that the iron frame is a feature of the original building but it appears that the majority of the superstructure has been altered. The original wall panels have been completely replaced with breeze-blocks, probably in the 1960s or 1970s when the camp was refurbished. The casement windows and doors on the elevations have been replaced but the high level lights and roof lights may be original. The roof retains some of the original corrugated iron panelling but it has been replaced in some areas. The partitioning of the southernmost bay of the building is also a later addition as it is constructed from breeze-blocks.

Condition

5.113 In general, the building is in a poor state of repair. The ironwork is decaying at the base of the beams where they are set into the concrete floor and many of the breeze-blocks within the northern elevation are cracked. The corrugated iron roof sheeting is rotting and leaking in places and it would appear that remedial repair work on the valley gutter and down-pipes has been unsuccessful. There is some evidence of vandalism on the internal doors and a large "doorway" (Plate 26) has been crudely knocked through the eastern elevation to facilitate current vehicle access.

Building 29 - Former hospital (Figure 2, Plates 28 & 29)

5.114 Building 29 was a long rectangular building situated in the central sector of the camp within the hospital complex. This building was evident in its current plan form on the aerial photograph dating from 1947 and it is likely that it was erected during the initial phase of the camp's construction in the 1930s.

5.115 The building comprised of two sheds oriented from north to south. The sheds were of equal dimensions each measuring 24'00" in width and 288'00" in length and could be divided into 24 bays each nominally measuring 12'00" in length. Both of the sheds were ridged and gabled with valley guttering present between the roofs.

5.116 The construction technique was consistent with that observed in other buildings of the same width. Concrete pillars provided the foundation for

an iron frame comprising of vertical iron columns from which braced king post roof frames were sprung. The walls on the north and south-facing elevations were clad with corrugated iron sheets and those on the north and south-facing elevations were constructed of breeze-blocks. The floor of Building 29 was made of concrete and was painted red throughout.

5.117 The roof of Building 29 was covered with corrugated asbestos panelling which was finished with metal ridge tiles running the length of the building. There were roof lights made of reinforced glass present in the west-facing roof slopes of both sheds.

5.118 Building 29 was accessed by five double doors along the east-facing elevation (Plate 28), located in bays 1, 3, 5, 13 and 24 (from the north). The door in bay 3 was still present and was a timber-panelled double door but the remaining four doorways had been recently covered over with chipboard. This meant that access to the building was restricted. The west-facing elevation was equipped with two sets of double doors located in bays 14 and 23 and two low-level sliding hatches fabricated from galvanised steel, which had been latterly inserted into the breeze-block wall in bays 15 and 22.

5.119 The north-facing elevation contained two sub-square, aluminium-framed casement windows each of which comprised six panes of glass (Plate 29). The windows each measured 1.0m in height by 0.9m in width which would suggest that they were relatively recent replacements as their dimensions were metric rather than imperial. A single window was present in the south-facing elevation which comprised one pane of glass fixed within a wooden frame, measuring 3'00" in width by 2'00" in height. The west-facing elevation was furnished with high-level, reinforced glass, windows running the length of the building.

5.120 The exterior of the building was lit by five electric lights along each of the east-facing and west-facing elevations at eaves-height. It was also equipped with a cast iron valley gutter between the two sheds, and gutters running along the eastern and western elevations provided with nine down-pipes each. The outside of the building remained unpainted.

Originality

5.121 The iron frame and concrete foundation of Building 29 would appear to have been retained in their original form, probably dating to the formation of the camp in the 1930s. It is possible that the corrugated iron sheeting which clad the northern and southern elevations is also original but the rest of the structure, which was entirely composed of breeze blocks, would appear to date from a period of refurbishment during the 1960s and1970s. It was difficult to ascertain the function of Building 29 as access to the interior was restricted. However, its location in the central sector would suggest that it was latterly associated with the

adjacent hospital ward and operating theatre. It is possible that the westernmost shed of the building was used as an additional hospital ward as it was provided with high-level windows in the western elevation. The easternmost shed was not as well lit as its western counterpart and may have been used for storage as an army hospital of this size would necessitate substantial storerooms.

Condition

5.122 The framework of Building 29 is in a poor state of repair as the iron columns are corroded where they are set into concrete. The corrugated iron cladding on the northern and eastern elevations is also rotting towards the base and one of the windows in the northern elevation has a broken pane of glass, possibly resulting from police training activities in this sector of the camp. It was impossible to assess the condition of the interior of the building as access was restricted.

Building 30 - Former hospital (Figure 2, Plates 30 - 33)

5.123 Building 30 was located in the central sector of the camp and aerial photographs showed that a structure has stood this location since at least 1947 though not in its present plan form. Its original function is unknown but chalked bed and ward numbers on the interior of the walls and the presence of an X-ray room reveal that it was latterly used as a hospital ward block. The surviving building comprised three sheds constructed on a north-south orientation. Each of the three sheds measured 24'00" in width but the two easternmost sheds were longer and measured 384'00" in length, divided into 32 bays, whereas the westernmost shed measured 144'00" and was divided into 12 bays (Plate 30).

5.124 It was evident that the smaller shed was a slightly later addition as the floor surface within it was much rougher and at a lower level than that in the other two sheds (Plate 31). It appeared that a concrete outdoor surface associated with the larger sheds had been cut through in order to insert the supports for the smaller shed. This was further corroborated by the presence of external drain covers in the floor surface. All of the floor surfaces were constructed with concrete and had been painted red throughout.

5.125 A suspended acoustic tile ceiling had been inserted throughout the majority of the building obscuring the interior view of the roof trusses. Where the roof frames were visible, in the northernmost two bays, it comprised a braced king post iron frame sprung from iron columns set into concrete foundation pillars. The pillars were visible at ground level on the outside of the building. The iron supports between the smaller shed and the adjacent shed had been encased with brickwork.

5.126 The roof covering was entirely composed of corrugated asbestos sheets which weren't part of the original construction. Some panels of

reinforced glass were present on the west-facing slopes of the roof and panels of clear plastic had been inserted into the ceiling to allow light to enter from the glass panels above.

5.127 The north and south elevations of the two longer sheds were clad with the original corrugated iron sheeting on the exterior (Plate 32) and tongued-and-grooved timber panelling on the interior. The eastern elevation displayed a combination of building techniques, which probably resulted from refurbishment in the 1960s and 1970s. The first eleven bays from the north were constructed of breeze-blocks, the following three bays were of Stretcher bond brickwork with I-beams encased in concrete. The remainder of the elevation was constructed in breeze-block with the exception of the 25th and 28th bays from the north which comprised Stretcher bond brickwork to half the wall height with fixed plastic lights above. The southernmost 20 bays of the western elevation mirrored the wall fabrics used in the construction of the eastern elevation. At this point the westernmost shed had been added and this was constructed of breeze-blocks on the western elevation and brickwork comprising alternating courses of headers and stretchers on the north and south elevations.

5.128 The northernmost two bays across all three sheds were completely partitioned off from the rest of the building by a Stretcher bond brick wall. The southernmost four bays of the two longer sheds were also partitioned into eight offices and a hallway by tongued-and-grooved timber walls. This was the only section of the building to have a suspended timber floor. There was a further internal wall along the line of the join between the two large sheds, also constructed of Stretcher bond brickwork, which divided bays 6 to 20 within the eastern shed into five distinct rooms, one of which had evidently been used as an X-ray room. A further brick wall, breached by a large opening, separated bay 24, from the north, from bay 25.

5.129 There were four doors in the eastern elevation and four in the western elevation which were timber double doors measuring 5'8" in width by 6'8" in height. Two of the sets of double doors in the eastern elevation had steps on both the outside and inside and one had a wooden ramp on the outside. There was also a broad single door on the eastern elevation which may have provided wheelchair access as it was ramped both internally and externally. Timber doors on the partition walls in the southernmost four bays measured 2'6" in width by 6'6" in height.

