



THE NORTHERN ACADEMY OF VOCAL EXCELLENCE (NAVE)

BARNSLEY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNSLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC)

BOND BRYAN

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

BARNSELY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNSELY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC)

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

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PROJECT TEAM (RIBA STAGE 2)

Bond Bryan	Architecture & Interior Design
Hydrock	Building Services Design & Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Public Health); Structural & Civil Engineering; Acoustic Design & Engineering; Fire Engineering
Urbana	Planning Consultant
Currie & Brown UK	Project Management; Cost Consultant



1.0
THE PROJECT

BARNSLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC)
BOND BRYAN
DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

BARNSELY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNSELY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

1.1 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT

This Design & Access Statement has been prepared by Bond Bryan on behalf of the Barnsley Youth Choir (BYC) in support of an outline planning application for the retrofit of the former IT Data Centre at the corner of St Mary's Place & Westgate to create a Northern Academy of Vocal Excellence (NAVE).

This Statement outlines the proposed site, building and provides an overview of the key strategies and architectural concept to be employed to bring the building, currently unoccupied and in danger of dereliction, back to life for a vibrant new inhabitation with a powerful civic purpose.

The Statement is to be read in conjunction with the supporting architectural drawings and other supplementary documentation submitted as part of the application.

1.1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Barnsley Youth Choir (BYC) have described eloquently and in detail the urgent need for their own dedicated rehearsal space to support the further growth of the choir as a vital force for good in their home town of Barnsley (and far beyond; please refer to the Northern Academy of Vocal Excellence Building Proposal document). The choir intend to make this new home for themselves in the former West Riding Court House, bringing back into use a valued local historic building following nearly a decade of vacancy. The choir is currently a haven for a large number of local young people, providing opportunities and high quality training that would otherwise not have been available to them.

The proposal is to create a Northern Academy of Vocal Excellence (NAVE), that will continue to draw vocalists, composers and other musicians from across the country and the globe to perform with the BYC. The Choir's intention is to share their building with the whole cross-section of the local community, inviting the widest possible range of stakeholders to

use the spaces created, and establishing a truly communal building where all ages and stages can flourish. Bond Bryan, along with the wider Project and Design Team, are proud to be a part of their outstanding vision.

The proceeding section (2.0) outlines the challenges presented by the site and building. The sections following (3.0 and 4.0) describe the key strategies to be employed and the architectural concept as developed in collaboration with the BYC to-date. The proposal to restore the historic building in question, arresting its current decline, and making it fit, not only for its future inhabitation by the BYC and wider community, but also for a changing climate (with the potential for global heating to exceed 1.5°C above pre-Industrial levels within the 75-year design life of the building) all represent a huge challenge to the Design Team.

We are a Team passionate about restoring old buildings to life and making space for communities to flourish. Accordingly, we relish the challenge.

1.1.3 THE DESIGN PROCESS

Having received the project brief from the BYC, the team has undertaken a thorough appraisal of the site conditions and the existing building to understand how our client's aspirations can best be met there. It remains critical to the success of the project to understand the building's original design and the ways it has been adapted in use throughout the course of its life. Investigations supported by Barnsley Archives & Local Studies have enabled a comprehensive understanding, both of the building as first constructed in 1879, and of the details of successive adaptations throughout the 20th Century. The results of these investigations can be seen in section 2.0, while section 4.0 outlines the strategic responses to the discoveries made.

The challenge set by the extended design life proposed for the building (75 years, in line with the lease granted to the BYC

by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC)) necessitates a rigorous, iterative process of design and analysis, to test and evaluate whether proposals are suitable to realise the aspirations of the brief. The evolving Sustainability Strategy, detailed in section 4.0, explains the core components of the Team's response. As our detailed understanding of the building develops into RIBA Stage 3, so will the Sustainability Strategy be developed in response.

The historic building, with its traditional solid wall construction and local listing as a heritage asset of significance to the local community, necessitates careful treatment. Design and construction detailing must successfully preserve, restore and progress the narrative of the building as it moves into the next chapter of its life, whilst ensuring the fabric is made resilient to withstand the more extreme conditions brought about by a changing climate.

The requirement in the project brief to create a world class singing space that is acoustically and visually stunning means the needs of Conservation and Climate are to be brought into harmony with a rigorous Acoustic Design.

This Statement details the development of the proposals up to the conclusion of RIBA Stage 2, as far as is relevant to the scope of this planning application. Additional design development in greater detail will take place at RIBA Stages 3 and 4 to further refine the Project Strategies and develop the details of the design. The Team will continue to rigorously test and iterate to ensure the best possible outcome is achieved.

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1.2 PROJECT BRIEF

1.2.1 ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT BRIEF

Please refer to the separate Project Brief document prepared by Currie & Brown, Project Managers, which should be read in conjunction with this report. The Brief signed off by the Client includes the following statement of purpose:

“The proposition is to develop the NAVE as an internationally recognised development centre for singing with large flexible spaces for rehearsal that can also accommodate occasional small informal audiences. The spaces will be acoustically excellent for choral singing, making this an attractive venue for groups of all abilities to rehearse, perform and record. This rehearsal and development venue will have an impact on the quality of provision Barnsley Youth Choir are able to offer and provide outstanding opportunities for the local and wider communities. The proposed development will allow for the Choir to grow and work in a much more dynamic way, fostering meaningful and pertinent relationships with outstanding practitioners both in the UK and internationally. Having purpose refurbished spaces with full access to high quality equipment will enable the organisation to work more professionally which, in turn, will significantly impact on outcomes.”

Please see overleaf for the Project Brief Accommodation requirements.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements have been extracted from the Project Brief prepared by Currie & Brown, Project Managers:

- At least 5 rehearsal spaces with varying capacity (the largest to accommodate 120 young people sat in rows) potentially with flexibility to be turned into 7 spaces with the use of acoustic removable walls;
- Large main space on the first floor should have a sprung floor for dance, with potential for mirrors and curtains. This space should be a world-class choral space with outstanding acoustic properties, whilst also being visually inspiring;
- Air conditioning throughout the building (to not disturb rehearsals and recordings) and does not dry the air for singing;
- A number of smaller ‘breakout’ spaces for smaller rehearsals;
- A large multipurpose reception area that can be used as an additional rehearsal space when required, with the potential to be developed into a café and events space;
- A central office overlooking the entrance/reception;
- A meeting room (12 people) to overlook the entrance/reception & support passive supervision;
- WCs on all floors, to include accessible and gender neutral provision;
- Passenger lift that can also function as a goods lift for sound and music equipment (stage pianos, flight cases);
- Secure storage for technical equipment with outside access for a tail lift-equipped van;
- Large library & reprographics room;
- Small storerooms for BYC equipment & partner organisations’ equipment (potential for subletting);
- Small practice rooms suitable for 1:1 vocal coaching;
- Uniform store with laundry & changing facilities;
- Kitchenettes on each floor;
- Large kitchen on the ground floor to support future use as a community café;
- Secure storage for staging (could be external);
- Recording studio space;
- Insulation and energy efficiency upgrades;
- Security system to support safeguarding.

1.2 PROJECT BRIEF

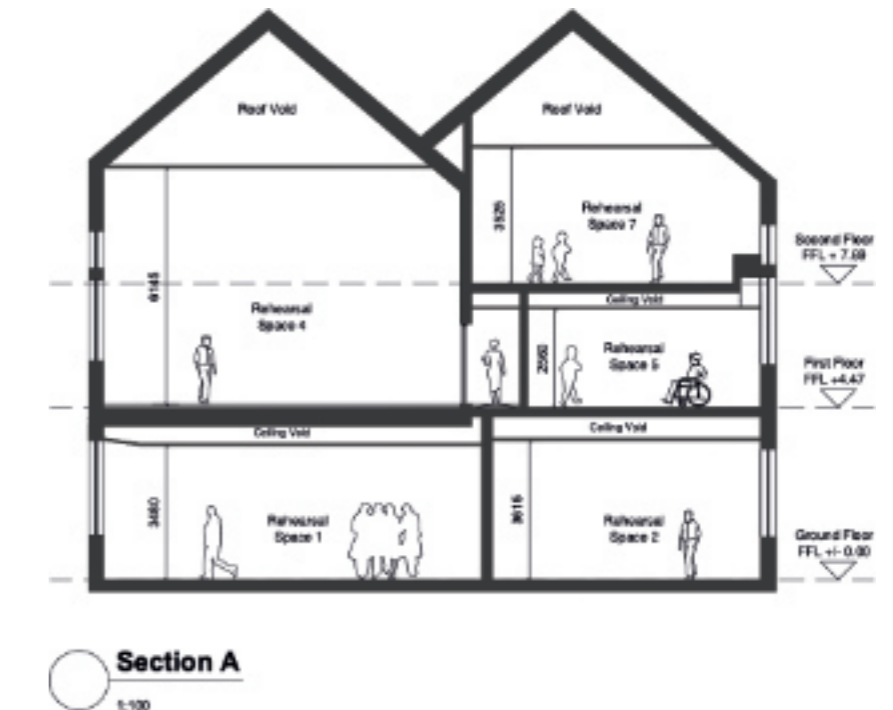
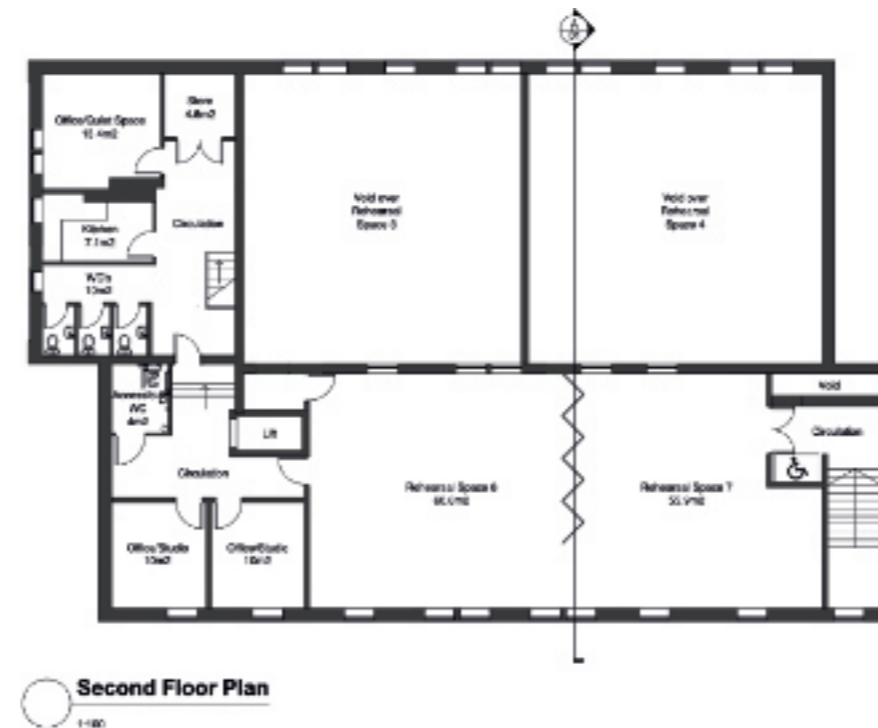
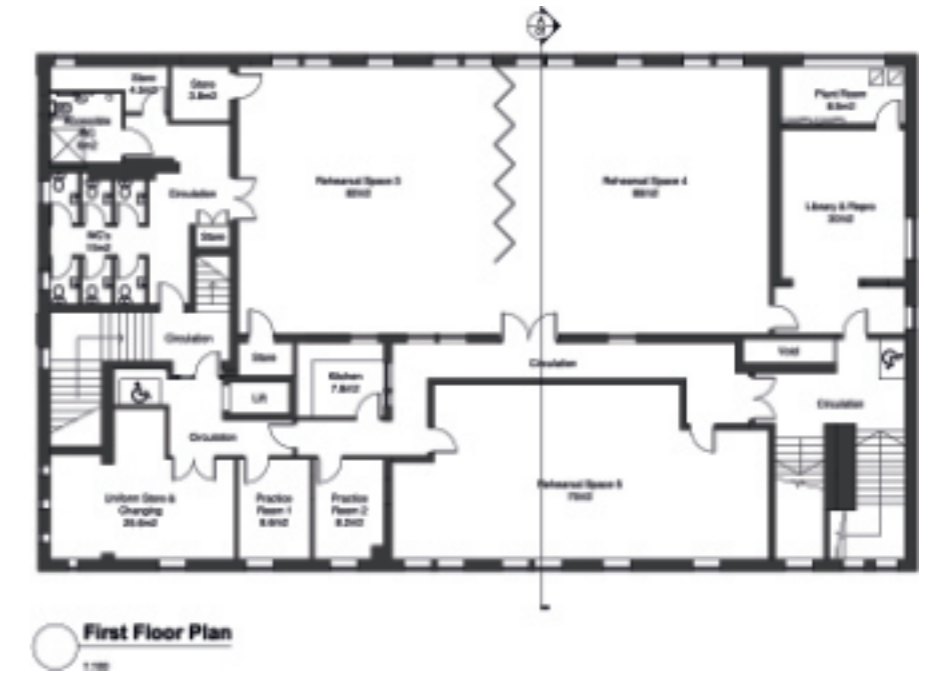
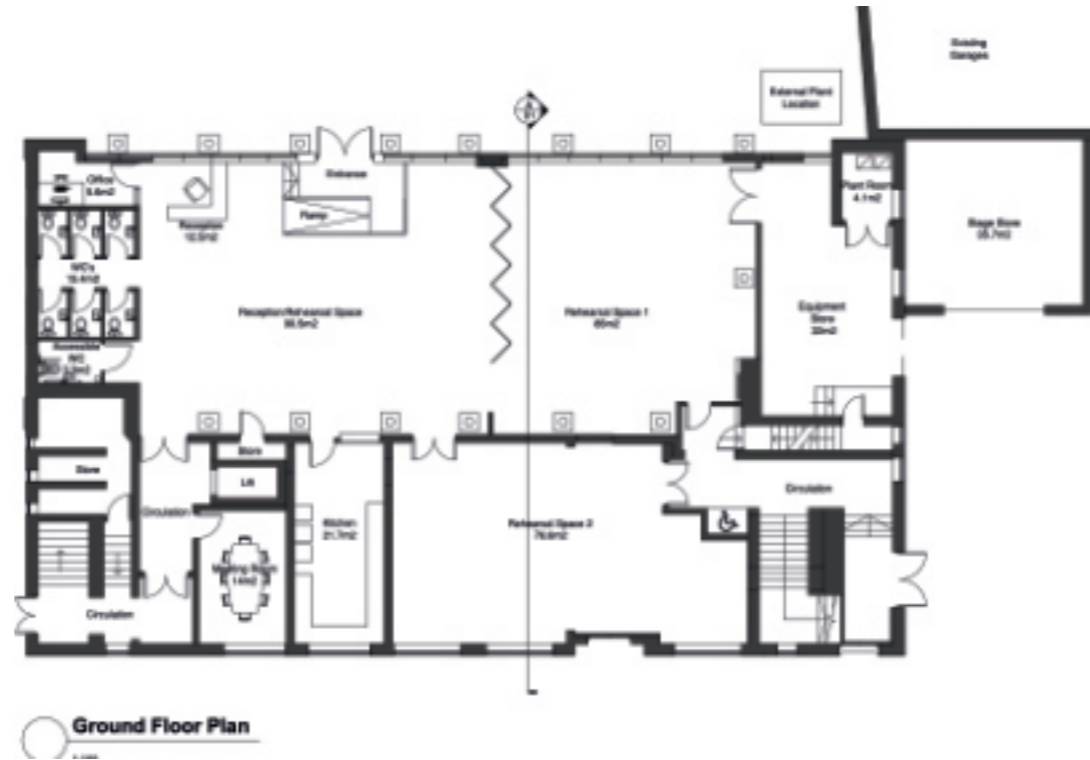
1.2.2 PROJECT BRIEF PLANS

