

**Heritage Impact Assessment:
Treharris Library, Merthyr Tydfil**

November 2022



Report No. 2143

By

Susan Stratton



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Prepared for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

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Summary

In August 2022, Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC). This assessment has been undertaken in relation to proposed work to Treharris Public Library, which is a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909). Constructed at the beginning of the 20th century, the building is a large and well-designed example of a local public library that retains external and internal character and detail.

The proposed work relates to a complete renovation and regeneration of the listed building. In recent years the building has fallen into disrepair, suffering damage from water ingress through the roof, particularly to the two gables at the front of the building. The proposed works are necessary to prevent further damage to the structure and to repair or replace elements that have been affected. The interior of the library will have a new DDA compliant WC and reception area. To work towards Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's commitment to moving its public buildings to net zero carbon use, the existing gas boiler heating system will be replaced with an air source heat pump.

Treharris Public Library has a high heritage value, evidenced by its Grade II listing. A desire to restore and preserve the historic value of the library is at the core of the development proposals. There will be a clear beneficial impact on both the interior and exterior aesthetics of the building, with cleaning and repair of architectural details. There will be some loss of original material where it is not possible to make repairs, such as to the roof. This is considered to have a low impact on the evidential value of the building as these elements are common to buildings of this period and do not represent unique features of the structure. The work will also enhance the building's communal value, allowing it to return to use as a public library and community hub.

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. In August 2022, Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC). This assessment has been undertaken in relation to proposed work to Treharris Public Library, which is a Grade II Listed Building (LB 80909). Constructed at the beginning of the 20th century, it was designated as “a smaller Edwardian public building retaining original external and interior character and detail” (Cadw, Full Listing Report).
- 1.1.2. Treharris is a small village located approximately 10km to the south of Merthyr Tydfil in the south Wales valleys. It was developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as housing for workers at Harris Navigation Colliery. The library is situated near the centre of the village, on the east side of Perrott Street, north of its junction with Edward Street (Figure 1). It lies within the Treharris Conservation Area.
- 1.1.3. The proposed work relates to a complete renovation and regeneration of the listed building. In recent years the building has fallen into disrepair, suffering damage from water ingress through the roof, particularly to the two gables at the front of the building. The proposed works are necessary to prevent further damage to the structure and to repair or replace elements that have been affected. The proposals include regeneration works to bring some elements of the building to modern standards, including a new DDA compliant WC and reception area, complete renewal of electrical services, and the replacement of the existing gas boiler heating system an air source heat pump.
- 1.1.4. This assessment has been undertaken in line with relative legislation and in accordance with the guidance set out in *Managing Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).

2. Legislation and guidance

- 2.1.1. This assessment has been undertaken in line with the relevant legislation and guidance relating to the historic environment, and listed buildings, which are outlined below.
- 2.1.2. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings through the planning process in Wales. Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 sets out the statutory duty of the decision-maker, where proposed development would affect a listed building or its setting. This includes preserving the building, its setting or any special architectural and historical features that are of interest.
- 2.1.3. National planning guidance, concerning the treatment of archaeological remains, listed buildings, conservation areas and the wider historic built environment in

Wales, is detailed in Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, Edition 11 (February 2021). Chapter 6 of the Planning Policy outlines the policy relating to Distinctive and Natural Places which includes the Historic Environment. Paragraph 6.1.7 states that:

“It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve, and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.”

- 2.1.4. The policy regarding Listed Buildings is detailed in Chapters 6.1.10 to 6.1.13 and states that there should be a presumption in favour of preservation of the designated building. It goes on to state that:

“The aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance their special qualities, retaining them in sustainable use.”

- 2.1.5. The policy sets out the need for planning proposals to have fully considered the impact of the development on the historic environment, with guidance on how to do this given in Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24). Within TAN 24 the process of conducting a heritage impact assessment is set out. Cadw have set out guidance on how to conduct and impact assessment in their document *Managing Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (2017). This assessment has been prepared in accordance with that guidance.
- 2.1.6. At a local level, the Adopted Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) recognises that the area has valuable heritage assets relating to area’s industrial past that forms an important part of the Borough’s character and community. Policy CW1: The Historic Environment states that:
- 2.1.7. *“Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character or the historic or cultural importance of our designated historic environment assets”* (MTCBC 2020, 47).
- 2.1.8. Furthermore, it specifies that any Listed Building consent requires a heritage impact statement that explains the reasons for the work and examines how the development would impact the significance of the building.
- 2.1.9. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has recently published guidelines on how to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment and these have also been consulted during the preparation of this report (CIfA, 2021).

3. Methodology

- 3.1.1. The primary objective of this assessment is to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic asset, specifically the Grade II listed Treharris Public Library, (LB 80909). It will gather enough information to understand the significance of the

heritage asset affected and assess the impact of the proposals on the asset. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.

3.1.2. This report provides information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource.

3.1.3. This assessment followed the methodology outlined in Cadw's *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (2017). The identification and assessment of significance for the various historic assets draws on the four heritage values defined by Cadw in *Conservation Principles* (Cadw, 2011). These values consist of the asset's:

- Evidential value: the extent to which the physical fabric tells how and when the historic asset was made, how it was used and how it has changed over time. There may be buried, or obscured elements associated with the historic asset which may also be an important potential source of evidence.
- Historical value: the historic asset may illustrate a particular past way of life or be associated with a specific person or event; there may be physical evidence for these connections which it could be important to retain
- Aesthetic value: the design, construction, and craftsmanship of the historic asset. This can also include setting and views to and from the historic asset, which may have changed through time.
- Communal value: the historic asset may have particular significance to people for its commemorative, symbolic or spiritual value, or for the part it has played in local cultural or public life. This will be particularly important in the case of buildings in public use or sites where public access must be maintained or improved.

3.1.4. To identify and assess the significance of the asset, the assessment considers the following:

- The significance of the existing site and its setting and its relationship to adjacent and non-designated heritage assets, through assessment of various readily available primary sources:
 - Assessment of all available reports and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
 - Assessment of all relevant extant photographic evidence, including available historic photos.
 - Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g., all editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, tithe, and early estate maps (as available).
 - Historic documents (e.g., Charters, registers, estate papers).
- The significance of the assets in their local, regional, and national context and considering the findings of the assessment.

- 3.1.5. Assessing the significance of the asset in this way will allow any potential impacts of the proposed development, both beneficial and harmful, on the asset and its setting to be identified.

4. Understanding the Significance of the Asset

4.1. Development of Treharris

- 4.1.1. As with many towns in the south Wales valleys, Treharris developed in the late 19th century as a coal mining settlement. It was built in the late 19th century by Frederick William Harris, the owner of Harris Navigation Colliery, for his workers.
- 4.1.2. The earliest available mapping of the area, the Ordnance Survey Drawing of Abergavenny from 1813, depicts the area as an agricultural landscape of scattered farmsteads, enclosed fields, and some open upland areas. Only the Taff Bargoed valley, to the south of the modern town centre, is slightly more developed. South of the river is a mill, Melingiach, while to the west, at the confluence with the Taff, is Quakers Yard, a Quaker community founded in the 17th century on a ford across the Taff (Carradice, 2013).
- 4.1.3. The situation was largely the same by the time of the production of the Tithe map in 1850 (Figure 2). The area of the current town centre remained as small farmsteads with enclosed fields. The irregular and curved field boundaries suggest that many of them had their origins in the medieval period. The site of Treharris Library itself is shown as a large, irregularly shaped field, number 76. It is recorded as belonging to William Perrott and occupied by an Edmund Edwards. The land was used as pasture and no buildings are depicted in the field. The buildings of Giach Mill and Quaker's Yard are shown in greater detail, but no further development is evident. To the south-west of Quaker's Yard, another settlement had developed in the valley bottom, on the south bank of a meander in the Taff.
- 4.1.4. The Harris Navigation Colliery was started in 1873 on the western slopes of the Bargoed Valley. Workers were initially housed in wooden huts, but after the successful extraction of coal from Pit No. 2 in 1879 work started on the new town (MTCBC, 2009).
- 4.1.5. The OS First Edition for the area was published in 1884 but surveyed between 1868 and 1875. The map depicts the Harris Navigation Colliery with two shafts labelled as well as an engine house and a tramway. A few buildings are shown at the colliery, but there is no significant settlement growth in the area in comparison to the Tithe map. The future location of Treharris continued to be used as agricultural fields, although a single, U-shaped building is shown in one of the fields. This was Bargoed House, thought to be Harris' residence (MTCBC, 2009). The building remained as the new town was built around it. It was demolished in the early 21st century.
- 4.1.6. The colliery tramway linked to the newly established the Taff Vale Extension of the

Great Western Railway, which transported coal from the valley to the ports of Cardiff. Two long rows of buildings are shown to the south of the railway. These are the initial Harris Navigation Colliery worker's huts; on the 1919 OS map they are named Twyn-y-Garreg Huts.

- 4.1.7. Treharris is first depicted on the 1901 OS map. The settlement was arranged on a grid pattern and had a central square. The new town had an Anglican church, five chapels, a school, two hotels, a Public Hall and Institute, and police station. Harris was a Quaker, and his beliefs probably played a role in his planning of a self-reliant town (MTCBC, 2009). It initially provided between 250 and 300 houses, which were rented at an affordable rate to the colliery workers.
- 4.1.8. Harris' involvement in both the colliery and the town was short lived, demonstrated by the change in name of the colliery to Ocean Deep Navigation Colliery by the time of the publication of the 1901 map. Despite the early success of his speculation, a drop in the value of coal and the costs of digging through hard Pennant sandstone meant the colliery was becoming unprofitable. In 1893 the mine was sold to the Ocean Coal Company, who were able to invest in the mine and secured its long-term future. The 1901 map shows an expansion of the colliery buildings, as well as a new reservoir and filter beds.
- 4.1.9. The 1919 OS map (Figure 3) shows a further expansion of the colliery buildings and its rail infrastructure. There was some expansion of Treharris, with new streets to the north of the town, including a second school and a Drill Hall. A small, rectangular reservoir, owned by the Merthyr Tydfil Corporation, was located to the north of the town.
- 4.1.10. There have been few significant changes to the town layout since the early 20th century, and the original grided street pattern remains the core of the town, and is a Conservation Area (MTCBC, 2009). Two major changes to the town did occur. One was the closure of the railway in 1964 and the other the closure of the colliery in 1991.

