

The former Clitheroe Hospital  
Chatburn Road, Clitheroe, Lancashire:  
Historic Buildings Record



December 2017

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and may contain blank pages*

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## SUMMARY

The former Clitheroe Hospital (NGR: SD 75459 43003) was recorded for McDermott Homes Ltd in November 2017, to comply with a condition of planning consent for demolition and redevelopment of the site. The former hospital was built in the early 1870s as the workhouse and infirmary for the Clitheroe Poor Law Union, to designs by J J Bradshaw and L Hall, and continued to be occupied until 2014. Although much altered over their lifetimes, particularly internally, the buildings can be seen to conform with the prevailing designs for workhouses in the late 19th century.

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## LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS REPORT

Many of the photographs taken during the recording are reproduced at the end of this report, but for a full set of photographs the project archive should be consulted (see Appendix).

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## **THE FORMER CLITHEROE HOSPITAL, CHATBURN ROAD, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE:**

### **HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of the recording of the historic buildings at the former Clitheroe Hospital, Lancashire, and was commissioned by the developers McDermott Homes Ltd, to fulfil a condition of draft planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC), for the demolition of existing buildings and construction of 60 dwellings and associated infrastructure. The survey was carried out in November 2017.
- 1.2 The former Clitheroe Hospital was built as the Clitheroe Poor Law Union Workhouse in the early 1870s, and its main components are two parallel ranges, the larger one the workhouse, and the smaller one to the rear an infirmary block. It continued in workhouse use into the mid 20th century and was then adapted to a hospital, a function which it retained until 2014, when a new Community Hospital was built on the adjacent site.
- 1.3 The recording work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Appendix 1), and constitutes a level 3 survey, as defined by Historic England. It includes a photographic record and measured survey, as well as a study of historic maps and other sources. This report will be submitted to the client, the local planning authority and the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, and will be published on the internet via the Oasis Project<sup>1</sup>. The project archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives.

#### **2 Location and current use**

- 2.1 The former Clitheroe Hospital is situated 1.5km north-east of Clitheroe town centre, on the south-east side of the A671 Chatburn Road (NGR: SD 75459 43003) (figures 1 and 2). It stands in its own grounds, which contains areas of hard-standing as well as vegetation.
- 2.2 There are numerous historic buildings at the site, although these form two main clusters (see figure 3). The larger is the north-west group, dominated by the main workhouse block (building 1), and this has various ancillary buildings to its south-east (including building 2). To the south-east of these is the former infirmary block (building 3), which has the present detached boiler house to its north-east (building 4), and two other historic outbuildings to the rear (buildings 5

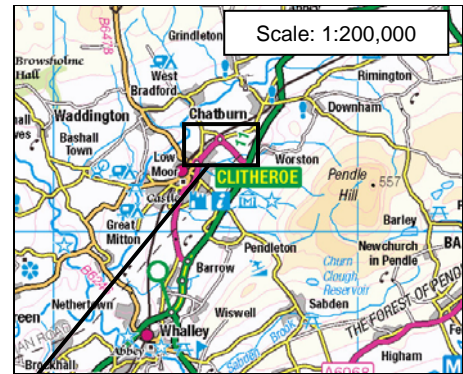
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<sup>1</sup> [Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations](#)

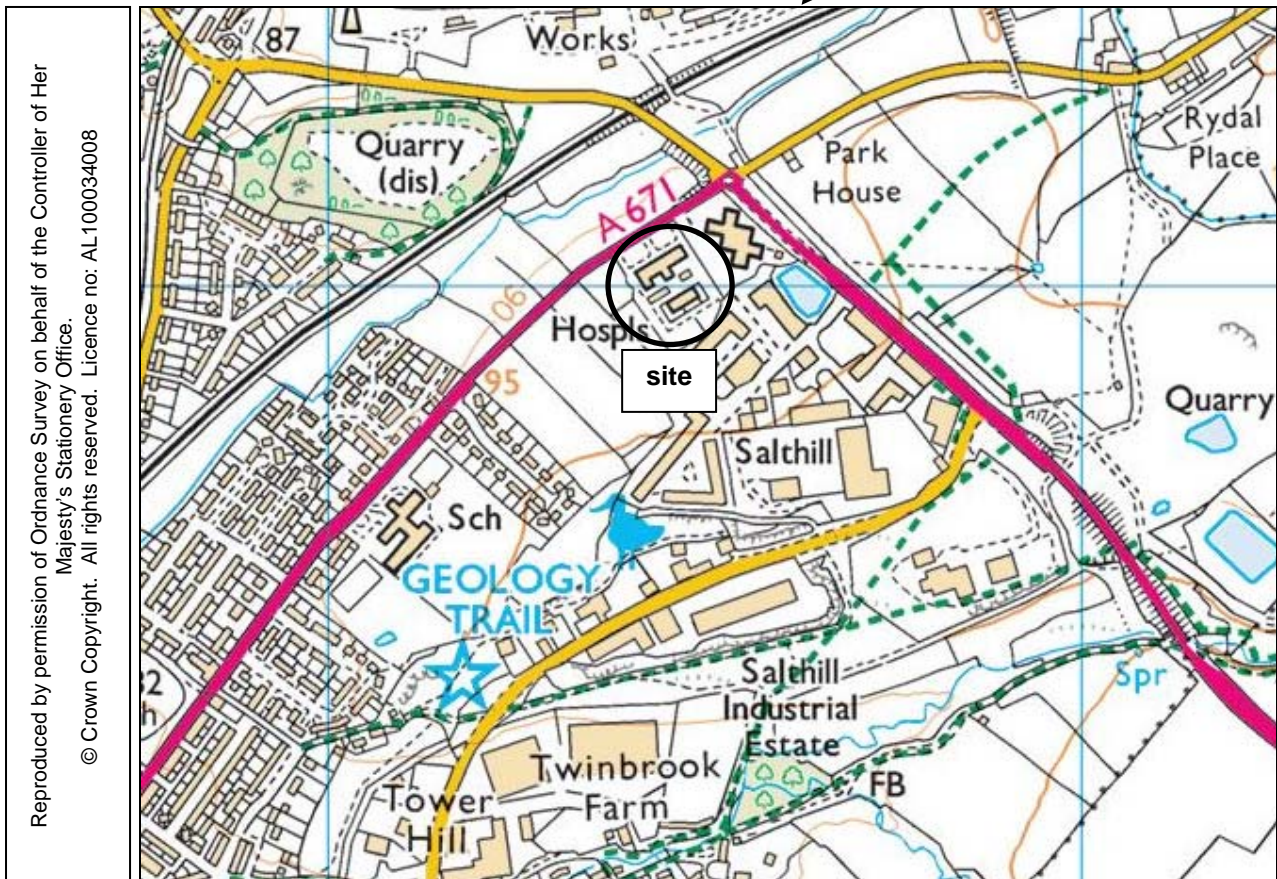


and 6). In addition a number of structures dating from the second half of the 20th century occupy the site.

- 2.3 The building ceased to be used as a hospital in 2014 and for some time parts of it were in residential use, but it became vacant some months before the present survey was carried out, necessitating the boarding-up of most windows, and it was subsequently subject to vandalism and damage.