5.130 The southern elevation contained three large, iron-framed casement windows, each containing 40 panes of glass (Plate 33). Two of the windows appeared to be original but the westernmost window was a later replacement. The eastern elevation of the room formed within bays 25 – 28 was equipped with large PVC windows that constitute the upper half of the walls. The opposing windows in the western elevation were of

the same dimensions but had been boarded up. There were four sets of high level lights contained in the western elevation and two sets in the eastern elevation. The northern elevation was devoid of fenestration.

5.131 Building 30 was heated by four large gas heaters, which were suspended from the ceiling. Two of these were located in the smaller western shed within bays 5 and 12 (from the north) and two were situated within bays 24 and 28 of the easternmost shed. The rooms created within bays 6 to 20 in the eastern shed were equipped with seven gas heaters attached to the eastern wall. There was also a heating shaft within bay 25, which led from a (Danish) gas boiler enclosed in a rudimentary brick structure adjoined to the eastern elevation.

5.132 The rooms within bays one to 24 from the north were lit by large reflective electric lights incorporated into the suspended ceiling. This type of lighting was necessitated by this area of the building functioning as a hospital ward. The remainder of the building, which had been used as offices, was lit by fluorescent strip lighting. There were electricity sockets at frequent intervals throughout the building.

5.133 Cast iron guttering ran along the east and western eaves of the building and valley guttering was present between each of the sheds with iron down-pipes at various intervals. The original corrugated iron panelling was painted green on the exterior facets of the building as was the guttering but the rest of the exterior remained unpainted. Exterior lights were located around the outside of the building just below the height of the eaves. Flues for the gas wall heaters were visible on the eastern elevation.

Originality

5.134 The iron framework of Building 30 is in its original form, as are the concrete foundation pillars. The southernmost four bays of the building retain the original timber panelling forming partitions between the rooms and two of the casement windows in this sector are original. The earliest aerial photograph of this structure dates from 1947 but it is likely that these original features date from the initial period of the camp's formation in the 1930s. The westernmost shed is not visible in the 1947 aerial photograph and an inspection of the frame bases revealed that it was constructed slightly later than the rest of the building. The majority of the exterior walls throughout have been replaced by either breeze-block or Stretcher bond brickwok panels, probably during a phase of refurbishment in the 1960s or 1970s. The original function of the building is uncertain, but most of the surviving internal features, excluding those in the southernmost four bays, can be ascribed to the period when the building was in use as a hospital.

Condition

5.135 The supporting structure of Building 30 is in a poor state of repair as the iron columns are corroding towards the base where they are set into concrete. The southernmost four bays of the building, which display the most original features, are in a particularly poor condition. The suspended timber floor is rotten and unsafe to walk on in places and many of the acoustic ceiling tiles have been displaced, as is the case throughout the rest of the building. The casement windows in the southern sector show evidence of bullet-holes resulting from police training exercises and there is a certain amount of debris in this area probably resulting from the same activities. The original corrugated iron, which is cladding the exterior of the north and south elevations, is corroded and the asbestos roof panelling and valley guttering are similarly decayed resulting in leaking. The concrete floor is uneven and cracked in places.

Building 31 (Figure 2)

5.136 Building 31 was a small, square brick structure located within the central sector of the camp, to the north of the hospital complex. It appeared on an aerial photograph dating to 1970 but wasn't present on the photograph dating to 1947. It is likely that it was constructed during the 1960s when there was a period of refurbishment at the camp.

5.137 The building measured 15'8" square and the brick walls were laid in English Garden Wall Bond with headers at every fifth course. The roof comprised a single concrete slab, which sloped slightly from south to north and was equipped with a cast iron gutter along the northern elevation.

5.138 Building 31 was accessed by a double door located in the south-facing elevation, which measured 5'8" in width. It had a wooden frame which was painted blue and was surmounted by a concrete lintel which had the legend "Danger" painted on it. A single electric light was located over the door lintel. The north-facing elevation was equipped with a centrally placed wooden-framed casement window with a quarry-tile sill and there was a small fixed light with two panes of glass to the southern end of the west-facing elevation.

5.139 The interior of Building 31 was furnished with a sink and a water heater on the western wall and an electric heater on the northern wall.

Originality

5.140 It would appear that Building 31 was constructed during the period of refurbishment of the camp in the 1960s and 1970s as it doesn't appear on earlier aerial photographs. Its original function is obscure but a poster on the interior of one of the walls was entitled "Safety regulations and procedures for work on electrical installations in explosive atmospheres.

(D.o.E. Property Services Agency, Poster no. 71)", this hinting at the function of the building immediately prior to the closure of the camp.

Condition

5.141 The overall structure of Building 31 appears to be in a reasonably good condition.

Buildings 33, 35, and 37 - Former accommodation (H) blocks; Building 36 - Sergeants' Mess; Building 38 - Officers' Mess; and Building 32 - Camp Headquarters building (Figure 2, Plates 34 -37).

5.142 There were originally 14 buildings of 'H' plan form within the camp, Buildings 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 and 38 being the sole surviving examples, although these were not identical buildings. The first 'H' plan building was demolished between 1962 and 1968 with others being removed in a piecemeal fashion up to 1993. Buildings 33, 35, 36 and 37 were originally officers' accommodation blocks and Building 38 was always the officers' mess. The original function of Building 32, latterly used as the camp headquarters is unclear. Buildings were present on the sites of all of the above in 1947. Although the surviving buildings are not of a single form, Building 35 was selected for detailed recording as it was located in a position that facilitated its recording, and was of a form essentially similar to four of the remaining six 'H' plan buildings.

5.143 Building 35 was located at the eastern side of the central sector of the site and was one of a group of five buildings in this area. The building was an asymmetrical 'H' plan building comprising two parallel range, joined by a central, parallel, connecting block forming the bar of the 'H. The eastern range was shorter than the western range.

5.144 The western range comprised 12 bays, each bay being nominally 12'00" long, the range being 19'00" wide externally, (18'00" internally). The eastern range, by contrast, comprised a building only 10 bays, each bay again being 12'00" long. The width of this range was identical to that of the western range. The central block was two, 12'00" bays deep and 24'00" wide.

5.145 The exterior walls of the building were constructed of shiplap timber weatherboard supported on timber sleeper beams, which were in turn supported on a series of concrete pillars (Plate 34). The gaps between the pillars were filled with panels of brickwork laid in Stretcher bond at some stage in the relatively recent past. The timberwork was finished in wood preservative, the pillars painted white and the brickwork was neither rendered nor painted. The building was equipped with cast-iron rainwater gutters and down-pipes.

5.146 No internal inspection was made of this building, however, the floor of the building was assumed to be of suspended timber.

5.147 The roofs of all of the huts comprising building 35 were ridged and gabled, and covered in corrugated asbestos sheeting. The roof covering on building 36 had recently been replaced with green corrugated metal sheeting. The roof trusses of building 35 were not visible but it is likely that they comprised part of the timber frames of the building and were constructed in the braced and collared king post tradition seen in other buildings, the trusses supporting purlins upon which the common rafters were laid.

5.148 Access to the building was achieved through five doorways. The main entrance to the building comprised a double doorway in the east-facing elevation of the eastern range (Plate 35). As a result of this range being 10 bays long, the doorway was not central to the range, but placed in the northernmost of the central two bays giving this elevation an asymmetrical appearance. The doorway was equipped with a flight of three concrete steps to the front. Further, single doorways, each equipped with concrete ramps to their fronts, were arranged symmetrically in the second and eleventh bays of the east-facing elevation of the western range, and the second and ninth bays of the west-facing elevation of the eastern range. All of the doors were constructed of timber.