4.2. Treharris Public Library

- 4.2.1. Treharris Public Library is situated on the east of Perrott Street. The street was part of the original town layout. On the 1901 OS map the street is shown as having buildings along both sides except for part of the east side, including the future location of the Library. The Library is first depicted on the 1919 OS map as a rectangular building on Perrott Street in an irregularly shaped plot that backed onto the railway (Figure 3). The other adjacent plots of Perrott Street have also largely been filled in.
- 4.2.2. The Library was formally opened on the 20th of October 1909 by the Mayor of Merthyr, Alderman Wilson (The Cardiff Times, 1909). The purpose-built building was designed by a local architect, William Dowdeswell. His other works included Parish Halls in Treharris and Aberfan, churches in Bedlinog and Merthyr Vale, and several

local housing schemes (architecture.arthistoryresearch.net/architects/dowdeswell-william).

- 4.2.3. The Library was built by the Merthyr County Borough Council, although Andrew Carnegie provided £1,750 of the £2,340 cost (The Cardiff Times, 1909). It was one of six branch libraries to be funded by Carnegie in the Borough, along with a central library in Merthyr Tydfil. The others were at Dowlais, Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Abercanaid, and Pen-y-Darren (carnegielibrariesofbritain.com). Only Treharris and Dowlais still function as libraries, while Abercanaid and Pen-y-Darren have been demolished.
- 4.2.4. An article in the Evening Express from the 20th October 1909 regarding the opening of the building described it as “a rectangular structure in the English Renaissance style. The main elevation fronts Perrott-street, and is faced with Edwards's Ruabon red bricks, with dressings in St. Aldhehns' box ground Bath stone. The entrance gives access to a spacious vestibule, whence one passes to the main hall. The lending library has space for 3,600 volumes. To the left of the main hall is the men's reading-room, extending from the front to the rear of the building. To the right of the hall is the ladies' reading-room, with sitting accommodation for sixteen readers. The librarian's room is so placed as to command a view of the whole of the building. The whole of the sculptural carving has been executed by Mr. Frank Ekers, of Newport.”
- 4.2.5. The opening ceremony itself involved a procession of the Mayor and officials of the Merthyr Corporation, hundreds of school children, and around 40 police officers from the train station to the new library building. Unfortunately, due to the library currently having moved out of their premises, it has not been possible to obtain copies of photographs from the day held in their collection.
- 4.2.6. Early photographs of the building curated by local history groups show that it has not changed substantially from its original design (Figure 4). The top of the cupola, of which only the base now remains, can just be seen. The main changes are to the surrounding area, as a building now sits on the formerly empty plot to the north, while a gate and gate post attached to the south wall has been removed.
- 4.2.7. In 1933, a large square iron clock was installed above the entrance by John Smith and Sons of Derby (<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/87577>). The clock was a memorial to those from Treharris who died in the First World War, and there is a memorial plaque on the wall to the right of the entrance. A second plaque was added to commemorate the Second World War in 2002. Restoration work on the clock in 1989 included the replacement of the mechanism.
- 4.2.8. The Cadw listing report states that in 1987 the side door on the north elevation became the principal entrance to the library. It is therefore likely that the existing canopy over the side door dates to 1987.
- 4.2.9. The rear extension was added to the library in the mid-2000s, with Listed Building Consent being granted for it in April 2004 (P/14/0104).
- 4.2.10. In 2014, Listed Building Consent (P/14/0104) was given for the replacement of single

glazing to the rear and south elevations with double glazed uPVC windows after problems with vandalism. The stained-glass windows to the front and north elevations were fitted with galvanised metal protection grills to prevent further damage. The consent also included the reinstatement of the decorative cupola and re-rendering. At a similar time, plasterboard with a plastic sheet lining was fitted to the west and north interior walls of the south cross-gable in an attempt to deal with damp problems caused by roof leaks.

- 4.2.11. The building is currently closed due to the need for repairs and refurbishment, but the library continues to operate out of Treharris Community Centre as a social and educational hub for the local community.

4.3. Existing building description

- 4.3.1. The building is single storey, with a rear basement storey as the ground slopes down to the rear of the building. It is a rectangular, hipped-roof building with two large symmetrical cross-gables to the front elevation onto Perrot Street. The library is constructed of red brick and Bath Stone in Edwardian free style (Plate 1). The south, (Plate 2), east (Plate 3), and north (Plate 4) elevations are stone walls with cement render finish. The roof is a timber pitched structure with natural slate and ceramic ridge tiles, textured to the ground floor and smooth to the basement. To the centre of the roof is the lead base of a former cupola. The WC extension to the rear has an artificial slate roof covering with terracotta ridge tiles (Plates 2 and 3). Iron rainwater pipes run down between storeys on both side elevations and rear.
- 4.3.2. The main entrance is located to the centre of the front elevation. Low sandstone walls with iron railings curve up either side of four stone recessed steps to the recessed doorway (Plate 5). The surround is of Bath Stone and has Ionic columns supporting a segmental curved hood on acanthus carved brackets. Below the hood is a decoratively carved tympanum. Above the hood is a central shield flanked by the words Free Library. The war memorial clock projects from over the hood. It is currently supported by scaffolding. The door recess has a mosaic floor with a central wreath containing the initials CL for Carnegie Library (Plate 6).
- 4.3.3. The outer bays of the front elevation, to the cross-gables, each have a large, recessed Palladian window with Ionic columns, moulded arch and cornice of Bath Stone (Plates 1 and 4). The glazing is decorative coloured leaded glass, with the large central panel having an arch design with a lamp above and the two side panels having wreaths. The windows are covered by galvanized metal grills.
- 4.3.4. The north-facing elevation has a wooden door with four glazed panels, and a transom light above. There is a lean-to style entrance canopy over the door, which is wooden framed with opaque glazing and protective metal grill (Plate 7). The approach to the door is concrete, and there are concrete steps down to the side of the building to access the rear space. The three windows are all decorative stained glass with a crest design. They are slightly recess and have simple bevelled stone sills and lintels (Plate 8).

- 4.3.5. The rear of the building is two-storey, with the basement storey being above ground level due to the sloping ground (Plate 3). The ground floor has eight windows. The second from the right is round arched and the others are rectangular. They all have simple stone sills and lintels. Five of the windows, including the round arched one, retain their original leaded stained glass and the other three are three light wooden framed casement windows that appear to be of mid 20th century date. The basement has three windows to the centre of the elevation, all with single light, uPVC windows covered by a protective metal grill. Immediately to the right of the modern extension is a blocked window opening with a boiler flue to the upper part of the boarding. The small modern extension projects from the left side of the rear elevation. It is smooth rendered. Currently, the area to the rear of the building, including the existing metal railing fence, is overgrown.
- 4.3.6. The south-facing elevation has two rectangular windows, slightly recessed with plain stone sills and lintels (Plate 2). The one to the right is a three light wooden framed casement window, while that to the left is a similar style uPVC unit. The historic photograph (Figure 4) shows that these would originally have been decorative stained glass. Two small, decorative ceramic vents to the interior of the windows also appear on the historic photo. The photo shows vents to the outside of the window. It is not clear if these still exist as the areas are covered by ivy. To the rear of the building, the extension has a modern solid wood door. It is approached by a concrete slab path with galvanised metal handrail.
- 4.3.7. The interior of the Library retains many original features. The reception area is a rectangular room accessed by the front double doors (Plate 9). The doors are wooden framed with glazed panels to the upper part and a large transom light over. On the opposite wall is a gently curving bay with the original large reception window (Plate 10). The window has seven narrow rectangular decorative leaded glazed panels in a wooden frame with moulded cornice to the top. To the central panel is a small serving window. Three doors exit the reception into the main library, one to either side of the reception window on the east wall and one on the south wall. The doors are all wooden panel with a circular glazed panel to the upper with decorative glass. They have moulded surrounds with square details to the top corners. On the north wall is flat arch opening to the main library with the same style of surround as the doors. The reception room has a modern carpet, bull nose skirting boards, and decorative moulded coving.
- 4.3.8. The main room is a U-shape with the projecting sections to the cross-gables at the front of the building. The ceiling in both of these sections is higher than that behind the reception, to the centre of the room. The northern section has a curved ceiling (Plate 11) while the southern is flat with sloped edges and exposed rafters (Plate 12). The southern section has a partition wall running north – south with a large square arch with glazed panels above.
- 4.3.9. The windows are all recessed, with bevelled angles to their reveals and simple wooden sills (Plates 13 and 14). The door on the north wall appears to have been

added into a window opening, with the upper part of the window being retained as the transom above (Plate 15). The removed lower section has been used to repair one of the windows on the east wall (Plate 11).