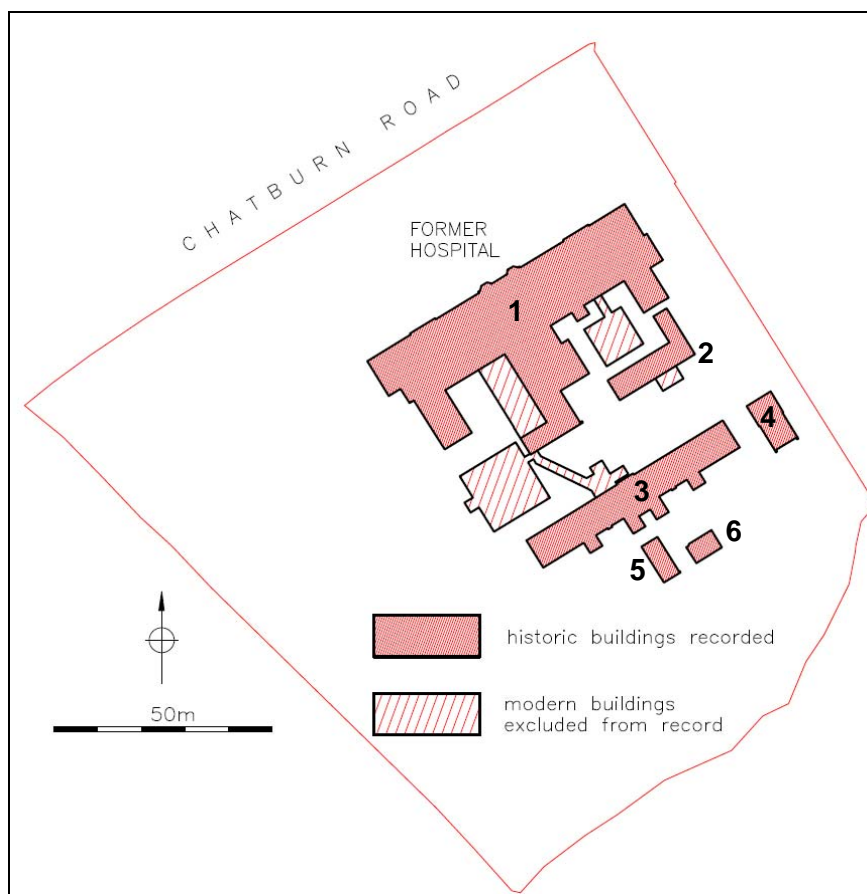


1: Location map (i) (1:200,000)



2: Location map (ii) (1:10,000)





3: Site plan (1:2000)

### 3 Planning background

- 3.1 The former hospital is not a designated heritage asset, but the local planning authority and its archaeological advisor, the Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service, consider it an undesignated heritage asset<sup>2</sup>. An application for inclusion in the statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, made in 2008, was unsuccessful following an assessment by English Heritage<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.2 The most recent in a series of planning applications for the redevelopment of the site (3/2017/ 0616) has been approved by RVBC, subject to legal agreements.
- 3.3 In their consultation response to the application, the Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service raised a number of questions, with the implication that permission should be withheld, but recommended that should the Council decide to grant consent, they should do so on condition that a "Level 3 Record" (as

<sup>2</sup> Lancashire Historic Environment Record, PRN 30402

<sup>3</sup> National Record of the Historic Environment, entry 1435994 (see [http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob\\_id=1435994](http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=1435994))

defined by Historic England) should be created, albeit without extensive new documentary research.

#### 3.4 Condition 33 of the draft consent now requires that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological building recording and analysis. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of recording should comprise a Level 3 record, as set out in 'Understanding Historic Buildings' (Historic England 2016). It should be undertaken by an appropriately experienced and qualified professional archaeological contractor to the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

## 4 Previous investigative work

4.1 As a former workhouse, the site has been subject to some historical scrutiny over recent years, though this has tended to focus on its social rather than architectural aspects. The most notable study is by F H Lofthouse, which provides a very detailed account of the circumstances surrounding the planning and construction of the workhouse, as well as its use during the last quarter of the 19th century<sup>4</sup>. The site has also been documented by Higginbotham, as part of a wider study of workhouses<sup>5</sup>, while the architectural background to the workhouse buildings at Clitheroe is covered in a history of the practice of one of the designing architects, Bradshaw, Gass and Hope<sup>6</sup>. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England compiled a file on the site in the 1990s, probably as part of a thematic study of hospital or workhouse buildings<sup>7</sup>, and the English Heritage assessment for listing is also a useful source, which considers the buildings in recent years<sup>8</sup>.

## 5 Historical background

### Workhouses

5.1 The origin of the workhouse system can be traced back to the 17th century, and its ethos was to provide accommodation and a living for the able-bodied poor, by

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<sup>4</sup> Lofthouse, F H 2001 *Keepers of the House – A Workhouse Saga*

<sup>5</sup> eg Higginbotham, P 2006 *Workhouses of the North*; 2012 *The Workhouse Encyclopaedia*; also see online resources at <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> Lingard, J & T 2007 *Bradshaw, Gass and Hope: The Story of an Architectural Practice – the first one hundred years 1862 – 1962* p46ff

<sup>7</sup> Historic England Archives, BF100732. Reported to contain notes relating to Kelly's directories, an undated plan of the hospital, and aerial photographs taken on 26th May 1992, but no site investigation.

<sup>8</sup> See note 3 above

means of putting them to organised, institutional and disciplined work. However there was no common approach to it until the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, which established a unified system of “indoor relief” across England, by the appointment of Poor Law Unions, comprising groups of parishes or townships, which became responsible for the accommodation of paupers. The Act led to the building of many new workhouses throughout the country, administered by each union’s Board of Guardians, but it deterred many people from seeking assistance, due both to the social stigma attached to seeking relief, and the fear of the strict demands and living conditions which dependence on the workhouse entailed. The Act was also intended to provide a safety net for the ill and infirm, and a number of workhouses contained separate hospital or infirmary accommodation for these people.

- 5.2 Workhouses continued to function in their essential role well into the 20th century. The abolishment of the Poor Law Unions’ Boards of Guardians in 1930 was a step towards their closure, but the replacement of the boards by Public Assistance Committees, run by local councils, saw the continued use of workhouses until the ultimate demise of these institutions under the 1948 National Assistance Act, and the establishment of the National Health Service in that year. Many workhouse buildings survived this legislative change, and were adapted to hospitals, as was the case at Clitheroe, where the workhouse became the new Coplow View Public Assistance Infirmary.
- 5.3 As the ethos of workhouses and poor relief evolved during the 19th century, there was also an evolution in workhouse design, particularly in the larger urban centres where large new buildings were constructed, but this was less true of rural areas, where demand was lower and existing buildings could be adapted, or the smaller scale of accommodation required for the poor allowed for less complex planning. The Poor Law Commission, a national organisation which oversaw the local Unions after the 1834 Act, favoured a number of different architectural schemes, many of them with the “supervisory hub” forming an essential tenet; the architect Sampson Kempthorne was a major figure behind many plans, which included square plan, courtyard, and Y-plan arrangements.
- 5.4 Between 1840 and 1870, the “corridor plan” workhouse became popular, and this was the type which was built at Clitheroe. In this arrangement, linear blocks built parallel to each other provided the accommodation, with a central corridor along the length of the block giving access to rooms front and back. The entrance was typically in the centre of the front block, with administrative rooms adjacent, and the rest of the facilities were then symmetrically arranged around these. Where infirmary blocks were built as part of such a scheme, they were often a single room deep and lacked a central corridor, in the interest of

ventilation and infection control. Corridor plan workhouses were most favoured in the north of England and London, and in the 30 years after 1840 about 150 such workhouses were built, many of them in the large population centres. From about 1870, there was also a notable increase in the provision of separate infirmary blocks.