5.149 The fenestration of the west facing elevation of the western range was uniform and symmetrical, each bay containing one six-pane casement window with a wooden frame (Plate 36). The windows of the east-facing elevations of the same range contained windows of the same type in each bay, apart from those containing doorways, and the southernmost bay which contained two half width windows, each containing three panes. The north and south-facing elevations of this range were windowless. The east-facing elevation of the eastern range contained windows of identical form in each bay apart from that containing the doorway, which was equipped with two half width, three-pane, windows either side of the door frame. The west-facing elevation of this range contained identical windows in each bay apart from those containing doorways. The north-facing elevation of the range was windowless, but the south-facing elevation contained a further two six-pane windows. The south-facing elevation of the connecting block contained four half width, three-pane windows arranged symmetrically, the north facing elevation being equipped with two six-pane windows arranged either side of two three-pane windows.

5.150 Building 35 had been provided with a small, free-standing, brick-built boiler-house in the very recent past. The building was rectangular in plan and located between the inward facing elevations of the eastern and western ranges, to the south of the connecting block (Plate 37).

5.151 The interior of the H-plan buildings, where visible through windows, appeared to be divided into a series of rooms, one in each bay, which

occupied the majority of the space in both of the main ranges. The rooms were constructed from vertical tongue-and-groove timberwork and arranged along the east-facing side of the eastern range, and the west-facing side of the western range. The rooms were connected by corridors, approximately 6'00" wide running along the length of each, on their inward facing sides. The majority of the rooms were clearly used for accommodation, and several still had curtains hanging in the windows. Toilets were provided in the northernmost and southernmost bays of both ranges, and wastewater pipes were present on the exterior of the connecting block, suggesting the presence of ablutions facilities in this part of the building.

5.152 Building 33 was essentially identical to building 35, but this building had not been provided with a separate boiler house. A large flue located within the central connecting block may have represented visible evidence of an internal boiler room. Building 37 was a mirror image of building 33, with the short range facing west and both were former accommodation blocks. Building 36 was identical in plan to building 37, but had been extensively modified to fulfil a different function. This building was latterly used as a Sergeants' Mess, but was probably an accommodation block originally, and as a consequence was externally similar to Building 37. However, the double doorway on the west-facing elevation of the western range had been provided with an external porch in the relatively recent past. Internally, the building contained a large kitchen in the southern half of the eastern range, offices in the southern half of the western range, and toilet facilities at the northern ends of both ranges. The remainder of the space within the building was given over to a large dining hall. The building did not have an associated boiler-house and was heated by wall-mounted gas heaters, the flues for which were situated at low level, below the windows of both ranges.

5.153 Building 38, although of 'H' plan form and located within the general vicinity of the buildings discussed above, clearly had a different function, and was never used as an accommodation block. The original building plan building comprised two ranges, a southern range comprising 14 bays, and a northern range comprising 8 bays, each nominally 12'00" long, and a short connecting block. The building had been extended by the addition of a further eastern range, that was attached to the rear of the southern range, which was not built upon concrete pillars. Unlike the other 'H' plan buildings, this structure was asymmetrical. The connecting block was not centrally positioned and was located towards the western end of the building. The southern range extended beyond the northern range for some distance to the east. The southern range was approximately 168'00" long, and was wider than the other 'H' plan blocks at 24'00". The northern range was nominally 96'00" long, and 12'00" wide. The connection block was two bays long and 24'00" wide. The extension to the rear of the southern block was not built to imperial measurements and was 6m wide and 10m long, and its junction with the

southern range only achieved in an untidy manner necessitating the construction of small off-shot structures to the extension.

5.154 Building 38 was latterly used as the Officers' Mess, and may have always fulfilled this function given its unusual form. The building was essentially south facing, and looked out onto an open lawn area containing a few garden features.

5.155 Building 32 was an isolated building of 'H' plan, located to the western side of the central sector of the camp, immediately to the north of the hospital complex and was latterly used as the camp headquarters building. It comprised two parallel ranges, aligned east to west, with a connecting block linking the two. However, unlike all of the other buildings of 'H' plan, Building 32 was symmetrical, each range comprising 9 bays each and both were nominally 108'00" long and 18'00" wide. The two ranges were joined by a central connecting block, 24'00" wide and 3 bays (36'00") long. All of the huts were ridged and gabled and the roof covering comprised corrugated asbestos. The north facing elevation of the northern range contained a double doorway fronted by a flat-roofed portico. The fenestration of the whole elevation was difficult discern as it was heavily obscured by vegetation, but it did not seem to be seem to be regular, some bays having central six-pane casement windows, others having offset six-pane windows with an additional three-pane window to one side of it. There were two three-pane windows flanking the double doorway. Access to the building was not possible but views through the windows suggest that the two main ranges were subdivided into a series of rooms, probably offices, arranged on the outward-facing sides of the huts. These were connected by corridors, nominally 6'00" wide, arranged in the same manner seen in Building 35. Although there was a building of this form present at this location in 1947, there was no visible evidence for concrete pillars beneath the sleeper beams.

Originality

5.156 There were buildings present on the site of all of the buildings noted above in 1947 and the original buildings were probably erected in the initial stages of the construction of the camp. All of the 'H' plan blocks with the sole exception of Building 32, were built as a group in a single field as identified on historic mapping of the area. Building 32 was built to the east, in the former field now containing buildings 21, 22, and 23 (see below)

5.157 The exterior fabric of all of the 'H' plan huts has been extensively refurbished or replaced, and the buildings appear to have been raised off their pillars, and brick panels inserted between each of the pillars. The porch on the front of Building 36 is clearly a recent addition. The portico fronting building 32 appeared slightly older, but probably originates in the 1960s or 70s. The internal arrangement of the rooms in the

accommodation blocks may reflect the original layout, but others in this group have been extensively modified.

5.158 The original functions of buildings 33, 35, 36 and 37 were as accommodation blocks for officers. Building 36 was substantially altered at a later date to create the Sergeants' Mess, which was presumably once situated elsewhere on the camp and demolished as the camp was reorganised. Building 38 was always a larger building than the remainder of the 'H' blocks, and it would seem likely that it was always used as the Officers' Mess. Building 32 was latterly used as the Camp Headquarters, and given its position in relation to the other 'H' plan blocks, may have fulfilled this function throughout its lifespan. It is unlikely that it was ever used as an accommodation block but if so, may have been used to house officers when the camp was much smaller.

Condition

5.159 The exterior timber cladding of this group of buildings is in reasonable condition, having been regularly maintained until relatively recently. However, the paintwork on the doors and window frames is deteriorating and there is a large number of broken windows. The main elevations of Building 32 are both covered in vegetation which will be having a detrimental effect upon the timber cladding of the building. There is evidence of internal damage to a number of the buildings resulting from vandalism, the activities necessitated by police and training courses, and general dilapidation. The roofs of the structure remain largely watertight, except for that in building 36, which, despite being the most recent roof covering, has failed resulting in the rapid deterioration and collapse of parts of the dining hall.

Buildings 20, 21, 22, 23 and 39 - Former accommodation blocks and classroom (Figure 2, Plates 38 - 46).

5.160 These buildings are the sole surviving examples of 19 buildings of this type, which once existed at the site, commonly referred to as 'spider blocks'. They were originally dormitory blocks for troops being trained at the camp, and four of the five continued to be used for accommodation purposes (though not as open dormitories) until the camp closed. The fifth, Building 39, was latterly used as a suite of classrooms and stores, but had at some stage also been used for accommodation. The example selected for detailed recording was Building 39, although atypical in function, was situated in a position where at least three of its four main elevations could be recorded easily. The other four buildings were situated in a row with limited space between them.