- 4.3.10. The existing reception area is in the north-west of the library (Plate 16). It has a modern curved desk with shelving behind. There is a door on the south wall that leads into a small kitchen area with modern fittings and fixtures. The door is not original, but it appears to have been fitted an original opening. The kitchen is in very poor condition with signs of damp.
- 4.3.11. In the south-east corner of the library is the stairwell to the basement and a narrow project room. The full height partition to the children's room forms the west wall, while the north wall does not extend to the ceiling (Plate 18). It appears to be a later partition and has a modern door in simple wooden frame. The project room has a painted wooden ceiling, and its north wall has glazed panelling which has been boarded over on the north side (Plate 19).
- 4.3.12. The children's library, in the south-west corner, has clear signs of water damage (Plate 20). On its north wall is a doorway through to a cloakroom and toilet, also in poor condition (Plate 21). The dividing wall appears to be a later stud addition.
- 4.3.13. The basement has a small lobby at the bottom of the stairwell, all of which has modern fittings and decoration (Plate 22). There are two main rooms in the original basement area, the open learning room to the north (Plate 23) and training room to the south (Plate 24). There is fitted shelving along the west wall of the open learning room and a small cupboard in the north-west corner (Plate 25). These appear to be later, possibly mid 20th century, additions. Otherwise, the rooms have modern fittings and decoration, including doors and doors frames and uPVC windows.
- 4.3.14. There is a small boiler room between the open learning room and the training room, accessed from a door off the lobby (Plate 26). It has exposed masonry to the north and east walls and a plaster stud wall to the south and west. On the east wall is the brick surround of a now blocked former opening.
- 4.3.15. The rear extension has an entrance lobby from the external door on the south wall, and a disabled WC. All fixtures and fittings are modern.

4.4. Significance of the Asset

Evidential Value

- 4.4.1. Treharris Public Library is a Grade II listed building, constructed in Edwardian free style. It is one of six local libraries built by the Carnegie Foundation in Merthyr Tydfil Borough, two of which have been demolished. Carnegie also built other libraries in the South Wales area, at Ebbw Vale, Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend, Port Talbot, and Swansea. Each of the buildings had different, generally local, architects and varied in style, material and size. Treharris is one of the more elaborate architectural examples.

- 4.4.2. The Treharris Library building has survived with relatively few alterations and much of the original fabric and details remain, both inside and out. The construction of the rear extension has not significantly impacted the building. The addition of the side door and canopy to the north-facing elevation has had more of an impact, as it involved the alteration and partial removal of the original stained-glass windows. Stained-glass has also been lost through damage, including vandalism, with windows replaced by wooden framed clear glazed units or uPVC depending on the period.
- 4.4.3. Alterations to the ground floor interior have largely been superficial, such as the stud partition wall to create the cloakroom/WC, and the stand-alone modern reception desk and shelving, and would have had minimal impact on the building fabric. The only obvious removal of original material is the kitchen door, which is a modern fire-door that has been inserted into a larger doorway, which presumably held an original door in the same style as the others to this floor.
- 4.4.4. The basement storey has been completely redecorated and has modern fixtures and fittings. It is not clear what the basement originally looked like, or whether it was used by the public. An exposed section of masonry in the boiler room suggests that originally the basement was all of exposed masonry, but this has now been almost entirely obscured or altered.

Historical Value

- 4.4.5. Treharris Public Library is representative of a trend in the south Wales valleys, also seen across other industrial communities of the UK, for the betterment and education of the working classes, arising from a liberal concern for the physical and moral health of those workers living in crowded slum areas. This involved not just educating children (for example in the opening of many colliery schools in the second half of the 19th century), but also adults. In 1850, the Public Libraries Act was passed, which allowed local authorities to use public funds to create public libraries (Historic England, 2016). Many Miners' Institutes, including their own libraries and reading rooms, were opened in the valleys, paid for by the workers by subscription with support from colliery owners (Baggs, 2001).
- 4.4.6. The Library was built using funds provided by the Scottish-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie's family emigrated from Dumfermline to Pittsburgh in 1848 (Griffiths 2021). The family was poor, so at the age of 13 he took a job in a cotton factory. In 1853 he became clerk and telegraph operator for the assistant superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Thomas Scott. Scott was impressed by him and encouraged him to buy shares in railroad companies. Carnegie made a series of shrewd investments in telegraphs, railroads, oil, and later steel (Griffiths 2021). When he sold his company, Carnegie Steel, in 1901 for nearly half a billion dollars he became the richest man in the world (<https://www.npr.org/>).
- 4.4.7. Carnegie believed that it was the responsibility of the wealthy to give back to communities so that the poor could improve their own lives. As a boy he had been unable to afford the subscription for a local library to improve his prospects. After

being refused access by the library administrator because he was not an apprentice, he got a letter published in a Pittsburgh newspaper arguing his case, resulting in the library being opened to working class men (<https://www.npr.org/>). He credited this library access with improving his own fortunes and this is why he chose public libraries as his philanthropic cause. He funded the building of 2,509 libraries around the world, including 34 in Wales (Griffiths 2021).

Aesthetic value

- 4.4.8. Treharris Public Library is an attractive building of red brick and Bath Stone in Edwardian free style. Its aesthetic value is derived from its design rather than its setting. It sits on a curve of Perrott Street adjacent to a run-down building. It is visible from lower down Perrott Street to the south-west and from the end of Edward Street opposite, but it does not stand out from the other terraced buildings along the street in terms of its positioning.
- 4.4.9. The building makes use of its materials with fine detailing across its interior and exterior. Large Palladian windows dominate the elevations, and an ashlar frieze with intricate decorative features creates an elegant and imposing characteristic of the front elevation. The symmetrical red brick gables set the library apart from any other buildings within the immediate area. The later addition of a rear extension, with its artificial slate roof and smooth render finish, has little impact as it is the façade that holds the aesthetic value of the building.

Communal value

- 4.4.10. Treharris Public Library has served the community of Treharris since its opening in 1909. Its opening was a large public event, with over 100 people in attendance. It remains an educational hub for the local community, providing educational material and books for both adults and children, and reading and meeting rooms free of charge for various organisations and members of the public.
- 4.4.11. The Memorial Clock and plaques in memory of those lost in the First and Second World Wars also retains significance in the community, and it continues to be used for remembrance services.

5. The Development Proposals and Their Impacts

5.1. Summary of Development Proposals

- 5.1.1. Treharris Public Library is currently in a poor state of repair. Water ingress is causing damage to the roof and to the interior of the gables. Plasterboard added to the walls of the southern gable within the last ten years ago is already rotting. The water damage extends to the kitchen and WC rooms. Remedial work is therefore required to allow the building to continue to function as a library and to prevent any further damage to the structure.

- 5.1.2. The proposed works are for a complete renovation of the building, intended to preserve and enhance its historic character and, in doing so, improving the appearance and character of Perrott Street. As well as repairs to the roof, it will include cleaning, repointing, and repair of the brick and stonework, cleaning and repair of the stain glass windows, and replacement of the existing heavy security grills with less intrusive light weight ones. The modern rear extension will be demolished as it is not in keeping with the original building and is also structurally unsound.
- 5.1.3. The existing canopy over the accessible entrance on the north wall will be replaced and the new canopy will employ materials matching the main building. The outside space to the north and east of the building, which is currently unused and overgrown, will be landscaped. The area will include a covered bike stand, enclosed bin storage, and be the location for the new air source heat pumps. This will improve the usability of the space and its appearance. The extension of existing 1.8m high fencing, including a new lockable gate, as well as the replacement of the tubular railing for vertical steel railing around this area will prevent vandalism, which has been a recent problem for the building.
- 5.1.4. Interior renovations include the repair or replacement of all fixtures, fittings, and trims, including ornate ventilation grills. As the existing disabled toilet is located in the rear extension to be demolished, a new disabled toilet will be constructed in the existing toilet and cupboard to the south of the entrance. A new kitchen will be installed in the existing kitchen to the north of the entrance and the reception area will be remodelled so that the reception desk has DDA compliant access. A new staff room will be created in the existing project room.
- 5.1.5. The lower ground floor will be reconfigured after the demolition of the rear extension so that the lobby extends to the new external door. The existing interior wall and door between the lobby and training room is to be removed and a new partition and door to be added roughly in line with the stairs. The existing boiler room will become a meter room.
- 5.1.6. MTCBC is committed to transitioning all public buildings to near net carbon zero. The proposed works include the complete renewal of the electric system and the replacement of the gas boiler heating system with air source heat pumps. Mini canal trench heaters will be installed to both ground floor and lower ground floor rooms.
- 5.1.7. A detailed summary of the proposals and their impacts with any proposed mitigation is provided in Appendix I as Table 1. The architect's proposal drawings are provided in Appendix II. Below is a more general consideration of the works, highlighting some of the key elements and impacts.

5.2. Impacts and mitigations

Exterior

- 5.2.1. The roof is currently in poor condition and deteriorating further with damage from rainwater, atmospheric staining, and plant growth. Leaks from the roof are also causing damage to the interior of the building. The roof requires replacing. This will involve reuse of existing materials as far as possible, but those in poor condition will be replaced where necessary, including new timbers, battens, slates, and ridge tiles. The proposed work potentially involves a large loss of original fabric. However, this will not significantly impact the evidential value of the building as the roofing technique is common. The new roof will be built in the same style and materials as the existing, meaning it will not impact the building's aesthetic value. Most importantly, a watertight roof will stop the further deterioration of the building and ensure it can continue to be used as a library.
- 5.2.2. The original cupola to the centre of the roof has been lost, with only the base surviving. The proposals include the repair of the surviving base and the reproduction of the original cupola vents based on photographic evidence. This will restore an important and characteristic element of the original exterior appearance of the building and will have a positive impact on the building and the Conservation Area.
- 5.2.3. The extension to the rear was built in 2014 and is therefore of no historic value. It detracts from the appearance of the rear of the building. Part of the extension has been deemed unsafe and at risk of collapse. The extension abuts the original rear wall of the library and there is a low potential for damage to the original fabric of the exterior wall during the removal of the extension. Removal work should be carried out with care to minimise any damage to the original building fabric. The removal of the extension is beneficial to the building's appearance and evidential value.
- 5.2.4. The existing canopy over the entrance walkway on the north-facing elevation is an incongruous modern addition that impacts views of the front of the building from higher up Perrott Street to the north. Its replacement will be more in keeping with the main building and make use of the same materials, including a natural slate roof, through colour rendered walls, cast iron Victorian ogee gutter and cast iron downpipe. An opening to the east wall will have stone sill and lintel to match existing windows. The removal of the old canopy and installation of the new has a low likelihood of damaging the original fabric of the north wall, which can be mitigated by appropriate care being taken during the process.
- 5.2.5. The majority of proposed works to the exterior of the library are for cleaning and repair to restore the building's appearance and prevent any further deterioration. The work includes the cleaning of weather-stained stonework, repointing of the brickwork using lime mortar matching the original, taking out and repairing the stain-glass windows, re-rendering the rear and side walls, and cleaning and repairing the Memorial Clock. In some cases, this work may result in loss of original material when it is in too poor a condition to be repaired, but where possible material will be

retained. The works will be carried out by appropriately skilled contractors.