### **The Clitheroe Poor Law Union and its new workhouse**

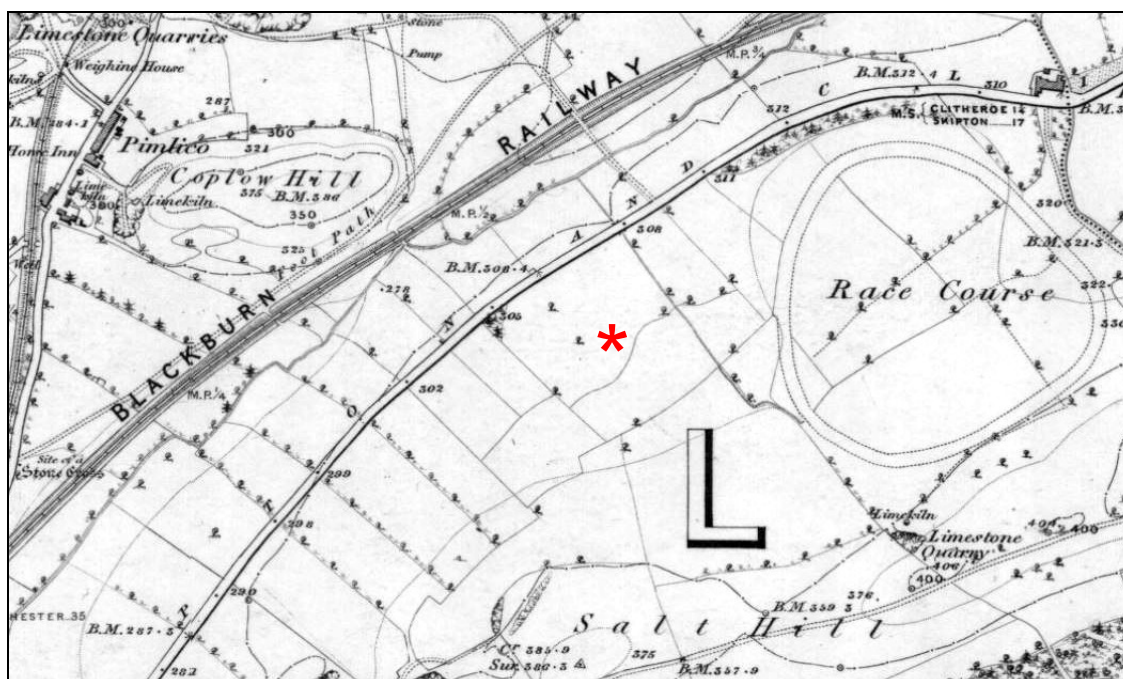
- 5.5 The Clitheroe Poor Law Union established after the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act was made up of over 30 townships within the surrounding parts of Lancashire and a large adjoining area of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Until that time, poor relief in the area had been provided by workhouses at Aighton, Chipping, and Holden near Bolton-by-Bowland. The new Board of Guardians decided to maintain the first and last of these, but closed that at Chipping in 1840. The remaining two continued in use, and despite the Guardian's insistence that their facilities were adequate, by the late 1860s the national Poor Law Board exerted sufficient pressure on the Clitheroe Union to close them, and thereby forced it to provide new facilities, to be paid for by the Union's ratepayers. This imposition was not entirely well received, and the rural townships, particularly those in the West Riding, seem to have been most reluctant to shoulder the financial burden which would result from the building of a new workhouse.
- 5.6 On the decision to build the new workhouse at Clitheroe, the Board of Guardians formed a building committee<sup>9</sup>, and one of their first decisions was to choose the site at Chatburn Road on 23 April 1870, which then lay well outside the town (see figure 4). By July they had received entries for an architectural competition for the design of the new building, of which that by Jonas J Bradshaw and Leigh Hall of Bolton was the winner; under the anonymity rules the designers identified themselves as "Utility and Economy", and costed the project at £6500<sup>10</sup>. Bradshaw and Hall also worked on designs of workhouses at Bolton, Chorley and Preston, though not always in partnership with each other, so they were well qualified for the Clitheroe undertaking. There were many amendments to the plans for the Clitheroe workhouse before construction could begin, chiefly to reduce costs, and these included the omission of a central turret over the central entrance and a stable and cart shed, but it was also soon decided to add a separate infirmary block, to the rear of the workhouse. Laying of the workhouse foundations began on 20 June 1871, without ceremony, and building work continued by the local contractor Robert Satherthwaite, until the new block was

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<sup>9</sup> The *Building Committee Minutes Book* details the protracted discussions involved in the building of the Chatburn Road workhouse between 1870 and 1874. (Lancashire Archives: PUC/2)

<sup>10</sup> Their plans are held at Bolton Archives: ZBGH 0071 and 0282 (not verified at time of writing)

ready to accommodate new inmates (many of whom were transferred from the Union's other workhouses), in April 1873. The hospital block was completed in December the following year. The site became known as "Coplw" or "Coplw View", named after the hill lying to the west of the site, across the road and railway line.

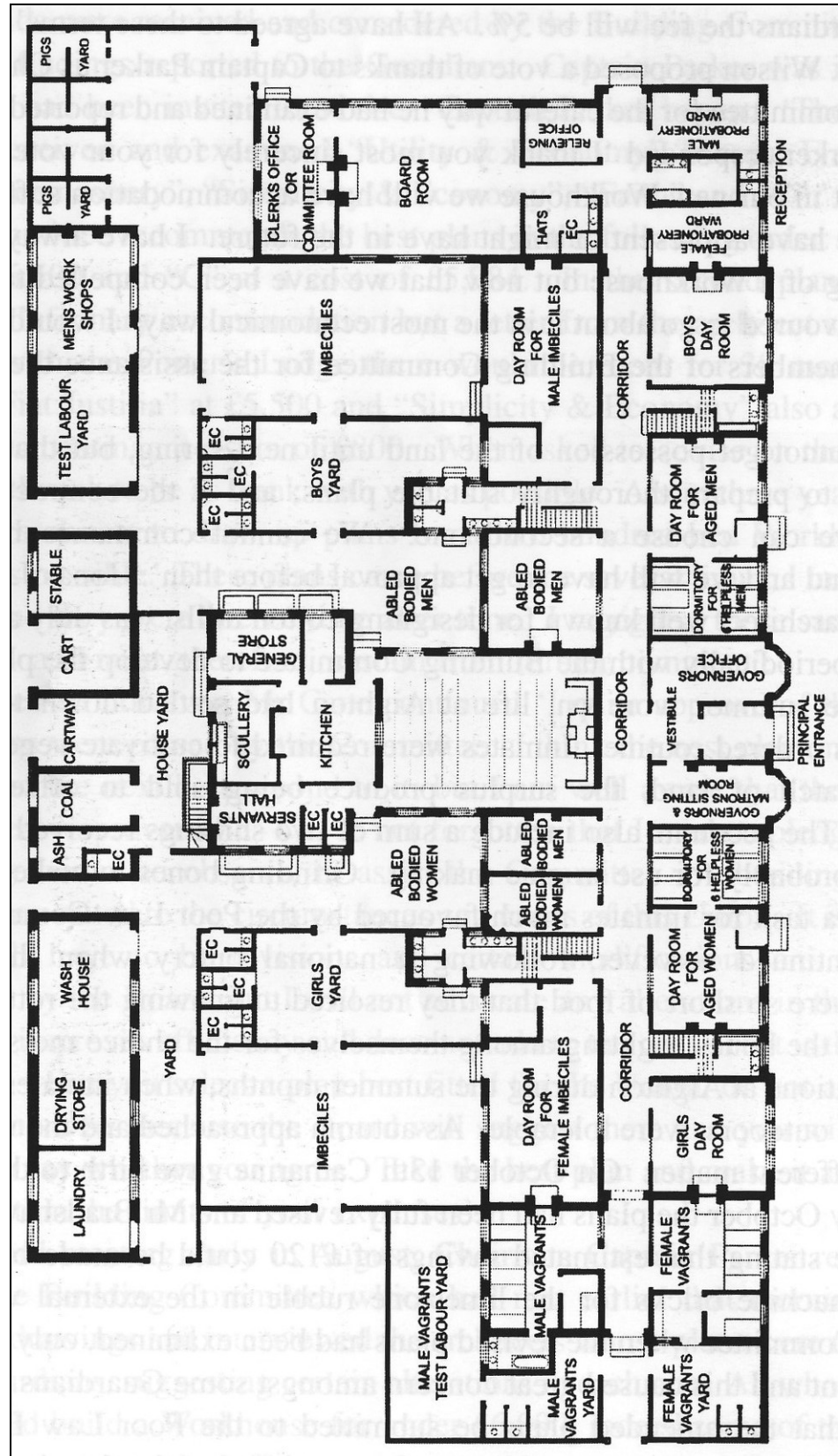


4: OS 1:10560 map, 1847<sup>11</sup>

Red asterisk marks the site of the workhouse.