5.161 Building 39 was situated within the central sector of the site and once comprised part of a group of four such buildings in this area, the other three having been demolished sometime between 1985 and 1993. The building comprised seven main elements, essentially seven rectangular,

timber framed huts, connected by corridors. Six of the huts were arranged in three parallel rows, 25'00" apart, either side of the central, hut which was built at right angles to the others. The gable ends of the six huts were some 20'00" from the central hut. All seven huts were interconnected by a series of corridors nominally 6'00" wide.

5.162 The six huts comprising the 'legs' of the building consisted of six bays, each nominally 12'00" long and 18'00" wide. The 'body' of the building comprised one hut 24'00" wide and about 108'00" long externally (no direct measurement being possible).

5.163 The exterior walls of the building were constructed of shiplap timber weatherboard supported on timber sleeper beams, which were in turn supported on a series of concrete pillars (Plate 38). The gaps between the pillars were filled with brickwork panels laid in Stretcher bond at some stage in the relatively recent past. The timberwork was finished in wood preservative, the pillars painted white and the brickwork was not rendered or painted. The building is equipped with cast-iron rainwater gutters and down-pipes.

5.164 The floors of the legs, and the ends of the body, of the building were suspended timber floors. The central section of the body was floored in concrete as that section of the building once contained a large ablutions room (still present in Buildings 20-23), which was removed upon the re-conversion of the building to a classroom suite. Internally, the walls were clad in a mixture of boards and vertical tongued-and-grooved planking.

5.165 The roofs of all of the huts comprising the building were ridged and gabled, with the exception of the connecting corridors which were flat roofed, and covered with flat, thin, tiles made from some form of composite material, possible asbestos cement (Plate 39). This form of roof covering was unusual, the roofs of most of the other buildings within the camp being covered in corrugated asbestos. The roof trusses comprised part of the timber frames of the building and were constructed in the braced and collared king post tradition, the trusses supporting purlins upon which the common rafters were laid.

5.166 The building was equipped with 12 doorways. Each of the legs of the building contained single doorways in the gable ends furthest from the body of the building. None of these were located centrally within the gable walls, as they are in Buildings 20-23, and each doorway was accessed by a concrete ramp suggesting the need to wheel objects in and out of the rooms (Plate 40). The doorways in the corresponding positions in Buildings 20-23 were located at the ends of centrally arranged corridors within these buildings, and were equipped with short flights of steps. In addition, the south facing elevations of the north-eastern and north-western legs of the building contained double doorways, again accessed by concrete ramps. The north- facing elevation of the south-

eastern leg also contained a double doorway, that in the south-western leg contained a single doorway, both equipped with concrete ramps. The west-facing elevation of the northernmost bay of the north-western leg contained a double doorway that replaced a window in that position. This was also provided with a concrete ramp. The boiler room, located in the western end of the body of the building was entered through a double doorway situated in the north-facing elevation of the hut, though no ramp was required in this area. In addition to the doorways, there was a double door hatchway into the boiler room located at window height within the western elevation of the body of the building.

5.167 The fenestration of the legs of the building was largely uniform with one six-pane casement window in each bay (Plate 41). The exceptions to this included the bays of the inner elevations of all of the huts where they joined with the connecting corridors, which contained single three-pane casement windows, and the most northerly bay of the north-western leg where the window aperture had been replaced by the large loading door noted above. The outward facing corridor elevations each contained a single six-pane window, usually with an opposed window on the inward facing elevation. The fenestration of the body of the building was not uniform. The east-facing elevation of the hut contained two equally spaced six-pane casement windows, the west-facing side contained a single three-pane casement window near its southern end. The north-facing elevation at the eastern end of the hut contained four unequally spaced windows, two of which were six-pane, the other two being three-pane. The north-facing elevation at the western end of the hut contained two three-pane windows either side of a double door leading into the boiler room, and a six pane-window to the east of the doorway. The fenestration of the south-facing elevation of the eastern end of the hut was a mirror image of that found on the north elevation, the south-facing elevation on the western end comprised two equally spaced six-pane casement windows. The frames of all of the windows were constructed from timber which was painted white. The glass used in the windows was laminated in order to render it shatterproof.

5.168 At some stage the building was equipped with a boiler room, this event equating with a general programme of modernisation of the camp. The western end of the body of the building was subdivided and a boiler inserted into the north-western corner. A large, free-standing brick chimney was built immediately adjacent to the block at this point at the same time. The chimney contains an iron rodding eye in its northern face, perhaps suggesting that the boiler was originally coal-fired. This was probably converted to, or replaced with, a gas- or oil-fired boiler at a later date. No access to the boiler room was possible at the time of the fieldwork as a result of the presence of asbestos. The boiler was once used to heat cast iron radiators (now gone) through a network of iron pipes, and provide hot water to the ablutions area within the centre of the building.

5.169 An iron or steel tower surmounted by a large water tank, was built up against the west facing gable of the body of the building at the same time the boiler room was inserted (Plate 42).

Originality

5.170 These buildings, as originally constructed, were probably modular, partially prefabricated and of a type in common use in this period. They would have been constructed in a manner essentially similar to all of the other timber buildings at the camp.

5.171 Each of the six legs of the building was originally an open dormitory, with sufficient space to accommodate about 30 men, perhaps individual platoons. The body of the building was originally used as a communal dining and recreation room. Food was prepared in separate kitchen blocks and transported to the spider blocks for consumption; no cooking was undertaken within the blocks themselves. With 30 men in each leg, the total capacity of the spider blocks was 180 men, a figure equating with a company, or otherwise one quarter of the number of men in a battalion (720). The spider blocks at Saighton Camp seem to have been groups of four, with the exception of the group of three at the western margins of the site. There were originally four groups of four spider blocks (and a group of three which may not have been used for accommodation) indicating that the camp was of sufficient size to act as a regimental camp comprising four battalions, some 2,880 men, excluding officers.

5.172 There would have been no ablutions facilities within the spider blocks, these being located adjacent to the accommodation blocks, as identified in trench 75 in the eastern sector of the site during the evaluation undertaken in 2007 (NAA 2008). Similarly kitchen blocks were also situated nearby, the sole surviving example being Building 15, now a canteen, in the western sector of the camp.

5.173 At some stage in the 1960s, or early 1970s, the spider blocks were heavily modified to accommodate a change in the way that the camp functioned. Although the blocks that survive today look essentially similar to those built in the late 1930s, there are clear indications that the interiors of these buildings were significantly altered, and that such modifications would have been difficult to achieve without substantially dismantling the building. The exterior fabric has also been refurbished, and the buildings appear to have been raised off their pillars (Plates 43 and 44), probably to counter dampness and rot and replace the sill beams upon which the huts were constructed. Some of the original fabric of the buildings, particularly the frames and trusses, was almost certainly reused.

5.174 Each of the legs of the buildings were converted from open dormitories into suites of rooms. Five rooms in each leg were created by partitioning off space either side of a central corridor, which ran down the length of the hut. Four of the five rooms accommodated three men each, the fifth room, a small cubicle situated at the body end of the hut, could accommodate one person, probably a junior NCO.

5.175 The body of the block was partitioned off into three zones by the simple expedient of extending the pre-existing corridors linking the legs of the building to the body, across the full width of the hut. At one end, a boiler room was inserted in a space that equated with approximately half of the width of the hut, and a small room created beside it. At the other end, a series of small rooms were also built. However, the most dramatic change was effected to the central section of the hut. This whole space was converted into an internal ablutions block, which, in the first instance, involved the replacement of the suspended timber floor, with a solid concrete floor, provided with water supplies and drainage for baths, showers, toilets and hand-basins.