- 5.2.6. There are some proposed additions to the exterior of the building to ensure its protection. Lead flashing will be added to the cornices and stone projections. This will have no visual impact to the façade from ground level but will protect the stonework from weathering. The windows currently have metal grills fitted due to problems with vandalism. New, lighter grills will be fitted to the windows. Although these detract from the appearance of the windows, they are essential for their protection and the new grills will have less visual impact than the existing.
- 5.2.7. To further protect the building and its users, the installation of lighting on the eastern and northern walls and CCTV on the northern and eastern walls and one to the porch is proposed. These will detract from the historic appearance of the building, especially the front elevation, but are necessary to deter vandalism.

Interior

- 5.2.8. The most notable proposed change to the interior of the library is to block an existing opening at the north end of the reception hall, changing the original layout and movement around the building. The blocking of this opening will create a draft lobby from the main entrance, reducing heat loss and improving the building's energy efficiency. The existing flat arched opening has an original moulded surround. To preserve this original element and understanding of the building's original layout, the opening will be blocked with a stud partition that will leave the existing frame *in situ* and visible.
- 5.2.9. A DDA compliant WC will be installed in the existing cloakroom/WC to the north of the children's library. This work is necessary to replace the existing DDA compliant WC in the rear extension. The existing original door between the cloakroom and the children's library will to be made good and changed to outward opening. The work also involves the removal of a stud wall and door between the existing cloakroom and WC. These are later additions, and their removal is not considered to have any impact on the building's significance.
- 5.2.10. As with the exterior of the building, the ground floor interior works will be an extensive renovation involving the removal, repair and refitting of original fixtures and fittings where possible. These elements include details such as skirtings and decorative ventilation grills. Overall, the intended repairs and renovations will have a beneficial impact on the appearance and maintenance of historic building features on the ground floor.
- 5.2.11. There will be some areas of the ground floor where modern fixtures and fittings are used. These are the kitchen area, reception, and the children's library. In both cases, the elements to be replaced are also modern, including the existing kitchen units, reception desk, and carpet in the children's room. They are of no historic value and their replacement will have a neutral impact on the historic significance of the building. The changes are necessary to bring these areas up to modern standards and to repair damage caused by water ingress.

- 5.2.12. The proposals also include the complete renewal of electrical services and the replacement of the existing gas boiler heating system with an air source heat pump. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is committed to transitioning its public buildings to near net zero carbon use. The scheduling of these works to coincide with the renovation works means that any disturbance to the building can be minimised.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1.1. This Heritage Impact Assessment has examined the impact of proposed alterations to Treharris Public Library. Constructed at the beginning of the 20th century, it was designated as a “... Smaller Edwardian public building retaining original external and interior character and detail” (Cadw, Full Listing Report). The proposed work relates a complete renovation and regeneration of the listed building, including replacement of the roof and the conversion of the gas boiler heating system to air source heat pumps.
- 6.1.2. The report includes detailed research (including historic mapping and archival material) into the building’s historical background and development to understand its significance as a heritage asset. The identification and assessment of significance draws on the four heritage values (evidential, historical, aesthetic, and communal) defined by Cadw in *Conservation Principles* (Cadw, 2011).
- 6.1.3. Treharris Public Library is a Grade II listed building (LB 80909). The purpose-built library was formally opened in 1909, with the construction funded by Andrew Carnegie. The building fronts onto Perrott Street and lies within the Treharris Conservation Area. It has an attractive frontage with two large symmetrical red brick gables in red brick with Bath Stone detailing, while the side and rear elevations are cement rendered. Early photographs of the building demonstrate that the building remains largely the same as its original design. A large, square Memorial Clock was added above the entrance in 1933, and there have also been more recent additions of a canopy over a side entrance on the north-facing elevation, and a single storey extension to the rear. The interior retains many original details, including the large bow window of the original reception, decorative cornices, and wooden panel doors with decorative glazed panels.
- 6.1.4. In recent years the building has fallen into disrepair, suffering damage from water ingress through the roof, particularly to the two gables at the front of the building. The proposed works are necessary to prevent further damage to the structure and to repair or replace elements that have been affected. They will also enhance the external appearance of the building by cleaning and repairing the stone and brick work, reproducing the lost original cupola, and removing unsympathetic later additions, benefitting not only the building but also the Treharris Conservation Area. The interior of the library will have a new DDA compliant WC and reception area. To work towards MTCBC’s commitment to moving its public buildings to net zero carbon use, the existing gas boiler heating system will be replaced with an air source heat

pump.

- 6.1.5. A desire to restore and preserve the historic value of the library is at the core of the development proposals. There will be a clear beneficial impact on both the interior and exterior aesthetics of the building, with cleaning and repair of architectural details. There will be some loss of original material where it is not possible to make repairs, such as to the roof. This is considered to have a low impact on the evidential value of the building as these elements are common to buildings of this period and do not represent unique features of the structure. The work will also enhance the building's communal value, allowing it to return to use as a public library and community hub.