- 5.7 The architects' plans show how the new buildings were originally intended to be occupied and used, but there were evidently many changes in the designs by the time they were completed (figures 5 and 6). The roughly symmetrical arrangement of the workhouse contained small offices on the ground floor, to either side of the central entrance and vestibule, and a central corridor running the length of the block, off which were various dormitories and day rooms, together with numerous ancillary spaces such as the kitchen and earth closets. There were enclosed yards to the rear, with outbuildings beyond. On the first floor was a more simple arrangement of dormitories, with males in the east part and females in the west, and a total of some 200 inmates could be accommodated. The planned hospital (figure 7) had day rooms on the ground floor and wards on the first floor, with a more generous allocation of space per inhabitant, so that only 36 patients were allowed for.

<sup>11</sup> Lancashire, sheet 47; surveyed 1844. Not at original scale.

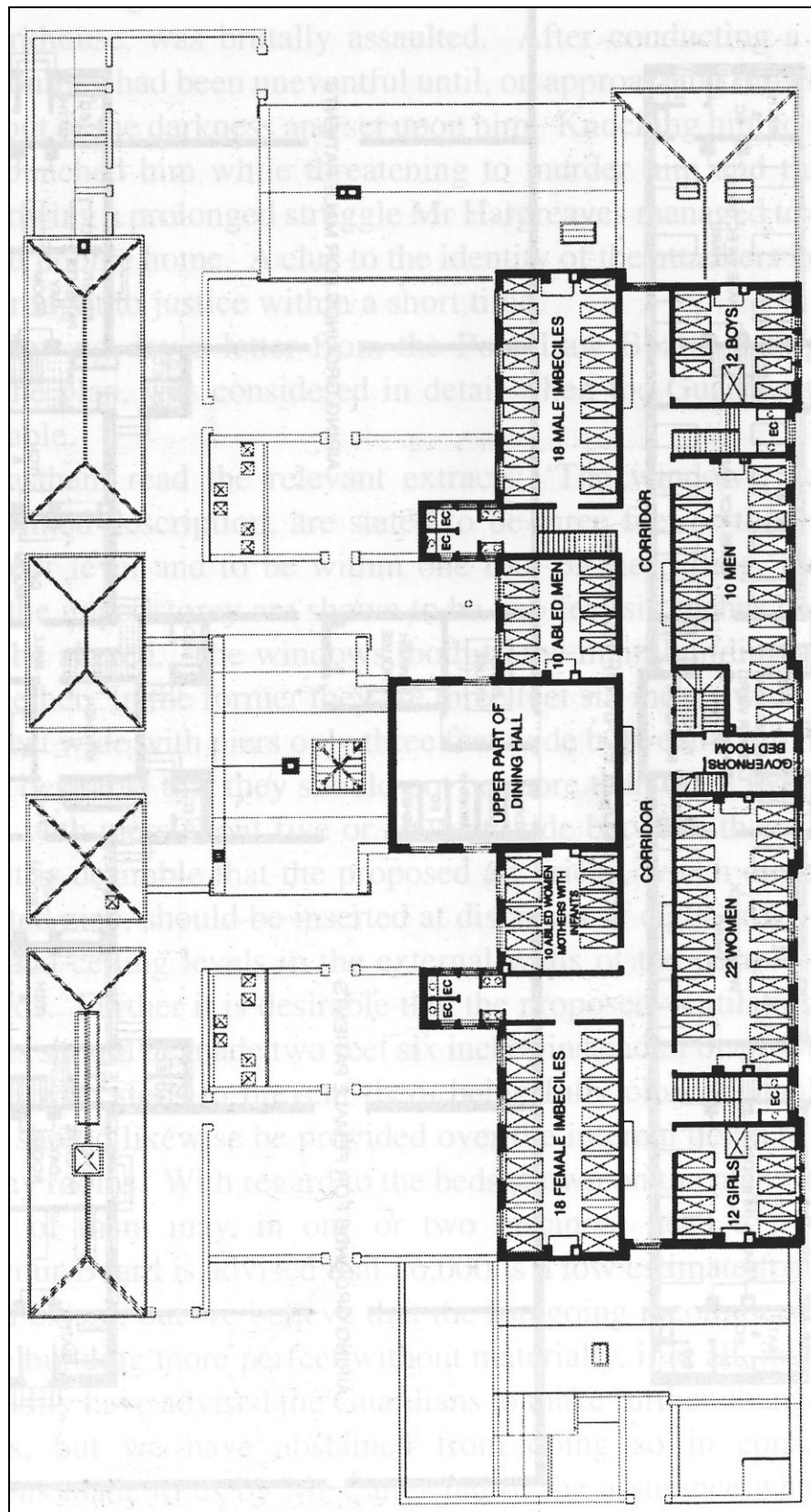


5: Ground floor plan of main block<sup>12</sup>

As planned, 1870s. Traced from architects' proposal drawing

<sup>12</sup> From Lofthouse, F H 2001 *Keepers of the House – A Workhouse Saga*, p 44