5.176 The capacity of the buildings was effectively reduced to 72 men and (probably) 6 NCOs, approximately one-tenth of a battalion, by conversion. At some stage between 1971 and 1982, the number of spider blocks at Saighton Camp was reduced to ten, the equivalent of a single battalion. The number of blocks was further reduced to five between 1985 and 1993, four of the surviving five retaining their function as accommodation blocks until the closure of the camp. The fifth building, building 39, was converted from an accommodation block to a complex of classrooms and storage areas. The ablutions block that had been created in the centre of the body of the building was removed (with the exception of a few toilets and hand-basins which were partitioned off into small rooms) and converted to a classroom. The legs of the building had their partitioning removed and some left as large open classrooms, others subdivided into more manageable units of space.

Condition

5.177 The exterior timber cladding of building 39 is in reasonable condition, having been regularly maintained until relatively recently, however, other spider blocks show evidence of the timber panelling having been displaced and the rainwater goods corroding (Plate 44). Internally, the building is in poor condition (Plate 45), having suffered from vandalism, the activities necessitated by police and training courses, and general dilapidation. The roofs of the structure remain largely watertight apart from the link corridors, which are leaking (Plate 46).

5.178 One or two of the floors sag noticeably and others 'give' when walked upon. Parts of the concrete foundations have been undermined by rabbits resulting in the distortion of at least one of the legs of the building.

Building 41 - NBC Chamber (Figure 2, Plates 47 - 49)

5.179 The Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Chamber comprised one of only three surviving buildings in the eastern sector of the camp. It was latterly used to train troops in the survival skills required in the event attacks being made with biological or chemical agents, or in cases where the presence of sub-atomic particles were suspected. The building was essentially a gas chamber equipped with a means of purging the chamber after the training exercise was completed.

5.180 Building 41 was a small square chamber situated to the north of buildings 42 and 43, on the western side of the former training ground. It was approximately 18'00" square and was originally part of a larger rectangular building built upon a concrete plinth.

5.181 The south facing elevation was a gable wall constructed of edge-laid machine made brick in Stretcher bond. There was evidence for a former doorway, surmounted by a concrete lintel in the northern half of the elevation (Plate 47). This had been blocked with machine made brick laid predominantly in an unrecognised bond.

5.182 The east and west-facing elevations both comprised three bays, each nominally 6'00" wide, separated by two pairs of pre-cast concrete pillars (Plate 48). The pillars were straight and vertical to wall-head level whereupon they curved inwards to act as cantilevers for the concrete rafters of the roof, which were bolted to the post. The north and south bays of the east facing elevation were constructed from edge laid hollow box tiles, measuring 12" x 9", and were 4" thick, to half the total height of the wall. The tiles were mortared in stretcher bond and slotted into vertical rebates in the concrete pillars in order to effect a bond between the two. Two timber-framed windows, each a full bay wide, occupied the space between the walls and the roof line. The southernmost window was covered by a timber-built louver, possibly to provide ventilation once training exercises were over. The central bay of the east-facing elevation was contained a double doorway which occupied the entire bay from ground level to the roof line. This was closed by two timber doors within a timber frame, with timber louvers present on the lower half of each door. A short flight of concrete steps leading to the doorway were placed to its east. A timber box, once containing a fire extinguisher and a siren or other audible warning device, was fixed to the east-facing elevation. The west-facing elevation contained a similar window above a half height wall in its central bay, the other two bays being walled to the roof line.

5.183 The north-facing elevation was also three bays wide, this being the gable wall of the original building. The concrete pillars of the northern elevation were larger than those of the 'side' walls, and the central pair were not cantilevered, but terminated at wall-head level, and were used

to support a concrete cross-beam. The central bay was walled to the level of the cross-beam with the same box tiles seen in the in the eastern and western elevations. The gable above the cross-beam was constructed from corrugated asbestos fixed to horizontal timber planks. A free-standing brick built chimney had been constructed slightly to the north of the north-facing elevation (Plate 49). This was connected to the building by a short length of 8" asbestos cement pipe. The chimney was 3'00" square and the brickwork was laid in English Garden Wall bond with headers placed at every fifth course.

5.184 The roof of the building was ridged and gabled and covered with corrugated asbestos. The roof covering was supported on concrete rafters and the ridge comprised a single steel threaded rod, the rafters being clamped together at ridge height with large circular washers and nuts threaded onto the ridge-rod.

5.185 The floor of the building was constructed of concrete contained within a brick-built plinth, slightly larger than the footprint of the building, visible below the western elevation of the building. The plinth was unusual in that it was constructed as a series of brick pillars, the gaps between being filled with panels of brickwork. All of the brickwork was laid in English Garden Wall bond with headers at every fifth course. The positions of the pillars corresponded directly with the positions of the concrete posts of the building's frames, and, in addition seemed to be acting as buttresses reinforcing the side walls of the plinth. The plinth continued for some distance to the south of the footprint of the building suggesting that Building 43 was once about three times the length of the surviving structure.

Originality

5.186 Building 43 may represent part of an original structure which has clearly been reduced in size and heavily modified in order to fulfil its later use as an NBC chamber. The fabric of the building is also unusual in that concrete framing and the use of box tiles is not seen in any other of the buildings that survive within the camp. Box tiles are not a particularly unusual building material in this period and huts constructed with such materials survive at Harperley P.O.W. camp in County Durham, for example. The brick buttress-work to the plinth suggests that the building was once used to contain something of considerable weight. Surface debris in the vicinity of the building included a number of bakelite telephone wire insulators, one of which was stamped with the legend GPO 47 (the year of its manufacture), insulator brackets and telegraph pole cross-arms. It is possible that the original building once contained the camp's telephone exchange or switchboard, either of which would have been powered by large lead acid accumulators of some considerable weight.

Condition

5.187 The building appears to be in reasonable condition in structural terms but the doors and windows are deteriorating and some of the box tiles are cracked or chipped. The structural integrity of the concrete pillars and rafters may be questionable given that most of the concrete components of the building were bolted together and the bolts have now rusted and will have expanded as a result. The corrugated asbestos comprising the uppermost section of the northern gable is in poor condition.

Buildings 42 and 43 - Former vehicle maintenance sheds (Figure 2, Plates 50 - 53)

5.188 Buildings 42 and 43 comprise the two surviving examples of a group of four such buildings that were once arranged along the western margins of the training ground in the eastern sector of the site. Buildings occupying the same footprints were present in this area in 1947 and the southern pair of the four were demolished some time between 1985 and 1993. To all intents and purposes Building 42 is almost identical to Building 43.

5.189 Building 43 was a rectangular structure, 72'00" long and 36'00" wide (internally). The building was 25'00" high to the ridge of its roof, and 14'6" to the wall heads. The building was six bays long and three wide, each bay being formed by the vertical components of the building's steel framework.

5.190 The wall fabric of the east facing elevation of the building was composed of machine made brick laid in stretcher bond with concrete lintels surmounting the door and window apertures (Plate 50). The fabric of the southern, western and northern elevations consisted of corrugated asbestos panels suspended from the framework of the building (Plate 51).

5.191 The roof was ridged and gabled, the trusses being made of iron in a braced queen post tradition. The roof covering was a combination of corrugated asbestos sheet and two rows of roof lights made from glass panes reinforced with wire mesh on each slope of the roof.

5.192 The framework of the building comprised large 'I' section beams set vertically into the floor of the building. The heads of the beams were connected with iron wall plates to create a wall head upon which the roof trusses were set. The vertical components of the framework were further braced by horizontal and diagonal cross-struts from which the corrugated asbestos wall panels were hung. The 'I' beams in the eastern wall were encased in brickwork to their full height. A timber framework for a suspended ceiling was present at wall-head height in Building 43 but not building 42 (Plate 52).

5.193 The floor of the building was composed of concrete throughout, this being contained within a low brickwork plinth visible in the west facing elevation. The plinth was surmounted by 'I' section sleeper beams not visible in the interior of the building, and a concrete pillar was visible at each corner of the plinth.