The floor plans shown here form part of the Project Brief alongside the written requirements detailed in the documentation from the BYC and the Project Managers.

The plans were issued following RIBA Stages 0-1, and represent a developed study undertaken on behalf of the Client by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council into the feasibility of accommodating the brief within the demise of the chosen site.

The Design Team have taken these plans as the starting point for the development of the Architectural Concepts, and analysis of the proposals and further testing of the assumptions made has formed the basis of the initial RIBA Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement and the commissioning of Site Information and survey data detailed in the following section of this report.

Overleaf the Team’s initial assessment of the plans can be reviewed in section 5.0, under ‘Design Development’.



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1.2 PROJECT BRIEF

1.2.3 OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS

Building Level	Proposed Zone As per draft floor plans & sections	Proposed Area (m ²) As per draft floor plans & section	Proposed Occupancy (Max.) As per client requirement	Proposed Occupancy (Min.) As per client requirement
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Office	5.6	1	-
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Reception	12.5	[Counted in Reception/Rehearsal Space]	
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Reception/Rehearsal Space	90.5	140 (Rehearsal)	80 (Reception)
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Rehearsal Space 1	85	120 (Rehearsal)	75 (Reception)
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Equipment Store	32	5	-
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Stage Store (External)	35.7	-	-
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Rehearsal Space 2	76.6	110 (Rehearsal)	-
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Kitchen	21.7	4	-
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Meeting Room	14	10	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Rehearsal Space 3	82	130 (Rehearsal)	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Rehearsal Space 4	88	135 (Rehearsal)	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Library & Reprographics	30	5	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Rehearsal Space 5	70	110 (Rehearsal)	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Kitchen	7.8	2	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Practice Room 1	8.6	4	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Practice Room 2	8.2	4	-
First Floor (Level 01)	Uniform Store & Changing	25.6	8	-
Second Floor (Level 02)	Office/Quiet Space	13.4	3	-
Second Floor (Level 02)	Kitchen	7.1	2	-
Second Floor (Level 02)	Rehearsal Space 6	55.9	80 (Rehearsal)	-
Second Floor (Level 02)	Rehearsal Space 7	60.8	70 (Rehearsal)	-
Second Floor (Level 02)	Office/Studio	10	2	-
Second Floor (Level 02)	Office/Studio	10	2	-

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1.2 PROJECT BRIEF

1.2.4 PROJECT QUALITY OUTCOMES

Building Level	Proposed Zone	Acoustic Score (Ext.)* Sound bleed into room	Acoustic Score (Int.)* Sound quality within room	Aesthetic Score* Visual quality of space
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Multi-purpose Space	3	3	3-4
Notes:	This isn't a space where things need to be perfect. Crucially though, the movable wall should provide as little bleed into the rehearsal space created - there is likely to be noise in reception and from the café. Some will be unavoidable but we need to limit it as much as possible. In terms of aesthetics, the room should feel friendly and warm, but the key is that it is functional as a café/multi-purpose space - easy to clean etc.			
Ground Floor (Level 00)	Rehearsal Room/Practice Rooms	4-5	4	3-4
Notes:	This may be a room that is used for music exams and needs to be a higher quality than the adjacent multi-purpose space. Crucially, there should be very little road noise into the room. We recognise that the acoustics won't be perfect in the room itself, but should be a much higher quality space than the multi-purpose space.			
First Floor (Level 01)	Large Rehearsal Room	5+	5+	5+
Notes:	This is the world-class space - and we need to keep returning to those terms for this space. It's the number 1 priority - it must be visually and acoustically superb. The highest possible level we can achieve. No plant in the roof spaces - visually inspiring. The success of the building will be largely due to the quality of space that we are able to engineer here. Please be aware that if dance classes are using this space, air quality and circulation is a factor.			
First Floor (Level 01)	Rehearsal Room	5	4-5	3-4
Notes:	This should be a very high quality breakout room from the main space and we need it to be as high quality acoustics as possible, recognising the ceiling height, etc.			
First Floor (Level 01)	Uniform Store	3	2	2
Notes:	Just need not too much outside bleed of noise, but not a priority space.			
First Floor (Level 01)	Library & Reprographics	3-4	2	4
Notes:	If this becomes a lettable space we need to ensure that it is functional, and that people can meet and discuss without disturbance. It should be a quiet space, and also be visually really nice to be in.			
First Floor (Level 01)	Practice Rooms	4-5	4	2-3
Notes:	If created, criteria as above.			
Second Floor (Level 02)	Rehearsal Room	5	5	5
Notes:	This becomes our 2nd priority space acoustically. With the roof that we have discovered, this space has vast potential, and we need to ensure that it looks and feels like an outstanding space. This may become one room with an acoustic wall, to provide greater flexibility to open up the space to use as a larger area (we recognise that this will lead to acoustic and aesthetic compromises). A really important 2nd main space for the building.			

*Score is out of 5; 5 being the highest quality, 1 being the lowest quality.



2.0 THE SITE

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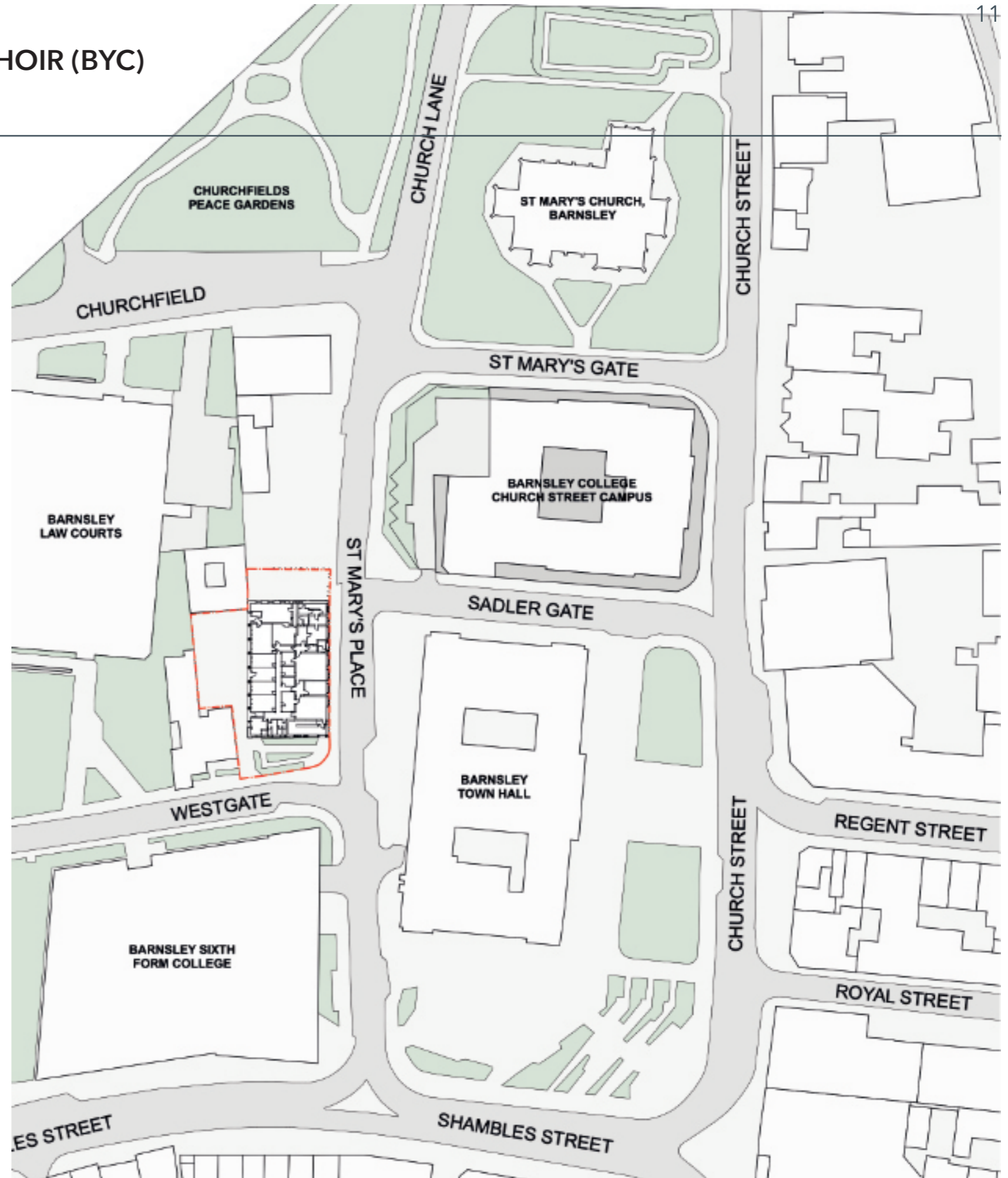
2.1 SITE LOCATION

2.1.1 LOCATION PLAN

The building proposed to be transformed into the NAVE is located at the corner of St Mary's Place and Westgate, close to the centre of Barnsley, within the Town Centre area designated by the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC)'s Local Plan. Barnsley Sixth Form College, completed in 2016, stands immediately to the South; Barnsley Law Courts are situated immediately to the West, and the listed Town Hall (1933) to the East, with listed St Mary's Church, which boasts foundations from the 8th Century, a tower from the 15th Century, and a principal construction date in the 19th Century, completing a diverse architectural context.

Please refer to the drawing overleaf to show further relevant Local Plan designations, including surrounding building use types, listings, the Conservation Area boundary, as well as the demarcation of sites targeted for Public Space Improvements and Primary/ Secondary Shopping Frontages.

Please refer to BALU-BBA-NV-XX-DR-A-1001-Site Location Plan for further details.



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2.2 SITE CONTEXT

2.2.1 LOCAL PLAN DESIGNATIONS & BUILDING USES

The building is located directly adjacent to the Church St/Regent St/Market Hill Conservation Area. Notable listed buildings in close proximity include the Barnsley Town Hall and St. Mary's Church, which along with the Barnsley Sixth Form College are noted as landmark buildings in the Local Plan. The project will have to ensure it is sensitive to the setting of the Conservation Area, for which an Appraisal is due to be published in the Winter of 2023. If published within a suitable timeframe, pertinent content from any forthcoming Appraisal will inform the project Conservation Strategy.

Note the listing of the industrial buildings immediately to the North, the setting of which will also affect the NAVE planning application.

There is ample green space close to the site, with predominantly civic/public, commercial (primarily retail) and educational building uses.