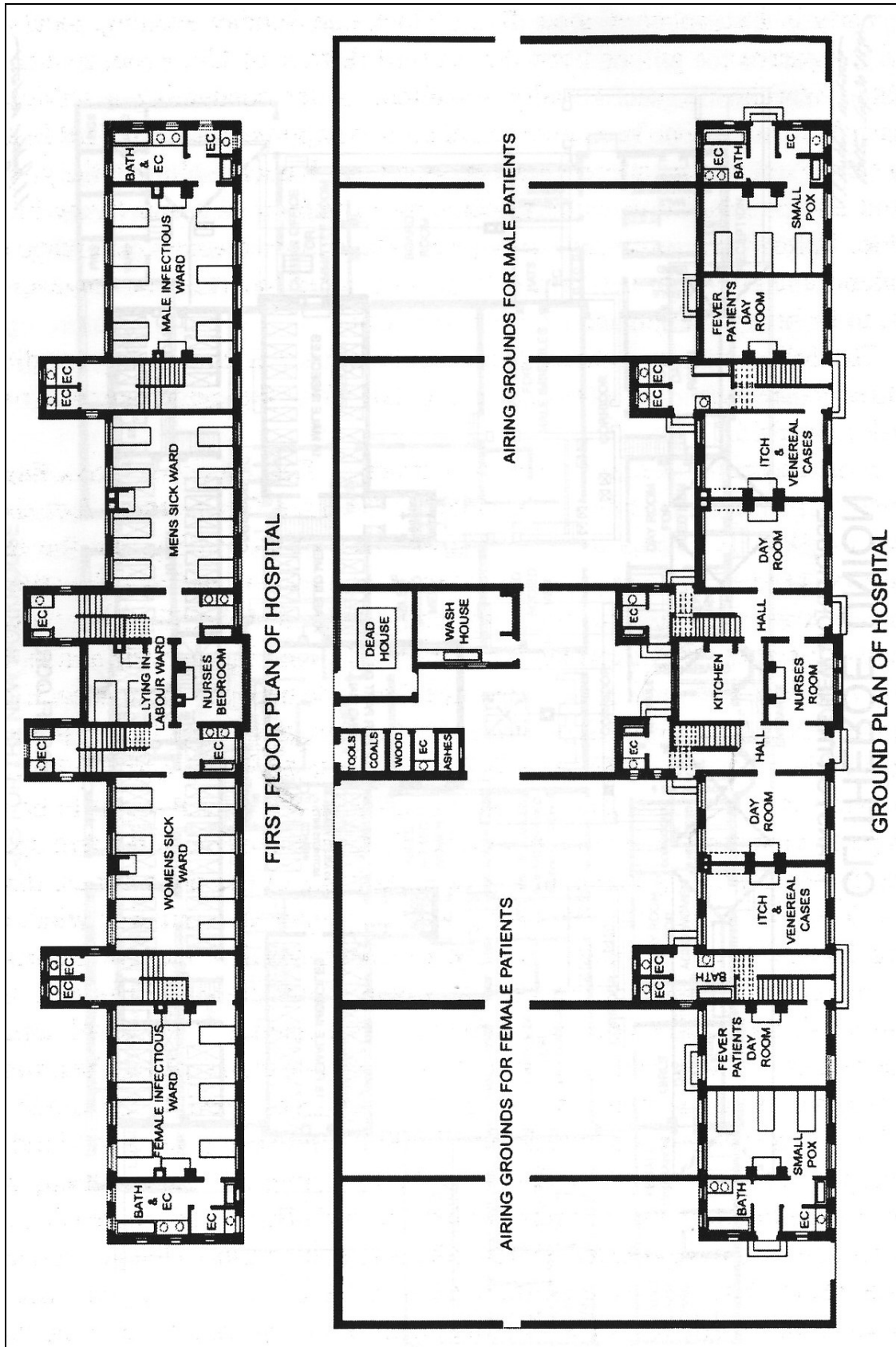


6: First floor plan of main block<sup>13</sup>

As planned, 1870s. Traced from architects' proposal drawing

<sup>13</sup> From Lofthouse, F H 2001 *Keepers of the House – A Workhouse Saga*, p 45



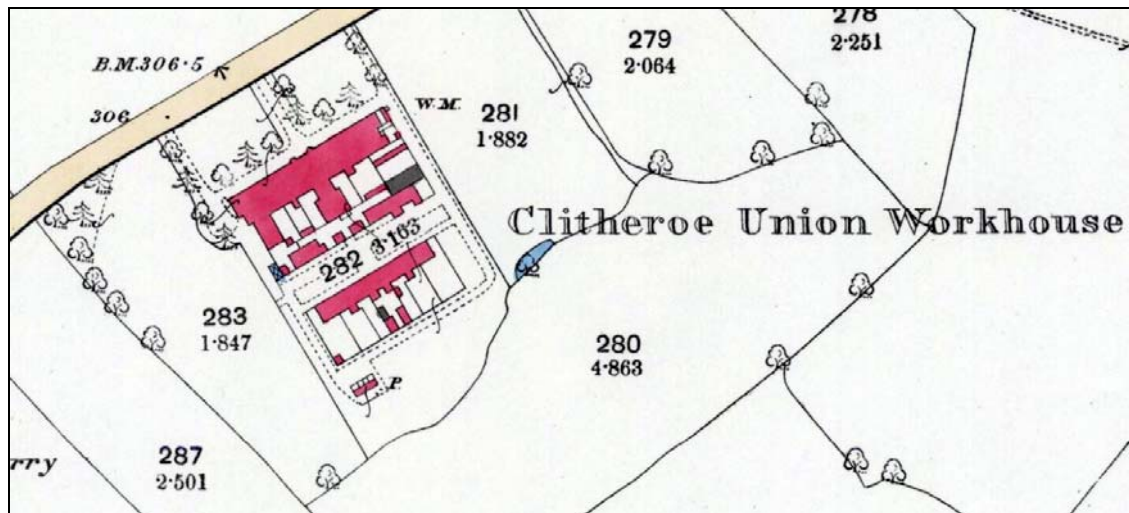


7: Plans of hospital block<sup>14</sup>

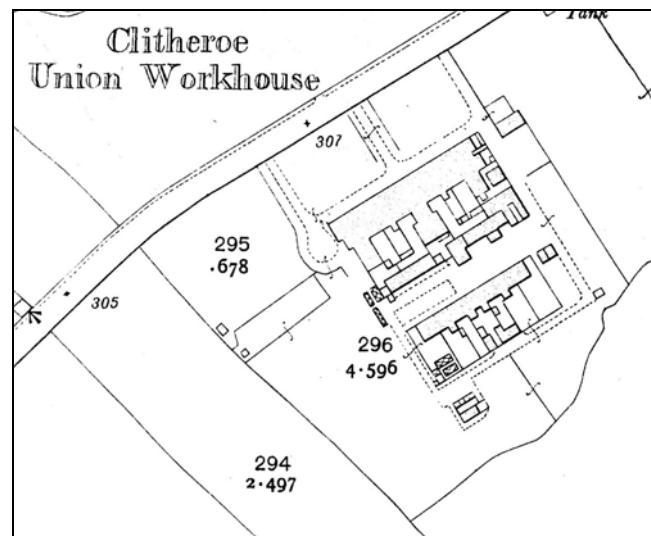
As planned, 1870s. Traced from architects' proposal drawing

<sup>14</sup> From Lofthouse, F H 2001 *Keepers of the House – A Workhouse Saga*, p 45

- 5.8 The Ordnance Survey map of the 1880s (figure 8) shows the arrangement about 10 years after construction, while the 1912 edition shows that the workhouse grounds had been extended since the 1880s, and that minor alterations took place to the arrangement of buildings around the turn of the 20th century (figure 9). Further piecemeal redevelopment also took place during the course of the 20th century, particularly to the rear of the main block (figure 10), and later, as the site was adapted to its role as a community hospital.



8: OS 1:2500 map, 1886<sup>15</sup>



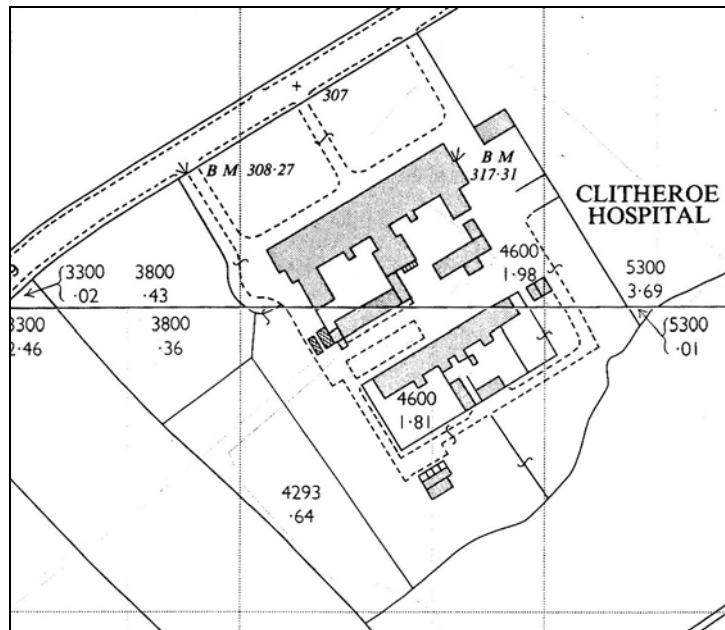
9: OS 1:2500 map, 1912<sup>16</sup>

- 5.9 A search of the records of the former Clitheroe Municipal Borough, for the period 1859 to 1969, failed to identify any reference to building control plans of the

<sup>15</sup> Yorkshire, sheet 182.11, surveyed 1884. Not at original scale.

<sup>16</sup> Lancashire, sheet 47.11, revised 1910. Not at original scale.

workhouse or hospital from before the 1950s<sup>17</sup>, possibly because the Poor Law Union was exempt from the regulations.