5.194 There were two large doorways perforating the eastern wall in the second and fifth bays of the building. These were closed by large sliding doors, which, when open would have covered the third and fourth bays. The doors on the east facing elevation of Building 42 differed slightly in form and the manner the doors operated. The southernmost doorway had been enlarged to the height of the wall plate at some stage and both doorways were closed by hinged double doors.

5.195 The wall contained four window apertures in bays 1, 3, 4 and 6. These contained fixed iron window frames each containing 12 panes. The fenestration of the remaining walls of the buildings was uniform and comprised a pair of narrow iron framed windows, set at a high level, in each bay. Each window contained six panes and the uppermost third of each window could be opened to facilitate ventilation.

5.196 Both buildings contained conduits for electricity wiring, fuse boxes, sockets light fittings and switches, the sockets being of the round pinned variety. The buildings were both equipped with cast iron gutters and drainpipes on their east and west-facing elevations.

Originality

5.197 As noted above, buildings were present within this area of the camp in 1947. That these buildings were latterly used as vehicle maintenance sheds was demonstrated during the archaeological evaluation of the camp undertaken in 2007 (NAA 2008) when large quantities of truck wheels and other vehicle parts were identified in trench 47. It is likely that these buildings were always used for vehicle maintenance given their shape and size. Corrugated iron or timber cladding may have once been present on the walls but this has since been replaced with corrugated asbestos. The brickwork of the eastern walls of the buildings would seem to have been a later insertion but the framework of the buildings is likely to be that which was built during the Second World War.

Condition

5.198 Buildings 42 and 43 are in relatively poor condition (Plate 53). The corrugated asbestos wall and roof panels are damaged or missing in places and many of the windows are cracked, broken or missing. The ironwork of the frames and windows of the buildings is corroding, and the bases of the vertical 'I' beams, which are set directly into the concrete floors, are likely to be rotten, as seen in other buildings constructed in this manner at the camp.

Building 44 - Former sentry box (Figure 2)

5.199 Building 44 was a small, rectangular structure located within the central sector of the camp to the south of the hospital complex. It could be identified on an aerial photograph dating to 1970 but not earlier, suggesting that it was erected during the 1960s or 1970s when a programme of refurbishment was carried out at the camp.

5.200 The building was oriented from east to west and measured 9'00" in length by 6'00" in width. It was constructed entirely of stretcher bond brickwork and set above a concrete floor. The roof comprised a single concrete slab which sloped downwards slightly from west to east. Access was provided by a single doorway in the west-facing elevation which measured 2'6" in width. The structure had no windows.

Originality

5.201 Evidence provided by aerial photographs would suggest that building 44 was constructed during the 1960s or 1970s and it appears that there have been no later modifications to its structure. Its diminutive size indicates that it was probably formerly used as a sentry box with the purpose of guarding the entrance to the hospital complex.

Condition

5.202 Building 44 appears to be in a good state of repair as it is a relatively recent addition to the camp.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Saighton Camp is a former militia training camp, which was constructed at the beginning of the Second World War. The camp was built around 1939, although the precise duration of construction is uncertain, and had a design life of approximately 30 years. The timber buildings were built to a format devised in the 1920s. By this date, government and military policy had changed substantially from that which had prevailed in the preceding century, when it had been customary to construct large and permanent camps and barracks. By the 1920's, many of these camps were considered to be in the wrong place and not suited to the military practices prevalent after the First World War. The army also acknowledged that military practices were likely to further evolve rapidly and a policy of planned, built-in, obsolescence of military buildings was adopted. This was achieved by choosing the most economical forms of building construction, using cheap building materials and reducing the standards of the buildings, apart from those aspects that would directly affect the health of military personnel. The result was a series of building types that were cheap to construct, cost little to maintain and that would fall down of their own accord after 30 years, when, its was thought, they would be obsolete anyway (Schofield 2006, 9).

6.2 Saighton Camp was used initially to train conscripts, but it was also used during the Second World War to train anti-aircraft crews belonging to the Royal Artillery. After the War, the camp had a variety of roles, being used by the Pioneer Corps, the Royal Signals Corps, the Green Howards, the Gordon Highlanders and latterly by the Royal Medical Corps.

6.3 In terms of its buildings, the camp reached its maximum size by 1962. Thereafter, the number of buildings present within the complex began to decline. Whilst there is evidence for extensive refurbishment of some buildings from the 1970's onwards, a significant proportion of the buildings were demolished between 1971 and 1982. By 1999, the overall numbers of buildings on the site had been reduced by approximately three-quarters from that present in 1947.

6.4 The original camp buildings were probably constructed in four groups or phases, as the layout of the buildings appears to reflect the earlier field boundaries. Very little documentary evidence survives relating to the camp and the original functions of the buildings. One undated MoD plan for the site, which was drawn sometime before the 1960s, appears to group numbered buildings by function, however, the plan lacks a key and the precise functions are uncertain (Figure 4). Based on their plan-form, there appear to have been three main types of building on the camp: rectangular buildings of various sizes, H-plan buildings, and 'spider' blocks. The H-plan blocks, of which there were formerly 12 examples, were originally Officer's accommodation. The 'spider' blocks, of which there were formerly 19 examples, were barrack blocks for troops. In addition, there were a series of three separate kitchen/refectory buildings, a series of ablution blocks and an infirmary.

6.5 Despite the level of demolition, at least one example of each of the three main building categories still exists on the site and the foundations of many of the demolished buildings are still visible in cleared areas of the camp. In addition, much of the camps road network survives intact although in poor condition in the eastern half of the site, and the surfaces of both the former parade ground and training ground are largely in situ. The married quarters and officers' houses which were built as a later addition to the camp along its northern side, were demolished in 2006 prior to the Crown Fields development.

6.6 The surviving buildings show a range of construction techniques. The H-plan blocks, the 'spider' blocks and a number of the rectangular hut buildings were constructed of timber. As originally built, all were probably of modular construction and partially prefabricated off-site. These buildings were supported on concrete pillars set on concrete strip foundations and constructed using timber frames and roof trusses and roofed in corrugated iron sheet. Walls and floors were constructed in timber, while windows would have been metal-framed. The majority of

the larger buildings were constructed using iron or steel frames set on a concrete floor slab. These buildings had prefabricated iron roof trusses resting on a framework of vertical and horizontal 'I' beams with interconnected diagonal cross-bracing to increase the rigidity of the building. Buildings of this category were clad and roofed in corrugated iron (now replaced by corrugated asbestos cement) or the framework incorporated into a brick structure. Some of the medium-sized iron framed buildings were clad in timber.

6.7 Nearly all of the surviving buildings show evidence of having been remodelled or modified during the late 1960s or early 1970s, when they had reached the end of their design life. The timber buildings appear to have been raised off their pillars, probably to counter dampness and rot, to replace the sill beams upon which the huts were constructed, and to provide a damp course. The roofs of many of the buildings were replaced with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting and it is likely that the vast majority of the windows and doors were replaced. Some of the original fabric of the buildings, particularly the frames and trusses (if they were serviceable), and perhaps the rainwater goods, appear to have been reused. Despite this refurbishment, many of the buildings are in poor condition with evidence of corrosion of iron frames and rotten timbers being apparent. Asbestos has been extensively used within the buildings for roofing and lagging pipework.

Condition

6.8 It would also appear that the vast majority of the surviving buildings at Saighton Camp were the subject of extensive refurbishment at some stage, probably implemented in the late 1960s or more likely in the early 1970s. Although many of the buildings retain elements of their original fabric, in particular their frameworks, the refurbishment programme has resulted in a series of buildings which are largely facsimiles of the originals, built to the same dimensions on the same sites but often with major changes occurring to the internal layouts of the buildings as a result of improving standards in welfare, and changes in the function of the camp. Where original components of the camp's buildings were retained, these are now in poor condition.