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Figures

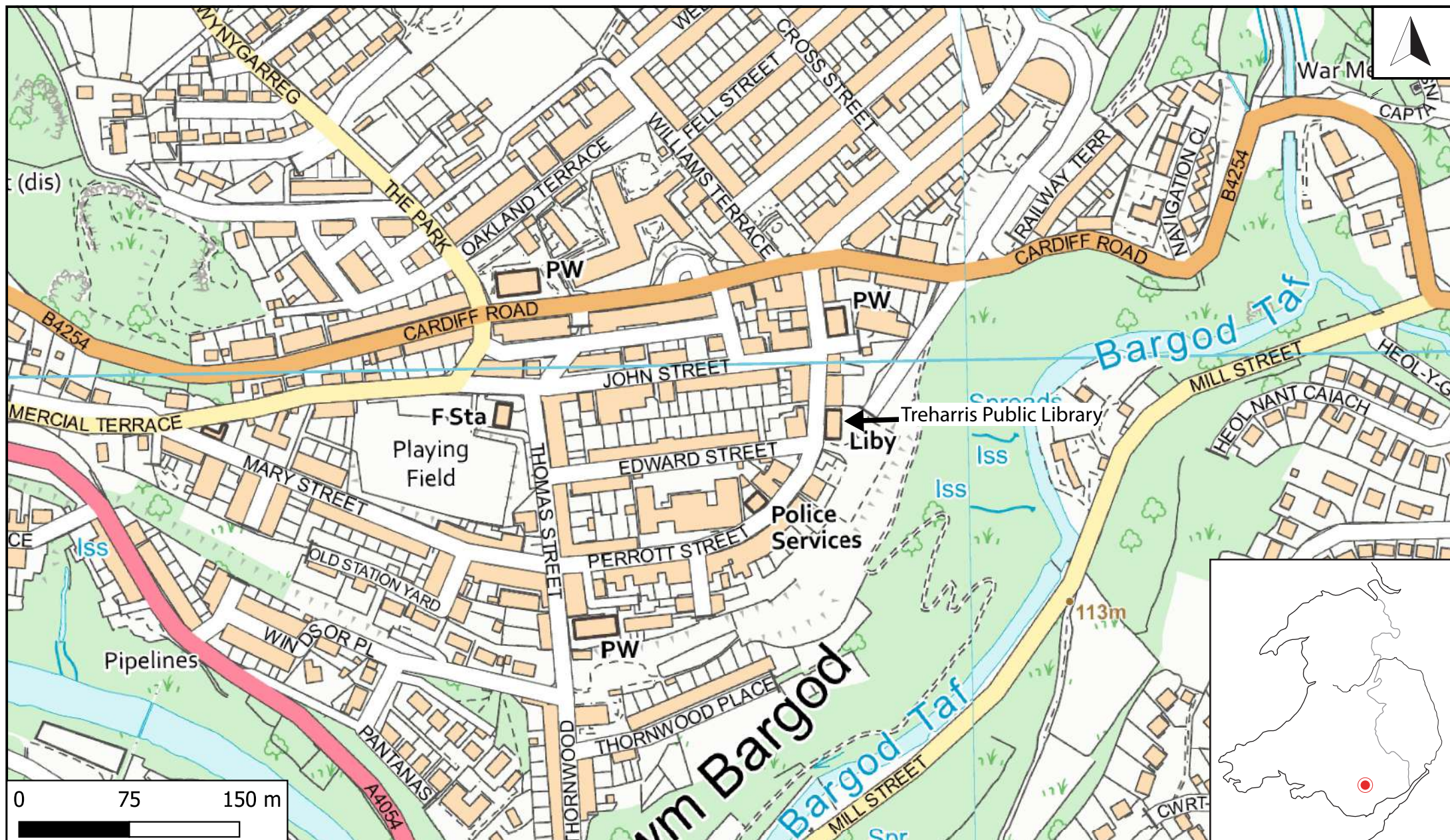


Figure 1. Location map

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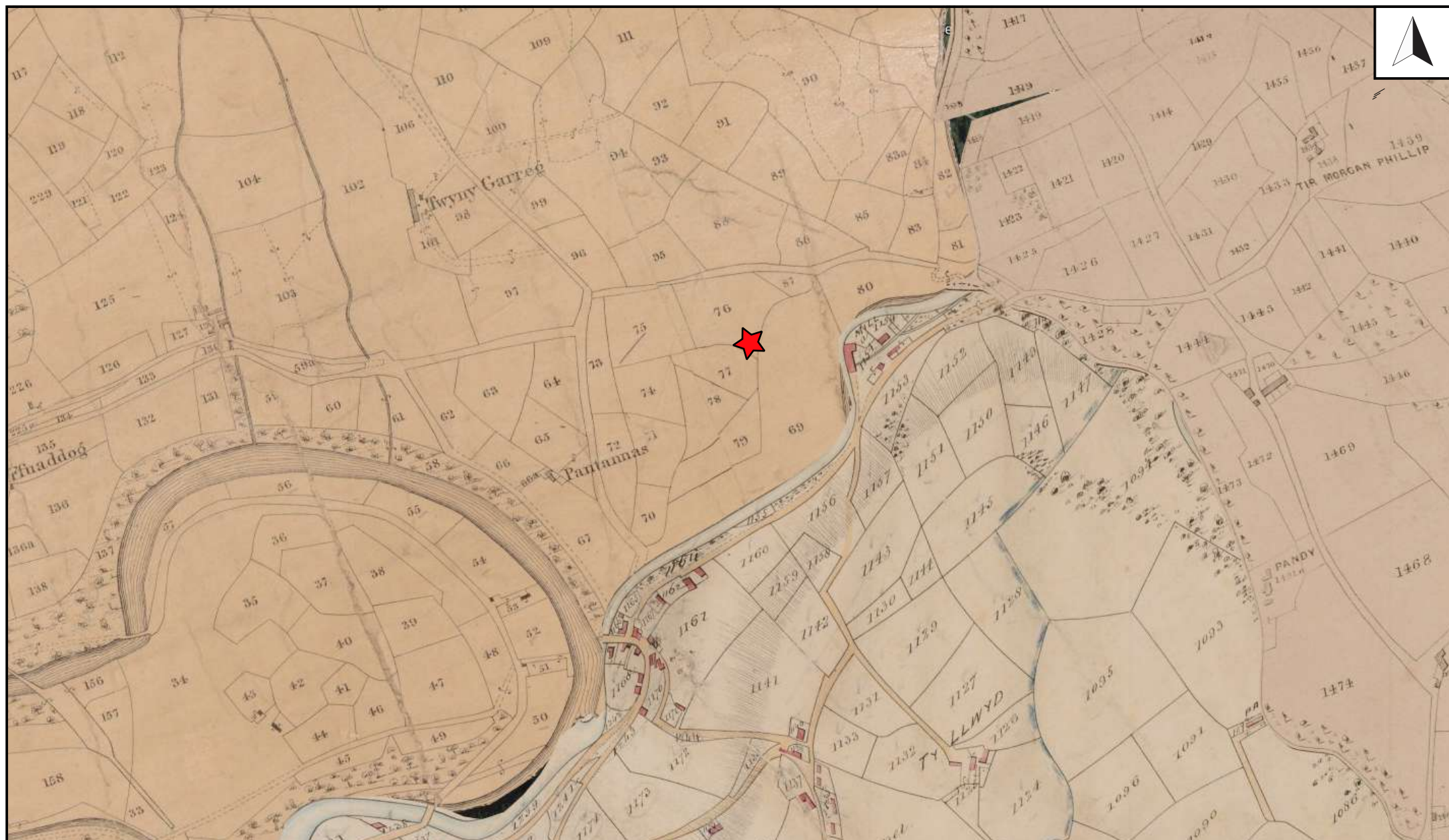


Figure 2. Tithe map of 1850. Star marks approximate location of the future library building.

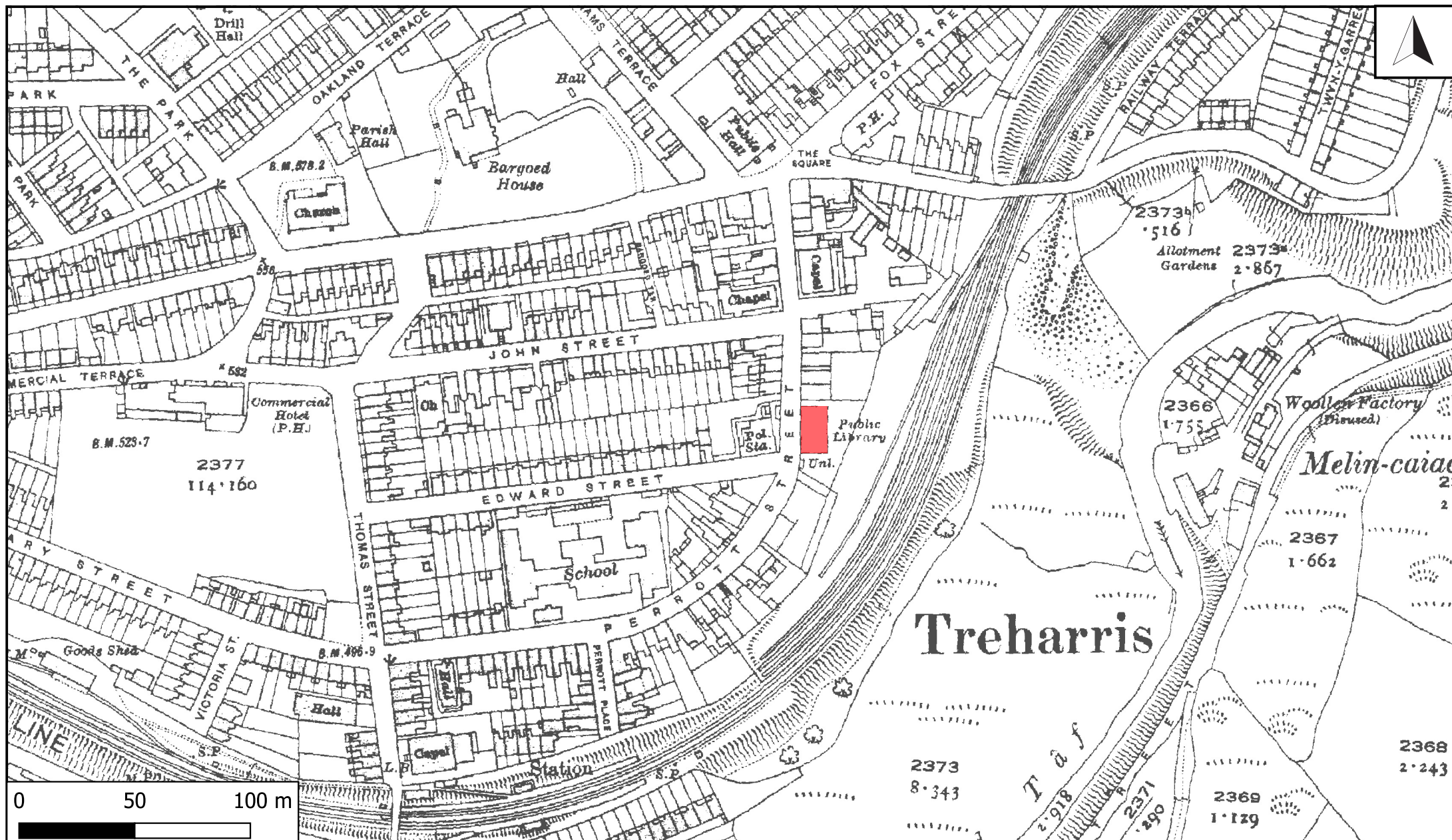


Figure 3. Ordnance Survey County Series map, 1919. Original scale 1:2,500. Library building highlighted.



Figure 4. Early photograph of Treharris Public Library. Date unknown, but based on dress not much later than the building's opening.

Plates



Plate 1: Front elevation of Treharris Public Library, looking north-east.



Plate 2. South-facing elevation of Treharris Public Library, looking north.



Plate 3. East-facing elevation of Treharris Public Library with single storey rear extension. Looking north-west.



Plate 4. Front and north-facing elevations of Treharris Library, looking south-east.



Plate 5. Main entrance including memorial clock, looking north-east.

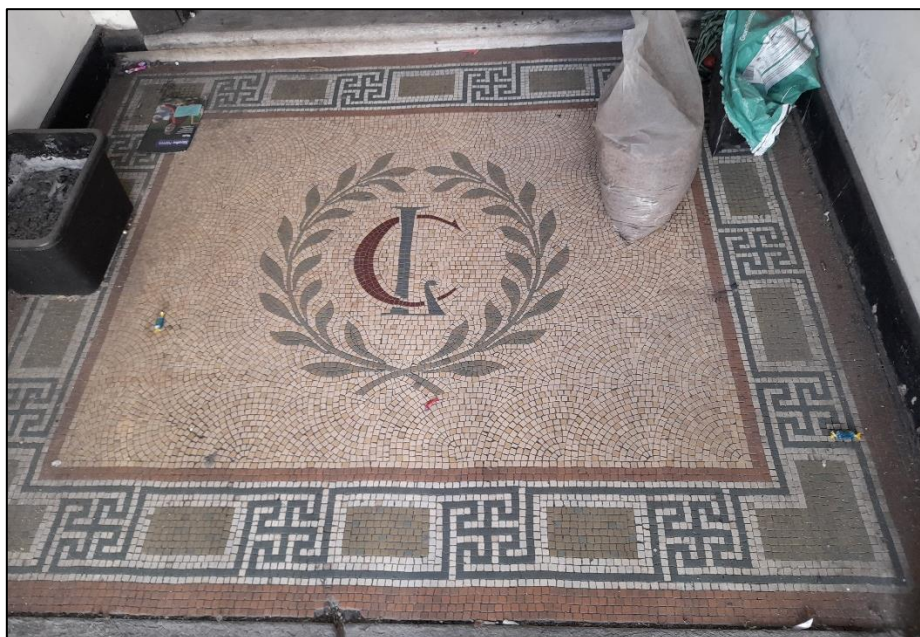


Plate 6. Mosaic to main entrance, bearing the initials CL, for Carnegie Library.