The site is located just outside the Primary Shopping Area, but within the Local Plan's Town Centre designation. It also lies within the Town Hall Square Priority site for public space improvement. The NAVE project, once realised will represent a significant improvement to the community and social value of the building by making it fit for inhabitation by an organisation with a very strong social and civic purpose, and will create additional space in a key public space improvement zone to welcome a broad range of local community stakeholders.



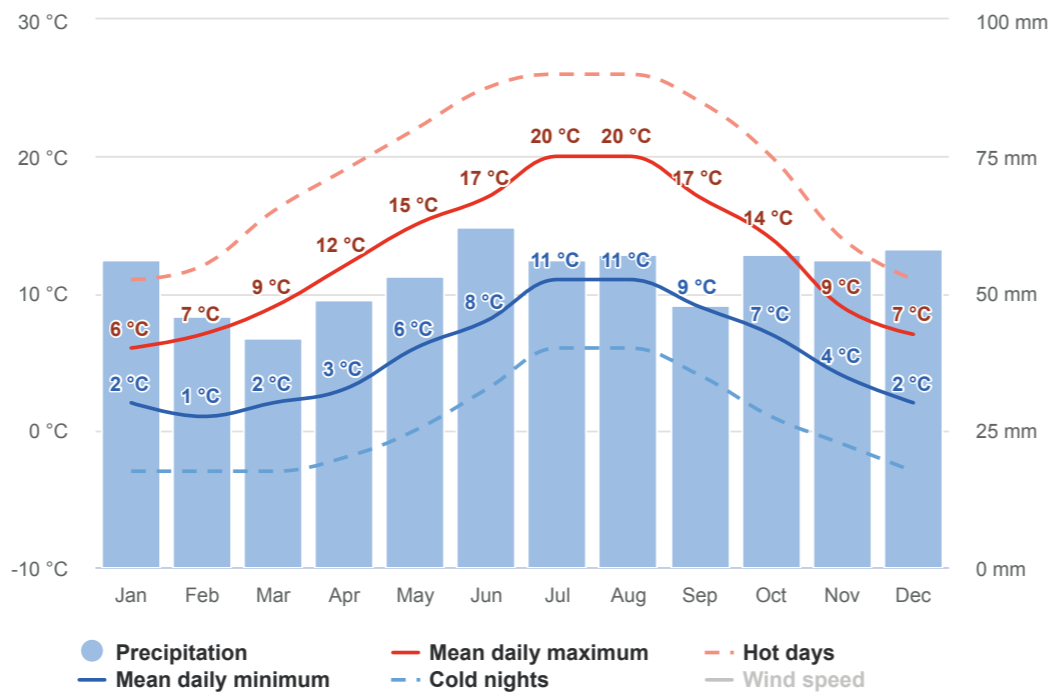
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2.3 SITE CONDITIONS

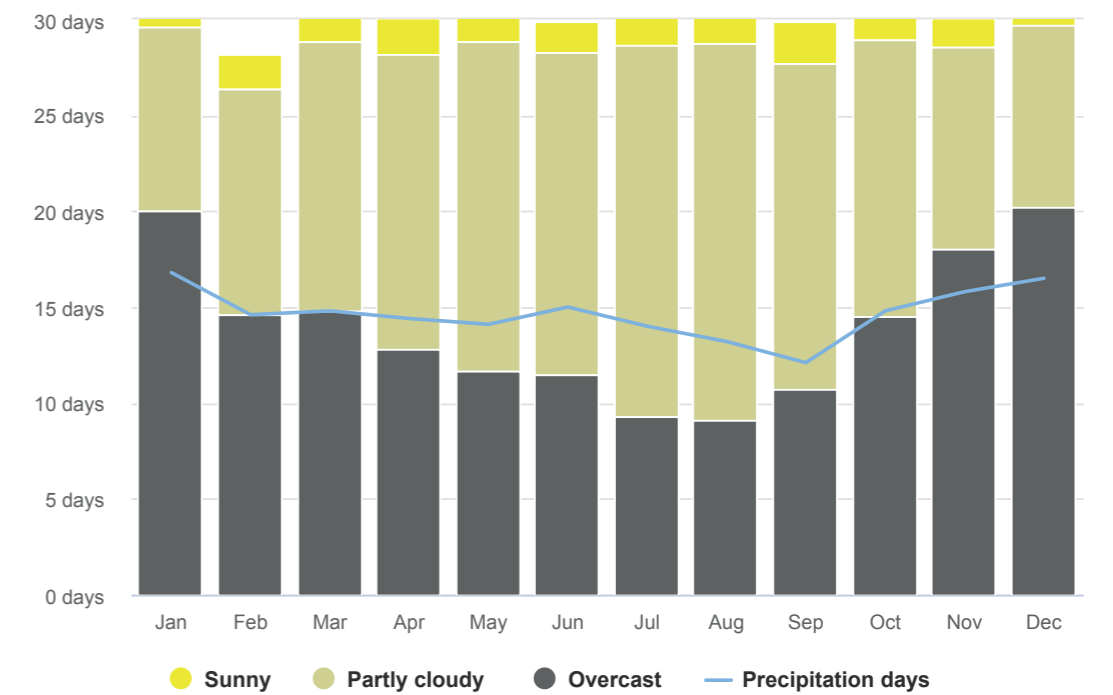
2.3.1 LOCAL WEATHER DATA

Weather data from publicly available online databases and gives a snapshot of annual averages for temperature, precipitation and other weather patterns. The database amalgamates approximately 30 years of weather data for the locality specified, at a visual resolution of 30km, and so averages shown should be assumed to increase in extremity over the design life of the building as the climate of the UK becomes both warmer and wetter. For example, the number of days in the height of summer where the maximum temperature exceeds 25°C can be expected to rise: 2022 saw a maximum temperature exceeding 40°C for the first time in Lincolnshire, so it is reasonable to assume that similar temperatures could be recorded in Barnsley in the near future.

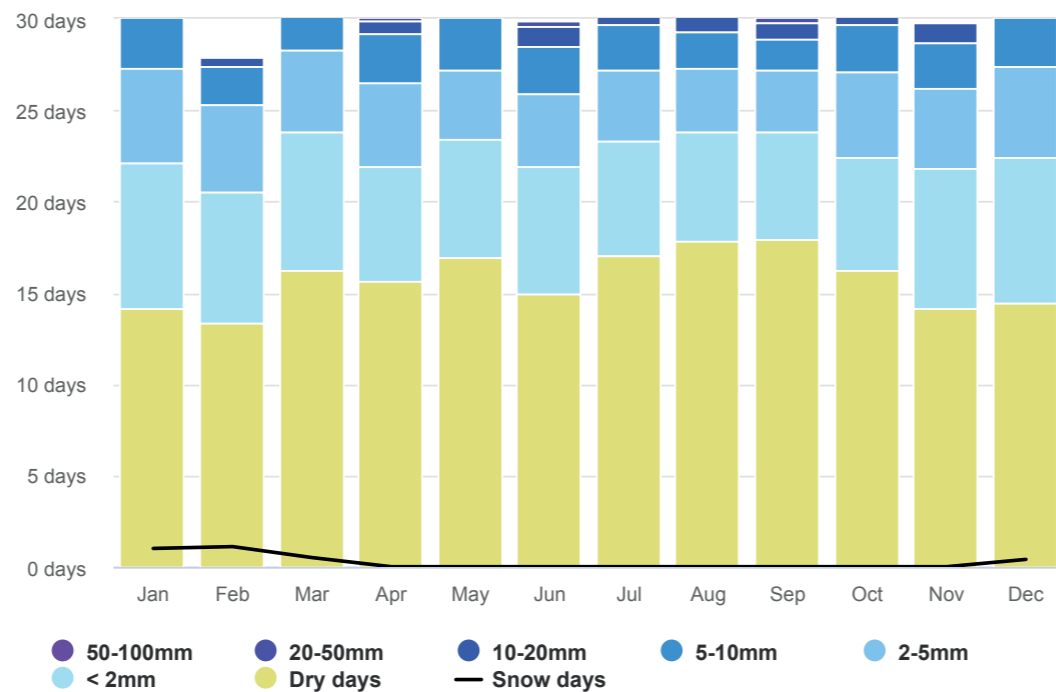
AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION & TEMPERATURES