6.9 It is anticipated that the proposed redevelopment of Saighton Camp will involve the demolition of all surviving structures, the removal of all of the existing site infrastructure and additional groundworks necessitated for the removal of any contaminated ground and associated with new construction works. However, were no development to take place, the buildings will continue to decay and become derelict. The buildings within the camp were originally constructed as temporary structures and they will not survive without continual maintenance and refurbishment.

Importance

6.10 Saighton Camp had not been recorded as an archaeological site in either the National Monuments Record or the Cheshire County and Chester City Historic Environment Records at the time that this study was undertaken. The camp did not constitute a site recorded under the Defence of Britain programme. As such it had no recognised national, regional or local designation.

6.11 English Heritage Characterisation Team have funded a two stage project to study army camps and have produced a report on the results of each stage. The first stage, undertaken in 2005, consisted of a documentary study of the evidence for the construction and use of army camps in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland between 1858 and 2000. The second stage, which was carried out in 2007, comprised the collation of evidence from National Archives, the NMR and HERs and field checking of selected English sites (excluding sites in the North of England and the South West). According to the results of the Stage 2 Report (Schofield 2006b), a total of 1133 Second World War camp sites have been recorded in England, and of these 202 have upstanding remains. Of the various types of camps, there were originally 66 purpose-built militia camps in England and of those which are not still in current MoD use, 26 have upstanding remains. According to the report, Saighton Camp is one of a relatively small number of former militia camp sites in England to have substantial building remains, although the figures are likely to be modified by further fieldwork. (The report does not make clear how many former militia camps existed in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland nor does it assess any camps still used by the military, or report on the inspection of sites in the North of England).

6.12 The English Heritage report acknowledges that considerable work has already been carried out in recording army camps in certain areas (ibid, 20) but that, in general, further work on camps of this nature is required to enhance the corpus of existing knowledge. The document attempts to provide a framework for further research, and considers that this should be undertaken at a local level. English Heritage also acknowledge that the more impermanent structures encountered at army sites will have undergone alteration over time, and those sites which had continued in use will have had their prefabricated hutting repeatedly modernised and upgraded to suit modern needs (EH 2007, 9).

6.13 Based on the survey work that has been undertaken, the camp and its remaining buildings are unlikely to meet the criteria for statutory protection either through scheduling or listing. On the basis of professional judgement, it is therefore considered that the camp and the surviving buildings are only of local importance. In the absence of development, the buildings will continue to deteriorate and are vulnerable to demolition. The proposed development has provided an

opportunity to record the buildings and to achieve a level of preservation by record.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Saighton Camp was originally built as a militia camp in 1939 to provide for the basic training of volunteer and conscripted soldiers during the Second World War and was built to a standard which was intended to last for approximately 30 years. Subsequently, the camp was also used to train anti-aircraft crews. After the War, the camp had a variety of roles and was used by a number of units, the last of which being the Army Medical Corps. Many of the original camp buildings were demolished between 1970 and the closure of the camp as a result of buildings reaching the end of their useful life and the declining need for a high density training installation in the north-west of England.

7.2 A range of military buildings have survived within the camp, comprising H-plan huts used as officer accommodation, 'spider' block barrack buildings, kitchen/ refectory buildings, a headquarters building, an infirmary complex, stores buildings, and numerous rectangular huts/buildings. The majority of the accommodation buildings are of modular timber construction and were partially pre-fabricated off-site. The other medium-sized and large buildings had been constructed using steel frames and roof trusses clad with a mixture of brickwork, timber and asbestos sheeting.

7.3 Within the remainder of the camp, evidence for the original layout of the camp can still be traced both from evidence on the ground and from aerial photographs. Although a substantial proportion of the original buildings have been demolished, evidence for roadways, parade grounds and building foundations still survives.

7.4 Due to its prolonged military life and the temporary nature of its buildings, the majority of the surviving buildings show evidence of several episodes of repair, refurbishment and upgrading to both prolong their life and to adapt them to more modern standards and changing roles. Evidence was recorded for both internal and external modification and many original features such as windows and building covering materials have been replaced. Despite the evidence for repair and refurbishment, many of the buildings are in poor condition with evidence for corrosion of metal frames and rotten timbers.

7.5 On the basis of professional judgement, it is therefore considered that the camp and the surviving buildings are only of local importance as they are unlikely to meet the criteria for statutory protection either through scheduling or listing.

7.6 It is considered that the present survey has produced a sufficient record of the surviving standing buildings. The majority of the interiors of buildings have been extensively refurbished and remodelled and, due to the presence of asbestos, no further recording is recommended. It is recommended that the written and photographic archive which has been produced as part of this survey, together with a copy of this report, is deposited with The Grosvenor Museum, Chester and the Chester Historic Environment Record.

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Frames 1 908 7013, 1 909 7013 and 1 910 7013.

1971 Hunting Surveys Ltd
HSL UK 71 113 Run 15 frames 4244 and 4245

1985 J A Story and Partners
Run 7, frames 2685 052, 2685 053, 2685 054 and 2685 055.
Run 8, frames 2685 082 and 2685 083.

1993 Geonix
Line 10 (June) frames 131 93/055, 131 93/056.
Line 10 (October) frames 131 6293/221, 131 6293/222, 131 6293/223 and 131 6293.224.