Plate 7. Canopy over door on north-facing elevation, looking east.



Plate 8. Window to east end of north-facing elevation, looking south-east.

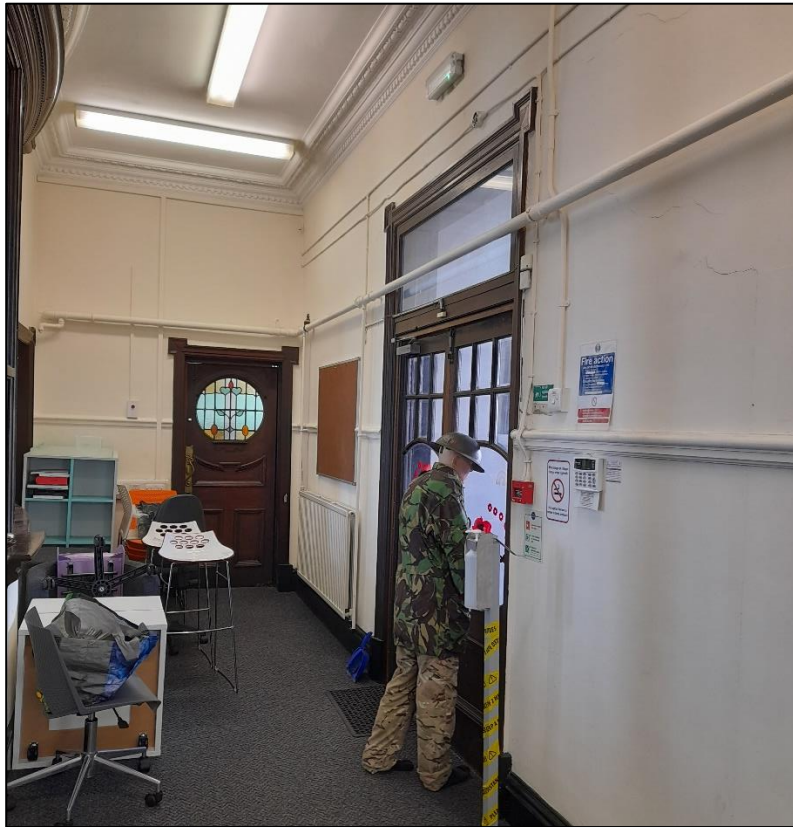


Plate 9. Reception area with main doors to right, looking south.



Plate 10. Reception window, looking south.



Plate 11. North end of main library room, looking east.



Plate 12. South end of main library room, looking east.



Plate 13. Decorative stained glass window on west wall of north end of the library, looking west.



Plate 14. Windows on the centre of the east wall of the library, central window is a later replacement.



Plate 15. North-wall of library with side door.

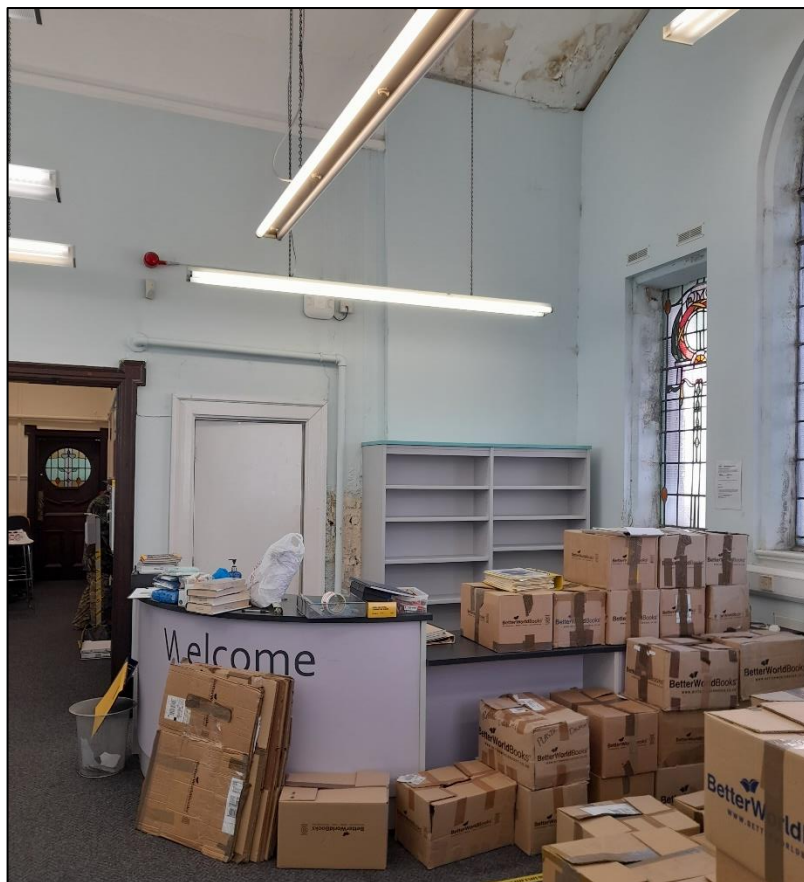


Plate 16. Existing reception area, looking south-west.



Plate 17. Kitchen in north-west of library, looking south.

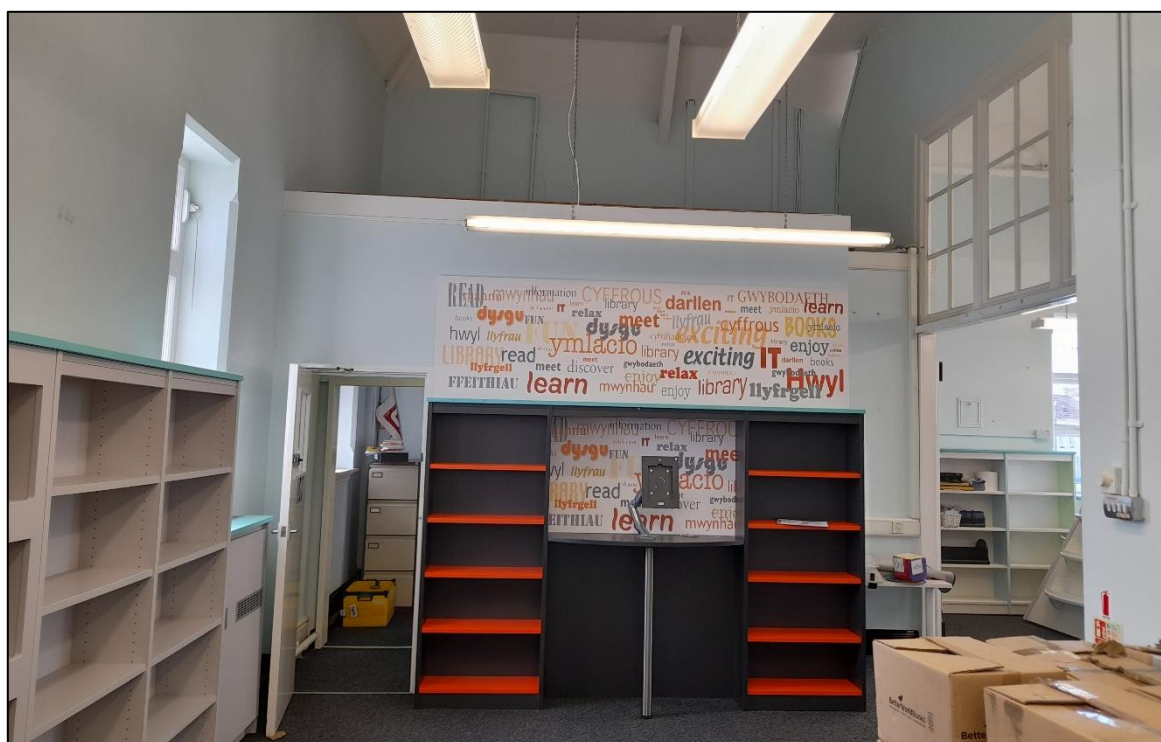


Plate 18.

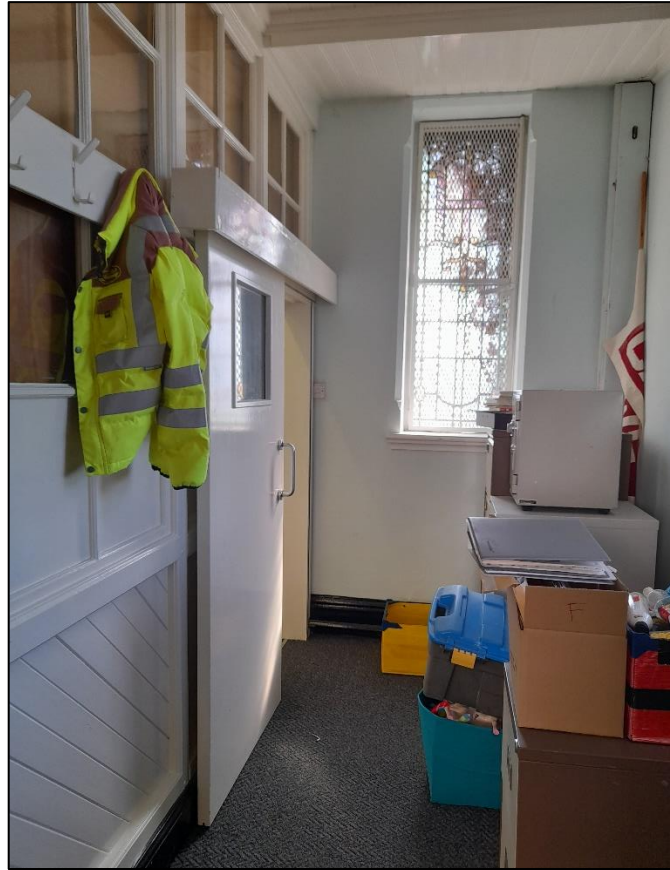


Plate 19. Existing project room in south-east corner of the library, looking east.