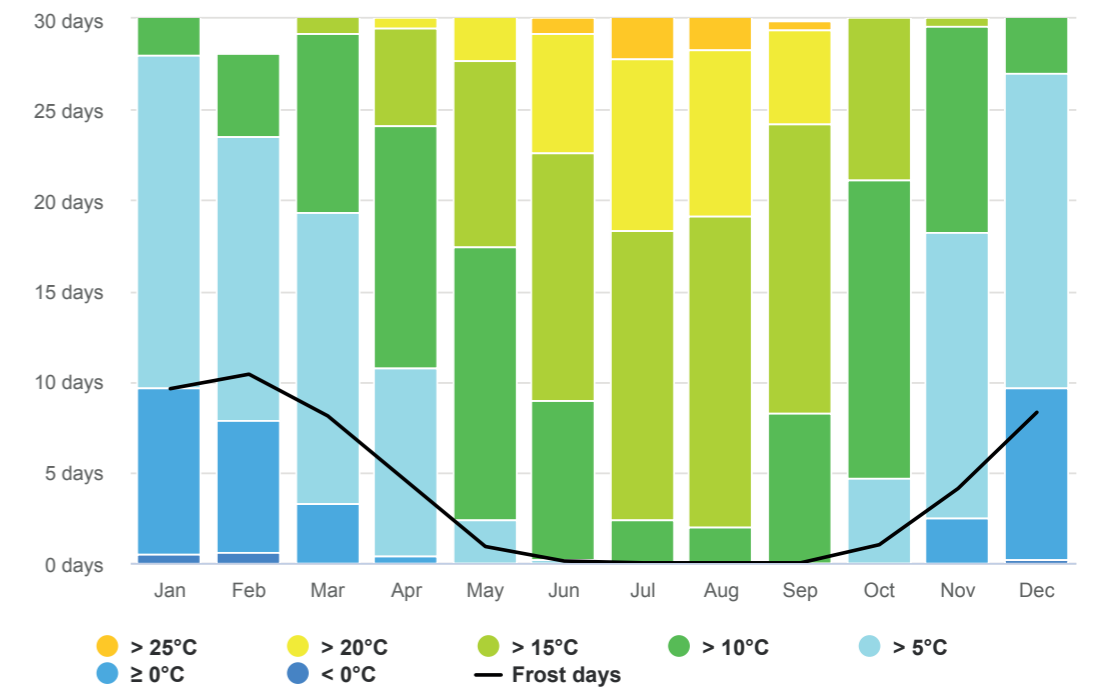
AVERAGE ANNUAL MONTHLY CLOUDY, SUNNY & PRECIPITATION DAYS



AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS



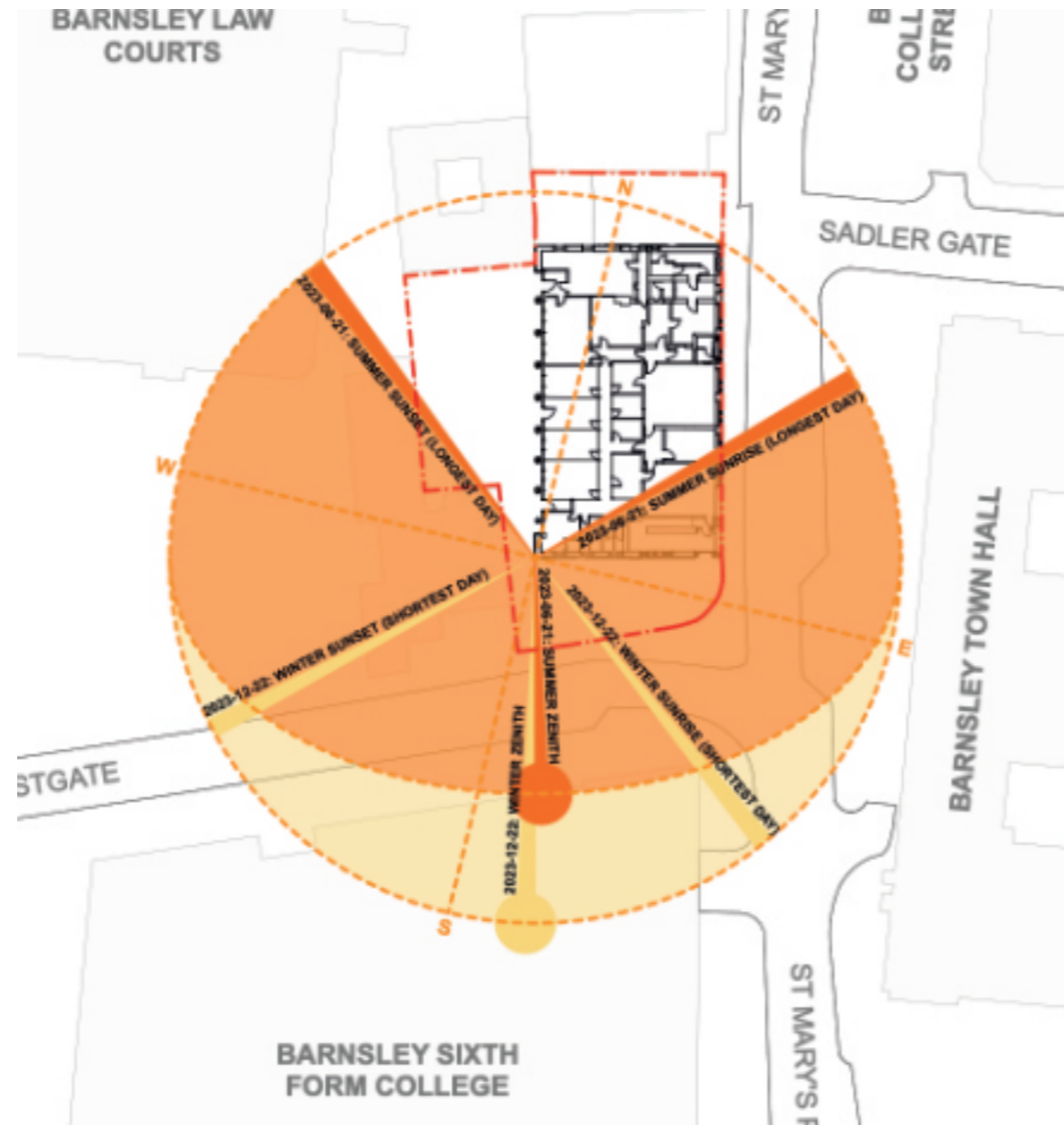
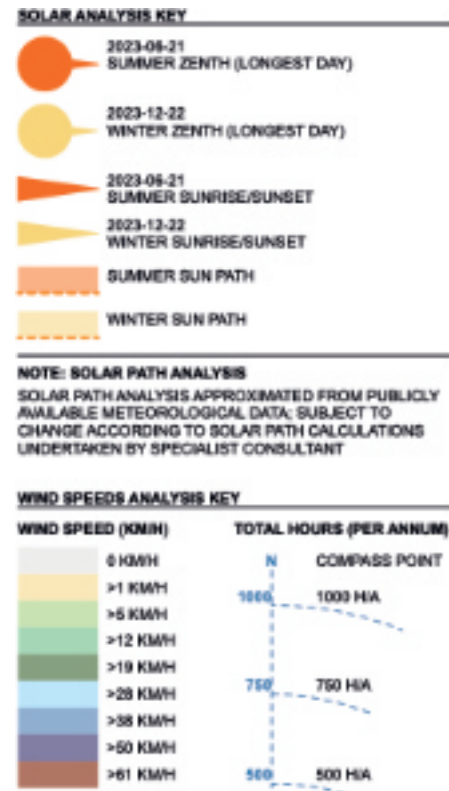
AVERAGE ANNUAL MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES



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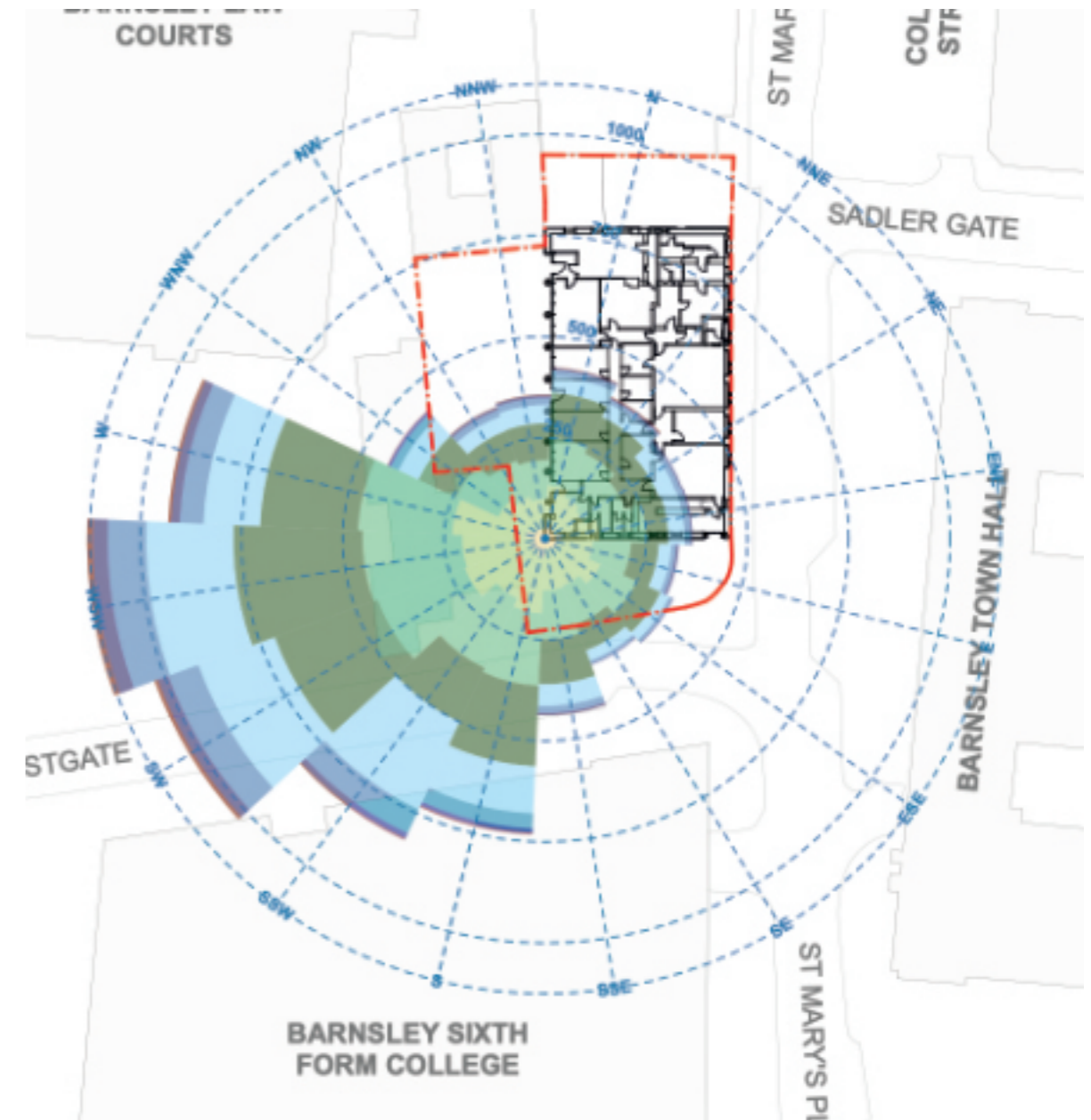
2.3 SITE CONDITIONS

2.3.2 SOLAR PATH & WIND SPEED ANALYSIS



SOLAR PATH

The building's orientation is almost exactly North-South. Principal elevations to the East and West represent an overheating risk, particularly in the Summer when unwanted solar gains will be highest. The design proposals may have to include some suggestion for external shading measures to mitigate this risk.



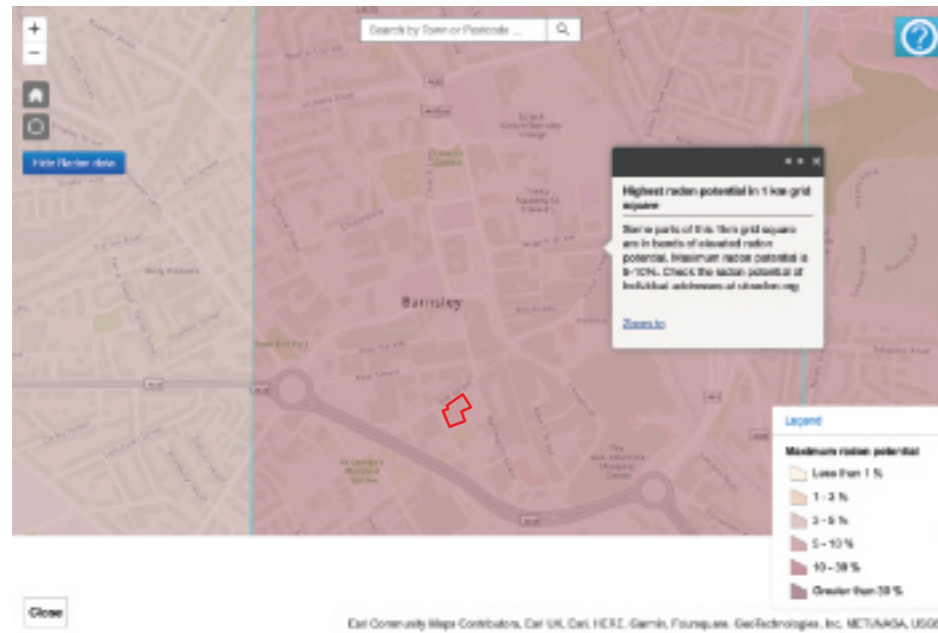
WIND SPEED

As expected for the UK, the prevailing winds are from a West/Southwesterly direction. The highest wind speeds are recorded from this direction and for greater durations. The building will need to be resilient to increased risk of potential moisture ingress from this direction as a result of driven rain. Weather from this orientation will be temperate in nature, and increased wind speeds will require robust detailing of the thermal envelope.

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2.3 SITE CONDITIONS

2.3.3 UK RADON DATA



High level analysis using the interactive map provided by the UK Health Security Agency at <https://ukradon.org> shows that some areas of Barnsley exhibit elevated radon potential, with a maximum potential of 5-10%.

Radon is a colourless, odourless gas that arises from the decay of small amounts of uranium present in rock and soil. The gas can be breathed into the lungs, where the breakdown of radioactive material causes localised tissue damage, placing the person at a greater risk of developing lung cancers. Annual premature deaths in the UK from lung cancer as a result of exposure to radon are more than double the number caused by drink driving. Radon exposure comprises up to 50% of our total annual exposure to radiation from all sources, both natural and man-made.

The amount of radon is measured in Becquerels per cubic metre of air (Bq/m³). For levels below 100 Bq/m³, individual risk remains low. Amounts that exceed 200 Bq/m³ require mitigation strategies to be taken.

Radon levels can often be higher indoors than outdoors,

where relatively lower air pressure encourages radon to be drawn in, usually via air gaps in the floor construction. Where retrofit works can increase the airtightness of a building, it is vital to understand (measure) the radon levels on site to ensure they do not exceed the 'Action Level'. If they do, mitigation strategies must be employed to reduce the risk to building inhabitants represented by radon exposure.

The following definitions are taken from online information provided by UKradon:

Action Level

UK Health Security Agency recommends that radon levels should be reduced in homes where the average is more than 200 becquerels per metre cubed (200 Bq/m³). This recommendation has been endorsed by the Government. This 'Action Level' refers to the annual average concentration in a building, with radon measurements carried out over three months, to average out short-term fluctuations.

Target Level

The Target Level of 100 Bq/m³ is the ideal outcome for remediation works in existing buildings and protective measures in new buildings. If the result of a radon assessment is between the Target and Action Levels, action to reduce the level should be considered.

UKradon recommend the following steps be taken to manage radon in buildings:

Check

The information here is the first step: the image of the interactive map search above, with the site location marked, shows the higher than average potential for radon levels to exceed the 200 Bq/m³ Action Level on site. A report for the

specific site address should now be ordered from UKradon at the first available opportunity.

Measure

The Team recommend that at the very least a measurement pack for a workplace is ordered from UKradon. It may be necessary to appoint the British Geological Survey to measure radon on site, since the building exceeds 25m in length, in accordance with UKradon guidance.

Act

If the radon level on site exceeds the Action Level, ensure measures are included in the design proposals to reduce the radon level to or below the 100 Bq/m³ Target Level. Given the higher proportion of potentially more vulnerable building inhabitants, every effort should be made to reduce levels well below the Target Level to reduce risk as far as possible.