10: OS 1:2500 map, 1965<sup>18</sup>

## 6 Recording methodology

- 6.1 The present recording was carried out during site visits carried out in the week beginning 27 November 2017, and involved inspection of all accessible parts of the former hospital. During the visit a measured survey, photography, and a written account were all undertaken.
- 6.2 The drawn record comprises ground and upper floor plans of the historic parts of the complex at 1:100 scale, based on an existing set produced in 2004 by the National Health Service, but checked and amended as necessary (figures 11 to 13). The drawings show all significant detail and employ conventions based on those specified by Historic England<sup>19</sup>. Due to the present appearance of the interior, it has not been generally possible to distinguish between those divisions and walls which are original, and those which have been introduced subsequently. Annotation of the plans is limited, because of the difficulty in identifying historic room uses.
- 6.3 The photographic record was made using a digital SLR camera (12 megapixels), and both external and internal photographs of the site and the historic buildings were taken, generally using a scale in the form of a 2m ranging pole marked with

<sup>17</sup> Lancashire Archives, MBC Box 990a and Box 1107

<sup>18</sup> Plans SD 7542 & 7543; revised 1964

<sup>19</sup> Historic England 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

0.5m graduations, or a 0.5m baton marked with 0.1m graduations. Images were captured as camera raw (NEF) files, which were converted to 8 bit TIFF files for archival standards, in accordance with the Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service's requirements. Prints at 7" x 5" will also be provided as part of the project archive. The locations of all photographs taken are shown on copies of the plans (figures 14 to 17), and a selection is copied at the end of this report; in the text they are referred to by numbers in **bold**.

## 7 Description of the buildings

### Main block (building 1)

#### Exterior

- 7.1 The former hospital's main block, the workhouse, (**1-3**) is of two storeys, built in an Italianate style from local, squared limestone rubble, with sandstone dressings, and with a blue slate roof. The dressings include a chamfered plinth, plain sill bands to both storeys, and smooth rusticated quoins, while the windows and doorways have chamfered and stopped jambs. At the eaves are a plain, flush band and moulded corbels.
- 7.2 The block faces north-west, onto the grounds between it and Chatburn Road, and its north-west elevation is symmetrical about the central entrance. It is composed of a central pavilion, with four plain bays to either side and a pair of gabled pavilions beyond, with single storey wings of four bays at the extremities (**4,5**).
- 7.3 The central pavilion is of three bays with hipped roof, and has a pair of canted bay windows to either side of the entrance, now slighted by a modern concrete ramp and steps with steel handrails (**6-8**). The doorway and ground floor windows to this pavilion have shouldered heads, as does the central first floor window, to either side of which are windows of two lights with round arches. On the ground floor these three central bays contained a vestibule or lobby, between the governor's office and the governor's and matron's sitting room (see below for interior details).
- 7.4 Flanking this central block, and set back slightly from it, is a pair of four-bay wings (**9-12**). In each case, three of the four bays have plain windows with shouldered arches, and each wing also has a doorway, plainer than the main entrance, but the lower jambs are decorated and rusticated (**13,14**). These areas contained day rooms and dormitories for males in the south-west side, and for females in the north-east side, on both storeys.

- 7.5 The gabled blocks at the outer ends of the two storey part of the main building project forward slightly, and have three-light windows of slightly different forms, on ground and first floors (**15-17**). They contained day rooms on the ground floor, and dormitories above.
- 7.6 The outer, single storey wings, which terminate the workhouse range at either end, are of four bays and have plain, shouldered windows, though they differ slightly, in the provision of a two-light window in the right-hand (south-west) end (**18,19**). According to the 1870s plans, this latter wing appears to have contained “probationary wards” for newcomers, while that at the north-east end seems to have been intended as accommodation for vagrants of both sexes.
- 7.7 The sides and rear of the main block and its adjoining wings form a complex arrangement (**20**), in part the result of additions to the original buildings, but in general terms these elevations are much plainer.
- 7.8 At the south-west end, the single storey wing contains a side entrance (**21,22**), and continues as a narrow range to the rear. The board room which was planned for this part of the site is not believed to have been built, and the existing range was marked on the original plan as a room for “imbeciles” (**23-26**). Along with the majority of the rear of the main block, dressings here are fewer in number, and the window surrounds have rock-faced rather than ashlar finish (**27**). The corresponding single storey wing at the north-east end, intended for vagrants, has been subject to more alteration (as can be seen in the changes shown here on the historic maps), and there is some difference in the forms of openings as a result (**28-31**).
- 7.9 Between these two outer ends, the main, two storey range is of double pile form, ie. it has two parallel roofs (**32**). Its rear is divided in the centre by a tall, single storey room which may have been the dining room (**33,34**), to the south-east of which are a pair of parallel, lower structures (**35**), which the 1870 plans mark as kitchen and associated rooms, with earth closets off. There is a basement below here, entered down an external flight of steps enclosed within the original iron balustrade (**36-38**). Further outbuildings continue to the south-east of here, some of them obviously additions, and others apparently original, although they were probably not built as first intended by the architects, and their functions have no doubt changed over the years (**39,40**).
- 7.10 To either side of the kitchen and other central buildings extending to the rear, the two storey main block is generally plain, with simple rectangular windows to both floors (**41-43**). However, it does contain a pair of flat-roofed projections which

formerly housed earth closets, on both floors (44-46), although the south-west one has been partly replaced by a larger structure, containing a modern lift and stairs. The north-east one retains much of its original form and appearance, including doorways within the sides elevations (47-48).

### Interior

- 7.11 Inside the front entrance is a partly glazed partition enclosing an inner vestibule, with polychromatic tiled floor to both areas, almost certainly original, and one of very few internal decorative features identified within the building (49-55). A pair of opposing doorways with substantial architraves lead from the inner vestibule into the side offices, and a wide archway at the rear leads to the main linear corridor, which runs the length of the block (56-58). Despite their largely modern appearance, the side offices do contain original plaster ceiling cornices and doorway architraves (59,60). Although each was heated by an open fire originally, no fireplaces remain within the chimney breasts, as is the case throughout the building.
- 7.12 The ground floor corridor is plain, and punctuated only by modern doors, except where it passes through archways into the outer single storey wings (61). As in the entrance vestibule, there is a suspended ceiling over the corridor, indicating that the original ceilings are somewhat higher. On the north-west side of it, towards the front of the building, is a series of rooms entirely modern in character, although a number have chimney breasts, and the pair of rooms next to the central pavilion have arched recesses adjacent to their former fireplaces (62-65); numerous anomalies between the 1870s architects' plans and the present configuration means that it is not possible to determine what functions the rooms had. One isolated historic feature within the front part of the building is an original four panel door (66), now located within a corridor, although its counterpart opening to the south-west leads directly into a room, latterly a ward, and has lost its original door.
- 7.13 There are a few rooms with features of interest to the rear of the ground floor corridor. At the south-west end these include the projecting wing (perhaps the "imbeciles" accommodation originally), in which a number of moulded corbels for arch-braced roof trusses are visible below the suspended ceiling (69,70). The presumed dining room also has such corbels (71-74), but further to the rear, the interiors of the kitchen areas are not of interest (75). Another rear wing near the north-east end of the building is plainer in appearance, with no corbels visible below the present ceiling (76).

- 7.14 Despite its modern appearance, the north-east flight of stairs to the first floor is the original one, with its stone treads intact below the present floor covering (77). There are however, unsurprisingly, no visible remains of the arrangements for the earth closets which were located at the rear of it, close to the staircase.
- 7.15 On the first floor of the main block, another linear corridor (78) provides access to a number of rooms of various sizes, all adapted to modern hospital use and lacking any individual features of interest, although as on the ground floor, many have chimney breasts, the pattern of which suggests that others have been removed (79-81). To judge from the 1870s plans, this floor was intended for dormitories of various sizes, some of which have been subdivided into a number of smaller rooms.
- 7.16 The basement beneath the kitchens contains five rooms of various sizes, and was presumably intended primarily for storage (82,83): there is a coal chute within the north-east wall (84), indicating one former function, and a stone table near the south corner suggests food was kept here (85). The majority of the basement has a flat ceiling, but two parallel brick vaults exist in the south-west side, suggesting further differentiation of function (86).