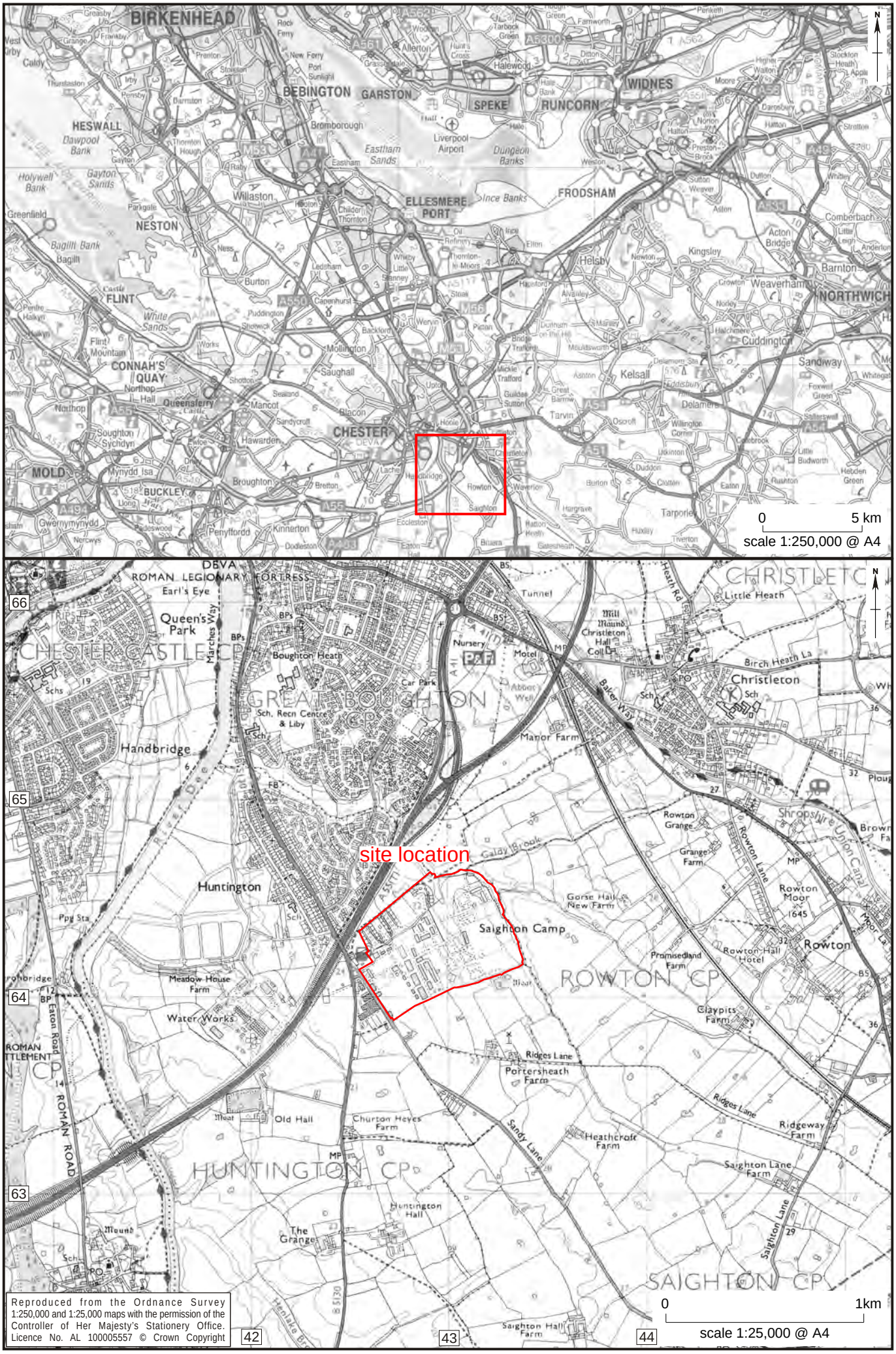

Figure 1 Saighton Camp, Chester: site location

Figure 2 Saighton Camp, Chester: plan of the surviving camp buildings (c.2005)

Figure 3 Saighton Camp, Chester: development of camp based on Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photographs

Figure 4 Saighton Camp, Chester: schematic camp plan showing original functions where known

Plate 1a, Saighton Camp, Chester: 1947 aerial photograph

Plate 1b, Saighton Camp, Chester: 1993 aerial photograph

Plate 2a, Saighton Camp, Chester: 1970 aerial photograph

Plate 2b, Saighton Camp, Chester: 1971 aerial photograph

Plate 3 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 4

Plate 4 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 4

Plate 5 Saighton Camp, Chester: north and east facing elevations of building 5

Plate 6 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 5

Plate 7 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 7

Plate 8 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 7

Plate 9 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of building 11

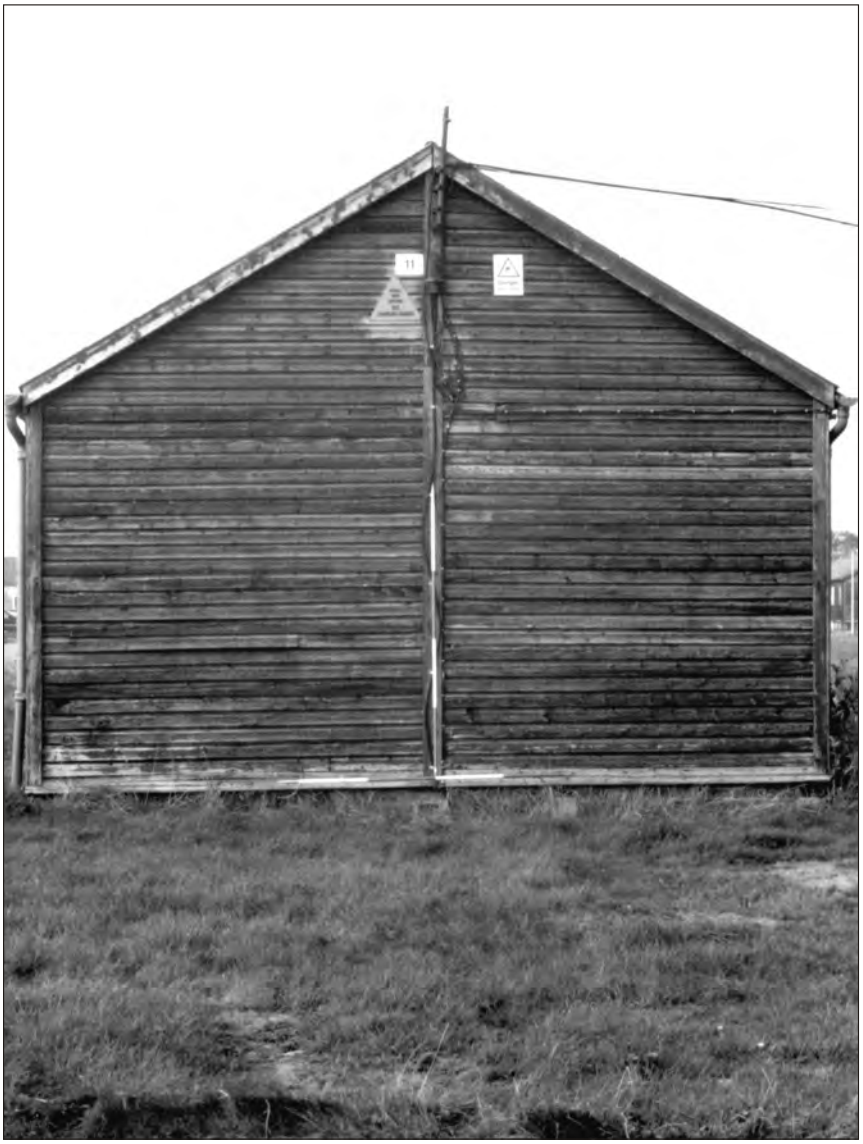

Plate 10 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 11

Plate 11 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 12

Plate 12 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 13

Plate 13 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of building 15

Plate 14 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 15

Plate 15 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 17

Plate 16 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 17

Plate 17 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 18

Plate 18 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 18

Plate 19 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 24

Plate 20 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 24

Plate 21 Saighton Camp, Chester: north and west facing elevations of building 25

Plate 22 Saighton Camp, Chester: north and west facing elevations of building 26

Plate 23 Saighton Camp, Chester: north and east facing elevations of building 28

Plate 24 Saighton Camp, Chester: north and west facing elevations of building 27

Plate 25 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 27

Plate 26 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 28

Plate 27 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 28

Plate 28 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 29

Plate 29 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 29

Plate 30 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of building 30

Plate 31 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of western shed of building 30

Plate 32 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 30

Plate 33 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 30

Plate 34 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 35

Plate 35 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 35

Plate 36 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of building 35 (composite)

Plate 37 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of boiler house, building 35

Plate 38 Saighton Camp, Chester: concrete foundation pillars evident in blocks 21, 22, 23 + 39

Plate 39 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of south-western corridor of building 39

Plate 40 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of north-eastern 'leg' of building 39

Plate 41 Saighton Camp, Chester: olblique shot of east facing elevation of north-western 'leg' of building 39

Plate 42 Saighton Camp, Chester: west facing elevation of central sector of building 39

Plate 43 Saighton Camp, Chester: concrete foundation pillars in spider block 22 (also evident in blocks 21, 23 + 39); showing evidence for spider blocks having been raised off the original concrete foundation pillars.

Plate 44 Saighton Camp, Chester: evidence for spider blocks having been raised off the original concrete foundation pillars

Plate 45 Saighton Camp, Chester: internal view of north-eastern 'leg' of building 39 looking north

Plate 46 Saighton Camp, Chester: internal view of northern most corridor of building 39, looking west

Plate 47 Saighton Camp, Chester: south facing elevation of building 41

Plate 48 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 41

Plate 49 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 41

Plate 50 Saighton Camp, Chester: east facing elevation of building 43

Plate 51 Saighton Camp, Chester: north facing elevation of building 42

Plate 52 Saighton Camp, Chester: oblique shot of interior of building 42, looking south west

Plate 53 Saighton Camp, Chester: oblique shot of interior of building 43, looking north east