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2.3 SITE CONDITIONS

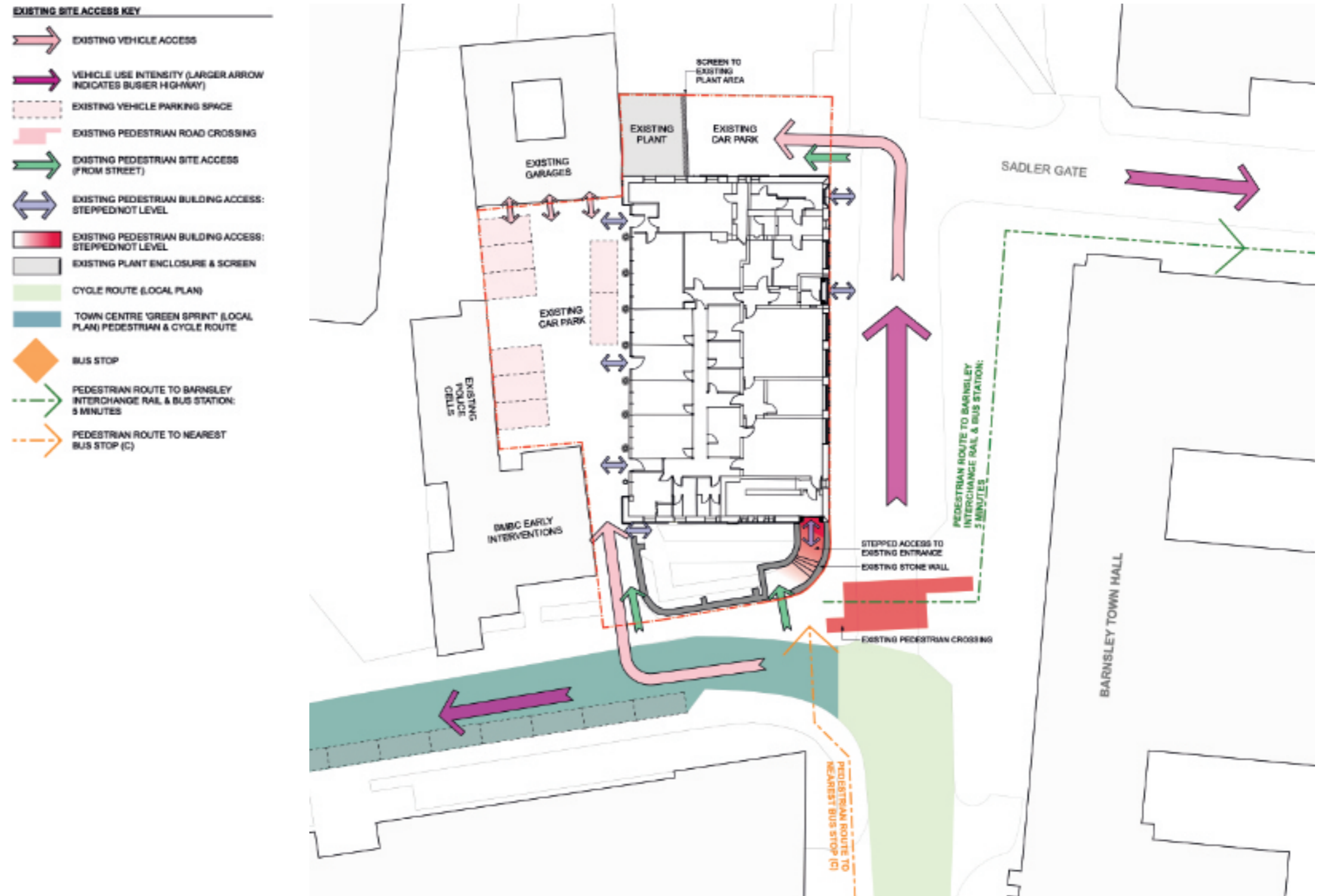
2.3.4 SITE ACCESS & MOVEMENT

Vehicle and pedestrian access overlaps to the principal site entrances. The proposed Site Access Strategy will seek to carefully manage this to ensure the adequate safeguarding of young people and other potentially vulnerable community members.

St Mary's Place is a busy road with a high volume of traffic, with implications for access, and proposed escape routes from the building - this will require a well-conceived and developed project Fire Strategy. There are further implications for Acoustics, Ventilation (to mitigate the impacts of vehicle pollution), and the performance of the building envelope in general, requiring a degree of 'defence' to ensure a comfortable internal environment.

There is no existing level access to the building. This, alongside existing internal levels (see separate analysis diagrams) is one of the greatest challenges to achieving inclusive access for all future building inhabitants. Given those inhabitants are likely to represent a wide range of ages and abilities, level access is paramount to the successful functioning of the building once the project is completed.

The site is in close proximity to nearby transport links. Barnsley Interchange is located within a 5-minute walk and the nearest bus stop is located at the adjacent Barnsley Sixth Form College.



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2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.1 OVERVIEW

West Riding Court House

The Barnsley Archives & Local Studies team have a complete catalogue of the Magistrates Court Records, and have compiled a history of court houses in Barnsley, from which this brief history is adapted:

Barnsley had an ancient Moot Hall in which legal cases were heard, situated at the northern end of Market Hill. However this building was demolished in 1820, before the date of the earliest surviving Petty Sessions registers.

At the date when the surviving registers of the Staincross Petty Sessions commence (1841), the court had been established for seven years in a purpose-built courthouse which stood on the corner of St. Mary's Place and St. Mary's Gate, with the front of the building facing the parish church. This building had been built in 1833 and opened in September 1834. Staincross Petty Sessions court left this building in 1880, after which it was known as the Town Hall. (The site where it formerly stood is now the small car-park at the back of Barnsley College's Church Street building.)

The building was a courthouse, constructed in 1879 and opened in April 1880 as the home of the Staincross Petty Sessions court. Along with the Borough of Barnsley Petty Sessions court, which shared the courthouse from 1880-1901 and then 1921-1974, when both were abolished and replaced by the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Petty Sessions court, until its relocation in 1977. Prior to its current period of vacancy, it was in use as an IT Centre by BMBC from 1978 (until 2013?), and then briefly as a store for a small number of years by the BMBC Archives Team in the intervening period, until January 2021.



Computer Centre Exterior (undated)

Image Credit: Barnsley Archives & Local Studies



Monochrome Portrait Computer Centre (1979)

Image Credit: Barnsley Archives & Local Studies

Note in both images the open section to the tower, since covered over with matching slates. Just to the right of the photo above, scaffolding is visible, possibly for the installation of services plant to serve the IT Data Centre.

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2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Courts & Courtrooms 1: The Buildings of the Criminal Law

The following relevant historical context has been taken from Historic England's Introduction to Heritage Assets series, 'Law Courts and Courtrooms 1: The Buildings of the Criminal Law'. In a number of places (see emphasis below) it helps to develop a fuller understanding of the historical context to the building.

From the Introduction, emphasis added:

"Although different types of law court shared many features and generally followed a similar stylistic evolution, it would be difficult to confuse them. For instance, in the late 19th century Assize Courts, County Courts, Petty Sessions Courts and Coroner's Courts were all built in a Gothic style. However, each type of courthouse can be distinguished because of its location, scale and the design of the buildings. Assize Courts were among the grandest buildings in a town or city and would usually be located in the area occupied by other government buildings. Their massing would indicate that a grand public hall and large courtrooms were located within the building. Late 19th-century County Courts were often located in the commercial district of a town. Although externally they might be treated with elaborate detailing, their form would indicate that this was an office building as well as a courthouse. Magistrates' Courts were more frugal in appearance, an indication of their more humble status. Typically containing a single court, they were frequently adjacent to a police station."

From Section 2.2, 'Magistrates Courts', emphasis added:

"The modern court of summary justice is the Magistrates' Court, a name that has applied since 1949. Prior to this, summary criminal courts were known as Police Courts, Petty Sessions Courts or Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. Approximately 95 per cent of all criminal cases are dealt with in

the Magistrates' Court in front of two or three lay magistrates or one professional District Judge (Magistrates' Courts), formerly known as a stipendiary magistrate. The jurisdiction of the modern Magistrates' Court and its buildings are due to the development of the role of the Justice of the Peace in local society. Since the Statute of Westminster in 1327 local worthies have been involved in the administration of the law in and around the area in which they resided. The Petty Sessions originated during the Middle Ages as a means of dealing with pressing administrative matters and minor offences between sittings of the Quarter Sessions. By the 16th century it was common for two or more Justices to meet informally every three or four weeks. Their duties included the inspection of gaols and bridges, hearing the reports of the high constables and the settling of disputes. They had powers to arrest, examine without counsel and give judgement on minor offences. The Petty Sessions soon became an established element in the administration of local government, sitting at regular times in designated locations and by the end of the 17th century they were dealing with most minor crimes and local quarrels. The variety of buildings used in the administration of summary justice have ranged from justices' private houses and inns to purpose-built police stations containing courts, local government buildings and combined court buildings. The evolution of the Magistrates' Court building reflects the increasing formality and status of the court of the magistrate. The formation of county and borough police forces in the 19th century and the role of the police in the prosecution of offences in front of the Justices of the Peace resulted in a close association between police stations and Petty Sessions courts until the mid-20th century. However, attitudes towards how closely the police should be involved in the prosecution process changed and this was reflected in the increasing number of

modern Magistrate Court buildings that have been constructed as a distinct entity, independent of a police station."

From Section 2.3, 'Courts of the Justice of the Peace', emphasis added:

"In 1845 a Parliamentary Return listed the locations of all the Petty Sessions sittings in England and Wales. These included private houses, inns, town halls, schools, police stations, solicitors' offices, workhouses and gaols, but the number of purpose-built law court buildings was low ... Although town halls often contained Magistrates' Courts, the Petty Sessions Court is perhaps most often found alongside or within the Police Station. While some purpose-built police and court buildings did exist prior to 1856, the second half of the 19th century saw the erection of a large number of purpose-built, combined police stations and Petty Sessions courts ... Petty Sessions courts were also constructed alongside though separate from police stations, in one of the current architectural styles.

From Section 2.4, 'Magistrates' Courts since 1945':

"The Justices of the Peace Act 1949 formally ended the official use of the terms 'Petty Sessions Court' and 'Police Court' following proposals by the Departmental Committee on Justices' Clerks. Instead the title 'Magistrates' Court' was adopted. The gradual separation of Magistrates' Courts from police stations after the 1949 Act continued during the 1950s and 1960s."

BARNESLEY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNESLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.3 ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION (THE BARNESLEY CHRONICLE, 1880)

BARNESLEY NEW COURT HOUSE.

The new Court House which has just been erected by the County authorities at the junction of St. Mary's Place with Westgate, and immediately adjoining the Police Station, is now virtually completed, and was formally inspected on Wednesday last by Mr. Bernard Hartley, county surveyor and architect. The date of opening is as yet uncertain, but it will probably be fixed within the next week or two. The original plans, which we briefly described shortly before building operations commenced, have been departed from in one or two minor particulars. The building is distinguished by solidity rather than beauty, so far as externals are concerned. Though certainly not elegant, it is well and strongly built, and in the matter of internal accommodation is everything that could be desired. The situation is of course not a favourable one for the display of architectural grace, and it was perhaps on that account that the architect decided not to introduce them where they would be in a measure buried out of sight. The style, if we may judge from the character of the doors and windows, partakes to some considerable extent of the character of Gothic. The principal front, facing St. Mary's Place, shows six blind arches, i.e., so far as the lower portions are concerned, the tops being filled with open iron grills of a scroll pattern. In the centre of the upper portion of the facade are cut in bold relief the letters "W. R. Y.," arranged in the form of a monogram, the "Y" appearing in the centre. This monogram is surmounted by a plain shield, and immediately underneath is "1879," the date of erection. The entrances are at the north-east and south-east corners respectively. That at the top, or north-east corner, will be reserved for the magistrates and solicitors, and that at the opposite corner for the general public. Immediately over the north-east entrance is a dwarf octagonal tower, surmounted by a slated vane, or lantern. This tower measures from the level of the ground floor to the top of the mason work about 50 feet, and to the top of the vane 78 feet. The walls are constructed of dressed stone, and the roofs are covered with the best Cumberland slates. So much for externals, and we shall now pass to the interior of the building. The lower portion or ground floor, with the exception of one or two coal places and conveniences, is set apart as a drill shed for the officers stationed in the division, and we understand arrangements have been or are about to be made with a view to its also being used at times which will not interfere with the police arrangements by the members of the 37th West York Rifle Volunteer Corps. This shed, which has been asphalted, is open to the police yard. The wall overhead is supported by a row of eight massive cast-iron pillars, and the shed is divided into two parts by another row of pillars running down the centre, the width of each portion being 31ft. 6in. and 25ft. 7½in. respectively. This shed will be a very great accommodation to the men, who have hitherto had to drill in the open yard. Retracing our steps to St. Mary's Place, we enter the north-east doorway and by the magistrates' stair case. On reaching the landing at the level of the first floor, we have immediately before us the magistrates' retiring room, a cheerful, lofty, and well fitted up apartment, measuring 24 ft. 2 in. long by 15 ft. wide. This room is provided with two entrances, one from the landing and the other leading into the large, or First Court-room. This room, which we next visit, is the master of size, accommodation, and general appearance presents a marked contrast to the room in which the magisterial business of the town has been transacted for a period of over 45 years. Its dimensions are 60 feet long by 30 feet wide. The bench, which is fixed at the south end, is more than sufficiently large to accommodate comfortably all the magistrates belonging to the division, and the whole of the other arrangements are such as are calculated to facilitate the prompt despatch of business. The magistrates' clerk will, as in the present court room, have his seat immediately under the bench, at the head of the addition table. To the right is the witness box, together with a seat for a police officer, and at the opposite side are the desks, one for male and the other for female prisoners. Seats, with comfortable backs, are provided for the reporters in as near proximity to the witness box as it has been possible to place them, and seats are also provided for parties engaged in cases. Should the Quarter Sessions ever be restored to Barnsley, as we hope they may, a jury box can very easily be improvised without causing any inconvenience to the public so far as this part of the room is concerned. To the rear is a large space