### **Former laundry (building 2)**

- 7.17 In close proximity, but not physically connected to the main workhouse, is an L-shaped, single storey block, the main part of which appears to date from the original phase of building, and to judge from the 1870s plans, may have formed the establishment's laundry (87-89). It is plain and functional in appearance, with two original entrances in the north-west side and windows in the south-east side, but it lacks chimneys, which may have been taken down. Adjoining it is a smaller, rendered and nondescript building which contains toilets (90,91), and is probably mid 20th century in date.
- 7.18 There is little of interest within the detached former laundry building, though one of the external doors does appear to be original. It is a sturdy plank and batten door on strap hinges, with large, traditional latch fastener driven into the stone jamb (92-94).

### **Former infirmary block (building 3)**

#### Exterior

- 7.19 The separate infirmary block stands some 40m to the rear of the main workhouse building, parallel to it (95,96). In plan it measures 92m long, slightly



less than the workhouse, and it is only 7.3m wide, with a much simpler form, although modern appendages, including the prominent front lift shaft and linking corridor, mar its simplicity. The essence of the design is a single rectangular block of two storeys, with central gabled projection, and nine plain bays to either side, while to the rear are four projecting outshuts (97). Building materials and dressings largely match those on the workhouse, and include chamfered plinth and sill bands, and rock-faced surrounds to rectangular windows, but in general the building is plainer.

The building's narrow central projecting bay has three-light windows to both floors, and appears to have housed the nurses' room, according to the 1870s plan (98). There are entrances immediately adjacent to either side of this, and the symmetry was intended to segregate males and females, the former in the south-west end, the latter to the north-east. Each wing also has a second, wider entrance near the middle; the architects' plans suggest these wider openings originally contained two doorways (99-102). There are also doorways within the symmetrical gables (103-106). At the rear are similar windows on both floors, but doorways near the outer ends have been blocked. The four projecting outshuts which punctuate the rear elevation each formerly contained a pair of earth closets, with the inner two, which are larger, also housing stairs (108-115); the outer two have historic fabric on the ground floor only, but are shown on the 1870s plans as existing on the first floor as well, so it is assumed that they were also of two storeys originally, before being truncated to provide fire escapes. The taller two outshuts in the centre of the infirmary's rear are gabled, and between them they enclose the three-light windows of the former kitchen and an upstairs ward (116). Shallow chimney breasts indicate the former locations of some of the infirmary's first floor fireplaces, but all the stacks on the building's roof have been taken down (117).

### Interior

- 7.20 The interior of the former infirmary has been much altered during its continuous use as a hospital and there is relatively little of note relating to its historic origins. The pair of entrance halls next to the central bay do retain their original functions however, with stone staircases ascending towards the rear of the building, the south-west one (serving the males' end) having a notably gentler gradient than the north-east one (serving the females' end) (118-121). That difference in staircase construction is not however apparent from the 1870s plan. Otherwise, the ground floor presently contains rooms of various sizes, some the result of amalgamation, others of later division, with the only features of interest being chimney breasts and arched alcoves adjacent to some of them (122,123). Additional stairs shown on the 1870s in the middle of the two wings are no longer

extant (if indeed they were so built), but remnants of the original plan are recognisable at the outer ends of the building, where tripartite arrangements formerly accommodated bathrooms and earth closets, to either side of the end entrances, according to the 1870s plan (124). In contrast to the main workhouse block, there was a minimum of circulation within the infirmary, with segregation between rooms in the interest of infection control, and no corridor, an arrangement which accounts for the numerous external entrances.

- 7.21 At first floor level, both surviving staircases retain their original cast iron balustrades, though the associated earth closets no longer lie in close proximity off the landings (125-128). Otherwise, the building contains an arrangement of largely modern spaces, though some chimney breasts remain, together with the tripartite divisions at the outer ends (129-132).

### **Boiler, mortuary and gardeners' store (buildings 4, 5 and 6)**

- 7.22 Three historic outbuildings are associated with the infirmary block. To the north-east is building 4, the present boiler house (133-136), a two storey, gabled building which can be dated by maps to the period between 1884 and 1910, and although its original function is not known, it is likely to have served a different purpose formerly. Although built of limestone with sandstone dressings, all openings to the front elevation are of cast concrete, believed to result from 21st century changes. The tall brick chimney is probably an addition of 1960, when proposals for "alterations to boiler house, including a 34 foot chimney" were approved by building control<sup>20</sup>. Very recent single storey structures adjoin the rear; the interior was not inspected, due to the presence of asbestos.
- 7.23 The other outbuildings stand to the rear of the infirmary block, and both are single storey (137). The south-west one, building 4 (138-140) was intended as the "dead house" or mortuary, a function which continued until the recent closure of the hospital. The plan of the present building conforms with that shown on the 1886 map, but not on the 1870s architects' plan, perhaps because of changes to the scheme as it was being developed in the 1870s. The building is rendered, but its rock-faced sandstone dressings remain visible, and there is a ventilator on the ridge. Inside, a substantial wall divides the present viewing room from the larger, south-west room in which there is a modern cold store; the thickness of the cross wall and different external wall finishes suggest the building was extended to its present length (141,142).
- 7.24 A few metres to the north-east of the mortuary is a very plain building, now known as the gardeners' store. It is absent from the architects' plan, and (on

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<sup>20</sup> Lancashire Archives, MBC Box 1107 plan 5369, approved 13 May 1960

map evidence) was built between 1884 and 1910 (**143,144**) (building 5). It is also rendered and has a single entrance, in the south-east side, while the roof is gabled along the long axis. The interior contains a loft with modern staircase, but no features of interest.

## 8 Conclusion

8.1 The workhouse complex at Clitheroe appears to have been typical in many ways of the medium-sized establishments built by poor law unions in rural areas throughout many parts of the country in the late 19th century, with the main accommodation block having a linear, corridor plan, and a detached, parallel infirmary block to the rear forming a contemporary, subsidiary structure, with similar architectural motifs. By the 1870s the corridor plan was nearing the end of the period of its popularity in workhouse design, and later in the century was to be displaced by the pavilion plan. Bradshaw's and Hall's familiarity with workhouse design in 1870 would have ensured that established ideas regarding plan-form, circulation, and internal facilities were at the fore, although compromise and pragmatism were clearly necessary to take into account the financial circumstances of the project, and to no lesser degree the workhouse philosophy, which sought to stigmatise inmates. In general terms, the buildings followed the Italianate style of architecture, though as was common in the later Victorian period, there was a degree of eclecticism, and Gothic themes are present in parts of the building (for example in the form of the stone corbels supporting the roof trusses in the rear rooms). There was a distinct lack of excessive ornamentation, and there are certainly examples of other, similarly sized workhouses which are notably more elaborate in their architecture, such as that at Otley in West Yorkshire, but nonetheless the buildings at Clitheroe do exhibit a unity of style and are aesthetically pleasing in their simple use of contrasting stone and limited decoration. The buildings had modern, light and airy interiors which allowed ease of use and thorough ventilation, particularly in the infirmary, where the architects are believed to have been steered by Florence Nightingale's influence on another workhouse architect, Thomas Worthington<sup>21</sup>.

8.2 The continued use and modernisation of the buildings over 140 years means that their interiors do not allow a ready identification of their original plan-form or appearance, and their outbuildings have also been radically altered. For the most part, they would have been austere spaces, with visual enhancement and decoration probably confined to the few administrative areas where visitors would have been received: it is most unlikely that the inmates would have been

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<sup>21</sup> Lingard, J & T 2007 *Bradshaw, Gass and Hope: The Story of an Architectural Practice – the first one hundred years 1862 – 1962* p47

treated to little more than the basic comforts necessary for human existence. Subdivision and enlargement of the original rooms, modern plaster finishes and suspended ceilings have all served to diminish the evidence of the historic arrangements and character within the buildings.

- 8.3 While architectural or archaeological evidence for the historic buildings is limited, there is a wealth of documentation regarding the circumstances and construction of the workhouse complex at Clitheroe, which has not been fully explored during this recording. The surviving collection of drawings by Bradshaw and Hall (see footnote 10 above) has not been inspected, but is likely to provide a very detailed narrative of the design process as it developed in the 1870s, and together with the Building Committee's minute book (see footnote 9), and Lofthouse's synthesis (footnote 4), would allow a much better understanding of the workhouse's early years than has been achieved through an examination of the surviving buildings. However, as these are to be demolished, the present record will provide an archival source which may contribute significantly to such a future understanding.