Plate 20. North-west corner of children's library, showing water damage.



Plate 21. Cloakroom and toilet in south-west of library, looking north-west.

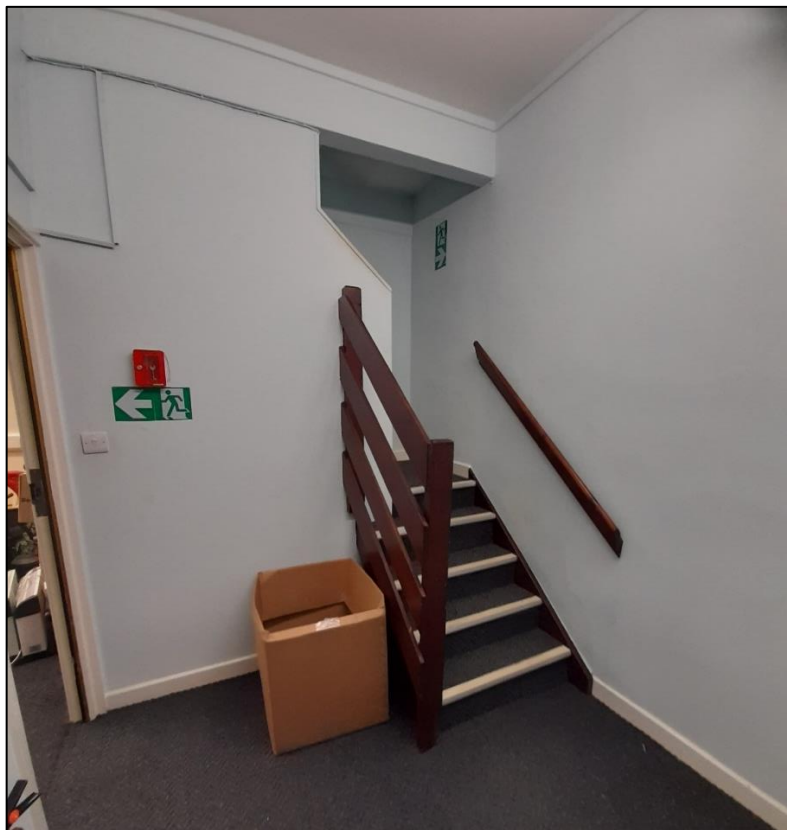


Plate 22. Basement small lobby at the bottom of the stairwell, looking south-west.



Plate 23. Opening learning room in the basement, looking north.



Plate 24. Training room in basement, looking north-east.

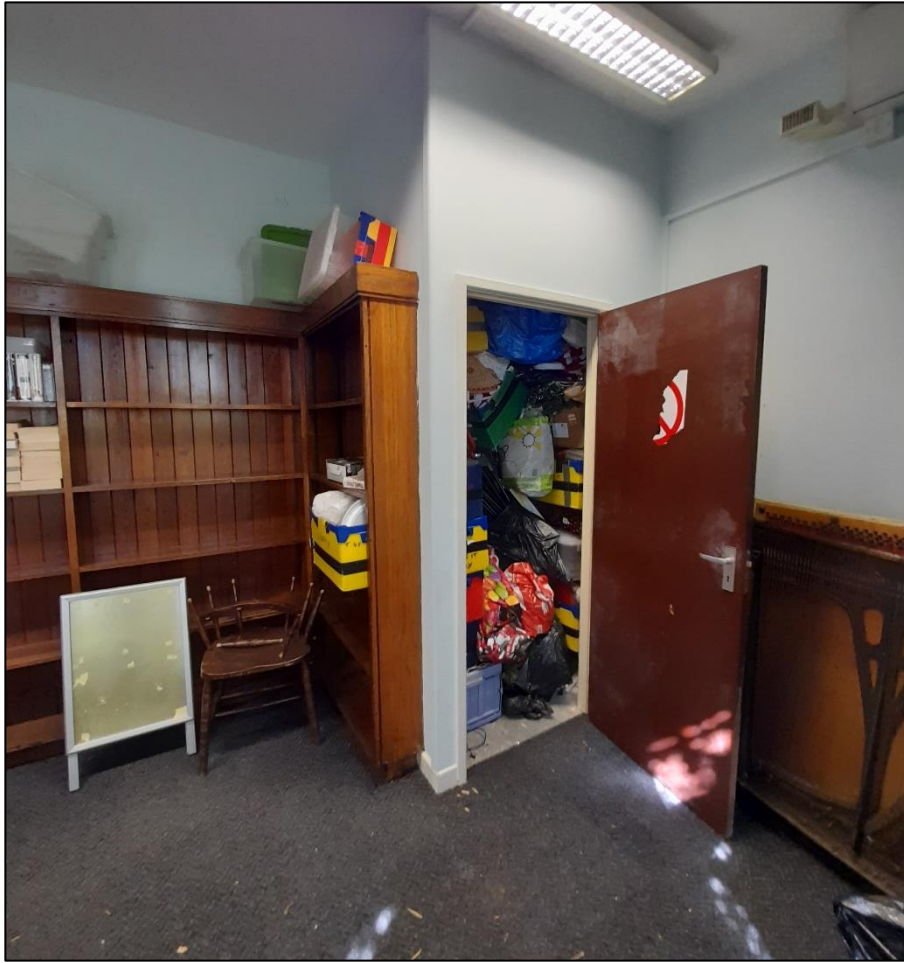


Plate 25. Cupboard in north-west corner of learning room, looking north-west.

Appendix I: Summary of Impacts and Mitigations

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Removal of lower ground rear extension. Opening to be blocked and rendered with two coat through colour render.	To remove incongruous and structurally unsound late addition to the building.	Extension added in the early 2000s, of no historic significance.	Will return rear of building to original appearance.	Low potential for damage to original rear wall during demolition.	Care to be taken during demolition to ensure no unnecessary damage occurs.
New hard and soft landscaping area to rear.	To improve the appearance and security of the rear of the building. The area is currently overgrown and existing concrete paths are in poor condition.	Existing concrete paths are modern and in poor condition.	Will improve the appearance of the rear of the building and reduce the likelihood of damage due to vandalism.	None	None
Three air source heat pump units to be located in hard landscaping area to rear of building	To update the heating system in line with MTCBC policy	The external area to the east has no historic significance.	None	None	None
Addition of a timber panel bin store with corrugated roof.	To provide secure storage for bins.	The store will be located away from the main building to the south and will have no physical impact on the building. It will impact on views of the rear basement area of the building, which is of low aesthetic value.	Enclosing bins within a storage area is more attractive than leaving the bins exposed.	The bin store will be visible to the rear of the building, but largely obscured by the perimeter fence.	None.

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
The existing 1.8m high vertical steel fence is to be retained and made good with new fence added near the bin store with new 1.8m gate with locking mechanism	To improve security forming an enclosure and to prevent vandalism.	It will impact on views of the rear basement area of the building however this is of lower aesthetic value than the front.	Will reduce the likelihood of damage due to vandalism.	The additional fence is not an original attribute of the building and will have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the rear of the building. However, this is limited to the lower ground floor level.	None
Existing tubular railing to be removed and new 900mm high galvanised steel vertical railing painted in black on the rear lower ground floor entrance	To improve security, complete the enclosure to the rear	Existing fence to be removed is modern and of no historic significance. It will impact on views of the rear basement area of the building however this is of lower aesthetic value than the front.	Will reduce the likelihood of damage due to vandalism.	Fencing is not an original aspect of the building and will have a detrimental impact on the rear appearance. However, this is limited to the lower ground floor level.	None
Fit new hardwood external door with double glazed fanlight to lower ground floor.	Former internal door of rear extension will be replaced with an external door in same location after the demolition of the rear extension.	Existing door is part of modern extension and of no historic significance.	None	None	None
Fit AHU/02 heat recovery intake louvre over new rear external door.	To fit unit as part of the new heat pump system	The existing wall above the doorway is likely to be original fabric, although it may have been previously impacted by the rear extension. It is of low heritage value.	None	Potential minor loss of original wall fabric.	None

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Fit four wall mounted fire escape lighting units to rear wall and four to north side	Required for additional security and safety	The rear and north elevations are of lower aesthetic value than the front although does form part of the original structure	Additional security to deter vandalism	Alters the appearance of the elevations. Potential damage to original fabric during installation	Care to be taken during installation to ensure no unnecessary damage occurs.
Fit three CCTV units to north wall, two to rear and one to right side of front porch	Required for additional security and safety	The front elevation is a key aspect of the building's aesthetic value. The rear and north elevations are of lower aesthetic value than the front although does form part of the original structure	Additional security to deter vandalism	Alters the appearance of the elevations. Potential damage to original fabric during installation	Care to be taken during installation to ensure no unnecessary damage occurs.
Clean all brick and stonework. Repair or replace any damaged stone details.	To repair or replace any damaged brick and stonework. To improve the appearance of the building and its historic characteristics.	The brick and stonework on the front of the building are a key part of the building's aesthetic and evidential value.	Cleaning and repairing or replacing any damaged brick and stonework will not only improve the appearance of the building but also prevent any further deterioration.	None	None
Rake out and repoint lime mortar.	To remove and replace any damaged or degraded mortar, improving appearance and weather proofing.	Original lime mortar. Mortar is an important part of the appearance and character of masonry.	Re-pointing will repair existing damage and prevent further deterioration. It will also renew the appearance of the masonry.	Potential to alter the appearance of the front elevations through use of inappropriate materials or techniques.	Use matching lime mortar and replicate original pointing.