is fitted off with a bench for the accommodation of the general public. Passing out of the First Court, through the public entrance, we find ourselves in the waiting witnesses' room, which is furnished with seats, and measures 31 feet by 25. This apartment is placed immediately behind the Second Court room, to which there is an entrance, consequently it has direct communication with both courts. The Second Court, which we next enter from the rear or south end, is parallel with the principal portion of the First Court. It measures 47 ft. 6 in. long by 25 ft. wide, these dimensions being very nearly those of the present principal court room at the Town Hall. It is fitted up in a style similar to the First Court. The bench is of course smaller, but it is nevertheless sufficiently commodious for the despatch of such business as may have to be transacted there, and the same remark applies to the other fittings. The bench entrance is from the top of the staircase landing, and this has to be crossed on proceeding to the retiring room, which, as we have said, is situated to the rear of the First Court. There is only one prisoners' dock in this room. There are suitable retiring rooms for solicitors engaged in cases, with lavatories, &c. A word as to the arrangements for the ingress and egress of prisoners. At present they have to be marched along Westgate and St. Mary's Place, not infrequently right through the midst of large and oftentimes noisy crowds. This drawback will be obviated in the new Court House. Not only will the prisoners not require to be brought into the street at all, but they will be marched from the cells right across the yard, through the drill shed, and up their own separate stair case without having to come in contact with the general public, who will only see them when they appear in the dock. Spacious offices are provided for the magistrates' clerk and his assistants on a level with the court rooms at the south end of the building. The entry, or clerk's office, which is fitted up with mahogany topped counters, desks, &c., measures 19 feet by 15 feet, and the inner or private office, 19ft. 6in. by 11ft. The floor is laid upon massive iron joists, fitted in with concrete. These, with the cast iron pillars supporting the floor, were supplied by Messrs. Barrett, of London. The necessary conveniences, including lavatories for the magistrates, solicitors, &c., are provided on each floor. Immediately over the clerk's office are apartments for a married officer and his wife, the latter having charge of the rooms. It is also intended to have a number of sleeping dormitories for single men, should such be found necessary in the upper part of the building. The premises are heated in winter by Haydon, of Manchester's, hot air apparatus, and the most complete provision has been made for ventilation. The gas fittings are supplied by Mr. Southforth, through Messrs. Robinson and Son, the contractors for the entire work. The tops of the benches, desks, and desks of the solicitors' tables are of solid mahogany, and the other woodwork is of red pine, stained and varnished. The roofs of the court rooms, which are nearly semi-circular in form, are open timbered. The height of each court room is 20 feet 6 inches to the top of the beam, with an additional height of 6 feet 6 inches to the girth of the roof. The rooms have not yet been tested so far as aeration is concerned, but it is hoped that in this important essential they will not be found wanting. The entire contract was let to Messrs. Robinson & Son, of this town, who, it is needless to say, have done their work in a thoroughly efficient manner. The rooms are in every way comfortable and commodious, and we believe we are correct in saying that for many of the modifications which have been made in the interest of public convenience we are indebted to Mr. Sept. Sykes, who is thoroughly familiar with the requirements of Barnsley in the matter of the speedy transaction of its magisterial business.

The Barnesley Chronicle: Saturday, 14th February 1880

The following Article, reproduced in full below from archived material, was kindly provided by David Blunden, Sector Specialist (Archives & Local Studies), Regeneration & Culture Service, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Detailed information about the building when first constructed can be clearly understood from the article.

"The new Court House which has just been erected by the County authorities at the junction of St. Mary's Place with Westgate, and immediately adjoining the Police Station, is now virtually completed, and was formally inspected on Wednesday last by Mr. Bernard Hartley, county surveyor and architect. The date of opening is as yet uncertain, but it will probably be fixed within the next week or two. The original plans, which we briefly described shortly before building operations commenced, have been departed from in one or two minor particulars. The building is distinguished by solidity rather than beauty, so far as externals are concerned. Though certainly not elegant, it is well and strongly built, and in the matter of internal accommodation is everything that could be desired. The situation is of course not a favourable one for the display of architectural graces, and it was perhaps on that account that the architect decided not to introduce them where they would be in a measure buried out of sight. The style, if we may judge from the character of the doors and windows, partakes to some considerable extent of the character of Gothic. The principal front, facing St. Mary's Place, shows six blind arches, i.e., so far as the lower portions are concerned, the tops being filled with open iron grills of a scroll pattern. In the centre of the upper portion of the façade are cut in bold relief the letters "W. R. Y.," arranged in the form of a monogram, the "Y" appearing in the centre. This monogram is surmounted by a plain shield, and immediately underneath is "1879," the date of erection. The entrances are at the north-east and south-east corners respectively. That at the top, or north-east corner, will be reserved for the magistrates and solicitors, and that at the opposite corner for the general public. Immediately over the north-east entrance is a dwarf octagonal tower, surmounted by a slated vane, or lantern. This tower measures from the level of the ground floor to the top of the mason work about 50 feet, and to the top of the vane 78 feet. The walls are constructed of dressed stone, and the roofs are covered with the best Cumberland slates. So much for externals, and we shall now pass to the interior of the building. The lower portion or ground floor, with the exception of one or two coal places and conveniences, is set apart as a drill shed for the officers stationed in the division, and we understand arrangements have been or are about to be made with a view to its also being used at times which will not interfere with the police arrangements by the members of the 37th West York Rifle Volunteer Corps. This shed, which has been asphalted, is open to the police yard. The wall overhead is supported by a row of eight massive cast-iron pillars, and the shed is divided into two parts by another row of pillars running down the centre, the width of each portion being 31ft. 6in. and 25ft. 7½in. respectively. This shed will be a very great accommodation to the men, who have hitherto had to drill in the open yard. Retracing our steps to St. Mary's Place, we enter the north-east doorway and by the magistrates' stair case. On reaching the landing at the level of the first floor, we have immediately before us the magistrates' retiring room, a cheerful, lofty, and well fitted up apartment, measuring 24 ft. 2 in. long by 15 ft. wide. This room is provided with two entrances, one from the landing and the other leading into the large, or First Court-room. This room, which we next visit, is the master of size, accommodation, and general appearance presents a marked contrast to the room in which the magisterial business of the town has been transacted for a period of over 45 years. Its dimensions are 60 feet long by 30 feet wide. The bench, which is fixed at the south end, is more than sufficiently large to accommodate comfortably all the magistrates belonging to the division, and the whole of the other arrangements are such as are calculated to facilitate the prompt despatch of business. The magistrates' clerk will, as in the present court room, have his seat immediately under the bench, at the head of the addition table. To the right is the witness box, together with a seat for a police officer, and at the opposite side are the desks, one for male and the other for female prisoners. Seats, with comfortable backs, are provided for the reporters in as near proximity to the witness box as it has been possible to place them, and seats are also provided for parties engaged in cases. Should the Quarter Sessions ever be restored to Barnsley, as we hope they may, a jury box can very easily be improvised without causing any inconvenience to the public so far as this part of the room is concerned. To the rear is a large space

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BARNSELY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNSELY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.3 ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION (THE BARNSELY CHRONICLE, 1880) [CONTINUED]

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BARNESLEY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNESLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

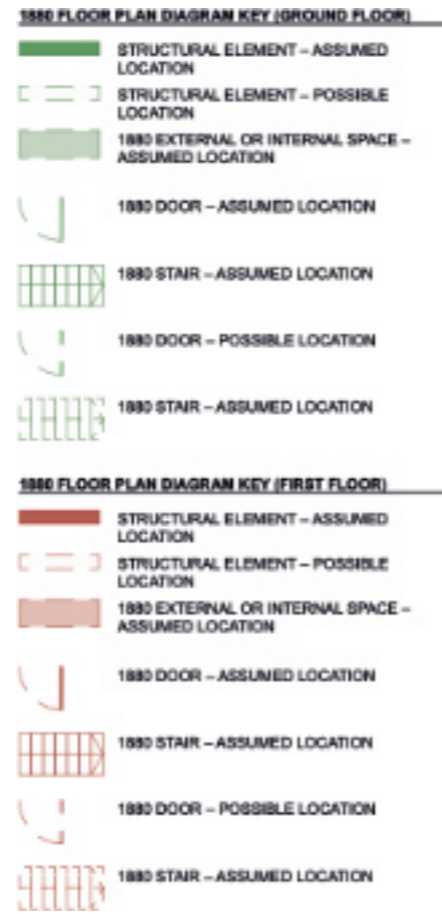
2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.4 1879 CONSTRUCTION

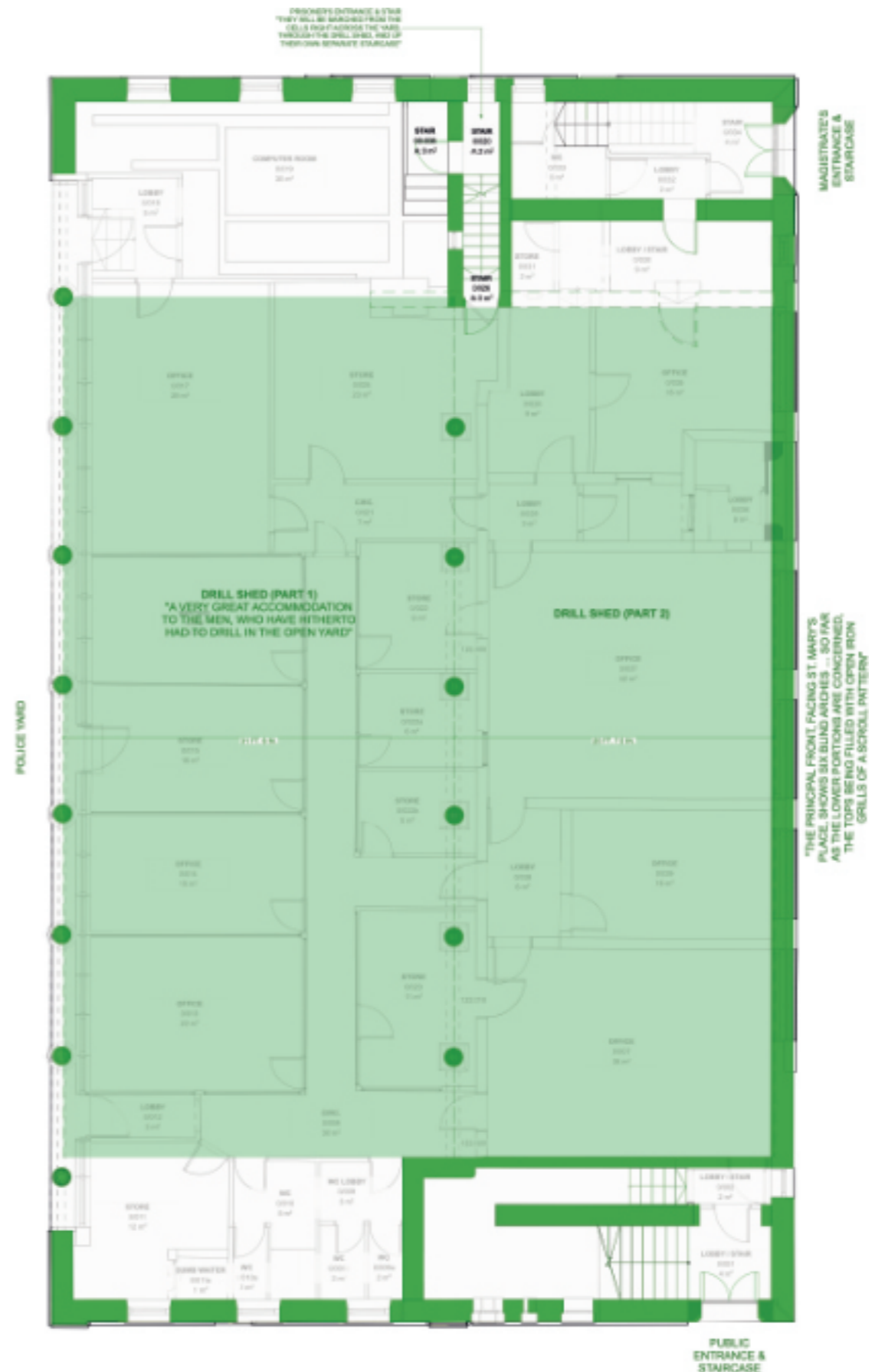
This diagram takes the detailed information available in The Barnsley Chronicle article describing the configuration of the building as constructed and overlays the spaces on the existing building. Drawn information from the historic planing application B/77/2061/BA also provided a useful reference point, since it contained 'existing' drawings showing the building at the point it was reconfigured to house the IT Data Centre.

One of the most interesting revelations from the article was that the Ground Floor was primarily an open drill yard, which explains the rows of columns extant in the building today: these were the principle structural elements supporting (literally) the primary functions of the building at First Floor level. Interesting also is how different the elevation to St Mary's Place would have been originally, with its 6 blind arches with cast iron scrollwork ventilation grilles at their heads.

As the article points out, the building is functional and robust rather than decorative, and, when constructed, was principally focused on providing high quality interior spaces. As an outward expression of its functions, the nod to the gothic style would have been commensurate with public and religious buildings of the time, standing for the authority of the magistrates who adjudicated the Petty Sessions. The outward simplicity was perhaps appropriate for a court house hosting Petty, rather than (for example) Quarter Sessions.