## Appendix: Complete list of photographs taken

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Photo	Subject
1	Building 1, looking south-east from across Chatburn Road
2	Building 1, looking south
3	Building 1, looking east
4	Building 1: front elevation, looking east
5	Building 1: front elevation, looking south
6	Building 1: central pavilion
7	Building 1: central pavilion
8	Building 1: central pavilion and north-east end
9	Building 1: south-west end of front elevation
10	Building 1: south-west end of front elevation
11	Building 1: front elevation, looking east
12	Building 1: north-east end of front elevation
13	Building 1: doorway in north-east end of front elevation
14	Building 1: doorway in south-west end of front elevation
15	Building 1: front elevation, looking south
16	Building 1: gabled block at north-east end of front elevation, looking south-east
17	Building 1: first floor window in gabled block at north-east end of front elevation
18	Building 1: single storey block at north-east end of front elevation
19	Building 1: single storey block at south-west end of front elevation
20	Building 1: view of rear, looking north-west, from first floor of infirmary block
21	Building 1: single storey block at south-west end of front elevation, looking north-east
22	Building 1: single storey block at south-west end of front elevation, looking north-east
23	Building 1: rear single storey block at south-west end, looking north
24	Building 1: rear single storey block at south-west end, looking north
25	Building 1: rear single storey block at south-west end, looking west
26	Building 1: rear single storey block at south-west end, looking south-west
27	Building 1: detail of window in rear single storey block at south-west end
28	Building 1: rear single storey block at north-east end, looking south-west
29	Building 1: single storey block at north-east end, looking south-west
30	Building 1: rear single storey block at north-east end, looking south-west
31	Building 1: rear single storey block at north-east end, looking west
32	Building 1: view of rear, looking north-west, from first floor of infirmary block
33	Building 1: view of rear, looking north-west, from first floor of infirmary block
34	Building 1: north-east side of dining room, looking south-west
35	Building 1: south-east side of kitchen, looking north-west
36	Building 1: south-east side of kitchen, looking north-west
37	Building 1: south-east side of kitchen, looking west
38	Building 1: steps down to basement below kitchen, looking west
39	Building 1: former outbuildings to rear of kitchen, looking west
40	Building 1: former outbuildings to rear of kitchen, looking south-west
41	Building 1: rear elevation at south-west end, looking north-west
42	Building 1: rear elevation at north-east end, looking north-west
43	Building 1: rear elevation at north-east end, looking north-west
44	Building 1: view of rear, looking north-west, from first floor of infirmary block
45	Building 1: rear elevation at north-east end, looking north
46	Building 1: rear elevation of earth closet block at north-east end
47	Building 1: rear elevation of earth closet block at north-east end
48	Building 1: detail of first floor windows in earth closet block at north-east end
49	Building 1: entrance vestibule, looking east
50	Building 1: entrance vestibule, looking south

- 51 Building 1: entrance vestibule, looking south-east
- 52 Building 1: tiled floor in entrance vestibule
- 53 Building 1: tiled floor in entrance vestibule
- 54 Building 1: tiled floor in entrance vestibule
- 55 Building 1: tiled floor in entrance vestibule
- 56 Building 1: entrance vestibule, looking west
- 57 Building 1: entrance vestibule, looking north
- 58 Building 1: doorway architrave in south-west side of entrance vestibule
- 59 Building 1: former governor's office, next to entrance vestibule, looking north-west
- 60 Building 1: doorway architrave in former governor's office
- 61 Building 1: arched doorway in main corridor
- 62 Building 1: one of the front ground floor rooms
- 63 Building 1: one of the front ground floor rooms
- 64 Building 1: one of the front ground floor rooms
- 65 Building 1: one of the front ground floor rooms
- 66 Building 1: rear of original door to front of north-east wing
- 67 Building 1: ground floor room in front of gabled end block
- 68 Building 1: ground floor room in front of gabled end block
- 69 Building 1: large rear room at south-west end, looking north
- 70 Building 1: detail of corbel large rear room at south-west end, looking north
- 71 Building 1: dining room, looking west
- 72 Building 1: dining room, looking north
- 73 Building 1: dining room, looking south-west
- 74 Building 1: corbel in dining room
- 75 Building 1: kitchen, looking west
- 76 Building 1: large rear room at north-east end, looking south-east
- 77 Building 1: stairs to first floor
- 78 Building 1: first floor corridor, looking south-west
- 79 Building 1: one of the front first floor rooms
- 80 Building 1: detail of two-light window in first floor room
- 81 Building 1: one of the front first floor rooms
- 82 Building 1: basement entrance
- 83 Building 1: large basement room, looking north
- 84 Building 1: coal chute in north-east side of basement
- 85 Building 1: store room in basement
- 86 Building 1: vaulted store room in basement
- 87 Building 2: north-west elevation
- 88 Building 2: north-west elevation
- 89 Building 2: south-east elevation
- 90 Building 2: south-west elevation of smaller end
- 91 Building 2: north-east elevation of smaller end
- 92 Building 2: interior of large north-east room, looking north-east
- 93 Building 2: interior of large north-east room, looking south-west
- 94 Building 2: rear of surviving external door
- 95 Building 3: front elevation (north-east end), looking south
- 96 Building 3: front elevation (south-west end), looking south
- 97 Building 3: rear elevation, looking west
- 98 Building 3: central block in front elevation
- 99 Building 3: front elevation (north-east end)
- 100 Building 3: front elevation (north-east end)
- 101 Building 3: front elevation (north-east end)
- 102 Building 3: doorway in front elevation (south-west end)
- 103 Building 3: south-west end
- 104 Building 3: north-east end
- 105 Building 3: south-west end

- 106 Building 3: rear elevation, looking north
- 107 Building 3: rear elevation, looking north-west
- 108 Building 3: rear elevation, looking west
- 109 Building 3: rear elevation (south-west end), looking north-west
- 110 Building 3: rear elevation (north-east end), looking north-west
- 111 Building 3: rear elevation (north-east end), looking north
- 112 Building 3: rear earth closet block, looking west
- 113 Building 3: rear earth closet block, looking north
- 114 Building 3: rear earth closet blocks, looking north-west
- 115 Building 3: rear earth closet blocks, looking north-east
- 116 Building 3: three-light windows in centre of rear elevation
- 117 Building 3: chimney breast in rear elevation
- 118 Building 3: main entrance hall, north-east end
- 119 Building 3: stairs, north-east end
- 120 Building 3: stairs, south-west end
- 121 Building 3: underside of stairs, north-east end
- 122 Building 3: ground floor room ("females' day room")
- 123 Building 3: ground floor room ("females' itch & venereal cases")
- 124 Building 3: ground floor room at south-west end
- 125 Building 3: landing to north-east stairs
- 126 Building 3: landing to south-west stairs
- 127 Building 3: balustrade to south-west stairs
- 128 Building 3: balustrade to south-west stairs
- 129 Building 3: ward on first floor (north-east end)
- 130 Building 3: ward on first floor (north-east end)
- 131 Building 3: ward on first floor (north-east end)
- 132 Building 4: present boiler house, looking south
- 133 Building 4: present boiler house, looking south-east
- 134 Building 4: present boiler house, looking east
- 135 Building 4: present boiler house, looking north
- 136 Buildings 5 and 6: mortuary and gardeners' store, looking south-west
- 137 Building 5: mortuary, looking west
- 138 Building 5: mortuary, looking south
- 139 Building 5: ventilator on mortuary roof
- 140 Building 5: main mortuary room, looking north-west
- 141 Building 5: visitors' room in mortuary room, looking south
- 142 Buildings 5 and 6: mortuary and gardeners' store, looking west
- 143 Building 6: gardeners' store, looking north