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Removal of existing render to south, east and north elevations, prepare surface and re-render with two coats of through colour render.	To replace existing render which is cracked in places and has been damaged by ivy growth and atmospheric staining.	Render can be seen on the early historic photographs of the building. The rendered elevations are aesthetically less significant than the front, but they render still contributes to the character of the building. The existing render appears relatively modern. LBC was granted for re-rendering in 2014.	Renewed render will improve the appearance of the building and better protection to the masonry.	Potential to alter the appearance of the exterior elevations and to damage to masonry when removing the existing render.	Care will be taken when removing existing render to avoid damage to the underlying masonry and to windows. The new render will match the existing in colour and application.
All stained glass windows to be taken out, assessed and repaired where necessary.	To maintain and repair the building's historic windows.	The remaining single glazed windows are all decorative stained glass and original to the building. They form an important part of the aesthetic value of the building internally and externally.	Although generally in a reasonable condition all windows will benefit from maintenance work and cleaning. Some sections have been repaired with clear glass or are missing lead and repairs will significantly enhance their appearance.	Potential for damage during the refurbishment process	Windows to be refurbished by specialist contractor recommended by Cadw.
Small timber windows to be retained and made good on southern elevation	To maintain the existing features of the building	The windows are not original features and are of no historic value.	Improve the appearance of the building by using material more in-keeping with the original features	None	None

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Replace existing security grills over windows with lightweight powder coated grills.	To protect the historic windows from damage by vandalism.	The significance of the windows varies depending on type and date. The original decorative single glazed windows are important to the building's character and appearance both internally and externally. The window frames are plain wood and are of lower significance than the glazing. The later replacements, either wooden framed or uPVC, are of no historic value.	Will prevent future damage to the historic windows. The lightweight grills will have lower visual impact than the existing grills.	Alters the appearance of the windows from the original, particularly to the exterior, partially obscuring them. However, the new grills will have a lower visual impact than the existing.	None
Existing roof slates, battens, ridge tiles etc to be removed. Timbers to be inspected and any defective/decayed timbers to be replaced. Timbers to be treated with preservative. Fit new approved breathable or air permeable membrane. Slate roof to be constructed using removed slates where possible or new materials matching the existing.	To replace and repair the existing roof which has been leaking and make the building watertight.	The roof is an original and its cross-gabled structure is a part of the exterior character of the building. Slate roofs are common in the area, so the materials themselves are not unique.	The new roof will make the structure watertight, stopping the current deterioration of the building due to leaks.	There will be a loss of original material, although timbers and slates will be retained where possible.	None

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Replacement of existing gutters and downpipes with new cast iron gutters and downpipes.	To replace existing guttering and downpipes, which show signs of atmospheric staining, and ensure effective rainwater management.	The guttering and downpipes are not considered to be historically significant elements of the building. It is unclear whether any of the existing are original, but some downpipes are certainly more modern replacements, as they are not cast iron.	The existing downpipes of incorrect material will be replaced with cast iron. The renewed guttering will have a more attractive appearance than the existing weathered ones. New guttering and downpipes should also be a more reliable way to channel rainwater and reduce the risk of water damage to the building.	Loss of some possible original material in the form of the guttering and surviving downpipes but dating of these is not clear and they are in poor condition.	None
Restoration of cupola including the repair of lead flashing and a replica of original topper installed.	To repair and reinstate an original feature.	An original part of the building with high aesthetic value.	Repairs and maintains the existing cupola base and reinstates a unique and characteristic element of the original building.	None	None
Apply new code 6 weathering to cornices.	To protect the building's stonework from weathering.	Cornices are an original part of the building with and form an important part of the façade's aesthetic value.	The stonework will be protected from weathering.	None	None
Apply new code 5 weathering to stone projections.	To protect the building's stonework from weathering.	Stonework is original and forms an important part of the façade's aesthetic value.	The stonework will be protected from weathering.	None	None

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Construction of a new side entrance walkway canopy.	To replace the existing canopy with one more sympathetic to the appearance of the building.	Existing canopy was built in the 1980s and is considered of no historic value.	Removes an incongruous modern addition to the Library, visible from the front of the building.	The replacement canopy is not an original aspect of the building and may detract from its appearance. Works to remove and install the new canopy could damage the fabric of the north wall.	The new canopy will be in materials to match the main building. It will have a natural slate roof, the walls (north and east) will be through colour rendered, the gutter will be traditional cast iron Victorian ogee and the downpipe will be cast iron. The opening to the east wall will have stone sill and lintel to match existing windows. Care will be taken when removing and installing the new canopy not to cause any damage. The works will not require significant disturbance of the wall.
New external door to side entrance to match existing.	To replace existing door.	The existing door is a later addition to the building, probably dating to the 1980s when the canopy was added. It has been fitted into an original window opening, and the upper part	None	Potential to damage aspects of the original window during the installation.	The stained glass will be removed from the existing frame and re-fitted into the new frames.

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
		of the stained-glass window has been retained as a fan light.			
Creation of a steel post and corrugated sheet roof covered cycle stand to north wall.	To provide secure storage for cycles.	The stand will be located on the north wall at basement level and behind (to the east) of the side entrance. The lack of visibility means this area is of relatively low aesthetic value.	None	The use of non-traditional materials is out of keeping with the main building. Construction of the stand could cause minor damage to the main building.	The stand is located in the least visible part of the exterior meaning it will have little impact on the aesthetic value of the building. Care to be taken during construction to avoid any damage to main building fabric.
Repair and repaint railings and gates to side walkway and main entrance.	To maintain and improve the appearance of the existing railings.	The railings to the main entrance can be seen in the early photographs of the building, and form part of the sweeping curved walls leading into the library. The date of the side gates is not clear.	It will improve the appearance of the railing and help preserve the ironwork.	None	None
Memorial clock to be removed, cleaned, and repaired.	To maintain the clock in good working condition.	Although not part of the original building design, the Memorial Clock is an important part of the building, with a high communal value.	It will maintain the Clock in good working order and improve its appearance.	None	None

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Existing lighting, features and ornate ventilation grills to be removed, made good/repaired and refitted.	To restore and maintain details of the original interior of the building that provide character.	Details such as ventilation grills provide information about the early building and are a part of the interior character and appearance of the library.	It will restore and maintain features and details of the building.	None	None
Existing skirtings, trims, fixtures and fittings to be removed, made good/repaired and refitted.	To restore and maintain details of the original interior of the building that provide character.	Details such as skirtings provide information about the early building and are a part of the interior character and appearance of the library.	It will restore and maintain features and details of the building.	None	None
Installation of new DDA compliant WC in existing WC/cupboard to the south of the entrance. Existing door to be made good and changed to outward opening	To provide a DDA compliant WC in the building after the demolition of the rear extension which is where it is currently located.	The existing door to the junior library is an original wooden panel door in moulded frame and will be retained. It also involves removing the existing WC and internal dividing wall. These are later additions to the building and are not considered of historic value.	None	None	None
Installation of new kitchen in existing kitchen to north of entrance, including new units and appliances.	To replace the existing kitchen, which is currently in a very poor state of repair.	The kitchen units and other fixtures are modern and are not considered of historic value.	None	None	None
Block existing doorway at north end of hall reception	To create a draft lobby from the main entrance, preventing heat loss from the building and improving energy efficiency	The opening comprises an original surround and forms part of the interior character and appearance	None	Potential for damage during the process	Retention of original surround in situ to preserve fabric and allow understanding of original layout, blocking to cause no damage to the surround

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Creation of staff room in existing project room in the south-east corner, involving the blocking of an existing door to the junior library and the replacement of an existing sliding door to the stairs with a hinged door.	To create a new staff room.	The door to be blocked from the junior library is an original wooden panel door in moulded frame. The sliding door is likely of mid – late 20 th century and not of historic value.	None	Loss of an original doorway.	The door to the junior library can be retained but blocked on the inside, to demonstrate the previous organisation of the rooms.
Installation of new reception desk with DDA compliant access in existing reception location.	To create a reception area with DDA compliant access.	The existing reception fittings are modern and of no historic importance.	None	None	None
Renovation of junior library area, including new flooring.	To update the junior library area.	The renovation work will not affect any significant aspects of the interior. Fixtures and fittings to be removed or replaced, such as the carpet, are modern.	None	None	None
Reconfiguring lobby and training room to lower ground floor so that the lobby extends to the new external door. Existing interior wall and door between lobby and training room to be removed and new partition and door added	To extend the basement lobby to the new external door.	The elements affected, including the two doors to be removed, are all modern and of no historic importance. The original layout of the basement area is unknown.	None	None	None

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
to roughly in line with the stairs.					
Existing boiler room to be changed to a meter room. Existing doorway on the west wall of the room to be blocked and new doors added on the south wall.	To repurpose existing boiler room as a meter room.	The elements affected are all modern and of no historic importance. The original layout of the basement area is unknown.	None	None	None
Existing gas meter in south-west corner of training room to be removed.	To remove redundant gas meter.	None	Removal of modern fixture not in keeping with the building.	None	None
Existing store cupboard in the open learning room to be removed.	To extend available space in proposed training room.	The site visit ascertained that the cupboard is likely a later addition to the existing learning room, possibly of mid 20 th century date, and is therefore not a significant element.	Removes a later addition to the basement area.	None	None
Complete renewal of the electrical services, including lighting.	To modernise the electrical services, improving safety and efficiency	Currently no detailed plans available. Existing electric lights are modern and of no historic significance.	Improves electrical safety of building.	Replacement of wiring and fittings has potential to damage original elements of the building, although this is unlikely as it will be carried out during the renovation of the rooms, including replacement of the ceilings.	Care to be taken when working to avoid damage to any original fabric.

Proposed Work	Objective	Significance of affected aspect	Assessing beneficial impact	Assessing harmful Impact	Proposed Solution
Replacement of gas boiler and heating system with air source heating system	MTCBC has committed to transitioning to net carbon zero	The retention of the existing radiators would mean less potential impact to the interior aesthetics.	Retention of original features	Potential to damage original building fabric during installation	Avoid any damage to original structure, any replacement pipework to align with current openings where possible



Appendix II: CFW Architects' Proposal Drawings



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