GROUND FLOOR



**BARNSELY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNSELY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC)
DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT**

2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.6 1951 ADAPTATION

ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICES

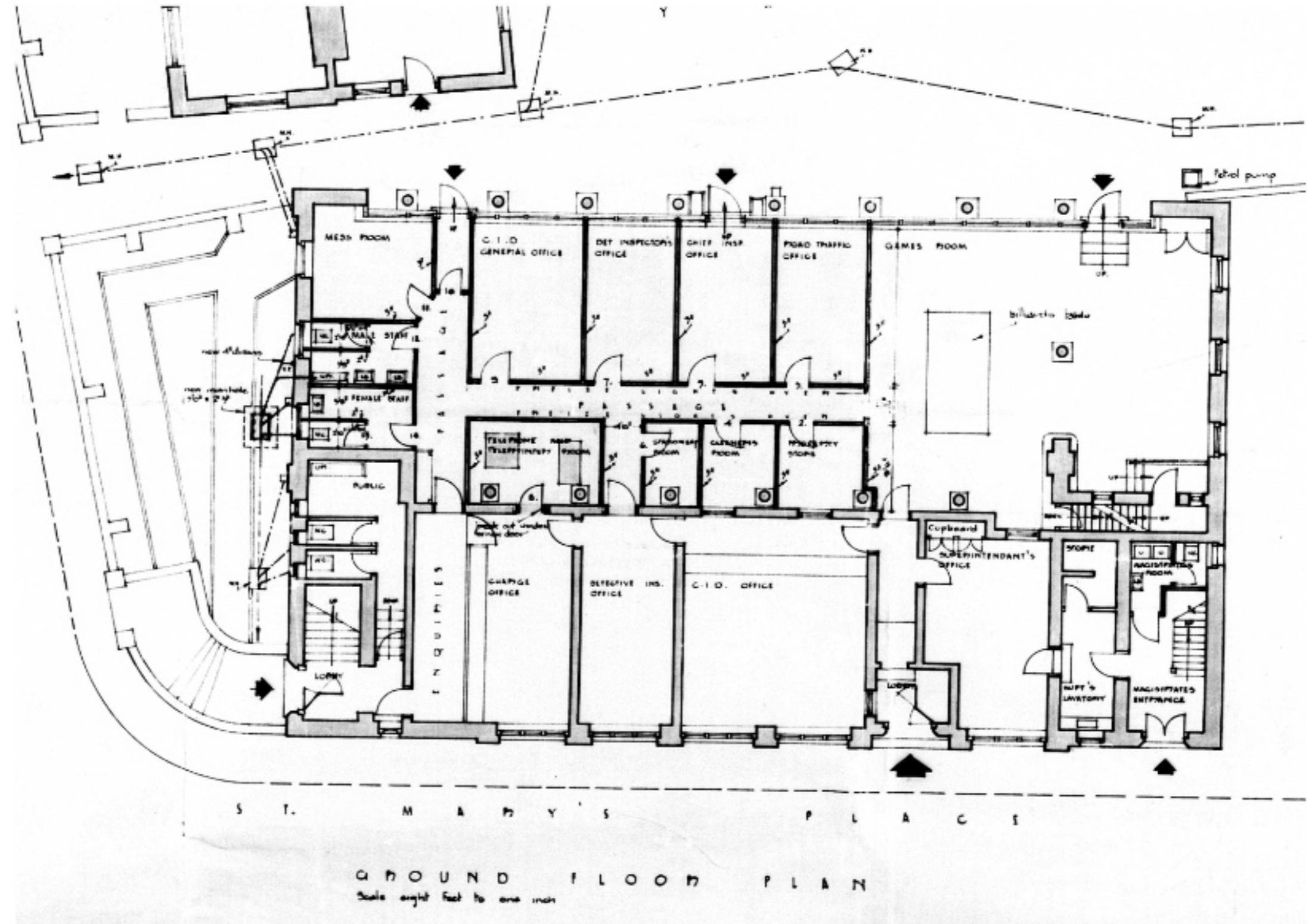
Court House Plan Drawing, 1951

Image Credit: Barnsley Archives & Local Studies

Not long after the adaptations shown on the previous page, the parade room was further subdivided to create further clerical rooms for the Police. Interesting to note is the subtle reorientation to the original public entrance (See the 'Enquiries' desk).

This cellular configuration shown here was left largely unaltered by the adaptation into the IT Data Centre.

The appearance of a column to the right hand side of the plan as shown here (in the approximate centre of the Games Room) remains to be confirmed on site. It would make sense for it to have been there in the 1879 construction to support the rooms above, assuming the walls were largely as shown here. If this was there and has subsequently been removed, structural review will have to be undertaken to ensure the building remains adequately supported.



BARNESLEY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNESLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

2.4 SITE HISTORY

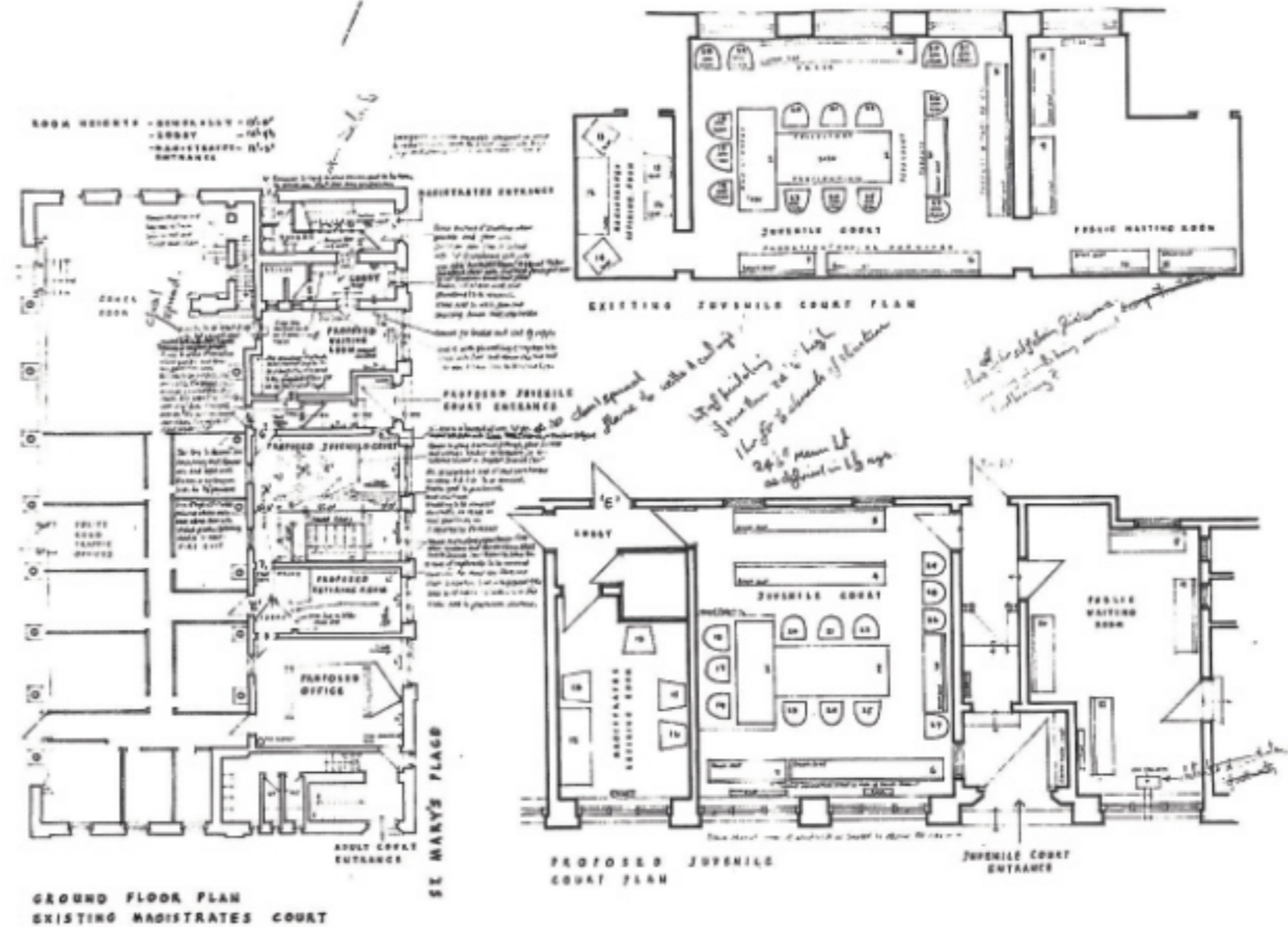
2.4.7 JUVENILE COURT, 1974

JUVENILE COURTS

Historic Planning Application 74/2333/BA

Image Credit: Development Management & Development Control, BMBC

By 1974, the Police Offices at Ground Floor level are noted as 'vacant' by the applicant. This proposal to create a new configuration for the juvenile court shows some minor modifications internally, using the entrance from St Mary's Place created in 1949. It is not clear exactly where the court is located at the time of the application - potentially it is being relocated from elsewhere.



**BARNESLEY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNESLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC)
DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT**

2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.9 THE COMPUTER CENTRE, 1977-78

IT DATA CENTRE (PLAN DRAWINGS)

Historic Planning Application 77/2061/BA

Image Credit: Development Management & Development Control, BMBC

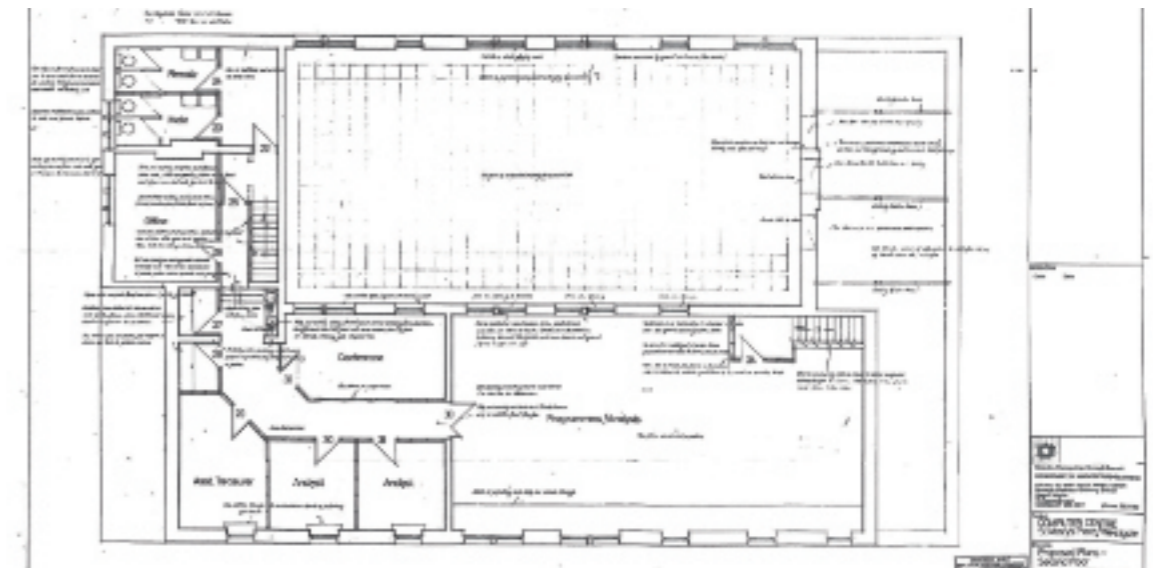
The application to convert the former Court House into the IT Data Centre was submitted in 1977. It shows the Computer Centre uses were to be principally at First and Second Floor levels, with the observations to the application noting that “[the] Police driving school will remain until 1981 - Treasurers will then take over ground floor.”

Principal alterations to form the Main Hall for the Computer Centre within the footprint of the former Court Room, which (see existing First Floor plan) had been subdivided into two courts by the time the refurbishment was proposed. ‘Proposed Plans - Second Floor’ and the section drawing overleaf lend some weight to the assumption that the extent of the modern insertion comprises the whole Eastern side of the building, with a new stair inserted to the north over the footprint of the former prisoner’s stair.

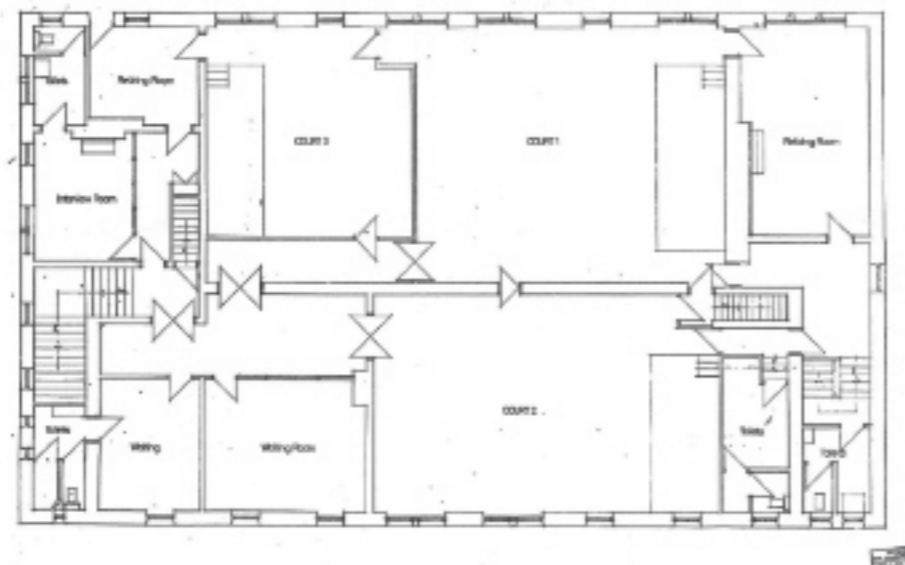
Note the Viewing/Waiting area to the First Floor plan, which provided visitors with an opportunity to observe the computer in operation. Features of the building’s adaptation like this are worth thoughtful consideration for how they might be sensitively incorporated or developed as part of the next chapter of the building’s life.



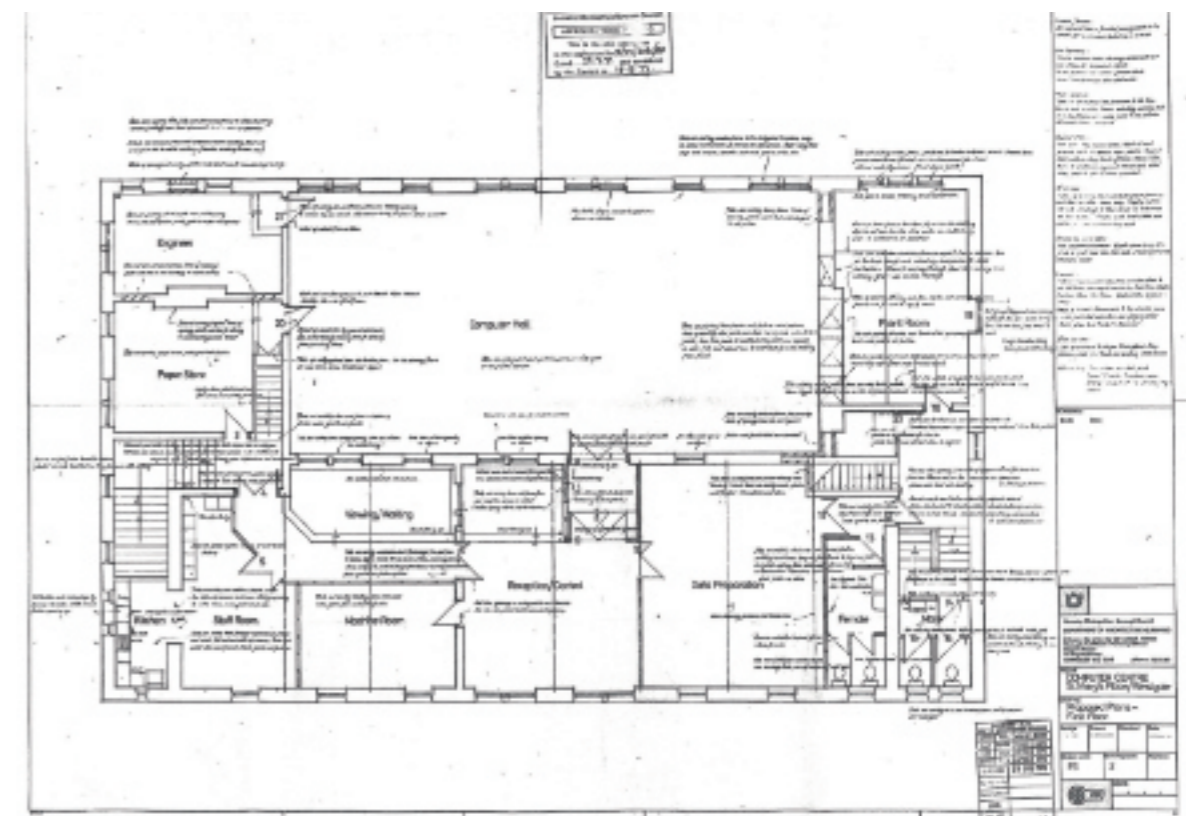
PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR



PROPOSED SECOND FLOOR



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR

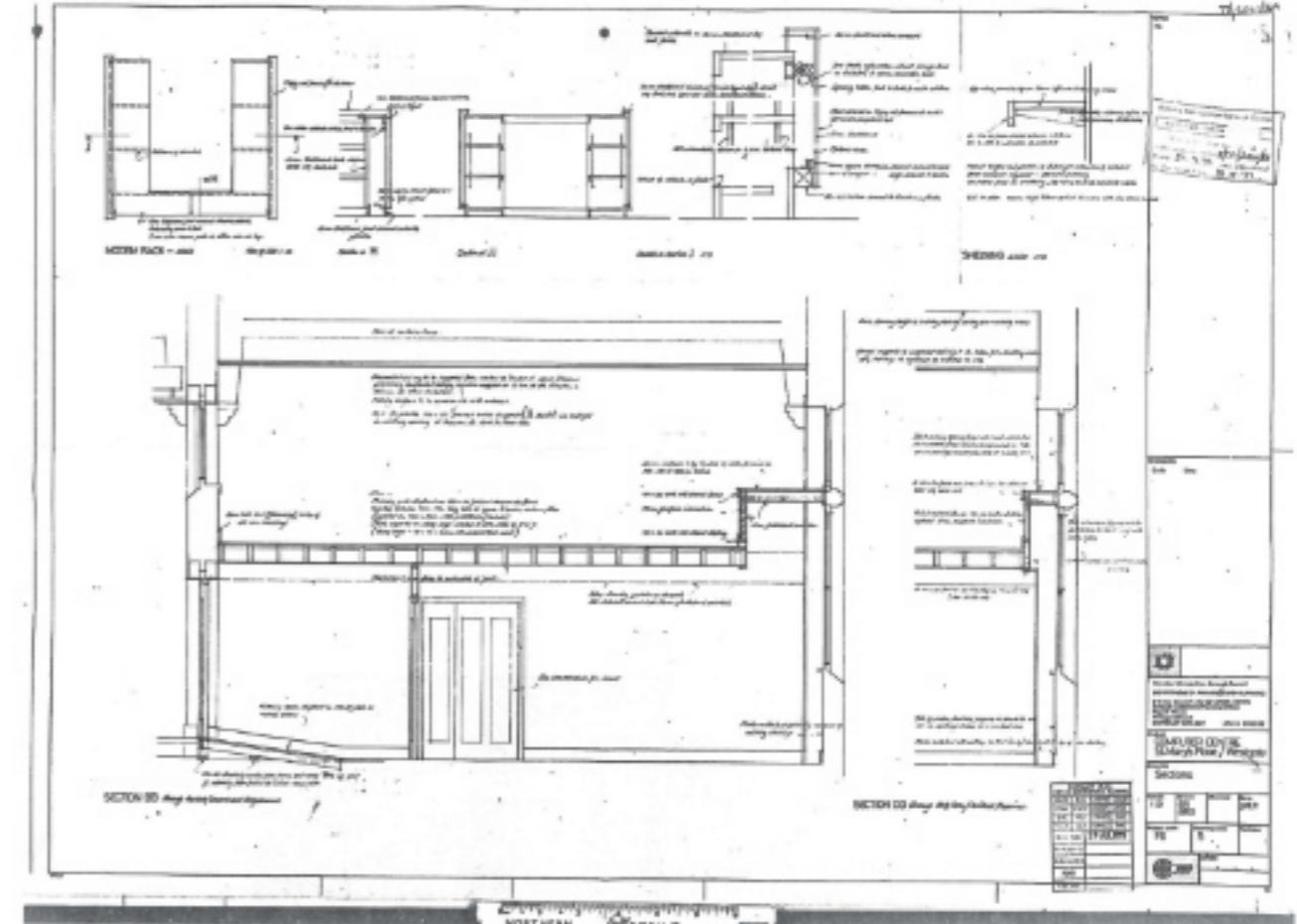
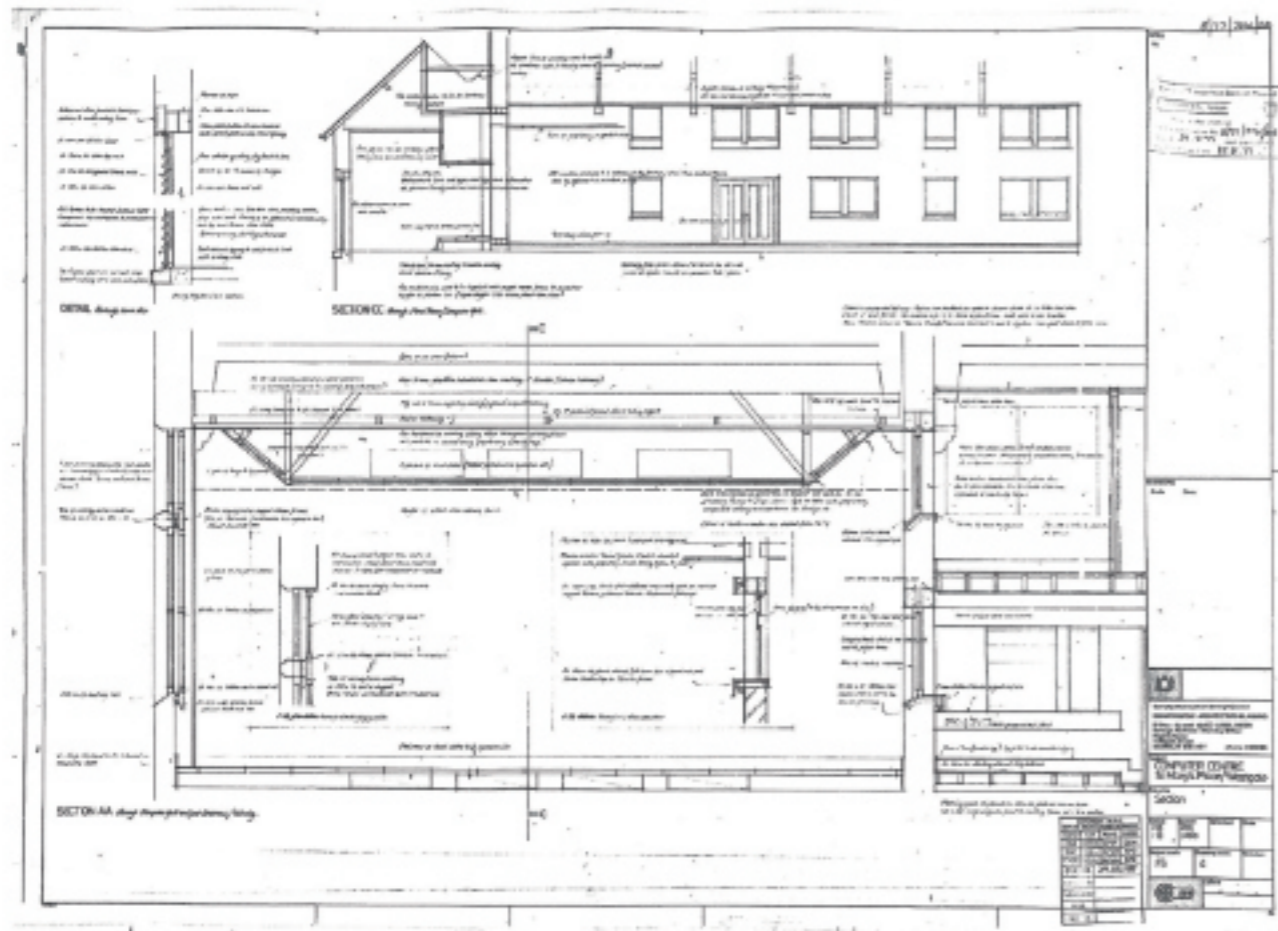


PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR

BARNESLEY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNESLEY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.9 THE COMPUTER CENTRE, 1977-78 [CONTINUED]



IT DATA CENTRE (SECTION DRAWINGS)

Historic Planning Application 77/2061/BA

Image Credit: Development Management & Development Control, BMBC

The section drawings on this page give helpful details of how the inserted ceilings and mezzanine floor interact with the building, giving insights into level changes and the relationship of new elements with historic: ceilings with original trusses and stone corbels, for example, and the stepped detail to the existing Eastern windows of the new mezzanine floor.

The sections hint at the presence of the original roof volumes above the insertions, that may be possible to recover as part of the current proposals.

The presence of Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACMs) to the 1970s building elements cannot be ruled out, especially given the increased fire risk that would have been represented by the large volume of electrical equipment inserted into the building.

BARNSELY LEVELLING UP FUND, BARNSELY YOUTH CHOIR (BYC) DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

2.4 SITE HISTORY

2.4.9 THE COMPUTER CENTRE, 1977-78 [CONTINUED]



IT DATA CENTRE (PHOTOGRAPHS)

Image Credits: Barnsley Archives & Local Studies

These images, taken from the brochure for the Computer Centre opening in 1978 show some of the principal interior spaces, as well as the external condition of the building at the time (1). Notable are the 'Reception/Viewing Area' (2), which demonstrates the intention for visitors to be able to view the Computer Hall (3). The newly inserted Programmers/Analysts' Office at Second Floor level (4) shows the primary use of this floor as originally conceived, and suggests a further explanation for the narrow width of the stairs to this level, as well as using the footprint of the existing stair below: this floor was never intended to be particularly densely occupied. Images 5 and 6 show the arrival of the plant through the newly created opening to the northern façade.

